



Spring 2024

Sheridan  
Community

LAND TRUST

Conservation | History | Recreation

*Connecting people to land and history*



See how YOU have helped our community fully bloom!

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Conserving 'a beautiful place' & Iron Riders ride again

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A 5-Year Strategic Plan & 25-Year Vision for SCLT

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New Pocket Nature Guides are available!

# The B9 Ranch conserves ‘a beautiful place, with an alright ranch in the middle’

In February, Faith Ingwersen conserved her family’s ranch along Soldier Creek. She describes it as “a beautiful place with an alright ranch in the middle.” The ranch has been under continuous agriculture production for about a century and is home to many mule deer, pronghorn, and elk.

Faith recalled a childhood on her family ranch just over the hill from Beckton. There were no modern amenities, but there were her sister, Betty, and her mother, Anna. Together, they ran sheep on its hills and meadows until it was time for the girls to go to high school. “In the summers, we were herding; in the winters, we were learning,” she reminisced.

Faith permanently protected her family ranch through a conservation easement with SCLT. “It represents a valuable and intact landscape threatened by development,” said Meghan Kent, SCLT Conservation Director. “It is in the foothills area where many properties are being subdivided, and the long-term agricultural use is at risk of being lost.”



*“I felt my mother would have loved to have kept the land as our family heritage, and I should do so if I could.” ~ Faith Ingwersen, B9 Ranch*

SCLT utilized its new Conservation Revolving Fund to help Faith cover up-front costs associated with conserving her family ranch. Scan the code for more stories about local families conserving their land, or visit [SheridanCLT.org/Land/Conserved-Properties](https://SheridanCLT.org/Land/Conserved-Properties).



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## The Iron Riders ride again this Juneteenth

SCLT is excited to celebrate the legacy of the 25th Infantry Regiment Bicycle Corps - better known as The Iron Riders.

The story of these Buffalo Soldiers had largely been lost to history. Thankfully, citizen and professional researchers took an interest in them.

The men pedaled through Sheridan County on a 1,900-mile journey as part of the U.S. Army’s Great Bicycle Experiment. SCLT will preserve this unique history and tell the Iron Riders’ story through a new, innovative driving/cycling audio tour, a first of its kind, funded by a \$50,000 African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



The new tour will launch this Juneteenth, June 19, complete with a special celebration featuring Buffalo Soldier reenactors from around the country who will pedal off from the Historic Sheridan Inn.

“The story of the Iron Riders is universal. Their story is one of overcoming adversity, no what challenge is ahead of you on the road. Now, these veterans’ story is being told from the Historic Sheridan Inn - a place they were not allowed to enter when they rode through 125 years ago,” said SCLT History Program Manager Kevin Knapp.

Scan the code to RSVP or visit [SheridanCLT.org/Events/Iron-Riders-Tour-Unveiling](https://SheridanCLT.org/Events/Iron-Riders-Tour-Unveiling).



# Connecting People to Land & History



A 5-year Strategic Plan, Our 25-Year Vision



# Conservation

## The Place

Sheridan County is a beautiful place with attractive development prices; half of our county is private land. Private land is critical to nourishing our communities, is important habitat for wildlife, and creates the backbone of our sweeping viewsheds, which are woven deeply into our local identity.

## The Challenge

Without careful planning, we face a loss of agricultural lands and large connected natural areas as Sheridan County grows. Conventional agriculture often does not create enough return to keep the land as working land, while traditional conservation tools can react slowly.



## The 5-Year Plan

Conserve places where wildlife thrive, provide steppingstones of habitat in developed areas and lands of critical conservation or vital agriculture value at high risk of loss, and partner with local groups to connect people to nature nearby.

**Funding Goal: \$2,826,747**



*Every gift adds up to conserve the places we all love in Sheridan County!*

## The 25-Year Vision

Our community is actively engaged in conserving healthy natural areas that provide publicly accessible open spaces near our cities and towns. Working lands are conserved in geographic areas that are consistent with our communities' 25-year growth. Users and regulators balance water use cooperatively.

## How SCLT helps now



### Stelindo Ranch

Conserved with SCLT in  
November 2023

The Stelindo Ranch “stitches” divided land together, parcel by parcel, to permanently conserve land for agricultural production and wildlife like mule deer and pronghorn just east of Sheridan. The ranch abuts a tract of state trust land, which keeps an even larger landscape intact. That’s



more open space and open views, along with many more mule deer and pronghorn for everyone. Stelindo Ranch owners Steve and Linda Ough have seen more and more ag land and open space in rural communities like ours shrink. Because of that, they chose SCLT as a partner to permanently conserve their patch of paradise because they knew SCLT was a trusted local partner.

*“We chose to conserve our land to preserve the serenity of the area, to give wildlife a bit more space to call home, and help preserve the agricultural use of the land.” ~ Steve & Linda Ough*

# History



## The Place

Sheridan County has a deep history of nomadic hunters, gatherers, and immigrants that continues through the people who make us a thriving community today. Livelihoods like logging, polo, art, mining, and ranching remain culturally important.

## The Challenge

Without planning and preservation, the stories and perspectives of our people and their connections to the landscape are lost to disrepair, development, and time. Conventional preservation tools can be slow to react, while financial incentives are few.



## The 5-Year Plan

Permanently preserve and/or interpret significant historic structures and sites representing our county's character and economy. Develop and present educational activities that connect people to land and history.

**Funding Goal: \$1,532,940**



*Every gift adds up to preserve and tell the stories of Sheridan County!*

## The 25-Year Vision

Accessible, inclusive, and representative histories are preserved and told across Sheridan County through voluntary agreements, community education, and experiential and virtual storytelling.

## How SCLT helps now

### Stephen George Homestead

Added to the National Register of Historic Places in Spring 2023

Tom Balding knew that his home along Prairie Dog Creek had historical value of some kind, but he never knew how historic it truly was. By partnering with SCLT, Tom learned that his homesite was part of the Bozeman Trail route



in 1864-65. Before that, it was likely utilized by Plains Indian Tribes since it sits along a reliable water source. When Stephen George built his cabin on the site in 1881, there were only two other homes in what would soon be Sheridan. Bricks for the house were baked on-site. The barn's stones contain many fossils that date back as far as 360 million years. In 2023, the Stephen George Homestead was added to the National Register for Historic Places. "Getting listed wouldn't have happened without SCLT. They did an amazing job," Tom concluded.

*"I never really thought about the historic value of my property...I love where I live. To have it appreciated for what it is and to share it makes me really happy." ~ Tom Balding*

# Recreation



## The Place

Sheridan County has limited accessible, non-motorized recreation options that extend from our communities to our surrounding landscape and are available to all abilities.

## The Threat

As our communities develop, the opportunity to create recreation spaces and trails that connect existing trails becomes more challenging to achieve.



## The 5-Year Plan

Develop recreation opportunities that include trails, paved pathways, and access points that further local priorities while elevating opportunities that combine recreation with conservation and/or history.

**Funding Goal: \$2,737,541**



*Every gift connects people to nature and the outdoors in Sheridan County!*



## The 25-Year Vision

Accessible recreation is available to all community members through a variety of year-round options, including trails, pathways, and routes.

## How SCLT helps now

### Suzanne Beaudelaire

Used SCLT trails to train to backpack into the backcountry for the 1st time in 45 years!

When Suzanne Beaudelaire asked why it had been 45 years since she had backpacked into the backcountry, she simply said, “Life got in the way.” Thankfully, our beautiful Bighorns backyard has been in view. Once retired, she determined she would get into the mountains to take in this serene space. An injury delayed her plans, so she resolved to train - and found a perfect training ground in SCLT’s community trails. Hidden Hoot and Red Grade Trails were fun ways to get in quick hikes as we worked up range and elevation; an 8-mile out-and-back at Soldier Ridge Trail fully packed confirmed she was ready. Then, it was a trip to the Seven Brothers Lakes in the Cloud Peak Wilderness. Her assessment of the trip: “Unbeatable!” Because of SCLT community trails, Suzanne could connect with the land in way she hadn’t for 45 years!



***“I can’t imagine a world without SCLT trails! SCLT has done so much to increase local outdoor recreation access. I truly appreciate their vision and effectiveness. If you use SCLT trails, I hope you are committed, like I am, to give them your continued support.” ~ Suzanne Beaudelaire***

# Tying It All Together

## The Place

A once-in-a-lifetime asset in an idyllic setting on the bank of Big Goose Creek. A permanent home steeped in our past and perfectly poised to connect people to nature, the outdoors, land, and history now and forever as our community grows around us.

## The Challenge

Sheridan County is famous for its family ranches, open spaces, abundant wildlife, fascinating history, and outdoor opportunities. As our community grows, it is easy for people to lose touch with these assets, which will diminish their value or, in some cases, lose them entirely.



## The 5-Year Plan

Develop a place that provides opportunities for community members of all ages and abilities to learn how to conserve our lands, preserve our history, and explore nature and the outdoors while seeing how these assets connect to make Sheridan County a place we can all love.

*This opportunity's cost is still being explored.*



*Every gift makes this a perfect place for all in Sheridan County!*

# The 25-Year Vision

Part nature preserve, part recreation area, part working farm, part historical site, part education center, all for the community and all free to enjoy. It is a gathering space where everyone can connect to something they love in a healthy way. This place will be needed even more as Sheridan County continues to grow.

## How SCLT helps now



### Bridges West Community Campus

**A vision for our community that begins in 2024**

As our community continues to grow and thrive, this property will be a campus that is cherished by generations to come. This space



may someday be surrounded by houses and uses other than what we see today. SCLT is committed to stewarding this bold leap for today and for tomorrow. SCLT envisions trails accessible to all abilities that help visitors learn about the land's history, wildlife, plants, and more. A heritage farm where people can tend to the land. Fishing and floating access along a restored stream, and working conservation demonstrations. And that's a small part of what we know can be accomplished soon. This property is simply a perfect way to connect our community to land and history for generations to come.

*“This is such an incredible place! It is like an island of respite in our bustling town. My family hiked the trails together when I was a kid. I learned about our history and even got to dig for artifacts. We played in the old barn working on the farm and got to see some ways we conserve our land before we knew it was something we could do. Now, I take my kids here so they can connect with this place and love it like I do. I am so thankful for the people who helped SCLT preserve this place so it wasn't lost forever.” ~ A Sheridan County kindergartner 25 years from now*

# COMMUNITY CONNECTS US ALL

We envision Sheridan County as a place where people are deeply connected to the places they love, our stories past and present, and are empowered to engage with and care for those places and conserve and preserve them where needed.

## Making memories together because of what SCLT creates

Ally Forsythe joined her family on a geology hike at Red Grade Trails. The skies opened, soaking everyone on the way out. Before that, she was all smiles after seeing a fossil in a rock on Cliffhanger Trail. That's Ally sitting on the rock, pointing at her fossiliferous find. Her father Andy says Ally "still fondly talks of how fun it was to go hiking together."

"SCLT helped us connect to people of the area when we didn't know anyone, as well as helping us connect to the community by providing access and opportunities for experiencing the outdoors around Sheridan County," Ally's father Andy said.



Our community had the collective vision to create Red Grade Trails where Ally and her family could directly connect to nature and find that fossil. Because of that vision, the trails are part of a legacy that kind people like you have helped create. Thankfully, creating YOUR legacy is easy.

*"As a family we learn together, make memories, and make connections through what SCLT provides for the community."*

"All I had to do was put in writing the terms of my gift," said a kind friend who joined SCLT's Legacy Circle to ensure what they love about Sheridan County remains for others to love.

That friend implored anyone who's ever considered creating a legacy through a bequest of cash or an appreciated asset to "do it today."

They worked with SCLT because "SCLT was working in three areas about which I am passionate and about which I had knowledge and skills I could contribute."



*"Even if your commitment is small, when lots of small gifts are combined, they can amount to significant support."*

That means more fossil finds. And more stories like the Iron Riders can be told today so they're not forgotten tomorrow. Or more family ranches and natural areas can remain in the family and natural forever.

# Want connect more people to land and history?

See all the ways you can help by scanning this code with your camera app or visit us on the web at [SheridanCLT.org](http://SheridanCLT.org).

**Organization Name:** Sheridan Community Land Trust

**Tax ID/EIN:** 20-4385635

*We are a 501(c)3 organization*



## Credit, Debit or ACH

Help connect more people to land and history in Sheridan County. Make a one-time gift or set up a monthly gift to connect more people each month.



## Donor Advised Fund

You've already made the choice to support what you love with a DAF. Our tool makes it easy for you to take action and support what you love today!



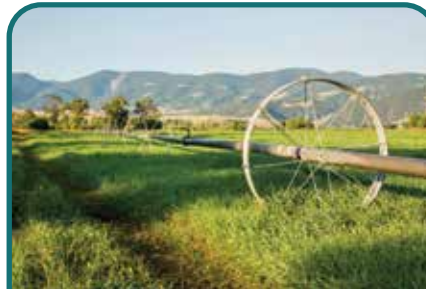
## IRA or 401k

Turning 72 this year? Help what you love about Sheridan County with a gift from your retirement account and save money on your taxes!



## Give Through Your Will

Create your legacy and secure your future at the same time. By planning now, you can make a truly transformative impact in the community you love!



## Stocks & Crypto

Giving stocks and other appreciated assets lets you make a gift that yields dividends today and provides a great return for our community in the future!



## Real Estate

Do you have unneeded real estate that won't work for conservation? If so, consider donating it to help conserve, preserve, and connect what you love most!



## PayPal, Venmo, Apple or Google Pay

Take instant action with these convenient, reliable ways to help make Sheridan County a truly special place!



## Life Insurance & More

Want to make a transformative gift but not sure how? Life insurance offers a way to give that safeguards you today and creates great work in our community tomorrow.



## Employer Match

Make your gift go even further by having your employer match your gift. That means you can double your impact with each gift you make!



# Pocket Nature Guides available for Soldier Ridge, Red Grade Trails

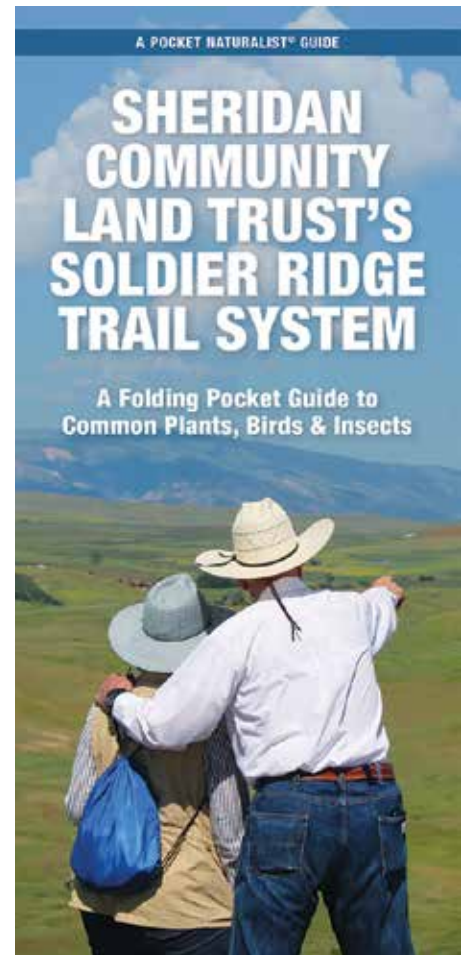
Have you ever been exploring our beautiful Bighorns backyard and came across a bird, a bug, a flower or a tree and wondered what it was?

If you nodded your head as you read that, then SCLT has a new way to help you connect with the land and natural history of our home.

SCLT has partnered with Waterford Press to create pocket nature guides for Red Grade Trails and the Soldier Ridge Trail System. They include many of the wildflowers, trees, shrubs, insects and birds you may encounter while enjoying these incredible trail systems. Best yet, you can take the guide with you anywhere you go in the Bighorns!

SCLT thanks Carol and Sam Mavrakis of The Seidler Foundation for making this handy way to learn possible.

These guides will be available soon. We anticipate they will be all be spoken for again, so reserve your copy (or copies) today! Get yours by scanning the code or by going to [SheridanCLT.org/Pocket-Nature-Guides/](https://SheridanCLT.org/Pocket-Nature-Guides/)



## Why consider a DAF for your future gifts to SCLT?

Your unwavering support has been instrumental in SCLT's continued success. Your generosity has helped protect our cherished landscapes, create and maintain trails, and connect people with the places they love. Now, there is an exciting opportunity to amplify the impact of your giving through a method that may provide additional benefits to you as well: donating through your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF).

A DAF acts as a charitable savings account, allowing you to make a charitable donation, receive an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants from the fund over time. It is a savvy way to manage your philanthropy, and shifting your support to SCLT through your DAF could enhance the power of your contributions in several meaningful ways.

**SIMPLIFIED GIVING:** By recommending grants from your DAF, you can streamline your charitable giving and paperwork, while continuing to support the initiatives at SCLT that are close to your heart.

**TAX-EFFICIENCY:** Contributions to your DAF are tax-deductible in the year you make the deposit, potentially giving you a significant tax advantage, especially if you contribute long-term appreciated securities.

**STRATEGIC PHILANTHROPY:** A DAF allows you to support SCLT with larger gifts that reflect your overall charitable giving strategy, rather than being limited by cash flow at any one time.

**LEGACY OF CONSERVATION:** Utilizing a DAF can be a part of your legacy planning, ensuring that SCLT can continue to safeguard the natural beauty and biodiversity of Sheridan County for future generations.

**YOUR ROLE IN SCLT'S FUTURE:** Each trail we blaze, acre we preserve, historic story we tell, and program we offer echoes the commitment of our community and friends like you. By considering a shift to giving through your DAF, you are not only embracing an advantageous giving strategy but also reinforcing your role in the enduring stewardship of the land we all treasure.

Get started with your DAF gift today by scanning the QR code or visiting [SheridanCLT.org/Get-Involved/Ways-To-Give](https://SheridanCLT.org/Get-Involved/Ways-To-Give).





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**SheridanCLT.org**



*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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**July 10: WyoGives 2024**

The fifth annual statewide day of giving known as WyoGives is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10. Last year, kind people who care - like you - raised more than \$4 million for nonprofits across Wyoming. That includes 129 gifts from community friends like you that raised \$50,913.02 to connect people to nature, the outdoors, land, history, and the places we all love in Sheridan County! Thank you!

That kindness is inspiring! This year, we are excited to announce two matches meant to inspire even more kindness. **Carol and Sam Mavrakis of The Seidler Foundation will match the first \$10,000 in gifts made online and offline before July 12.**

The **Hughes Charitable Foundation will match the first \$10,000** in gifts made **only on the WyoGives.org webpage on July 10.**

All gifts will be used to connect more people to land and history in Sheridan County! **Make your WyoGives gift today using the QR Code or visit [SheridanCLT.org/Wyo-Gives-2024/](https://SheridanCLT.org/Wyo-Gives-2024/).**



**August 28: SCLT Backyard BBQ**

The end of February marked a big moment for SCLT - we landed in our beautiful new-to-us home along Big Goose Creek!

Of course, we could not move into a new home and not invite our friends over to celebrate. On August 28, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., you are invited to visit us at 14 Lane Lane for a fun-filled open house we are calling the SCLT Backyard BBQ. We're cooking up a night of fun as we celebrate a new home that will connect people, land, history, and the places they love for generations. It will feature guided hikes, a raffle, games, BBQ, and live music from Tris Munsick. Free to attend. We'd love to see you! Please RSVP to help us plan. **RSVP using the QR Code or visit [SheridanCLT.org/Events/SCLT-Backyard-BBQ/](https://SheridanCLT.org/Events/SCLT-Backyard-BBQ/).**

