2021 ANNUAL COMBINED WATERSHED NEWSLETTER

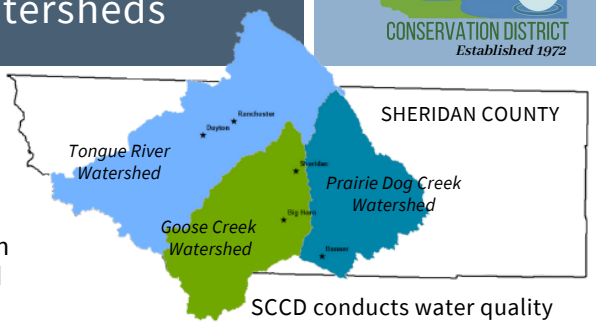
Tongue River, Prairie Dog Creek, and Goose Creek Watersheds

SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Established 1972

WHEN IS MY ANNUAL WATERSHED MEETING?

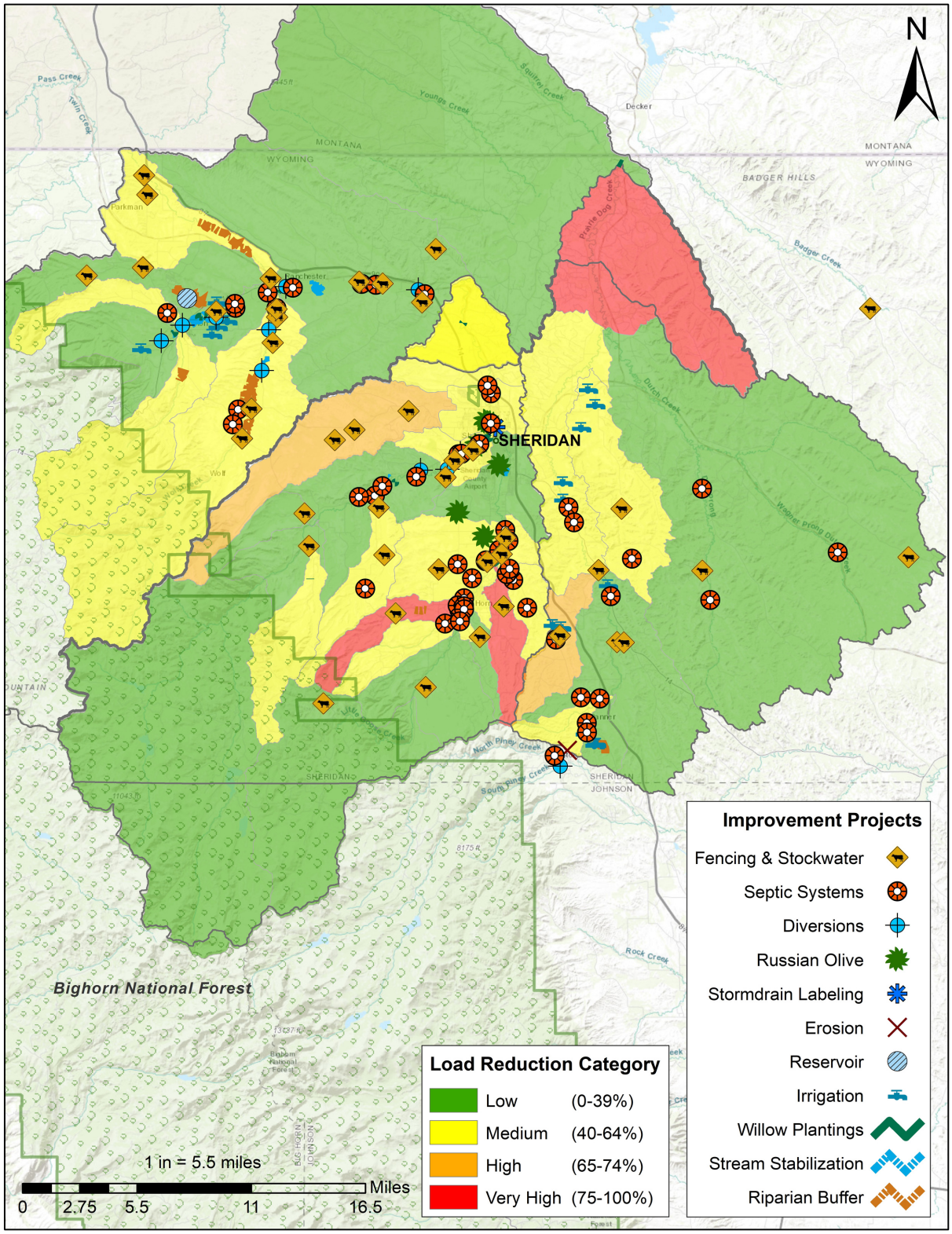
The Sheridan County Conservation District (SCCD) holds a meeting every winter in each of the three watersheds to provide updates and gather input on water quality monitoring, improvement projects, and other activities within the watershed. Due to COVID concerns, the SCCD has decided to provide this information via a combined watershed newsletter in lieu of a meeting. If you're looking for more detailed information on your watershed, visit our website for past meeting minutes and handouts, watershed reports, and watershed based plans, or call or email us at the office with any questions.

www.sccdwy.org | (307) 672-5820 ext. 3 | jackie.turner@sccdwy.org



SCCD conducts water quality monitoring on the Tongue River, Goose Creek, and Prairie Dog Creek watersheds on a three-year rotation. This interim monitoring is part of a local watershed planning effort and is meant to evaluate long-term changes in water quality associated with installation of improvement practices and increased awareness of water quality concerns.

COMBINED WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND LOAD REDUCTION CATEGORY MAP



LOAD REDUCTION CATEGORIES

Load reduction requirements are calculated based on bacteria data collected from the most recent sampling year within that particular watershed. These categories tell us how much average bacteria concentrations would need to be decreased within each subwatershed to meet the Wyoming water quality standard for *E. coli*.

This map shows load reductions from the most recent sampling year in each watershed (Goose Creek 2018, Tongue River 2019, and Prairie Dog Creek 2020). Due to accessibility, load reductions in the Dutch Creek and Meade Creek subwatersheds are from 2014 and 2017 sampling, respectively. Most subwatersheds fall within the low to medium reduction category, while a few require high to very high reductions.

This data is used to observe changes in bacteria concentrations over time within a subwatershed and also helps the SCCD prioritize funding for cost-share improvement projects.

IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Through federal and state grants, SCCD offers financial assistance for projects that benefit water quality in impaired watersheds. Typical projects include installing fencing or stockwater systems to minimize livestock access to waterbodies, relocating corrals or animal feeding areas away from waterbodies, and replacing eligible septic systems to eliminate sewage discharges.

IF YOU HAVE A PROJECT IN MIND, GET IN TOUCH AND WE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND DETERMINE YOUR ELIGIBILITY!

WHAT'S UP IN MY WATERSHED?

GOOSE CREEK WATERSHED

WATER QUALITY SAMPLING

- Will be sampled beginning this May through October 2021
- Tentative sites for 2021 sampling include two on Goose Creek, four on Big Goose Creek, four on Little Goose Creek, and one each on the following tributaries: Soldier, Beaver, Park, Rapid, McCormick, Kruse, Jackson, and Sackett Creeks

IN-PROGRESS PROJECTS

- Bank stabilization on Big Goose Creek in the Middle Big Goose Creek subwatershed
- Seepage mitigation on Gerdel Ditch in the Middle Little Goose Creek subwatershed

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

- One septic system replacement on Alder Gulch in the Beaver Creek subwatershed and one septic abandonment on Big Goose Creek in the Lower Big Goose Creek subwatershed
- Pipeline installation to address seepage issues on East Side Ditch in the Middle Little Goose Creek subwatershed
- Bank stabilization on Big Goose Creek in the Middle Big Goose Creek subwatershed

PRAIRIE DOG CREEK WATERSHED

WATER QUALITY SAMPLING

- Monitoring was completed at five sites on Prairie Dog Creek and two tributary sites (Wildcat Creek and Jenks Creek) ten times from May-October 2020
- Temperature loggers reported temperatures in exceedance of the 20°C standard at 3 out of 4 mainstem sites
- Conductivity and turbidity were within the expected ranges and pH was within the standard at all sites
- Bacteria geometric mean concentrations exceeded the standard at all sites during both the early and late season, apart from Jenks Creek during the early season
- The *2020 Prairie Dog Creek Watershed Interim Monitoring Project Report* will be available on our website once finalized

IN-PROGRESS PROJECTS

- Fencing/ stockwater project in the Lower Middle Prairie Dog Creek subwatershed

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Septic system replacement on Piney-Cruse Ditch in the North Piney Creek subwatershed

TONGUE RIVER WATERSHED

WATER QUALITY SAMPLING

- Last monitored from May to October 2019
- The *2019 Tongue River Watershed Interim Monitoring Project Final Report* was approved by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) in October and is available on our website at *sccdwy.org/tongue-river-watershed*
- Sampling in the Tongue River watershed will be conducted again in 2022

IN-PROGRESS PROJECTS

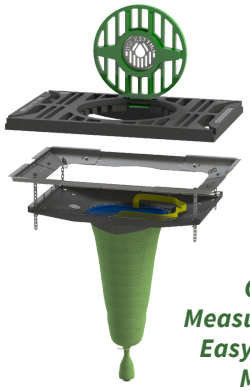
- Diversion stabilization and repair and reinforcement of a dike and bridge in the Little Tongue River subwatershed

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Bank stabilization on Wolf Creek and segments of York Ditch were rebuilt in the Wolf Creek subwatershed
- Bank stabilization on portions of the Tongue River in the Lower Tongue River subwatershed
- Septic system replacement on Tongue River in the Lower Tongue River subwatershed

DID YOU KNOW?

22 FROG CREEK PARTNERS' GUTTER BINS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED AROUND DOWNTOWN SHERIDAN, CAPTURING OVER **2,600 POUNDS** OF POLLUTION IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.



When it rains or snows, anything on the ground can be picked up and swept into storm drains, including trash, sediment, and animal waste. Storm drains empty into nearby waterbodies, like our streams and rivers. In Sheridan, stormwater flows directly into Little Goose, Big Goose, and Goose Creek.

To prevent polluted waterways, Frog Creek Partners introduces 21st century technology to the gutter in the form of the Gutter Bin® storm water filtration system. The Gutter Bin operates like a coffee filter for storm drains - trapping pollution at the storm drain before it has a chance to flow into the river or waterbody. Benefits include:

Cleaner Water: *Protects our drinking water and the animals who live there*
Measurable Results: *Quantify your pollution capture rate*
Easy Maintenance: *It's fast and simple*
Minimizes Risk: *Storm sewer pipes clogged with trash cause flooding. The Gutter Bin helps prevent blockages, thereby protecting assets.*

INTERESTED IN HELPING PROTECT OUR WATER?

If you or your business is interested in helping to reduce pollution in our local waterways and beyond, we encourage you to reach out to Frog Creek Partners to sponsor a Gutter Bin.

Frog Creek Partners
(307) 797-7720
heya@FrogCreek.Partners
www.FrogCreek.Partners

Brian Deurloo, President and Founder, is a Sheridan native who is working to help protect watersheds around the world. Deurloo's first Gutter Bins were installed in the City of Sheridan. The patented Gutter Bins are manufactured locally in Sheridan, Casper, and Gillette.

The mission of the Sheridan County Conservation District is to protect Sheridan County's land and water quality through assistance programs, information and outreach, monitoring, and planning.

Sheridan County Conservation District
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