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TONGUE RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT

CALENDAR

- Nov. 2019 Seedling Tree Program Begins
- Nov. 11 Office Closed Veteran's Day
- Nov. 13-15 WACD Convention Buffalo, WY
- Nov. 28 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 25 Office Closed Christmas Day
- Jan. 01 Office Closed New Year's Day
- Feb. 2020 Watershed Newsletters
- Feb. 2020 Steering Committee Meetings

In 2011, the SCCD partnered with the Sheridan County Public Works Department to conduct a stream channel survey within Tongue River Canyon upstream of the Town of Dayton. This effort was in response to multiple requests for assistance and concerns with bank erosion from landowners within the area. The result was the 2014 Tongue River Stream Improvement Concept Plan, which identified areas of significant stream instability and low habitat quality along the river corridor and recommended rehabilitation concepts.

Engineering for the Tongue River Restoration Project was completed by WWC Engineering and was funded through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Construction, led by Aqua Terra Construction LLC, began in August after obtaining commitment from the 16 landowners within the 1,750 foot reach of the Tongue River located in and above the Town of Dayton. The project includes a combination of rock structures, wood enhancements, and channel realignment. The project is not intended to reduce flooding; the purpose is to stabilize eroding banks while improving habitat and overall stream function.

Much of the instream construction was completed in September. Recovery of the affected areas may take anywhere from two to five years. After that time, it should not be obvious that the project occurred.

This project would not have been possible without the following partners: USDA NRCS, Wyoming Game and Fish, The Nature Conservancy, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, Sheridan County, Wyoming Community Foundation Padlock Donor Fund, and the 16 landowners.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

SCCD is one of the 34 conservation districts in Wyoming. Each district has a unique program tailored to meet the specific natural resource needs of its district.

The SCCD is funded primarily through federal and state grants with some support from local funding sources, including contributions from private citizens.

Funds raised from private contributions are critical to the overall function of the SCCD, serving as match for grants, as well as providing for administrative services, technical assistance, and information and education.

Thanks to support from Sheridan County, the City of Sheridan, the Towns of Dayton, Ranchester, and Clearmont, and contributions from private citizens, SCCD has been able to help this community for the past 45 years. Over half of SCCD's budget goes toward on-the-ground projects aimed at improving the water and land quality of Sheridan County. You can help sustain this effort with a contribution.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE AT WWW.SCCDWY.ORG OR BY MAIL TO 1949 SUGARLAND DRIVE, SUITE 102, SHERIDAN, WY 82810

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM (REAP)



REAP provides assistance to agricultural producers and rural small business for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements through Federal loan guarantees and grants. Funds may be used to purchase, install, and construct:

- Renewable energy systems, including:
 - Wind;
 - Solar;
 - Biomass, including anaerobic digesters;
 - Geothermal;
 - and more.
- Energy efficient projects, including:
 - Heating, ventilation, and AC systems;
 - Insulation; Lighting;
 - Cooling or refrigeration units;
 - Doors, windows, and other building improvements;
 - and more.

Grants can finance up to 25% of the project cost, and loans or loan and grant combinations can finance up to 75% of the project cost.

VALUE ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS



Get more revenue from your agricultural products by processing or marketing them. Funds can be used for planning activities or for working capital expenses related to producing and marketing a value-added agricultural product. Participants must obtain matching funds for half the total costs of their project. This assistance is available to independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer or rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business.

Information on all USDA Rural Development programs can be found online at www.rd.usda.gov/wy or from the Sheridan County USDA Service Center, located in Sheridan, Wyoming, or by contacting:

Jessica Taylor, Area Specialist/Energy Coordinator
(307) 683-4188; jessica.taylor@usda.gov

Sheridan County Conservation District Contribution Commitment

Yes! I want to help SCCD protect water and land quality in Sheridan County through assistance programs, education, monitoring and planning.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount:	Please put my contribution towards:
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Acme Reclamation Project
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Programs & Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil Recycling/Tree Program
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Weeds/Range Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> Outreach/Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Anywhere Needed

Please mail your contribution to: Sheridan County Conservation District
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 102
Sheridan, WY 82801

Or donate online with a credit card at: www.sccdwy.org



Sheridan County Conservation District
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 102
Sheridan, WY 82801
www.sccdwy.org
Find us on

LONG RANGE PLAN UPDATE

The Sheridan County Conservation District develops a Long-Range Plan every five years as required by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. The Long-Range Plan serves as a broad outline of the SCCD's long term priorities and goals. It serves as the guiding document for development of programs and activities and creates a common vision and direction for the Board of Supervisors.

SCCD sought local input for the plan through surveys distributed through the SCCD mailing list and social media. A total of 98 surveys were returned; 49 through postal mail, 39 through the website, and 10 through social media.

Survey Highlights

Highest Ranking Natural Resource Priorities

1. Water Quality
2. Rangelands
3. Air Quality

Top Natural Resource Impacts To Be Addressed by SCCD

1. Weeds & Invasive Grasses
2. Streambank Erosion
3. Septic Systems

Highest Ranking SCCD Programs & Projects

1. Water Quality Monitoring
2. Cost-Share Assistance
3. Information & Education

THE 2020-2024 LONG RANGE PLAN IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT WWW.SCCDWY.ORG PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH DECEMBER 3, 2019



ACME POWER PLANT RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE

Courtesy of WWC Engineering

The SCCD continues to coordinate reclamation efforts with multiple partners on the former Acme Power Plant. Initial environmental assessments completed in 2017 through the USEPA identified contamination in surface soils, groundwater, sediments, and building materials.

Through the WDEQ Voluntary Remediation Program, some site stabilization activities were completed in October 2018. These activities were meant to prevent further contamination of the river and surrounding areas and improve site safety for future assessment activities. In the fall of 2019, contractors initiated assessment activities; including installation and collection of samples from 10 groundwater monitoring wells, collection of surface samples from 3 locations on the Tongue River, and soil sampling from 30 locations from 0-12 feet deep. Additional sampling activities confirmed the risk of asbestos exposure during disturbance of soil and vegetation. Groundwater and river sampling will be repeated quarterly. Additional sampling of the river sediments will be completed in late October.

Roadwork and additional security measures were completed in September and October. Please respect fences and landowners by not attempting to enter the site. Exposure risks via skin contact, inhalation, and ingestion are significant.

If you're interested in donating towards the Acme Project, or for more information, please visit www.acmeprojectwyoming.org





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



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The mission of the Sheridan County Conservation District is to protect Sheridan County's water and land quality through assistance programs, education, monitoring and planning.

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

NRCS STAFF

Andrew Cassiday
District Conservationist

Oakley Ingersoll
Soil Conservationist

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Susan Holmes
Chair

Edith Heyward
Vice-Chair

Orrin Connell
Secretary-Treasurer

Emerson Scott
Supervisor

Doug Masters
Supervisor

SEEDLING TREE PROGRAM

SCCD's Seedling Tree Program provides conservation grade seedling trees for purchase at a nominal price. The low-cost seedlings are available for purchase from November to early April. Seedlings are generally delivered in May and may be used for the following purposes:

- Living Snow Fence
- Windbreaks
- Wildlife Habitat
- Visual Screens/Noise Barriers
- Erosion Control
- Reforestation
- Other Conservation Purposes

A wide variety of species are offered to meet conservation needs throughout Sheridan County. Seedlings are bundled in groups of 25 or 30, based on size and species selection. Popular species, and the variety package, tend to sell out quickly, so it's best to get your order in as soon as possible. To place a seedling order, you may:

- Order online at www.sccdwy.org/seedling-tree-program
- Download and print an order form from our website (listed above)
- Pick up an order form from our office (Suite 102 in the Cottonwood Bldg)
- Call the office to have an order form mailed to you (672-5820 ext. 3)

SCOTS, AUSTRIAN OR MUGO PINES ON YOUR PROPERTY?

The Pine Wilt Nematode has been confirmed in Sheridan and can cause a fatal wilt disease found in exotic pin species. The most common symptom is discoloration of the needles. Please contact the City Arborist, Clark Hoosier, for more information: cvanhoosier@sheridanwy.net

