



SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2019 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Protecting Sheridan County's water and land quality through assistance programs, education, monitoring and planning.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 2019 POSTER CONTEST

"Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper" is the theme for the 2019 NACD Soil and Water Health Stewardship Week Poster Contest. Participants K-12 have the chance to win a \$15 gift card to Sheridan Stationery and will be entered into the state contest for a



chance to win \$100 cash. If the participant wins at state, their poster will move onto the national level, where they have the chance to win a \$200, \$150, or \$100 prize. The submission deadline is August 30th. If you have children or students that would like to enter the poster contest, please contact our office or visit our website for more information!

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Through federal and state grants, the SCCD offers financial assistance for projects that benefit water quality in eligible watersheds (Goose Creek, Tongue River and Prairie Dog Creek watersheds). Typical projects include installing fencing or stockwater systems to minimize livestock access to waterbodies, relocating corrals or animal feeding areas away from waterbodies, replacing eligible septic systems to eliminate sewage discharges, and irrigation improvements. Descriptions of select projects are available on SCCD's website. The District also offers willow planting services at no cost.

If you would like to apply for cost-share funds through one of SCCD's water quality improvement programs or request free willow planting services, we encourage you to contact SCCD to determine if your project is eligible and to learn more about the application process.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO MANAGE
LIVESTOCK ACCESS TO YOUR CREEK?**



**DO YOU HAVE A FAILING SEPTIC
SYSTEM NEAR A WATERBODY?**



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO VEGETATE YOUR
STREAMBANKS TO REDUCE EROSION?**





JOIN US AT THESE SPRING WORKSHOPS!



STREAMSIDE STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

MAY 16TH, 5:30-7:30, INNER CIRCLE
SHERIDAN COUNTY FULMER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Do you live along a stream or river? Would you like to learn more about what you can do to help maintain healthy streambanks and corridors on your property? This workshop is for you!

Presenters will discuss basic functions of streams and rivers, common problems of living along a waterway, riparian management and aquatic habitat. Treatment options and regulatory considerations for instream and streambank work will also be covered.

For more information and to register, please visit
WWW.SCCDWY.ORG



NORTHEAST WYOMING INVASIVE GRASSES WORKING GROUP (NEWIGWG) FIELD TOUR

JUNE 18TH, LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

NEWIGWG was formed following the discovery of two new invasive grasses in the area, Ventenata and Medusahead. These species reduce grazing capacity, out-compete local flora and reduce diversity. This year's annual tour will include target species impacts, efficacy of various management tactics, impacts to grazing resources, opportunities for hands-on learning, and updates on ongoing research in the area.

For more information and to register for the tour, please visit
WWW.WYMEDUSA2019.EVENTBRITE.COM



COVER CROPS IN NORTHEASTERN WYOMING FIELD WORKSHOP

JUNE 27TH, 8AM-2PM, MEET AT WATT CENTER,
SHERIDAN COLLEGE

Brought to you by the Sheridan Community Land Trust, the Powder River Basin Resource Council, the Plank Stewardship Initiative, USDA NRCS and SCCD, this field workshop will include managing for soil health and challenges, benefits of cover crops and how to design a cover crops system.

The workshop includes 4 speakers and 2 ranch tours. RSVP is required. Limited to 25 participants.

For more information and to register, please visit
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHERIDANCLT OR WWW.SCCDWY.ORG

ACME POWER PLANT RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE

Reclamation efforts at the former Acme Power Plant continue to move along, however, we still have a long road ahead before the site is safe and suitable for public use. Our hope is that this can be achieved within a 10 year time frame; but that will depend on the level of contamination. Additionally, remediation activities need to be completed in a way that minimizes risk of exposure and/or spreading contaminants to the surrounding area.

Comprehensive site assessments will begin in the spring/summer of 2019 through an EPA Assessment Grant. These assessments, which are expected to take up to 3 years, will identify the full extent of contamination in the soils and groundwater and include the development of a remediation plan with cost estimates. Specific remediation alternatives will consider community preferences. While focused discussions will be more appropriate after the assessment work, we will continue to seek input throughout the process. Progress updates and meeting announcements are posted on the project website and the District's Facebook page.

As always, we ask that people respect the fences and the adjacent landowners by not attempting to enter. Anyone accessing the site has the potential to track contaminants to surrounding areas and/or injure themselves amid the debris. Exposure risks through skin contact, inhalation, and ingestion are still present.

While we are a long way from completion, it is still possible to be involved. Donations from local people demonstrate broad community support and can also be used to leverage additional grants. Making a donation is easy through the project website or by sending a check to the District with Acme in the memo line. Visit the project website to donate or for more information.

WWW.ACMEPROJECTWYOMING.ORG

MAVRAKIS POND PROJECT UPDATE

Wyoming Game and Fish and the City of Sheridan propose to drain Mavrakis Pond in Hume Draw in the next few weeks. The purpose is to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients that are contributing to problematic algal growth and reduce the bullhead population. This will occur during higher spring runoff flows in Goose Creek and may slightly increase the turbidity in the downstream channel. Once the pond is drained and refilled, the WG&F will stock the ponds with catchable rainbow trout to provide immediate fishing opportunities.

by Tom O'Leary, City of Sheridan and Paul Mavrakis, Wyoming Game and Fish



Park 2 Park & Arbor Day Celebration

RUN-BIKE-WALK-SKATE

STROLLERS | ROLLERBLADERS | PETS | ALL AGES

Event begins @ South Park – North Park

5 miles one way / 10 miles round trip



SATURDAY, MAY 18TH
9 AM @ SOUTH PARK



Free Registration starts at 8 a.m. @ South Park on event day

Event Begins - 9 a.m. / Arbor Day Celebration & Tree Planting - 11 a.m.

Family & Pet Friendly ~ Free Hat to first 150 registrants ~ Raffle Prizes

Free shuttle rides from North Park to South Park available every ½ hour 9:30 a.m. – noon

For more info visit: www.sheridanwy.net or call: 307-751-8039

Sheridan County Conservation BROWN BAG SERIES

Hear from various Sheridan County conservation organizations throughout the month of June and learn about the exciting work underway to benefit nature and people in your community. Free and open to the public.

JUNE 5
Sheridan Community Land Trust

JUNE 12
Wyoming Wilderness Association

JUNE 19
The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming

JUNE 26
Sheridan County Conservation District & Natural Resource Conservation Service

YOU'RE INVITED

Each Wednesday in June
Noon - 1pm

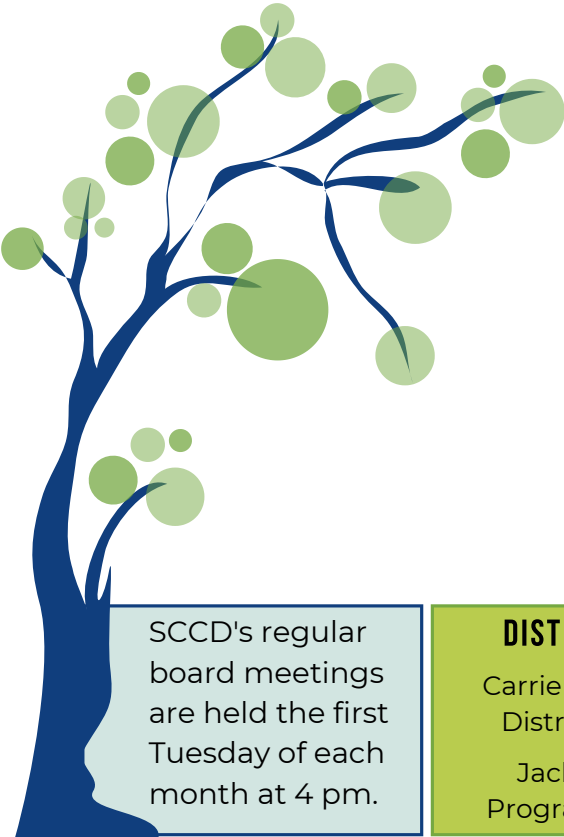
Inner Circle
Sheridan County
Fulmer Public Library
335 W. Alger St.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



Sheridan County Conservation District
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 102
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 672-5820 ext. 3
www.sccdwy.org

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SCCD's regular board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 4 pm.

DISTRICT STAFF

Carrie Rogaczewski
District Manager

Jackie Carbert
Program Specialist

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Susan Holmes
Edith Heyward
Orrin Connell

Emerson Scott, III
Doug Masters

NRCS STAFF

Andrew Cassiday
District Conservationist

Oakley Ingersoll
Soil Conservationist

2018 Goose Creek Monitoring Results

SCCD monitored 18 sites during the 2018 season; 10 stations on the mainstems of Big Goose, Little Goose, and Goose Creek, and eight tributary stations. Parameters monitored include water temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, discharge, turbidity, and *E. coli*. Most results were within the standards set by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ), with the exception of temperature, dissolved oxygen and *E. coli*. The purpose of monitoring is to document changes in water quality over time. While bacteria concerns continue to exist and it may seem like we aren't gaining anything, collected data is useful for prioritizing projects and efforts as conditions change. If you would like to read more about the 2018 results, the Goose Creek Watershed Interim Monitoring Report will be available on our website following approval by WDEQ.

WWW.SCCDWY.ORG/GOOSE-CREEK-WATERSHED

2019 Tongue River Watershed Monitoring

SCCD will be conducting water quality monitoring in the Tongue River Watershed beginning May 15th. Parameters monitored from May-September will be the same as those monitored in 2018 in the Goose Creek watershed (listed above). Benthic macroinvertebrate collections and habitat assessments will be completed at select stations in September. Interim monitoring in the Tongue River Watershed has occurred every three years since 2003.

