

# 2023-2024 Plan of Work

Sublette County  
Conservation District



# Mission Statement

*Sublette County Conservation District has the mandate to assist and promote the protection and preservation of public lands, natural resources, soil, water, and wildlife; the developement of water and prevention of floods; stabilization of the ranching and agriculture industries; protection of the tax base; and providing for the public safety, health, and general welfare of the citizens within Sublette County.*



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# SCCP History

1941

Big Piney Conservation District Formed  
Pinedale Conservation District Formed

1987

Combined Districts into Sublette  
County Conservation District

2000

Surface water quality monitoring  
program established. Ground water  
monitoring program established

2008

Natural resources program established

2011

Natural resources program is divided  
into the wildlife & habitat program  
and the range program

2019

SCCD purchased and moved into its  
own building at 217 Country Club Ln.

Before Conservation Districts existed, agencies working within conservation ended up competing with each other. Local leadership was needed to coordinate their efforts and tie them into local conditions and priorities. Because of this, President Roosevelt developed a model Conservation District Law for consideration by state governments. In March 1941, the State Legislature passed an enabling act which established conservation districts in Wyoming. Conservation districts were to direct programs protecting local renewable natural resources. Wyoming now has 34 conservation districts in 23 counties. The Big Piney and Pinedale districts were the first two districts to organize in the State of Wyoming. In 1987 the two districts combined to form the county wide district it is today.

## SCS - Big Piney CD



## Pinedale



## First Board Members

# SCCP Staff



*1st Row Left to Right:  
Michael Henn, Shari Meeks,  
Melanie Purcell, Traci Berg,  
Keller Hyde*

*2nd Row Left to Right:  
Adrienne Kirkwood,  
Justice Miller,  
Kamryn Kozisek, Zane Hayward*



# Board of Supervisors



**Coke Landers**  
**Board Chairman**



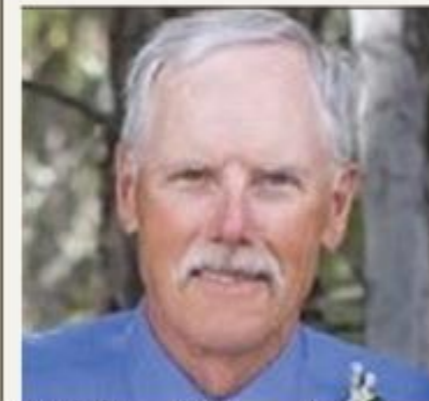
**Darrell Walker**  
**Vice Chairman**



**David Pape**  
**Treasurer**



**Meghann Smith**  
**Member**



**Milford Lockwood**  
**Member**

*As a legal subdivision of the Wyoming State Government, the District Board of Supervisors, who must be residents of the county, constitute a policy making group elected by the people of Sublette County on the general ballot.*

*Five supervisors serve staggered four-year terms and conduct meetings held the 3rd Thursday of each month which have two basic purposes; to decide on conservation district policy and monitor their implementation.*

*Supervisors also participate in committees, district associations, and groups in which they represent the district.*

# Administration



## Goal

To be accountable for all public funds and ensure all District programs are carried out in a responsible manner.

## How will we achieve our goal?

- Hold monthly Board of Supervisor meetings
- Provide financial reports for monthly board meetings
- Reorganize Board of Supervisor positions in January
- Complete all state and federal grant reporting requirements
- Comply with WY Department of Audit accounting standards
- Comply with annual and quarterly tax reporting requirements
- Comply with Chapter 1, Wyoming Conservation District financial policies in order to receive state funding
- Comply with Department of Audit in regards to House Bill 60
- Develop and maintain the Fiscal Year 2025 budget
- Annually review the 2020-2025 Long Range Plan
- Maintain public information in the entry greeting area
- Review and make necessary edits to our Public Land Use Policy



## SCCP

## Long Range Plan

# Surface Water Quality Program

Sublette County is the headwaters of 3 major watersheds including the Colorado (Green River), Columbia (Hoback River), and Missouri (Sweetwater River). SCCD strives to provide credible surface water quality data through the surface water program.

## Goal

To monitor and assess surface water quality in every major watershed within Sublette County, as streams exit public lands and as they exit Sublette County and support voluntary stream restoration and management changes if needed to achieve enhanced water quality characteristics.

## How will we achieve our goal?

### Continue to build water quality baseline datasets

- Monitor for chemistry and contaminants at 48 sites in Sublette County 4 times a year, per SAP
- Collect Physical, chemical, and biological parameters to better understand water characteristics
- Continue to test for flow and E. coli at 3 sites in Lander Creek, per its own SAP
- Continuous monitors at 7 locations in Sublette County

### Utilize technology to monitor our waters

- Flow Tracker
- Sondes
- CT2X
- Various handheld water quality monitoring meters
- Implementation of Survey 123 to collect field data
- Implementation of Kisters WISKI system to organize and analyze water quality data

### Better understand policy regarding the waters of Sublette County

- WOTUS
- Colorado River Compact
- Water Rights

### Continued collaboration and partnerships on large-scale projects

- Partnering with TU, WGF, USFWS, USFS, BLM, OSLI, and Private Landowners
- Participate in working groups that involve the Colorado River & the Columbia River watersheds
- Multiple Indicator Monitoring for riparian areas and participation on ID Teams for installation of these methods

### Determine water quality trends and changes

- Continue getting data uploaded into the new software to adequately assess water quality changes and trends
- Utilize data collected to develop a UAA for E. coli on the listed portions of Lander Creek



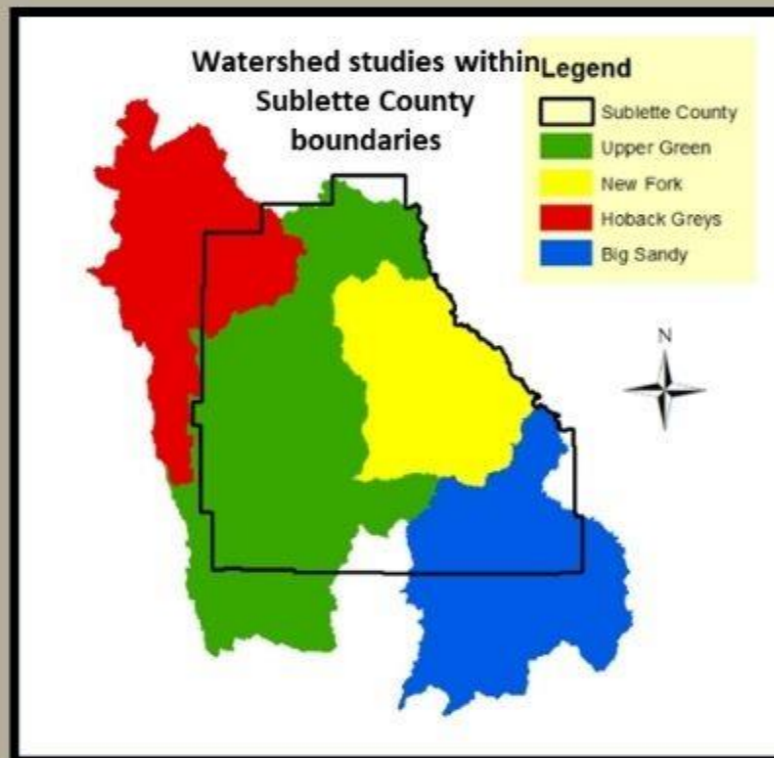
# Watershed Development

## Goal

*Work with landowners and land managers to implement watershed developments on the landscape that will improve watershed health.*

## How will we achieve our goal?

- Utilize the completed watershed studies to help in identifying watershed development projects*
- Continue working with landowners on water development projects and apply for new SWPP's in Sublette County*
- Work with landowners to complete SWPP projects that were funded in the previous years*





# Range Program

## Goal

To strengthen understanding of sustainable rangeland management through effective and credible rangeland monitoring methods on both public and private lands and supporting relationships between private landowners, local, and federal government agencies.

### How will we achieve our goal?

Through the continued implementation of vegetation monitoring on BLM and USFS lands

- BTNF Cooperative Monitoring Projects (14 active)
- BLM Cooperative Monitoring Projects (11 active)

Utilizing grants to set projects in motion which will enhance rangeland and overall watershed health

- 5 Active Rangeland Health Assessment Program (RHAP) grants
- Virtual Fence Pilot Project
- Implementation of WLCI Grant for \$110,000.00 for water improvement on NLBC
- Continue offering the Private Land Enhancement Program - seedling cost-share program with Upper Green River Basin Sage Grouse Local Work Group

Work with operators and agencies in developing and implementing grazing and range improvement plans

- Conservation planning

Remain involved in the planning process for permit renewals, range improvements and watershed restoration

- Provide ID Team assistance (if needed)
- Attending "on-sites" for project development & implementation
- Review NEPA documents

Provide technical assistance and tools to private landowners on their agricultural lands

- Private Land Enhancement Program
- Range Drill, Lawson Aerator, Water Trailer, and Portable Panel System for landowner use
- Seed mix requests and irrigation development plans
- Plant ID and vegetation monitoring

Continued collaboration and partnerships on large-scale projects

- Roosevelt Post-Fire Monitoring
- Cheatgrass Monitoring
- Bridger Teton National Forest Ecological Site Description Development
- Big Piney-La Barge Watershed Restoration Project
- Bridger-Teton National Forest Forage Reserve Monitoring



# Tree Program



## Goal

*Promote and administer the Tree Program and provide tree survival strategies with planting design assistance.*

## How will we achieve our goal?

### *Promote and administer the Tree Program*

- *Sell seedling trees, shrubs and planting materials*
- *Promote conservation tree plantings*
- *Attend education tree workshops when available*
- *Improve advertising and outreach regarding the tree program*

### *Provide tree planting assistance*

- *Educate potential clients on tree species, care and planting*
- *Provide assistance for the design and planting of snow/windbreaks*
- *Provide assistance to area landowners to improve health and establishment*

### *Seedling Survival Strategies*

- *Make guides for clients to provide educational tools for seedlings*
- *Teach about protection from the elements*
- *Wildlife proofing seedlings until established*
- *Providing watering techniques based on site selections (irrigation, drip systems)*

*The seedling tree sales program will begin in November 2023*



# Wildlife & Habitat Program

## Goal

*Promote land stewardship activities by supporting holistic management of ranch operations on public and private lands through maintenance and enhancement of wildlife and livestock habitats.*

### *How will we achieve our goal?*

*Promote opportunities for youth and adults to participate in research and conservation projects*

- *Promote Great Conservation Idea Grant Assistance Program*
- *Support project proponents through project development and implementation assistance*
- *Encourage mitigation opportunities for landowners to enhance agriculture and wildlife habitats*

*Provide technical assistance to aid landowners in implementing conservation activities*

- *NACD TA grant assists with wildlife friendly fence coordination, forest harvest management, mesic habitat restoration, and conservation planning TA*
- *Implement One Rock projects for wet meadow restoration on at least 2 additional landscapes*
- *Assist landowners with modifying fences to wildlife friendly fence standards*

*Collaborate with landowners, agencies, partners, and other groups*

- *Remain as a Participating Agency for CCAA and CCA's*
- *Facilitate partnership in the Upper Green Fencing Initiative*
- *Stay abreast of Wyoming Conservation Exchange activities*

*Pursue leadership opportunities and stakeholder involvement*

- *Continue as the Chair for the Upper Green River Basin Sage Grouse Local Work Group*
- *Participate in Elk Feedgrounds: A Challenge We Can Take On*
- *Provide mentorship and enhance program management by increasing staff capacity and resources through the NACD TA grant or other opportunities*

*Participate in research and monitoring activities*

- *Maintain game camera monitoring on fence and mesic habitat restoration projects*
- *Assist with mitigation of potential problem areas on wildlife friendly fences*



# Education & Outreach

## Goal

Develop our position as a key environmental education collaborator with schools, the community and other partner organizations. Development of an educational & outreach program will allow us to reach our diverse constituents and inspire stewardship and conservation of our natural resources among visitors and residents.

## How will we achieve our goal?

### Maintain a presence at annual events

- Spring Expo
- Kindergarten Day
- Sublette Pals
- Sublette County Fair Booth
- Arbor Day

### Educate constituents

- Monthly newspaper articles written by SCCD staff
- Quarterly newsletter
- Distribute a 2022-2023 Annual Report & 2024 Plan of Work



*The Mountain Meadow*  
Sublette County Conservation District  
July 2023

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE**


- SCCD - What We've Been Up To
- NRCS Update - Additional Funding and a Fond Farewell
- SCCD - An Educated Mind Can Teach Many
- WDA Update - Protein & Moisture Meter Inspections
- SCCD - Blazing Bistort! Spring Has Finally Sprung!
- UW Extension Ag. & Natural Resources Extension Educator - Grass Tetany: Causes, Treatment, and Prevention
- SCCD - SCCD's Newest



SCCD Showcases projects for Wyoming Conservation District Employees Association (WCDEA) Annual Training

A quarterly publication from the Sublette County Conservation District.

"By Working with local people who understand local problems, the best conservation measures can be accomplished."



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# Land Use Planning

## Goal

*Keep land use planning at the local level to improve livestock production, wildlife habitat, recreation/watershed protection, and maintain productivity on rangelands and pasturelands in Sublette County.*

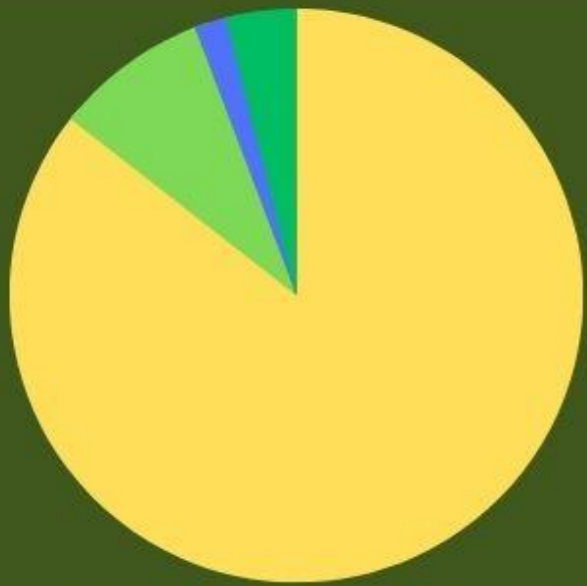
### *How will we achieve our goal?*

- Continue to provide subdivision review recommendations as required by the state statute*
- Participate as a Cooperating Agency with the BLM and Forest Service during land management planning*
- Chair the NRCS Local Work Group meetings in an effort to ensure decision making remains at the local level*
- Assist with conservation ranch plan inventory work*
- Work with NRCS on Farm Bill programs and other available cost-share programs*
- Attend monthly Coalition of Local Government meetings on federal land policy issues*
- Attend NACD Public Lands subcommittee meetings to address public lands issues in the country*
- Continue to work with our federal agency partners to assist in writing and reviewing of NEPA documents on projects that help our constituents*

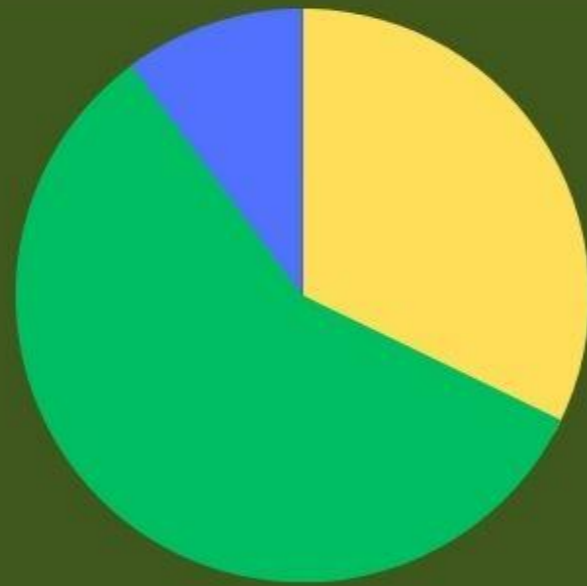
# Financials

2024 Budget Revenues	
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$1,921,811.00
Non-Government Grants	\$195,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$39,650.00
Enterprise Operating Revenue	\$89,900.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,246,361.00</b>

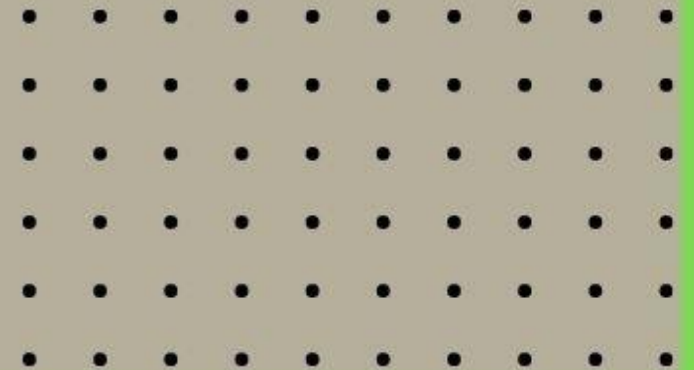
2024 Budget Expenses	
Administration	\$898,743.00
Operations	\$1,613,719.00
Payroll & Indirect Costs	\$284,840.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,797,302.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$550,941.00</b>



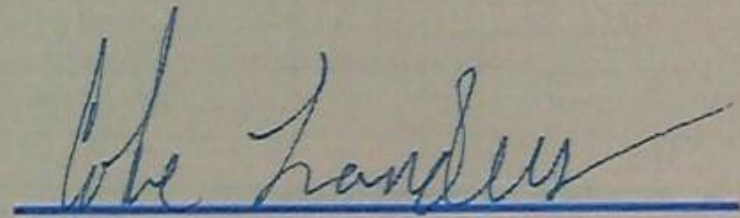
- ▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES
- ▶ NON-GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- ▶ MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE
- ▶ ENTERPRISE OPERATING REVENUE



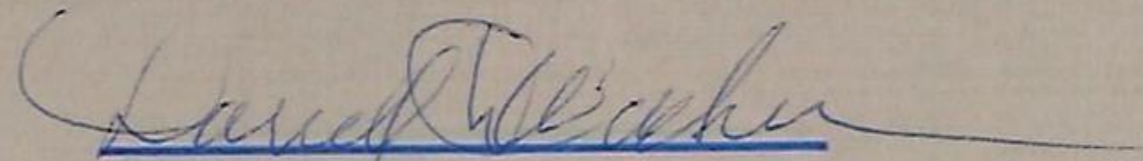
- ▶ ADMINISTRATION
- ▶ OPERATIONS
- ▶ PAYROLL & INDIRECT COSTS



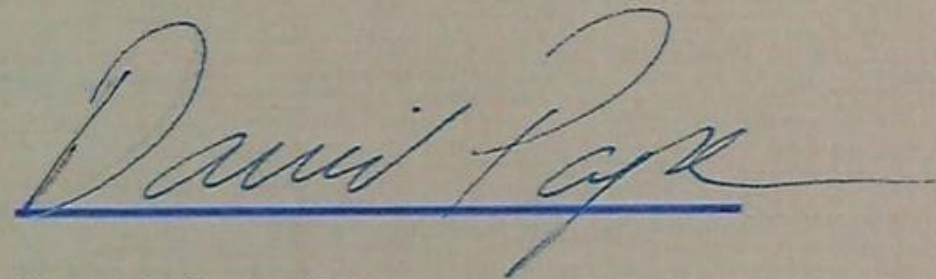
This Plan of Work serves to guide the Sublette County Conservation District in the implementation of goals and objectives identified in our Long-Range Plan and Public Land Use Policy (these documents can be found on our website at [www.sublettecd.com](http://www.sublettecd.com)). We have strived to identify the overall district objectives together with the particular activities to be accomplished during the year. In order to stay current on natural resource issues, members of the Board of Supervisors will attend the annual Area 5 meeting (encompassing; Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta, Teton, Lincoln and Little Snake River areas) and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Convention. In addition, board members and staff will attend the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting and meet with the County Commissioners on a monthly basis to discuss natural resource issues in the county and district business. Every effort is made to pursue funding from grant sources to accomplish our goals.



Coke Landers. Chairman



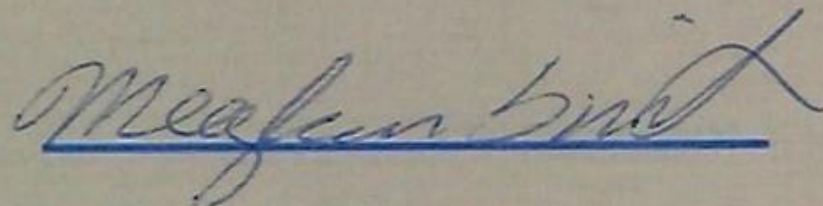
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David Pape. Treasurer



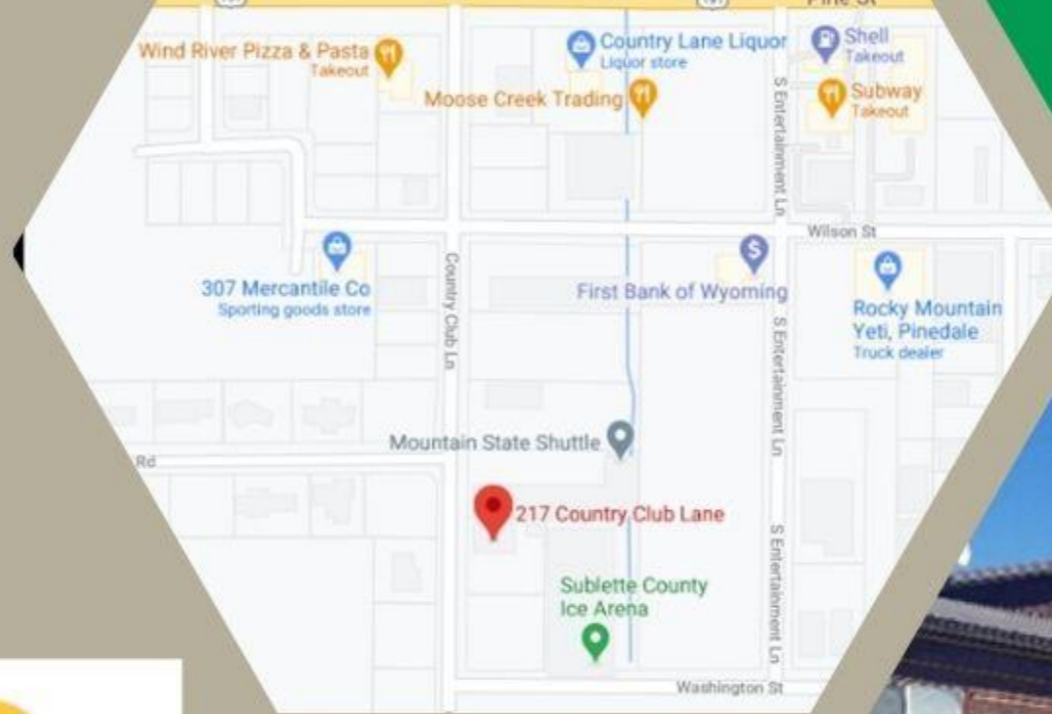
Milford Lockwood. Member



Meghann Smith. Member



# Contact Us!



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