

# High Desert News



SWCCD Office

**We've Moved! Stop By, Say Hi!**

**You can now find us at our new location in Green River:**

**550 Uinta Drive, STE E**

**Green River, WY 82935**

**(Back of the Golden Hour Senior Center)**

**We have a new phone number: 307-875-4995**

**Where to Find Us Online: [www.swccd.us](http://www.swccd.us) / Find us on Facebook**

Please join us at our next Board Meeting. The SWCCD Board typically meets the first Thursday of every month at 4:00 p.m. (Next Meeting: September 9). Come visit and see our new office!

**Check out these new Reports: Bitter Creek Annual Report / Watershed Based Plan**

The Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek Watershed Management Plan and Implementation Project 2020 Annual Report and the Bitter Creek Watershed Based Plan are both available on the district's website at:

[www.swccd.us/bitter-creek-watershed.php](http://www.swccd.us/bitter-creek-watershed.php)

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Larry Folks

## Meet our new Supervisor: Larry Folks

*NEW APPOINTMENT* to the SWCCD Board of Supervisors - Larry Folks was nominated by the SWCCD Board and approved at the April Board of Agriculture meeting. This was to fill the rural position vacated by Mary Thoman until November 2022. Larry has lived in Sweetwater

County his entire life at Salt Wells Ranch and has been involved in ranching, agriculture and 40 plus years in the oil and gas industry. Larry is excited to be a part of the SWCCD and believes it is important to have a strong and versatile Board. SWCCD WELCOMES LARRY!

## BITTER CREEK WATERSHED WATER QUALITY MONITORING 2021

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Tom Burris, Chairman  
Rural Member  
Jean Dickinson, Treasurer  
Urban Member  
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary  
Rural Member  
Larry Folks, Rural Member

### OFFICE STAFF

Karen Pecheny, District  
Administrator

### NRCS FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Jeff Lewis, District  
Conservationist;  
Courtney Thomas, Soil  
Conservationist – 79 Winston Dr.  
Ste 110, Rock Springs, WY 82901

**Bitter Creek Watershed Based Plan** An implementation plan has been developed that outline management measures that the SWCCD and the Bitter Creek Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group (BKWAG) may take to initiate water quality improvement projects over a seven-year period (through 2027). As part of the district's management measures that are included in the Watershed-Based Plan, the Sweetwater County Conservation District will be conducting water quality sampling in September 2021 on project legacy sites upstream, within and downtown of Rock Springs. Five sites will be on Bitter Creek and three on Killpecker Creek. Sampling results and field observations will be compared to historic data to evaluate whether changes are occurring. Data collected will be added to the project data for use as WDEQ assesses and develops Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL's) or site-specific criteria for the chloride impairment in the watershed and also for use as E. coli TMDLs are assessed and reviewed. Monitoring management will include coordination with WDEQ to select historic monitoring sites for use, add monitoring sites to the program, and determine appropriate sampling frequencies and timing.

The monitoring data will be used along with historic watershed data by EDE Consultants, LLC. to assist SWCCD in addressing the chloride impairment studies and planning and implementing mitigation practices developed according to watershed-based planning efforts. Monitoring is an important tool to document changes in water quality over time and provides credible data for prioritizing projects.



## Creating Defensible Space

**D**efensible space is the space between a structure and wildland area that creates a sufficient buffer to slow or halt the spread of fire to a structure. It protects the home from igniting due to direct flame or radiant heat. Defensible space is to help protect a structure during a wildland fire.

You can create defensible space by removing weeds, brush, and other vegetation from around your property.

Thinning and pruning trees and shrubs

- Reduce surface fuels under the trees
- Removing slash from clean-up and any down debris
- Grass and weeds mowing shorter than 6 inches
- Raking pine needles and twigs away from your house
- Getting rid of the branches that overhang the roof and chimney
- Cleaning roof, gutters from pine needles
- Do not store firewood and other flammable material close to the house

## Management Measures Implementation

The Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan provides planning and methodology to improve water quality within the Bitter Creek watershed in southwestern Wyoming. Oversight for preparation of this plan was provided by the Bitter Creek Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group (BKWAG). Compilation and assembly of the plan was conducted through the SWCCD.

## What is a Conservation District?

Conservation Districts are government entities that provide technical assistance and tools to manage and protect land and water resources in U.S. states and insular areas. There are more than 3,000 in the United States. Depending on the state, they may also be known as soil and water conservation districts, soil conservation districts, resource conservation districts, or other similar names. Nationally and within each state, the districts are generally coordinated by non-governmental associations. District borders often coincide with county borders.

Sweetwater County  
Conservation District

550 Uinta Drive, Ste E  
307-875-4995  
[admin@swccd.us](mailto:admin@swccd.us)

*Working Together to Protect,  
Conserve and Improve our County's  
Natural Resources*

Find us on the Web:  
[Sweetwater County Conservation  
District \(swccd.us\)](http://Sweetwater County Conservation District (swccd.us))



### Tree & Shrub Seedling Sale

Never too early to start thinking about Trees and Shrubs. Look for our conservation grade Tree and Shrub Annual Sale Applications. Start thinking about trees and bushes you want to plant in the spring! Conservation Grade Tree and Shrub Annual Seedling Sale begins in November/December.

Would you like information faster? Please send us your email at [admin@swccd.us](mailto:admin@swccd.us) or call us at: 307-875-4995

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Sweetwater County Conservation District is to provide for conservation of the soil, and soil and water resources of this county, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion and for flood prevention or the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and thereby to stabilize ranching and farming operations, to preserve natural resources, protect the tax base, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, preserve wildlife, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the this County.  
(Ref.: Wyoming Statutes Title 11. Agriculture, Livestock and Other Animals § W.S. 11-16-103 et seq.)

Sweetwater County  
Conservation District  
550 Uinta Dr. Ste E  
Green River, WY 82935



Address