



BIG SKY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Newsletter

The BSOA Office is Open!

Our Office is now open to the public! BSOA Follows CDC Guidelines and Strongly encourages COVID Vaccinations to protect our Members, Directors, and Staff. For assistance call our office Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm.

If you wish to attend a BSOA meeting, it is remote attendance only. Feel free to contact Staff during regular business hours, via email or phone, regarding any issues or projects you would like addressed.

Office Telephone: (406) 995-4166

General Email: bsoa@bigskyoa.org

Stay healthy and safe. We hope to see you soon!



Spring is here!

...And that means the bears will be waking up and coming out of hibernation. Are you ready? Please ensure that your trash can is bear-resistant **all year long**. [See our Bear-Feeding and Trash Resolution.](#)

If you are a Republic Services customer, please leave your blue non-bear proof trash can out a little longer on trash day so they can come by and swap it out for a certified Kodiak Bear-resistant can.

The BSOA Charters New Committee



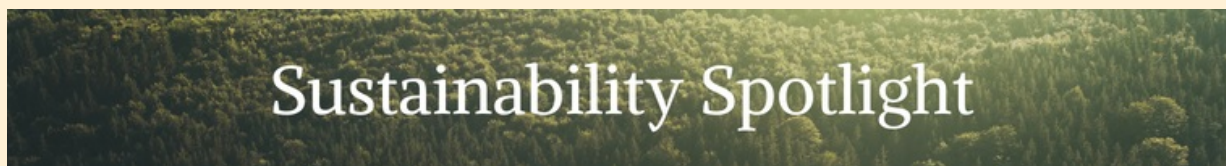
We are proud to announce that the BSOA has formed a new committee dedicated to sustainability initiatives in

The objective of the Big Sky Owners Association Sustainability Committee (BSOASC) is to:

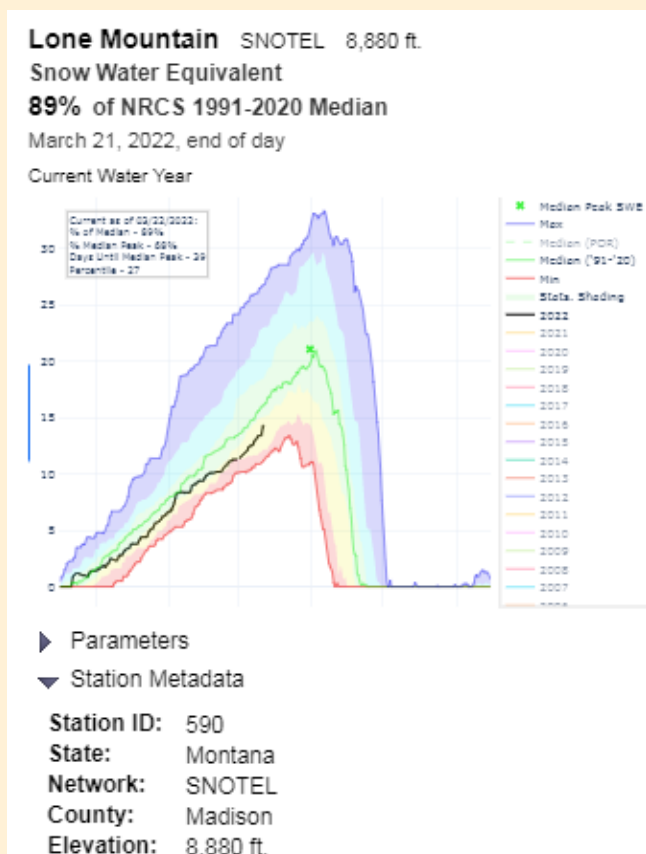
- 1.) Inform, encourage, and empower BSOA members and the Big Sky Community to act to minimize energy and water usage, waste, and pollution;
- 2.) Consult all relevant stakeholders and decision-makers in a thorough and proper evaluation of new developments in the Big Sky area that would have a cumulative impact on water, wastewater, forest health, wildlife populations, traffic, emergency response / emergency evacuation and quality of life.
- 3.) Take actions necessary to accomplish the elements above.

Recent efforts of the committee have been focused on the newly proposed Flatiron development, which includes over 2,600 units at the base of Lone Moose Meadows and Thunderwolf chairlifts. The BSOA is not against new development; however, we are engaging with local leaders and a diverse range of agencies to ensure that new developments such as the proposed Flatiron development is appropriately evaluated and will not jeopardize Big Sky's natural resources, evacuation protocols, road safety, and various water features such as wetlands, rivers, and streams.

Contact Emma at emma@bigskyoa.org for more information.



Montana's Changing Winters



Snowfall in Big Sky

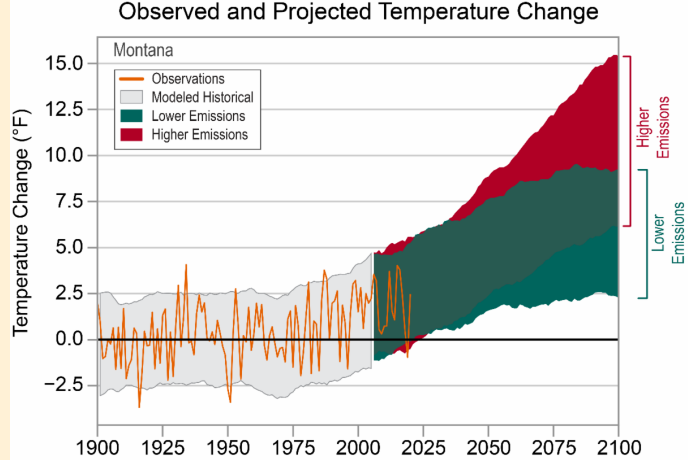
You may have noticed the lack of snowpack in the high country and in town. Why did we have lower-than-average precipitation this season? According to the February Water Supply Outlook Report released by the USDA, there were persistent high pressure systems to the south that pushed away the much-needed storm systems, specifically in Big Sky and greater Southwestern Montana. We are currently at 89% average snow water equivalent (SWE) on Lone Peak. The black line shows the current SWE. Our snowpack continues to hover just below average.

Montana is one of the few places globally whose waters feed three oceans (Atlantic, Pacific, and the Gulf of Mexico). Streamflow relies heavily on meltwater so snowfall can impact a much broader area than just our own state.

Montana Climate Report

Of course, we can't talk about an

abnormally warm and dry winter without addressing Montana's changing climate and long-term projections. Will a slow snow year such as this one become the new norm? A [study done by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) says that it could, in fact, become the latest trajectory for our state as of 2022. Temperatures in Montana have risen almost 2.5°F since the beginning of the 20th century, higher than the warming for the contiguous United States as a whole. The first 21 years of this century represent the warmest period on record for Montana.



Montana Tribal Perspectives

"The rivers are powerful, they have energy and they make things grow. We used to go to the river to communicate with this energy, now we just go there to fish and to swim. Nature used to provide for us, and we put back what we got, but we don't do that anymore. Everything is getting polluted—the air isn't clean anymore. The Earth is trying to tell us that we have to go back to a time when we saw the energy in Earth, when we were compatible with Nature."

-G. Bulltail, Crow Elder, Member of the Crow Environmental Health Steering Committee

Local Initiatives

The BSOA Sustainability Committee is focused on the science, impacts, and resilience to extreme weather events and changing climate in our region.

Current focus areas:

- Disaster preparedness
- New Development
- Water conservation
- Habitat restoration
- Fire fuels reduction
- Invasive species
- Open space preservation

Other organizations such as [Big Sky SNO](#) are also committed to community resilience and stewardship. SNO's recent [Green House Gas \(GHG\) Inventory Report](#) stated that 35% of GHGs came from residential sources, the highest of all categories in the report.



Fire Adaptive Big Sky

The BSOA is participating in quarterly meetings with local leaders to formulate a collaborative, cohesive plan to be prepared for a wildfire event in our community. The goal of this working group is to collaborate to build community resiliency and make Big Sky more



Counties, Resort Tax to Fund Shortfalls for Roadwork

Counties face shortfalls in Big Sky after TIGER Grant roadwork received two bids that were

fire adapted. The next meeting will be held on April 5th.

The BSOA has and will continue to take an active role in mitigating wildfires where possible. For instance, each year, we invest in the removal of wildfire fuels on our open spaces by working with our local fire department and Montana Conservation Corp. Fuels reduction involves tree trimming, debris clearing, and spacing out vegetation. In addition, the BSOA supports BSFD with outreach and communication for burn bans and fire restrictions, as well as facilitating consultations on fire prevention.

higher than anticipated. Both counties will have to bridge the gap in funding for the road improvements projected to be made along HWY 64. Many stakeholders are eager to get this project started. Improvements include

- New traffic signal
- 7 new turn lanes
- Pedestrian infrastructure
- New buses

[Read the full article here](#)

US 191 Lone Mountain Trail WildAssessment

Join friends and neighbors collecting information on live wildlife sightings and roadkill along US-191 and Lone Mountain Trail through use of the **smartphone ROaDS app**. Information on wildlife and transportation conflicts, like animal carcasses collected by maintenance personnel, likely **represent only a fraction of the wildlife** killed on roads and generally do not reflect smaller wildlife species. Since March, community members have collected **more than 450 animal sightings** from Four Corners to West Yellowstone, filling in this data gap.



For more information or to participate, visit [The US-191 Wildlife & Transportation Assessment](#) website.

Upcoming County Meetings

We encourage Big Sky residents to speak up and engage with your local leaders about issues that matter most to your community. Here are a few opportunities to make your voice heard.

Big Sky Meadow Trails, Recreation & Parks Special District - April 1st

Water & Sewer Community Room
Friday, April 1st at 9 am

Learn more about the joint-county district's upcoming plans and projects for our trails in Big Sky.

Eggs and Issues: Wildlife, Traffic, and Our Impacts and Potential on the Gallatin Canyon & Joint Commissioners Meeting - April 6th

Wednesday, April 6 - Breakfast at 8:00am | Presentation from 8:30 – 10:00am | 10:00 am - 12:00pm Joint Commissioner Meeting | The Wilson Hotel

"The entrance to Big Sky, the Gallatin Canyon and 191 is the main thoroughfare for our residents, visitors, and 70% of our workforce. The river that flows alongside it and the forest that encompasses it are home to a variety of wildlife. Where nature and the road meet can be an issue. The Big Sky Chamber is inviting the Center for Large Landscape Conservation, the Gallatin River Taskforce, GoGallatin, and Big Sky SNO to speak to our community about the impacts of this thoroughfare, work that is being done to mitigate the impacts, and how you can be a part of the solution."

Madison County Planning Board Monthly Meeting - April 25th

Monday, April 25 - 6pm
103 Wallace Street, Virginia City, MT

Have you moved?

Call or email our office to update your preferred contact information.

Contact | BSOA FAQs | Community Calendar | Numbers to Know

Big Sky Owners Association | 145 Center Lane, Unit J, PO Box 160057, Big Sky, MT 59716

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