

Friends of Wyoming Public Media—

!!LATEST UPDATE!!

On 7/17/2025, Congress voted to rescind forward funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. This affects local stations, NPR and PBS.

In Wyoming, it affects Wyoming Public Media and Wyoming PBS. Wyomingites were among millions of Americans who wrote, called, or e-mailed Senators and Representatives to plead the case for public broadcasting in their communities. Some creative pubsters even produced YouTube masterpieces. Unfortunately, in all voting in both the House and the Senate, we came up about 2 -3 votes short of prevailing. Lawmakers voted mainly along party lines as is the case in most legislation in this Congress.

We received a second blow on August 1, when the Corporation for Public Broadcasting announced that without federal dollars, it must cease operation. This was a harder blow because it meant that federal funding was cut for good.

For more about this, see the GM Update <https://www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/general-manager-blog> for recent articles.

We had a brief moment of grieving and are now firmly in the saddle and ready to tackle the future without CPB funding. WPM is here to serve Wyoming, regardless of what political winds may bring. This is not our first rodeo. But it may be a bumpy experience.

We were also lucky because in true Wyoming cautious and frugal style, we started planning early. In fact, we started planning right after the results of the November election were known. Our plan was to preserve programming that makes WPM special to listeners. We trimmed budgets and started fundraising immediately. We're still fundraising! And we will probably be fundraising for a long time to come!

You were FANTASTIC in your support. You wrote letters, made phone calls, sent e-mails, and buttonholed our legislators like never before. We're truly humbled.

Unfortunately, our legislators took a different stance, but then in politics, this too can pass. Still, we need to keep reminding them of the value of public broadcasting to Wyoming.

Now we're into heavy fundraising. Here's how you can help bridge the gap in CPB funding. Donate if you haven't.

Convince others to support public broadcasting if they haven't yet. This rescission experience revealed something we knew but didn't always heed – public broadcasting needs many, MANY more individual supporters at all levels of giving. We have to woo the listener who is a potential donor, but hasn't yet been convinced to support public radio. We have to preach the value of public broadcasting. We have to grow the family.

Help WPM grow our donor base!

DONATE

For information, here's all that led up to this moment:

President Trump signed an Executive Order titled Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Biased Media. The order instructs the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) to prohibit both direct and indirect federal funding to National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). It targets federal dollars only. This affects 13% of our operating budget in direct funding. It also affects indirect support provided by the CPB impacting all areas of broadcasting from music to satellite interconnectivity. Individuals and organizations have asked how they can help. Since funds to the CPB are appropriated by Congress, an effective way is to communicate with our Senators and Representative indicating your thoughts about WPM and its service to Wyoming. [Updates on this issue can be found here.](#)

Now there's an immediate alarm --the most serious threat to funding for public broadcasting since 1967 has arrived in the form of a "[rescission package](#)." This would claw back funding [that has already been approved by Congress](#). WPM, along with all public radio stations and networks across America have built our budgets, launched local projects and based local public service on the commitments Congress has made.

On Thursday, June 17, 2025, the Senate voted to rescind forward funding for public broadcasting 51 to 48. The Bill now goes back to the House for a vote. There's still time to stop rescission and save public broadcasting funding. Call or e-mail the offices of Representative Hageman and leave a phone message. You can also submit a comment on the Protect My Public Media portal. A simple message of "Do not pass the rescission package"

Hageman

- Email here: https://hageman.house.gov/zip_authentication?form=/contact
- Phone: 202-225-2311

Listeners have asked about the difference between the "Big Beautiful Bill" and the "rescission. You can find an explanation on [Link to Federal Funding Questions](#).

In short. The BBB is a tax and spend legislative tool. The "rescission" is a request to "claw back" funds that were previously voted on and appropriated. In the case of public broadcasting, President Trump himself signed off on these funds in March 2025. He is now asking Congress to take them back.

Ways to show support for Wyoming Public Media (WPM):

- Write a comment to your legislator. This can be as simple as the form on the [Protect My Public Media](#) tab on our website. It's fast and easy.
- Write a personal letter to the legislators stressing WPM's value to Wyoming. You're welcome to provide an example of how WPM benefits YOU. E-mail contacts are provided below. Office addresses are located at the bottom of this memo.
- If possible, go to meetings when Congressional delegation members are in the state or when state legislators are in your area. Tell them what you enjoy about WPM, why WPM is important to you, etc.

Barrasso Senate Website Contact Link: <https://www.barrasso.senate.gov/contact/contact-form/>

- 202-224-6441

Lummis Senate Website Contact Link: <https://www.lummis.senate.gov/contact/contact-form/>

- 202-224-3424

Hageman House Website Contact Link:

https://hageman.house.gov/zip_authentication?form=/contact

- 202-225-2311

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA FACTS

WPM is one of the largest statewide public radio networks in the United States, reaching nearly 95% of Wyoming residents as well as travelers along Wyoming's state and interstate highways.

WPM serves as an Emergency Alert System (EAS) provider to Wyoming in conjunction with state and national emergency services.

- Content focuses on weather warning, Amber Alerts, and public safety messages.

Wyoming Public Radio reaches areas of Wyoming that do not have reliable broadband. In some cases, WPR is the only provider of news/information.

- Wyoming ranks 48th among states in internet coverage, reliability, and affordability. This makes radio essential in these areas.

WPM is a Public Service Resource. WPM allocates space on-air and online for Wyoming public service providers, cultural entities, educational activities, and events.

- WPM is mandated by Congress to provide evidenced service to the communities it serves. Example: over 250 non-profits receive free mentions on-air during Giving Tuesday.

WPM is Wyoming's statewide radio service that carries news, information, and cultural programming.

- 60,000 individual listeners across Wyoming tune in weekly.
- Wyoming Public Media offers 4 radio services to Wyoming citizens. (There are few stations/networks that carry 4 programs 24/7/365)
 - Wyoming Public Radio – local/national/global news. Covers 95% of the state.
 - Wyoming Sounds – Americana music with heavy emphasis on Wyoming bands. Covers 40% of the state.
 - Classical Wyoming – Classical Music. Covers 30% of the state.
 - Jazz Wyoming – Jazz Music. Covers Laramie-Cheyenne on radio.
 - *All 4 services are available nationally and globally through streaming online and on digital devices.*

WPM is also a digital distributor of Wyoming news and information.

- 50,000 individuals weekly receive electronic newsletters via daily, weekly, and monthly delivery to their inboxes.

WPM's website (www.wyomingpublicmedia.org) is an educational tool. It archives content on Wyoming topics, state government activity, cultural programs, and lifestyle issues, among other information.

- The website generates close to 2 million visitors annually.

WPM is a producer of Wyoming-centric podcasts that are distributed nationally and globally. They cover Wyoming history, natural resources, wildlife, Indigenous history, among other topics.

- The podcasts average 75,000 downloads quarterly.

WPM carries state and national major events, including speeches, major news conferences, events of state and national import, debates, presentations, and general content that highlights major activities.

- This content is made available on radio and online via streaming. It is often accompanied by video on the website.

WPM serves as an educator through its internship program.

- Interns come from a variety of disciplines and work alongside professionals in news, technology, cultural programs, podcasts, fundraising.
- Wyoming Public Media is an independently owned, FCC-licensed nonprofit organization dedicated to continuously providing community news and information, celebrating local music and culture, and providing public safety services. WPM provides 24/7 programming on the air and online across Wyoming and beyond. Wyoming Public Media is deeply rooted in the Wyoming community and committed to its public service mission. WPM is a part of the statewide mission of the University of Wyoming and students learn and train at WPM.
- All editorial decisions about programming for the WPM audience are made by WPM personnel - people who know and live in the Wyoming community. WPM produces local programs that provide news about the statewide Wyoming community, promote dialogue among civic leaders, and highlight artists and performances in our area.
- WPM also acquires programming from a number of national producers, including NPR, to supplement its programming. As an NPR Member – in addition to their national and international news programming – WPM receives multiple services such as opportunities for collaborative journalism with more than 200 independent newsrooms in the NPR Network, audience research, digital services for our online audiences, fundraising support, and negotiation of music rights that enriches programs and expands noncommercial music throughout the country. These services enhance the variety of programming WPM can make available in for Wyoming communities, as well as enhancing financial sustainability and audience growth.
- Federal grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) are an essential investment in WPM statewide community. Wyoming Public Media qualifies for annual grants from CPB that are unrestricted and can be used in any way to support its operation. This funding allows WPM to leverage the federal investment into support from local sources, including listeners, businesses, and foundations donating to the station.

- For every federal dollar invested through the CPB, public radio stations raise on average \$8 locally – a successful public-private partnership. On average, 46% of the WPM budget comes from donations by local listeners. A smaller portion of the WPM annual grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is restricted for the production and distribution of national programming or the acquisition of national programming. However, there is no requirement to use this grant for acquisition of programs from any specific producer.
- Public radio, including Wyoming Public Media, is a critical part of the nation's civil defense and public safety infrastructure. This role is possible because of the Public Radio Satellite System (PRSS), the nationwide infrastructure that enables stations to receive programming from more than 100 producers and distributors – as well as distribute their own locally produced programming to others. The PRSS is also the backbone of the country's emergency alerting system for public radio broadcasts. NPR operates the PRSS on behalf of all stations. Because of the PRSS, public radio serves 98.5% of Americans across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. territories with reliable, resilient emergency alerts. Additionally, in the event of a national emergency, FEMA will send a Presidential-level alert to the PRSS, which is then transmitted nationally through our stations in a matter of minutes. Wyoming Public Media also utilizes this infrastructure to serve the community and state with emergency alerting services.

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE WYOMING CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION**

Senator Barrasso Contact Information

Barrasso Senate Website Contact Link: <https://www.barrasso.senate.gov/contact/contact-form/>

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Phone: 307.362.5012

Cheyenne:

2120 Capitol Avenue, Suite 2013
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Sheridan:

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Phone: 307.672.6456

Riverton:

324 East Washington Avenue
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Phone: 307.856.6642

Washington, D.C.:

307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
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Senator Lummis Contact Information

Lummis Senate Website Contact Link: <https://www.lummis.senate.gov/contact/contact-form/>

Casper:

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Jackson – no address yet
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80 1st Avenue, suite 105
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Sundance:

120 North 4th Street
P.O. Box 769
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Representative Hageman Contact Information**Hageman House Website Contact Link:**

https://hageman.house.gov/zip_authentication?form=/contact

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