

KCWP

a voluntary effort

The Kittitas County Water Purveyors (KCWP) was formed in 1999 as a voluntary and non-profit effort by local irrigation water providers to address issues impacting irrigated agriculture.

KCWP strives to maintain local control of water issues and to provide a voice in local water discussions, thereby raising awareness and community-wide involvement in water matters.

Members of the KCWP include the Kittitas Reclamation District, Cascade Irrigation District, Ellensburg Water Company, West Side Irrigating Company, and other irrigation entities and/or private water rights holders.

Collectively, more than 91,000 acres of irrigated land in Kittitas County are served by the KCWP and its members.

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Kittitas County Water Purveyors



Supporting
agriculture, water
quality, and habitat

Mission

The mission of the KCWP is to foster the beneficial use of irrigation water and encourage sound water management in support of agriculture, water quality, and habitat.

Objectives

1. *Water Quality*

Track trends in water quality and implement a water quality policy for turbidity supporting the Department of Ecology's Sediment and bacteria TMDLs (water cleanup plans).

2. *CWA and ESA Compliance*

Participate in local efforts that support Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act compliance for water purveyors and other agricultural interests.

3. *Outreach and Education*

Conduct outreach and educational efforts across a broad spectrum of the community in support of KCWP's mission.

4. *Collaboration*

Collaborate with irrigation entities, conservation districts, state and federal agencies, and individuals with similar objectives to the KCWP.



Washington State Department of Ecology funding has offset the cost of producing this brochure, but is not responsible for the brochure's content or any other policy decisions made by the KCWP ROD.

Activities

The primary activities of the KCWP are water sampling and laboratory analysis.

KCWP also participates in habitat protection projects, such as fencing cattle away from waterways and habitat restoration activities like the Reecer Creek Floodplain at Dolarway Road.



KCWP educational booths can be found at the county fair, KEEN's Get Intimate with the Shrub-Steppe, E-3's Winter Fair, and numerous other locations where people gather to learn about local environmental issues.

KCWP is also active in planning processes effecting water quality and water rights issues, including the Washington State Department of Ecology's TMDL (water cleanup plan) process.

Assistance

KCWP offers financial assistance to landowners installing certain Ecology-approved BMPs on their farming and ranching properties. This funding is available through an Ecology grant held by the KCWP that will fund up to 75% of allowable projects. Typical projects include fencing livestock away from streams and riparian restoration. Please contact us if you're interested in pursuing grant funding.

Improvement



For over ten years, irrigation districts belonging to the KCWP have diligently worked together and steadily improved water quality in our valley. Not only are our local waterways cleaner-- more riparian areas are protected and enhanced for the benefit of everyone.