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CALENDAR

- MAY 06 Monthly Board Meeting
- MAY 6-8 Annual Employee Training
- MAY 12 Conservation Easements Event
- MAY 16-17 Seedling Tree Pickup
- MAY 20 Sheridan Co. Local Work Group Meeting
- MAY 26 Memorial Day Office Closed
- JUNE 03 Monthly Board Meeting
- JUNE 7, 10, 12 Perennial Pickup at PINP Greenhouse
- JUNE 24 Facing the Fire Part II Field Workshop
- JULY 04 Independence Day Office Closed
- JULY 08 Monthly Board Meeting

FIRE RECOVERY EFFORTS

The SCCD has been busy applying for funding related to fire recovery efforts. While a request to the USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Program was not funded, the District was successful in receiving some other funding to do some limited preventative mitigation work. This may include hazard tree removal, log erosion barriers, etc., and the District is working on some potential projects.

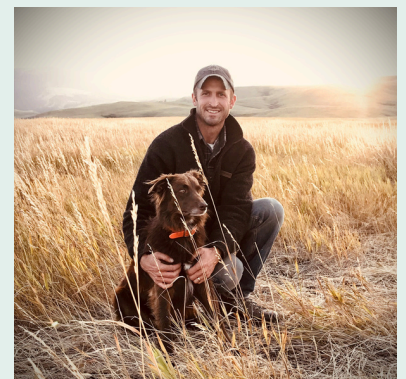
The District received some funding to do additional water quality monitoring, per request from the Towns of Ranchester and Dayton, on the Tongue River and Wolf Creek, upstream of the water treatment facilities. The additional monitoring will be at existing monitoring sites, and will include some additional sampling days to capture pre-runoff conditions. Parameters will include some metals, minerals, carbon, nitrogen, and total suspended solids. The District also prepared an application for a Hazard Mitigation Grant to install turbidity sensors at existing stream gaging stations on Tongue River, Wolf Creek, and Big Goose Creek upstream of municipal intakes.



Finally, the District has been working with partners to develop a fire recovery plan, including assessments, following a seminar with hydrologist Dave Rosgen in November. The District recently hired Steady Stream Hydrology to do the initial assessment work.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD SUPERVISOR!

Brian Cherni was elected to the SCCD Board of Supervisors to fill a Rural position in the fall of 2024. Brian was born and raised in Sheridan County, graduated from Montana State University-Bozeman, and previously worked as a mine engineer. Today, Brian resides near Parkman, WY and is employed as a farm manager.



ANNUAL WATERSHED MEETINGS

The SCCD held their annual watershed meetings in March and April in the Tongue River, Prairie Dog Creek, and Goose Creek watersheds. We had a good turnout and great discussion at all three meetings and we appreciate the local landowners and the agencies and organizations that took the time to attend!

Why Do We Do Annual Watershed Meetings?

The meetings give the SCCD an opportunity to provide updates on watershed activities and gather input on water quality monitoring, improvement programs, and other activities. Meetings include updates on completed projects and activities, monitoring plans and/or results, upcoming activities, and other information about programs and opportunities.

SCCD values the opportunity to engage directly with stakeholders in each watershed. If you are ever unable to attend a meeting in yours or other watersheds, would like more information, or just have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at 307-672-5820 ext. 3 or via our website at sccdwy.org/contact.

WATERSHED UPDATES



- Sampling in 2024 was in the Goose Creek watershed and data analysis and reporting is currently underway. Once the report has been approved by WDEQ, it will be available to the public at sccdwy.org/goose-creek-watershed
- 2025 monitoring will be in the Tongue River watershed and will include some additional parameters and additional sampling days related to fire impacts.
- The Tongue River National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Readiness report was submitted. Once approved, the NWQI will allocate funding assistance for subwatersheds in and around the Towns of Dayton and Ranchester (Fivemile Creek, Columbus Creek, Little Tongue River, and Lower Wolf Creek).
- Through the Goose Creek NWQI, SCCD and NRCS has ~\$1.2 million in USDA EQIP funds earmarked for projects within the Upper Big Goose Creek subwatershed (around the municipal intake) over the next several years.
- SCCD co-sponsored an application for a Wyoming Water Development Office Level 2 feasibility study. If approved, the study will evaluate the technical and financial feasibility of extending the City of Sheridan's raw water transmission line to convey irrigation water to the northwest part of the City in place of the Alliance Lateral Ditch, which has significant erosion.



YOU'RE INVITED

TO A COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

When: Monday, May 12th

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: The Barn in Big Horn

228 Johnson Street

Big Horn, WY 82833

Light appetizers and drinks will be served starting at 5:45pm.

Questions? Call Sarah at 307.772.8751

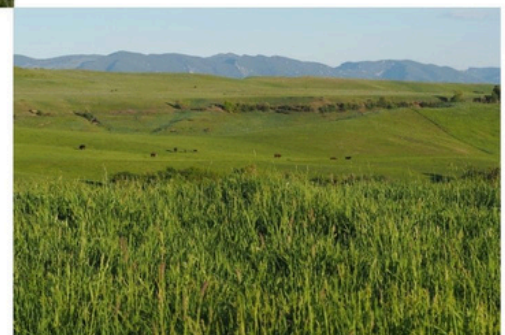
Join us for a brief, formal presentation by Land Trust staff, followed by an open Q&A session with community members and partners in conservation.

Hosted by: UW

College of Agriculture, Life Sciences and Natural Resources
Sheridan Research and Extension Center



Funding provided by:



ACME RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATES

While work at the Acme Power Plant was paused over the winter, asbestos removal activities are expected to resume this May. Demolition of the east side of the building will be included in this phase due to safety concerns with portions of the roof that are collapsing. The next priority will be cleanup of contaminated soils. A working group meeting will be scheduled once asbestos removal and demolition activities are complete.

Final completion of the project is expected to take up to 10 years due to the size and complexity of the site. The SCCD continues to work to secure funding for future soil and groundwater remediation, and site redevelopment.

If you are interested in sharing your stories about Acme and surrounding historical townsites, attending meetings and events, or donating towards the project, please visit www.acmeprojectwyoming.org.



SEEDLING TREE PROGRAM

From November to April, the SCCD accepts pre-orders for low-cost seedling trees, shrubs, and perennials to be used within Sheridan County, WY. Plant materials are sold in bulk quantities and are intended to be used for conservation purposes such as windbreaks, living snow fences, erosion control, habitat, reforestation, visual barriers, and more. The SCCD/NRCS can provide assistance when considering local soil types, tree species, windbreak design, and site preparation for your planting.

While we are no longer accepting orders this year, it's never too early to start planning a planting! Feel free to reach out for assistance or to be added to our Tree Program mailing list.

2024-2025 SEEDLING TREE PICKUP

If you ordered **seedlings** this year, pickup is *tentatively* scheduled for May 16-17, assuming no delays with shipping. Specific times will be emailed out in the next couple weeks. As always, please be timely in picking up your plants so that we do not have to store them in the office over the weekend.

If you ordered **perennials**, they will be available for pickup at the Piney Island Native Plants Greenhouse on the Sheridan College campus on:

- Saturday, June 7th 9 am - 12 pm
- Tuesday, June 10th 1 pm - 4 pm
- Thursday, June 12th 1 pm - 4 pm

THE COST OF CONSERVATION

\$550

Water quality demonstration or field day

\$25,000

For a season of water quality monitoring

\$3000-\$5000

In personnel time for technical assistance on an individual project

\$7500

per year in grant administration, including proposals and reporting

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

As a political subdivision of state government that uses donations solely for public purposes, your investment in the SCCD is considered a tax-deductible charitable contribution.

Individual or business name

Mailing address

City, state, zip

Email address

Phone number

AMOUNT

- \$50 \$100
 \$150 \$500
 Other \$ _____

PREFERENCE

- Water Resources Program
 Acme Cleanup Project
 Rangeland, Weeds, & Trees
 Outreach & Collaborations
 Anywhere Needed

Please make checks payable to SCCD or donate online at www.sccdwy.org.





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 www.sccdwy.org

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The mission of the Sheridan County Conservation District is to protect water and land quality, support agriculture, and encourage land stewardship through improvement programs, collaborative partnerships, monitoring, and outreach.

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

**July 1 meeting moved to July 8*

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Edith Heyward
 Chair

Stephanie Masters
 Vice Chair

Orrin Connell
 Secretary-Treasurer

Jessica Western
 Supervisor

Brian Cherni
 Supervisor

SCCD STAFF

Carrie Rogaczewski
 District Manager

Jackie Turner
 Program Specialist

NRCS STAFF

Andrew Cassidy
 District Conservationist

Oakley Ingersoll
 Soil Conservationist

Chelsea Winslow
 Soil Conservationist

WORKING LANDS COLLABORATIVE



The Working Lands Collaborative is a group of local landowners and agency partners committed to offering programs and resources on soil health and regenerative agriculture. The goal is to bring subject matter experts and teachers into the community to grow our local knowledge base on next-level adaptive agricultural practices.

RANCHERS NIGHT OUT

The WLC began hosting a "Ranchers Night Out" in 2024. This is an informal gathering held in different locations throughout the county twice a year, giving local producers a chance to hear about what others are doing in their area and share stories, successes, and challenges. Be on the lookout for the next event in the fall!

**SAVE THE DATE JUNE 24TH, 2025
 FACING THE FIRE: PART II FIELD WORKSHOP**

Join us for Part II of the Facing the Fire Workshop! This will be a field tour and will include site visits, presentations, and discussions on impacts of local fires, prescribed burning, reseeding, and more. Lunch will be provided. Watch for more information and registration in the coming weeks.

To unsubscribe from our mailing list, please email jackie.turner@sccdwy.org