TECH UPDATE:

If you didn't know already, Wyoming Public Media has 34 different signals around the state. We cover over 93% of Wyoming's residents with our main channel signal. We also provide Classical Wyoming, Jazz Wyoming, and Wyoming Sounds service to many additional towns.

Getting to these sites provides an additional challenge throughout the year as many of these sites are on top of mountains (Other states around the country rely on + 1000 foot towers for their signals. We are fortunate to have mountains in Wyoming). Many sites we cannot easily get into until June and sometimes we must have our work complete by October. This allows for a very short window to accomplish the maintenance tasks needed. We are constantly trying to find technologies to improve signal reliability at these sites.

Our biggest problem right now is the satellite delivery of programming from our Laramie studios to these remote sites. Any weather situations (snow, ice, heavy rain, etc.) can take down a signal quickly. A weather condition in Laramie can take down the entire network. One way of providing backup is via and IP (Internet) connection to each site. This can be difficult in many locations due to the remoteness of some sites. I'm sure many of you that live in rural areas can relate to how difficult it can be to get an internet connection. In the last two years, we have been able to get IP connectivity to about 95% of our sites. This year we will begin to install devices to automatically switch over to an IP feed in the event of a satellite failure. Hopefully this will aid in keeping a consistent signal to these sites and improve reliability to our listeners.

Paul Montoya Director of Engineering Wyoming Public Media



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