



## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
- 2 HAPPY HORSE KEEPING WORKSHOP
- 2 CONSERVATION PARTNER AWARDS
- 3 ACME RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE
- 3 2022 POSTER CONTEST
- 3 TONGUE RIVER MONITORING
- 3 TREE PROGRAM PICKUP AND INFORMATION
- 4 JOB OPENING; PROJECT APPLICATION DEADLINES

## CALENDAR



**MAY 3** Monthly Board Meeting

**MAY 5-7** Seedling Pickup from SCCD

**MAY 26, 28, 31** Perennial Pickup from PINP

**MAY 30** Office Closed Memorial Day

**JUNE 7** Monthly Board Meeting

**JULY 4** Office Closed Independence Day

**JULY 5** Monthly Board Meeting

**AUGUST 1** Cost-Share Application Deadline

**AUGUST 2** Monthly Board Meeting

**SEPTEMBER 5** Office Closed Labor Day

**SEPTEMBER 6** Monthly Board Meeting

## SCCD Celebrates 50 Years!

In February, the Sheridan County Conservation District celebrated its 50-year anniversary. However, the history of conservation districts in Sheridan County began even earlier. In 1972, the Clearwater Conservation District, now the Sheridan County Conservation District, was formed through the consolidation of three existing Districts: the Dutch Creek-Clear Creek District, formed in 1942, and the Cloud Peak and Tongue River Districts, both of which were formed in 1948. Since that time, the Sheridan County Conservation District has played a pivotal role addressing natural resource concerns in Sheridan County.

Early conservation efforts began in the 1930s as America was recovering from the dust bowl. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service, was formed in 1935 to provide assistance to landowners for application of conservation practices. President Roosevelt recognized a need and encouraged local coordination of conservation efforts. In 1939, federal legislation was passed enabling Conservation Districts to participate and intervene with government agencies to encourage local oversight of federal conservation programs on private lands. The Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 expanded the role of Conservation Districts to provide studies and assistance to address not only soil erosion problems, but also an entire range of resource issues.



In Sheridan County, the Conservation District has always been co-located with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. In the early days, the District "Clerk" served as secretary/receptionist for the local NRCS office; over time the District has assumed a more active role in program development and coordination.

The Sheridan County Conservation District is one of 34 Districts in the State of Wyoming. Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government, organized under the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. Each District is governed by a 5-member Board of Supervisors. Supervisors are local residents, elected by Sheridan County citizens on the non-partisan general election ballot. By state statute, three positions are rural, one is urban, and one is at-large. These supervisors are dedicated volunteers who serve as advocates for the local conservation program. Supervisors establish and prioritize programs to improve water and land quality in Sheridan County. Since 1942, more than 100 individuals have sat on the Board of Supervisors. Many of these folks have come from families living in Sheridan County for generations and have invested their energy in preserving Sheridan County's rich agricultural heritage and the integrity of natural resources.

# SAVE THE DATE

## HAPPY HORSE KEEPING WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2022

### HORSE OWNERS

In 2020, the SCCD had been planning a workshop for horse owners. Unfortunately, due to CoVID-19, the workshop was postponed.

We are pleased to announce that we are revamping this workshop for this September! We will be bringing in a speaker from Idaho who will cover pasture management, mud and manure management, footing and drainage options, horse health, and more.

More details, including speaker information and location, will be released later this summer. Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates!

### HORSE GROUPS & BUSINESSES

We are looking for additional groups, businesses, or organizations who would be interested in sponsoring and/or participating in the workshop. Sponsors will have their logo included on workshop advertisements and materials and are invited to set up a booth or bring handouts the day of the workshop.

We will mail out more information and a sponsor card to pertinent organizations and businesses, in the next few months. If you are interested in participating and would like to be included, don't hesitate to reach out!

## SCCD Celebrates 50 Years! (Cont.)

Funding for Conservation Districts varies statewide. Some have mill levies that were approved by voters in their Districts, some receive substantial appropriations from local governments, and some rely on small appropriations and other funding. A mill levy has not been approved in Sheridan County, as such the majority of SCCD's funding comes through federal, state, and private grants, many of which are restricted to specific projects and programs. Local support is provided through Sheridan County, the City of Sheridan, the Towns of Ranchester, Dayton, and Clearmont and contributions from private citizens.

The function of the Conservation District is to focus and coordinate technical, educational, and financial resources to meet the needs of the local land user. Across the nation, Conservation Districts work with a variety of partners to address the natural resource priorities of their respective communities. As a result, programs vary from state to state, county to county, and even district to district. The Conservation District coordinates the activities of the NRCS, along with other agencies and groups, in ways that will fit the needs of Sheridan County.

Current District priorities include water quality monitoring and watershed planning, cost-share assistance for improvement projects, conservation seedling tree programs, oil recycling facilities and special projects such as installation of Living Snow Fences and coordination of the Acme Power Plant reclamation efforts. The District also participates and coordinates numerous information and outreach activities throughout the year including water quality field and classroom demonstrations and butter making activities to highlight the importance of agriculture. Board members and staff represent the District on a variety of local committees and groups to advocate for natural resource and agriculture issues.

## 2022 Conservation Partner Awards

The Sheridan County Conservation District presented their 2022 Conservation Partner Awards in March. Award recipients included the Sheridan Field Office NRCS Staff: Andrew Cassiday, Oakley Ingersoll, and Chelsea Winslow. These individuals/organizations were specifically recognized for their contributions in support of District programs and activities.

The Conservation Partner award was established by the Conservation District in 2017 to acknowledge individuals, businesses, and organizations that contribute to the District's mission of protecting Sheridan County's water and land quality through assistance programs, information and outreach, monitoring, and planning.



Past awards have recognized assistance with coordination, implementation and/or funding associated with the Acme Power Plant Reclamation Efforts, the Tongue River Dayton Stream Stabilization Project, the Interstate-90 Living Snow Fence, and others. Previous recipients include: Dick Legocki, Jerry Forster, Kurt King, the Sheridan Community Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the Wyoming Department of Transportation, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Sheridan County, WWC Engineering, specifically Loren Ruttinger and Justin Terfehr, Wolf Creek Charitable Foundation, and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Voluntary Remediation Program.



## SEEDLING TREE & PERENNIAL PICKUP

### SEEDLINGS AND MATERIALS

Seedlings may be picked up at the SCCD office during the times listed below.

- > May 5 (Thu), 1pm-4:30pm
- > May 6 (Fri), 8am-1pm
- > May 7 (Sat), 9am-12pm

### PERENNIALS

Perennials may be picked up during the times listed below from the Piney Island Native Plants (PINP) Greenhouse on the Sheridan College campus. The greenhouse is located off of Dome Loop and Arena Drive. Parking is in the K parking lot.

- > May 26 (Thu), 1pm-4:30pm
- > May 28 (Sat), 9am-12pm
- > May 31 (Tues), 9am-12pm

## SEEDLING TREE PROGRAM INFO

From November to April, the SCCD offers low-cost seedling trees, shrubs, and perennials to Sheridan County residents for conservation purposes such as:

- Living snow fences
- Windbreaks
- Wildlife habitat
- Pollinator habitat
- Visual screens
- Noise barriers
- Erosion control
- Reforestation

Seedling trees arrive in early May and perennials are generally ready the week before Memorial Day.

Popular species tend to sell out quickly so it's best to get your order in early. Let us know if you'd like to be added to our mailing list or if you'd like to be notified when we begin taking orders in the fall.

## ACME RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Summer/Fall of 2022 could be an exciting one for the former Acme Power Plant reclamation effort. The District is currently working through some funding agreements and details for removal of the dilapidated metal diversion structure in the river with assistance from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, the Nature Conservancy, Sheridan Community Land Trust, National Wild Turkey Federation and others. Steps are also underway to initiate debris removal and soil cleanup with funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency through the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and Wyoming Business Council. Efforts to evaluate existing and future infrastructure needs and opportunities to address the coal-ash pile are also underway.



## HEALTHY SOIL, HEALTHY LIFE 2022 POSTER CONTEST

Each year the SCCD reaches out to local K-12 educators and students to participate in the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Stewardship Week Poster Contest. For contest rules, entry forms, and more details, visit [www.sccdwy.org/poster-contest](http://www.sccdwy.org/poster-contest)

Individual posters will be judged at the local level in May. Local winners will receive a gift certificate to Sheridan Stationery. Winning posters then go on to the state competition in October for a chance to win a \$100 cash prize.

If the poster wins at the state level, it will go onto the national competition, where prizes are \$200 (1st), \$150 for (2nd), and \$100 (3rd).

**The deadline for poster submission has been extended to May 13.**

Please mail or drop off submissions to our office at:  
Sheridan County Conservation District  
1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 102, Sheridan, WY 82801

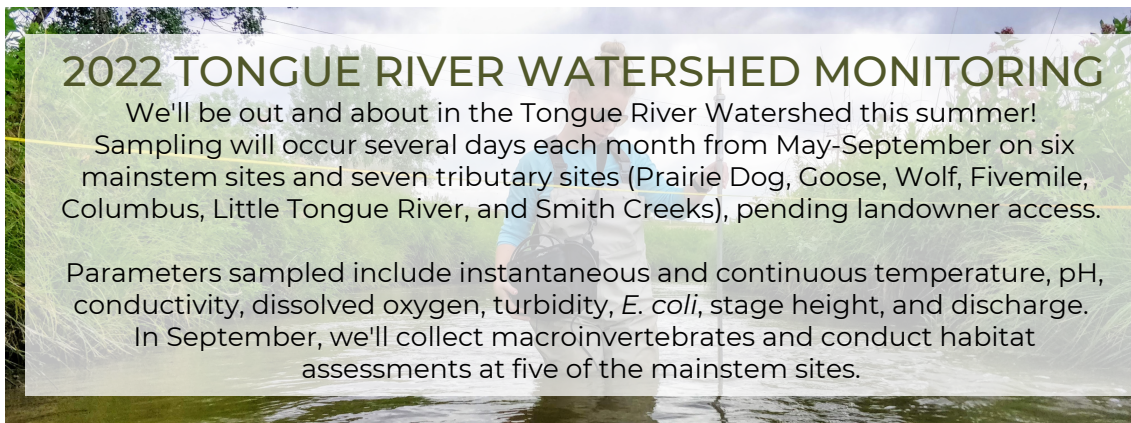


## 2022 TONGUE RIVER WATERSHED MONITORING

We'll be out and about in the Tongue River Watershed this summer! Sampling will occur several days each month from May-September on six mainstem sites and seven tributary sites (Prairie Dog, Goose, Wolf, Fivemile, Columbus, Little Tongue River, and Smith Creeks), pending landowner access.

Parameters sampled include instantaneous and continuous temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, *E. coli*, stage height, and discharge.

In September, we'll collect macroinvertebrates and conduct habitat assessments at five of the mainstem sites.





1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 102  
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[www.sccdwy.org](http://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, information and outreach, 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 Turner  
Program Specialist

## NRCS STAFF

Andrew Cassiday  
District Conservationist

Oakley Ingersoll  
Soil Conservationist

Chelsea Winslow  
Soil Technician

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Emerson Scott  
Chair

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Orrin Connell  
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Susan Holmes  
Supervisor

Stephanie Masters  
Supervisor

*To unsubscribe from our mailing list, please email [jackie.turner@sccdwy.org](mailto:jackie.turner@sccdwy.org)*

## WE'RE HIRING! OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The Sheridan County Conservation District (SCCD) is seeking a dynamic, motivated Outreach Coordinator to lead a natural resource information, outreach, and public relations program. Specific duties include: coordinating workshops, field days and/or classroom demonstrations; developing and distributing District newsletters and publications; updating social media outlets and websites; preparing press releases; and other activities to increase awareness of District programs and natural resource issues. Duties may also include some assistance with field activities and other District programs.

Applicants should have good verbal and written communication skills and experience with Microsoft products (Word, Excel, Access, Publisher) and graphic design using Canva or other platforms. An agricultural/natural resources background and/or a working knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of various entities involved with natural resource issues is preferred. This is a part-time, hourly position (10-20 hours/week at up to \$20/hour), that will accommodate a flexible schedule.

Submit resume, including references and samples of past work, to Carrie Rogaczewski, 1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 102, Sheridan, WY 82801. Open until filled. For further information, contact Carrie Rogaczewski at (307) 672-5820 x. 3 or [carrie.rogaczewski@sccdwy.org](mailto:carrie.rogaczewski@sccdwy.org). *SCCD is an equal opportunity employer.*

## COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE APPLICATION DEADLINES

The SCCD has reinstated application deadlines for water quality improvement projects. For more information on eligibility, visit [www.sccdwy.org/cost-share-programs](http://www.sccdwy.org/cost-share-programs)

**FALL FUNDING - AUGUST 1ST**

**SPRING FUNDING - FEBRUARY 1ST**