KITTITAS COUNTY

1883

COUNTY SEAT: ELLENSBURG

Named for the Kittitas (Upper Yakama) Indian people

Traditional hunting and gathering grounds of several bands and tribes now associated with the Yakama Nation

Kittitas County stretches from the forested flanks of the Cascade Range to sagebrush hills overlooking the mighty Columbia River. In between these two extremes lies the irrigated farmland of the beautiful Kittitas Valley. Though the county seat of Ellensburg once dreamed of becoming Washington's state capitol, those hopes were dashed by a fire that swept through the center of town in 1889. Ellensburg was chosen instead in 1891 as the site of a state-funded normal school for training classroom teachers, a college that later grew into Central Washington University.

