

SUBLETTE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report



JULY 2022

-

JUNE 2023



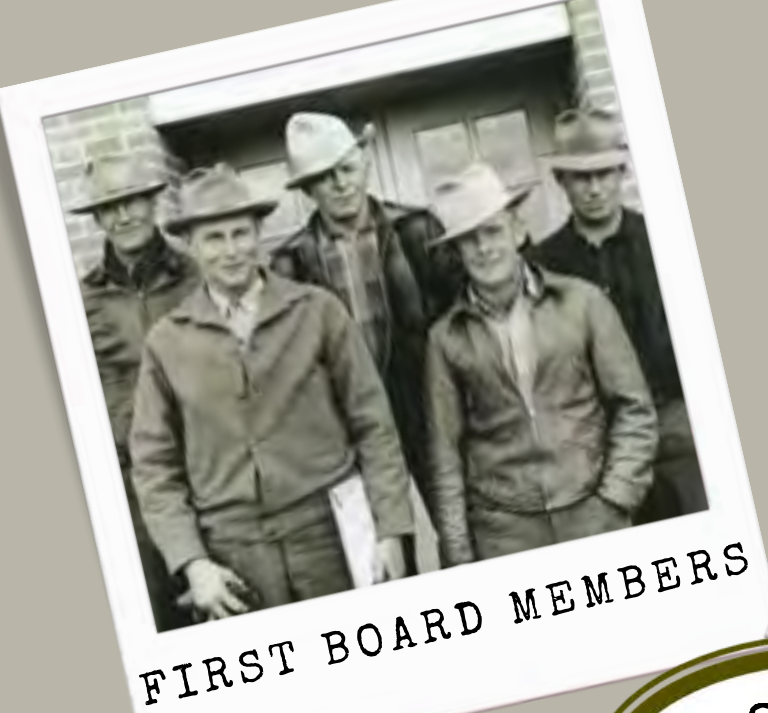
Mission Statement

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 DEVELOPMENT 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

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- SCCD Board members started reviewing and editing the District's Land Use Policy
- Sold 1,225 seedling trees for conservation plantings within Sublette County
- Monitored 55 water quality sites throughout 5 watersheds within Sublette County
- Initiated using Kisters WISKI software
- Participated in multiple education/outreach events
- SCCD completed 8 water development projects to improve watershed conditions within the County, 3 livestock well developments, 1 wetland development, 2 solar well conversions, and 2 irrigation pond constructions
- Completed Arambel RHAP, continued Bar Cross, Upper Green, ESD Tall Forb RHAPs and got Fisherman RHAP funded
- Initiated Virtual Fence Pilot Project
- Continued implementing "One Rock at a Time: Slowing Rangeland Erosion" workshops

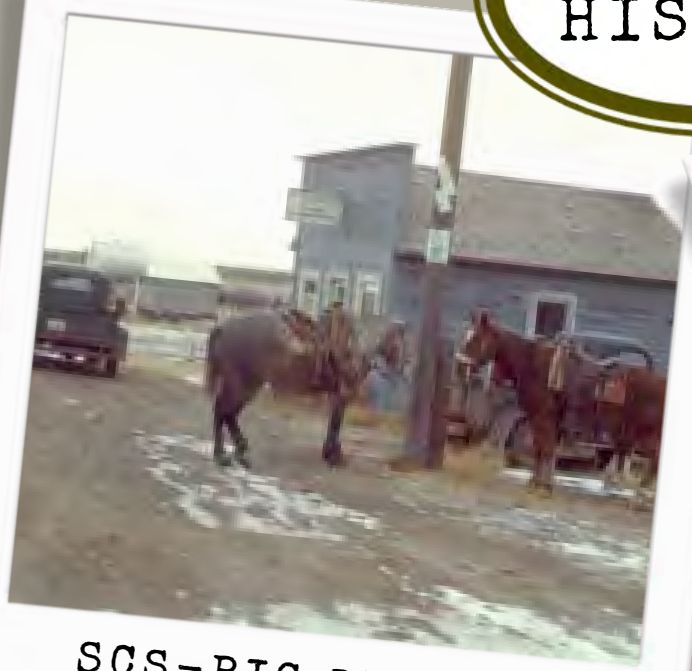
**SCCD
HISTORY**



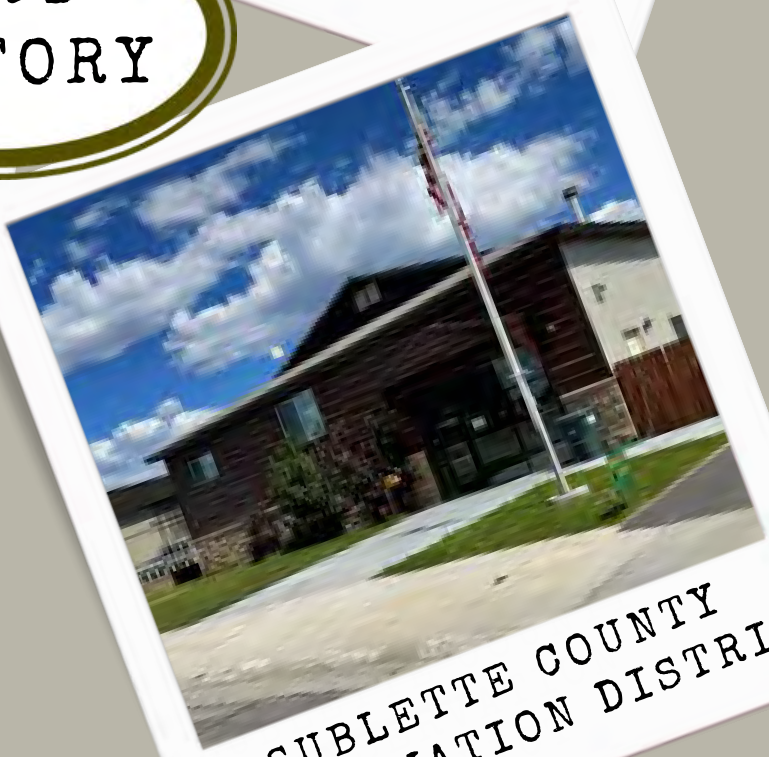
FIRST BOARD MEMBERS



PINEDALE IN 1949



SCS-BIG PINEY CD



SUBLETTE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

- BOUGHT AND MOVED INTO OUR OWN BUILDING - 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.

SECD Staff



ROW 1 - LEFT TO RIGHT
MICHAEL HENN, DISTRICT MANAGER
SHARI MEEKS, RANGE PROGRAM MANAGER
MELANIE PURCELL, WILDLIFE & HABITAT PROGRAM MANAGER
TRACI BERG, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR/TREE PROGRAM MANAGER
KELLER HYDE, RANGELAND TECHNICIAN
KAMRYN KOZISEK, NATURAL RESOURCE TECHNICIAN SR.

ROW 2 - LEFT TO RIGHT
ADRIENNE KIRKWOOD, WATER RESOURCE SPECIALIST
JUSTICE MILLER, RANGE SPECIALIST
ZANE HAYWARD, NATURAL RESOURCE INTERN
JACKIE NUTT, NATURAL RESOURCE INTERN
DREW KELLER, NATURAL RESOURCE TECHNICIAN
ANNA WELSH, RANGE SPECIALIST

Board of Supervisors



COKE LANDERS
BOARD CHAIRMAN



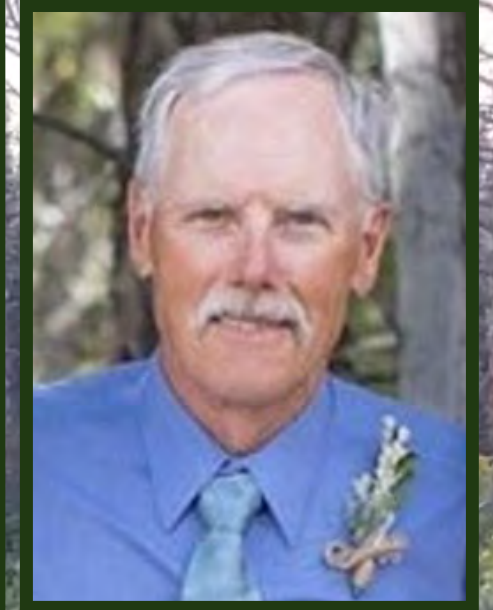
DARRELL WALKER
BOARD VICE CHAIRMAN



DAVID PAPE
BOARD TREASURER



MEGHANN SMITH
BOARD MEMBER



MILFORD LOCKWOOD
BOARD MEMBER

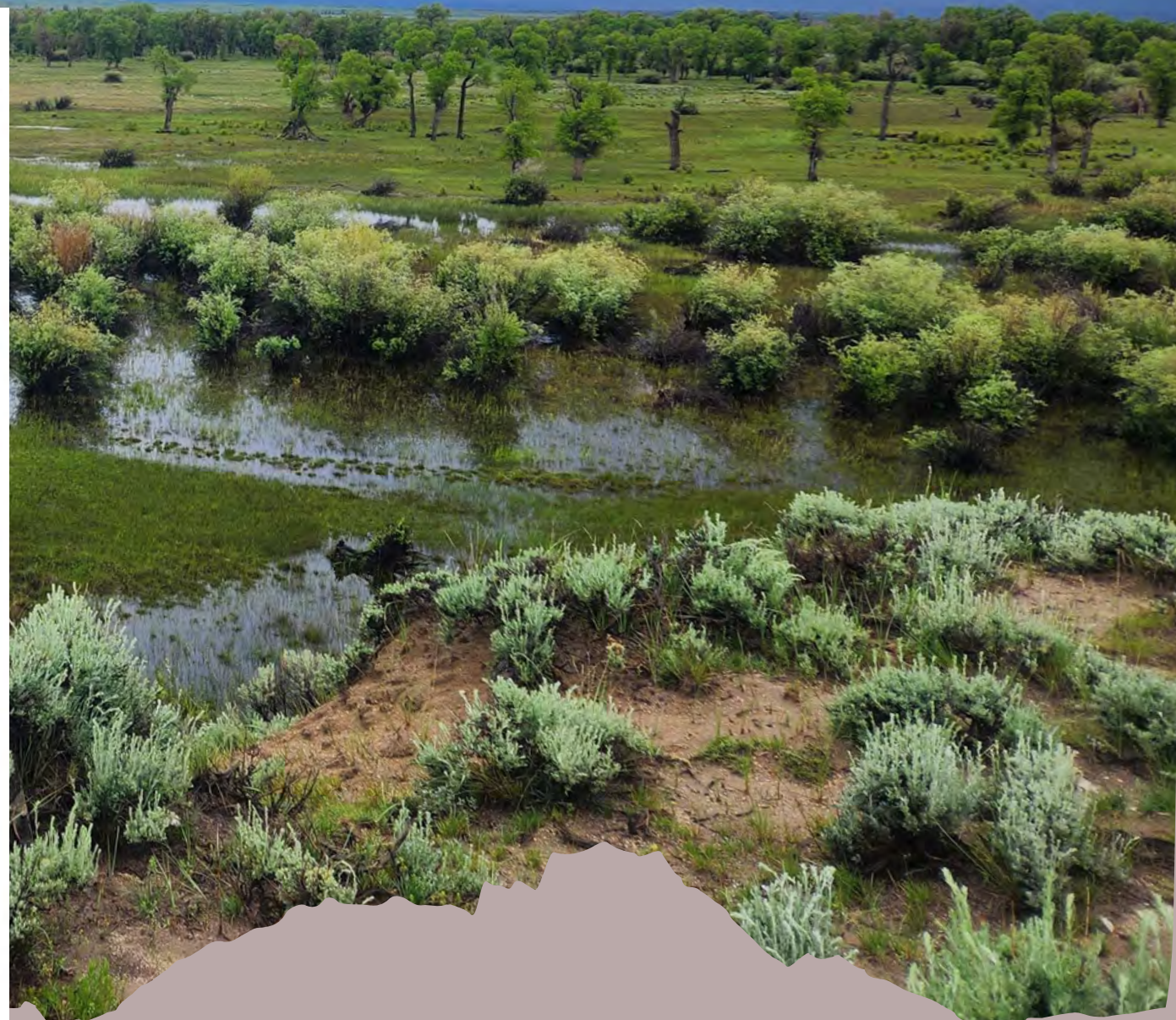
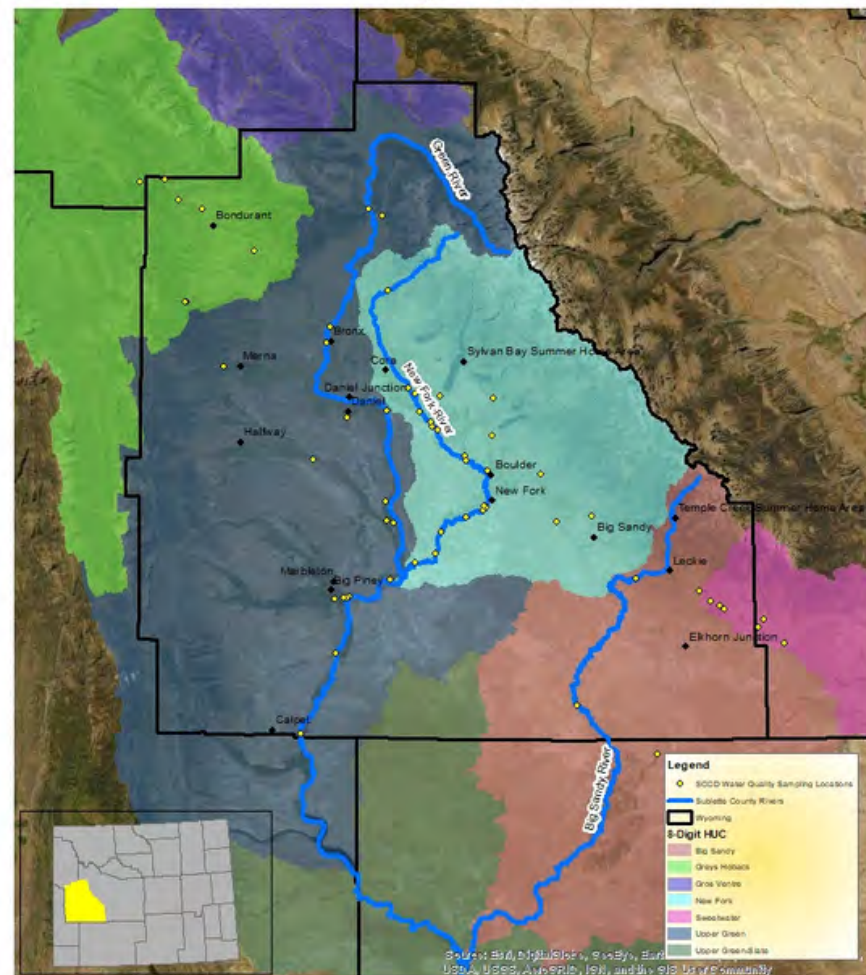
AS A LEGAL SUBDIVISION OF THE WYOMING STATE GOVERNMENT, THE DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, WHO MUST BE RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY, CONSTITUTE A POLICY MAKING GROUP ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF SUBLETTE COUNTY ON THE GENERAL BALLOT. FIVE SUPERVISORS SERVE STAGGERED FOUR-YEAR TERMS AND CONDUCT MEETINGS HELD THE 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.

Surface Water Quality

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROGRAM IS TO MONITOR SURFACE WATER QUALITY IN SUBLETTE COUNTY AND ADDRESS CHANGES THAT ARE IMPACTING WATER QUALITY.

SUBLETTE COUNTY IS THE HEADWATERS OF THREE MAJOR WATERSHEDS INCLUDING THE COLORADO (GREEN RIVER), COLUMBIA (HOBACK RIVER), AND THE MISSOURI (SWEETWATER RIVER). SCCD STRIVES TO PROVIDE CREDIBLE SURFACE WATER QUALITY DATA THROUGH THE SURFACE WATER PROGRAM.

Water Sampling Locations in Sublette County
8-Digit HUC



SCCD HIRED
ADRIENNE KIRKWOOD



MONITORING ON 55
CHEMISTRY SITES



BIOLOGICAL
MONITORING ON
30 SITES



SHARI FINISHED A GRADUATE PROJECT WITH
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO "ORIGIN OF SALTS
AND LAND MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN
THE UPPER GREEN RIVER WATERSHED OF
SUBLETTE COUNTY, WY."

Surface Water Quality

COMPLETED 2 WDA
WATER QUALITY
GRANTS &
CONNTINUED
MONITORING
WORKING TOWARDS A
UAA

WATER DATA
PERFORMED QUALITY
CONTROL AND
ORGANIZATION FOR
UPLOAD INTO NEW
SOFTWARE

SWITCHED
MACROINVERTEBRATE
IDENTIFICATION AND
ANALYSIS LAB TO
TIMBERLINE
AQUATICS

DEVELOPED AN
INTERNAL SET OF
PROTOCOLS FOR
MONITORING
SURFACE WATER
THROUGHOUT
SUBLETTE COUNTY

E. COLI MONITORING
ON LANDER CREEK:
TO COLLECT WATER
SAMPLES TO
DETERMINE
GEOMETRIC MEAN OF
E. COLI PRESENCE
IN LANDER CREEK

INITIATED USING
KISTERS WISKI
SOFTWARE FOR DATA
MANAGEMENT IN THE
WATER PROGRAM

UPDATED 22
LANDOWNER
CONTRACTS FOR
CONTINUED
MONITORING

SCCD HAD
2 STAFF (KELLER &
ADRIENNE) ATTEND
MIM TRAINING THIS
IN JUNE

DEPTH AND FLOW ON
LANDER CREEK:
TO COLLECT WATER
DEPTH AND FLOW
DATA TO DETERMINE
WHETHER LANDER
CREEK MEETS THE
CRITERIA FOR
"RECREATION" USE



Watershed Development

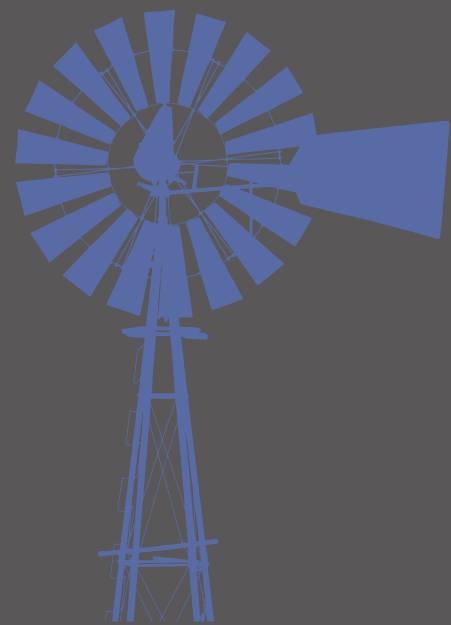


IN 2023 WE APPLIED FOR 3 NEW PROJECTS THROUGH THE SMALL WATER PROJECT PROGRAM AND ALL 3 WERE FUNDED! 8 PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED IN 2023

COMPLETED HOBACK LEVEL 1 WATERSHED STUDY

THE PURPOSE OF THE SMALL WATER PROJECT PROGRAM (SWPP) IS TO PARTICIPATE WITH LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES AND SPONSORING ENTITIES IN PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR IMPROVING WATERSHED CONDITION AND FUNCTION.

PROJECTS SHOULD IMPROVE WATERSHED CONDITION AND FUNCTION AND PROVIDE BENEFIT FOR WILDLIFE, LIVESTOCK AND THE ENVIRONMENT. PROJECTS MAY PROVIDE IMPROVED WATER QUALITY, RIPARIAN HABITAT, OR HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE. PROJECTS ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS BY PROVIDING WATER SUPPLIES TO SUPPORT PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES OR SERVE TO IMPROVE NATURAL RESOURCE CONDITIONS.



3 LIVESTOCK WELL DEVELOPMENTS

1 WETLAND DEVELOPMENT

2 SOLAR CONVERSIONS

2 IRRIGATION POND CONSTRUCTION



Rangelands

SUBLETTE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
RANGE PROGRAM

FOCUSED ON

Rangeland

RESILIENCE
AND
SUSTAINABILITY

ESD DEVELOPMENT
34A WORKING GROUP, 46X WORKING
GROUP, BTNF-43B WORKING GROUP, LRU
& METHODS DOCUMENT DRAFTS
COMPLETED AND VEGETATION
INVENTORY INITIATED

CONTINUED PUBLIC USE OF
EQUIPMENT FOR ENHANCED LAND
MANAGEMENT (PANEL TRAILER 7,
AERATOR 4, LOADING CHUTE 3,
RANGE DRILL 3)

WLCI GRANT FOR WATER
IMPROVEMENTS: INITIATED
CONTRACTS FOR WATER
DEVELOPMENTS.

HIRED 2 FULL TIME RANGE
STAFF AND 1 SEASONAL
RANGE TECHNICIAN

PRIVATE LAND ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAM (SEED COST-SHARE):
2 PLANTINGS FUNDED AND
COMPLETED; 2 PENDING

GRANTS:
1 RHAP GRANT COMPLETED,
3 RHAP GRANTS CONTINUED,
AND 1 NEW RHAP GRANT
FUNDED

MONITORING THE LANDSCAPE
HELPS US UNDERSTAND CHANGE
OVER TIME. THIS INFORMATION
CAN PROVIDE LANDOWNERS AND
MANAGERS A BASELINE TO
WHICH THEY CAN BETTER
UNDERSTAND HOW THE
LANDSCAPE IS RESPONDING TO
MANAGEMENT. INFORMATION
GAINED THROUGH MONITORING
HELPS US MAKE QUALITY,
INFORMED MANAGEMENT
DECISIONS WHICH POSITIVELY
INFLUENCE RANGELAND
RESILIENCE AND
SUSTAINABILITY.

THE RANGE STAFF AT SCCD
STRIVE TO UNDERSTAND
RANGELANDS FROM A
LANDSCAPE PERSPECTIVE.
CLIMATE, GEOLOGY, SOIL
DEVELOPMENT, ELEVATION,
ASPECT, AND SLOPE ARE JUST A
FEW LANDSCAPE
CHARACTERISTICS THAT VARY
WIDELY THROUGHOUT THE
COUNTY AND GREATLY
INFLUENCE PLANT
COMMUNITIES! IN ALL
PROJECTS, WE INCORPORATE
KNOWLEDGE OF ALL POTENTIAL
INFLUENCES, INCLUDING AN
UNDERSTANDING OF VARIOUS
LAND USES WITHIN THE
COUNTY.

Rangelands

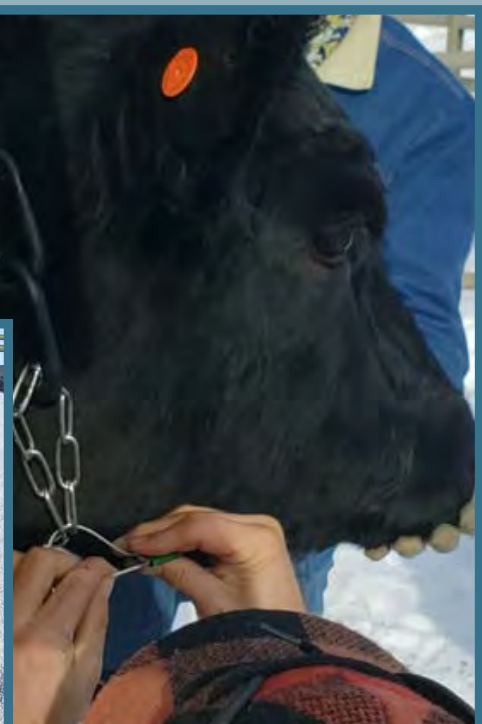
TRAININGS/CONFERENCES

SHARI PRESENTED AT THE 2023 YFR CONFERENCE - SUCCESS OF COOPERATIVE MONITORING & MIKE JOINED A PANEL FOR UPPER GREEN COOPERATIVE MONITORING

ATTENDED SRM IN BOISE - KELLER PARTICIPATED IN THE EXEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING CONTEST, URME, AND PLANT ID; JUSTICE PARTICIPATED IN URME AND PLANT ID

ATTENDED IIRH IN RENO - MIKE, JUSTICE, KELLER

VIRTUAL FENCE PILOT PROJECT: \$64,000 AWARDED TO PURCHASE 3 TOWERS AND 550 COLLARS. 2 PRODUCERS ENGAGED IN THE PILOT PROJECT.



22 COOPERATIVE MONITORING PROJECTS

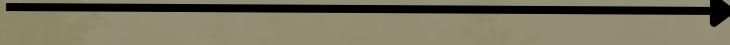
THE SEEDLING TREE PROGRAM OFFERS
 LOW-COST SEEDLING TREES AND
 SHRUBS FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES
 SUCH AS:

- LIVING SNOW FENCE
- WINDBREAKS
- WILDLIFE HABITAT
- NOISE BARRIERS
- VISUAL SCREENS
- EROSION CONTROL

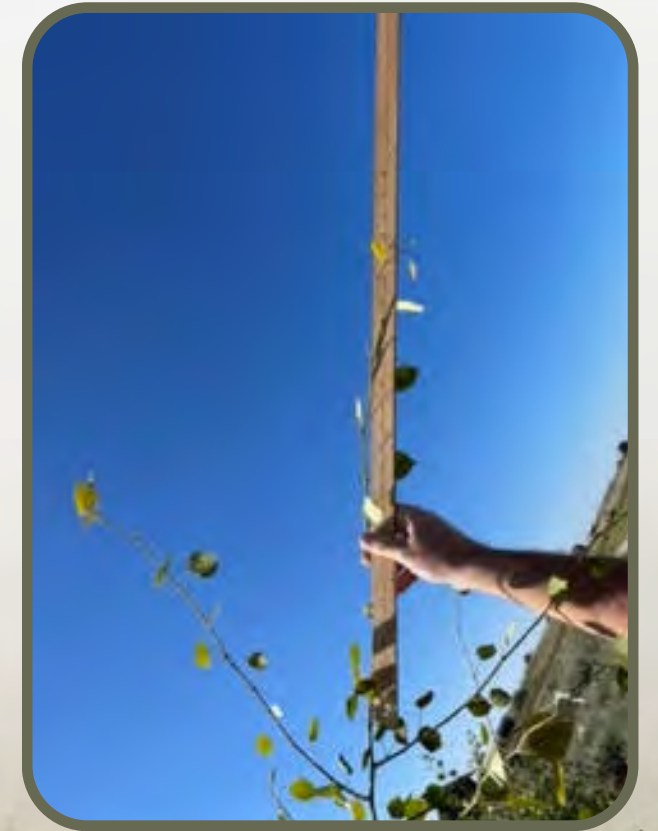
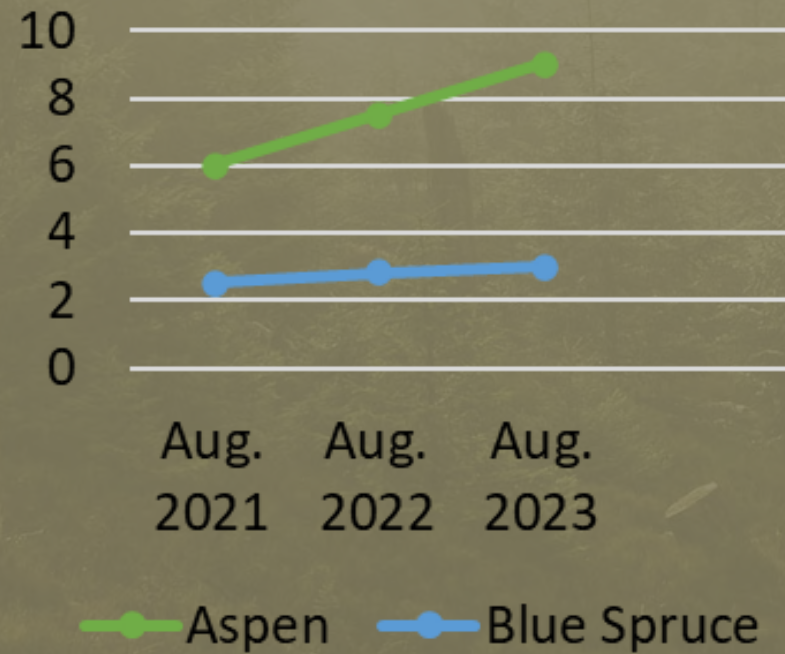


2016 SEEDLING
 PLANTING MONITORING

2023 GROWTH SHOWS
 THAT THE ASPEN
 PLANTING (TOP) IS
 NOW ABOUT 9' AND THE
 COLORADO BLUE
 SPRUCE (BOTTOM) IS
 A LITTLE OVER 3'.



Tree Growth in Feet



Seedling Tree Program

Wildlife & Habitat



CCAA BIOLOGICAL MONITORING: 5-YEAR POST-MONITORING COMPLETED FOR 3 PARTICIPATING LANDOWNERS ACROSS 5 MONITORING LOCATIONS

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FENCE CONVERSION: *GAME CAMERA MONITORING CONTINUED ON 1 PROJECT

SAGE-GROUSE LEK MONITORING: UNABLE TO MONITOR THIS YEAR DUE TO HEAVY SNOW YEAR



STARTED WORKING WITH PARTNERS ON REVISIONS TO "A LANDOWNER'S GUIDE TO FENCES AND WILDLIFE: PRACTICAL TIPS TO MAKE YOUR FENCES WILDLIFE FRIENDLY"

ASSIST IN AUTHORIZING/REVIEWING "NRCS TECHNICAL NOTE: IMPROVING FENCE PASSAGE FOR MIGRATORY BIG GAME"

CONSERVATION PLANNING: CONTINUED INVENTORY & ANALYSIS ON 1 PLAN

COLLABORATION: PARTICIPATED IN "ELK FEEDGROUNDS; A CHALLENGE WE CAN TAKE ON" STAKEHOLDER GROUP DISCUSSIONS



ONE ROCK AT A TIME:
SLOWING RANGELAND
EROSION

- ZEEDYK AND BDA MAINTENANCE CONDUCTED AT 2 LANDOWNER PROPERTIES
- GAME CAMERA MONITORING CONDUCTED AT WORKSHOP LOCATION
- COLLABORATORS PRODUCED 2 TIMELAPSE VIDEOS OF STRUCTURES

NACD TA GRANT

- FENCE INVENTORY COMPLETED ON ABOUT 40 MILES OF FENCE
- CERTIFIED APPROXIMATELY 27 MILES OF FENCE
- NEARLY 700 MILES OF WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FENCES CONVERTED FOR WILDLIFE TO DATE
- BENEFITED SEVERAL SEASONAL STAFF TO GAIN EXPERIENCE AS THEY DEVELOP THEIR CONSERVATION CAREERS

Wildlife & Habitat

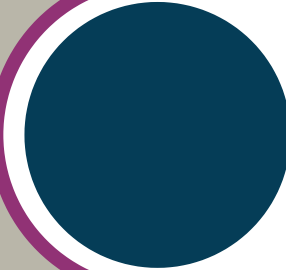


Education and Outreach

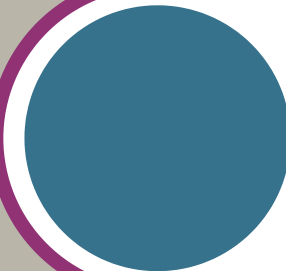
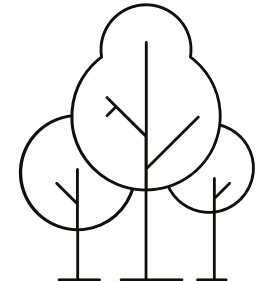
THE EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAM OFFERS ADULT MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS THEMED AROUND VARIOUS ISSUES AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS. WE OFFER YOUNG PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND EXPERIENCE THROUGH HANDS ON CONSERVATION THEMED ACTIVITIES. THIS PROGRAM IS CURRENTLY BEING EXPANDED UPON AND A NEW EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN HAS BEEN WRITTEN TO HELP GUIDE THE PROGRAM INTO THE FUTURE. ACTION ITEMS WITHIN THE PLAN INCLUDE APPLYING FOR GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, MEETING WITH LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS TO DISCUSS CURRICULUM OFFERINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GET MORE INVOLVED WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS.



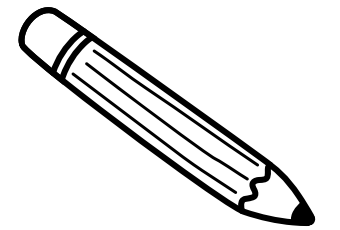
2022-2023
HIGHLIGHTS



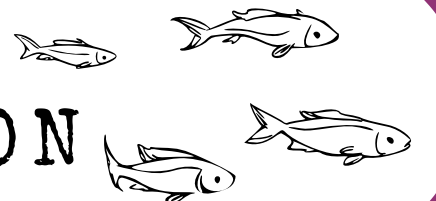
ARBOR DAY



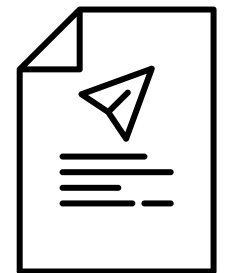
SUBLETTE PALS



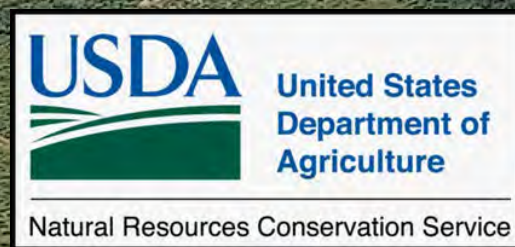
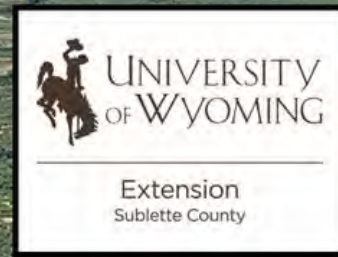
BOULDER
REARING STATION



QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTERS



Collaboration & Partnerships



ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;
BUT TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH

UPPER GREEN FENCING INITIATIVE:

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS PROJECT IS TO MAINTAIN BIG GAME MIGRATION THROUGH EASEMENTS, IMPROVING ROAD CROSSINGS, HABITAT IMPROVEMENT IN STOPOVER AREAS, AND FENCE MODIFICATIONS.

USFWS/PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE:

WORK WITH LANDOWNERS AND THE SERVICE TO IMPLEMENT WILDLIFE PROJECTS ON PRIVATE LANDS. THIS YEAR WE COMPLETED SEVERAL PROJECTS.

VENCE PILOT PROJECT (LANDOWNERS, BLM, & WG&F):

TO IMPLEMENT A 2-YEAR PILOT EXPLORING THE OPTIONS AND ADVANTAGES TO VIRTUAL FENCING ON THE LANDSCAPE.

ROOSEVELT FIRE: USFS & BLM MONITORING:

EROSION AND VEGETATION MONITORING.

ROOSEVELT FIRE: PRIVATE LAND OUTREACH & EDUCATION - ASSISTED LANDOWNERS AS NEEDED WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING POST-FIRE VEGETATION RESPONSE.

UPPER GREEN RIVER BASIN SAGE GROUSE LOCAL WORKGROUP:

THIS GROUP IS COMPRISED OF LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES, AS WELL AS OTHER STAKEHOLDERS WITH LOCAL INTERESTS SUCH AS INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION. THIS GROUP FACILITATES AND IMPLEMENTS CONSERVATION PROJECTS THAT BENEFIT THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE.

INVASIVE SPECIES TASK FORCE:

GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES IN SUBLETTE COUNTY INTERESTED IN CONTROLLING NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE WEEDS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON CHEATGRASS.

FOREST COLLABORATIVE:

THE SUBLETTE COUNTY FOREST COLLABORATIVE MEETS PUBLICLY WITH THE GOALS OF APPLYING FOR AND USING JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF GRANTS AND OTHER MONEYS TO BENEFIT FOREST AND WILDLIFE HEALTH, WATER QUALITY, RECREATION AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS. THE GROUP INCLUDES SUBLETTE COUNTY WEED & PEST, SUBLETTE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, SUBLETTE COUNTY UNIFIED FIRE, BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S PINEDALE FIELD OFFICE AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE COMMUNITY.

Land Use and Planning

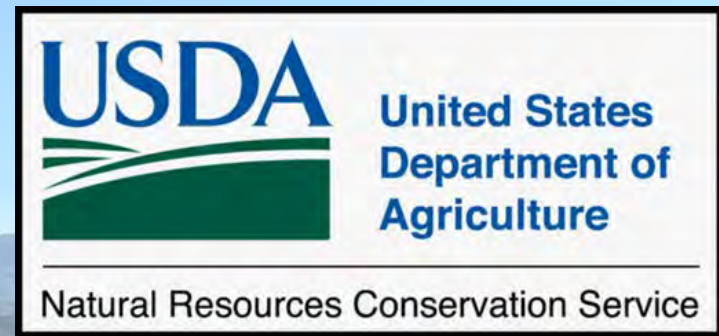
SCCD Board of Supervisors and Staff worked on the following projects:

- Cooperative Agency involvement on BLM and USFS Management Plans
 - BLM Rock Springs Resource Management Plan, Forest Plan Revision, Boulder Travel Plan
- Reviewing and commenting on both BLM & USFS Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)'s as well as other management plans
 - Grazing Regulations BLM & USFS, Elk Feedgrounds: A Challenge We Can Take On, Sage-grouse adaptive management & core area revisions, CWD Management Plan, Regulations for Interagency Cooperation.
- Cooperative Agency development of Environmental Assessments (EA)'s
 - SCCD and BLM co-authored the Basin Reservoir Environmental Assessment which analyzed drilling a well at an existing reservoir.
- Subdivision Reviews
 - Wyoming State Statutes require a developer of a subdivision to obtain a review and recommendations from the local Conservation District, regarding soil suitability for various uses such as erosion control, flooding hazards and sedimentation. In 2022, we had 1 subdivision reviews.
- Coalition of Local Governments (CLG)
 - We are a participating member of the CLG, which strives to promote, facilitate and participate in public land use planning processes. Darrell Walker represents the district.

The Sublette County Conservation District continues to be an active participant in federal and state land use planning.



Natural Resources Conservation Service



-OVER 45 SITE VISITS COMPLETED

-BRIEF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE VISITS: 100

-31 APPLICATIONS TO EVALUATE FOR PROGRAM ASSISTANCE
19 EQIP, 7 RCPP, 2 AMA, & 2CSP

MOST POPULAR CONSERVATION PRACTICES IN
2023: FENCE, OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL, FORAGE
HARVEST MANAGEMENT, PRESCRIBED GRAZING

EASEMENT APPLICATIONS: 1 SELECTED
AND FUNDED \$650,000.00

CERTIFIED OVER 54 CONSERVATION
PRACTICES, 16 IN SUBLETTE COUNTY

-10 CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONTRACTS OBLIGATED

-FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO PARTICIPANTS: \$1,526,227.00

-CONSERVATION PLAN ACRES WRITTEN: 32,943



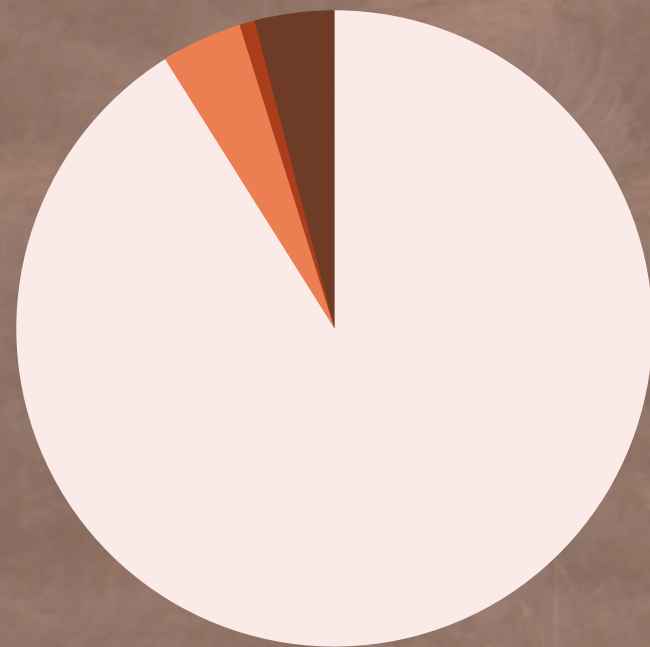
Financials

2023 Year-End Revenue	
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$1,376,949.00
Non-Government Grants	\$62,272.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$11,650.00
Enterprise Operating Revenue	\$61,300.00
Total	\$1,512,171.00

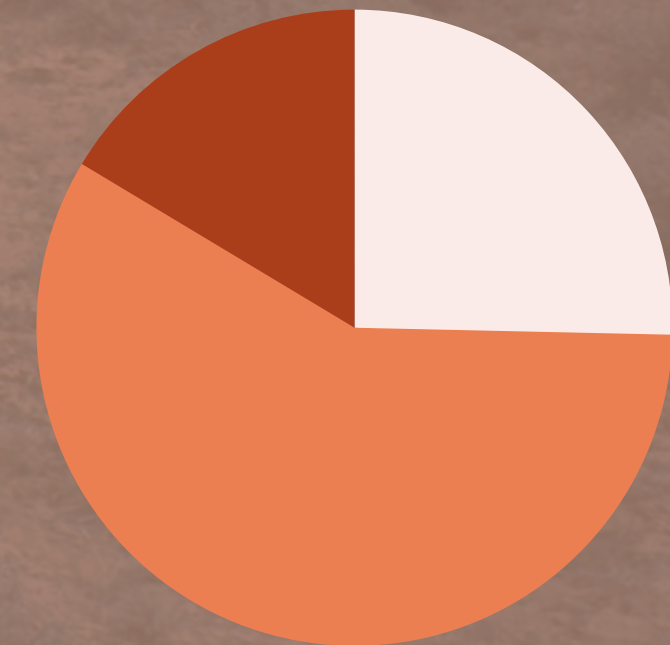
2023 Year-End Expenses	
Administration	\$437,923.00
Operations	\$1,006,421.00
Payroll & Indirect Costs	\$283,180.00
Total	\$1,727,524.00
Net Income	-\$215,353.00

REVENUE

EXPENSES



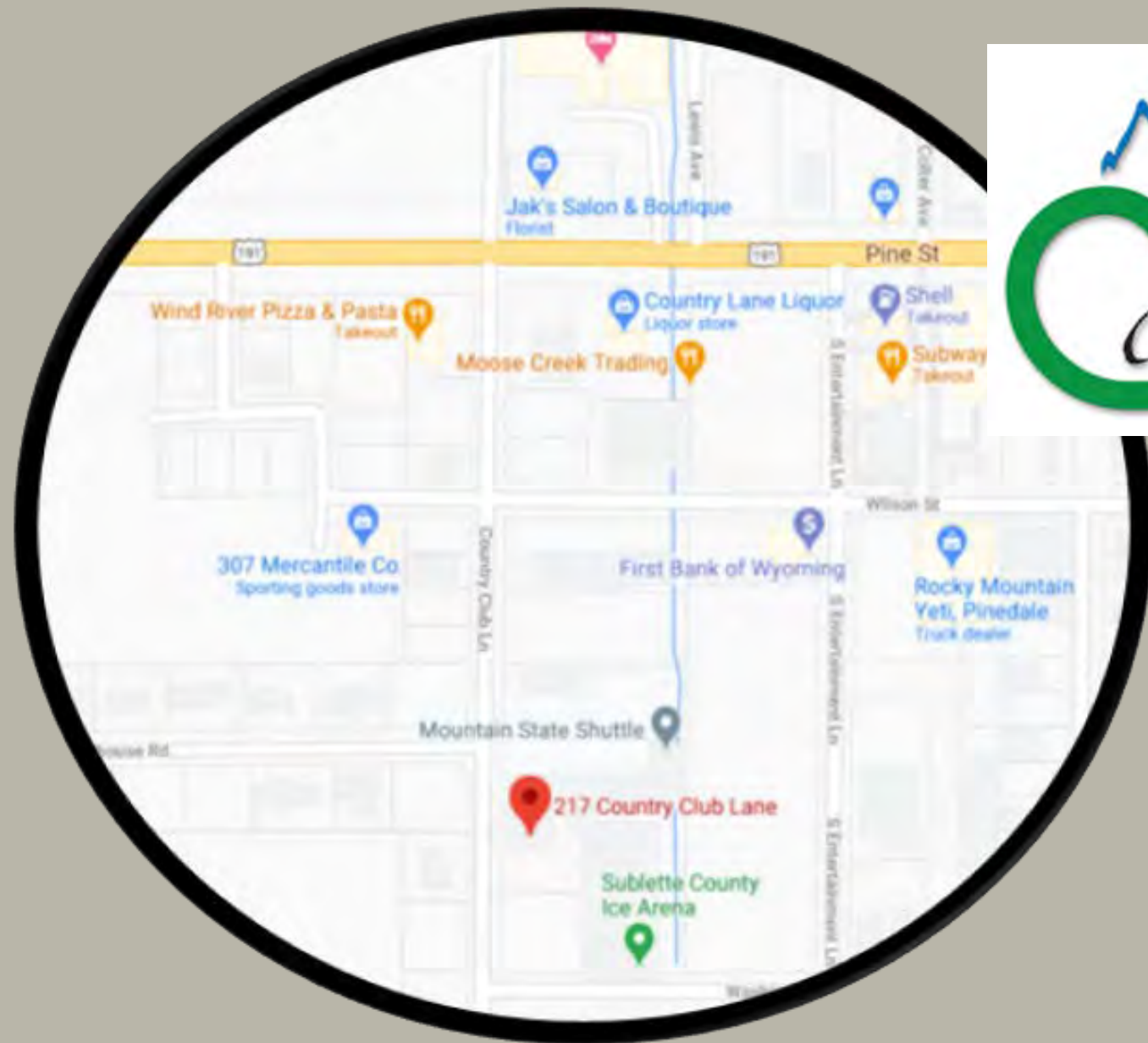
- ▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES
- ▶ NON-GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- ▶ MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE
- ▶ ENTERPRISE OPERATING REVENUE



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

Contact Us!

217 COUNTRY CLUB LANE
PINEDALE, WY 82941
307-367-2364
SUBLETTECD.COM
SCCD@SUBLETTECD.COM



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