



SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Fall 2018 Newsletter



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



Streamside Stewardship What To Expect When Living Along A Waterway

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.

The "side-to-side" or lateral movement is an important aspect of stream's character, especially when we think of a meandering stream. The meandering nature of streams serve to reduce the slope and erosive potential of the stream system and are the means through which the stream "manages" its water and sediment balance. A stream system is most stable when it can move water and sediment through the system without excessive erosion or deposition. Maintaining an appropriate channel width is important for the stream to maintain enough energy to do this. Streambank erosion can increase if the width is too wide or too narrow. If too narrow, increased flow velocity and energy can result in abnormal erosion rates; if too wide, reduced velocities can cause abnormal deposition of material, which in turn can then direct flows into adjacent banks resulting in additional erosion.

A stream is not limited to the actual channel; the stream corridor actually includes the floodplain too. Floodplains dissipate energy from high flows, encourage sediment deposition, and provide wildlife habitat. Floodplain vegetation serves to create a high-roughness "relief valve" for high flows, which assists in dissipating the energy of high flows. Regular flooding within the stream's floodplain is expected and is a necessary, natural part of the stream system. Damage from regular flooding is minimal where a floodplain is present and is not altered by development, structures or roads. Stream channelization or straightening reduces the channel length and generally encourages faster, more erosive stream flow. These increased velocities can scour and deepen the channel, which removes the connection to the floodplain. Removing this connection increases the erosive potential because the water is unable to spread out over the floodplain.

Vegetation cover is the best protection for streambanks, and when managed appropriately is self-regenerating. 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. Streambank stabilization techniques that involve hardening the streambanks with concrete or rock rip-rap are generally successful in protecting the immediate area of interest in the short term; however, these practices can transfer, and potentially increase, the erosive forces downstream and further complicate the instability of the stream system. These practices also may not be successful in the long-term because they are not a regenerative stabilization, and over time frequently experience wear and ultimately failure.

It is also important to recognize that in-stream channelization or armoring activities are regulated, and a permit may be required. Possible permitting authorities include US Army Corps of Engineers, County Floodplain Administrators, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and Wyoming Game and Fish, and others.

SCCD IS NOW ONLINE!



Now
accepting
membership
donations and
tree orders
online.
Read more
inside.



IN THIS ISSUE

Streamside
Stewardship
1

Acme Update
2

2018-2019
Tree Program
3

Upcoming
Events
3

WACD
Progress
Report
3

Oil Program
3

Living Snow
Fence
3

Membership
4

Acme Power Plant Update

The former Acme Power Plant, currently owned by the SCCD, is a 5-acre island of debris within an otherwise open space along the Tongue River. The area surrounding the site is a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts and the Acme site, in particular, is an important piece of the area's mining history. The SCCD is coordinating reclamation efforts of the site with multiple partners. While the process will be a long one, there are some exciting things happening. Earlier this year, the SCCD enrolled the site in the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's Voluntary Remediation Program. Through that program, the WDEQ contracted with WWC Engineering to address some of the most pressing and manageable environmental and safety hazards. In October, over 50 55-gallon drums were sampled and prepared for disposal; sample results will determine how the drum contents are handled. In addition, approximately 60 cubic yards of loose and easily accessible Asbestos Containing Materials were removed from the site and hauled to an approved facility. PCB sampling was also completed. While not addressing all of the issues, these activities will prevent further contamination of the site and surrounding area.

Later this fall, WDEQ will finalize contracts for the next phase of assessments, which should begin in the spring. These assessments are being funded through an EPA Assessment Grant and are expected to take up to 3 years. These comprehensive assessments will identify the full extent of contamination at the site and lead to the development of a remediation plan with cost estimates. For more information about the site and the project, please visit www.acmeprojectwyoming.org.

As always, we ask that people respect the fences and adjacent landowners by not attempting to enter the site. Anyone accessing the site (especially illegal trespassers) has the potential to track contaminants to surrounding areas and/or injure themselves amid the debris.

2018-2019 Seedling Tree Program

The Sheridan County Conservation District's Seedling Tree Program makes conservation grade-seedling trees available for purchase at a nominal price. The low-cost seedling trees are available for purchase through the District from November to early April. Seedlings are generally delivered in early May and may be used for:

- Living Snow Fences
- Windbreaks
- Wildlife Habitat
- Visual Screens
- Noise Barriers
- Erosion Control
- Reforestation
- Other Conservation Purpose

A wide variety of tree species is offered to meet conservation needs throughout Sheridan County. The trees are bundled in groups of 25 or 30, based on size and species selection. Seedling trees are offered as either bare root or large tube, also depending on the species. The District is continuing to offer the popular variety package, which includes a bundle of 25 bare root seedlings: five each of Buffaloberry, Chokecherry, Native Plum, Red-Osier Dogwood, and Rocky Mountain Juniper. Popular species, and the variety package, tend to sell out quickly, so it's best to get your order in as soon as possible!

MISSING YOUR TREE ORDER FORM?

Call or pick up a copy from our office,
download the form online, or order online on our **NEW** store
www.sccdwy.org/seedling-tree-program



UPCOMING EVENTS

Seedling Tree Program Begins

November 2018

Office Closed - Thanksgiving Day

November 22, 2018

Regular Board Meeting

December 4, 2018

Office Closed - Christmas Day

December 25, 2018

Watershed Newsletters

February 2019

Watershed Steering Committee Meetings

February 2019

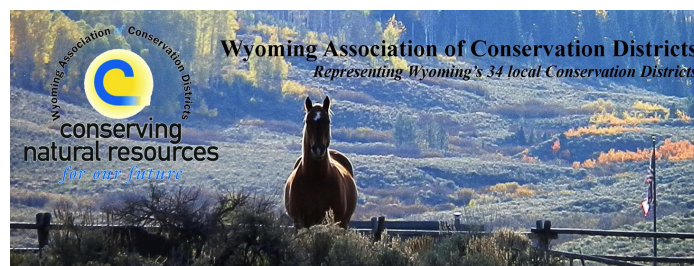
WYOMING WATERSHEDS PROGRESS REPORT

The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) has recently released an updated Wyoming Watershed Progress Report in a new, interactive story map format. The report covers water quality restoration efforts occurring on impaired waterbodies throughout Wyoming from summer 2014 to summer 2017.

The WACD will also be hosting a Wyoming Watershed Conference on February 20th and 21st at the Hilton Garden Inn in Casper, WY.

Visit

**www.conservewy.com
for more information**



Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Representing Wyoming's 34 local Conservation Districts

conserving
natural resources
for our future

DID YOU KNOW?

Since the 1990's, the SCCD has had a rural oil recycling program.



The program was started based on identification of an oil disposal problem, particularly in rural areas. Through oil collection facilities in Clearmont and in Dayton, over 27,000 gallons of used oil has been recycled instead of being dumped on the ground or stored indefinitely. Oil that is deposited into the tanks is collected and recycled through professional waste management companies. The service is free to residents/landowners. Materials such as solvents, antifreeze, carburetor fluid requires the oil to be handled as a hazardous waste, which makes disposal difficult and costly. Even trash, dirt, and water can cause problems. **It is extremely important that individuals ONLY deposit used motor oil in the tanks.** Your participation and cooperation is appreciated.

LIVING SNOW FENCE

Beginning in 2006, the SCCD began a project in cooperation with Wyoming State Forestry and the Wyoming Department of Transportation to install living snow fence on a portion of I-90 south of the City of Sheridan. By 2009, one mile had been planted. The project was taken back up in 2017 and another quarter mile was planted last May and an additional quarter mile will be planted this spring. The third phase is planned for spring 2019.

The living snow fence consists of two rows of Rocky Mountain Juniper spaced six to eight feet apart with ten feet between the rows. Weed barrier fabric has been included in the planting to help reduce weeds and retain moisture. Slatted wood fence has also been placed along the living snow fence to protect from wind and store additional water.



SHERIDAN COUNTY

Sheridan County Conservation District

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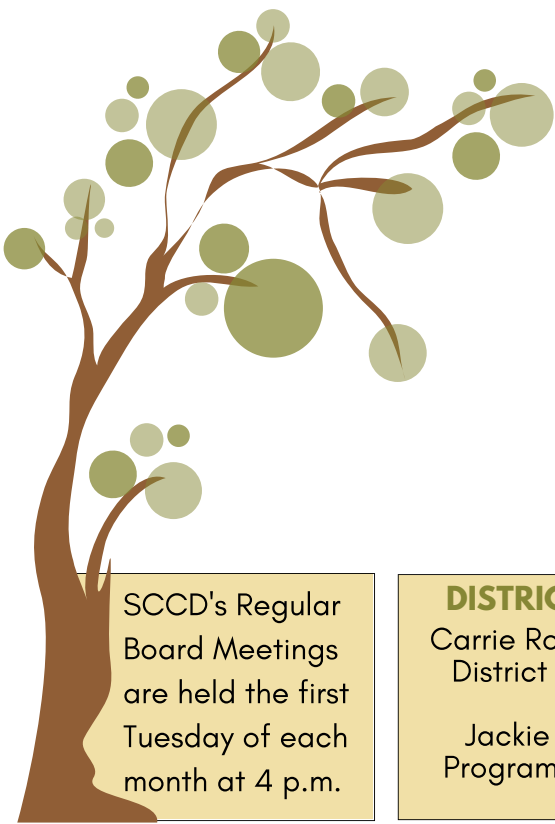
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www.sccdwy.org



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SCCD's Regular Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m.

DISTRICT STAFF

Carrie Rogaczewski
District Manager

Jackie Carbert
Program Assistant

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Susan Holmes

Edith Heyward

Orrin Connell

Emerson Scott, III

Doug Masters

NRCS

Andrew Cassiday
District Conservationist

Oakley Ingersoll
Soil Conservationist

Thanks to support from Sheridan County, the City of Sheridan, the Towns of Dayton, Ranchester and Clearmont, and contributions from private citizens, the Sheridan County Conservation District has been able to help this community for the past 45 years. Over half of the District's annual budget goes towards on-the-ground projects aimed at improving the land and water quality of Sheridan County.

YOU CAN HELP SUSTAIN THIS EFFORT WITH A CONTRIBUTION.
FILL OUT AND RETURN THE FORM BELOW OR DONATE ONLINE AT
WWW.SCCDWY.ORG/MEMBERSHIP-PROGRAM

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:

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____

Please put my contribution towards:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Acme Reclamation Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Watershed Programs & Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oil Recycling/Tree Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weeds/Range Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outreach/Education
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anywhere Needed

Sheridan County Conservation District

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



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Sheridan, WY 82801
www.sccdwy.org

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