



Looking southeast across rolling sagebrush hills toward Clear Creek on the Tenneson property in June 2015.

Leaving a Legacy of Land and History in the Clear Creek Valley

Mark and Kim Tenneson, dairy farmers from western Washington, spent years searching for the right agricultural property. When they set foot on a 528-acre property along Clear Creek in eastern Sheridan County in 2009, they said “it felt like home” and made the decision to purchase it.

Even though Mark and Kim were thrilled with their purchase, they had some decisions to make as the property was in tough shape when they made the purchase. In addition, they needed to decide what to do about the old stone home on the property - the Doc Huson Homestead built in 1888.

Due to liability concerns, the Tennesons were seriously considering demolishing the historic structure. Fortunately, SCLT was able to connect

with Mark and Kim to discuss the opportunities available to them to protect their property with a conservation easement while preserving the historic Doc Huson Homestead with a historic preservation easement.

SCLT is always excited to pursue valuable projects that accomplish multiple aspects of our mission, so after talking with the Tennesons we immediately began exploring funding options that would allow us to purchase a conservation easement from Mark and Kim and incorporate an historic easement on the Doc Huson Homestead.

Thanks to funding from a diverse group of partners, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Wyoming

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Cultural Trust Fund (WCTF), the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT), The Conservation Fund, several local foundations, and of course members like you, SCLT was able to do just that. We closed on the project in partnership with the Tenneson family on June 23, 2015.

The Tenneson's property is made up of irrigated agricultural lands east of US Hwy 14-16 along Clear Creek and beautiful rolling sagebrush hills west of the highway. The conservation easement protects both important wildlife habitat and working agricultural lands.

“We want to thank Mark and Kim for their sincere commitment to conservation and historic preservation. Because of their generous foresight, this property's productive agricultural lands, rich history and unmistakable character will remain for the benefit of future generations.”

- *Susanna Meyer, SCLT Board President*

Migrating waterfowl use the roughly two miles of riparian habitat along Clear Creek and Ulm Creek and healthy populations of mule deer and pronghorn also call the property home. In addition, the property lies within ½ mile of Wyoming's designated Sage Grouse Connectivity Corridor area, with roughly half the property comprised of sagebrush steppe and grasslands, prime habitat for sage grouse.

In addition to the property's conservation values, there is a wonderful history tied to this property well worth preserving. Pre-settlement, Native Americans traveled through the area along Clear



Celebrating the closing of the conservation easement on June 23rd. From left to right: Executive Director Colin Betzler, Board President Susanna Meyer, Treasurer Margie Taylor, and the Tenneson family, Mark, Kim, and daughter Sara.

Creek to access their Powder River Basin hunting and gathering sites.

In 1888, Sarah Pattengill filed a homestead on the property and her son-in-law, Edward “Doc” Huson and his two sons built the stone homestead that is still standing today. Doc bought the original 160-acre property from her in 1893, giving it its namesake. We look forward to creating onsite signage to interpret the rich history of Doc Huson's legacy.

“It is wonderful to know that my grandfather's historic homestead and surrounding ranchland will remain as we know it today so that our region's rich heritage will be experienced by future generations,” said Lois Hall, Doc Huson's granddaughter, whose father was born in the original stone homestead.

We are proud to play a role in protecting such a special corner of Sheridan County for the benefit future generations. We would like to thank everyone who made this project possible!

Sheridan Community Land Trust works 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.

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Partnerships and Progress

On Saturday, July 11th, 20 volunteers joined us for Tongue Riverpalooza, sponsored by American Rivers, to clean up trash along Goose Creek and Tongue River.



Tongue Riverpalooza volunteers with debris pile after our float and river clean-up on July 11th.

With permission from landowners, we spent four hours cleaning trash along the streambed and riverbanks. It was a great way to see firsthand the work that needs to be done to make our waterways safer and more enjoyable for public recreation.



This 90 ft. section of conveyor track was removed from the Tongue River on April 13th.

Thanks to Wyoming's Recreational Trails Program and the continued support of our members, we have removed over 10 tons of trash and debris from our local waterways since January! We will continue to work with private landowners to provide the funds necessary to remove similar hazards and debris and hope to begin installation of multiple boater-friendly fences this fall and winter.

Red Grade Trail Work to Begin Mid-August on State Land

SCLT has selected Wildwood Trails, Inc. (WWT) to build the first two miles of the Red Grade Trails System, permitted under a State Special Use Permit. WWT is an independent, privately-owned trail construction business that works across the Intermountain West. They have over 20 years of combined experience building trails for all types of users. To view examples of their past work, visit www.wildwoodtrailmt.com. Trail work will begin by mid-August and be completed by October.

On May 5th, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released their draft Environmental Assessment for the 6.2 miles of proposed trails on BLM lands and solicited public comment from May 5th to June 5th. They received 324 comments during the 30-day comment period. A big thanks to all of you who submitted comments!

The BLM is working through these comments in detail and identifying areas of the draft Environmental Assessment that may require additional analysis prior to arriving at a Decision of Record on the project.

We were excited to learn that 82% (266) of the comments were in full support of the proposed project; 10% (33) were in support of the proposal with modifications; and 8% (25) were against the proposed project. For us, these statistics illustrate the greater good that our organization believes this project has represented from day one.

We have not yet identified a timeline to submit a formal Right of Way application to the US Forest Service (USFS) to begin a similar environmental review process for the 22 miles of proposed trails on USFS lands.

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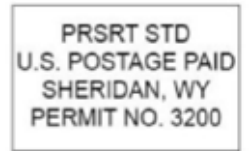
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Join us for an upcoming event!

Historic OW Ranch Tour - Member Only

Saturday, August 29th from 8:30 am - 2 pm



Join us for a tour of the historic OW Ranch, owned by music industry legend Jim Guercio. Guercio has lovingly restored the OW to its original glory when it was owned by John Kendrick, Wyoming's ninth governor. We'll tour the ranch buildings and get the inside scoop on the history of the ranch from Jim Guercio himself. This event is open to current SCLT members only, so become a member today! RSVP is required to claire@sheridanclt.org or call 673-4702. Spaces limited, so don't wait to RSVP.

Red Grade Trails System Events

August and September, Dates Coming Soon!

We'll host a talk with Wildwood Trails on-site in mid-August to give you the inside scoop on their trail work. In September we'll invite you to celebrate the completion of the first 2 miles of trail.

Biketoberfest

Saturday, October 10th

Biking, trail running, music, and food - this is a kid-friendly festival not to be missed! Registration opens August 1st with a discount for registering early. Volunteers and sponsors are needed for this event. Contact claire@sheridanclt.org if you are interested!

