



TSVR Newsletter – July 2021

Firewise and Fire Restrictions for 2021



Just a reminder for those residents that are participants in the Firewise program, roadside pickup of hazardous fuels will be the week of July 19th. Material should be in lengths not greater than 8 feet. This should only be natural wildland fuels; no construction waste or other trash.

Remember that per our Town Code: 8.01.050 Open Fires A: *Open burning of any trash, tree trimmings, leaf and grass clippings, or other such debris is prohibited.*

Arbor Day and Natural Resource Donations

The Town of Star Valley Ranch and the Natural Resource Board want to thank everyone who donated to our Arbor Day and Natural Resource Tree Fund. Names are now listed on the plaque at Town Hall.

Over the past 6 months we have received just under \$2,000.00 which will be used to plant and care for trees at Town Hall, the Town Entrance on Vista Drive and Fox Run Park. This year new trees were planted in Fox Run Park on the west side of Canine Commons Dog Park.

Garage Sale for Trails & Parks

The Natural Resource Board will be hosting our 5th Annual Garage Sale for Trails & Parks on **Friday, August 20th from noon to 6 pm and Saturday, August 21st from 8 am to 2 pm** at the First Response Center (across from Town Hall). All proceeds go to the Town's Trails and Parks fund. If you have items you would like to donate to the garage sale, give us a call at 307-883-9520. We will start accepting donations on August 1st.



Reminder: Fire Danger is VERY HIGH and fireworks are prohibited within the Town of Star Valley Ranch!

Scheduled Meetings

Town Council Meeting
July 21st at 6 pm

Planning & Zoning Board
July 14th & 28th at 5 pm

Natural Resource Board
July 15th at 2 pm

Contacts

Town Hall
307-883-8696
clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org

Special Municipal Officer
307-880-2666



Home Occupations at the Town of Star Valley Ranch

Working from home has become more prevalent in the age of Covid. Ordinance 154.119, Home Occupations gives guidance for business uses in our homes and property.

In lieu of any existing restrictions or allowances, home occupations are allowed as a land use within a dwelling or accessory structure when all the following conditions, if applicable, are met:

(A) All business activities shall take place inside the dwelling or accessory structure and shall be accessory to the principal dwelling use.

(B) Only residents of the structure are employed in the business.

(C) Any retail use shall be incidental to the home occupation.

(D) Vehicles: allowed vehicles related to the business shall not be visibly stored or parked on the lot for more than 24 consecutive hours and shall not be parked on the lot more than five times during any seven-consecutive day period.

(E) Allowed vehicles: passenger cars and light trucks with or without company logo.



Bridger-Teton National Forest implements Level I Fire Restrictions

Effective July 1st, 2021 the USDA Forest Service, Bridger-Teton National Forest has implemented Stage I Fire Restrictions. Campfires are now prohibited except in approved metal or concrete fire rings maintained by the Forest Service in developed campgrounds and dispersed sites.

Within the Town of Star Valley Ranch, backyard recreational fires are permitted but they must be in a freestanding outdoor fireplace or fire-pit constructed of stone, concrete or metal and they must have a spark arrester screen covering the heat discharge area.

The Energy Release Component (ERC) is a measurement of the amount of energy released in fuels burning in a wildland fire. When the ERC as measured by the Teton Interagency Dispatch Center exceeds a value of 60 for three consecutive days, all recreational fires within the Town of Star Valley Ranch are prohibited. As of press time the ERC has been running in the high 40's.



Star Valley Ranch Trail Crew

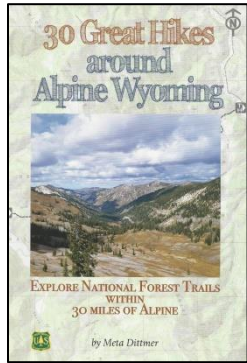
The Star Valley Ranch Trail Crew continues to recruit new volunteers. If you are interested in helping out give Craig Adler a call at 307.883.9520 or send an email to svrtrails@gmail.com.



Three Things to Remember!

1. All dogs need to be licensed and on a leash at all times within the Town of Star Valley Ranch except in Canine Commons Dog Park.
2. RVs, boats and trailers have to be parked in a garage or on the side or behind houses.
3. If you want to build something, even if you don't think you need a permit, call and talk to the Town Hall first!

Local Trail Guide and Maps Available at Town Hall



“30 Great Hikes around Alpine, Wyoming” is a wonderful trail guide to many great places on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, including all of the trails adjacent to the Town of Star Valley Ranch. Our Trails Committee and the Natural Resource Board assisted in the creation of this great little publication. It's a wonderful reference book to have around the house when company arrives this summer!

Copies of the trail guide are available at the Star Valley Ranch Town Hall for \$10 each. Proceeds go to helping provide tools and equipment for our Star Valley Ranch Volunteer Trail Crew.

In addition, the Star Valley Ranch Trails Committee has completed a new map of the trails we maintain in cooperation with the Forest Service, Bridger-Teton National Forest. Copies of the maps can be obtained from Town Hall or the Mail Center.

Two Ways to Stay Informed to Things Happening in Town

1. Submit your email address at [Town of Star Valley Ranch, WY \(starvalleyranchwy.org\)](http://Town of Star Valley Ranch, WY (starvalleyranchwy.org)) and get the town newsletter and other email updates
2. Like us on Facebook “Town of Star Valley Ranch”

Winter Recreation Citizen Advisory Group Formed

A small committee, made up of concerned citizens within the Town of Star Valley Ranch has been formed. Their goal is to develop and propose a winter recreation plan and present their findings to the Town of Star Valley Ranch and to the Star Valley Ranch Association no later than October 1st, 2021. This plan would cover such activities as snowmobiling, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating and sledding. To get further input from the public the Winter Recreation Advisory Group will host an open house on August 31st, 2021 from 7 to 9 pm at the Cedar Creek Center. Your comments are important.

Be Firewise – Tips for Homeowners & Landowners



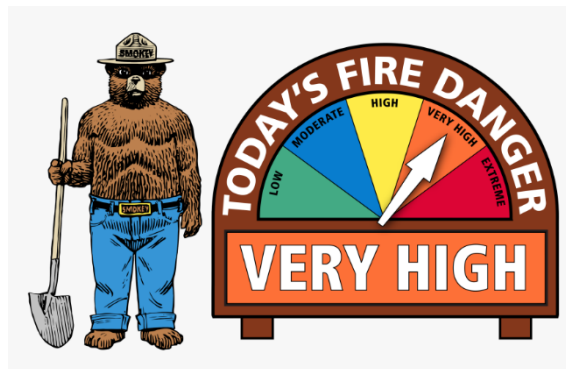
Protect Your Property from Wildfire

Wildfire doesn't have to burn everything in its path. In fact, cleaning your property of debris and maintaining your landscaping are important first steps to helping minimize damage and loss.

The work you do today can make a difference. Follow this simple checklist, now and throughout the year, to prepare and help reduce the risk of your home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire!

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- Remove dead vegetation from under your deck and within 10 feet of the house.
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Remove flammable materials (firewood stacks, propane tanks, dry vegetation) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Wildfire can spread to tree tops. If you have trees on your property, prune so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
- Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
- Enclose under-eave and soffit vents or screen with metal mesh to prevent ember entry.

Fire Danger at Press Time:





Town of Star Valley Ranch

Water Utility

A series of articles explaining the underlying costs

This is not an attempt to say they are not high, just an explanation as to why. Just so you know.....!

THEN & NOW

THE THEN:

In the early 2000s, the SVRA was struggling to financially stay alive. DCC&Rs restricted the raising of dues significant enough to cover the annual road and water maintenance costs. They were selling advance connections to fund their operating costs. SVRA employees were being furloughed for the month of December due to lack of funds. Our water system was old, outdated, and too small for our growing community. The well was inefficient, the spring was producing poorly, and the lines were like sieves; if they weren't leaking, they were freezing up. There was no money for parts or people!

The Town was created as a result of a two+ year process, members of the Association were provided many alternatives and options to consider, at the conclusion of the voting, a large majority of the future citizens voted for the formation of a Town. And we started out by rationing the use of water.

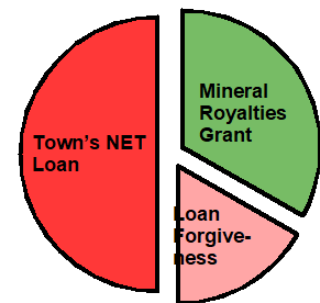
THE NOW:

We have nearly reached \$30,000,000.00 of new infrastructure in or on the ground since the Town took over the water system. This equates to about \$15,000.00 value per lot, but we owe less than \$7,500.00 per lot. Because of the cooperation between our Town and the State of Wyoming's SLIB Board (State Loan and Investment Board) the vast majority of our projects have had a 33% Mineral Royalties "Grant" element from the State. Our loans have 20-year terms at 2.5%. We have been awarded loans that have a 25% forgiveness (borrow a \$1.00 and payback 75 cents).

Which breaks down for each \$1,000,000.00 in Project Costs as follows:

Project

Cost:	\$1,000,000.00		100%
MRG Grant:	-333,333.33	1/3	
Loan Amount:	666,666.67	2/3	
Town's Repayment Amount			
Loan Forgiveness:	-166,666.67	1/4	
Loan Note:	\$500,000.00		50%



Our debt is 1/2 of what it might have been, however, that said it is still nearly **\$15,000,000.00**.

What do we have for this amount of debt?

Based on current knowledge and a conservative forecast, a system with the capacity to supply pure, clean, tasty water for the population of a fully built-out Town.

Source of Water: One fully reconditioned well, two new wells and a reconditioned spring. The spring provides up to 300 gpm of gravity fed source of water. Virtually "no operational costs".

Storage: Two older tanks and one new tank with a total capacity of about 1,000,000 gallons.

Main & Distribution Lines: Nearly 35 miles of new proper sized, professionally installed pipe.

Fire Hydrants: Approximately 216 throughout the Town, averaging 600 feet apart with no hydrant more than 800 feet from another.

This is a **Premiere System**, you should be very proud both emotionally and financially. And, because the majority of the system is new, we should have many, many years of continued service.