

WYOMING PUBLIC MEDIA

General Manager's Newsletter | April 2025



On March 26th Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene's DOGE subcommittee heard testimony from *NPR* CEO Katherine Maher, *PBS* CEO Paula Kerger, Alaska Public Media CEO Ed Ulman, and Michael Gonzales, Senior Fellow, Heritage Foundation. You can view the hearing and read the documents presented for the record [via this live streaming link](#). The subcommittee finding was to defund *NPR* and *PBS*.

CPB leaders reacted to the March 26th DOGE subcommittee hearing. Note, that the current CPB Board Chair is Wyoming's own Ruby Calvert, former General Manager of *Wyoming PBS*. ([CPB leaders react to House hearing, federal funding threat](#))

The Federal Communications Commission sent letters to 13 public radio stations asking them to compile materials detailing past sponsorships by March 31. The request builds on FCC Chair Brendan Carr's investigation into whether public TV and radio stations are airing advertisements in violation of federal guidelines.

Recently, President Trump said that he'd be happy to see public broadcasters lose their federal funding. "It's been very biased," said Trump. "We don't need it, and it's a waste of money." But is that what Americans think? Pew Research [released a survey last week](#) that finds 43% think Congress should fund *NPR* and *PBS*. That compares to 24% who prefer to end funding. A third of Americans polled by Pew say they are not sure. The survey was conducted March 10-16. It also shows that 69% of Democrats want to fund public media, while 19% of Republicans agree to continued funding.

Protesting activity at major campuses has resulted in accusations of antisemitism and questions on how the media covers it. Responding to a listener comment and query, the *NPR Public Editor* provided insight into the network's coverage. ([NPR Public Editor by Poynter's Kelly McBride](#))

If you listen to *NPR* credits at the end of news programs, a name you may remember is Kee Malesky, who recently passed away. You wouldn't have heard Kee's voice, but you heard her work. Kee was *NPR*'s researcher and brain trust. Her encyclopedic knowledge of minute facts kept many an *NPR* host from the pitfalls of misinformation, mispronunciation, or mislocation! ([Kee Malesky, NPR's research librarian for more than 20 years, has died at 74](#))

Thanks to those of you who took our WPM survey. We're reviewing the results and finding out how listeners

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devices.

Our International Women's Day mini-drive elicited a number of donations in support of our multi-talented women journalists and professionals. Thank you to all who added their voice (and funds) to this ongoing initiative.

Many stories were written and aired about Wyoming's beloved Senator Al Simpson, who passed away on March 14th. One of the last interviews with him was recorded by Jim Raymond and Jim Jones, co-hosts of the podcast JimJam. They went to the home of Al and Ann and interviewed both of them. The conversation aired on WPM's Open Spaces on March 21, 2025.

A new podcast season is upon us! Season 10 of *The Modern West* unveils *The Gray in Between* in which WPR journalists explore some of this year's most fascinating stories. Catch unique stories such one about building strawbale and modular affordable homes, two stories about how Pinedale's wolf incident tore apart the community, a program to reduce recidivism on the Wind River Reservation, and how the state is responding to the threat of chronic wasting disease on the borders of its elk feedgrounds, among others. Coming to you every other Wednesday starting April 9.

Listeners have asked how they can express their thoughts and opinions about public broadcasting and WPM to lawmakers. Our Senators and Representative are open to public opinion. The "*Protect my Public Radio*" link is a fast and easy way to send a short message. Direct letters can be sent to Congressional offices.

And what's April without a fund drive!? Our spring fund drive is quietly going on right now with an invitation to donate online. While online, check out our brand new Brown and Gold Sonic Bison Ball Cap! On-air, we'll be fundraising April 12 through 18, or however long it takes to raise \$330,000. Thank you in advance for your support.

We value your support, loyalty, and enthusiasm. A heartfelt thanks to all who have inquired as to our funding situation under the current administration. We're hanging in there, thanks to loyal support and well-wishing from WPM listeners. As noted at the top of this newsletter, many Wyoming entities and individuals are in this predicament, and we try to report on as many as we can in our news stories and mention as many as possible in our public service announcements. Our thoughts are with them all, and we encourage individuals to be as generous as they can during these unsettling times.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at ckuzmych@uwyo.edu.

*Christina Kuzmych,
WPM General Manager*



BEHIND THE SCENES



Wyoming Native Chancey Williams on Wyoming Sounds

Former saddle bronc rider turned country & western star Chancey Williams visited with Grady Kirkpatrick on *Wyoming Sounds*, featuring music and conversation, with new songs *Miles on Me* and *Ballad of Uncle Don*. Listen to the interview. March 20, 2025.

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WPM's Ivy Engel Attended a virtual ISOJ Conference

The 26th International Symposium on Online Journalism (ISOJ) featured sessions ranging from conversations on AI in journalism to building trust in journalism to journalism challenges experienced worldwide. *March 27-28, 2025.*



SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Former Wyoming lawmaker Cyrus Western to lead the Rocky Mountain and Plains states' division of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Cyrus Western served as a state representative for three terms. He said his goal is to give states like Wyoming more voice at the table. [View Facebook post.](#) *March 19, 2025.*



Olivia Weitz Offered her Museum Minute at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West

The Draper Natural History Museum has a northern pocket gopher in its research collection. [Watch the reel.](#) *March 20, 2025.*



BEYOND WYOMING



Gordon green lights property tax cut and prohibits DEI programs in government

A spot by Chris Clements about Wyoming's 2025 legislative session aired on NPR's *Newscast*. [See story.](#) *March 5, 2025.*

Ultrasounds are now required before Wyoming women receive abortion meds

Chris Clements' spot about Wyoming legislation regulating abortions aired on NPR's *Newscast*. [See story.](#) *March 7, 2025.*

A project bringing solar energy to the Wind River Reservation has hit some road bumps

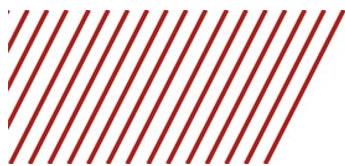
A story by Hannah Habermann about solar energy on the Wind River Reservation aired on *National Native News*. [Listen to the story.](#) *March 11 & 18, 2025.*

Conservative Freedom Caucus influences Wyoming legislative agenda

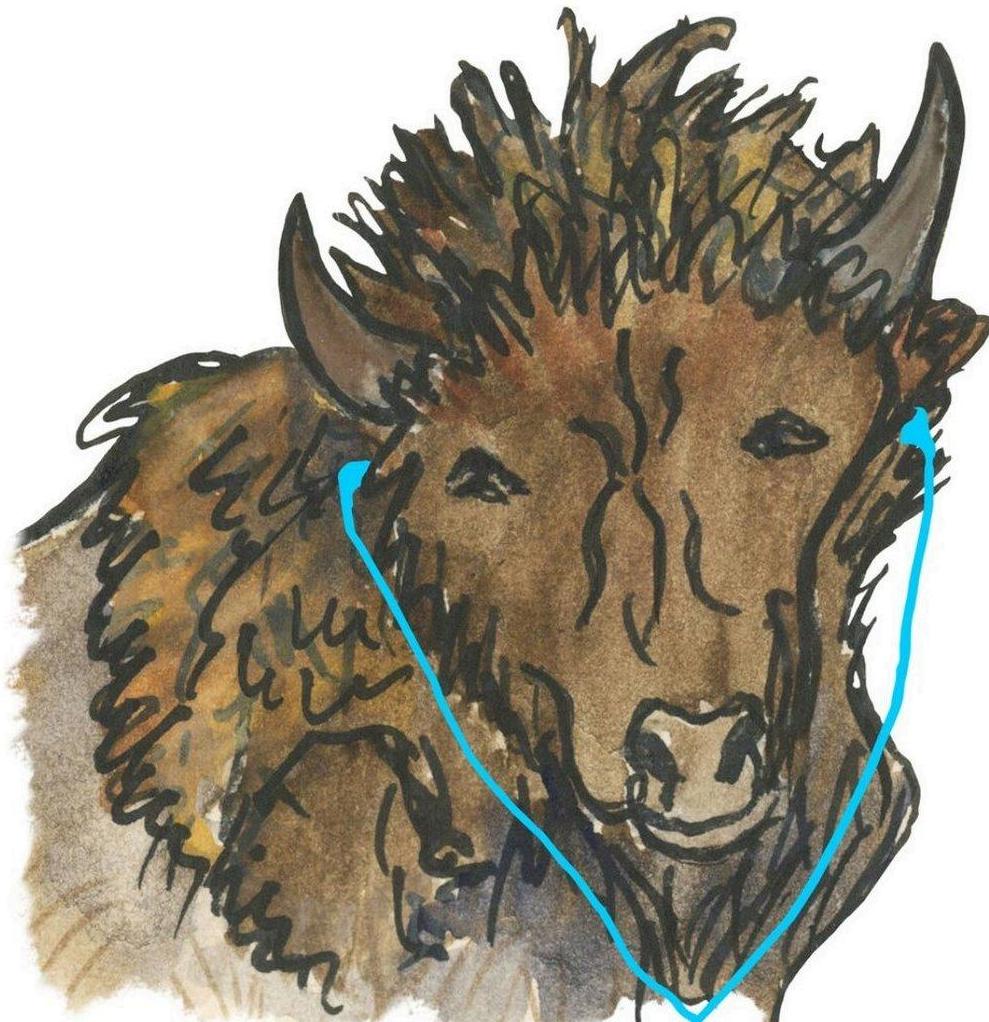
A story by Chris Clements about the Wyoming Freedom Caucus aired on NPR's *Morning Edition*. [Listen to the story.](#) *March 18, 2025.*

Members of Congress holding town halls in their home states face tough questions

An interview with Jordan Uplinger about town hall meetings with Representative Harriet Hageman aired on NPR's *Weekend Edition*. [Listen to the story.](#) *March 23, 2025.*



MUST LISTEN



Humanature

HumaNature Podcast - Season 13

Join host Megan Feighery as she chats with three authors exploring the natural world around them.

Catherine Raven, author of *Fox and I: An Uncommon Friendship*, lives in a very remote part of Montana. Of all the animals Catherine has watched over the years, none will ever be as special as Fox, the little runt that became her friend.

Alexandra de Steiguer, author of *Small Island, Big Picture: Winters of Solitude Teach an Artist to See*, is an artist, author, poet, musician, and photographer who has spent the last twenty-eight years working as the winter caretaker of Star Island off the coast of Maine and New Hampshire.

Leigh Ann Henion is the author of *Night Magic: Adventures Among Glowworms, Moon Gardens, and Other Marvels of the Dark*. It is a beautiful celebration of all the things that come alive in the dark; mushrooms, moths, bobcats, salamanders, owls, glowworms and more. [Listen to the podcasts.](#)



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Danielle Laumann - Dueling Moose

2024 WPM Photo Contest Entry



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