

CITY OF KITTITAS
NOTICE OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Name of Applicant: Kittitas County Conservation District

Application Number: 26-016

Date of Application: 3-6-2026

Location: 46.982757°, -120.423654°. Section 11, Township 17, Range 19. City of Kittitas, Kittitas County, Washington State. Parcel #: 232533

Description of Proposal: The Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (YTAHP) and the Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) propose to convert a surface water diversion to pump screen on Cooke Creek at River Mile 4.25, located southwest of Kittitas, WA. The project is designed to benefit ESA-listed Middle Columbia steelhead, Chinook and coho salmon, and a suite of resident fishes.

A concrete check dam serves two associated gravity diversions, one on each bank, that span Cooke Creek in the project area. The dam is used to check the water up to irrigate the surrounding agricultural fields via gravity with gated pipes. Neither diversion is screened. This project will screen one of the two unscreened diversions and replace it with a pump screen that is National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and WDFW-compliant. The project will prevent the entrainment of fishes into the existing irrigation system by screening one of the gravity diversions.

The pump and boom for the fish screen will be placed on a concrete pad on the right (west) bank. Up to two new power poles will be installed to supply power to the pump via overhead power. Exact alignment of the new power line and poles will be determined by Puget Sound Energy. See the attached site plan for two alternative powerline and pole placement. The site is 0.55 acres in size.

An 8'X8' concrete pumping pad will be built approximately 30 feet from the right bank using an excavator. The boom structure will be mounted on the concrete pump pad and used to lower the screen into the creek. The screen will be placed on the boom by hand and will be removed from the creek outside of irrigation season. Two power poles, each at least 30 feet from the bank, will be installed to supply power to the new 50 Hp pump. An 8" River screen and a 1000 GPM Pump Rite screen will be used for the project. See attached drawings for screen specifications. The two different screens will be used at different times of the irrigation season depending upon flows and debris load in Cooke Creek.

Concurrently, the producer will complete an on-farm conservation project on the west side of Cooke Creek, converting rill irrigation to pressurized sprinklers. The right-bank diversion will not be used after the completion of the project, eliminating fish entrainment due to the right-bank diversion. Please note that no work below the ordinary high water mark will occur. Invasive crack willows will be removed from the footprint of the power poles and lines, concrete pumping pad, and the range of the boom. Up to 100' linear feet of crack willow material will be removed and disposed of off-site to avoid spreading this invasive species.

Materials Available for Review: The submitted application and related filed documents may be examined by the public at Kittitas City Hall at 207 N Main Street Kittitas, WA 98934 or by emailing a request to the City Clerk, Brandy Harris at brandy.harris@cityofkittitas.com. Phone: (509) 968-0220.

Written Comments on this proposal can be submitted to Kittitas City Hall any time prior to 5:00 pm on April 15, 2026.

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