



Sheridan
Community
LAND TRUST
Conservation | History | Recreation

Connecting people to land and history

Annual Report & Highlights: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025



Unspoiled purple mountain majesty is just one of the many benefits we all enjoy thanks to the Soldier Ridge Conservation Easement. It is one of several local lands and ranches families have worked with SCLT to conserve. Without conserved lands like these, Sheridan County could lose what makes our home so special: iconic views, working ranches, wide-open spaces, thriving wildlife habitat, and clean water for our community.

Conserving Today, Cherishing Tomorrow

On quiet drives in the countryside, the view might seem timeless: open fields, working ranches, and wildlife moving across the foothills. But those landscapes aren't guaranteed to remain. Sheridan County is growing, and with growth comes pressure to subdivide land into smaller parcels for homes.

That's why SCLT is working with families to conserve more land than ever before. "SCLT is currently working on eight different active conservation easement projects totaling over 6,000 acres," said John Graves, SCLT's Director of Conservation.

"Additional landowners have been working with SCLT to learn more about conservation easements and start down the path of an active project," he continued.

The urgency is real. Without conservation easements, Sheridan County risks losing both its working lands and its wild character. As Graves explained, "Without conservation easement protection, we can see historic ranches, farm ground, and grazing land turned into housing developments. Without conservation easement protection, we can see habitats lost for all types of wildlife. That's not just the deer, pronghorn, and elk we often see, but also

the small mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, fish, and our vital streams and wetlands."

For families, choosing to conserve is about more than economics. It's about passing something on. "All of the landowners we work with want to see their land conserved, so the way it is today is the way it will stay," Graves said.

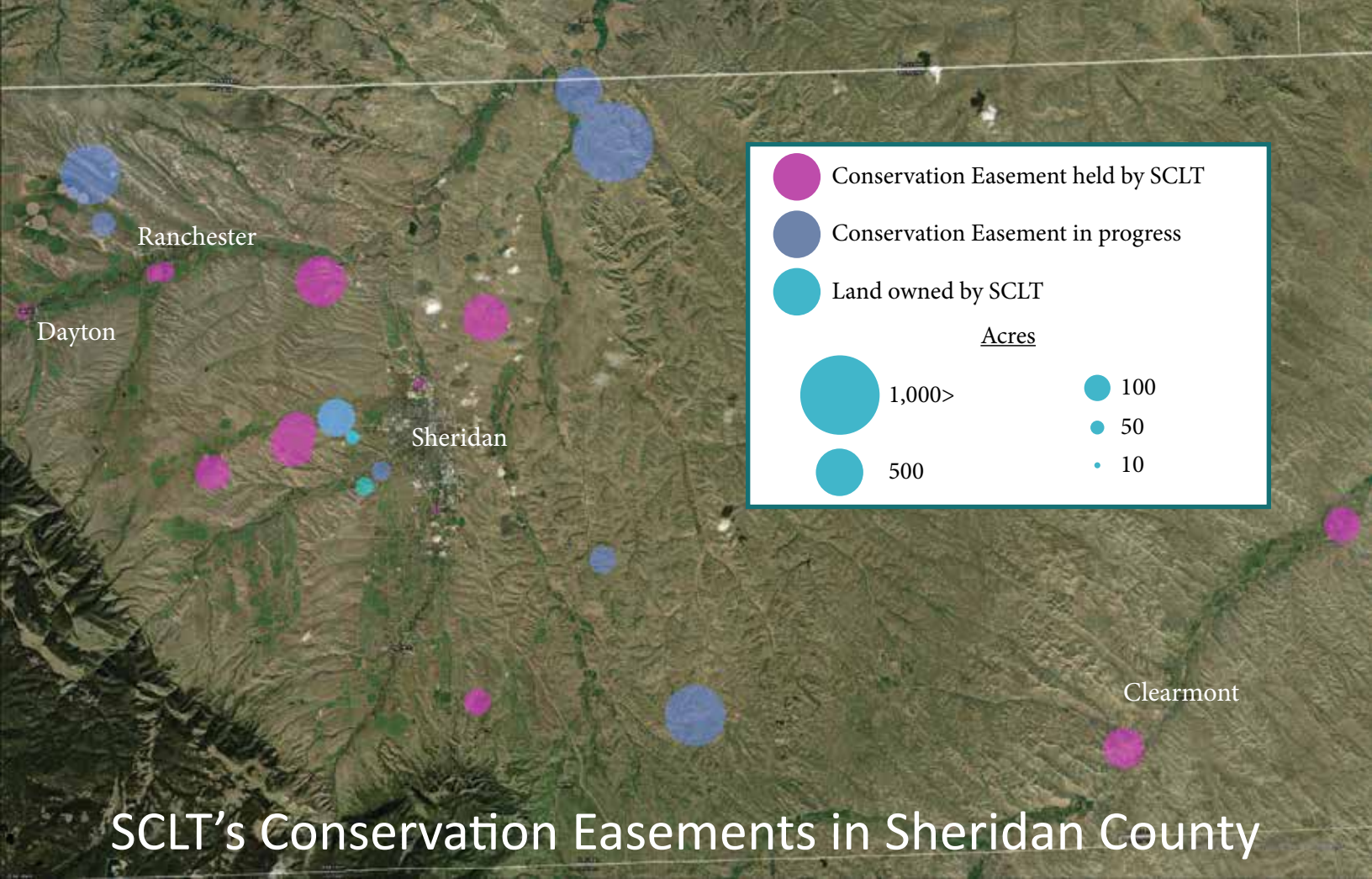
Some focus on wildlife habitat, others on keeping agricultural lands intact. Some donate their conservation easements, while others utilize financial tools to expand their operations. Whatever their reasons, the shared goal is simple: keeping the landscape whole.

Even those who may never walk a conserved ranch feel the difference. "Driving along just about any road in the countryside, you will drive by at least one property that has a conservation easement on it," Graves said.

Those conserved places are what keep the county looking and feeling like home. "Though you may not realize it, conservation easements help keep our rural landscape the way it has been. If you don't like change, conservation easements help ensure the lands they conserve will stay as open and available to agriculture and wildlife forever."

Making these projects happen requires substantial

"Conservation easements ensure that Sheridan County's landscape doesn't change in a negative way. They protect our scenic viewsheds, ensure wildlife can continue to live and thrive, and keep working lands working as a vital element of Sheridan County history and culture." ~ SCLT Director of Conservation John Graves.



SCLT's Conservation Easements in Sheridan County

This map showcases the lands where SCLT has partnered with local families to conserve, the properties currently on the path toward conservation, and the lands SCLT owns outright. Each of these conservation easements plays a vital role in ensuring the landscapes, wildlife, and working lands we all cherish in Sheridan County remain for generations to come.

investment. Surveys, inspections, and reports can cost more than \$60,000 per conservation easement. Donors make it possible. “Thanks to community partners, we have funds that help pay for due diligence costs on donated conservation easements,” Graves explained. “These donations help us to get conservation projects started and completed, taking away the financial burden that might otherwise prevent a project from being completed.”

Graves has a simple message for donors: “Thank you for helping to conserve the land we all enjoy. Though your feet may never set foot on the land, know that your donation conserved it for this generation and future generations of both people and wildlife to enjoy.”

What excites him most is the momentum building across generations. SCLT is working on larger projects and with younger families who see conservation as part of their future. And for Graves, the vision is clear: “I hope that future generations will still be able to enjoy the wildlife that we have today thanks to these conserved lands. I hope that

the culture of agriculture continues in our county and that the land can be passed down within the family to the next generation to keep it as productive working lands.”

Interested in Conserving Your Land?

SCLT is here to help. “Give us a call today and just ask your questions. The best way to know if it is right for you is to ask the questions you have,” Graves encouraged.

“Conservation easements might not be right for you, and that is OK. We want to give you all the information so you can make your own decision. We are not trying to sell you anything or push you to do anything. At the end of the day, the decision is yours; we are here to help you make YOUR decision.”

Learn how John can help you conserve your land. Scan the QR code or visit SheridanCLT.org/Conservation.





SCLT continues its work to preserve the OI #115, Wyoming's last surviving streetcar. With your help, the streetcar will be moved to the Big Goose Natural Area where a gravel pad and much restoration work awaits.

On track to Save Wyoming's Last Streetcar

For more than a century, the OI #115 has stood as a silent witness to Sheridan's past — Wyoming's last remaining streetcar, once carrying passengers and freight between downtown and Fort Mackenzie. A second streetcar connected Sheridan to the coal mining communities along the Tongue River.

Streetcars like the OI #115 were more than just transportation. In their day, miners, families, and schoolchildren relied on the streetcars as a lifeline.

"Many children would ride the streetcar into Sheridan for the school week and then head back to their families in the mining communities on the weekend," says SCLT History Program Manager Kevin Knapp. "It connected people in a way that shaped daily life here."

But decades of Wyoming weather have taken a toll. Over the past year, dedicated volunteers have helped shield the OI #115 beneath a protective cover, buying precious time against the elements. The next step is to prepare it for the move that will bring it closer to preservation — and eventually restoration.

This summer, SCLT crews carefully used jacks, lifting and supporting the streetcar to relieve the strain on its sagging steel undercarriage. This delicate work helps distribute its weight more evenly and

prevents further structural damage. "It's the only way we can safely transport it to a place where we can oversee the restoration," Knapp explains.

That next big move is coming soon — but we need your help to make it happen. If all goes according to plan, a crane will carefully lift OI #115 onto a flatbed trailer and transport it to SCLT's property, where a new chapter in its story will begin. Once there, we'll construct a protective shelter to shield this historic streetcar from sun, wind, rain, and snow while we

work toward its full restoration. Our team has already prepared the site, but we can't take the next steps without community support.

We envision the OI #115 taking on a new role — as part of an immersive outdoor

display at the SCLT Big Goose Natural Area. The display will include a section of track with wooden mine carts and interpretive signs, serving as the new starting point for the Black Diamond Trail audio driving tour. This tour traces the route between Sheridan and the once-thriving mining towns, and the streetcar will offer visitors a tangible, real-world connection to the stories they'll hear.

"This is a beloved and iconic artifact of our community," Knapp says. "We have a rare chance to

"This is a beloved and iconic artifact of our community. We have a rare chance to save it for future generations — not just to look at, but to help them experience the lives of the people who rode it." ~ SCLT History Program Manager Kevin Knapp.



Volunteers (right) have helped protect the streetcar’s interior (lower left) and SCLT staff (top left) placed a series of jacks to take pressure of the streetcar’s sagging steel undercarriage.

save it for future generations — not just to look at, but to help them experience the lives of the people who rode it.”

By working together, we can ensure that the Ol’ #115 rolls into the future as proudly as it once rolled down the tracks — carrying the history of Sheridan County with it.

How You Can Help

Saving the Ol’ #115 will take community support. You can help by:

- Making a monetary donation to help with crane rental, transportation, building the protective shelter and preservation costs.
- Donating materials such as lumber, roofing, or hardware for the protective structure.
- Volunteering your skills for construction and future restoration work.

This project depends on people like you who believe in preserving Sheridan County’s history. You can help us move the Ol’ #115 to safety, protect it from the elements, and bring this important piece of our past back to life. Scan the code or go to SheridanCLT.org/Save-Sheridans-Streetcar/.



Discover Sheridan County’s coal mining past on the Black Diamond Byway Driving Tour, now starting at SCLT’s Big Goose Natural Area! This GPS-guided tour takes you through historic mining towns and sites like Dietz, Acme, Monarch, and Kooi.

Look for the historic coal carts at the BGNA, thanks to Sheridan College Ag students and Museum at the Bighorns staff. Start at 14 Lane Ln and download the TravelStorys app to take the award-winning tour! You can take it virtually, too!

Scan the code to download the app or visit TravelStorys.com/Tours/Black-Diamond-Byway/.





SCLT's trails build community one mile, one connection, and one adventure at a time — just like this flower-filled ride Matt Elmore enjoyed on the new additions to Red Grade Trails this summer.

Building Community One mile, One Connection, and One Adventure at a Time

From fresh tread to new signs, 2025 was a year of steady progress and growing momentum for SCLT's trail systems — a testament to how we're building community one mile, one connection, and one adventure at a time.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the dedication of volunteers, who spent countless hours clearing brush, maintaining tread, and ensuring safe, enjoyable experiences, SCLT trails continue to connect people to the land and each other in meaningful ways.

Big strides were made at Red Grade Trails, where we continued to expand and improve one of our favorite places to get outside. New trails like Highlander, Fire Up, and Upper Drifter all opened in 2025, creating fresh connections and new loop options that keep every visit exciting — whether

you're exploring for the first time or the fiftieth. Critical repairs following the Elk Fire restored key segments and improved safety across the system. And while construction on Upper Let 'Em Roll, a highly anticipated downhill flow trail, wasn't complete by press time, we are hopeful the work will be completed by the time you are reading this annual report.

“This year's additions at Red Grade Trails are about more than just mileage,” said Jared Koenig, SCLT Director of Recreation. “New connections and new loops give people more choices — whether they want a short after-work ride or a big all-day adventure — and keep the trail experience fresh, fun, and worth coming back to.”

This progress was possible thanks to strong community partnerships, especially with Wyoming



It takes many hands to build great trails. This season, members of the Montana Conservation Corps were among the hardworking, friendly faces helping carve out new connections at Red Grade Trails. SCLT is especially grateful to Wyoming Pathways for their support, which helped keep the momentum going and the trail system growing.

Pathways, whose support helped make this season’s builds a reality. “Building trails takes a team,” Koenig noted. “We’re deeply grateful for partners like Wyoming Pathways and for everyone who invests time, energy, and resources into making these trails possible.”

Beyond Red Grade Trails, we also made meaningful improvements across our other trail systems. At the Big Goose Natural Area, two miles of new mowed trails expanded access and opportunities for exploration. We continued testing floater-friendly fencing to make getting on the water safer for paddlers and easier for landowners, and upgraded signage, bridges, and trailhead access across several sites. On the Soldier Ridge Trail, a new interpretive sign showcasing native birds helps

visitors connect more deeply with the landscape and wildlife around them.

“Every improvement — from a new bridge to a new sign — helps people form a stronger bond with the land,” Koenig added. “And that connection is what drives long-term stewardship.”

Together with our partners, donors, and volunteers, SCLT is building a future where recreation, conservation, and community come together — one mile, one connection, and one adventure at a time.

Want to go on your next adventure? Be sure to get trail maps and pocket guides. Scan the code or visit SheridanCLT.org/Explore/Guides/.

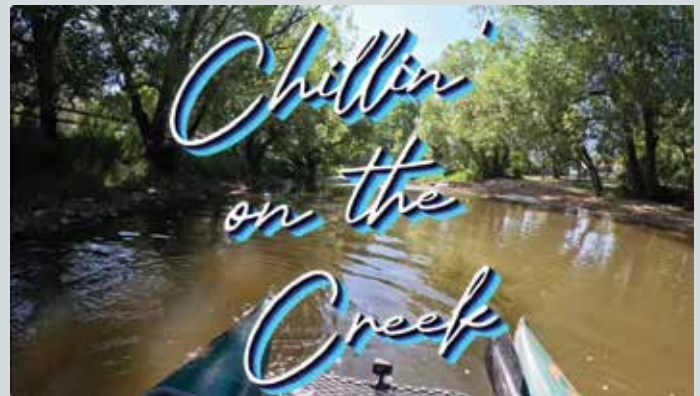


Trails, History, Conservation — Now Streaming!

Looking for fresh ways to explore, learn, and get inspired? Head over to the Sheridan Community Land Trust YouTube channel and see what SCLT Education & Public Engagement Assistant Bruce Scigliano has been up to!

He’s been busy creating a growing library of short, informative videos that bring SCLT’s mission to life — from tips to help you get outdoors and enjoy our trails and waterways, to behind-the-scenes looks at conservation projects, to stories that bring local history to life. Whether you’re planning your next adventure, curious about the work happening on the land, or simply love learning about the place you call home, there’s something for you to discover.

Subscribe today and never miss a new video — your next outdoor adventure or “aha!” moment might be just a click away. Scan the QR code to watch now or visit YouTube.com/@SheridanCommunityLandTrust8654/.





Volunteer Bob Giurgevich (right) leads eager learners on a plant walk at Bear Gulch. A frequent Discovery Session leader, Bob shares his passion for plants with humility, saying, “I end up learning more from the people on the trips than I think I provide.”

Rooted in Curiosity: Bob Giurgevich’s Volunteer Journey Blooms

When you walk a trail with Bob Giurgevich, you quickly realize a plant walk is never just about plants. For Bob, every outing is a two-way learning process. “I end up learning more from the people on the trips than I think I provide to them,” he humbly reflects. Their questions spark new research, fresh curiosity, and a deeper appreciation for the landscapes Bob has explored for decades.

Bob’s volunteer journey with SCLT began when the botanist was asked to help with vegetation sampling on a conservation easement. From there, he stepped into leading plant hikes on Red Grade Trails, Bear Gulch, and now the Big Goose Natural Area. “Some of it came by invitation, some of it by my own initiative—but all of it has been good stuff,” he says.

What makes Bob’s plant walks so memorable is his ability to show that plants are more than pretty flowers. Along Bear Gulch, for instance, participants marveled at coral root orchids—orchids without chlorophyll that survive by forming fascinating relationships with other plants. Discoveries like

this highlight not only the variety of plant life in Sheridan County but also the complex ways those plants live, adapt, and connect.

For Bob, the lessons of the natural world translate into daily life. “Plants don’t have a lot of choice in how they react. They roll with the seasons, drought, and change. I’ve learned to do the same each day.” It’s a philosophy that encourages him to get outdoors and enjoy our beautiful Bighorns backyard, even if the weather beckons a call for the couch.

This spring, Bob also joined SCLT’s archaeological survey at the Big Goose Natural Area, where he delighted in learning about the human history layered into the landscape. That day, he added surprising plant finds, including several small cacti, to the list for his upcoming plant walk. The experience working side-by-side with professional archaeologists also gave him a more profound sense of how the land had been used.

What keeps him coming back is access, connection, and the chance to keep learning. He appreciates how SCLT weaves together private and

public lands to create trail systems that welcome the public. “Red Grade Trails are a good example. It’s not easy to get all those entities on the same page, but the land trust has done it. That opens up opportunities that might never have existed otherwise,” he explains.

For Bob, SCLT plays a vital role in helping people move beyond “factoids” and toward deeper understanding.

On plant walks, participants learn that plants aren’t just flowers, but part of a larger community that includes seeds, dispersers, animals, and people. That kind of perspective, Bob believes, keeps curiosity alive and connects people to land in meaningful ways.

He encourages everyone to find ways they can connect. “There are just numerous ways to interact

with the land trust,” he shares. “You can donate your time, your services, your funds, or even goods that support projects. There’s a wide spectrum of ways to contribute.”

Bob’s leadership shows how one volunteer can spark curiosity, build knowledge, and deepen

connections to Sheridan County’s landscapes. His efforts remind us that SCLT’s work is about more than trails, conservation, or education

alone—it’s about creating experiences that help people see their home in new and inspiring ways.

Want to find your own way to connect? Scan the QR code to visit the Volunteer Corner or go to SheridanCLT.org/Volunteer.



“Plants don’t have a lot of choice in how they react. They roll with the seasons, drought, and change. I’ve learned to do the same each day” ~ Bob Giurgevich on a philosophy that encourages him to get outdoors and share his knowledge with others.

Volunteers donated **1,276 hours** of their time giving back to **what they love!**



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Because of your support, more people will be connected to la

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 Anna Zowada Shanor

VOLUNTEER PARTNERS

A Place of Wholeness
 Big Horn Middle School
 Bighorn Audubon Society
 Bomber Mountain
 Bicycle Club
 Cultural Resource
 Associates, LLC
 First Interstate Bank
 First Northern Bank

Piney Island
 Native Plants, LLC
 Rooted In Wyoming
 SAGE Community Arts
 Sheridan Area
 Search & Rescue
 Sheridan Bicycle Company
 Sheridan College
 Sheridan County
 Conservation District
 Sheridan VA Medical Center
 The Hub on Smith
 Tongue River Valley
 Community Center
 Wyoming Game & Fish
 - Sheridan Region
 Ucross Foundation
 University of Wyoming
 Bernard Research Lab
 University of Wyoming
 Biodiversity Institute
 Whitney Benefits

All contributor lists reflect gifts made between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. Contributions received after that date will be recognized in the 2025–26 Annual Report. If your name is missing, please contact Chris Vrba at Chris@SheridanCLT.org. We want to make sure you receive the recognition you deserve.

Tribute Gifts

In Memory of Robert “Bob” Allison

“Dear Cousins, in memory of your dear, sweet, kind, and loving brother, a donation was made to SCLT to help protect, restore, and conserve the natural beauty and history of Sheridan County, Wyoming. May God grant Bob the peace and serenity he so deserves.”
 ~ Chuck & Carol Rowe

In Memory of Neil Anderson Patricia Kemper

In Memory of Bertha Beartusk Freeman

Diana McLean

In Memory of Sue Bauer Brad Bauer

In Memory of Don & Mary Gwen Brayton

“In memory of Don and Mary Gwen Brayton from Brayton Lane, near the SCLT office.” ~ Brayton Family

In Memory of David & Susan Brue *“To my parents who raised me to love the outdoors (Mom) and animals (Dad)!”* ~ Sonja Brue

In Honor of John R. Giurgevich Anonymous

In Memory of Genevieve Hawk-BearQuiver

Martha Longie

In Memory of Maureen Heslin Noreen Heslin

In Memory of Rodney & Mary Hiebenthal

Jim & Annette Gaskill

In Memory of Pam Marks Laura & Martin MacCarty

In Memory of Theodore Mitiu
“Dear Linda, SCLT protects, preserves, and restores the land, waterways, and wildlife of Sheridan County. They educate through fun and interesting walks, hikes, lectures, and tours. I can see in my mind’s eye Ted sitting and fishing along a cool, shady shoreline. Love you.” ~ Chuck & Carol Rowe

In Memory of Stacy Page Roger Sanders

In Honor of Margie Rea
“Thanks to my sister, Margie, for introducing me to the SCLT trails!”
 ~ Dan Rea

In Memory of Bette Jeanne Sage
“She loved Sheridan and was so proud of the work her grandson, Kevin Knapp, does with SCLT.” ~ Susan Clinch

In Memory of Jessamine Spear Johnson

Tempe & Harold Javitz

In Honor of Sophia Steinert Lauren Nieves-Steinert

In Memory of Hardy Tate Shannon Anderson Brian and Amy Bolton Hal Corbett & Katie Curtiss

Suzanne Desan
 Rosie Gaviotis
 Faith Ingwersen
 Roberta Iserra
 Susanna & Dave Meyer
 Buccino Fowler Family Fund

In Honor of Margie Taylor Walter J and Lila V Taylor

In Memory of Gary Vrba & Garry Vokes

Vokes Family

In Memory of Roberta Wilkes
“My mom, Roberta, would have been 100 years old in August 2024. She would have loved all SCLT does for Sheridan County.” ~ Jean Harm

In Memory of Mimi Wold Todd Wold & Shelley Strong

In Honor of Our Grandchildren
“For our grandchildren and all future generations.” ~ Lynda & Jim Mayer

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Financial Report

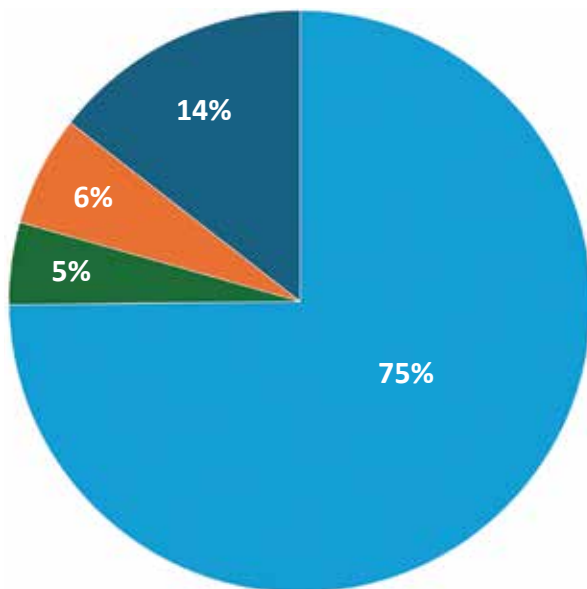
Revenue FY 2024-2025

Contributions/Bequests	\$212,387
Government Grants.....	\$121,703
Foundation Grants.....	\$255,004
Business/Non-Profits.....	\$147,489
Program and Other Income.....	\$3,835
Investments Income	\$255,841
In-kind Dollars	\$10,043
Total Revenue.....	\$1,006,301*

*Nonprofits can run a surplus. SCLT invests any surplus after expenses directly into SCLT’s mission — supporting trail building and maintenance, conservation and history initiatives, and the sustainability of our operations.

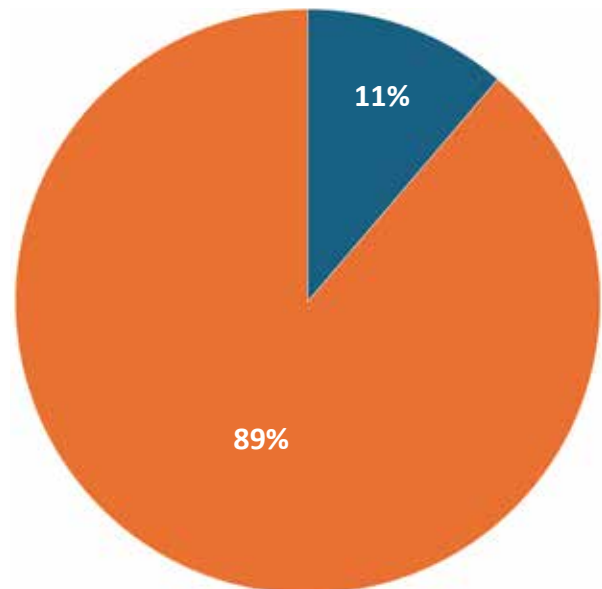
Expenses FY 2024-2025

Program Expenses	
<i>Conservation Program.....</i>	<i>\$127,932</i>
<i>History Program</i>	<i>\$81,567</i>
<i>Recreation Program</i>	<i>\$186,998</i>
<i>Community Program / BGNA</i>	<i>\$122,566</i>
Total Program Expenses	\$519,063
Fundraising & Administration Expenses	
<i>Fundraising.....</i>	<i>\$132,183</i>
<i>Administration.....</i>	<i>\$137,553</i>
Total Fundraising & Admin.	\$269,736
Total Expenses.....	\$788,799



Net Assets

Land / Conservation Easements	\$855,377
Operating Funds	\$363,315
Buildings / Equipment	\$270,078
Investments / Endowment	\$4,423,022
Total Net Assets.....	\$5,911,792



Investments / Endowments

Without Restrictions.....	\$497,809
With Restrictions	\$3,925,213
Total Investments/Endowment..	\$4,423,022

These figures come from SCLT’s financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2025. Each year, SCLT voluntarily chooses to have an independent audit of our finances. This demonstrates our commitment to the highest standards of transparency and accountability—and assures our community that every dollar you give is used wisely to advance our shared mission.

SCLT is proud to be accredited by the Land Trust Alliance, the leading land trust association in the United States. This recognition affirms the trust you place in us and the care we take in stewarding both your gifts and the lands we conserve together. The audited financial statements for this year are not yet complete, but will be posted on our website as soon as they are available.



Donor-Advised Funds: Giving Power, Right When It's Needed

Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs) are transforming philanthropy by making it simple for donors to create impact right away. A DAF works like a charitable investment account. You contribute cash, stock, or other appreciated assets, receive an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants to the nonprofits you care about most — including Sheridan Community Land Trust (SCLT).

What makes DAFs unique is readiness. The dollars are already set aside for giving. They don't come out of your checking or savings account when a need arises. That means you can respond to urgent opportunities — conserving open space, protecting wildlife habitat, or expanding trails — the moment they appear.

DAFs also offer flexibility. You can give in years when income is lower, spread support across several nonprofits, or time a gift to match a special project. For families, they create a way to involve children and grandchildren in

philanthropy, passing along values of stewardship and community.

Here in Sheridan County, Donor-Advised Funds are already making a difference. They've helped conserve working ranches and open lands, and supported programs like Discovery Sessions, Explore History tours, and Unplug events —

opportunities that remain free and open to everyone.

By setting aside charitable dollars in advance, you can ensure that Sheridan County's land, water, wildlife, and history remain protected — and that our community continues to discover, explore, and unplug for generations to

A Donor-Advised Fund is like a charitable reserve fund. Since you have already committed those dollars, you can act quickly and confidently when your community needs you.

come.

Do you have a Donor-Advised Fund? Use it to make a difference right now! Scan the QR code or visit SheridanCLT.org/Get-Involved/Donor-Advised-Fund.



Virtual Fencing: A New Tool for an Old Problem

Fences are as much a part of the West as cattle and cottonwoods. But some fences block wildlife, cost ranchers time and money, and still end up wrecked by elk or wind. Sheridan Community Land Trust (SCLT) is testing an alternative way through Sheridan County's first virtual fencing pilot project, using Halter GPS-enabled collars.

Placed on cattle, the collars connect to an app that sets invisible boundaries. Ranchers can manage herds remotely, rotate grazing more efficiently, and reduce costly fence repairs. "This is the ultimate wildlife-friendly fence—because there's no physical fence," explains John Graves, SCLT's Director of Conservation. "It helps wildlife move freely, while also saving time and money for ranchers."

Beyond efficiency, virtual fencing gives ranchers powerful conservation tools. Exclusion zones can be created along creek banks or sensitive habitats, protecting water quality and restoring rangeland. The technology can also improve grazing efficiency, reduce feed costs, and strengthen ranchers' bottom lines.

The three-year pilot includes three Sheridan County ranchers, with field days scheduled for 2026 so producers can see results firsthand. Thank you to The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, NRCS, the Sheridan County Conservation District, and local ranchers for making this innovative project possible. See virtual fencing in action at the SCLT Big Goose Natural Area. Learn more at SheridanCLT.org/Virtual-Fencing.



SCLT and three local ranch families are leading a virtual fencing pilot project using Halter GPS-enabled collars. Be on the lookout for field days in 2026.

Big Goose Natural Area Prepares to Soar

Since officially opening on March 26, the SCLT Big Goose Natural Area (BGNA) has quickly become a place where conservation, recreation, and history come together. In its first year, the BGNA has already seen tremendous progress thanks to donor support and community involvement.

More than two miles of mowed trails now welcome walkers, bikers, birders, and families, complete with interpretive signs that share stories of wildlife, conservation, and history. Visitors can fish and paddle along Big Goose Creek, while ranchers and landowners can learn from a new wildlife-friendly fencing demonstration. On the land itself, invasive grasses and encroaching junipers have been managed to improve grazing and create better habitat for wildlife. Volunteers and experts also conducted an archaeological survey that unearthed pieces of Sheridan County's past, while restoration work began along the creek to strengthen water quality and riparian habitat.

"BGNA is truly a community gem," says SCLT Executive Director Brad Bauer. "Thanks to incredible donor support, it will continue to inspire and serve our community today and for generations to come."

The BGNA is open every day, from dawn to dusk. Plan your visit and learn about what's coming next at SheridanCLT.org/SCLT-Big-Goose-Natural-Area/.



Some of the volunteers and young artists who helped create the fun, educational "What's Your Wingspan?" sign at the SCLT Big Goose Natural Area.

Historic Huson Homestead's Helping Hands

This summer, 17 dedicated volunteers gave the historic Huson Homestead some much-needed care to help ensure the two-story stone home does not deteriorate further. Built in 1881 by Edward “Doc” and Clarissa Huson, the house remains one of Sheridan County’s earliest stone structures and a visible reminder of pioneer life on the prairie.

“Places like the Huson Homestead are more than old buildings, they’re touchstones that connect us to the people who shaped our community,” said Kevin Knapp, SCLT History Program Manager. “Thanks to volunteer efforts, we’re keeping this home standing strong so its story continues to be part of our community.”

Though the house sits on private property and cannot be toured, it can be seen from the highway. In 2015, the property’s owners partnered with SCLT to establish a historic preservation easement on the stone portions of the home, along with a conservation easement on 528 acres of surrounding sagebrush steppe and grassland that support livestock and provide habitat for Greater Sage-grouse and migrating waterfowl along Clear and Ulm Creeks.

One volunteer, Susan Strain, made a 3,200-mile roundtrip to help. Read about why she was compelled to help and learn more about the Historic Huson Homestead on our website at [SheridanCLT.org/3128-Miles-For-Friendship-Family-And-History/](https://www.SheridanCLT.org/3128-Miles-For-Friendship-Family-And-History/).



This summer, volunteers helped give a little TLC to the Historic Huson Homestead outside of Clearmont.

Building Trails That Welcome Everyone

At SCLT, we believe the outdoors should be open to everyone. That’s why we’ve been working closely with Teton Adaptive to ensure our trails are welcoming and accessible for riders and hikers of all abilities.

Some of these changes may seem small, but they make a big difference. “It can be as simple as making fence openings wider to fit adaptive bikes, or adjusting the way we shape a bermed corner and place a drain,” explained Jared Koenig, SCLT Director of Recreation. “On a two-wheel bike, you may not notice. But for someone on a three-wheel adaptive bike, the placement of that drain can mean the difference between rolling smoothly through a corner or pitching uncomfortably off balance.”

These adjustments don’t reduce the fun or challenge of riding. Instead, they ensure adaptive riders can experience the same joy and flow. Every time SCLT replaces a bridge, we now make it “comfortably wide,” not just “bare minimum.” Narrow pinch points between rocks get a little extra space. Corners are built with a wider radius and more gradual transitions. Trailheads are being modified to better serve all users.

Looking ahead, the vision is even bigger: creating an adaptive bike loan program and riding buddy system so people can safely try equipment. Adaptive bikes often cost upwards of \$15,000. That would open trails to more community members who may not otherwise be able to enjoy our beautiful Bighorns backyard. That’d help even more people get outdoors. “We’re building trails that truly invite everyone,” Koenig concluded.

By making trails more accessible, we’re opening the Bighorns to more neighbors, friends, and families—because everyone deserves the chance to enjoy the beauty of our backyard.



SCLT has began making trails more inclusive thanks to input from Teton Adaptive. You can see Brad Bauer using an adaptive cycle earlier this year.



A new chapter begins! Our vision for a remodeled SCLT Welcome Center at Big Goose Natural Area will feature flexible classrooms, interpretive displays, and outdoor learning spaces — all designed to inspire connection with land, history, and community.

Opening Doors: Creating a Community Hub with the SCLT Welcome Center

Step inside Sheridan Community Land Trust’s office at the Big Goose Natural Area (BGNA), and you’ll quickly see it’s no ordinary workspace. Thanks to a community-driven remodel, this building is transforming into the SCLT Welcome Center — a place designed to inspire, educate, and invite everyone to connect more deeply with land, history, and each other.

A Space with Purpose

For Executive Director Brad Bauer, the idea sprang from a simple question: How can we connect our community to SCLT’s mission in ways that go beyond trails, conservation easements, or restoration projects?

“The Welcome Center creates new ways for our community to engage with our mission,” Brad explains. “Through interpretive displays on local history, responsible recreation, and conservation, visitors will see our work come to life.”

In addition to indoor displays, the Welcome Center will feature outdoor learning spaces where

students, families, and volunteers can gather for hands-on education. Imagine students dipping their nets into the creek, then returning to an shaded outdoor classroom to learn about what they’ve discovered.

Designed for Connection

SCLT turned to QC10 Architects and principal architect Thane Magelky to bring the vision to life.

For him, the project is about striking a balance between functionality and inspiration. “We wanted to create a place that feels welcoming from the moment you arrive,”

Thane says. That meant

reimagining the entrance with a pergola and flower boxes, widening hallways for accessibility, and ensuring every detail invites people to linger, learn, and return.

Inside, flexible spaces will allow groups large and small to use the building for learning and community events. New flooring, murals, and displays will brighten the space. Outside, the deck

“The Welcome Center creates new ways for our community to engage with our message... These outdoor experiences can spark lifelong memories” ~ SCLT Executive Director Brad Bauer.



Built by the community, for the community. From pergolas and murals to outdoor classrooms, every detail of the Welcome Center remodel will invite visitors to explore, learn, and return.

will be rebuilt into a safe and functional classroom, complete with seat-steps and shade.

Meeting Community Needs

Sheridan County has a strong appetite for outdoor learning, and the Welcome Center helps meet that need. “We have already hosted many kids enjoying the trails and creek at Discovery Sessions, volunteer days, and family outings. Those outdoor experiences can spark lifelong memories,” Brad says. The center will host school groups, offer occasional Saturday hours in the summer, and welcome families who want to explore BGNA’s accessible trails, fine fishing spots, and serene setting close to home.

The building’s location makes it a perfect launch point for discovery. “We want people to have a desire to come back and visit. To go for a hike. To have a picnic. To fish and float. Hopefully, they come back to see the changing displays in the Welcome Center, too.”

Built by Community, For Community

Instead of building new, SCLT chose to remodel its existing office — a decision rooted in practicality and community spirit. “The building was already set up to accommodate the Welcome Center with some minor remodels,” Brad notes. “We have great volunteers who can help with some of the steps. Maybe you are one of those?”

And that’s the heart of the project: community collaboration. Volunteers have already pitched in to help on several updates while SCLT staff have worked hard to make updates in addition to their regular work serving our community.

Donated materials will stretch dollars further. Every contribution — time, money, or skill — brings the Welcome Center one step closer to reality.

Your Invitation

When complete, the SCLT Welcome Center will be more than a building. It will be a hub for conservation, history, and education — a place where schoolchildren discover nature, families share picnics, and visitors learn why Sheridan County’s lands are worth protecting.

But to get there, we need you. Whether you can swing a hammer, donate materials, or make a gift, your support ensures the Welcome Center dream becomes a reality sooner.

“We are creating this space slowly and with community help from volunteers with a passion for this space,” Brad concludes.

Together, let’s build a space where everyone feels welcome to explore, learn, and connect.

Want to help? You can make a gift, donate materials, or help us remodel now! Scan the QR or go to SheridanCLT.org/SCLT-Big-Goose-Natural-Area/.





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 Sheridan, Wyoming 82801
 307.673.4702

SheridanCLT.org



Because of you, Sheridan Community Land Trust preserves our open spaces, healthy rivers and creeks, working ranches, wildlife habitat and vibrant history, while expanding recreation opportunities to connect people with the places they love.

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GETTING OUTSIDE AND CONNECTING WITH LAND, HISTORY, AND NATURE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.

Thanks to you, *more people made meaningful memories* at Discovery Sessions, Explore History programs, and Unplugs. Together we hiked through snow to coal seams, composted with worms, landscaped with native plants, watched birds and bats, joined plant and flower walks, explored geology, and cared for the land. We gave TLC to a historic stone home, conducted an archaeological survey, collected stream restoration data, and learned wilderness survival skills. We toured a historic ranch and fort, and discovered the stories of early telephones, electricity, trade routes, and so much more!

WE DID THIS TOGETHER BECAUSE OF YOU! Thank you for making it possible for people to Discover, Explore & Unplug what they love!