

2022 3rd Quarter Issues for Wyoming Public Media

Submitted by Bob Beck, News Director

ISSUE: Environment

Topic: Colorado River water managers are facing a monumental task. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has asked seven western states to commit to an unprecedented amount of conservation and do it before a deadline later this summer. This comes amid shrinking water levels in the nation's largest reservoirs. Alex Hager reports.

Time: 4 min

Date: 7/8/22 at 3pm and 7/10/22 at noon

Topic: Experts weigh in on why a major flooding event occurred during a major drought. Caitlin Tan has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/8/22 at 3pm and 7/10/22 at noon

Topic: People living in Wyoming are very familiar with mosquitoes. In fact, there are 45 species in the state. To keep them away, people use personal bug spray, citronella candles, head nets, etc. But how can counties and communities safely control them. Caitlin Tan has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/29/22 at 3pm and 7/31/22 at noon

Topic: Yellowstone National Park received historic flooding earlier this summer. There have been a lot of effects on things like roads, tourism and infrastructure, causing the landscape to change dramatically. But what about other things - like earthquakes and eruptions? Yellowstone is one of the most seismically active areas in the country. Wyoming Public Radio's Caitlin Tan spoke with Mike Poland, the scientist-in-charge for the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, to find out.

Time: 7:30 min

Date: 8/5/22 at 3pm and 8/7/22 at noon

Topic: A summer deadline approaches for state leaders to agree on how to cut their water use from the Colorado River. Luke Runyon has more.

Time: 4 min

Date: 8/5/22 at 3pm and 8/7/22 at noon

Topic: Climate change is causing the American West to experience what's now being called a megadrought...the worst water shortage in 1,200 years. The Ogallala Aquifer is a huge underground water source supplying eight states where it may seem safely stored away. But as one ranching community in southeast Wyoming is finding out...that water is disappearing. Part of the problem is that water law hasn't kept up with emerging science. Melodie Edwards has more.

Time: 11 min

Date: 8/12/22 at 3pm and 8/14/22 at noon

Topic: States in the Colorado River Basin have failed to meet a federal deadline to conserve an unprecedented amount of water. The lack of consensus on how to wean off the river's dwindling supply puts the water source for 40 million in the Southwest in jeopardy. Alex Hager has more.

Time: 4:30

Date: 8/26/22 at 3pm and 8/28/22 at noon

ISSUE: Elections

Topic: Republican U.S. House candidate Harriet Hageman is a Fort Laramie native who received both her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Wyoming. She decided to enter politics and ran for governor in a crowded race in 2018. While she considered running against Gov. Mark Gordon, she decided to run for federal office instead. She spoke with Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck.

Time: 13 min

Date: 7/8/22 at 3pm and 7/10/22 at noon

TOPIC: Earlier this year Governor Mark Gordon appointed Brian Schroeder to become the new state Superintendent of Public Instruction following the departure of Jillian Balow. He is running to keep his position.

Time: 13 min

Date: 7/15/22 at 3pm and 7/17/22 at noon

TOPIC: A former chief policy officer for former State Superintendent Jillian Balow is hoping to win the Republican nomination for the job. Casper native Megan Degenfelder has also worked in the energy sector. She says her goal is to connect the education community with all stakeholders, from parents to business leaders. She talked to Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck.

Time: 13 min

Date: 7/29/22 at 3pm and 7/31/22 at noon

TOPIC: Wyoming Congresswoman Liz Cheney has an uphill climb in her attempt to get re-elected. Her vote to impeach Donald Trump turned many Wyoming Republicans against her. The most recent polling has her 20 points behind top challenger Harriet Hageman who has Trump's endorsement. Cheney has received a lot of national attention recently with her work on the commission investigating what happened on January 6th, 2021, and Trump's role in trying to overturn the election. For several weeks the hearings were largely ignored in Wyoming. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck asked her if that's changed.

Time: 13 min

Date: 7/29/22 at 3pm and 7/31/22 at noon

Topic: State Senator Tara Nethercott is one of the candidates trying to succeed Ed Buchanan as Wyoming's Secretary of State. Nethercott is an attorney from Cheyenne and is the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck begins the conversation by discussing Limited Liability companies in the state that some say are a tax haven for bad actors. Nethercott has looked into the issue and isn't concerned.

Time: 10 min

Date: 8/5/22 at 3pm and 8/7/22 at noon

Topic: One of the nation's most closely watched primaries is in Wyoming. Liz Cheney hopes to keep her seat in Congress, but she alienated many of the state's Republicans by voting to

impeach President Trump. And that's created a dilemma for Democrats in one of the state's few solidly blue areas. Should they change parties to vote for her in the primary?

Time: 4:30 min

Date: 8/5/22 at 3pm and 8/7/22 at noon

Topic: This week a new University of Wyoming poll conducted by the Wyoming Survey and Analysis center between July 25th and August 6th shows that Harriet Hageman holds a nearly 30 point lead over U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney in their battle for the Republican House primary election. University of Wyoming Political Scientist Jim King has analyzed the poll and tells Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck what the numbers say and how some additional questions shed light on what voters think.

Time: 10 min

Date: 8/12/22 at 3pm and 8/14/22 at noon

Topic: Last week out of the blue, the Legislature's Joint Corporations and Elections committee approved a motion to look into moving the elections division out of the Secretary of State's office. The motion is a reaction to comments by Casper Rep. Chuck Gray who's likely going to be the next Secretary of State. He won the primary and is running uncontested in the general election.

Time: 4:30

Date: 9/2/22 at 3pm and 9/4/22 at noon.

ISSUE: Agriculture

Topic: The first meat science degree in Wyoming is officially launching this fall at Central Wyoming College. The degree program aims to train the next generation of local butchers and food scientists. Wyoming Public Radio's Taylar Stagner spoke with program director Amanda Winchester about the program and what she hopes the students will learn.

Time: 5:30

Date: 9/2/22 at 3pm and 9/4/22 at noon.

Wyoming has a long history of raising sheep and the state is known to produce high quality wool - and a lot of it. In the 2017 Census of Agriculture, Wyoming ranked number one in wool

production with almost 2.8 million pounds shorn. The University of Wyoming sheep program is trying to build on that with the new Wyoming Wool Initiative.

Time: 5:00

Date: 9/16/22 at 3pm and 9/18/22 at noon.

Topic: 307 Meats is a small processing facility that has the ability to think about ways to keep cattle from overheating. Many of the cattle come here from feedlots where it's much harder to keep thousands of animals cool. Earlier this summer, over 2,000 cattle died from heat stress in Kansas feedlots due to soaring temperatures. Lots of Wyoming ranchers take their cattle to D&D Feedlot in eastern Colorado. On a tour, black and white cows stop their chewing to watch the truck pass. Cattle handler Chelsea Deering says, as a team, they take pride in practicing low-stress animal handling like talking quietly to them.

Time: 5:30

Date: 9/16/22 at 3pm and 9/18/22 at noon.

Topic: Bob Budd has held a lot of jobs in Wyoming. He's a former director of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association, he was the manager of the Red Canyon Ranch, and the Director of Land Management for the Nature Conservancy. He's currently the Director of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust where he works to improve wildlife habitat. He's also very funny and a great writer. He's written a book about Wyoming, its people, and its habitat called "Otters Dance: A Rancher's Journey to Enlightenment and Stewardship". It's available on October 4th through Amazon and all the usual places. He joins Bob Beck.

Time: 11:00

Date: 9/23/22 at 3pm and 9/25/22 at noon.

Topic: Several recent conflicts over public lands access have made headlines in our region. One of those cases involves a practice called corner crossing, and it could determine whether recreationists can access millions of acres.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/23/22 at 3pm and 9/25/22 at noon.

ISSUE: Wildlife

Topic: As part of Wyoming Public Media's 'I Respectfully Disagree' series, four panelists discussed issues surrounding wild horses in the state on a Facebook live. Stakeholders spoke for an hour about topics like herd management, fertility control and holding facilities. Wyoming Public Radio's Caitlin Tan mediated the conversation.

Time: 15 min

Date: 7/15/22 at 3pm and 7/17/22 at noon

Topic: Teton County lawmakers passed a law this year trying to reduce future conflicts. They're now requiring people in some parts of Jackson Hole to secure their trash and other attractants, something studies show is the number one cause of human-bear friction. Will Walkey reports.

Time: 4:30

Date: 8/12/22 at 3pm and 8/14/22 at noon.

Topic: Wyoming is home to nearly 4,000 wild horses roaming on public lands, which has often been a controversial topic between ranchers and wild horse proponents. But, a new book by Wyoming author Chad Hanson advocates for the horses' right to live on public land. The book is called "In a land of Awe: Finding Reverence in the Search for Wild Horses." Wyoming Public Radio's Caitlin Tan interviewed Hanson.

Time: 7:30

Date: 9/16/22 at 3pm and 9/18/22 at noon.

Topic: There are tens of thousands of horses running wild in the Mountain West. The U.S. government mainly uses roundups to keep them from overgrazing public lands. But advocacy groups want more of a focus on fertility control. Kaleb Roedel reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/23/22 at 3pm and 9/25/22 at noon.

ISSUE: Community issues

Topic: Multiple fire stations in Teton County are in disrepair to the extent of needing full replacement as demand for their services increases. Will Walkey reports.

Time: 5:30

Date: 7/15/22 at 3pm and 7/17/22 at noon

Topic: On a recent weekday evening, a few members of the Sublette County Trails Association were updating some old mountain bike trails just outside of Pinedale. They were deciding the best way to reestablish a trail that had partly given way to Mother Nature with overgrown foliage. These specific trails were built for downhill mountain biking back in the late 90s.

Time: 4:30

Date: 8/26/22 at 3pm and 8/28/22 at noon.

Topic: The Jackson Town Council has approved a new affordable housing development. That's a pretty common story in Northwest Wyoming—until you dig a little deeper. Wyoming Public Media's Will Walkey talked with Kyle Mackie, News Director of Jackson Hole Community Radio, about how one building has stirred up controversy in Teton County.

Time: 7:30

Date: 8/26/22 at 3pm and 8/28/22 at noon.

Topic: Several pantries in the region have seen their number of customers double since the pandemic began. Some folks who never needed food assistance before this summer are coming for the first time.

Time: 4:30

Date: 9/2/22 at 3pm and 9/4/22 at noon.

ISSUE: Energy

Topic: The story of Rock Springs is riddled with energy booms and busts. Author J. J. Anselmi was born and raised there and said he often has mixed feelings about his hometown. Wyoming Public Radio's Taylor Stagner talked with Anselmi about his new book "Out Here On Our Own: An Oral History of an American Boomtown" where he interviews residents about Rock Springs.

Time: 4:30

Date: 7/29/22 at 3pm and 7/31/22 at noon.

Topic: President Biden recently signed into law a bill that could shape the future of energy in states like Wyoming, and so far it is polarizing amongst energy leaders in the state. The Inflation Reduction Act is a dense 750 pages. It addresses everything from health care to taxes to climate and energy, which for Wyoming as the energy state, the latter is a main point of focus.

Time: 4:30

Date: 9/2/22 at 3pm and 9/4/22 at noon.

Topic: TerraPower is a nuclear company started by Bill Gates, and it is building its first nuclear reactor, with a technology called Natrium, in Kemmerer. It will be the first of its kind not only in Wyoming but in the U.S. TerraPower's C-E-O Chris Levesque recently sat down with Wyoming Public Radio's Caitlin Tan to explain the project and what is to come.

Time: 7:30

Date: 9/23/22 at 3pm and 9/25/22 at noon.

ISSUE: Native American issues

Topic: Former Wyoming Public Radio reporter Savannah Maher has taken a look at a pair of cases that were considered poaching in Wyoming. They both had different outcomes. The recent story for High Country News is called "Who does the state of Wyoming consider a poacher?" She joined Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck to discuss the article, starting with the case of former tribal game warden Clayvin Herrera who faced charges after asserting a treaty right to hunt on unoccupied land in the Bighorn National Forest.

Time: 10:30

Date: 7/8/22 at 3pm and 7/10/22 at noon

Topic: At a Ethete powwow this summer, the University of Wyoming Stealing Culture team was honored for their work getting Alyson White Eagle Sounding Sides to London to see Chief Yellowcalf's headdress. White Eagle Sounding Sides is one of Yellowcalf's descendants and the first Arapaho to see his headdress at the British Museum in London in one hundred years.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/12/22 at 3pm and 8/14/22 at noon

Topic: The Northern Arapaho are asking the Wyoming legislature to protect Indigenous children as the US Supreme Court looks at the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/16/22 at 3pm and 9/18/22 at noon.

ISSUE: Abortion

Topic: The only clinic that provides abortion services in the state is still providing them. Dr. Giovannia Anthony who works at the clinic in Jackson said they are still getting calls for appointments. As of this publication, abortion is still legal. But that could change any day now. Kamila Kudelska has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/8/22 at 3pm and 7/10/22 at noon

Topic: A new law banning abortions in Wyoming was put on hold by a state judge Wednesday. That means services continue at the state's one clinic that provides them. How long that will last, though, is uncertain, as the judge only blocked the law temporarily until she can hear a lawsuit by abortion rights advocates.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/29/22 at 3pm and 7/31/22 at noon

ISSUE: Health Care

Topic: The state legislature allocated \$25,000 of the budget to address high rates of suicides among first responders in the state. This money was taken by the Wyoming Peace Officers

Standards and Training (POST) and utilized to create the first ever First Responders Health and Wellness Conference that will take place August 22-24 in Casper. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska spoke with POST executive director Chris Walsh on why the conference is needed.

Time: 7:30

Date: 9/2/22 at 3pm and 9/4/22 at noon.

Topic: The University of Wyoming was recently selected as one of just a few research institutions nationwide to receive approximately one million dollars in grant funding for research into pandemic modeling. Wyoming Public Radio's Hugh Cook spoke with economics faculty Dr. David Finoff and Dr. Linda Thunstrom on how the money will help them research future pandemics.

Time: 7:30

Date: 9/2/22 at 3pm and 9/4/22 at noon.

ISSUE: Business and industry

Topic: The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) is the largest Class I railroad in the country and is one of the two major freight railroads in Wyoming. The railroad has been one of the major economic drivers and employers for many of the Wyoming communities it passes through. In February, BNSF instituted an attendance policy known as Hi-Viz, which drew immediate criticism from employees and railroad unions. Hugh Cook reports.

Time: 5:00

Date: 7/8/22 at 3pm and 7/10/22 at noon