



A decade conserving lands and waters you love
... thanks to you

Annual Report for Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
and Ten Year Highlights





Imagine the difference, a decade from now

Can you imagine what Sheridan County would feel like without its wide-open spaces, rushing waters, trails that connect you with nature, working ranches and land that gives back generation after generation?

Can you imagine if our county lacked its diverse wildlife – elk, fox, mule deer, owls and cranes?

Thanks to your support and the community's vision, beautiful, special places are part of our lives each day. Together, over the past ten years, we have assisted five ranching families and local farmers to conserve several thousand acres, lands that are important to their heritage and our community's way of life.

For many families, including John and Vanessa Buyok, the land is part of their blood – the very essence of who they are – and their commitment to their land is a commitment to our community. Conserving their ranch along the Tongue River made sense. As Vanessa puts it, “Living out here with the wildlife, open space and beauty makes our community richer than money could ever buy.”

We couldn't assist local families like the Buyoks without your support. Each project takes hundreds of hours – sometimes years – and we need to be there when families are ready to conserve their land. You also make it possible to partner with local organizations and talented individuals on trail development and maintenance, bringing the joy of the outdoors to many while enriching our local economy and quality of life.

So, thank you. Together we are making sure that Sheridan County continues to be a place where people can live, work and play – a place that celebrates our heritage and connects us with what we hold dear.

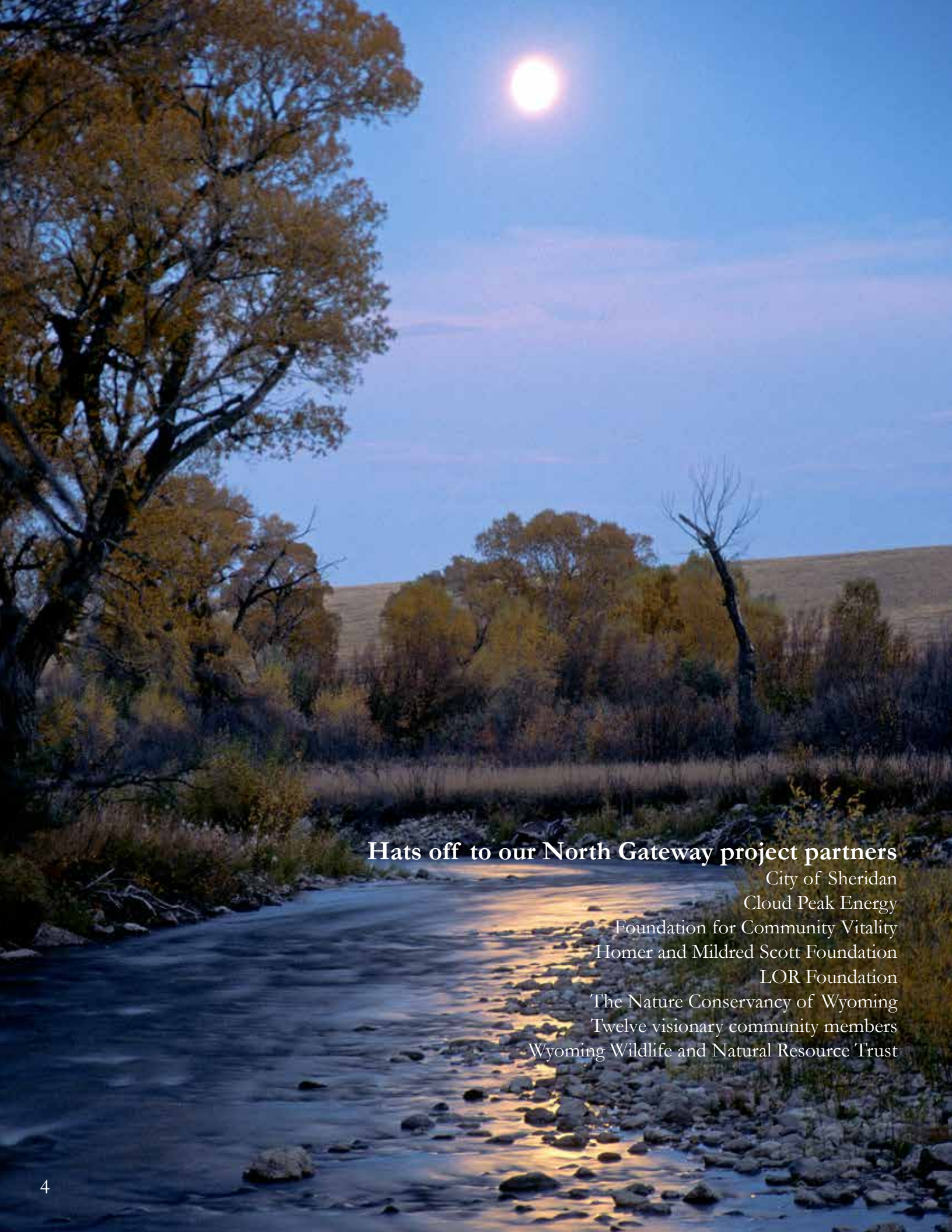
“Living out here with the wildlife, open spaces and beauty makes our community richer than money could ever buy.” - Vanessa Buyok, local landowner



Working together all year long, ten years strong to ensure local conservation is possible and to celebrate what it means to each of us

Every project is special, but here are a few highlights from the first decade with you:

- **Volunteers make it happen.** We simply couldn't get the trails done without you. A special thanks to the 25 smiling volunteers who broke ground on a fresh mile of Red Grade Trails this year.
- **Conservation leaders mentor others, and our team grows.** Four of our talented and hard-working board members celebrated nine years with the Land Trust, and our board and staff grew to better accomplish our community's vision.
- **Community relishes rich history.** In the spring of 2015, a farming family closed on an easement to protect the local 127-year-old Doc Huson homestead and the agricultural lands, centuries of memories and unmistakable character that come with it.
- **Kids of every age grow a life-long passion for their land and water.** Our partnership with a handful of local experts on the banks of the Tongue River during Unplug's "Mud, Bugs, and Fish" helped kids garner a love for bugs and nature.
- **Local hikes and programs celebrate the beauty of ranches and nature.** Elegant long horn cattle set the scene for a lovely spring hike in the shadows of Moncrieffe Ridge.
- **Generous local families are committed to passing along a love of the land.** Elk and other wildlife benefit from their protected wintering grounds at the headwaters of McCormick Creek.
- **Special places you love are conserved thanks to you.** There's nothing like watching golden eagles take flight along four miles of new trail overlooking 1,100 protected acres along Soldier Ridge.



Hats off to our North Gateway project partners

- City of Sheridan
- Cloud Peak Energy
- Foundation for Community Vitality
- Homer and Mildred Scott Foundation
- LOR Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy of Wyoming
- Twelve visionary community members
- Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust



It's partnerships that are making Sheridan shine

Local groups set aside 31 acres for North Gateway natural area

Just a stone's throw from Decker Road, along Goose Creek in Sheridan, there is a very special place that will remain so for years to come. The land slopes gently down to the creek lined with cottonwood galleries that provide shade and keep the waters cool for fish, frogs and turtles on hot summer days.

Further from the stream, the wooded areas open up to meadows that provide important habitat for deer, fox, cottontails and nesting birds.

In the coming year, the City of Sheridan, who now owns this beautiful 31-acre property, will engage the community as it creates a plan for its future use. The property is expected to contain several small meandering footpaths for wanderers to hear bird songs, race stick boats or enjoy the peace and solitude of nature inside city limits. Thoughts of a new community learning space are also in the works!

“This area is a gem, ensuring the legacy and landscape of the West remains part of Sheridan, for all to enjoy.” – John Heath, City of Sheridan Mayor 2014-2016

Sometimes we forget that conserving land close to home is what makes home so meaningful. It's true that we are blessed with public lands encompassing our mountains to the west and sagebrush coulees to the east, but down here, in the City of Sheridan, conserving parks, open land, trails and wildlife habitat is what will provide the quality of life so important to making our community shine.

The North Gateway project is a great example of conserving lands close to home. A remarkable partnership led by Sheridan Community Land Trust, it took more than 18 months to make a reality, but the idea started in 2009 with then-Mayor Dave Kinskey. Sheridan Mayor John Heath, who advocated tirelessly for the project, noted, “This area is a gem, ensuring the legacy and landscape of the West remains part of Sheridan, for all to enjoy.”

Thanks to community support, our land trust will continue our partnership on the project by monitoring and helping to conserve the rich diversity of life found on this property. We also look forward to assisting in the community visioning process, together making Sheridan an even more special place to call home.

Local trails build healthy lifestyles and a love of the land

More trails coming in 2017

Earlier this year, after more than 26 months of conversations, community engagement, environmental assessment, two formal public comment periods and the resubmittal of the trail proposal (reducing total trail miles and eliminating a downhill bike section), we were granted permission by the Bureau of Land Management to begin construction of the next segments of the Red Grade Trails System. Whew!

It's a big deal. We have been thankful for an engaged community and now have permission to construct a total of nine miles of non-motorized trail on BLM and State land, providing new recreational experiences that weren't available before. This spring we will submit a formal proposal to the Forest Service to begin the required environmental analysis and public comment for the remaining miles of proposed trail.

These trails are key to ensuring a healthy and economically viable community.

Today, according to Common Sense Media and Children and Nature Network, kids (even rural kids) spend hundreds of hours on their phones and computers every month – and spend less and less time outdoors. The Red Grade Trails System will help inspire a future generation of children and adults to get outside and care about the land, wildlife habitat and our region's unique offerings.

These trails will help inspire a future generation of children and adults to get outside and care about the land, wildlife habitat and our region's unique offerings.

Hundreds of you are making this trail system possible. As a locally-supported community organization, we depend on your gifts, both large and small, to keep projects moving. By raising funds this winter, we hope to begin construction this spring on up to six miles of trail, including the first biker-only trail. Our partners and supporters have invested over \$300,000 in this project to-date. Thank you, and happy trails.



Every day, making a difference together

Volunteers share their love of people and place

This past year meant teamwork: creating and improving trails, inspiring kids and elders, assisting ranch families to conserve their land, restoring wildlife habitat and teaming up with numerous partners to ensure that our community becomes a stronger, more vibrant place.

And this didn't happen without the dedication, good-humor, hard work and talent of our volunteers. People like you.

Over 95 individuals came together in 2016 to contribute more than 3,000 hours of volunteer time. Sometimes it was in the hot sun or on a cold fall day, other times we took a break over beers to admire what we can accomplish together. Frequently, it meant grabbing that pickaxe one more time or sitting down in the office to help get our newsletters out the door.

You, our volunteers, are the heart and soul of the Land Trust and our local conservation efforts. We couldn't be more proud. Thank you.



Jenae Neeson

2016 Champion Volunteers

In addition to our dedicated Board of Directors, a huge thank you to these outstanding volunteers who each gave over 50 hours of time this year:

Bob Ahrens	Kevin Knapp	Jim Sorenson
Jackie Carbert	Jared Koenig	Cathy Stilwell
Tommy Clift	Vistara Parham	Dean Stilwell
Steve Dudley	Rosemary Rieder	Sarah Wallick
Rich Garrison	Curt Schwamb	



Jill Langer



You are investing in the future, thank you

Sheridan is a place that stays with you – those quiet moments in the shadow of the Bighorns, the sun rising or setting in our expansive sky, the birds singing, the smell of freshly cut hay or a smoky campfire and the changing seasons...this year with lots of snow.

As a locally supported, community-based land trust, your gifts of time, talent and financial contributions make projects possible. Your donations, no matter the size, matter. Thank you for your continued trust in SCLT to operate at the highest standards, delivering impressive and strategic returns on your investment in our work.

Ensuring Forever: Making Conservation Last

For conservation to last for generations, we need to make sure the Land Trust will remain a strong, vibrant and responsive organization. A key part of that strategy is the endowment, where donated funds remain untouched, and the investment income fuels our work every year, all year long.

Thanks to the generosity of a visionary donor in 2014, we received an initial endowment gift, with one challenge: to match that gift before putting its proceeds to work. We now need your help, beyond your annual gift (which is central to our ongoing efforts) to secure the remaining \$924,000. You can do this with gifts of property, assets, tax-free qualified charitable contributions from your IRA or other charitable donations. When you contribute to the endowment, above and beyond your annual giving, you make a difference that endures.

Heartfelt Thank You to Sustaining Monthly Members

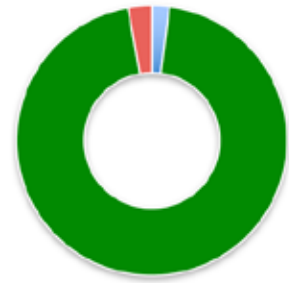
Would you like the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping make conservation happen every month, all year long? If so, you can join the growing group of SCLT monthly donors. Monthly giving accomplishes so much and is one of the easiest ways to have a big impact, no matter the size of your gift.

It's easy and safe, and it provides a way to spread your passion and donation over the course of the year. You can donate online, email katie@sheridanclt.org or call 307-673-4702.

Sustaining Monthly Members

Anthony Cernac
Don Creelius & Edith Heyward
Mike & Mary Beth Evers
Colin & Heidi Ferriman
Rosemary & Dan Rieder
Aaron Rieder
Kentz & Lindsey Willis

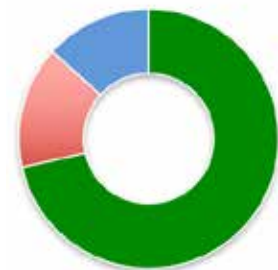
2015-2016 Revenue



■ Individual Contributions ¹	\$2,205,725
■ Investments, Events & Other Income	\$65,345
■ Foundations & Grants	\$48,785
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Total	\$2,319,855

¹\$500,000 of individual contributions were restricted for use on a project that closed in fiscal year 2016-2017. In addition, \$1.5 million is being held for a prospective project acquisition for fiscal year 2020-2021.

2015-2016 Expenses



■ Program Services	\$214,471
■ Administration	\$45,893
■ Fundraising	\$39,870
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Total	\$300,234

Sheridan Community Land Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. These figures reflect the fiscal year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016.

Thanks to all of you who made this year amazing

Individual, Business and Foundation gifts in fiscal year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

ACT, Inc.	Mike and Melissa Butcher	Dr. and Mrs. John Fallon, III	Susan Scott Heyneman
Robert and Kathleen Ahrens	Kim and Susie Cannon	Mrs. Jane Ferril	HF Bar
Albertsons	Julie Carroll	Heidi and Colin Ferriman	Hidden Bridge Golf Course
Amy and Mike Albrecht	John P. and Virginia Chase Jr.	KC Fiedler	Gerald Hill
Jan and Angelita Allen	City of Sheridan	First Interstate Bank	Ephraim Jackson and Dianne
AlphaGraphics	Connie and Carl Clark	First Interstate Bank Fdn.	Hobbs
Tim and Carol Althausen	Jeff Clark	Fletcher Construction	Tom and Alice Hogarty
Patty Kemper & Neil Anderson	Story Clark	Flood Marketing	Michele Hoistad
Tina Anderson	Edith Clarke Harper	Nicholas Flores	Holland Duell
Anonymous	Richard and Allison Cole	Nan Fogel	Susan Holmes
Back Country Bikes	Diana Ayers and Shirley Coy	Foot of the Bighorns	Aaron Holwell
William and Terri Baas	Terry Cram	Trish and Cam Forbes	Neil and Hana Hoversten
Sandy Baird	Don Crecelius and Edith	Karen Foshier	Jessie Huffman
Tom Balding	Heyward	Homer A. and Mildred S. Scott	F.R. and Joyce Huson
Tyler Baltz	Peg Cullen	Foundation	Harry Huson
Suzanne Beaudelaire	Haultain Corbett and Katie	J.A. Woollam Foundation	Jock and Judith Hutton
Ruth Beckwith	Curtiss	Doyle and Jaci Fritz	Dale and Cynthia Jacobson
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Joan Bennet	Elizabeth B. Denison	Nancie Furnish	Jimmy Johns
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Robert and Rosie Berger	Denison	Joanne Garnett	Charlie and Vicki Jorgenson
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Emily and Colin Betzler	Stanley F. and Donna DeVore	Joe and Lin Gilbert	Mark and Tibbee Kinner
Steve and Cindy Betzler	John Dick and Mary Hogarty	Bob Giurgevich	Tom and Sharon Kinnison
Francesco Beuf	Cissy Dillon	Daniel and Ruth Goodenough	Dave and Donna Kinskey
Bighorn Design Studio	Dominoes Pizza	Julie and Stuart Greer	Chris and Sara Kirol
Black Tooth Brewing Co.	Chris Walton and Tammara	Lois Hall	Bill Bensel and Kris Korfanta
Box Cross Road Farms	Duhn	Corey and Stacy Hamrick	Kenneth and Janelle Kukuchka
Thomas and Betsy Bradley	Kerry Eblen	Charles and Ann Hart	Brad and Susan Lanka
Mary Burgess	Tom and Donna Elisius	Tracy Hed	Gina Carroll and Jason Lanka
Terry and Bev Burgess	ERA Carroll Realty	Lynn and Diane Hegy	Travis Lanka
Tracey and Renny Burke	C. Pardee Erdman	Lee Helvey	Carmine LoGuidice
Bruce Burns	Nancy S. Etchingham	Jenny and David Heuck	Lonabaugh & Riggs
Jody Bush	Mike and Mary Beth Evers	John Heyneman & Arin Waddell	Ann Loretan



Christine Love	Phil and Doris Ostrowski	Claudia and J. Schaeffer	Dr. Wendell and Martha
Paul DelRossi and Marie Lowe	Rick and Cynthia Pallister	Christina Schmidt and Dustin	Swatt-Robison
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Laura and Martin MacCarty	David A. Paullin	Richard Schmidt	Hardy and Patsy Tate
Stephen and Edre Maier	David and Cathy Paullin	Margi Schroth	Margie Taylor
Gillian Malone	Kay Pearson	Curt and Linda Schwamb	The Sheridan Press
Malone Belton Abel Architects	Jack Pelissier	Emerson Scott III	The Sports Stop
Patti Manigault	Anne Pendergast	Geoffrey Scott	Seymour Thickman
Jason Martineau and Emily	George and Nancy Pfeiffer	Homer and Janet Scott	Sandra Thiel
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Gwyn McKee	Purenergy Fitness	Sheridan Brand	Mike and Pat Trout
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Mary Ellen McWilliams	Jane and Bill Rader	Sheridan County Historical	Kathy and Ron Vanderhoef
Anthony and Tina Mediate	Dan and Shelley Reinke	Society	Roy Vandeventer
Sarah and Tom Mentock	Ken and Patty Richardson	Sheridan Media	Isaac and Jacee VanDyke
Susanna and David Meyer	Aaron Rieder	Shiloh Valley Farms	Ian Wallace
Lisa Milner	Daniel and Rosemary Rieder	Cody and Sarah Jo Sinclair	Joan and Bob Wallick
Brian and Linnea Mirsch	Tom Ringley	Frank and Lorene Smedley	Sarah Wallick & Aaron Denberg
Michael Steven Mitzel	Leandro Rizzuto	Devon and Wendy Smith	Isabel Wallop
Peter and Cynthia Mohseni	Don and Stacey Roberts	Dawn Sopron and Claire	Gary and Wanda Walsh
Sally and Mike Morton	Christie Robinson	Schnatterbeck	Barbara and Charles Walter
Byron and Jeanette Nelson	Rocky Mountain Discount	Jim and Tami Sorenson	Laurie Walters-Clark
Jim Nelson	Sports	John C. & Pamela H. Standish	Leon Washut
Scott Newbold and Julie Rieder	Rusty and Deborah Rokita	State Farm Jon Oman	Heather C. Watt
Mike and Julie Nickel	Ben Roman	Dean and Cathy Stilwell	Kentz and Lindsey Willis
Randi Lou and TJ Nickel	Tom and Barbara Sachse	Brian Kuehl and Michelle	Roger and Fachon Wilson
David and Karen Nicolarsen	Sackett's Market	Sullivan	Tod and Jan Windsor
Norcross Wildlife Foundation	Stacy Page and R. L. Sanders	Surf Wyoming	Craig and Eula Yancey
Jon Oman	Terry and Susan Savage	Richard and Linda Sutphin	*Green names indicate
Marta and Kirby Ostler	Tony and Heidi Sawyer	Sandra Suzor	Visionary Circle Members
Wendy and Joel Ostlind	Polly Saywell	Liz and Tracy Swanson	and/or gifts \$1,000 and above.



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.

BOARD

Mike Evers, *President*
Dan Rieder, *Vice President*
Jeff Way, *Treasurer*
Julie Greer, *Secretary*
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Holland Duell
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Katie Belton
Creative Director
Tami Sorenson
Trails Manager
Rosemary Rieder
Volunteer Bookkeeper

CONTACT

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info@sheridanclt.org
sheridanclt.org



Save the date!

SCLT Annual Open House
Thursday, March 23rd from 5pm to 7pm

Here's your chance to grab some friends and introduce them to the wonderful community that supports SCLT.

You can count on an evening of food, drink and merriment, plus awesome raffle prizes from generous local donors!
(Location to be determined.)

For questions, suggestions or donations, give us a call at 673-4702.

A Special Thank You

All photos, except as noted, have been generously provided by Tim Doolin Photography. Tim is a well-known local photographer, and we are pleased to be able to share his photos with you. For more information, visit his website at timdoolinphotography.com.
Thank you to Jenae, Tami and Jill for the terrific community photos!