





The new Explore History partnership between the Hub on Smith and Sheridan Community Land Trust made possible with a grant from Next50 Initiative. Monthly programs that give people another meaningful way to reflect and connect while enjoying quality learning opportunities will be held every second Tuesday beginning September 14. Above: Lois Hall uses her cell phone access the Black Diamond Byway historical tour on the TravelStorysGPS app. The historical Dietz tipple is one of the sites people can learn about on a guided in-person tour, on a connected device while driving or virtually from the comfort of their home.

Explore History program an 'unintended outcome' that 'couldn't have been planned better'

"It was all because people couldn't hear in the back of the bus," laughed Lisa Wells on a recent weekday in one of the Hub on Smith's meeting rooms.

The Hub's Senior Fun & Wellness Coordinator was explaining how a morning's minor inconvenience led to a quick technological solution and ultimately the creation of a new collaborative program between the Hub and Sheridan Community Land Trust that will make its debut this fall.

Nearly two years ago, SCLT Historical Program Manager Carrie Edinger was on the front of a Goose Creek Transit bus holding a microphone and playing a recording of the Black Diamond Byway historical tour over a small speaker as the bus chugged between sites of the county's former coal mining communities.

Though the attendees enjoyed the tour, the drive triggered fond memories for many, the feedback was clear – if you sat in the rear, it was awfully hard to hear.

Afterwards, Carrie and Lisa discussed what could be done to make a future bus tour better. Carrie said the tour can be accessed on iOS and Android connected devices via the TravelStorysGPS app. That got Lisa

thinking about ways the Hub could help people use their own devices, or borrow tech through the Hub's Tech Connect program, to take the tour. Participants would also be able to access the recorded tour via overhead speakers on the new Goose Creek Transit bus so no one would be left out.

"Barriers are opportunities," Lisa remarked, concluding, "and with this barrier, Carrie really sparked us!"

It also sparked Carrie, as many of the memories shared by attendees of that bus tour inspired her to make updates to the Black Diamond Tour.

"I asked what was missing and what people would like to see on the tour. They said there weren't any current photos or what the sites are like now, so I added that," Edinger said.

Carrie also listened to attendees share their memories of ball games, barn dances, backyard gardens, picnics in the mountains and lazy summer days fishing on the banks of the Tongue River. Many of those stories also made it into the tour.

"Many of the people on the tour lived in the towns

and gave their own personal stories. It adds more of a human perspective to the tour and there's always an interest in everyday activities. How did people live? How did people survive? What was different then compared to now?" Carrie reasoned.

The updated Black Diamond Byway tour was set to debut at the Hub in the spring of 2020 and then the world changed. Carrie's in-person presentation went

to Zoom. Lisa helped the Hub's folks get connected to SCLT's virtual tours so they could still learn, reminisce, and discover more about their community and themselves.

Though the pandemic prevented inperson programs at the Hub, Lisa and Carrie continued to explore ways they could help connect community members during a particularly disconnected time. That resulted in the creation of Explore History, a series that will feature monthly talks, tours, programs and more made possible thanks to a \$10,000 grant from Next50 Initiative.

Lisa called it a "fantastic fit" because the Explore History series gives people "a chance to remember, reminisce and connect with the community today."

"As a center for all generations, our history is our community," Lisa explained. "It's something we can all learn about to deepen our relationships and help

understand each other better," Lisa explained. "In this fast-paced world, we don't always slow down and connect with others and try to explore and learn."

The program is also good for participants' health, too. The Fun & Wellness Coordinator said getting people together to learn and reflect can help improve neuroplasticity, a kind of calisthenics for the brain that's as important as aerobics are for the heart.

"Hopefully, people will share their memories of those places and then they can process that afterward. It's a great way for someone to learn about our community," Lisa reasoned. "We want people to stay connected and curious.

That's one of many ways to remain vibrant and vital." At the Hub, that is one of the main goals.

"More people are living longer, into their eighties,

nineties and hundreds – and they're living well," Lisa affirmed. "That's what this program is all about. It's giving and connect and enjoy quality learning opportunities for their next 50 years."

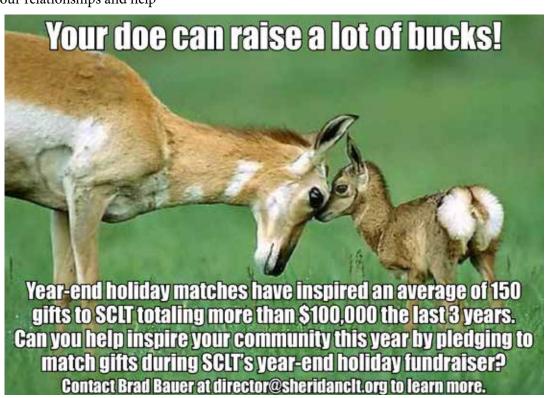
Of course, Explore History programs aren't just for people who are enjoying their next 50 years, they're open and free to attend for anyone at any age. And with new technology in hand, no one should have a hard time hearing in the back of a room, walk, or bus.

people another meaningful way to reflect

"SCLT's grant helps us achieve our mission. It was an unintended outcome, but we couldn't have planned it better," Lisa concluded.

Explore History programs will take place on the second Tuesday of each month this Fall at 10:30 a.m. at the Hub. Visit sheridanclt.org or thehubsheridan.org for an updated program schedule.









In early September, SCLT helped build beaver dam analogs (BDAs) during a collaborative workshop hosted by The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming at the Amsden Creek Wildlife Management Area. Left: Executive Director Brad Bauer (green shirt) helps drive posts for one of the BDAs. Right: Watershed Health AmeriCorps Maggie DeFosse (gray shirt) helps weave willow cuttings to form the BDA.

Busy beavers build Amsden Creek drought resilience

"It's basically underwater basket weaving. You'll all leave today's workshop with certificates," John Coffman laughed as a group of more than a dozen personnel from state and federal agencies and conservation and agriculture nonprofits readied to build beaver dam analogs on Amsden Creek north of Dayton.

Coffman's earned a practical PhD as ring leader of the basket weavers after seeing how beaver dam analogs (BDAs) helped get his headgates back under water after torrential rains tore through Barrett Creek outside of Lander on the Red Canyon Ranch he manages for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Wyoming.

"The rains ripped Barrett Creek in half now we had our headgates high and dry," he related.

On neighboring Cherry Creek, Coffman said, he observed "the exact opposite" as a complex of beaver dams helped the stream and the ranch's irrigation infrastructure weather the storm.

Rather than attempt expensive repairs, Coffman saw an opportunity to experiment with a new type of stream restoration technique that is

low-tech and relies on natural processes rather than high-tech engineered solutions to heal the stream.

In about 18 months, the headgates were back under water. "We've been planting these (BDAs) all over the place and seeing good results," he said.

BDAs are new to the northern Bighorns. Carli Kierstead, TNC's Northeast Wyoming Program Director, said, "People haven't done BDAs in this specific foothills ecosytem."

According to Travis Cundy, Wyoming Game and Fish Department Aquatic Habitat Biologist, Amsden Creek was chosen because it had "a good history" of beavers, though they'd "gone away" in the last five years. "Can we do a starter dam the beavers can adopt and carry forward?" he posited.

The starter dam will be a series of 10 small structures on the Amsden Creek Wildlife Management Area, the hope is the BDAs will slow some of Amsden's flow, allowing the valley bottom to soak up excess water like a sponge



Water was quick to pool between two of the completed beaver dam analogs on Amsden Creek. By helping water soak into the surrounding land, these beaver dam analog structures are one of many tools landowners can use to make their lands more resilient to drought.

and slowly release it back to the stream when flows are low.

The group was soon busy as beavers, pounding posts and cutting willow fronds before weaving those willows into the posts and spackling it together with mud and aquatic vegetation.

Are they as good as the real McCoy? Likely not, but they can be built for pennies on the dollar, especially compared to bringing in big equipment and bigger crews to rebuild stream channels.

And, as Coffman was quick to note, he's already seen big brown trout in the pools upstream of Barrett Creek's BDAs.

"The results are pretty positive," Coffman said of Red Canyon Ranch's BDAs. He said "preliminary data indicates that more water is coming out of the bottom of the creek than flowing in at the top" though he cautioned that difference is not statistically significant so far.

"They're not a cure all. They're another thing we can try," he concluded.

That has Maggie DeFosse, SCLT's Watershed Health AmeriCorps, excited. "BDAs are one tool in the toolbox we may be able to use to help local landowners who want to explore ways to make their land more resilient to drought."

With drought an increasing challenge in the West, DeFosse and SCLT will continue to be eager beavers exploring ways we can work with ranchers and ag producers to ensure their lands sustain our way of life in the Bighorns for generations to come.



Big views & big features bring big fun to Bighorns as Red Grade Trails expands at Poverty Flat

There was one word the Gumption Trail Works crew kept saying as they worked their way into the forest near Poverty Flat - Sheridise.

"One thing that makes trails stand out is a unique sense of place," Gumption owner Aaron Mattix remarked as his four-person crew prepared to move to a new section of the Red Grade Trails build west of Bosin Rock.

Arriving in the Bighorns for the first time this summer, he said the open meadows, pine and aspen forests, big vistas and prominent rock features they encountered were a pleasant surprise for a seasoned crew who's built trail all across America.

"It's been fun terrain to work with and there's lots of variety," Mattix explained, adding, "We try to capture the essence of a place."

That essence? Sheridise. Gumption Trail Works

believes they've done exactly that with the new trail.

"You'll be able to experience the signature views of Red Grade with the mountain peaks in the background which flow into primitive backcountry sections," Mattix said of the first few miles which are now open for visitors to experience and enjoy.

Breathtaking views and rugged reaches? Sounds like the essence of the Bighorns to us.

The best part? Many of those breathtaking views with mountain peaks in the background can be reached within a half mile of the Poverty Flat Trailhead and parking area! Whether you're hiking, biking, walking, running, or just getting out to experience nature, these new trails are easy to use.

Those primitive backcountry sections aren't too





A new segment of Red Grade Trails at Poverty Flat takes inspiration from the varied terrain on which it's built. Visitors will find sweeping views within the first half mile (left). Freestanding granite outcrops called tors (right) will put users face to face with hundreds of millions of years of geologic history while presenting fun challenges to navigate.

far away, too. One of the upsides of building along the greater Red Grade corridor is that you can get to a place that feels quite remote without having to stray too far off the beaten path.

According to Mattix, it's all about access. "You'll have access to areas that weren't accessible previously." The new trail, he continued, takes visitors to "unique areas in the outer rim of the Bighorns" including "big, sweeping vistas" as well as "intimate areas of terrain that were not open previously."

Some of those intimate areas of terrain along the outer rim include many of the freestanding granite tors which become more prominent the higher above Poverty Flat you travel. In some places you'll *squeeze* through narrow openings.

In others, the rock itself will serve as your trail. Utilizing natural features where possible help make the trails easier and less costly to maintain over the long haul.

Those natural features, Mattix pointed out, can also be used to create alternative lines that "spice up" the experience for some trail visitors, especially seasoned riders.

"Alternative lines offer more challenge and give

riders something outside of their normal trail experience," he reasoned.

Mattix stressed that the alternative lines are just that - an alternative. "We'll never force riders to go through features."

In fact, if you don't know what you're looking for, there's a good chance you won't see them. "We don't want them to look super inviting so as not to draw people up to them who aren't looking for that type of riding experience."

Their inclusion, he offered, helps the trail "stay friendly and inviting for beginning and intermediate riders while the more challenging sections help keep more experienced riders happy."

According to builder Ben Mays, keeping a trail sustainable, fun, and safe is of paramount importance.

"If you hit all three, that means the trails are consistent and that they always work," he asserted. "We always make sure to take care of the locals, because they use the trails the most."

How does he feel about the trails at Poverty Flat? Three words: "Welcome to Sheridise."

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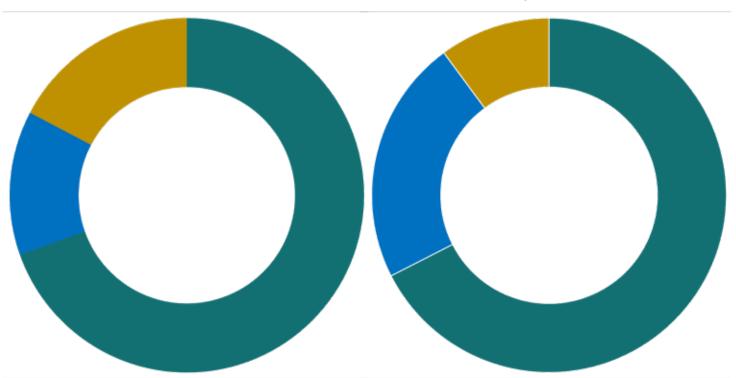
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Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Data (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

Revenue Expenses



Donor Contributions - \$434,906 - 70%

Investment Income - \$82,201 - 13%

Government Grants - \$108,081 - 17%

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Administration - \$95,431 - 22%

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"The Denison Family recently lost a beloved friend, also a staunch defender of our environment. His family, with typical generosity of spirit, invited his friends to give to a 'local cause of your choosing that focuses on education or land preservation.' With this in mind, we wish to recommend a grant of \$1,000 to the Sheridan Community Land Trust in memory of Peter R. Decker. He was a long term resident of Colorado and he left his positive mark on the environment in several ways, one of which was that he was one of the first to have put his ranch in Ridgeway, CO, into land conservation. However, all of us have ridden with him int he backcountry of the Bighorns and he loved our mountains. I wish for him to be remembered in Wyoming also. You will never be forgotten, Peter. From us all, Betsy"



Craig Kittelson enjoys a ride along The Green Room Trail during Rodeo Week. At 77, Craig says he is not interested in mountain biking but that an accessible trail like The Green Room is a great experience where he can enjoy getting off the pavement on a trail that is at his ability level.

Convenient, accessible Green Room Trail helps father and son have 'another great day together'

It may have been rodeo weekend in Sheridan, but one father and son didn't need to be in the arena to enjoy more than an eight second ride.

Brian Kittelson was in Sheridan for a couple weeks while his wife, Dena, attended her class reunion. While here, the avid "adventure cycling" rider and his 17-year-old son Carter enjoyed some "incredible hardtail mountain biking" throughout the Bighorns, including Red Grade Trails and the Soldier Ridge Trail System.

However, a recovery ride on decidedly different terrain provided as many memorable moments as the mountains. After following progress updates for The Green Room Trail at Malcolm Wallop Park (formerly North Park), Brian was eager for a fun ride with his father, Craig.

"I knew that my dad, who is not an experienced singletrack rider and does not ride a mountain bike, would likely be able to safely ride the trail while enjoying the new challenge as well as time together," Brian explained.

"I'm 77 years old and therefore not able or interested in serious mountain biking," Craig said, adding that he does most of his riding on the paved trails in the Casper area.

The father and son pedaled together through The Green Room Trail along Sheridan Pathways out to Sheridan College and back.

Brian thought The Green Room Trail "made excellent use of the space" and was ideal for new and beginning riders, trail runners and walkers who want to get off the paved path as well as for seasoned riders who want to work on skills or have a fun ride with friends and family.

"Having accessible singletrack trails provides so many benefits to a community!" Brian asserted, adding how convenient access to trails is a boon for anyone who lives, works, stays and plays in a community. "They provide a means of fun, healthy, active outdoor recreation for people."

He lauded the trails people in the community have made possible through SCLT, calling them "incredible."

"The support of the community seems to be just as amazing. I applaud everyone's ability to work together (including landowners and public land managers) on all the projects. The value to the community is priceless."

As for the father-son ride itself?

"I enjoyed the new singletrack in Sheridan as it was a new experience on a trail that was within my ability level. A great place to learn and practice new skills," Craig concluded.

"It was great to be able to ride The Green Room Trail with my dad because I was able to spend time with him as well as share the joy that I get from riding singletrack," Brian related. "All of our most meaningful times together over the years have been in the great outdoors and this was another great day together!"

Whether it's exploring our beautiful Bighorns backyard or a quick afternoon ride through town, SCLT's community trails are there to connect more people to nature so everyone can go from their front door to the outdoors easier than ever before.



How an unneeded lot will create a conservation legacy

A family with a history in Sheridan County has utilized a unique avenue to create a legacy of conservation in a place they love because of a recent gift they made to the Sheridan Community Land Trust.

Inspired by the sweeping views, clean water and abundant wildlife intermingled with working land and ranches, the family purchased a lot in a rural subdivision. Their plan was to settle down and enjoy the beauty of the best place on Earth – Sheridan County – in their retirement.

Sometimes, however, plans change.

In this case, Brad Bauer, SCLT Executive Director, explained that the family, who wish to remain anonymous, eventually realized that they would never build a home on their lot, nor did they have a long-term use for it.

As they began to plan their estate, they knew they wanted to use their piece of land to help an organization helping what they love most about Sheridan County – the character of its lands.

This particular piece of land – a not-yet-developed lot within a growing subdivision – was not an ideal candidate for a voluntary conservation agreement. However, that didn't mean the family couldn't utilize their land to further conserve what makes Sheridan County special.

After weighing how best to use the land, the family chose to donate the plot to SCLT. When the time is right, SCLT will be able to sell the plot and utilize the proceeds of the sale to further conservation projects across the county.

"This gift is a win-win-win," Bauer remarked. "It is a win for the family, who can realize their goal of helping conserve what they love about Sheridan County. It is a win for SCLT because the gift will provide resources we can put to use on conservation projects. And it is a win for conservation."

By donating their unneeded subdivision lot, the family was able to create a legacy of conservation that extends beyond the boundary of the lot out to the whole community.

This gift is one of a number of ways families can work with SCLT to conserve what they love most about Sheridan County. Any residential, commercial, or industrial lot - developed or undeveloped – can be a tool you can use to create a legacy of your choosing.

You don't just have to create a legacy of conservation. Your legacy could be to preserve stories of Sheridan County's past so they can be told to future generations. You legacy could be to connect more people to the outdoors through educational programs like Discovery Sessions or on many miles of well-maintained community trails. The options are limitless, and you can choose your legacy.

Your choice to create a legacy can also help you today and help you and your family tomorrow. Maybe your hard work paid off and you'd benefit from a tax deduction. Maybe you'd like the option to use the property for a little while, but not forever. Maybe your property is the way you can make the largest impact in your community. One thing is certain – anyone who owns property would benefit from planning for that property's future sooner than later.

Once you've chosen the legacy you want to create, SCLT will work with you to ensure your legacy is achieved.

To learn how SCLT can help you conserve what you love most about Sheridan County, please contact Brad Bauer via phone (307) 673-4702, email director@sheridanclt.org or visit https://sheridanclt.org.



John C. Schiffer Collaborative School students helped early in the build of The Green Room, our newest trail at Malcolm Wallop Park. It was an opportunity for them to connect with the community and nature.

Connecting to their community on the trails

"We know that if you work together and play together you build stronger relationships and get better results."

It was a simple reflection by David Peterson, a social studies instructor at the John C. Schiffer Collaborative School. And it's a reflection that extends beyond the work of the Schiffer students who spent a beautiful May day working on the new Green Room Trail, maintenance at Hidden Hoot Trail and learning about the history while taking the Big Goose Creek Walking Tour.

Peterson said educating outside of the classroom is a "driving guideline" at Schiffer. "Our kids seldom have opportunities to connect with the community and with nature," adding, "So, working with SCLT is a natural fit."

After a year away from working with community groups, students and staff were eager for a day out of doors.

"It felt a lot better. The fresh air and constant movement is great for the body," offered Avery Schroth who spent much of the morning grubbing brush.

"I think we're helping the community a lot. It's a good experience," concluded Sada Messick.

The students of Schiffer weren't alone in giving back by helping SCLT this spring. Middle schoolers at Big Horn returned to Red Grade Trails as part of a schoolwide day of service in late May.

On this service day, Big Horn students completed 21 projects and combined to share 600 hours with their community, whether it was on the trail or in the home of a neighbor in need of some helping hands.

"Through the community service day, our students



Students from Big Horn Middle School revived their tradition of helping with spring trail maintenance as part of a schoolwide day of service throughout the community in late May.



While each Big Horn Middle Schooler had their own reason for helping at Red Grade Trails, they all had a similar theme, perhaps best said by eighth-grader Ava Byrd, "I feel grateful because it is a healthy environment and a beautiful place to be." We couldn't agree more!

are able to see parts of our community they might not otherwise see," relayed instructor Susie Mohrmann.

That includes Red Grade Trails, where Morhmann first began bringing young Rams at least six years ago. "The trails are accessible, though not all of them have experienced the trails."

About half of this year's crew hadn't been to the trails before. After an afternoon in the forest, many said they were eager to return.

"It's fun to be in the wilderness!" "We love the fresh air

and the trees!" "We get to have fun with our friends!" "It's so peaceful up here!" were all comments that came quickly from the group.

"It was really fun," concluded Lilyahna Hancock, an 8th grader who made her first visit to Red Grade Trails. After raking and smoothing tread, she said she couldn't wait to come back. "I want to hike the trails!"

SCLT is grateful these school groups were able to spend time in our beautiful Bighorns backyard with us. We hope to continue to connect more students to their community and nature in the coming year.



It wasn't all trail work for the Schiffer School students. After a morning in the field, the group wrapped up the day by taking the Big Goose Creek Walking Tour with Historical Program Manager Carrie Edinger.



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SheridanCLT.org







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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Legacy Lunch 'n' Learn is Nov. 10

Are you passionate about our beautiful land, our amazing outdoor opportunities, our fascinating history and our great community we share? Have you wondered what you can do to make sure our special Sheridan County is even more special for generations to come but weren't sure how? Do you want to leave a legacy, but aren't sure how? Here's your opportunity.

Laurie Ross Prudential Financial and SCLT have put together a free luncheon where you can learn how you can make a transformational impact in our community - even if you never imagined you could!

Join us on Wednesday, November 10, at noon for the Legacy Lunch 'n' Learn at the Best Western Sheridan Center. Laurie Ross, Financial Advisor, CLU®, ChFC®; Steve Rucki, CPA and partner at Rucki & Newbrough; and Christopher M. Sherwood, a Partner at Yonkee & Toner, LLP who specializes in estate and small family business planning and trust administration, will teach you how you can leave a legacy for your loved ones and organizations you love. Your lunch is on us.

This Legacy Lunch 'n' Learn is limited to 50 guests. RSVP at sheridanclt.org.