

SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1996 - 1999 The district actively monitored the Tongue River and tributaries from the Town of Ranchester upstream to the Forest Service boundary.

2002 The Tongue River, from Goose Creek downstream, was listed for a temperature impairment. Columbus Creek, Five Mile Creek, Little Tongue River and Smith Creek were listed for fecal coliform impairments and Prairie Dog Creek was listed as impaired for manganese. Wolf Creek was listed as threatened due to fecal.

2003 -2007 The district has conducted interim monitoring since 2003 on a three year rotation. A monitoring report was submitted to DEQ in June 2004.

2004 An impairment for fecal coliform was added to Prairie dog. The North Tongue River within the Big Horn National forest was listed for fecal coliform.

2006 – Interim monitoring was conducted. The watershed boundary was expanded to include two additional stations on the Tongue River downstream from the Town of Ranchester. The monitoring report is being finalized.

2004-2007 The US Forest Service is conducting monitoring on the listed portion of the North Tongue River.

2000 The Tongue River Watershed Plan was completed.

2007 – An

update to Tongue River watershed plan completed. The Forest Service, and a number of other entities, are developing a watershed plan to address the North Tongue listing. The district initiated monitoring in Prairie Dog drainage.

On the ground implementation

Since 2001, five AFO, six stream restoration/riparian improvement, and four septic projects have been completed in the Tongue River watershed. There are two additional AFO and one septic project in progress, and two stream restoration projects are under contract. In the Prairie Dog Creek watershed, four septics and one AFO project are completed. A riparian improvement project is in progress and one stream restoration project is under contract.

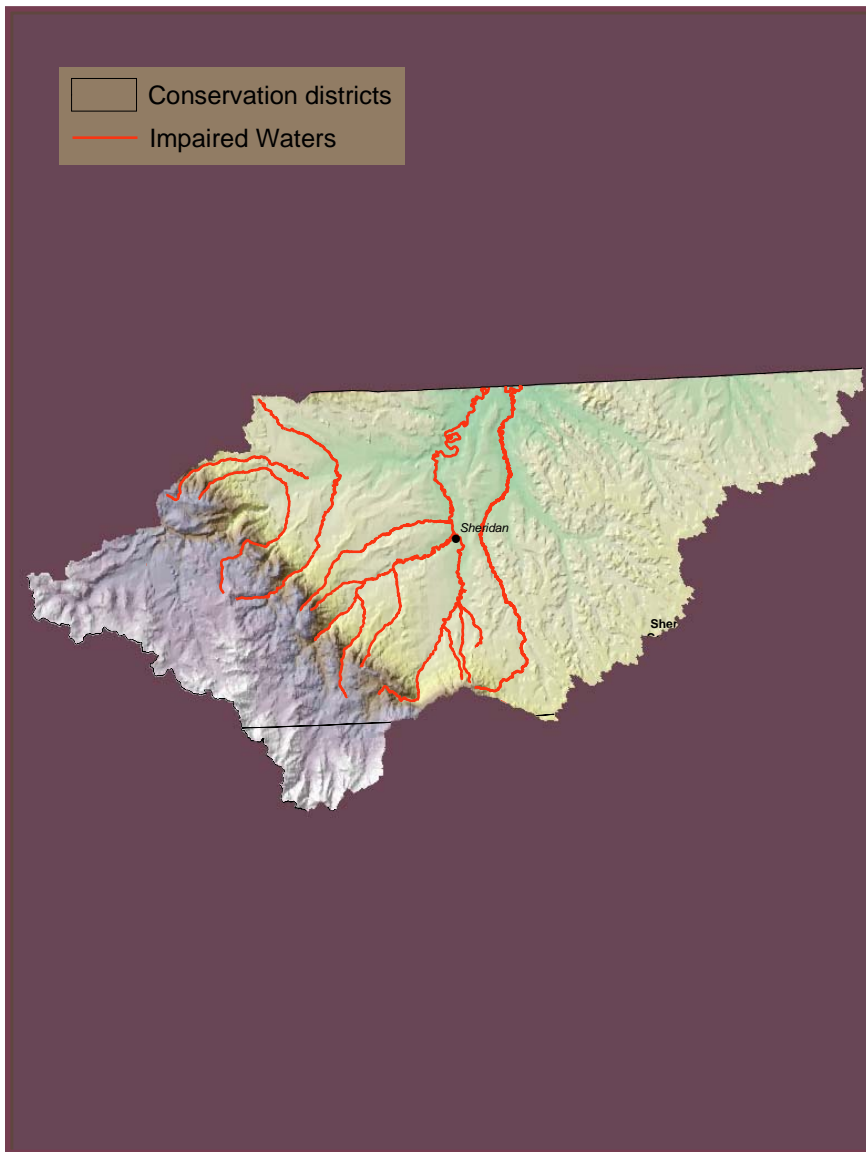
Information & Education Outreach

In addition to workshops, in 2003, brochures, including information on assessment, planning and opportunities for projects, were published and distributed to 1,300 residents. A video describing septic system replacement and design considerations was produced. In July 2007, the annual watershed newsletter was distributed to 1,300 residents. In addition, three brochures were distributed to 1,300 residents highlighting three improvement projects.

Since 2003, there have over 100 students participate in the annual water monitoring days.



TONGUE RIVER WATERSHED



Watershed investment

Local	\$ 39,581
State	\$370,640
Federal	\$613,276
Private	\$272,315

Total **\$1,295,812**

Contributors

Sheridan County Conservation District
 Department of Agriculture
 DEQ/EPA
 Water Development Commission

Partners

The Tongue River Watershed Steering Committee ranged from four to fifteen land-owners and residents during planning sessions and public meetings, including representatives from the Town of Ranchester. The North Tongue effort is led by the Forest Service and includes the grazing permittees, DEQ, the district, NRCS, Game & Fish, and Guardians of the Range representatives.

