Kittitas County was organized in 1883 from portions of Yakima County. Kittitas is Indian for "plenty food". The county is located east of the Cascade Mountains in the geographical center of the state. Europeans first visited the county in 1812 when members of the Pacific Fur Company passed through the region. Prior to the Civil War, Captain George McClellan supervised military road construction through the county. In 1905 the U.S. Reclamation Service's project in the county opened up 72,000 acres for agricultural development and was of major important to the country's economic development. Today, Kittitas County is an important food processing, mixed agriculture and stock-raising center. Mining and timber also add diversity to its economy. Central Washington University at Ellensburg is the area's higher education and research center.

Bounded by: Chelan County (N), Grant County (E), Yakima County (S), and King County (W).

County Seat: Ellensburg (known as Robber's Roost in 1867 and Ellen's Burgh in 1880).

Chambers of Commerce:
Cle Elum Chamber of Commerce, 401 W 1st, PO Box 43, Cle Elum, WA 98922. Phone 509-674-5958.

Courthouse: 205 W Fifth, Ellensburg, WA 98926. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Assessor: Room 101. Phone 509-962-7501. Fax 509-962-7666. Contact us by mail, telephone, or in person and we will do everything we can to assist you with locating information available.

Auditor: Room 105. Phone 509-962-7504. Fax 509-962-7687. E-mail bev@co.kittitas.wa.us


Treasurer: Room 102. Phone 509-962-7535. Fax phone 962-7650.

Genealogical Society:
Northern Kittitas County Genealogical Society, PO Box 535, Cle Elum, WA 98922.

Health Department:
Kittitas County Health Department, 507 Nanum, Ellensburg, WA 98926. Phone 509-962-7515.

Historical Society:
Cle Elum Historical Society, 202 Reed St, Cle Elum, WA 98922.
Roslyn Historical Museum Society, PO Box 281, Roslyn, WA 98941.
Libraries - Academic:

Libraries - Public:

Ellensburg Public Library, 209 N Ruby St, Ellensburg, WA 98926-3338. Phone 509-962-7250. Fax 509-962-7295. Collection includes non-cataloged oral history cassettes and transcripts, photographs, some local families' papers, local women's club's records. Has index of local newspapers, microfilmed water rights records, Sanborn maps and school annuals.

Kittitas Public Library, 2nd and Pierce Sts, PO Box 800, Kittitas, WA 98934. Phone 509-968-0226. Fax 509-968-0226.

Roslyn Public Library, 201 S First, PO Box 451, Roslyn, WA 98941-0451. Phone 509-649-3420. Has a Pacific Northwest Section and a collection of articles submitted by local families.

Libraries - Special:
Family History Center Ellensburg, 1700 Brick Rd, Ellensburg, WA. Phone 509-925-5192.

Kittitas County Genealogical Society Library, 413 N Main, Suite I, Ellensburg, WA 98926.

Kittitas County Law Library, 205 W 5th St, County Courthouse, Ellensburg, WA 98926. Phone 509-962-7520. Fax 509-962-7022.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Cle Elum Historical Telephone Museum, 221 E 1st, PO Box 43, Cle Elum, WA 98922. Phone 509-674-5702.

Clymer Museum & Gallery, 416 N Pearl, PO Box 1102, Ellensburg, WA 98926. Phone 509-962-6416. Fax 509-962-6424.

Frontier Village, Kittitas County Fairgrounds, 512 N Poplar, Ellensburg, WA 98926. Phone 509-962-7639.

Kittitas County Historical Museum, 114 E 3rd Ave, PO Box 265, Ellensburg, WA 98926. Phone 509-925-3778. Membership available. Collections include non-cataloged photographs, Rollinger Brothers petrified wood collection, early business displays, pioneer kitchen and Indian artifacts.

Olmstead Place State Park, 921 N Ferguson Rd, Ellensburg, WA 98926. Phone 509-925-1955. Fax 509-925-1943. "Explore the historical homestead buildings and surrounding farm lands. Take the 'Altapes Creek Trail' walk, and view display sheds of antique farm equipment."
State Archive Branch:
Central Region (Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan and Yakima counties.) Bledsoe-Washington Archives Building, Central Washington University
MS 7547, Ellensburg, WA 98926-7547. Phone: 509-963-2136. Fax 509-963-1753. E-mail: archives@cwu.edu. Research Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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- Superior Court civil case files, 1890-1970
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- Superior Court insanity case files, 1887-1970
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- Superior Court judgement index, 1893-1927
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- Territorial appearance docket, 1884-1889
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Death returns, 1891-1905
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Boundary petition and descriptions, ESD 105, 1880-1947
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- Elections register of nominations, 1892-1904
- Elections register of officials, 1883-1898
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- Timber land assessment maps and cruises, 1908-1958
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  Memorandum of naturalization proceedings, 1907-1912
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