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# High Desert News

# August 2023



## current topics >>>

### Bitter Creek Water Quality Monitoring Updates 2023

EDE made site visits to fourteen historic project site locations on 08/29/22 and 08/30/22 and collected water quality samples at eight of them. Field chemistry data and inorganic and E. coli water quality samples were collected. Samples were shipped to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Analytical Services Laboratory in Laramie for analysis of chloride and the project inorganic sampling suite, and samples were dropped off at Wyoming Analytical Laboratories Incorporated in Rock Springs for analysis of Total coliform and E. coli

For sampling results: [Microsoft Word - Bitter Creek August 2022 EDE Monitoring.docx \(swccd.us\)](#)

## Bitter Creek Watershed - Reports

August 2022 EDE Bitter Creek Watershed Site Visits and Sampling

2022 Bitter Creek Annual Report Both are available on the district's website at: [Bitter Creek Watershed | Sweetwater County, WY - SWCCD](#)

Sweetwater County Conservation District (SWCCD) has conducted monitoring from 2004 through 2022, currently under the Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan (BCWBP) Monitoring is done to review impairment listings, catalog water quality and quantity and stream channel conditions, and assess management measure (MM) implementation locations and effectiveness.

Continued monitoring allows the SWCCD to evaluate long-term changes in water quality associated with the installation of improvement practices and increased *awareness* of water quality concerns.

A water quality and site monitoring trip will tentatively occur in September/October 2023, on seven project legacy sites. Our water quality sampling work would not be possible without those local landowners who grant us access to sample on their property. We thank you for your support!

At the sites sampled, E. coli concentrations on 08/30/22 were greatest in the center of Rock Springs at BC-4 and KC-1, 2, and 5 (consistent with the September 2021 and June 2022 results). Chloride concentrations in Killpecker Creek remain high (relative to upper Bitter and Killpecker Creeks watersheds historic values) and chloride concentrations in Bitter Creek were within historic norms. Water quality results remained within historic norms.

A Bitter Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group (BKWAG) meeting was held in May 2023 to review project findings and confirm 2023 implementation planning. Planning was done with input from SWCCD, BKWAG, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) and the district's consultant: EDE Consultants LLC (EDE).



Community >>>

# Truman Elementary Career Day

*The District along with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Trout Unlimited attended Truman Elementary Career Day*



*Pictured above:  
Courtney Thomas, NRCS  
Karen Pecheny, SWCCD  
Hillary Walrath, Trout Unlimited*

*The Truman students rotated through stations set up outside and in the school gym. This year we were able to teach elementary kids (using the Enviroscope Model) about water quality, pollution, erosion, and different fish species in the Green River.*



## FFA wins Chapter of the Year Award

The Green River FFA Chapter was named Chapter of the Year at the Wyoming State Convention. Green River had several students and teams finish in the top 10 in their contests. Green River students were excited at their level of success during the competition. One of the teams gave a presentation at the SWCCD Office and we congratulate all of the winners.

### Sweetwater County Conservation District

Address: 550 Uinta Drive, Ste E  
Green River  
Phone: 307-875-4995

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

Find us on the Web:

[Sweetwater County Conservation District](http://Sweetwater County Conservation District)  
([swccd.us](http://swccd.us))



*Green River FFA students presenting a  
Corner Crossing Debate at the SWCCD Office*



# Community Enhancement Grants

**Spring 2024:** Do you have a great idea for a conservation project? The Community Enhancement Grants will be out in early spring of 2024. These grants help provide opportunities to groups, schools and organizations by working together on projects to enhance our natural resources and improve community awareness and projects that address soil erosion, water quality, vegetation, energy conservation, wildlife habitat, natural resource education or that beautify the natural landscape along public corridors are all eligible.

Applications can be written for up to \$5,000.00

For more information go to: [Community Enhancement Grants - swccdsite](http://Community Enhancement Grants - swccdsite)



## Board Meetings

*The Board meets the first*

*Thursday of every month.*

*The public is invited to attend.*

*550 Uinta Drive, Ste E*

*Green River, WY 82935*



Truman Elementary Students

## SWCCD Board of Supervisors

Tom Burris, Chairman  
Larry Folks, Vice Chairman  
Jean Dickinson, Treasurer  
Stephanie Anderson, Secretary  
Henry Bliss, Member

*ask the experts >>>*

**Q:** *What are some of the responsibilities for District Board Members?*

**A:** **By Statute,** Conservation Districts Boards are the voice of all the landowners and the cooperators in the district. This puts district officials in an enviable position of tremendous responsibility. Locally led conservation implies local leadership. Conservation District Board members are the only locally elected board charged specifically with the responsibility of representing local people on natural resource issues.



## Office Staff

Karen Pecheny,  
District Administrator  
Email: [admin@swccd.us](mailto:admin@swccd.us)  
Ph: 307-875-4995

Natural Resource  
Conservation Service  
(NRCS) Staff

Jeff Lewis  
District Conservationist  
Courtney Thomas  
Soil Conservationist  
Ph: 307-362-3062



think trees...

## 2024 Tree and 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! (2024) Conservation Grade Tree and Shrub Annual Seedling Sale begins in November/December 2023

Contact us at **307-875-4995**

Don't forget to get your orders in early, as certain species run out quickly!

Applications will be available for download on our website:  
[SWCCD Tree Sales Program | Sweetwater County, WY - SWCCD](#)

Email: [admin@swccd.us](mailto:admin@swccd.us) or call us at: 307-875-4995

[www.swccd.us](http://www.swccd.us)



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



coming soon >>>

### Tree Applications

Tree Sale Applications-coming soon!  
September 7: SWCCD Board Meeting  
September: WACD Area Meetings  
November: WACD Convention  
Future Bitter Creek (BKWAG)  
Meeting --- May 2024