

Shannon Toomey
Soil Conservationist
USDA-NRCS
Riverton, Wyoming

Biography: Shannon Toomey was born and raised in New Jersey. She graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's degree in Agroecology and a minor in Horticulture. During her time at UW, she served on the Wyoming Conservation Corps, implementing a variety of conservation projects across the state. After graduating, she spent a few years as a vegetable farmer in southeast Wyoming before moving to



Northern Colorado to work as an agricultural land use planner. Shannon has worked for the NRCS as a Soil Conservationist for the past two years, helping farmers and ranchers in Fremont County plan and implement conservation projects on public and private working lands.

Jessica Klein
Civil Engineer
USDA-NRCS
Riverton, Wyoming

Biography: Jessica Klein was born and raised in Fremont County, Wyoming. Jessica graduated from University of Wyoming with a degree in Civil Engineering in 2009. She worked for a private engineering firm, DOWL for 15 years first as a civil engineer and then as the Regional Supervisor of the materials department where she oversaw operations of 3 laboratories and functioned as a project manager for large asphalt paving operations in 5 states. In 2017, she left DOWL to start an engineering firm with two business partners. Jessica has



worked with the NRCS as a Civil Engineer for 2 years and duties include designing conservation projects such as irrigation and stream bank restoration projects. She is married to a farmer and has three children; so her spare time is spent raising beets, barley, alfalfa and babies.

Workshop: *What is Soil Health and Why is it Important to You* - This session would will cover the 5 principals of Soil Health with hands on demonstration including soil texturing, experiments with slaking (how fast does a clod of soil dissolve when immersed in water), rain fall simulator, cover crops and more. We will also look at soils under the microscope! This is an exciting topic with hands on experiments and relates directly to STEM careers. Technology and Science related to this topic is exploding and new information is coming out every year. This is a fun topic that affects everybody regardless if you are in agriculture production or not. So if you like healthy soils, clean water, abundant nutrient rich food, and clean air this topic is for you!