



# Chapter 4: Natural and Scenic Resources and Environment

## THEME: SUSTAIN NATURAL AND SCENIC RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

### WHY IS THIS THEME IMPORTANT?

*Sheridan County is a place with great natural beauty and ecological diversity with abundant and diverse wildlife, scenic beauty, water, and other resources that are important to residents and visitors—both for the economy and for a sustainable and livable community. The landscapes are broad, and range from the Bighorn National Forest and rugged mountains and hills to the west to the mineral-rich, rolling plains on the east. Riparian landscapes occur in the saturated soils along the county’s rivers and creeks. The riparian areas are important habitat to the wildlife species in the county, serving as migration corridors, shelter and breeding areas, and they also filter and store surface water.*

*Since the first Comprehensive Plan, the county officials, residents, and communities have repeatedly identified environmental quality, natural resources for food, fiber, energy, recreation, and wildlife as important aspects of Sheridan County and mainstays of its economy and way of life. The county aims to sustain these important resources through a variety of measures. The goals and policies in this section suggest identifying and protecting sensitive county resources and avoiding placing development in hazardous areas.*



Since the 1982 Comprehensive Plan, the community has repeatedly identified environmental quality and natural resources as being important to sustain.

## **Summary of This Theme's Topics**

This theme addresses the following topics:

- √ Clean air and water;
- √ Retention of productive agricultural land;
- √ Integrity of riparian areas;
- √ Land conservation and open space priorities;
- √ Viable wildlife habitat;
- √ Avoiding development in hazardous areas;
- √ Scenic quality and night sky;
- √ Protection of mineral resources, while mitigating impacts from extraction;
- √ Outdoor recreation resources; and
- √ Energy efficiency.

## **CHAPTER CONTENTS**

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This chapter contains natural resource maps (Natural Resources and Hazards) as well as goals and policies.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE PLAN MAPS**

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### **Resource Conservation Map**

Figure 4: Resource Conservation Area, includes the resources that are important to protect, including riparian areas (generally within the 100-year floodplain along the major rivers and streams), Big Horn Foothills Resource Conservation Area, and Groundwater Protection Areas, described below.

### **Big Horn Foothills Resource Conservation Area**

The Big Horn Foothills Resource Conservation Area is an area proposed for greater level of conservation and protection because of its scenic, natural resource, and wildlife values. The boundary illustrated on the Future Land Use Plan is based on the work conducted for the 1982 Plan. The Planning and Zoning Commission at that time agreed that elevations above 4,600 feet should generally be designated as foothills conservation area. In addition, the county extended the boundary below 4,600 feet where important wildlife areas existed—especially the critical elk range on private or state-owned lands. They used a series of photographs to determine scenic viewshed areas of the Big Horn Mountains. This boundary also encompasses current crucial wildlife ranges, as illustrated on the “Wildlife Habitat” map (Figure A-4).

### **Class 5 Groundwater Vulnerability Area**

The Class 5 Groundwater Vulnerability Area is intended for greater management of potential groundwater contamination sources (including septic systems and stormwater runoff) and development density. Groundwater vulnerability refers to the relative speed that substances on the surface can reach and pollute the groundwater supply. Class 5 Groundwater Vulnerability tends to be in locations where the greatest development pressures have been occurring. Class 5 Groundwater Vulnerability Areas are mapped with the following factors present that could contribute to susceptible groundwater: (1) depth to groundwater, (2) geology, (3) soils, (4) hydrogeology, (5) net aquifer recharge, (6) slope, and (7) vadose zone characteristics. (Source: Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Division, the University of Wyoming's Water Resources Center, the Wyoming State Geologic Survey and the US Environmental Protection Agency).

### **Hazardous Areas Map**

Figure 5 shows the hazardous areas in the county, including those that are further described in Appendix A including the 100-Year floodplain, steep slope areas (20% or greater), landslide areas, faults, abandoned mine sites, and known subsidence areas.

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Resource Conservation (Figure 4)



Hazardous Areas (Figure 5)



## NATURAL AND SCENIC RESOURCES GOALS AND POLICIES

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**Goal 2.1: The county will conserve and restore its riparian corridors and rivers and streams.**

***Policy 2.1 a: Protect riparian corridors***

Identify and map riparian corridors and develop tools to protect these important areas. Riparian corridors along the Tongue River, Big and Little Goose Creeks, Piney Creek, Soldier Creek, and tributaries are examples of stream reaches that will remain as connected, viable habitats.

***Policy 2.1 b: Preserve areas with significant vegetation***

Preserve areas with significant vegetation, including riparian areas, wetlands, threatened or endangered species, and other vegetation types. Identify these areas before and during the development review process and protect them.

***Policy 2.1 c: Protect wetlands and sensitive vegetation***

Establish buffer zones between new development and wetlands or sensitive vegetation areas at the time of development to protect these resources.

**Goal 2.2: The county will maintain its overall water quality and quantity.**

***Policy 2.2 a: Limit additional development in vulnerable groundwater areas***

The county will direct development using on-site septic systems away from highly vulnerable groundwater areas (i.e., Class 5 Groundwater Vulnerability Area) and require low densities of development in these areas.

***Policy 2.2 b: In areas with High Groundwater Vulnerability, and where reasonable, require new development to connect to sewer or adequate wastewater treatment systems***

New development will connect to central sewer when such service is available or adequate wastewater treatment systems approved by the state in areas with high groundwater vulnerability (i.e., Class 5 Groundwater Vulnerability Areas, as shown on the Resource Conservation map, Figure 4).

***Policy 2.2 c: Protect aquifer recharge areas***

Identify and map important aquifer recharge areas. Take necessary steps to prevent water contamination in these areas. No major point source pollution sources will occur in noteworthy aquifer recharge or vulnerable groundwater areas, such as Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) or discharging industries.

**Policy 2.2 d: Encourage wastewater treatment systems in areas experiencing water contamination**

The construction of central wastewater treatment systems will be encouraged in areas experiencing elevated surface or ground water bacterial contamination issues.

**Policy 2.2 e: Follow storm water design standards**

Adopt new county standards addressing storm water design for all major development.

**Policy 2.2 f: Promote water conservation**

The county will work with partners in the community to encourage water conservation and support drought-tolerant planting and use of non-potable water for landscaping.

**Goal 2.3: The county will conserve the Big Horn foothills.****Policy 2.3 a: Support efforts to maintain the Big Horn Foothills Resource Conservation Area**

Lands designated as Big Horn Foothills Resource Conservation Area (See Figure 4) are important for scenic, water quality, and wildlife habitat values. The county will continue to support conservation efforts and groups in this area and will periodically assess whether the 1982 criteria and boundaries encompass all crucial wildlife habitat ranges and are achieving that aim.

**Policy 2.3 b: Very low density development in Big Horn foothills**

The county will discourage development that is inconsistent with the Agricultural/Resource area or conservation of the Big Horn foothills and allow very low density development and conservation.

**Goal 2.4: The county will facilitate conservation of productive irrigated agricultural land.****Policy 2.4 a: Support and enhance efforts to conserve agricultural lands**

The county will continue to support efforts of property owners and non-governmental organizations to sustain working farms and ranches—especially large, intact, and contiguous properties with productive and irrigated agriculture.

**Policy 2.4 b: Encourage development that allows for continued agricultural uses**

Encourage development patterns that will allow the continuation of agricultural land use, protecting the county's rural heritage.

**Policy 2.4 c: Minimize impacts from development on irrigated agricultural lands**

Maintain the integrity of highly productive agricultural lands throughout the county's Agricultural/Resource area, as designated on the Future Land Use Plan, by minimizing the intrusion and poor placement of non-agricultural uses that make it difficult for agricultural operations to continue. The county will prevent adjacent uses such as industries that impact a



This Plan encourages conserving irrigated agricultural lands.

neighboring agricultural use due to noise, lighting, dust, or water pollution.

**Policy 2.4 d: Support agricultural-related businesses**

Promote and make it easy for landowners to establish agricultural businesses related to ranching, livestock production, and farming in areas outside of the community growth areas. Such businesses might include guest ranches, outfitting, hunting and fishing, timbering, and home-based businesses. Energy development, such as wind farms, will be considered as industrial uses and should meet industrial criteria. However, small-scale energy production that is compatible with agricultural uses may be appropriate in the Agricultural/Resource area with less rigorous review.

**Policy 2.4 e: Support Continuation of Adjudicated Water Rights**

Ensure that existing adjudicated water rights used for agricultural purposes are not diminished.

**Goal 2.5: The county will establish conservation priorities for open space.**

**Policy 2.5 a: Establish open space priorities**

Work with county citizens to identify lands that are priorities for conservation, such as the following:

- Important River and Stream Corridors,
- Unique Natural Areas
- Crucial Wildlife Habitats,
- Community Separators,
- Land for Future Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and
- Irrigated Agricultural Lands.

**Policy 2.5 b: Use a variety of implementation tools to achieve open space protection**

Work with property owners and conservation organizations and land trusts to create a protected and cohesive system of open space. Use a variety of flexible, incentive-based mechanisms to conserve resources, including public and private partnerships to achieve open space. Provide incentives, such as density bonuses, density transfers, and other measures that promote voluntary protection of open space. Consider whether voters will support funding to acquire priority open spaces.

**Goal 2.6: The county will support wildlife habitat protection.**

**Policy 2.6 a: Minimize development impacts on crucial wildlife habitat**

Ensure that new development protects wildlife habitat and corridors and is wildlife-friendly as possible through proper placement and design of structures, roads, utilities, and fencing. This will include consideration of crucial ranges for elk, deer, and moose, as identified on the Wildlife Habitat map when development decisions are made. (Note: The crucial wildlife habitat for Elk, Mule Deer, and Moose is generally contained

within the Big Horn Foothills Conservation Area or on public lands. See Figure 4. See also Figure A-5 in the Appendix.)

**Policy 2.6 b: Coordinate with wildlife agencies to avoid wildlife/development conflicts**

Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to identify, conserve and protect fish habitat and wildlife crucial ranges identified on the “Wildlife Habitat” map. The county will support policies to allow archery hunting in developed areas, restrict planting vegetation that attracts wildlife, and avoid development of riparian areas.

**Goal 2.7: The county will steer development out of harms way—avoiding hazardous areas.**

**Policy 2.7 a: Avoid development being placed in unstable areas**

Avoid public and private development in potentially hazardous areas, such as steep slopes, landslide areas, faults, (identified on the “Slopes and Landslides” map), known subsidence areas and abandoned mine sites (identified on the “Mines and Potentially Exploitable Coal” map), and wildfire hazard areas.

**Policy 2.7 b: Direct development away from the 100-year floodplain to the extent possible**

If alternative locations exist, development will be directed away from the 100 yr floodplain (mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and generally depicted on the Future Land Use Plan and Resource Conservation Map, Figure 4) unless the development is for low-impact recreation, wildlife management, open space, or agricultural purposes. County will continue to require flood mitigation for development in the floodplain.



2007 wildfire in Big Horn foothills.

**Goal 2.8: The county will maintain its scenic quality and night skies.**

**Policy 2.8 a: Protect visual quality of the county, including hillsides and ridges**

Key natural landscape features including bluffs, ridgelines, escarpments, major drainage features, rock outcroppings, valley walls and other scenic topographic features should be protected.

**Policy 2.8 b: Avoid development that is visually intrusive when viewed from major public rights-of-way**

Design techniques, such as architectural design, site design, and native landscapes are techniques to protect the scenic nature of different areas in the County. For instance, structures should blend in with the natural landscape and development should be placed so as not to be a prominent feature on ridgelines (as viewed from major public rights of way). The County’s development regulations will establish specific measures.

**Policy 2.8 c: Prevent future light pollution**

Dark night skies are important to many people in the region and to its scenic and economic values. The county will reduce light pollution through standards to address lighting levels and shielding.

**Goal 2.9: The county will protect its mineral resources.****Policy 2.9 a: Avoid development-related impacts on resource extraction**

The location of new development will not adversely affect the viability of mineral extraction vital to the region's economy. Development applications will be reviewed for potential conflict with future mineral use or extractions. If conflict is possible, development will be planned to allow use or extraction of the mineral resource.

**Goal 2.10: Industry will mitigate the impacts of mineral extraction and production.****Policy 2.10 a: Mitigate mineral extraction impacts**

The county will work with the appropriate regulatory agencies, including the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to ensure that mineral extraction activities and oils or gas drilling will mitigate impacts through appropriate location and operational criteria as well as reclamation efforts.

**Goal 2.11: The county will enhance outdoor recreation resources and opportunities.****Policy 2.11 a: Sustain the county's recreational resources**

Continue to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities and tourism opportunities in a manner that sustains the county's resources and contributes positively to the economy.

**Policy 2.11 b: Provide and retain access to public lands**

Retain existing access to public lands and, where appropriate, provide additional access to serve the recreational needs of county residents and visitors.

**Policy 2.11 c: Identify funding for open space, trails, and recreation**

Prioritize open space, trails, and recreation projects. Identify and direct funding toward high priority trails, open space, and recreation projects.

**Goal 2.12: The county will encourage energy-efficient development.****Policy 2.12 a: Encourage focused, compact development subdivisions**

This plan encourages focused, compact development, and where appropriate, mixed land uses to encourage energy efficient travel.

***Policy 2.12 b: Encourage energy-efficient buildings***

The county will encourage new development to be built in compact and clustered development patterns. In addition, the county work with the private sector to encourage “Green” buildings for new development and for new public buildings for instance buildings that meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards and certification).



# Chapter 5: Economic Opportunities and Jobs

## **THEME: SUPPORT ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND JOBS FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES**

### **WHY IS THIS THEME IMPORTANT?**

*Traditionally, Sheridan County's economy has been resource-based: ranching, mining, railroads, and more recently, energy. Consequently, the county has a history of economic fluctuations (boom and bust cycles), as industries expand and decline. The intent of this Plan is to create conditions for a sustainable economy that reflects the unique characteristics of communities in Sheridan County, the wildlife and natural resource values of residents and visitors, and the outdoor recreational opportunities of the county. A sustainable economy is one that is healthy and strong across multiple sectors meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations attain economic stability and prosperity.*

*Today, the county's economy now is more diverse, and as a result somewhat more stable than in past decades. A higher proportion of service-based jobs has contributed to this stability, as has development of a "lifestyle" economy. People are attracted to the quality of life in Sheridan County, but can live full- or part-time in the region without reliance on local jobs. This segment of the economy includes retirees, telecommuters, and those attracted by recreational opportunities.*

*Sheridan County aims to continue to achieve a more balanced and diverse economy that is a mix of resource-based jobs, farming and ranching, professional service jobs, and industries*



This chapter focuses on a diverse economy and jobs.

*that pay livable wages and that are a “good fit” with the environment and communities. Organizations in the region, such as Forward Sheridan, are focused on broadening and strengthening the economy and target industries. This theme seeks to reinforce the aim of strengthening the economy by aligning it with other aspects of this Plan, such as land use, resource conservation, and transportation.*

### **Summary of This Theme’s Topics**

This theme addresses the following topics:

- √ Supporting a diverse economy;
- √ Designating lands for jobs and industry;
- √ Promoting tourism; and
- √ Supporting community educational amenities to attract and retain a vibrant workforce.

## **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES GOALS AND POLICIES**

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**Goal 3.1: The county will help to facilitate job expansion and diversification.**

### **Policy 3.1 a: Support job expansion efforts of organizations in the region**

Continue to work with organizations such as Forward Sheridan, Chamber of Commerce, the municipalities, and local communities that are promoting business expansion and retention programs to diversify jobs and economic opportunities. Improve the image of Sheridan County as a place to do business, and also a great place to live.

### **Policy 3.1 b: Promote the recruitment of “good fit” industries**

Support recruitment of industries that build on the area’s strengths and contribute to a healthy environment. Examples are clean industries, those that focus on energy use or production (e.g., clean-coal technologies, etc), and those that build on niche or specialized clusters, such as the arts community, education, entrepreneurship, foundations, not-for-profits, healthcare, knowledge-based workers, history, and culture.

**Policy 3.1 c: Support industries that provide livable incomes and wages**

Support and promote the retention and recruitment of industries that provide livable wages.

**Policy 3.1 d: Support workforce housing in communities**

Support and promote affordable workforce housing in communities to make the county and communities attractive for business development opportunities.

**Goal 3.2: The county will establish adequate locations and criteria for future industry.****Policy 3.2 a: Identify appropriate locations for industrial uses**

The Future Land Use Plan designates locations for light and some heavy industry. The county will coordinate with communities to ensure adequate land and services are available to support industrial growth. Balance goals for jobs and industry with other community and environment goals. (See also Goal 1.5, *Industry in suitable locations*, and Chapter 3, Future Land Use Plan, for more direction on appropriate locations for heavy industry).

**Policy 3.2 b: Locate industry uses near major transportation facilities**

Encourage the location of new industrial development near major transportation facilities that have adequate capacity, while considering impacts to communities.

**Goal 3.3: The county will continue to be a tourism destination.****Policy 3.3 a: Enhance tourism opportunities**

Continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations to promote Sheridan County as a destination for visitors and tourists. Promote opportunities including expanding outdoor recreation, conserving open space and scenic qualities, expanding lodging and dining options, and showcasing history and culture. Maintain and protect scenic quality as seen from the Interstate.

**Goal 3.4: The county will support life-long learning to build and attract a sustainable workforce.****Policy 3.4 a: Coordinate with educational organizations to support training and learning opportunities for the region's workforce**

Continue to work with the school districts, Sheridan College, and private educational providers to expand opportunities for life-long learning to support an educated workforce. Continue to work with other organizations,



Expanding recreation and cultural options contribute to making Sheridan a destination.

such as Forward Sheridan, that are working to create a quality of life attractive to young workers and families.



# Chapter 6: Services and Facilities

## THEME: PROVIDE SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN AN EFFICIENT AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE MANNER

### WHY IS THIS THEME IMPORTANT?

*As Sheridan County grows, it aims to provide public facilities and services to current and future residents in a fiscally responsible manner and under consistent standards. Sheridan County is primarily responsible for road and bridge maintenance and construction, public safety, environmental quality oversight, and some social services. As the county grows, it is important that demands for additional services are balanced with the county's fiscal resources and capabilities. Generally, the municipalities provide urban services such as water and sewer, paved streets and sidewalks, parks, solid waste collection and management, and similar facilities. Other than its participation in the Sheridan Area Water Supply (SAWS) Joint Powers Board, Sheridan County does not provide these urban services and is not equipped to do so. Because of the variety of service providers, different parts of Sheridan County (i.e., urban and rural) experience different levels of service. For instance, the incorporated communities and their growth areas have urban services (municipal water and sewer, paved roads); whereas the rural parts of the county generally do not.*

*This Plan reinforces the historic distinction between city and county levels of service by guiding urban development into communities and their growth areas (see Theme 1, Maintain a Balanced Land Use Pattern). Other public districts provide services, such as fire protection and schools. Future urban growth in Sheridan County will occur only in locations that have appropriate municipal systems to accommodate it (i.e., water, sewer, transportation systems, and other essential services). Conversely, planned infrastructure improvements will only occur in locations where growth is desired or to mitigate existing environmental concerns. Other infrastructure, such as natural*

*gas, electricity, telephone, fiber optic lines, CATV, and broadband internet services will also need to be planned for in community growth areas as well as outlying areas.*

### **Summary of This Theme's Topics**

This theme addresses the following topics:

- √ Water and sewer services;
- √ Energy;
- √ Development pays for services;
- √ Fire protection, emergency services, and law enforcement;
- √ Schools;
- √ Social services;
- √ Libraries,
- √ Communication infrastructure; and
- √ Solid waste and landfill.



See Appendix C: *Water and Wastewater Conditions Influencing Growth*, for memo on water and wastewater utilities around the county.

## **SERVICES AND FACILITIES GOALS AND POLICIES**

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**Goal 4.1: The county will plan for public water and wastewater treatment systems.**

**Policy 4.1 a: Coordinate with incorporated municipalities, Sheridan Area Water System (SAWS), and other water and sewer districts**

The county will continue to work with municipalities, SAWS, and other districts to extend water and wastewater treatment facilities to accommodate future urban demands only in desired growth locations or to mitigate areas of known water contamination.

**Policy 4.1 b: Secure adequate water rights for future growth**

The county will assist with efforts of municipalities, districts, and SAWS to secure additional water rights that will meet forecasted community growth. Future development will provide water rights necessary to support it. The county will especially consider use of existing rights through the Lake DeSmet Counties Coalition Joint Powers Board whenever the need for additional water arises.

**Policy 4.1 c: Consider establishing improvement and service districts for developed areas that cannot be served by municipal sewer**

The county will work with residents in developed areas to encourage the formation of special districts in areas where septic systems threaten county groundwater resources, and municipal service is not feasible.

**Policy 4.1 d: Limit on-site septic systems in areas that are susceptible to groundwater contamination**

The county will discourage development in riparian areas and Class 5 Groundwater Vulnerability areas unless central sewer is available, and keep development density very low in vulnerable areas where sewer is not available.

**Policy 4.1 e: Promote replacement of failing on-site systems**

The county will continue to work with other agencies in the region to identify financing for, work with landowners, and to assist with replacement and upgrading of wastewater treatment for properties with failing on-site septic systems.

**Policy 4.1 f: Municipal water and sewer area around landfill.**

Within one-mile of the landfill expansion area the county and City of Sheridan will encourage connection to municipal water and sewer and discourage domestic wells and on-site septic systems in order to minimize future groundwater contamination concerns.

**Goal 4.2: The county will identify and preserve planned utility and transportation corridors.**

**Policy 4.2 a: Plan and preserve connected necessary water and sewer utility and road corridors**

The county will ensure that rights-of-way for future transportation and utilities corridors (i.e., Future Roadway Network shown on the County Road Network map in Chapter 7), are identified and reserved before development occurs.

**Goal 4.3: The county will facilitate future energy needs.**

**Policy 4.3 a: Work with energy providers to encourage a range of energy alternatives**

The county will work with the region's providers of electricity and natural gas to ensure that the needs of existing and future residents and businesses can continue to be met through a range of energy options (e.g., electricity, oil, gas, wind, solar, etc.) In scenic areas, utilities should be placed underground.

**Goal 4.4: New development will pay for needed facilities and services to serve it.**

**Policy 4.4 a: New development will pay for needed facilities and services.**

Adequate facilities and services will be provided at the time that development occurs, with new development paying for the associated costs for necessary facilities improvements and services. The county may wish to adopt concurrency requirements.



The county has six independent fire districts.

**Goal 4.5: Sheridan County will coordinate with fire protection, emergency service providers, and law enforcement to protect the safety and welfare of residents and visitors.**

**Policy 4.5 a: Coordinate with fire districts**

The county will continue to cooperate with the six independent fire districts to address wildland-urban interface issues and to balance fire suppression needs of new development while not reducing fire protection service levels to existing residents.

**Policy 4.5 b: Facilitate coordination between fire protection agencies**

The county encourages coordination between the various fire department and fire districts in such areas as service calls, communication, equipment and training.

**Policy 4.5 c: Ensure adequate fire protection to serve new development**

The county will only approve new development when adequate fire protection can be demonstrated by the applicant.

**Policy 4.5 d: Addressing and signage techniques that support fire protection**

Require adequate addressing and signage techniques for existing and new development, to ensure that these areas can be served efficiently.

**Policy 4.5 e: Provide adequate law enforcement services**

The county will only approve new development when adequate law enforcement services can be demonstrated by the applicant.

**Goal 4.6: Sheridan County will coordinate with school districts and Sheridan College to plan for future facilities and expansion**

**Policy 4.6 a: Coordinate with school districts**

The county will continue to coordinate with the school districts and Sheridan College to plan for future facility needs to ensure that new development does not reduce school service levels.

**Policy 4.6 b: Ensure coordination between school districts and service providers**

New schools should mitigate impacts to existing public facilities such as roads, drainage, and utilities.

**Goal 4.7: Sheridan County will coordinate with social service providers to facilitate convenient “one-stop” services**

**Policy 4.7 a: Coordination with social service providers**

The county will continue to coordinate with social service providers to plan for the needs of current and future residents and to facilitate grouped facilities for one-stop services and adequate locations to serve the county’s population, including:

- Senior centers,
- Health and human services agencies, and
- Medical facilities.

The county will promote a compact pattern of urban development and communities with a range of housing in neighborhoods near social services.



Veteran’s Administration campus.

**Goal 4.8: The county will continue to provide high quality library services.**

**Policy 4.8 a: Continue to provide branch libraries and plan for future needs**

The county will ensure that current and future residents have access to high quality library facilities and will coordinate with organizations that support the library.

**Goal 4.9: Sheridan County will coordinate with communication providers to ensure adequate service that meets the needs of residents while balancing environmental objectives.**

**Policy 4.9 a: Coordinate with communication technology providers**

The county will continue to coordinate with providers of communication technology, including telephone, fiber optic, CATV, cellular service, and broadband Internet to ensure that the needs of current and future residents and businesses can be met. The county will place particular emphasis on high-speed communication capabilities to serve the county’s rural areas, co-location of facilities when possible to minimize visual intrusions. Utilities should blend with regional landscape features to the extent possible.

**Policy 4.9 b: Minimize impacts from communication facilities**

Encourage the location and design of new and expanded utility and communication towers in a manner that minimizes negative impacts on surrounding land uses.

**Goal 4.10: Sheridan County will coordinate with the City of Sheridan to accommodate future solid waste disposal and management needs.**

**Policy 4.10 a: Jointly plan for landfill expansion or relocation**

The county will coordinate with the City of Sheridan to address future solid waste disposal needs, including landfill expansion, possible relocation, compatible land use planning (within one mile of current and future landfill expansion).

**Policy 4.10 b: Reduce solid waste**

To help extend the longevity of the landfill operation, the county will encourage reduction of solid waste material, reuse, and recycling in county operations and the county as a whole.