



Final inspection of the trails on September 19, 2015. From left to right: Shana and Ted Wood of Wildwood Trails Inc.; Jim Sorenson, SCLT Volunteer; Mike Evers, SCLT Vice President; Colin Betzler, SCLT Executive Director (Photographer Dan Rieder, SCLT Board).

## NEW TRAILS Open to hiking, biking

### **New Trails Open to Public**

After years of planning, we're excited to share that we now have two miles of new trail for you to enjoy! Wildwood Trails Inc. spent the last month building two miles of trail on State land, with two looping trails representing Phase I of the Red Grade Trails System.

### **Trail Ambassador Outreach**

To debut these new trails to the public, we are scheduling Trail Ambassador volunteers on the trails and at the trailhead for 20 - 30 hours each week between now and the end of October. Volunteers will be present during peak trail use times and on-hand to answer questions, monitor

trail use, pick up garbage and report any issues that may arise. Sound like fun? If you're interested in volunteering, call 673-4702 or email [claire@sheridanclt.org](mailto:claire@sheridanclt.org).

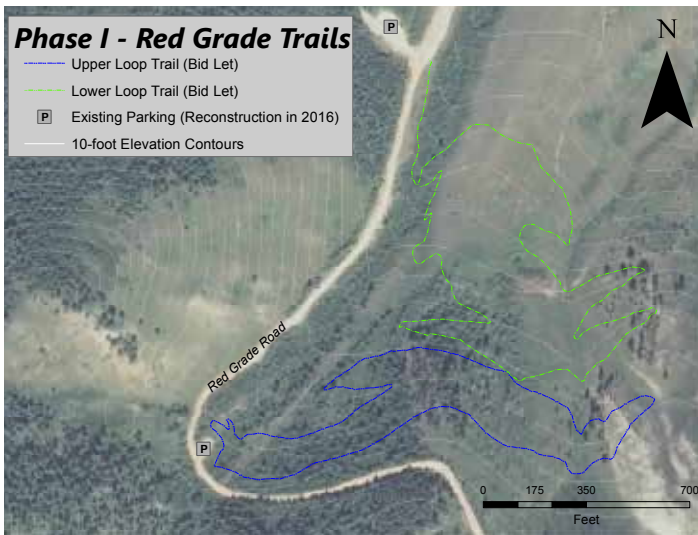
Beginning in 2016, SCLT will hire a seasonal Trail Ambassador to tackle these duties from April - November annually. Information on this position will be posted at [www.sheridanclt.org/employment](http://www.sheridanclt.org/employment) by March 2016.

### **Law Enforcement Solutions**

We are well aware that there are existing issues within the Red Grade vicinity including trespassing, illegal fires, and firearm incidents.

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A map of the two miles of trail recently constructed on State land along Red Grade Road.

SCLT is currently working in partnership with local law enforcement agencies to draft a State Land Board Order for 2016, which would give the necessary authority to law enforcement officers to address the majority of issues of concern in the Red Grade vicinity.

### Next Steps For Red Grade Trails System

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is completing additional analysis of the project and its potential impacts and has asked us to submit trails proposed on BLM land within the current plan that have “independent utility”, meaning trails that represent a functioning system and desirable destinations without involving adjacent lands.

The BLM will continue work on their draft Environmental Assessment (EA) over the winter and release a draft final EA for public comment in the spring, prior to making a draft final decision that will also have a public comment period.

SCLT will not submit any formal Right Of Way request to the USFS until a BLM decision is

released. At this time, the only construction anticipated in 2016 is the safety improvements proposed for the two existing parking areas on State land, servicing the two miles of trail constructed in 2015.

### Thank you!

SCLT’s staff and board of directors would like to thank all of our members who make projects like this one possible, as well as all of the individuals and organizations in our community who have supported our work. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the project, our door is always open and there will be ample opportunities for public comments in the coming months and years.



A completed section of trail on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The trail’s appearance will improve significantly as understory plants fill-in and native re-seeding takes place, which is scheduled for November 2015.

*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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# Greater Sage Grouse ESA Listing Not Warranted At This Time

SCLT is an active partner in the conservation work happening across Wyoming to protect key habitat for Sage Grouse. We have been working proactively to preclude listing of this species, which serves as an indicator of overall sagebrush ecosystem health. The following is excerpted from the Department of the Interior's press release on September 22, 2015:



An unprecedented, landscape-scale conservation effort across the western United States has significantly reduced threats to the greater sage-grouse across 90 percent of the species' breeding habitat and enabled the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to conclude that the charismatic rangeland bird does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

"This is truly a historic effort – one that represents extraordinary collaboration across the American West," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. For more information about the greater sage-grouse and this decision, please see [www.doi.gov/sagegrouse](http://www.doi.gov/sagegrouse).

## Claire Moves On From Land Trust to Pursue Graduate Degree



Nathan and Claire on a hike near Crazy Woman canyon in July 2013.

After more than two years with SCLT, Communications and Development Director, Claire Hobbs, is moving on.

Claire's fiancé, Nathan, was recently hired by the Bureau of Land Management's

Rawlins Field Office and Claire will be headed to Saratoga October 23<sup>rd</sup> to pursue a Master's in Public Administration through the University of Wyoming.

SCLT's Board Chair Susanna Meyer had this to say, "Claire's passion for the mission of SCLT was matched perfectly by her warmth and personality. We're sad to see her go but are deeply appreciative of her dedication and time spent solidifying SCLT's image and brand in our community. I know that I speak for the entire Board of Directors when I say that working with Claire has been a pleasure." Claire's position over the past few years has been

essential to our work. Claire was SCLT's first Communications and Development Director, which had been funded for two years through a grant from the Homer and Mildred Scott Foundation and generous community donors.

Claire excelled in her role at SCLT and helped us make tangible progress in achieving our mission goals on behalf of the community.

"I feel honored to have had the opportunity to work with such a passionate and dynamic organization. SCLT is a wonderful asset to Sheridan County and I know they have a very exciting future ahead." - Claire Hobbs

SCLT is excited to find someone to take over where Claire is leaving off. If you know of anyone who would bring a valuable skillset to our work, please send them to [www.sheridanclt.org/employment](http://www.sheridanclt.org/employment).

So, on behalf of everyone in the SCLT community, we wish Claire and Nathan the best as their Wyoming adventure continues.

### Staff

Colin Betzler, *Executive Director*

Claire Hobbs, *Communications and Development Director*

### Board of Directors

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**5TH ANNUAL**

**BIKE-TOBER FESTS**

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**OCTOBER 10, 2015**

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**RACES**

- 7-MILE TRAIL RUN
- 15-MILE MTN BIKE RACE
- 4-MILE FUN RUN/BIKE RACE

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

- KIDS' BIKE RODEO
- PUMP TRACK

RACE FEE INCLUDES PIZZA, BEER OR BEVERAGES, RACE T-SHIRT, AND CHIP TIMING (EXCEPT 4-MILE). RACES START AND END AT THE SHERIDAN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS.

