

# SPRING 2021

## NEWS from

# SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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## CALENDAR

**MAY 2021** Seedling Tree Program Ends

**MAY 2021** Water Quality Sampling Begins

**MAY 31** Office Closed Memorial Day

**JUNE 8** Monthly Board Meeting

**JULY 5** Office Closed Independence Day

**JULY 6** Monthly Board Meeting

**AUG 3** Monthly Board Meeting

**SEPT 6** Office Closed Labor Day

**SEPT 7** Monthly Board Meeting



## WATER QUALITY MONITORING *Goose Creek 2021*



This year the Sheridan County Conservation District (SCCD) will be conducting water quality sampling in the Goose Creek watershed. Sampling will occur at 17 sites, including three sites on Goose Creek, four sites on Big Goose Creek, four sites on Little Goose Creek, and six tributary sites. Sampling began on May 13th and will continue through September 14th. Parameters monitored include water temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, discharge, turbidity, and E. coli. Macroinvertebrate samples and habitat assessments will be completed in late September or early October at eight mainstem sites.

Interim monitoring has occurred in the Goose Creek watershed approximately every three years since 2002. Continued monitoring allows the SCCD to evaluate long-term changes in water quality associated with the installation of improvement practices and increased awareness of water quality concerns. Examples of improvement practices include corral modifications, installation of fencing and stockwater systems that reduce livestock access to waterbodies, and septic system replacements. Several waterbodies in Sheridan county have bacteria and sediment impairments. Water quality monitoring provides a way to document changes in water quality over time and provides a scientific basis for making decisions and prioritizing projects.

Our work would not be possible without those local landowners who grant us access to sample on their property. We thank you for your support!

## Cost-Share Assistance Funding Availability and Deadlines

Through federal and state grants, the 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, replacing eligible septic systems to eliminate sewage discharges, and irrigation improvements.

Recently, to help prioritize projects and efficiently allocate grant funds, the SCCD reinstated application deadlines. **The last deadline was May 3; the next deadline will likely be early fall and will be announced later this summer.** For more information, self-assessments, and application forms, visit our website at [www.sccdwy.org](http://www.sccdwy.org)





# NEW APP FOR REPORTING INVASIVE SPECIES

Help the Wyoming Game and Fish track and treat invasive species with the use of a new application, ArcGIS Survey 123.



### INSTALLATION STEPS:

1. Navigate to your smart phone's App Store, Google Play, or other store used for downloading applications.
2. Search for ArcGIS Survey 123.
3. Download and open the app.
4. If you do not want to create a sign in, you can choose "Continue without signing in."
5. Use the Search/QR Scanner at the top of the app to scan the QR code (below) and the survey will load to your device.
6. To complete a survey, click the check mark in the bottom right corner.

### DON'T HAVE A SMART PHONE?

1. Navigate to <https://arcgis.is/0izrLa> on your computer's browser.
2. Choose the "Open In Browser" option.
3. Complete the survey!



## 2020-2021 TREE PROGRAM

*In Review*



The SCCD received 51 orders for the 2020-2021 Seedling Tree Program, including:



**124 BAREROOT LOTS**  
(3100 BAREROOT SEEDLINGS)



**63 LARGE TUBE LOTS**  
(1890 LARGE TUBE SEEDLINGS)



**10 VARIETY PACKAGES**  
(250 BAREROOT SEEDLINGS)



**20 ROLLS OF WEED BARRIER FABRIC**

The most popular bareroot species this year were Chokecherry and Common Lilac; the most popular large tube species were Rocky Mountain Juniper and Colorado Blue Spruce.

The Seedling Tree Program started back in 1993. Since then, over 75,000 seedling trees have been sold. This year marks the largest number of seedlings sold yet. Thanks to all of those who have purchased and help put conservation seedlings in the ground!

## Zebra Mussels & Moss Balls: What's the Deal?

Zebra mussels are less than 2 inches in size, striped, and can often be difficult to see. Once the mussels become established in a waterbody, they can outcompete native species, clog water intakes and irrigation systems, damage watercraft, and remove nutrients from the water. This winter, the Zebra Mussel was discovered in moss balls sold at aquarium and pet supply stores. Moss balls, also referred to as marimo balls, are used as tank decoration and to help oxygenate the water. If you've purchased a moss ball in the past several months, please **DO NOT dispose of any tank water, moss balls, or plants down the drain or toilet.** Instead, follow the steps below to decontaminate your tank and discard the moss balls, other plants, and the tank water.



### Step 1

Remove any pets from the water and tank.

### Step 2

Remove the marimo ball, other plants and any water from the aquarium and put them into a heat-safe pot. **Do not dispose of any water down the drain or toilet.**

### Step 3

Inspect the marimo ball and tank for zebra mussels and contact your local Game and Fish regional office if you find any.

### Step 4

Boil the marimo balls, plants and any water it's been in contact with for at least five minutes.

### Step 5

Dispose of the marimo ball and other plants in trash.

### Step 6

Pour out the boiled water on a semi-permeable surface. That could be a houseplant or outside — like grass or soil — not located near standing water or a storm drain.

# SHERIDAN COUNTY DESIGNATED PRIMARY NATURAL DISASTER AREA



United States Department of Agriculture  
Stakeholder Notification

The USDA has designated 19 Wyoming counties as primary natural disaster areas, including Sheridan County. This Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to provide much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through emergency loans.

Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation, or the refinance of certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

The 19 counties include Albany, Big Horn, Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Fremont, Goshen, Hot Springs, Johnson, Laramie, Natrona, Niobrara, Platte, Sheridan, Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta, Washakie, and Weston.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ON FSA DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS,  
PLEASE VISIT  
[FARMERS.GOV/RECOVER](https://farmers.gov/recover)  
OR CALL YOUR FSA OFFICE  
AT (307) 672-4202**

## Frog Creek Gutter Bin Installations

As part of our ongoing commitment to water quality, SCCD is sponsoring the installation of four gutter bins (locations to be determined) using Clean Water Act grant funds from the WDEQ/EPA. Additionally, SCCD is helping to coordinate the installation of another eight gutter bins sponsored by an anonymous donor through the Wyoming Community Foundation. Installation of the 12 bins is expected this June and July.

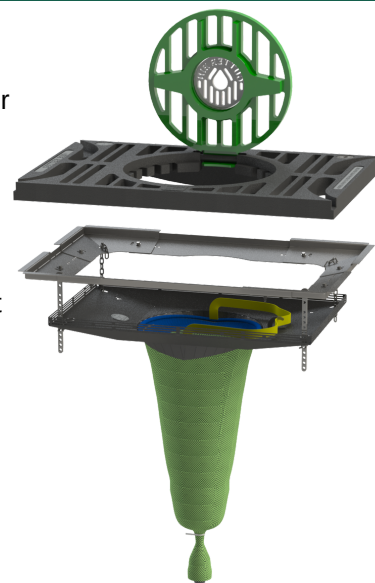
To prevent polluted waterways, Frog Creek Partners introduce 21st century technology to the gutter in the form of the Gutter Bin® storm water filtration system. The Gutter Bin operates like a coffee filter for storm drains - trapping pollution at the storm drain before it has a chance to flow into the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

The patented Gutter Bins are manufactured locally in Sheridan, Casper, and Gillette. President and Founder, Brian Deurloo, is a Sheridan native working to help protect watersheds around the world.

If you'd like to reduce pollution in our local waterways, reach out to Frog Creek Partners to sponsor a Gutter Bin.



**Frog Creek Partners**  
**(307) 797-7720**  
**[heya@FrogCreek.Partners](mailto:heya@FrogCreek.Partners)**  
**[www.FrogCreek.Partners](http://www.FrogCreek.Partners)**



## MEET OUR INTERN: MAGGIE DEFOSSE

### *Watershed Health AmeriCorps Member*

Maggie will be working between the Sheridan Community Land Trust (SCLT) and the SCCD as a Watershed Health AmeriCorps Member through the Big Sky Watershed Corps, a branch of the Montana Conservation Corps.

Maggie comes from Stonington, Connecticut. She grew up on the coast and always loved exploring and investigating different critters and habitats the coast had to offer, which turned into a passion for preserving these resources and informing the public about their importance. She graduated with a B.S. in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources from Colorado State University. Her program focused on the social science aspect of conservation, including collaborative conservation, environmental policy, and environmental conflict management. After graduating, Maggie was interning with a small land trust in her hometown, primarily working on development projects to grow their following, as well as education and outreach through some outdoor education programs. She is excited to be back out west and living in the mountains again and is looking forward to making an impact in her community. In her free time, she loves to hike, cook, and read, and she is excited to continue to explore her new home here in Sheridan.



Much of Maggie's time with the SCCD will include water quality sampling, data entry, and reporting, in addition to some mapping, educational and outreach activities, and whatever other projects might arise!





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Sheridan, WY 82801  
(307) 672-5820 ext. 3  
[www.sccdwy.org](http://www.sccdwy.org)



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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Permit No. 21

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

**SCCD's regular board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 4 pm.**

\*June 2nd meeting rescheduled to June 8th

## DISTRICT STAFF

Carrie Rogaczewski  
District Manager

Jackie Turner  
Program Specialist

## NRCS STAFF

Andrew Cassiday  
District Conservationist

Oakley Ingersoll  
Soil Conservationist

Chelsea Winslow  
Soil Technician

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Susan Holmes  
Chair

Edith Heyward  
Vice-Chair

Orrin Connell  
Secretary-Treasurer

Emerson Scott  
Supervisor

Stephanie Masters  
Supervisor

## Piney Island Native Plants NATIVE PLANT SALE

**Saturday, June 5th**

**8am-12pm**

**Sheridan College Campus**

Greenhouse off Dome Loop and Arena Drive



Piney Island Native Plants, LLC. will be selling native flowers, grasses, and shrubs! Piney Island Native Plants, LLC. is a greenhouse and nursery producing locally-sourced, locally-adapted, containerized native plants for restoration, reclamation, and conservation-focused projects.

[www.pineyislandnatives.com](http://www.pineyislandnatives.com)



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## Sheridan County Conservation District

### WHAT WE DO

The function of the Conservation District is to focus and coordinate technical,

### COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

The SCCD provides cost-share assistance for livestock and septic system improvements

### WATERSHED PROGRAMS

The watershed program encompasses the Tongue River, Goose Creek, and

### TREE PROGRAM

Each fall, the SCCD offers low-cost seedling trees and shrubs for conservation

## VISITED OUR WEBSITE RECENTLY?

**sccdwy.org**

*We've given it a new look!*

- » Brighter appearance
- » Find your watershed tool
- » Online tree store (available Nov-April)
- » Oil tank location maps
- » Newsletter sign-up