



# WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

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## General Manager's Newsletter | January 2024

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New reporters are here! Meet [Olivia Weitz](#), based in Cody. Olivia will cover northwest Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park. A collaboration with the *Buffalo Bill Center of the West*, this position is funded by the Hal R and Naoma J Tate Foundation.

Covering northeast Wyoming, Jordan Uplinger joined Hugh Cook with reporting funded in part by the Seidler Foundation. In other staff news, WPM Mountain West Bureau's Will Walkey leaves Wyoming, but will continue to be heard on WPM as a contributing reporter. The Mountain West Bureau is funded in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

WPM is deeply grateful to funders whose passion and generosity make statewide reporting possible. They are joined by several thousand sustaining members and annual donors who believe in strong public radio in Wyoming. Thank you!

*Tiny Desk Concerts* have delighted listeners over the years and have a strong following on YouTube. Every year NPR hosts a contest for new groups and 2024 is no exception. If you are interested or know someone with talent and enthusiasm, check out the [entry details here](#).

Many of you get your news online, an option that is growing. Consider including WPM's daily and weekly newsletters in your inbox. WPM's daily content offers a one-stop rounded perspective of Wyoming, Regional, and National NPR stories. The weekly edition brings it all together. It's a quick way to catch up on all news. Check these options out [here](#).

Are you about to submit a grant for funding of an initiative or activity? RFP's often allow for marketing costs intended to raise awareness for projects. Consider public radio underwriting in your promotional mix. An underwriting message heard on WPM builds statewide awareness for your project while podcast and online tiles reach digital audiences beyond Wyoming. Public radio underwriting isn't just for businesses! Just witness the higher education messages heard on *Morning Edition* or *All Things Considered*. Find out more [here](#), or contact [wpmcorporate@uwyo.edu](mailto:wpmcorporate@uwyo.edu).

Every four years the federal funding distribution formula for hundreds of public broadcasters like WPM is reviewed as mandated by Congress. The latest review just ended and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Board accepted recommendations made by the review panel. Distribution of these funds among stations of varying size and need is critical. The panel's recommendation to give special attention to rural and Indigenous stations and networks was voted in by the Board. It was heartening to see how altruistically panelists worked to ensure the well-being of the whole system. WPM was one of 17 entities invited to serve on the review panel and one of four radio networks invited to present to the CPB Board. Ruby Calvert, retired *Wyoming PBS* General Manager, serves as the vice-chair of the CPB Board – a lovely honor for Wyoming all the way around.

While the holiday glow is still with us, be sure to check out two programs created by our news team. The December 22nd edition of *Open Spaces* includes several poignant stories that reflect Wyoming at its best. Our reporters solicited stories from listeners and also went out to gather stories that reflect the lives and aspirations of Wyomingites. It's a moving hour. Check it out [here](#). In the second program link, WPM

reporters selected their favorite 2023 stories and explained what is special about them and why they are important. Listen [here](#).

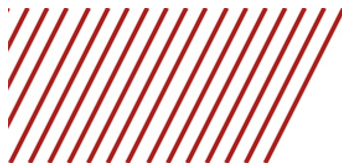
Sports reporting on WPM!!? Well, we're not exactly *ESPN*, but then sports broadcasting isn't our mission. Still, we have a bit of a tradition with Pat Gabriel, Bob Beck, and Will Walkey. Now we have two eager UW interns who auditioned for the opportunity to contribute stories to our newscasts. Meet [Paityn Hulstrom](#) and [Weston Pope](#), both students from the UW Communication and Journalism Department. You will be hearing their reports soon. Go Pokes!

Again, Happy New Year. Valentine's Day is around the corner and so is WPM's traditional *I Love WPR* month. You might consider a gift membership for that someone special, or you can record a short testimonial of your favorite WPM driveway moment on any of our four channels.

Thank you for being such wonderful listeners and supporters!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at [ckuzmych@uwyo.edu](mailto:ckuzmych@uwyo.edu).

Christina Kuzmych,  
WPM General Manager

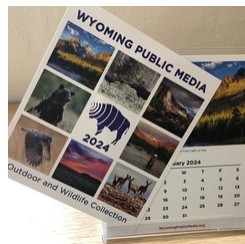


## BEHIND THE SCENES



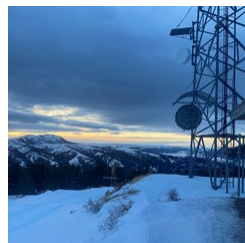
### **Celebrate Martin Luther King Day with Wyoming Public Radio**

Join Host Eddie Robinson as he chats candidly with acclaimed writer, Tami Charles. The former New Jersey schoolteacher sheds light on the obstacles she's experienced as a woman of color maneuvering through the children's book industry. [Listen to I See U: Seeing \(Me\) Is Believing](#) with author Tami Charles at 2 pm, *January 15, 2024*.



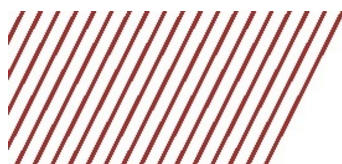
### **Wyoming Through Listeners' Eyes Photo Contest 2024 Calendar**

Wyoming Public Media is pleased to offer listeners this year's mini-calendar featuring selected photos from the 2023 WPM 2023 Photo Contest. If you'd like one for your home or office, please email [WPMUpdate@uwyo.edu](mailto:WPMUpdate@uwyo.edu).



### **WPR Coming to you from Mountain Tops - Where the Radio Signal Originates**

The Alta and Alpine sites went off the air for a short time last month due to audio feed issues. To get Wyoming Public Radio back on air, Cody Hume and Alec Schaffer traveled across the state and drove a Polaris up Relay Ridge (Alta) and Black Mountain (Alpine).



## BEYOND WYOMING



### **The Wind River Food Sovereignty Project is working to address food insecurity on the reservation.**

Hannah Habermann's story a story about the Wind River Food Sovereignty Project aired on *National Native News*: [Listen to the story](#). *December 8, 2023*.

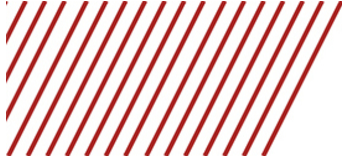
### **Wyoming is an EV charging desert. Federal money could help, but the state isn't so sure**

A story by WPR Reporter Caitlin Tan about the challenges for electric vehicles in Wyoming aired on

*Marketplace. [Listen to the story.](#) December 11, 2023.*

**Small ski resorts face uphill battle with snow shortfalls**

Caitlin Tan's story on small ski resorts and the struggles they face with less snow aired on *Marketplace*. [Listen to the story.](#) January 8, 2024.



**MUST LISTEN**



**The Modern West Podcast Focuses on Wildfires this Season**

In a five-part series from *The Modern West*, Podcast Producer Ariel Lavery brings her family's story of the Marshall Fire to life using recordings tracing events as they unfold. Through interviews with neighbors and climate scientists, insurance experts and fire specialists, Ariel digs deep into the questions surrounding the Marshall Fire: what could her parents and their neighbors have done to stop the fire's spread? Was this urban fire in the middle of winter really caused by climate change? Should her parents rebuild in the same place where such a fire could happen again? Listen to the [Burn Scar](#).



# The Modern West Season 7

## The BURN SCAR

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