



Heritage on high

Imagine sitting around the campfire at dusk, the mountains silhouetted in the distance as each star winks and blinks its way into the darkening sky. Growing up here, Cloud Peak has always been in your thoughts and your view, but tonight is the first time you've heard the ancient Crow account of how Cloud Peak got its name. You lean closer to hear each word of the Crow elder telling the tale – the story an irresistible treat – and you grasp a sense of this place like never before.

Place. What if you always had a place around a campfire or in a cozy mountain cabin to come to hear and share stories, to learn from your friends and neighbors or to basecamp on the way to your next adventure?

Sheridan County is brimming with organizations that provide outstanding opportunities for all ages. So how do we strengthen and connect them, while providing a platform for even more creative local programming? Over the past six months, community members came together and brainstormed about how to do just that. The conclusion? Sheridan could benefit from a friendly, accessible, welcoming space; an Outdoor Education Center (OEC). Think of a Teton Science School of sorts, but one with a focus on fostering cross-cultural experiences through storytelling and community activities; a place for people from all walks of life to share the love of land, water, our heritage and connections.

Imagine this place where you come to celebrate – to hear and share stories of hardship and hope, of mishap and laughter, of strength and growth. Stories of you and your neighbors.

With your enthusiasm and support, Sheridan Community Land Trust will be working in partnership with other interested groups over the coming months to analyze the next steps needed to pursue this concept.

For more information on the OEC Feasibility Study (hot off the press!) or if you are interested in becoming involved, please email info@sheridanclt.org or call 307-673-4702.



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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A special thank you



Everyone is excited for the warm weather to come and stay – for the hikes, the bike rides, the long days and the extra hours with friends and family. **But there's only one way to turn this excitement into reality and to make conservation and local trails happen: growing community support.**

Thank you for helping Sheridan Community Land Trust raise a **record \$3,000** at the Open House at the Luminous Brewhouse in March. You all really pulled your weight and helped jumpstart our projects with your dollars. **Thank you!**

A huge thank you to the following local businesses and community members for donating outstanding raffle gifts for this year's event. Please thank and support these community leaders. It wouldn't have been such a fun party without their generosity – and the raffle income helps conserve additional land.

Back Country Bike & Mountain Works
Bighorn Design Studio
Fly Shop of the Bighorns
Go Fast Don't Die
Hardy Tate
HF Bar Ranch
Liz Howell
Pureenergy Fitness
Red Buffalo Pottery
Red Velvet Bakery & Tapas
Science Kids
Sheridan Brand
Sheridan Stationery Books and Gallery
Shiloh Valley Family Farm
Twisted Hearts
Wyoming Magazine

Welcome New Members

Orrin and Deedee Connell
Chris and Callie Drell
Vanessa Hastings*
Tim and Dorie Lawson
Thane and Janie Magelky
Sally and Mike Morton*
Laine and Lindsay Parish
Michael Wallop
*Sustaining Monthly Giving Members

Trails this summer are up to you



You have an amazing opportunity to bring a new trail to life. With spring here, it's perfect timing for trail work to begin on the next 2.9 miles of Red Grade Trails. Thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Wyoming Recreation Trails Program, only \$49,000 remains to make this project a reality. We've reviewed six trail building bids and awarded the project to Singletrack Trails, with the goal of starting this spring.

That's where you come in.

Three more miles means longer rides, longer runs and more solitude to experience the beauty during your wanderings – but for this trail to become a reality we need your help. Each dollar you donate means one step (literally) closer to a completed trail. Thank you to those of you who have contributed to this project; another gift will really make a difference. And for those of you who haven't yet donated, feel free to give us a call or donate online. Once completed, our community will have six miles of Red Grade Trails to love.

It's going to take a lot of us to make this trail a reality – but we are so close! Please tell your friends. We're happy to come out and meet with folks to show them the plans and what the trail will look like. When the trail opens later this summer, you'll know you did something extra special. You made Sheridan and Red Grade Trails that much better. How cool will that be?

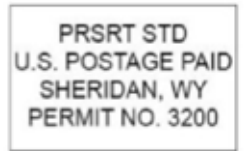
Conservation happens all year round: Behind the scenes

To be successful long-term is to be strategic in your day-to-day work. SCLT is no exception, and our team of staff and board members are tracking and developing more than a dozen projects at any given time. Currently, your commitment to protecting productive agricultural lands and natural areas is supporting multiple conservation projects within the Tongue River watershed, including the main corridor of the Tongue River, as well as Wolf Creek.

In addition to supporting on-going project work that protects family lands for future ranchers, your investment is making additional historic preservation and recreation projects possible. Several projects, such as the Tongue River Water Trail, continue to see consistent progress, and we look forward to debuting several pilot float sections post-runoff this summer, with new signage and enhanced public safety at existing access sites.



P.O. Box 7185
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Sign up for our **eNews** at sheridanclt.org
and follow us on **Facebook** at
Sheridan Community Land Trust.



The untold stories of Lodge Trail Ridge

Saturday, May 20th, 8 - 11 am at the Fetterman Monument on Piney Creek Road

You're invited!

Come hike with us! The wildflowers will be in full bloom for this one-of-a-kind guided hike. Local orator and Fort Phil Kearny Superintendent Misty Stoll will provide narration for the Battle of the Hundred-in-the-Hand (also known as the Fetterman Massacre) that took place in 1866 below Lodge Trail Ridge.

The hike will include a mixture of off-trail walking and dirt roads and will be hosted entirely on public land. Bring your own water and snacks for the outing, and prepare to be outside for 2-3 hours.

Free for SCLT members. \$20 for non-members. (Better yet, become a member!)

Space is limited, so reserve your spot today by calling 307-673-4702 or emailing katie@sheridanclt.org. We will follow up with additional details. This hike is weather dependent.

Leadership transitions, adventure awaits



Dear friends,

It has been an honor and privilege to get to know you over the past eight years. Your enthusiasm, support and passion for our mission is the defining reason SCLT has forged a legacy of benefit to our community. I have been proud to work with all of you on projects that protect some of our most beautiful places, enhance public access and share our history. And, I have been fortunate to do this with a dedicated and visionary Board of Directors and wonderfully talented group of coworkers – all deeply committed to this community.

My time with SCLT will forever be one of the most significant experiences of my life. After more than a year of thought, research, number crunching and soul-searching, our family has decided that it's time for me to pursue other dreams and professional challenges. My wife Emily and I aren't getting any younger and there is a long list of life experiences we'd love to share with our kids. That said, we will continue to call Sheridan home and look forward to remaining engaged with the place that has given us so much.

Thank you for your trust, confidence and investment of time, talent and finances in SCLT. Because of you, my time here has been enriching, satisfying and incredibly worthwhile. While I'm stepping away from a formal staff role, I plan to remain involved like many of you are: as an advocate, volunteer and engaged supporter.

Most importantly, don't be a stranger – the relationships we have built through the years hold lasting value to me, and I look forward to seeing you out and about in the community; hiking the trails, floating the rivers, and finding the good that each day brings.

Colin Betzler
Executive Director

SCLT is entering a formal search process to transition executive leadership of the organization. Executive Director (ED) Colin Betzler plans to step away from fulltime duties this summer while working with the SCLT Board and incoming ED for a seamless transition. Mark Kinner, Emeritus Board Member and former Board Chair who hired Betzler stated, "SCLT has developed an incredible team during its first decade. While we will miss Colin's leadership and vision, we are well-positioned and energized to continue work to benefit the community." In June, Betzler will have served as SCLT's ED for eight years. Detailed information about the position and hiring timeline is available at www.sheridanclt.org. For questions, call our Board Chair, Mike Evers at 763-0746. We'd love your help spreading the word about this opportunity.