



TSVR Newsletter – May 2021

War-on-Weeds

As spring arrives and green up begins so does the problem of noxious weeds. As a land owner it is your responsibility to remove noxious weeds from your property. Why do we care about noxious weeds?

Environmental health - Noxious weeds displace native species, destroy natural habitat, clog waterways and increase erosion and fire risk.

Human and animal health - Many noxious weeds are toxic to humans and livestock. Contact or ingestion of some species can lead to serious health problems or even death.

Recreation - Noxious weeds hurt recreation opportunities, such as bird watching and fishing, through reduced accessibility and destruction of native landscapes.

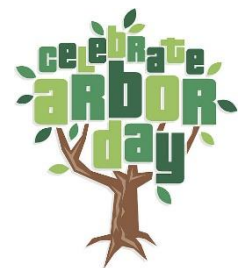
Economics - Noxious weeds cost the United States on average \$30.6 billion each year in decreased land value, money and time spent on control efforts, lower crop yields and reduced forage quality.

But here is the good news! On **Saturday, June 19th** the Natural Resource Board will be hosting War-on-Weeds day at the First Response Center across from Town Hall. Lincoln County Weed & Pest will be there and will make their crews available to go with residents to their property and do an inspection and help residents treat any noxious weeds that are discovered! There is no charge for this service! Lincoln County Weed & Pest will also have herbicides for sale 40% off of retail costs.

The Natural Resource Board also wants to let the public know that our contractor will be doing our roadside spraying for noxious weeds around the 3rd week of June.

Last Day for Arbor Day Donations, May 12th

This year we will celebrate our 11th annual Arbor Day on Saturday, June 12th. Over 150 trees have been planted in the first ten years and our volunteers' water and care for these trees during the spring and summer. All of the funds for planting and caring for trees are purchased from donations that are provided by the residents and visitors to our town. You can help this year's Arbor Day by donating to the Arbor Day fund. See the back page of this newsletter for information on how you can help! Thanks!



Scheduled Meetings

Town Council Meeting

April 19th at 6 pm

Planning & Zoning Board

May 12th & 26th at 5 pm

Natural Resource Board

May 13th at 2 pm

Town Hall Hours

8 am to 6 pm

Monday thru Thursday

Contacts

Town Hall

307-883-8696

clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org

Special Municipal Officer

307-880-2666

Star Valley Ranch Water Utility Board
Title 5 Water Utility, Chapter 50 Regulations and Chapter 51 Definitions
Open Comments Responses - Preliminary Summary

A huge “Thank you” to everyone who responded, for their time and thoughts regarding our draft proposal for the Town Council to consider as updates to our Water Utility Ordinance. Our recommendation will be better because of you.

The responses will be very valuable in authenticating the majority of our work, while highlighting other areas that became obvious that need more attention. All to the better.

It also brought to our attention the need to better inform the public of the rationale, justification and requirements necessary to ensure a safe, reliable, fiscally responsible, water delivery system.

Although this is very preliminary, here are the current results, 48 individual responses addressing 53 areas of Interest. Our preliminary responses show:

Addressed a Specific Section:	71%
Cost Related	40%
Fees / Rates	39%
General Questions or Comments	29%
Legality of a Specific Section	13%
Non-Ordinance Related	13%
(Due to overlap, not intended to equal 100%)	

The Board’s planned use of the input:

1. Immediately

- a) The Board will review the comments in detail, validate and prioritize the specific actions that need to be taken.
- b) Board will update the Town Council of all the responses;
 - 1) Our recommendations for approval of those that highlighted actions and language that needs changing for improved clarity, meaning and legality,
 - 2) As well as rationale for disapproval of those comments not affecting our Ordinance changes in a fiscally responsible and positive manner.
 - 3) Our plans on how best to answer and inform, not only those who responded, but all the Town’s citizens; land owners and renters.

2. General Observations

The need for improved continual water-related communications;

- a) Where we have been, what we are doing and where we are going
- b) Cost basis / justification for fees
- c) Identify past, current and future water projects
 - 1) justification and benefits
 - 2) timing
 - 3) project cost vs fee cost
 - 4) financing

Thanks again for responding, Your SVR Water Utility Board

Our Night Sky Resource

It comes as no surprise that a majority of people in United States a majority of live under light-polluted skies. In some parts of the world, people never experience a true night sky, but merely an artificial twilight.

The problem stems from poorly targeted, overly bright, and improperly shielded outdoor lighting. Rather than being focused on the actual area that needs to be illuminated, bad lighting spills where it's not intended or needed—particularly the night sky.

We are lucky here in the Star Valley, we still have a dark sky and can experience a true night sky. But this is a resource that we will lose if we do not take action to protect it.

Lighting Facts Per Bulb	
Brightness	750 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$1.57
Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh Cost depends on rates and use	
Life	22.8 years
Based on 3 hrs/day	
Light Appearance	
Warm Cool	
2700 K ▲	
Energy Used	13 watts

Lighting facts label found on each package of light bulbs in stores

What are the things you can do to protect our starry skies?

1. **Minimize the amount of illumination**
(reduce the brightness of exterior lights, use bulbs rated less than 800 lumens)
2. **Minimize the area of illumination**
(use full cutoff fixtures that direct the light down to the ground where the light is needed)
3. **Minimize the duration of illumination**
(turn off lights when they are not needed or use motion sensitive fixtures/lights)
4. **Use long-wavelength lights**
(use lights that are less than 3000K, at the warm end of the Light Appearance Scale)
5. **Use LED lighting**
(you will save money and natural resources)

If you have a problem with light pollution in your area of town, give our Special Municipal Officer a call at 307-880-2666, he is there to help!

Trail Crew Volunteers

This spring and summer the Town of Star Valley Ranch Volunteer Trail Crew will be continuing to maintain trails and trailheads on the Bridger-Teton National Forest and the trails within Fox Run Park. We are always looking for additional volunteers to keep these trails in top condition.

For more information on the trail crew and how you can get involved give Trails Committee Chair, Craig Adler a call at 307.883.9520 or send an e-mail to: svrtrails@gmail.com



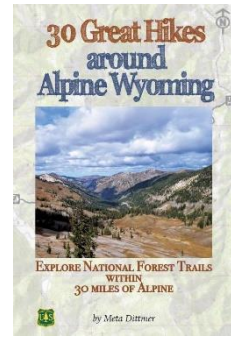
Donations Now Accepted Online

You can now make donations to the Arbor Day Fund or the Trails Fund online! Just go to the bill pay page on the Town of Star Valley webpage. Then click on the Arbor Day or Trails Fund links:

https://www.starvalleyranchwy.org/community/online_bill_pay.php

Trail Guides Available

The Town of Star Valley Ranch still has a good supply of Trail Guides available. They are \$10, full color with trail maps, and cover over 30 trails in our area. Proceeds from the sale of the guide goes to our trail crew to cover the costs of tools, trail signs and other equipment. Stop by Town Hall and pick one up while they last!



Winter Snow Summary

Typically, by mid-April the snow season is over for Star Valley Ranch (snow can still occur as locals can attest even into June). However, by mid-April the winter snow pack is rapidly melting away providing the life blood of Star Valley. Looking back reviewing how the most recent winter snow season was and comparing to recent winters is the goal of this report.

Looking back at the water year which begins on October 1st is the method of an annual evaluation of each winter. Following is a table for this past winter which includes both the snowfall for each month along with the water content and rainfall (Almost all the winter precipitation this year was in the form of snow).

2020-2021	Snow	Precip. In.
October	2	.63
November	23	2.16
December	36	2.65
January	25	1.64
February	81	4.13
March	11	.57
April through 10th	3	.29
Totals	181	12.07

While February was particularly snowy, with around 7 feet and over 4 inches of water content, the actual winter ended up with somewhat less than normal totals of 181 inches of snow and 12.07 inches of water content. The greatest snow depth of the winter of 46 inches was measured on February 20th.

Total winter snow/precipitation 2016-2021:

Year	Snow	Precipitation
2020-21	181	12.07
2019-20	224	16.69
2018-19	199	18.22
2017-18	178	17.53
2016-17	232	25.98

While this year there was about 15 feet of snow (181 inches), the water content was somewhat below normal (15 inches is about normal), with just over 12 inches. Also, the lowest water content in the past 5 years and about half of the 2016-17 total of nearly 26 inches. Ironically and to emphasize how snowy this past February was, the measured snow depth of 46 inches on the 20th was the greatest in the past 6 winters. Jack Hales, NWS Meteorologist (Ret.)

Arbor Day 2021

The Town of Star Valley Ranch will be celebrating our 11th annual Arbor Day on Saturday, June 12th, 2021. The location of this year event will be announced a little later in the spring. The Town of Star Valley Ranch will also be recognized as a Tree City for our 10th consecutive year!

The Town of Star Valley Ranch has established a fund for the purchase of trees and supplies for the 2021 Arbor Day and other natural resources work. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the Town Clerk, Kristin Gray, at Town Hall. The Natural Resource Board will add the names to our recognition plaque which is displayed at Town Hall. The minimum donation for displaying the names of donors or remembrances is \$50. Donations received after May 12th will be recorded on the plaque in 2022.



Natural Resource Board

Donation for Trees - Arbor Day 2021

\$50.00 Donation will entitle you to have a name engraved on the plaque which is displayed in our Town Hall. Donations must be received by May 12th for Arbor Day June 12th, 2021 (If not received by May 12th, donations will be applied to the 2022 celebration).



Donor's Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Donation Amount _____ Date _____

Do you want a name on the plaque? Yes _____ No _____

Is this donation in memory of an individual? Yes _____ No _____

If **Yes** to the above, please print the name you want engraved on the plaque:

Return to Town Clerk, Kristin Gray at town hall or mail to:

Arbor Day and Natural Resource Donation

Town of Star Valley Ranch

171 Vista Drive #7007

Star Valley Ranch, WY 83127