A Flood Task Force was formed after the January 2009 floods to address flood management needs within the county.

The Flood Task Force recommended a Citizens Advisory Committee be formed to study and analyze the feasibility of a Flood Control Zone District (FCZD).
The Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2011 and was comprised of representatives from:

- Citizen Representative (2)
- CWHBA
- Business Owner
- Ag Representative
- Flood Task Force Member
- County Water Purveyor
- Upper & Lower City Representative
- City of Ellensburg
- Yakama Nation
- Teanaway Basin Area
- Upper & Lower Yakima River Area

In January 2012 the Citizens Advisory Committee made a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to form a FCZD.
Recent Legislative Action

* The BOCC passed Resolution No. 2012-001 based on the recommendations of the appointed Citizens Advisory Committee.
* Resolution No. 2012-001 declares the intent of the BOCC to establish a county-wide Flood Control Zone District in accordance with RCW 86.15.
Resolution 2012-001 - Terms and Conditions

* Boundaries shall be Kittitas County including all incorporated areas.

* Initial efforts will be towards updating plans and managing activities according to the National Flood Insurance Program in 44 CFR and KCC 14.08 Flood Hazard Reduction.

* Limited resources are expected to be available during the first few years of operations of an established FCZD.
District boundaries must be set by August 1 of any given year per RCW 84.090.030.

County staff shall hold five public workshops in the various watersheds and basins to inform the public of the BOCC intent to form a FCZD.

The BOCC will hold two public hearings in June to formally discuss the formation of the FCZD.
Purpose of the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD)

To address flood management needs within Kittitas County.
The Powers of a FCZD (RCW 86.15.080)

* Plan, construct, acquire, repair, maintain and operate all necessary equipment, facilities, improvements, and works to control, conserve, and remove flood and storm waters;

* Control, conserve, retain, reclaim, and remove flood waters and storm waters including waters of lakes and ponds within district;

* Sue and be sued in name of the zone.

* Remove debris, log or other material which may impede the orderly flow of waters in streams or water courses.

* Acquire or reclaim lands when incidental to purposes of the zone and dispose of such lands as surplus.
Resources

* The FCZD will operate with limited resources and cash reserves during the first few years of operation.

* The Citizen’s Advisory Committee voted to recommend a yearly per-parcel assessment to fund the district.

* The per-parcel assessment will result in approximately $500,000 per year.
Assessment

Type: A flat fee assessment.

Rate: Flat rate amount of $16.11 per parcel.

Frequency: Per year, per parcel.

Area: County-wide, including cities.
Activities of the FCZD

* Update the 1996 Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP).

* The plan is used to determine which projects the FCZD will fund.

* The BOCC must adopt a budget that includes specific projects that are identified in the CFHMP.
Activities of the FCZD

* Assist homeowners to flood proof and elevate structures.
* Property acquisition.
Activities of the FCZD

* Identification, engineering and construction of capital projects to mitigate and/or address flooding problems.
* Public outreach and education.

Clarke Road Bridge
1950
Activities of the FCZD

* Management Plans for tributaries identified in the CFHMP.

* Flood hazard reports for Frequently Flooded Areas.

Clarke Road Bridge 2009
Activities of the FCZD

* Early flood warning systems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>River/creek</th>
<th>Flood conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tolt River</td>
<td>Provisional Phase 3: Moderate flooding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snoqualmie River</td>
<td>Provisional Phase 3: Moderate flooding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issaquah Creek</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar River</td>
<td>Provisional Phase 1: No flooding typically occurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green River</td>
<td>Provisional Phase 2: Minor flooding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White River</td>
<td>Provisional Phase 1: No flooding typically occurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raging River</td>
<td>Gage information only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skykomish River</td>
<td>Gage information only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Benefits

* Lower the flood risk to private and public infrastructure.
* Local funds to deal with local flood impacts.
* Coordinated responses between local, state and federal agencies.
* Reduction in use of general fund for flood fighting activities.
* On-the-ground flood-fighting authority.
Public Benefits

* Match and leverage federal and state funding from various sources.

* Yakima County FCZD leverages:
  * Construction projects: 30:1
  * Mapping, planning and studies: 4:1

* At 30:1, $100,000 = $3 Million
Public Benefits

* Participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) and reduction in flood insurance rates.
  * Potential of 5% to 45% reduction in flood insurance rates, depending on activities in which the jurisdiction participates.
  * Each jurisdiction within the County participates separately.
  * Prescribed activities in the CRS program include:
    * Preserve open space in the floodplain.
    * Enforce higher standards for safer new development.
    * Maintain drainage systems.
    * Inform people about flood hazards, flood insurance and how to reduce flood damage.
* Proactive flood management activities.
* Provide necessary resources to existing staff for floodplain management.
* Capital improvement funding.
Public Benefits

* Accurate flood mapping and flood frequency information.
Next Step
Public Meetings

February 23
Ellensburg
City Hall

March 14
Cle Elum
Centennial Center

April 25
Teanaway
Teanaway Grange

May 16
Easton
High School Library

June 6
Kittitas
City Hall

*All meetings begin at 6:00 pm.*
Next Step
BOCC Public Hearings

* June 20, 6:00 pm
  Ellensburg
  Commissioner’s Auditorium

* June 27, 6:00 pm
  Cle Elum
  Upper District Court
How to Comment

* Email your comments to:
  publicworks@co.kittitas.wa.us

* Mail your comments to:
  Kittitas County Department of Public Works
  411 N Ruby St, Suite 1
  Ellensburg, WA 98926

* For more information, visit our Flood Information Website:
  http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/publicworks/flood/