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2023 Bitter Creek Water Quality Monitoring Review

During 2023, the Sweetwater County Conservation District (SWCCD) continued to conduct work within the Bitter Creek watershed in accordance with the Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan (BCWBP). Observation monitoring was conducted in May by EDE Consultants and October by Water and Environmental Technologies (WET) at select historic locations across the Bitter Creek watershed. Additionally, surface water quality monitoring was conducted in October by WET at the project legacy sites.

For sampling results: [Microsoft Word - Bitter Creek October 2023 WET Monitoring \(swccd.us\)](#)



Bitter Creek Watershed Project Annual Report

The Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan (BCWBP) and Implementation Project - 2023 Bitter Creek Annual Report (May 2024) is available on the district's website at: [SWCCD-BCWBP-IP-2023-Annual-Report.pdf](#)

2024 Bitter Creek Watershed Project.

The SWCCD has overseen monitoring of Bitter Creek and its tributaries from 2004 into 2024, currently under the BCWBP. Monitoring is done to review Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) impairment listings for E. coli and chloride, catalog water quality and quantity and stream channel conditions, and assess management measure implementation locations and effectiveness. Project oversight is by the Bitter Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group (BKWAG), which includes representatives of government and private interests within the watershed. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) document addressing the E. coli impairment was completed in 2018. Evaluation of the chloride impairment continues into 2024; WDEQ is conducting analysis to decide whether to address the chloride impairment under a TMDL or by using site-specific criteria.

Picture: Public Notice Sign – BC-4

Pathogen Sampling in Bitter Creek

SWCCD is conducting pathogen sampling for E. coli in Bitter and Killpecker Creeks within the city of Rock Springs during the summer of 2024 to investigate if E. coli concentrations warrant notifications under the WDEQ Waterborne Pathogen Public Notification Process. WWC Engineering is conducting sampling at four sites (three on Bitter Creek and one on Killpecker Creek) for the SWCCD in cooperation with the Sweetwater County Board of Health, Wyoming Department of Health and WDEQ.

This monitoring is being conducted on an every other week frequency with a goal of allowing assessment of whether concentrations of E. coli at the sample locations exceed standards for recreational use as defined by WDEQ. To date E. coli concentrations at two of the four sites have been found to exceed WDEQ single sample maximum concentrations for the summer recreation season (235 organisms per 100 mL). Sweetwater County Board of Health is posting signage at the sites where the exceedances are observed which advise the public to avoid contact with the water.

Bitter Creek Meeting

A Bitter Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group (BKWAG) meeting was held in May 2024. A project update was provided from WWC Engineering encompassing review of the Bitter Creek Watershed-Based Plan, data collection planning, stream impairment status, need for public notification and participation and development of Best Management Practices (BMP).

BKWAG will continue to advance the Watershed-Based Plan Implementation Measures which include spring (May/June) and fall (August/September) synoptic water quality sampling.

The committee is also interested in the chloride TMDL or site-specific criteria development and on planning to improve both the chloride and *E. coli* stream impairments.

BKWAG continues to emphasize the importance of, and seek involvement of, local stakeholders in the project in addition to continued cooperation with the city, county, and WDEQ. Planning was done for 2024 and winter/spring 2025 project work with input from SWCCD, BKWAG, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) and the district's consultant: WWC Engineering.



Tom Burris, SWCCD Board Chairman



Sweetwater County Conservation District

Address: 550 Uinta Drive, Ste E
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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
\(swccd.us\)](http://swccd.us)

Bitter Creek Drop Structure Tour

A Bitter Creek Drop Structure Tour was held in July. SWCCD Supervisors, SWC and Little Snake River Engineers and staff, WWC Engineering personnel and SWC Commissioner attended. The goal was to bring everyone together to brainstorm ideas and give the SWCCD Board some guidance on next steps and direction on how best to construct and make repairs on the structure. Discussion included rehabilitation of the structure and stability control.



Bitter Creek Drop Structure Tour

*Pictured: Robb Slaughter, SWC Commission; Rick Deuell,
Russ Hamilton, Norm Hargis WWC Engineering; Mark
Blakley, Little Snake River Engineer*

Community Enhancement Grants

Spring 2025: Do you have a great idea for a conservation project? The Community Enhancement Grants will be out in early spring of 2025. 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](https://www.swccd.org/Community-Enhancement-Grants)



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*



2024 Grant Recipient: Green River Greenbelt Task Force

Left to right: Todd Graham, Henry Bliss, John Freeman, Katie Duncombe, Karen Pecheny

Did you know >>>

Q: *Did you know SWCCD has a Land & Resource Use Plan & Policy?*

A: Yes. Sweetwater County Conservation District has a Land and Resource Use Plan and Policy. Sweetwater County has nearly seven million acres of land of which seventy percent (70%) is public land. The top thirty (30) tax producers who provide most of the revenue and jobs for Sweetwater County come from the mineral industries (trona and oil and gas). SWCCD has an approved and filed Land and Resource Use Plan and Policy that provides standing at the table in protecting the tax base of the County while providing guidance on natural resource use decisions. SWCCD Website: [Land and Resource Use Plan and Policy | Sweetwater County, WY - SWCCD](https://www.swccd.org/Land-and-Resource-Use-Plan-and-Policy) 2020-2025



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Jeff Lewis
District Conservationist
Courtney Thomas
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think trees...

2025 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 of 2025. Conservation Grade Tree and Shrub Annual Seedling Sale begins in November/December 2024

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



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

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

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

Email: admin@swccd.us or call us at: 307-875-4995

www.swccd.us



coming soon >>>

Tree Applications

2025 Tree Sale Applications-coming soon!

September 4: SWCCD Board Meeting

*September 25- WACD Area Meeting
Green River*

*November -19-22: WACD Convention
- Jackson*

*2024 Bitter Creek (BKWAG) -Meeting
--- May 2025*