

2025 1st Quarter Issues for Wyoming Public Media

Wildlife

Topic: What's the best way to tally up the costs and benefits of having wolves in Wyoming? That's the question behind a new article in the travel magazine Matador.

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan 24 at 3 p.m. and Jan 26 at noon.

Topic: Amid consideration of a federal plan to keep grizzly bears on the endangered species list, we take a step back and look at the facts.

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan 31 at 3 p.m. and Feb 2 at noon

Topic: It's been a year since a rural ranching community in Sublette County was cast into the international spotlight because of outrage over what many deemed "torture" of a wolf. The legalities and culture around the incident are still hot button issues.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 7 at 3 p.m. and March 9 at noon.

Topic: Recent chronic wasting disease cases on a feedground near Bondurant tells one wildlife biologist that disease prevalence in that area is higher than previously thought.

Time: 7 min

Date: March 7 at 3 p.m. and March 9 at noon.

Topic: The debate over whether to keep federal protections for grizzlies is "deeply laden in values," according to one expert.

Time: 8 min

Date: March 14 at 3 p.m. and March 16 at noon.

Environment

Topic: A beloved fishing lake near Pinedale now has no fish. To top it off, the entire lake turned red a couple months ago, and land managers and biologists don't know exactly why. WyoFile's Mike Koshmrl first reported on this in early December and gives us a debrief.

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan 10 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 12 at noon.

Topic: Lawmakers defunded the state's two-decade program that also benefits downstream states. But they're optimistic those states will pay for Wyoming's share to keep it going

Time: 5 min

Date: March 14 at 3 p.m. and March 16 at noon.

Outdoor recreation

Topic: Talks for what people will be allowed to do on the land – and how the state will use the sale proceeds – are slated to start this year.

Time: 5 min

Date: Jan 10 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 12 at noon.

Topic: Some businesses are worried that mixed messaging about the status of national parks and forest lands, along with rising costs, could deter visitors from coming to the Yellowstone gateway town of Cody this summer.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 14 at 3 p.m. and March 16 at noon.

Women's issues

Topic: Jan. 5 marked 100 years since the first woman was sworn in as a governor in the United States. Wyoming's Nellie Tayloe Ross was elected governor in 1924 after her husband died unexpectedly in the middle of his term. The Democratic Party nominated Nellie to take his place.

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan 10 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 12 at noon.

Topic: Jan. 5 is Nellie Tayloe Ross Day. It recognizes the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of the nation's first female Governor. The holiday came to be because of a Green River High School senior government class.

Time: 5 min

Date: Jan 10 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 12 at noon.

International issues at a local level

Topic: Not many would connect Wyoming with Tunisia, an African nation situated on the northern part of the continent. Yet the Cowboy State and the country have had a relationship for over 20 years. They now want to expand the relationship through the University of Wyoming.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb.14 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 16 at noon.

Topic: When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine almost three years ago, people around the world were moved by the stories and images coming out of Eastern Europe. Among them was Dr. Kent Kleppinger, a pediatrician from Laramie who felt compelled to lend a hand, despite having no personal connection to Ukraine.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb.21 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 23 at noon.

National issues at a local level

Topic: Over 500 bills were submitted for consideration during the current legislative session, the most in at least the last 24 years. Many of them were sponsored by Wyoming Freedom Caucus members. The flood of legislation parallels a similar volume of measures coming from the new Trump administration.

Time: 5 min

Date: Feb. 14 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 16 at noon.

Topic: Wyoming could join 19 other states in calling for a rare Article V convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution. They specifically want to limit federal powers, but some think the event could go awry.

Time: 5 min

Date: Feb. 14 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 16 at noon.

Topic: The Trump administration is moving quickly to reduce the government workforce. Federal workers with connections to Wyoming speak about how they're impacted by the layoffs.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 23 at noon.

Topic: Longtime U.S. Sen. Al Simpson died March 14 at his home in Cody at the age of 93. Simpson was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1978 and served in that role for 18 years.

Time: 4 min

Date: March 14 at 3 p.m. and March 16 at noon.

Public Land Management

Topic: Thousands of federal workers nationwide have been fired as part of the Trump administration's efforts to reduce the size of the federal workforce. The firings have largely targeted probationary workers in their first year. But many fear more cuts are coming. Wyoming Public Radio's reporters have been working to confirm what's happening here in the state.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 23 at noon.

Energy

Topic: There are a lot of energy-related bills in this year's Wyoming legislative session. Two have received a lot of public outcry recently. One would roll back electricity sales tax, which could cripple small towns, as it's a revenue they depend on. Another would likely make it more expensive to have rooftop solar. Opponents say it'd remove most of the incentives to use the technology. Wyoming Public Radio's Caitlin Tan and WyoFile's Dustin Bleizeffer break the proposals down.

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan 31 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 2 at noon.

Climate

Topic: There's a change of tone, both statewide and nationally, in regards to climate and energy. President Trump declared a National Energy Emergency that seeks to sidestep climate protections and prop up the fossil fuel industry. In Wyoming, far-right lawmakers are denying climate change science through a 'make carbon dioxide great again' bill. We hear a debrief from Wyoming Public Radio's energy reporter.

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan. 24 at 3 p.m. and Jan. 26 at noon

Housing

Topic: The layoffs come as Wyoming struggles with an affordable housing crisis.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 7 at 3 p.m. and March 9 at noon.

Politics

Topic: Rep. Tom Kelly (R-Sheridan) is part of a wave of new lawmakers who'll be heading to the state Capitol soon for the legislative session. He's a university professor who lives in Sheridan, and he joins a supermajority of Republicans in the state House.

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan 10 at 3 p.m. and Jan 12 at noon.

Topic: The 68th Wyoming Legislature begins its general session on Jan. 14. The next two months are Wyoming lawmakers' one chance this year to set the policies that govern how our state operates — and the Wyoming Freedom Caucus has ambitious plans.

Time: 13 min

Date: Jan 10 at 3 p.m. and Jan 12 at noon.

Topic: With its newfound power, the Wyoming Freedom Caucus set out to pass its top five priorities within the first 10 days of the legislative session. The group says it hit the mark within eight days. WyoFile and Wyoming Public Radio break down what the caucus pushed through the House and how a couple of those bills veered away from the Freedom Caucus' original aims.

Time: 12 min

Date: Jan 24 at 3 p.m. and Jan 26 at noon.

Topic: Lawmakers are in the midst of deciding how much the state should spend on programs that impact people's lives across Wyoming — from wildfire recovery to energy projects to support for vulnerable children. We compare what the governor recommended against what lawmakers cut, and where things go from here.

Time: 13 min

Date: Jan 31 at 3 p.m. and Feb 2 at noon.

Topic: The Wyoming Legislature has passed the halfway point in its 40-day general session. To mark the occasion, three WyoFile and three Wyoming Public Radio reporters share moments that feel emblematic of the attitudes and energy of the session so far.

Time: 13 min

Date: Feb. 14 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 16 at noon.

Topic: Lawmakers — and the public and press — have had their hands full tracking some 555 pieces of legislation this session. For some, all those bills present more opportunities for the best ideas to win. For others, the sheer quantity makes it hard to shape well-thought-out policies.

Time: 13 min

Date: Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 23 at noon.

Topic: As the Wyoming Legislature adjourns, we're taking another look at the interplay between the three branches of government. What happens with the stack of passed legislation on the governor's desk really brings those checks and balances into focus.

Time: 14 min

Date: March 7 at 3 p.m. and March 9 at noon.

Topic: Between the Freedom Caucus' first session holding a majority in the House and the Senate tanking a supplemental budget, the general session of the 68th Wyoming Legislature was a whirlwind. Our team shares highlights – and what happens next.

Time: 13 min

Date: March 14 at 3 p.m. and March 16 at noon.

Health Care

Topic: Enhanced subsidies could bring monthly payments down to about \$10 for many people. Also, UnitedHealthcare is now the third company offering insurance in the state.

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan 10 at 3 p.m. and Jan 12 at noon.

Topic: About 10,000 people in Wyoming have Alzheimer's disease, and those numbers will likely only increase as our state's population ages. What can you do today to keep your brain healthy?

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan 24 at 3 p.m. and Jan 26 at noon.

Agriculture

Topic: In the middle of February, Hannah and Ryan were abruptly fired from their federal jobs with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service.

Time: 8 min

Date: March 7 at 3 p.m. and March 9 at noon.

LGBTQ+ issues

Topic: Three Wyomingites say the laws portend psychological and potential physical harm.

Time: 8 min

Date: March 14 at 3 p.m. and March 16 at noon.

Community issues

Topic: It seems that every day a new headline tells a story of theaters shutting down. But in some parts of the West, including Wyoming, they’re still thriving.

Time: 5 min

Date: Jan 24 at 3 p.m. and Jan 26 at noon.

Native American issues

Topic: Paleontologists collaborated with members of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe to honor the fact that the dinosaur was found on the tribe’s ancestral lands. We hear how the project braided together two different ways of knowing from an Eastern Shoshone elder and a research scientist.

Time: 8 min

Date: Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 23 at noon.

Business and industry

Topic: Taxes are a big focus state lawmakers have this year. More than 60 bills seek to tweak taxes we as people and businesses pay – from property, to coal, to manufacturing, to autos. We wanted a big

picture take on how these bills might play off each other, so Wyoming Public Radio's Jordan Uplinger went to the Wyoming Taxpayers Association.

Time: 7 min

Date: Feb. 14 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 16 at noon.

Topic: As the Trump administration tries to cut down on spending, some small biotech companies in the Mountain West are getting caught in the crosshairs.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 7 at 3 p.m. and March 9 at noon.

Education

Topic: Education has been a big topic during this legislative session, especially affecting K-12 schools in the state. Since we're past the halfway point of the session, we checked in with three stakeholders on a couple of key bills that have been moving forward.

Time: 10 min

Date: Feb. 14 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 16 at noon.

History

Topic: Denver Parks and Recreation says the more than 100-year-old log building needs work. The agency says the closure presents an opportunity to revisit how Cody's story is told.

Time: 5 min

Date: Jan. 24 at 3 p.m. and Jan 26 at noon.

Art

Topic: A new exhibition on display at the Jackson Hole History Museum shines the spotlight on female photographers and painters in the American West at a time of great change. Their work offers an intimate look into the lives of creative women on ranches in Wyoming and Montana and offers a different artistic take on that moment in history.

Time: 8 min

Date: Jan 31 at 3 p.m. and Feb 2 at noon

Topic: Robert Frank was a Swiss-born American photographer who embarked on a two-year journey across the U.S., capturing the people of America. His trip began in 1955 and passed through Wyoming, yet many of these photos have never been seen or published. That is, until now.

Time: 5 min

Date: March 14 at 3 p.m. and March 16 at noon.