

April, 2021



The Mountain Meadow

A quarterly publication from the
Sublette County Conservation District



Photo by Jess Artz

Spring is officially here and SCCD staff are busy prepping for field season!

Highlights In This Issue

- Changing of the Guard
- What We've Been Up To
- Spring Expo 2021– Save the Date
- NRCS Update
- Partners Protecting Pathways
- Environmental Education Week
- The Technology Toolbox
- Earth Day Celebration

Tree Distribution Days– April 29th & 30th, 2021!

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

From the District Manager's Chair

Changing of the Guard

Mike Henn, District Manager



SCCD recently had our long-term employee Sno Ann Engler retire after 16 years of service at the Conservation District. Sno Ann was the District's Office Manager

and Tree Program Coordinator. Sno Ann has achieved a lot during her time with SCCD. She was the Wyoming Conservation Districts Employee Association Outstanding Area V Employee of the year. She also served on the Wyoming Conservation Districts Employee Association as an Area Director and Secretary and Treasurer over the years. Sno Ann was heavily involved with conservation tree plantings around the county, assisting various landowners with species selection and project implementation. Sno Ann is also on the Town of Pinedale Tree Board and has spent time volunteering for a variety of organizations around the County. She was the brainchild behind the SCCD Spring Expo event which brings the Sublette County community together every June.



Sno Ann is excited for this new chapter in her life that involves relaxing, spending time with family and friends, and beaches. The District will miss Sno Ann and the knowledge and passion she brought to the District and we wish her the best in retirement.

With Sno Ann's retirement the District has welcomed Traci Berg to our team. Traci is excited to join our team and work on conservation within the County. Traci, her husband Kyle, and their son Taten have called Sublette County home for 4 years. Traci is a native of Riverton, WY and attended Eastern Wyoming College earning an Associates of Applied Science degree in Veterinary Technology.



Traci also volunteers in the community to help with a variety of wildlife projects and local community betterment projects. She enjoys everything outdoors from camping to hunting with family and friends. Her favorite activity is upland bird hunting which she looks forward to every fall.

Please feel free to swing by the office to meet Traci and help us welcome her to the SCCD team.

What We've Been up to

Conservation Conversations Webinars



SCCD and Sublette BOCES have partnered up again this year to provide 4 Conservation Conversations webinars on a variety of topics that are of interest to Sublette County community members.

There are two webinars remaining in this 4-part series! Click on the photo to the left to read more about the webinars and RSVP for the remaining presentations.

Webinar 3- "Secrets of the Sagebrush Sea"

April 21st from 12:00-12:30pm

Webinar 4- "Adaptive Management on the Ryegrass Ranch: Stories of on the Ground Conservation Work"

May 19th from 12:00-12:30pm

SCCD Tank and Chute Reminders!

Portable Corrals and Loading Chute

- Checkout available on a first come first serve basis
- Portable loading chute with panels and 1 bow gate
- Panel trailer with panels and bow gates
- Entire setup can hold up to 250 pairs



Tire Tanks for Sale

SCCD still has tire tanks for sale. The cost is \$600.00 per tire tank. Tanks are 12.5 feet in diameter. If interested in purchasing a tank please call or email us!



Spring Expo 2021

Jess Artz, Range Specialist/Education & Outreach Coordinator

SPRING EXPO 2021



Time: 9am-2pm
Date: June 19th, 2021

Sublette Ice Arena
1219 W. Washington
St. Pinedale, WY 82941

2021 EXPO "Go Local, Grow Local"

Vendor Booths
Children's Activity Booth
Speaker Presentation

High altitude gardening and greenhouse design presentation with Penn and Cord Parmenter, mountain food and seed growers and high altitude gardening teachers.

And More!



SCCD
307-367-2364
sccd@sublettecd.com
Sublettecd.com

Embracing the Art of Backyard Living in Sublette County

Our annual Spring Expo helps to foster a culture of stewardship among small acreage landowners by promoting sustainable practices that enhance the ecological, economic and social aspects of living on a few acres.

The 2020 Spring Expo had to be cancelled last year due to the COVID pandemic. This year, we have decided to move forward with the Spring Expo in accordance with all state and county COVID regulations and guidance to help keep vendors and attendees safe.

The 2021 Spring Expo will be our fourth Spring EXPO. Vendors that have participated in the past include a farmer's market, alternative energy, native garden plants, maple syrup, jams & jellies, local honey, homemade salad dressings, lotions, landscaping companies, lawn & garden implements, and greenhouses. We will also be hosting an educational kid's activity corner again! If you are interested in volunteering at the 2021 Spring Expo please contact Jess Artz at jartz@sublettecd.com or 307-367-2364.

If interested in being a vendor please fill out a vendor application at the link below!

[**Fill Out a Vendor Application**](#)

NRCS Update

Fixing Erosion Cost Effectively on Rangeland

Jennifer Hayward, District Conservationist

You know those draws in the rangeland that are mini-canyons and are so deep that really nothing can be done to fix the problem easily or affordably? What if there was a way to prevent that from occurring on your rangelands? There is! There are relatively simple fixes that you can install using native materi-



als on your land that can stop the small headcuts of today from becoming problems in the future. We are so excited about these structures that we have been working together to bring a special workshop to Sublette County to teach all of us how to implement these structures. Save the Date! On August 4th, we will be viewing via the web, a seminar to discuss the underlying principles of this type of work. It is really engaging material and will equip you with a great background to be able to do some things yourselves! August 11-13th, we will go on-site and install these structures together with people with extensive experience. You can spend ½ day to up to 2 days learning how to implement these structures yourselves. No equipment, low cost– just people with rock and shovels and a basic schematic to place materials to capture water as it flows across the landscape and slows it so it will build up the soil in areas it is cutting. A series of these “checks” in a system can begin the healing process and slow down erosion which keeps water on our rangelands instead of allowing water and soil to leave these sites. This is back to basics at it’s best. See the save the date on Page 6-7 for more details!

If interested, we want to talk! We have a grant that not only helps put on the workshop, but also has funds to install these structures on your lands in 2021 and 2022. Please reserve some time to learn about these structures and start implementing today. These small erosion points exist all over our rangelands. So reach out to the Conservation District, NRCS or Game and Fish staff to begin discussions and to evaluate the potential of your landscape for these practices.

Watch for announcements from the Conservation District about these workshops or let us know if you want to be notified individually.

[Learn more from Science News about how these structures can help streams survive wildfires and drought](#)

One Rock at a Time: Slowing Rangeland Erosion

SAVE THE DATE

→ **AUGUST 4, 2021**

- Virtual Classroom*

→ **AUGUST 11 - 13, 2021**

- Hands-on building low-tech structures on the ground

LOW-TECH MESIC HABITAT RESTORATION WORKSHOP

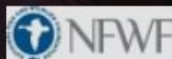
Objective: Provide economical tools for landowners to adopt low-tech restoration technologies to build resilience and restore critical mesic habitats in semi-arid sagebrush rangelands benefiting both wildlife and livestock on working lands.

This project is made possible with funding support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. The USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer and Lender.

Contact: Melanie Purcell
Wildlife & Habitat Program Manager, Sublette County Conservation District
307-367-2364
mpurcell@sublettecd.com

* Will be recorded for later viewing



Partners Protecting Pathways

Sublette Partnerships in Migration

Wyoming's iconic wildlife face many challenges when migrating to and from summer and winter ranges. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is working in partnership with the Sublette County Conservation District, The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department and a variety of other partners to enhance migratory pathways by improving habitat, ease of passage and connectivity for wildlife.



SCCD game camera showing pronghorn crossing under a new wildlife friendly fence installation

This collaboration within Sublette County has launched relationships that have helped to bolster funding for projects that fit various situations around the county. Some of these include fencing and habitat improvement projects.

[Read Full TNC Article!](#)



SCCD game camera photo of a let down fence in Sublette County

Youth Education

National Environmental Education Week

Jess Artz, Range Specialist/ Education & Outreach Coordinator

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) will be April 19-23rd this year. EE Week is the nation's largest celebration of environmental education. The EE Week celebration is a program of the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF). Below is a list from the Project Learning Tree (PLT) Website that explains the large scale benefits of Environmental Education. [PLT Website](#)

Environmental Education Benefits the Larger World by:

- **Fostering Healthier Schools.** EE empowers students to lead the way in creating greener and healthier learning environments inside and outside their school buildings.
- **Supporting Sound Decision-Making.** EE ensures citizens are informed about sound science and equipped to make decisions that are critical to ensuring the US and greater world have the natural resources on which our economy and quality of life depend.
- **Contributing to Sustainability.** EE builds the knowledge and skills needed to address complex environmental issues, as well as take action to keep our natural world healthy, our economies productive, and communities vibrant.
- **Conserving our Natural Resources.** Higher levels of environmental knowledge correlate significantly with a higher degree of pro-environment and conservation behavior. The more people know, the more likely they are to recycle, be energy efficient, conserve water, etc.

SCCD uses PLT program curriculum within Sublette County and other interactive lessons to help connect youth within the county to the natural world and the issues affecting their “own back yard”. Bringing EE to a local level is extremely important to stewardship and cultivating conservation minded thinking within the community.

The National Environmental Education Foundation has great resources available to teachers and for everyday use to incorporate more environmental education at home. The link below has a variety of activities you can do at home or school to inspire environmental learning and stewardship.

[Environmental Education at Home](#)

Want the Conservation District to visit your school or homeschool classroom? Contact Jess Artz to discuss options!

The Technology Toolbox

useful Tools for Conservation-Minded Folks

Shari Meeks, Range Program Manager

Range data is evolving quickly, and if you are anything like me, it has taken you a while to get on the technology bandwagon. Over the past ten years however, a land manager's capability to utilize data resources has expanded exponentially to where you can now adjust your management for drought scenarios, estimate land productivity, predict fuels for the fire season, and so much more!

I may have already lost you, but just in case you are still with me, let me take a few minutes to overview some of the tools that I think could be really helpful for you as a private landowner or possibly a public land manager.

LandPKS

Use the free LandPKS mobile app to discover the potential of your land and monitor change over time. Use your mobile device for soil identification, land cover and soil health monitoring, land management and farm record keeping, and more. Honestly, this is a very user-friendly app that has four modules that can be used individually or separately to help inform your management.

Specifically, the Land Management module allows you to track planting dates and yield, weed and pest management, nutrient management, irrigation, and rainfall, as well as erosion control. And the Soil Health module allows you to track erosion indicators and aggregate stability; also allowing input for pH, EC, and organic carbon (specifically important to gardeners!) At quick glance, these modules may be the most applicable to ranchers, small acreage landowners and gardeners in our area.



Click logo to learn more!

Continued on next page

Fuelcast



Click logo to learn more!

The Rangeland Productivity and Monitoring Service has an app called Fuelcast, originally developed as a tool to predict for wildland fires. However, this tool can also be used for ranchers and rangeland managers at a larger scale to assess land productivity and stocking rates for the current-year growing season. The tool was developed to provide weekly forecast estimates of magnitude and timing of annual production and fuel across coterminous US rangelands. The result is a map of vegetation productivity in pounds per acre, where we can easily adjust for impending drought conditions.

Range Analysis Platform



Click logo to learn more!

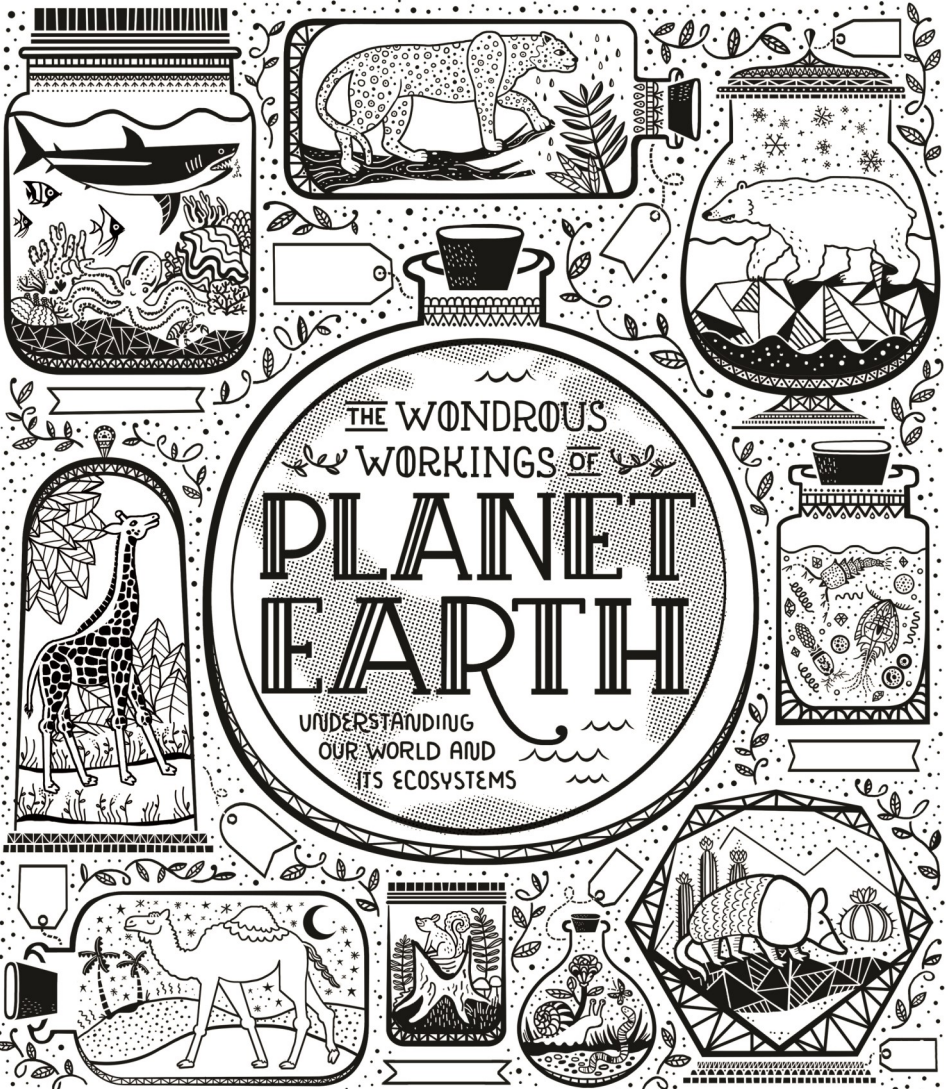
Fast, powerful, and free, the Rangeland Analysis Platform is an innovative online tool that quickly visualizes and analyzes vegetation data for the western US. Launch the app to examine trends at the pasture, ranch, watershed, or county scale. I personally love this platform because it can give me a better understanding of change over time in a particular area.

Datasets include:

- Continuous vegetation cover: see abundance and distribution of perennial or annual herbaceous, shrubs, trees, and bare ground
- Annual aboveground biomass: see how much and where forage has changed over the year
- 16-day aboveground biomass (including current year): see how forage has changed in bi-weekly increments.

In conclusion, there are many apps available out there to help you make decisions. There are times where I get completely overwhelmed with the amount of information out there. I started with one. And would suggest that you do the same. Each platform has webinars and videos to watch so you can take 10 minutes to figure out if it is something you even want to try. But do not forget, I would never lead you somewhere if I were not prepared to help you along the way. You can always call the SCCD and we can work with you to implement various applications into your ranch or small acreage operation.

Kid's Corner



THE WONDROUS
WORKINGS OF
**PLANET
EARTH**
UNDERSTANDING
OUR WORLD AND
ITS ECOSYSTEMS



ILLUSTRATION FROM
**THE WONDROUS WORKINGS
OF PLANET EARTH**
A NEW BOOK BY RACHEL IGNOTOFSKY

VISIT RACHELIGNOTOFSKYDESIGN.COM
@RACHELIGNOTOFSKY
@IGNOTOFSKY

Earth Day Celebration Sublette County PRONGHORN



Wednesday **April 21, 2021**

April 21, the night before Earth Day, join us as we get up to date on the Sublette Pronghorn. Agencies and organizations will let us know what is happening with our iconic pronghorn.

Pinedale Library starting at 5:30PM

RSVP by April 18 for a (complimentary) Picnic Dinner !!! In honor of Earth Day, please bring your own personal water bottle or coffee cup. Remote participation will be available via Google Meet. To RSVP, or to obtain a Google Meet link, please contact Elaine Crumpley at **307-360-7466**.

Sponsored by



SCCD along with a variety of other organizations and agencies will be participating in this Sublette County Pronghorn Earth Day Event! This event is being organized by Citizens United for Responsible Energy Development (CURED). CURED is a citizens' advocacy and oversight group that works to increase widespread understanding of the impacts of energy development on air and water quality, human health, and ecosystem health in Sublette County, Wyoming.

Sublette County in the New York Times

The COVID pandemic this year has motivated many people across America to leave their homes and head outside to explore new and potentially dangerous areas. This includes remote public lands within the Wind River Mountains here in Sublette County.

The New York Times article, which includes quotes from our own SCCD board member and Tip Top Search and Rescue member Milford Lockwood, is a good reminder about the importance of being prepared for and educated about backcountry activities and travel to keep yourself, search and rescue volunteers, and other recreators safe while enjoying the backcountry and public lands that make the Sublette county unique. As we head into summer, the mountains will fill with a variety of people looking for new experiences and solitude in the backcountry. Remember to research and prepare and recreate responsibly!

Read the New York Times Article
[Explorers Are Straining Search and Rescue](#)



Photo by: Jess Artz

Who Are We?

Sublette County Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Coke Landers-Chairman

Darrell Walker-Vice Chairman

Dave Pape-Sec/Treasurer

Meghann Smith

Milford Lockwood

Sublette County Conservation District Staff

Michael Henn, District Manager

Traci Berg, Administrative Coordinator

Melanie Purcell, Wildlife & Habitat Program Manager

Shari Meeks, Range Program Manager

Jessica Artz, Range Specialist/ Education & Outreach Coordinator

Gabe Fancher, Natural Resource Technician

Partners: USDA / NRCS Staff

Jennifer Hayward, District Conservationist

Shirleena King, Administrative Assistant

Karen Clause, Multi-County Range Management Specialist

Dillon Gray, Autumn Boxum, Taylor Kepley, Jenna Platt- Soil Survey Team

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. The USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer and Lender.



217 Country Club Ln. / P.O. Box 647 Pinedale, WY 82941

Phone: 307-367-2364 Email: sccd@sublettecd.com Website: sublettecd.com