



STREAMSIDE STEWARDSHIP

Every year during and after spring runoff, we receive calls from folks concerned about bank erosion and flooding. Often the concerns are related to fears about loss of infrastructure or property. While these concerns are certainly understandable, an eroding bank is not necessarily cause for alarm. Erosion is a natural stream process and some level of continual channel adjustment is expected and desired in a healthy stream. Similarly, deposition of material eroded elsewhere is a natural part of stream function. Both of these functions occur because streams are constantly trying to balance their water and sediment supplies. Streams are dynamic systems, constantly adapting to changing conditions.

Removal of deep-rooted, woody cover to enhance the view of the stream, can contribute to bank instability. Similarly, closely mowing, grazing, or producing crops or hay up to the stream edge removes vegetation, and weakens root systems and the plant's regenerative ability, which limit the plants' ability to hold banks in place. Vegetation is the best protection for streambanks, and when managed appropriately is self-regenerating. Planting willow cuttings can be an effective method for controlling erosive banks. All types of willows can be established from cuttings. Cutting and planting needs to be completed in early spring before willows break dormancy. Some success has also been seen with fall establishment. Cuttings must be planted deep enough to reach the water table and be protected from deer, livestock and other wildlife. The SCCD offers assistance for cutting establishment on a first come, first serve basis.

ACME POWER PLANT RECLAMATION PROJECT PUBLIC UPDATE MEETING

**JANUARY 24TH, 2019
6:30 PM**

SHERIDAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM
CORNER OF WORKS AND GOULD STREET

The SCCD and other partners will be holding a public update meeting for the Acme Power Plant Reclamation Project. The agenda will include updates on historical documentation and site stabilization activities, as well as a projected timeline for future assessment activities.



2019 TONGUE RIVER WATER QUALITY MONITORING

SCCD will be conducting water quality monitoring in the Tongue River Watershed beginning May 2019. Site set-up will begin in April. Parameters monitored from May-September will include water temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, discharge, turbidity, and *E. coli*. Benthic macroinvertebrate collections and habitat assessments will also be completed at select stations in September-October. Interim monitoring has occurred every three years since 2003. 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. Past monitoring reports can be found on our website at

www.sccdwy.org/tongue-river-watershed

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFIED PROJECTS



Through federal and state grants, the SCCD offers financial assistance for projects that benefit water quality in impaired watersheds. Typical projects include installing fencing or stockwater systems to minimize livestock access to waterbodies, relocating corrals or animal feeding areas away from waterbodies, and replacing eligible septic systems to eliminate sewage discharges. Descriptions of select projects are available on SCCD's website at

www.sccdwy.org

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



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SHERIDAN, WY
PERMIT NO. 21

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



TONGUE RIVER WATERSHED STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The annual Tongue River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 12th at 6:00 p.m.** at the **Ranchester Town Hall** (next to Tongue River Branch Library).

The Tongue River Watershed Steering Committee, which is comprised of landowners and interested parties, provides input and recommendations to the SCCD for implementing resource programs within the Tongue River Watershed.

The meeting is open to anyone living in or interested in the Tongue River Watershed.

Join us on February 12th, your input is always welcome!

There is no poop fairy.



SCOOPthePOOP

Every Time, Everywhere

Don't forget! The SCCD has installed pet waste stations at Ranchester Park, Kleenburn Recreation Area and Tongue River Canyon, as well as four additional stations with the help of the Town of Ranchester along the Five Mile Creek drainage. Picking up after your pet is an easy way to do your part in keeping our water clean!

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE GRASSES?

Medusahead and ventenata are aggressive annual grasses capable of excluding desirable native species and drastically reducing livestock forage. Always clean shoes, animals, and equipment before entering or exiting an area to prevent the spreading of seeds. If you have seen either species, please report on EDDMaps (online or through the app) or contact Sheridan County Weed and Pest at (307) 672-3740. For more information, visit

www.scweeds.com