ABOUT THIS POSITION - WPM TRIBAL/RURAL BUREAU MANAGER

The Tribal/Rural Bureau Manager is central to Wyoming Public Media’s (WPM) coverage of Wyoming and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for an aspiring journalist with an understanding of both Indigenous and Rural Western cultures.

Serving Indigenous populations in Wyoming, and particularly in the Wind River Reservation, is one of WPM’s core missions. It has been part of the network’s reporting since 1966 and has grown into a permanent reporting position.

Wyoming Public Media is a statewide network serving most of Wyoming and parts of contiguous states. It has been broadcasting for close to 60 years, and now operates 4 distinct channels, a streaming service, website, and podcasts. Wyoming is home to the Wind River Indian Reservation, one of the largest in the United States and exceptional in many ways. It is home to two historically warring tribes, the Arapaho and the Shoshone, who were unwillingly placed on this territory and left to integrate. Understandably, this integration was difficult, and to this day the tensions are still visible.

Over the decades WPM established an association with the Tribes, reporting on specific issues tied to Wyoming’s overall economic and public directions. This was not easy. Building confidence in the communities took time, but in the last years individual reporters succeeded in building that trust. Still, our presence was sporadic. In 2018, with the help of a Report for America seed grant, WPM was able to realize its dream of creating a full-time reporting position on the Reservation.

WPM’s commitment to Tribal coverage goes beyond reporting and storytelling. Our development department succeeded in establishing a strong support base for the full-time Tribal reporter. Raising funds for the Tribal reporter is a solid part of the development mission, and we are committed to building for the future. WPM also has the backing of the University of Wyoming for our work with the Tribes.

As this initiative grew, it became apparent that Tribal coverage does not end at the Reservation border. What goes on in the counties surrounding the Wind River Reservation plays an important part in the Tribal ecosystem. The position was expanded to a Tribal/Rural Bureau Manager, and now covers Fremont, Teton, and Sublette Counties with the help of part-time and Intern staff based mostly on the Reservation. Inclusion of the surrounding counties created yet another poignant dynamic for journalism – Fremont County, home to the Reservation, is among the nation’s poorest counties, while adjoining Teton is one of the nation’s richest counties. With these start differences, the Tribal/Rural Bureau Manager will inherit one of the most unique reporting assignments in the country.
The Tribal/Rural Bureau Manager will function in a high-altitude, rugged mountainous terrain, as well as in the internationally eclectic environment of Jackson, Wyoming.

This position is based in the proximity of the Wind River Mountain Range, the Teton Range, the Absaroka Range, as well as Bridger National Forest, and include the towns of Lander, Riverton, Fort Washakie, Dubois, Moose, Jackson, Alpine, Victor, ID, and Driggs, ID, among others. For more information, please visit Current Job Openings (at https://www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/current-job-openings).