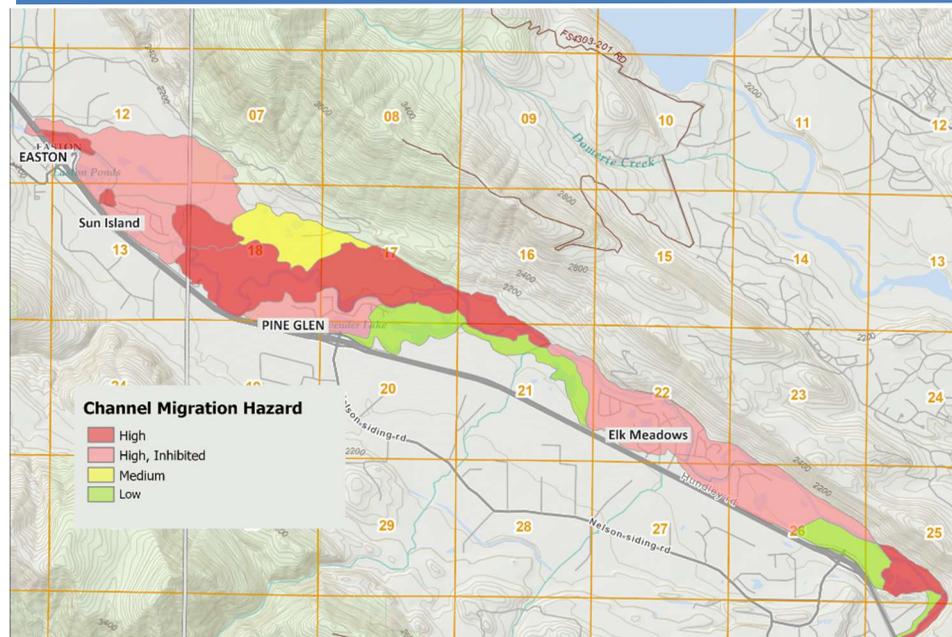


Kittitas County Hazard Mitigation Plan

2023 Annual Report (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023)

Kittitas County



Channel Migration Risk Hazards, Easton Reach Floodplain



County-Wide Mitigation Initiatives

No.	Priority	Description	Status
CW-1	High	Continue to maintain a countywide hazard mitigation plan website to house the plan and plan updates, in order to provide the public an opportunity to monitor plan implementation and progress. Each planning partner may support the initiative by including an initiative in its action plan and creating a web link to the website. Updates will occur annually, or more often as appropriate.	Ongoing Activity. The Hazard Mitigation Plan webpage has been updated with the 2019 adopted plan and annual reports.
CW-2	Medium	Leverage public outreach partnering capabilities to inform and educate the public about hazard mitigation and preparedness.	Ongoing Activity. The Flood Control Zone District targets outreach annually to areas with high flood risk. Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition has a landowner outreach program and landowners can receive a personalized fire plan through this program. Public Outreach to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been initiated.
CW-3	High	Coordinate all mitigation planning and project efforts, including grant application support, to maximize all resources available to the planning partnership, with the County mentoring other jurisdictions with less grant application experience.	This element would be better supported by convening annual steering committee meetings and should be addressed during HMP update process.
CW-4	High	Support the collection of improved data (hydrologic, geologic, topographic, volcanic, historical, etc.) to better assess risks and vulnerabilities.	Progress made. The Flood Control Zone District has installed a total of 5 stream gages with real-time data. The number of stream gages installed and maintained has increased since the last reporting period. Additionally, the Easton Reach Flood Hazard Assessment was completed during the reporting period.
CW-5	High	Provide coordination and technical assistance in grant application preparation that includes assistance in cost vs. benefit analysis for grant-eligible projects.	Kittitas County provides coordination and technical assistance as requested but does not currently have the capacity to provide cost vs. benefit analysis for grant-eligible projects.
CW-6	High	Where appropriate, support retrofitting, purchase, or relocation of structures or infrastructure located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures/infrastructure from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties as priority when applicable.	Progress made. Kittitas County entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement to purchase a flood risk property and will take ownership on October 4, 2023. This acquisition will result in the removal of 3 floodway structures.
CW-7	High	Continue to maintain the steering committee as a viable committee to monitor the progress of the hazard mitigation plan, provide technical assistance to planning partners and oversee the update of the plan as necessary.	Kittitas County has not maintained a steering committee but will address this deficit during the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.
CW-8	High	Integrate mitigation plan requirements and actions into other appropriate planning mechanisms such as comprehensive plans and capital improvement plans.	Progress made. Two Capital Improvement Plans, Kittitas County's Road 6-year plan and the Flood Control Zone District 6-year plan includes projects that address needs identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

County-Wide Mitigation Initiatives

No.	Priority	Description	Status
CW-9	High	Support mitigation projects that will result in protection of public or private property from natural hazards.	Progress made. Significant Flood Control Zone District accomplishments during the reporting period include: funding support for the City of Ellensburg-led Reecer Creek floodplain and levee project; completion of designs to siphon the Ellensburg Water Company canal at Whiskey Creek, cooperation with the Palomino subdivision to provide technical assistance regarding the elevation of new homes, and continued implementation of the Yakima River Corridor Plan.
CW-10	High	Develop a system and designate responsible parties for capturing damage data after hazard events, to assist with capturing Public and Individual Assistance expenditures and to catalogue damages for use in developing future projects including. This data will assist with Benefit/Cost Analysis.	Following every declared emergency event, Public Works reports all damages to Kittitas County Emergency Management capturing necessary data used for determining public and private FEMA assistance program efforts. During the reporting period, staff requested Ecology and Region 10 staff to offer the FEMA Substantial Damage Response training.
CW-11	Medium	With Kittitas County as lead, to provide guidance to other jurisdictions, evaluate the benefits of other jurisdictions joining the NFIP Community Rating System.	Kittitas County did not provide this guidance in 2022.
CW-12	Medium	Evaluate Countywide critical facilities list and GIS layer and update as appropriate, to continue improving the risk assessment in this plan.	No action - the Risk geodatabase developed for the current hazard mitigation plan is still up to date.
CW-13	Medium	Increase stakeholder and public participation in the Kittitas County Hazard Mitigation Plan update process.	Progress made. The Hazard Mitigation Plan update has been initiated, and outreach efforts commenced at the 2023 Kittitas County Fair.
CW-14	Medium	Prioritize Kittitas County's list of potential acquisitions of flood-prone properties.	Progress made. The Easton Reach Technical Assessment will be used to inform this prioritization. The FCZD has purchased those properties prioritized by past technical assessment and planning for in the Jeffries Levee to Canyon reach of the Yakima River.
CW-15	High	To more accurately show flood risks, develop maps that show alluvial fans, channel migration zones, and areas of cross-basin flow transfers	Progress made. Updated alluvial fan flood mapping has been submitted for Reecer Creek and Mercer and Whiskey Creeks.
CW-16	High	Improve public health responses to hazard events. For example, testing drinking water for contamination after flood events or distributing masks and closing outdoor events when air quality declines due to wildfire.	On-going Activity. In the reporting period, there were not local flooding or wildfire events that required this type of response.

Kittitas County Mitigation Initiatives

No.	Priority	Description	Status
KC - 1	High	Maintain the Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District (FCZD).	Progress made. The FCZD continues to make progress implementing the Capital Improvement Program.
KC - 2	Medium	Enhance the flood warning system on major rivers and streams within Kittitas County including strengthening the computer interface and upgrading and increasing the number of weather stations.	Progress made. The Flood Control Zone District has installed a total of 5 stream gages with real-time data. The number of stream gages installed and maintained has increased by 3 during the reporting period.
KC - 3	High	Continue participation and improve rating in the Community Rating System	Ongoing Program. In 2019 Kittitas County retained its Class 6 rating, which reduces residents flood insurance premiums by 20%.
KC - 4	Medium	Where appropriate, support retrofitting, purchase, or relocation of structures in hazardprone areas to protect them from future damage, with priority for properties exposed to repetitive losses.	Progress made. Kittitas County entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement to purchase a flood risk property and will take ownership on October 4, 2023. This acquisition will result in the removal of 3 floodway structures. FCZD staff presented a buyout program option to the Elk Meadows HOA leadership, concerning properties accessed by the McElroy Road bridge. The HOA chose instead to upgrade the bridge. The Flood Control Zone District annually sends letters to landowners in repetitive loss areas.
KC - 5	High	Adopt appropriate regulatory standards that will reduce the risk to natural hazards through updates to existing code affecting critical areas regulations, flood hazard regulations, shoreline regulations, and to the county's growth management comprehensive plan	No change. On August 17, 2021 Kittitas County updated its Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to meet current state and federal requirements and enhanced requirements for Community Rating System participation.
KC - 6	High	Annually disseminate a floodplain information brochure to all floodplain area or flood risk households.	Flood information brochures are available at County offices but were not mailed during the reporting period.
KC - 7	Medium	Retrofit, rehabilitate or replace vulnerable road facilities, bridges and infrastructure throughout Kittitas County	Progress made. Federal Highways completed construction for the Dickie Creek bridge. Kittitas County constructed the Kittitas County Vantage Highway over Cascade Canal Bridge Improvement and Manastash Road Bank Stabilization Projects. The Elk Meadows HOA is working on a design proposal for the McElroy Road Bridge.
KC - 8	Medium	Replace undersized bridges and culverts throughout Kittitas County	Progress made. Federal Highways completed construction for the Dickie Creek bridge and Kittitas County constructed the Kittitas County Vantage Highway over Cascade Canal Bridge Improvement project during the reporting period.
KC - 9	High	Continue to maintain compliance and good standing under the National Flood Insurance Program.	Progress made. Kittitas County is working to address issues identified by FEMA and Washington State during its Community Assistance Visit.

Kittitas County Mitigation Initiatives

No.	Priority	Description	Status
KC - 10	Medium	Update the Kittitas County Comprehensive Flood Management Plan	Progress made. Kittitas County completed the Easton Reach flood hazard technical assessment and the results will inform the update to the flood hazard section of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
KC - 11	Medium	Where feasible, seek to elevate at-risk structures within the floodplain to an adequate freeboard that is commensurate with the flood risk. The measure of feasibility will be willing participation by the property owner and the cost-effectiveness of the project.	Progress made. The Flood Control Zone District annually sends letters to landowners in repetitive loss areas and conducts site visits upon request to advised on structure elevation options. The FCZD 6-year work plan has schedule a Repetitive Loss Area analysis to occur in 2027.
KC - 12	Medium	Upgrade or install stream gauges on rivers and streams with a flow greater than 20 cubic feet per second.	Progress made. The Flood Control District has installed 5 gages, including 3 north of Ellensburg, 1 west of Ellensburg, and one on the NF Teanaway River. These gages will form the initial elements of an early flood warning system for the Ellensburg area.
KC - 13	Medium	Conduct a study of all County-owned facilities to determine their vulnerability to natural hazards. Conduct a seismic retrofit or other mitigation to identified vulnerable structures.	No action at this time.
KC - 14	High	Begin a public outreach effort to educate landowners about Firewise and Fire Adapted Communities programs, defensible space around structures, non-combustible building materials, fuel reduction and other wildfire prevention tactics. Place information boards in key areas of the County.	Progress made. Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities conducts outreach for these topics.
KC - 15	High	Perform fuel reduction projects in high wildfire risk areas and areas with identified need throughout Kittitas County.	Progress made. The Kittitas County Conservation District, along with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and local fire districts was awarded \$11.17 million in funding from the USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant for fuels reduction work.
KC - 16	High	Enhance the subdivision code and building code to include updated fire code requirements.	Kittitas County updated the building code to meet state requirements.
KC - 17	High	Continue to improve and preserve fire apparatus access throughout the County, including access through private gates	Progress made. Private bridges are required to meet the 75,000-pound load limit required in fire code adoption. All gated accesses must be approved by the Fire Marshal and comply with minimum width and emergency opening device requirements.
KC - 18	Medium	Identify seiche hazard areas and adopt higher regulatory standards to protect structures within the identified areas.	No action at this time.
KC - 19	High	Continue to adopt land use policies that prohibit the placement of habitable structures in high risk landslide and avalanche areas.	No action at this time.

Kittitas County Mitigation Initiatives

No.	Priority	Description	Status
KC - 20	Medium	Strengthen/harden critical road facilities from the impacts of all hazards for which they have exposure and vulnerability.	No action at this time.
KC - 21	High	Proactively manage hazardous tree removal from public areas, and educate private property owners about management of their own trees	Ongoing activity. The Kittitas County Road Maintenance department removes hazardous trees threatening County rights of way as part of the annual maintenance program. Danger trees are removed following significant wind events in the County.
KC - 22	High	Use the best available data and science to continually update the County risk assessment as new information becomes available (hydrologic, geologic, topographic, etc.)	Progress made. The Flood Control Zone District Completed the Easton Reach Flood Hazard Technical Assessment.
KC - 23	High	Integrate the hazard mitigation plan into future updates of the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan.	Progress Made. The 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan update has been initiated and is being coordinated with Kittitas County planning staff.
KC - 24	High	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance and updating of this plan.	Progress made. Kittitas County has provided annual reports since 2020.
KC - 25	High	Integrate goals, objectives and initiatives of the Kittitas County Hazard Mitigation Plan into existing County regulations and programs where appropriate	Progress made through regular work programs.
KC - 26	High	Maintain an active public outreach strategy using available multiple media to inform the public how to personally prepare for and mitigate the hazards of concern.	Progress made through regular work programs.
KC - 27	Low	Support detailed ash fall studies.	No action at this time
KC - 28	Medium	Identify and create new impounded water sources	Progress made. This activity is being advanced through the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan and the Kittitas Reclamation District has been investigating potential new impounded water sources.
KC - 29	Medium	Educate the public on drought resistance and encourage the use of water saving landscaping, irrigation methods and farming practices.	Progress made. This activity is being advanced through the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. The Heritage Garden Program, which provides technical assistance through the Conservation District to encourage the use of native plants and water-efficient irrigation, expanded into Kittitas County during the reporting period. The Kittitas County Conservation District provides technical assistance and helps leverage state and federal funding to improve on farm practices.

No.	Priority	Description	Status
KC - 30	Medium	Improve irrigation conveyance systems to reduce water loss through earthen canals and ditches.	Progress made. This activity is being advanced through the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan and the Kittitas Reclamation District has been actively implementing water conservation projects along their distribution system.
KC - 31	High	Enhance the existing dam failure early warning system	Progress made. The Bureau of Reclamation maintains a phone tree and practices it every year. County residents can sign up to be notified about emergencies at locations they identify through their account.
KC - 32	Medium	Set the course for sustained operations of critical county functions by the development of a continuity of operations plan and/or a post-disaster recovery plan.	Progress made. Work at home orders associated with COVID-19 necessitated policies and procedures for telework for continuity of operations.
KC - 33	High	Continue to support through active participation the “county-wide” initiatives identified in Volume 1 of the Kittitas County Hazard Mitigation Plan.	Progress made / ongoing activity.
KC - 34	High	Consider participation in the National Weather Service “Storm Ready” program.	Progress made / ongoing activity. Kittitas County Public Works participates in NOAA weather briefings year-round as issued from the regional office in Pendleton, OR. Advancing storm fronts are monitored and NOAA data is used to schedule supplemental maintenance crews.