

2025 2nd Quarter Issues for Wyoming Public Media

Wildlife

Topic: Tony Mong has captured video collar and other visual data that tells more about mule deer migration and the challenges they face navigating rugged terrain and development in the Cody area.

Time: 8 min

Date: May 9 at 3 p.m. and May 11 at noon.

Economy

Topic: James Kincaid moved his family over 1,000 miles to join Wyoming's mining sector and nab a resident elk tag. Two months later, he was laid off.

Time: 7 min

Date: April 4 at 3 p.m. and April 6 at noon.

Topic: State shooting complex starts to take shape. Permits and some details are still being decided. The more than 2,000-acre site plans to feature a variety of shooting sports and a massive event center. The project is still figuring out driving access, agreements between the local government board operating it and state agencies, raising funds and potential wildlife mitigation.

Time: 5 min

Date: June 6 at 3 p.m. and June 8 at noon.

Election

Topic: Wyoming's last election cycle saw few procedural hiccups and a Freedom Caucus surge to power in the House. But members of the caucus want to crack down on voter fraud anyway.

Time: 6 min

Date: May 16 at 3 p.m. and May 18 at noon.

Outdoor recreation

Topic: The Albany County Outdoor School focuses on science and outdoor recreation, using Curt Gowdy State Park and the Snowy Range as classrooms.

Time: 6 min

Date: May 16 at 3 p.m. and May 18 at noon.

Rural Issues

Topic: Annie Eisenberg argues that assumptions about rural communities are often based on old mythologies. She says it's time to replace those myths with a modern vision for the future of rural America.

Time: 7 min

Date: May 9 at 3 p.m. and May 11 at noon.

Women's issues

Topic: As the Wyoming Supreme Court considers whether the state's abortion bans are constitutional, data show women who are denied abortions and carry their pregnancy to term have worse financial and physical well being than women who got abortions.

Time: 9 min

Date: April 25 at 3 p.m. and April 27 at noon.

Topic: With the future of abortion rights in Wyoming in limbo, two residents share how their pregnancies led them to opposite sides on the issue.

Time: 4 min

Date: May 9 at 3 p.m. and May 11 at noon.

Topic: Demand for emergency housing has surged in East Idaho after the murder of a pregnant mother forced a spotlight on violence. It isn't slowing.

Time: 7 min

Date: May 16 at 3 p.m. and May 18 at noon.

International issues at a local level

Topic: Abdalrahim Abuwarda's family has made a life in Laramie, where he and his wife are attending UW. He told WPR he's "terrified" at the prospect of losing their newfound stability.

Time: 8 min

Date: May 9 at 3 p.m. and May 11 at noon.

National issues at a local level

Topic: The Department of Veterans Affairs is in the process of downsizing, aiming to cut 15% of its workforce: roughly 80,000 employees. The agency is also calling workers back to the office in the next few weeks.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 4 at 3 p.m. and April 6 at noon.

Topic: Our general manager breaks down our funding, how a push to cut federal grants would impact the station and how Wyomingites view public media.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 11 at 3 p.m. and April 13 at noon.

Topic: More than 100 members of the Wyoming State Bar are calling on the state's Congressional delegation to denounce threats to judges and support the independence of the judicial branch. Wyoming's senators and representative say judges imposing policy biases is the problem.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 11 at 3 p.m. and April 13 at noon.

Topic: A rescission package working its way through Congress would cut \$400,000 from the station's budget. But a grant for two statehouse reporters is moving forward.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 20 at 3 p.m. and June 22 at noon.

Topic: CPB chair: Fixing bias means more funding, not less. Wyoming PBS alum Ruby Calvert doesn't want to see 'public media go down on my watch'.

Time: 7 min

Date: June 27 at 3 p.m. and June 29 at noon.

Public Land Management

Topic: There's been a push recently to remove or replace fences to allow deer, pronghorn and elk to move about and migrate. But one of the biggest hurdles is knowing where all those miles and miles of fence actually are.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 25 at 3 p.m. and April 27 at noon.

Topic: Some conservatives say selling off portions of federal land isn't enough. They want most of it to go to the states. State conservatives say the U.S. Constitution mandates Congress to 'dispose' of this land.

Time: 5 min

Date: May 30 at 3 p.m. and June 1 at noon.

Topic: Here's what you need to know about potential public land sales. There's a lot in flux with the public land sale proposal. Reporters debrief the latest updates, context and responses from Wyomingites.

Time: 11 min

Date: June 27 at 3 p.m. and June 29 at noon.

Topic: Some states want to take over federal land. They may not have the resources. Plus, there's no guarantee the public would maintain access.

Time: 5 min

Date: June 27 at 3 p.m. and June 29 at noon.

Energy

Topic: Very few know about Wyoming's biggest export and how it's produced. And yet, there's a mini-underground world below the desert of Green River. Wyoming Public Radio brings you an audio tour of trona mining.

Time: 5 min

Date: June 6 at 3 p.m. and June 8 at noon.

Topic: We recently heard about the underground world of mining Wyoming's biggest export – spoiler, it's not coal. Now to the above ground process and looming geopolitical implications.

Time: June 20 at 3 p.m. and June 22 at noon.

Climate

Topic: Researchers found Wyomingites are split on why the climate is changing, but most want to see action to prepare for changes. This comes at a time when some state politicians have denied climate science.

Time: 7 min

Date: May 16 at 3 p.m. and May 18 at noon.

Housing

Topic: The town and county's housing programs dodged legal challenges for now, though some critics suggest future legal threats could be looming.

Time: 7 min

Date: April 4 at 3 p.m. and April 6 at noon.

Topic: As Wyoming's housing crisis worsens, Trump considers eliminating federal rural housing programs. The monthly bill for many Wyomingites' homes absorbs over 30% of their income, the benchmark for what's considered affordable.

Time: 7 min

Date: June 20 at 3 p.m. and June 22 at noon.

Topic: Federal land sale push sparks wider debate on housing solutions. Some local officials in the Mountain West say federal land could be used in certain cases to ease the region's housing crisis. But they view a plan from Senate Republicans as going much farther than the solutions that have worked in their areas.

Time: 5 min

Date: June 27 at 3 p.m. and June 29 at noon.

Politics

Topic: Gov. Mark Gordon shared his thoughts with Wyoming Public Radio's Chris Clements on the now-concluded legislative session.

Time: 7 min

Date: April 11 at 3 p.m. and April 13 at noon.

Topic: Lawmakers were set to pick the topics they'll spend the next few months hearing about from the public and stakeholders. Instead, the committee discussed new rules and norms for the interim.

Time: 9 min

Date: April 11 at 3 p.m. and April 13 at noon.

Topic: A recent study by OpenSecrets found that in states with smaller populations like Wyoming, political funds flow from the outside in. It's been getting more pronounced.

Time: 8 min

Date: May 9 at 3 p.m. and May 11 at noon.

Health Care

Topic: COVID-era grants for vaccine clinics and community health outreach workers were slashed in Teton and Natrona counties.

Time: 3 min

Date: May 9 at 3 p.m. and May 11 at noon.

Topic: Jackson health programs to end early as COVID-era grants hit the chopping block. The loss leaves the county without Spanish-speaking Medicaid help.

Time: 4 min

Date: May 9 at 3 p.m. and May 11 at noon.

Topic: Wyoming healthcare stakeholders are expecting a double whammy if changes proposed by Congress to Medicaid and the healthcare Marketplace are enacted. They predict 20,000 Wyomingites could lose coverage. Plus, hospitals and nursing homes' financial capacity will fall.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 6 at 3 p.m. and June 8 at noon.

Agriculture

Topic: After AmeriCorps cuts, an urban farm project turns to private donors. This Casper urban farm expected an AmeriCorps NCCC team. When NCCC disbanded, the community found a way to get one anyway.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 6 at 3 p.m. and June 8 at noon.

Community issues

Topic: The etymology and origins of the April 1 holiday depend on whom you ask.

Time: 4 min

Date: April 4 at 3 p.m. and April 6 at noon.

Topic: The series of reporter-produced episodes tackle stories about finding nuance and people who are steering clear of black and white thinking.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 4 at 3 p.m. and April 6 at noon.

Topic: Despite isolated incidents of antisemitism, Chabad Rabbi Mendelsohn says the state's residents and leaders have stood strongly with Wyoming's Jews.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 15 at 3 p.m. and April 17 at noon.

Topic: Nonprofits and volunteers around the country are figuring out their next steps amongst a flurry of cuts and executive orders. Here's how Feeding Laramie Valley, a nonprofit focused on food insecurity, is dealing with them.

Time: 5 min

Date: May 30 at 3 p.m. and June 1 at noon.

Mental Health

Topic: On the final day of the Wyoming Legislature's recent general session, Rep. Tom Kelly (R-Sheridan) walked up to a lectern and spoke about his personal experience with navigating family health issues.

Time: 7 min

Date: April 4 at 3 p.m. and April 6 at noon.

Native American issues

Topic: 'She was like a grandma to me': Educators remember fluent Northern Arapaho speaker Marian Scott. Scott was a regular at powwows, community events and basketball games, even winning the "fan of the year" award once for her courtside dedication. She passed away at the age of 80 this spring.

Time: 5 min

Date: May 16 at 3 p.m. and May 18 at noon.

Topic: A USFWS office in Lander specializes in tribal collaboration. Its future is uncertain. Eastern Shoshone tribal member Jason Baldes said closing the office could hurt wildlife on the reservation and would violate the government's trust responsibility to tribes.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 6 at 3 p.m. and June 8 at noon.

Topic: A new documentary follows a group of Wind River youth on their journeys into adulthood. Co-producers Lynette St. Clair and Jordan Dresser share a behind-the-scenes look

into “Generation Warrior.” The film premieres at Central Wyoming College in Riverton on the evening of Tuesday, June 24.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 20 at 3 p.m. and June 22 at noon.

Business and industry

Topic: Wyoming’s prisons are among the lowest-staffed in the country. The Marshall Project, a newsroom that investigates the criminal justice system, dug into these numbers to get a better understanding of how low staffing impacts safety and mental health for workers and inmates alike.

Time: 8 min

Date: May 30 at 3 p.m. and June 1 at noon.

Topic: ‘I saw Job Corps as the light’: Students worry losing the program could throw their lives off course. Job Corps is the latest federal program caught in a tug-of-war between the Trump administration, lawyers, congresspeople and participants.

Time: 5 min

Date: June 6 at 3 p.m. and June 8 at noon.

Topic: The Trace’s investigation found about a dozen law enforcement agencies nationwide traded in the Sig Sauer P320 for resale to the public after multiple lawsuits alleged it fired without pulling the trigger. Wyoming Highway Patrol was among them.

Time: 7 min

Date: June 6 at 3 p.m. and June 8 at noon.

Research

Topic: A new study says the abortion pill mifepristone is 22 times more dangerous than previously known. What to make of a study that seems to upend years of accepted science?

Time: 5 min

Date: May 30 at 3 p.m. and June 1 at noon.

Topic: The long-standing U.S. Geological Survey program at the University of Wyoming could be on the chopping block as a result of Trump's proposed budget cuts.

Time: 5 min

Date: May 30 at 3 p.m. and June 1 at noon.

Education

Topic: Board of Education chair says 'it's a good sign' that schools are moving to four days a week. Of the state's 48 school districts, 26 now have alternative schedules. There are benefits and challenges that come with the trend.

Time: 8 min

Date: May 30 at 3 p.m. and June 1 at noon.

Topic: Breaking down public ed lawsuits, school vouchers and recalibration. As Wyoming starts recalibrating its public school funding, state educators and parents have brought a second lawsuit alleging the state is failing to support its schools.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 27 at 3 p.m. and June 29 at noon.

Topic: Two UW Lab School staff speak out about why they think the school closed. Several staff members say the school culture changed after the Albany County School District superintendent hired a new principal without stakeholder input.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 27 at 3 p.m. and June 19 at noon.

University of Wyoming

Topic: Following the ouster of a popular dean, donors and faculty said they were losing trust in UW leadership.

Time: 8 min

Date: April 11 at 3 p.m. and April 13 at noon.

History

Topic: 'Strangers in the Land' traces 19th-century violence against Chinese immigrants in Wyoming to contemporary crackdowns.

Time: 8 min

Date: June 20 at 3 p.m. and June 22 at noon.

Art

Topic: The POP! Goes the West exhibition at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West opens on May 24. Holland-born artist Willem Volkersz shares his early impressions of the West and humorous takes on Yellowstone tourism in his art, using paint-by-number images, neon and found objects.

Time: 8 min

Date: May 16 at 3 p.m. and May 18 at noon.