

Wyoming Public Media Issues Report for 4th Quarter of 2019

Prepared by Bob Beck

ISSUE: Politics

Topic: The Bureau of Land Management is moving more staff--and perhaps most significantly--its headquarters to the Mountain West. Depending on who you talk to, this will either make the BLM more efficient, or give preferential treatment to the fossil fuel industry. Noah Glick reports.

Time: 4 min

Date: 10/4/19 at 3pm and 10/6/19 at noon

Topic: This week Wyoming Congresswoman Liz Cheney rebuked President Trump's strategy - or lack there of - in Syria. And she's not alone, as Correspondent Matt Laslo reports from Washington.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/1/19 at 3pm and 11/1/19 at noon.

Topic: For years, Sheridan has debated whether or not it should employ a city administrator to handle day-to-day operations for the city. In July, the City Council passed an ordinance that updates a previous law that established the job. That new law has been challenged by a citizen petition, bringing the city to a special election on the topic. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck spoke with Northeast reporter Catherine Wheeler to learn more about the election.

Time: 6 min

Date: 11/1/19 at 3pm and 11/1/19 at noon.

Topic: Wyoming senior Senator Mike Enzi may be retiring, but that doesn't mean he's relaxing in Washington these days. This week the Budget Committee that he chairs passed a historic, bipartisan proposal to reform how the entire federal government spends money, as Correspondent Matt Laslo reports from Washington.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/8/19 at 3pm and 11/10/19 at noon

Topic: This week Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon traveled East to testify about water issues out here in the West. Washington Correspondent Matt Laslo has the story on how he was in the nation's capital to try to ease clean water regulations in order to try to ship more Wyoming coal overseas.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/22/19 at 3pm and 11/24/19 at noon

Topic: For people untouched by federal immigration policy, the issue can feel distant. But a planned immigration jail in Uinta County has made the issue intensely local for the residents of Evanston. Wyoming Public Radio's Jeff Victor reports.

Time: 7 min

Date: 11/22/19 at 3pm and 11/24/19 at noon

Topic: Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon presented his budget to the legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee this week and it didn't feature massive budget cuts some were predicting due to a downturn in revenue. The governor joins Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck to discuss his strategy along with some other topics.

Time: 12 Min

Date: 12/13/15 at 3pm and 12/15/19 at noon.

ISSUE: Native American issues

Topic: Around 60-percent of 18-24 year olds leave the state each year. So Wyoming Public Radio has turned the microphone over to young people to talk about what's behind their decisions to stay or go. Gabby St. Clair and Angelo Sage both went to high school in predominantly white towns bordering the Wind River Reservation. Now, they say the love and support of their tribal communities helps them succeed at Central Wyoming College, and pulls them to stay here in Wyoming.

Time: 7 min

Date: 10/4/19 at 3pm and 10/6/19 at noon

Topic: It's been a month since the police shooting of 58-year-old Anderson Antelope in Riverton. Officials have released few details about what happened. But as Wyoming Public Radio's Savannah Maher reports, the incident has drawn new attention to long simmering racial tensions in the reservation border town.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/25/19 at 3pm and 10/27/19 at noon

Topic: A committee at the University of Wyoming has been quietly toiling to finish a plan that would help Native American students feel more welcome and supported on campus. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards reports, committee members feel it's coming just in the nick of time since the university is getting ready to hire a new president.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/25/19 at 3pm and 10/27/19 at noon

Topic: Lander writer and photographer Sara Wiles has been spending time with families on the Wind River Reservation, and taking their pictures, since she started a job as a social worker there in the 1970's. Her latest book, *The Arapaho Way: Continuity and Change on the Wind River Reservation*, is a culmination of those 40 plus year relationships. Through essays and photographs, it documents the contemporary history of the Wind River.

Wyoming Public Radio's tribal affairs reporter Savannah Maher sat down with Wiles to talk about the book, which is out this week.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/25/19 at 3pm and 10/27/19 at noon

ISSUE: Environment and the outdoors

Topic: What will the future forests of Yellowstone National Park look like? That's what Dr. Monica Turner of the University of Wisconsin-Madison is trying to figure out by

creating models for possible ways the Yellowstone ecosystem could react to hotter and dryer weather. Dr. Turner was awarded the Camp Monaco Prize to do just that and then use those scenarios to create pictures of potential future landscape. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska asks Dr. Turner how the model can project the future landscape of Yellowstone.

Time: 7 min

Date: 10/4/19 at 3pm and 10/6/19 at noon

Topic: Over the years, the Environmental Protection Agency has made new regulations for how to build and manage landfills. In Wyoming, it's led to changes to how landfills are used, discussions about how long they will last, and the consideration of how much building new ones will cost. In Sheridan, the city is testing a program that hopes to extend the life of its landfill by decreasing the amount that's thrown away in the first place. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/25/19 at 3pm and 10/27/19 at noon.

Topic: Electric bicycles, or e-bikes, as they're known, are having a moment. Right now, they're the fastest growing segment of the country's bike market. But - what exactly are they? As Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen reports, that question is at the heart of the debate over the Department of the Interior's decision to allow them on public lands.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/8/19 at 3pm and 11/10/19 at noon

Topic: Wyoming is one of the states with the most surviving glaciers in the lower 48 states. And trapped in the layers of all that ice is an intricate history of life on earth. During a visit to the University of Wyoming this week, Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards sat down to talk with Nobel Peace Prize winning geoscientist Richard Alley about what this history tells us about climate change.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/8/19 at 3pm and 11/10/19 at noon

Topic: The climate crisis is threatening traditional ways of life throughout Indian Country. Tribal leaders and scientists are working together to help reservations become more climate resilient. But as the Mountain West News Bureau's Noah Glick reports, native voices believe indigenous science should play a greater role.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/8/19 at 3pm and 11/10/19 at noon

Topic: They're called toxic algae blooms. They grow rapidly and are [increasingly](#) popping up in lakes, ponds, and other bodies of water. The harmful toxins they produce can [devastate](#) fishing and tourism economies, make your [drinking water unsafe](#), and as Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen reports, can also be harmful to humans and deadly for animals.

Time: 4 min

Date: 11/22/19 at 3pm and 11/24/19 at noon

Topic: For the last couple of weeks, world leaders have been convening in Madrid, Spain for the United Nations' summit on climate change. Among them was a delegation of Indigenous youth. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards caught up with one of the delegates who is there representing the Wind River Reservation. Micah (Big Wind) Lott addressed over 500,000 people on a stage with renowned activist Greta Thunberg, and when the delegation protested at the U.S. Embassy, they were among 75 Indigenous activists arrested by Spanish police.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/13/19 a 3pm and 12/15/19 at noon

Topic: Most ski resorts across the region have opened for the season at this point. And record amounts of snow had some resorts in opening early this year. But resorts don't just rely on snow - seasonal workers are also vital and as Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen reports, they're becoming as unpredictable as the weather.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12 /13/19 a 3pm and 12/15/19 at noon

Topic: So much of the West's water security is wrapped up in snow. When it melts, it becomes drinking and irrigation water for millions throughout the region. A high snowpack lets farmers, skiers and water managers breathe a sigh of relief. While a low one can spell long-term trouble. Luke Runyon reports on what the upcoming winter might bring.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12 /13/19 a 3pm and 12/15/19 at noon

ISSUE: Wildlife

Topic: Throughout the west - water delivery systems have been developed for a number of purposes including agriculture. But sometimes those solutions can lead to problems for fish. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska follows a trout unlimited chapter dedicated to saving fish from getting stuck and dying in irrigation canals.

Time: 4 min

Date: 10/25/19 at 3pm and 10/27/19 at noon.

Topic: The acting director of the Bureau of Land Management says the overpopulation of wild horses is the biggest challenge in managing public lands. William Perry Pendley says the BLM needs to increase the number of wild horses it removes from public lands by about 61,000. But their method of doing this is controversial. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska takes us to one of those gathers.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/25/19 at 3pm and 10/27/19 at noon.

Topic: Grizzly bears of the Yellowstone ecosystem are again protected by the Endangered Species Act. That means Wyoming Game and Fish manages the bears as normal but the final decision has be ok'd by the U-S Fish and wildlife service. Fall is usually the time of the year the most human-bear conflicts occurs because recreationists are out and bears are getting ready to hibernate. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska speaks with Dan Thompson, the department's large carnivore supervisor, about how grizzly management is changing as the grizzly population footprint is expanding.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/1/19 at 3pm and 11/1/19 at noon.

Topic: Winters in Norway usually last from October to late May—sound familiar? Norway also has something called the polar night. For about two months, the sun never rises above the horizon, giving way to some of the longest, darkest winters on earth. But to psychologists surprise, rates of seasonal depression there are extremely low for what one would expect. That's why Stanford Doctoral Student [Kari Leibowitz](#) went there to learn more. She told Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen about what she found in a town called Tromsø.

Time: 7 min

Date: 12/20/19 at 3pm and 12/22/19 at noon

Topic: When it comes to a Christmas tree, there are a lot of choices out there. Maybe silver tinsel is your thing. Or the classic fake plastic spruce. Or maybe you want to work for it and cut down the tree yourself. For Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen, that's her tradition and this year we tagged along.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12/20/19 at 3pm and 12/22/19 at noon

ISSUE: Education

Topic: Special education students are incarcerated at higher rates than their K-12 peers, according to preliminary data gathered by Wyoming Public Radio. Reporter Tennessee Watson has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/25/19 at 3pm and 10/27/19 at noon

Topic: For the past four years, Park county school district number six in Cody has brought together all of its schools to create one mass celebration in honor of its veterans. Wyoming Public radio's Kamila Kudelska has the story.

Time: 4 min

Date: 11/25/19 at 3pm and 11/27/19 at noon

Topic: Educators put in a lot of time with little recognition, but sometimes a light shines on their work. Recently, in Cheyenne, a well thought of principal was awarded a major prize. Wyoming Public Radio's Ivy Engel explains.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12/13/19 at 3pm and 12/15/19 at noon

Topic: Several community colleges in our state are in the process of developing four 4-year Bachelor of Applied Science degree programs. One proposed degree at Central Wyoming College, or CWC, would help students learn what it takes to be a good tribal leader. Wyoming Public Radio's Savannah Maher reports on what that could mean for the Wind River Reservation.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12/20/19 at 3pm and 12/22/19 at noon

ISSUE: Health Care

Topic: Title X is a federal program that's geared towards helping low-income or uninsured people receive family planning and reproductive health care. Though, new regulations have some clinics rethinking their participation in the program. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler reports on how the changes to Title Ten will affect the state's clinics.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/4/19 at 3pm and 10/6/19 at noon

Topic: The recent Blackjewel bankruptcy left hundreds of furloughed miners without health insurance. With coal production expected to continue in its decline, state legislators are discussing how to keep that from happening in the future. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10/25/19 at 3pm and 10/27/19 at noon

ISSUE: Agriculture

Topic: Farmers across the country are feeling the backlash of the trade war with China. And while there have been recent steps towards resolving that, the national farm economy hasn't fared well. But as the Mountain West News Bureau's Madelyn Beck found, our region is an exception.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/1/19 at 3pm and 11/1/19 at noon.

Topic: Traditionally, women on ranches and farms were limited in the roles they could have. A women's agriculture group, Wyoming Women in Ag is looking to promote all the ways women are now working on ranches. The trade event hopes to bring women in the industry together. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler attended the 26th annual conference in Casper.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11/22/19 at 3pm and 11/24/19 at noon.

ISSUE: Energy

Topic: If you own land with minerals underneath in Wyoming, an operator normally approaches you and negotiates a deal where *they* drill and *you* get top dollar. However, a situation has arisen in southeast Wyoming where a company has found a way to avoid that process and control minerals they don't own.

Now, three dozen affected landowners have filed a lawsuit against the company in question... Anadarko Petroleum. They allege Anadarko has unfairly taken their minerals and created a monopoly in their county. The lawsuit's result *could* have implications on Wyoming statute, the oil and gas market, and people's wallets. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports.

Time: 5 min

Time: 7 min

Date: 12/20/19 at 3pm and 12/22/19 at noon

ISSUE: Poverty

Topic: More than 70,000 Wyomingites face problems with food insecurity. And it's a problem many communities are trying to tackle. Now, Wyoming's First Lady Jennie Gordon has announced her new Wyoming Hunger Initiative that's focused on addressing this issue. Wyoming Public Radio's Catherine Wheeler visited the food charity that got Gordon interested.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12/13/19 at 3pm and 12/15/19 at noon.

ISSUE: Arts and Culture

Topic: Bestselling author Craig Johnson has just published his fifteenth book. It's called Land of Wolves. The book continues the adventures of Walt Longmire, a sheriff who solves mysteries in a fictional rural Wyoming county. Wyoming Public Radio's Erin Jones spoke with Johnson about how he used to be a teacher before he turned to writing.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/4/19 at 3pm and 10/6/19 at noon

Topic: This weekend marks the opening of an exhibit at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West focusing on women throughout Wyoming. It showcases large-scale portraits and interviews with the women, the photographer Lindsay Linton Buk has traveled around the state to meet and learn their stories. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska sat down with the photographer and the two women co-curators of the exhibit, Karen McWhorter and Rebecca West and asked what stood out about this collection of portraits.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10/25/19 at 3pm and 10/27/19 at noon

Topic: Around 60% of 18-24 year olds leave the state each year. So, Wyoming Public Radio has turned the microphone over to young people to talk about what's behind their decisions to stay or go. Sarah Mock and Mackenzie Muirhead grew up in Cheyenne. Now, they both live across the country in Washington D.C. Sarah and Mackenzie say they both feel pulled to come back to Wyoming, but a lack of jobs in

their chosen fields of journalism and international affairs, respectively, makes that dream unrealistic.

Time: 6 min

Date: 11/8/19 at 3pm and 11/10/19 at noon

Topic: An award-winning play has its Wyoming premier in Laramie. Madeleine George's play *The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence* won an Outer Critics Circle Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2013. As Madeleine George told Wyoming Public Radio's Megan Feighery, the inspiration came from the most unlikely of places.

Time: 6 min

Date: 11/8/19 at 3pm and 11/10/19 at noon

Topic: This is the 22nd year the Rocky Mountain dance theatre in Cody hosted its annual nutcracker. As Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska finds out Cody's Nutcracker is all about inclusion and support from the community.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12/20/19 at 3pm and 12/22/19 at noon