

Water Quality Compliance Policy

The KCWP formed in 1999 as an effort to maintain local control of irrigation water supply issues and to have a voice in local and statewide water discussions. Membership includes most area irrigation districts and companies and individuals with creek water rights. The KCWP work cooperatively with other entities in the Yakima River watershed to address Clean Water Act (CWA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements and other issues affecting irrigated agriculture.



The Water Quality Compliance Policy is designed to protect irrigation districts from exceedences listed in Department of Ecology's total maximum daily load (TMDL) specifications. Kittitas County Water Purveyors (KCWP) performs regular monitoring and analysis of natural waterways and irrigation canals across our county with the goal of reducing irrigation contributions to water quality impairments. Current monitoring includes turbidity, total suspended solids, and temperature.

For a complete copy of the policy, please contact KCWP or visit www.kcwp.org

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Kittitas County Water Purveyors

The Kittitas County Water Purveyors (KCWP) represent a voluntary effort by irrigation water providers and users in Kittitas County to address water quality and wildlife habitat conditions through outreach and education.

Comprehensive field monitoring and in-house lab analysis of water samples are done extensively throughout the irrigation season and less exhasutively through the rest of the year. The results and analysis are shared with individuals and agencies, providing sound science for agricultural and ecological management.



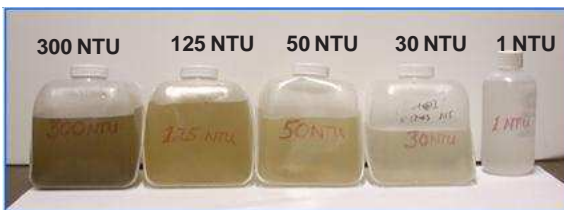
Turbidity Policy

Turbidity

a Measure of Water Quality

Turbidity is a measure of water clarity. The clearer the water, the lower the turbidity. High turbidity can result from natural or human-caused sources and generally is from eroded soils or disturbed streambed sediments. High turbidity levels adversely affect salmonid species, and are thus monitored and controlled to improve habitat value of natural streams.

The Kittitas County Water Purveyors (KCWP) Board of Directors has prepared a policy to protect irrigation systems from high turbidity return flow off irrigated lands. Return flow is water leaving an agricultural field entering ditches or creeks. High turbidity return flow is defined as greater than 200 NTU. Aussie tubes (see picture at right) can be used to estimate turbidity levels, and are available through KCWP.



The key water quality compliance policy elements are:

1. The manager of the canal system that receives high turbidity return flow will:

- a) identify the source and record the details of the incident,
- b) contact the manager of the canal system that provides irrigation water to the identified source, and
- c) share information.

2. The manager who delivers water to the source of the water quality impairment will contact the

source landowner and share turbidity sampling results, TMDL information and compliance targets, and water quality policy procedures. The manager will provide educational information and encourage water user to obtain technical assistance if needed to address causes and remedies. If the source is not identifiable or is a common drain, evaluate the potential causes and contact all potential turbidity source landowners.



If a second occurrence is recorded at the same site, the landowner will be contacted again and informed that he/she must make improvements and/or engage a technical service provider * within two weeks of notification.

The landowner will be informed that if a third violation is recorded within current irrigation season, the information will be forwarded to Washington State Department of Ecology for further action.

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure that purveyors are protected and landowners are able to continue efficient operations. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

* Technical assistance can be obtained from the Kittitas County Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and other local entities.