



Boaters on the Tongue River during an SCLT Float Trip.

## Water Trail Assessment

### Enhancing Your Experience on Public Waterways

#### The Opportunity

While the Tongue River and its associated creeks boast beautiful views, fishable waters, abundant birds and wildlife, and are perfect for floating when the water is at an optimal level, issues like lack of information, water hazards, and unsafe or too few access sites, prevent both visitors and County residents from taking full advantage of recreation opportunities on our waterways.

#### What We're Doing

SCLT's Recreation Work Group, which is comprised of roughly twenty volunteers who represent various non-motorized recreation interests, is working with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to compile an assessment of

navigable water in northwest Sheridan County through research and on-the-water observations.

The assessment will inventory existing conditions on navigable and publicly-accessible sections of Big Goose Creek, Little Goose Creek, Goose Creek, and the Tongue River.

#### Attention Boaters!



We want to hear from you! Please go to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/JustPaddle](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JustPaddle) to complete our survey to provide your input for the assessment.

#### How will the assessment guide future decisions?

The end goal is that this Water Trails Assessment will provide a common structure and support for future investments by any entity

interested in improving these waterways for public recreation, as well as promote community stewardship of this resource. Potential projects may include new and enhanced access sites, hazard removal, new boater-specific signage on the waterways, or published information.

## Our Mission:

To preserve our heritage of open spaces, healthy rivers and creeks, working ranches, wildlife habitat, and vibrant history, while expanding non-motorized recreation opportunities to connect people with the places they love.

### Staff

Colin Betzler  
*Executive Director*

Claire Hobbs  
*Communications & Development Associate*

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## Double Your Donation

We're thrilled to announce that one of our long-time supporters has stepped forward to generously match your gift dollar for dollar from now until the end of our Fiscal Year on June 30, 2014. They have agreed to match any new contributors' gifts, as well as those gifts from our annual supporters that are at a higher level than their previous donation.

Your donations are responsible for over 70% of our budget. We cannot be a dynamic and successful LOCAL land trust without LOCAL support.



Help us reach our budget goals this fiscal year and have your gift matched!

## Open House Event Wrap-Up



The crowd gathered in the Buffalo Bill Cody Bar at the Sheridan Inn to enjoy Polish appetizers, including Legerski's sausages & homemade treats, beer from Black Tooth Brewing Co., and time with friends old and new.

Special thanks to the more than 250 people who came out to the Sheridan Inn to show your support for land conservation, historic preservation, and recreation in Sheridan County on February 27th at our Annual Open House!

We shared information on projects we have planned for 2014, including the Red Grade Trails project, the Water Trail Assessment, and updates on the progress of pending conservation easements.



The Sheridan Inn's new owners, Bob & Dana Townsend, continue to work on renovations to the Inn. SCLT holds an historic preservation easement on the Inn, ensuring that certain elements of its historic integrity remain intact. All changes that the Townsends are planning are in full compliance with the easement document. Coming this summer - an expanded seating area for the restaurant as well as an outdoor patio on the north side of the building.

# New Board Member

## Welcome Dan Rieder



Dan fishing on Wolf Creek.

Please welcome Dan Rieder as SCLT's newest board member! Dan is retired after more than 30 years in medical sales and several years as a high school science teacher. He began volunteering for land conservation groups when he and his wife, Rosemary, who is also our Volunteer Office Administrator, lived in Michigan. He enjoys gardening, fishing, camping, photography, sketching, water colors, and reading. Soon after moving to Sheridan, he and Rosemary were introduced to SCLT and they became supporters immediately.

"I am so inspired by the people involved with SCLT and the vision they have for the future of Sheridan County that I felt drawn to become more involved myself."

# Volunteer with Us!

## Become a Trail Steward



Runner on the Soldier Ridge Trail.

Do you walk your dog, go for a run, or mountain bike on local trails at least weekly? Creating more local trails for recreation is a major part of our mission. As we complete more trail projects, we need your help to monitor them for issues like erosion, vandalism, trash, and invasive species. Future trail projects depend on successful stewardship of our existing trails. Volunteers can sign up to monitor a mile or two of the Soldier Ridge Trail to be our eyes and ears, or just be on call for trail work days.

**If you are interested in this program, contact Dan Rieder at [derieder@gmail.com](mailto:derieder@gmail.com) or (307) 763 - 4024.**

## Help Us Grow Our Pollinator Garden

We have rented a 400 sq. ft. plot at the Emerson Community Garden to plant a pollinator garden. We plan to use it as an educational tool to teach others how to plant with pollinators in mind and utilize native plants in their gardens. We will focus on using native Wyoming plants and perennials. Anyone is welcome to sign up to water and weed the plot one or more days a week and/or donate your divided perennials to get us started.



WY native, Harebells  
*Campanula rotundifolia* L.

**If you are interested in volunteering or have divided perennials to donate, contact Susanna Meyer at [susannameyer@msn.com](mailto:susannameyer@msn.com) or (307) 752 - 0093 by April 28th.**

## More Volunteer Opportunities

### Event Volunteers

We need volunteers for our upcoming events, especially UNPLUG and Biketoberfest, to assist with tasks like registration, set-up, bartending, taking photos, etc.

### Mailing Volunteers

We fold, stuff, and label our own mailings throughout the year. We'd love it if you'd chip in to help us cut down on the time it takes! Our next mailing will be the first week in July.

### Biketober Fest Event Committee Members

We want your help to make this year's Biketober Fest the best yet in terms of fundraising and organization! Join our event committee to plan, organize, and execute this event. Meetings begin in April.

**Contact Claire Hobbs, Communications & Development Associate, for more info or to be put on a volunteer list.**

**[Claire@sheridanclt.org](mailto:Claire@sheridanclt.org)  
(307) 673 - 4702**

Please pass our newsletter on to a friend, recycle it, or let us know if you'd rather not receive a hard copy to help us reduce waste. Thank you!

## Event Calendar

### **Boot Kick-Off After Party at Black Tooth Brewing Company Tuesday, July 8th, 7 pm - 10 pm**

Don't head home after the Boot Kick-Off in Kendrick Park during Rodeo Week or you'll miss the Munsick Brothers live at Black Tooth Brewing Company and the chance to drink ales to support trails! Black Tooth will donate \$1 of every pint sold to SCLT for local trail projects. Trolley will drop off at the brewery.



### **Tongue River Float Trip Saturday, July 12th, 9 am - 12 pm**

Join us for a group float on the Tongue River! Bring your own kayaks and canoes. Depending on the water level, bigger boats may not be appropriate. RSVP to [claire@sheridanclt.org](mailto:claire@sheridanclt.org) to reserve your spot. FREE for SCLT members, \$10 for non-members. Bring lunch, water, and your camera.



### **Spur Ranch Fest Saturday, July 27th, 11 am - 10 pm**

This family friendly event at Tom Balding's Spur Ranch has something for everyone! Bike races and time trials, live music, food vendors, and more! SCLT will benefit from part of the proceeds. For more information email [sales@tombalding.com](mailto:sales@tombalding.com) or call 672 - 8459.

**\*For full event details, go to [sheridanclt.org](http://sheridanclt.org) or call (307) 673 - 4702.**