

2nd Quarter Issues list 2018

Submitted by Bob Beck

Issue: Environment

Topic: Too many decisions about the West get made in Washington, D.C. At least, that's what the Secretary of the Interior thinks. Ryan Zinke plans to move thousands of the department's employees out west to manage water, public lands and energy from there. We decided to take a look at how a seemingly dull, bureaucratic plan might affect our region in interesting ways. We talked to some people with a vested interest-- starting in Wyoming. Maggie Mullen reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4-6-18 at 3pm and 4-8-18 at noon on WPR. 4-8-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Sustainability has become a buzzword when it comes to facing environmental challenges. But one researcher believes resilience is a better answer. For University of Wyoming Dean Mindy Benson, that means solving issues like pollution control, clean air, and acid rain with a more systematic approach... that allows humans and nature to work together. She co-authored a book titled *The End of Sustainability* about this new perspective. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim speaks with Benson to learn more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4-6-18 at 3pm and 4-8-18 at noon on WPR. 4-8-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Abnormal activity in Yellowstone National Park has some people thinking the end of the world is near. In the past two months, Steamboat Geyser has erupted four times. This is highly unusual for the geyser which unlike Old Faithful can go years between eruptions. Some believe this means the super volcano that sits beneath Yellowstone will erupt next. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska reports on whether doomsday is really upon us.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-11-18 at 3pm and 5-13-18 at noon on WPR. 5-13-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: When it comes to ticks, people tend to think of the east coast and Lyme disease. But we have ticks, too -- well into the Rocky Mountains. Rae Ellen Bichell went out with a couple of tick scientists in Rocky Mountain National Park to check for bugs and the rare but nasty viruses they could be carrying.

Time: 4 min

Date: 5-11-18 at 3pm and 5-13-18 at noon on WPR. 5-13-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A fossil uncovered in 2016 could help shed light on the evolution of rhinos and tapirs - a kind of tall, furry pig with a long snout. The 50-million-year-old mammal was found on a state-leased quarry in southwest Wyoming's Green River formation. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports the fossil is now being prepared for research.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-11-18 at 3pm and 5-13-18 at noon on WPR. 5-13-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Every summer, it takes a village to fight wildfires. For this upcoming season, we spoke with all kinds of people that lend a hand...from those on the frontlines, to others working a bit further back from the flames. For the Faces Behind the Fire series, Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen talked to an archeologist with the U.S. Forest Service who helps decide what needs be preserved and what can be left to burn.

Time: 4 min

Date: 5-18-18 at 3pm and 5-20-18 at noon on WPR. 5-20-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Bats get a bad rap in pop culture, but they save around \$3 billion dollars a year in pest services. Now, for the first time, Wyoming is facing its first case of a rapidly-spreading, bat-killing fungus. That fungus is known to cause white-nose syndrome, a disease that's already killed millions of bats across the eastern U.S. and Canada. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports why just one eastern Wyoming bat with the dangerous fungus is so concerning.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-8-18 at 3pm and 6-10-18 at noon on WPR. 6-10-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Over the next few weeks, we're going to take you on a tour of some of our favorite public lands. Today's tour will be in the company of an entomologist who relies on public lands to study bees - in particular, the disappearing western bumblebee. Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen met up with her at Curt Gowdy State Park.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-15-18 at 3pm and 6-17-18 at noon on WPR. 6-17-18 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Politics

Topic: As a part of a sweeping bipartisan spending deal to keep the government's light on, Congress quietly set up a new budget commission. Wyoming Senator Mike Enzi chairs the Senate Budget Committee, and as Matt Laslo reports from Washington, he's been strangely excluded from the panel.

Time: 4 min

Date: 4-6-18 at 3pm and 4-8-18 at noon on WPR. 4-8-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Democrat Gary Trauner announced earlier this year that he is seeking the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Senator John Barrasso. Trauner lost two previous bids for federal office losing to Barbara Cubin and Cynthia Lummis. Trauner has lived in Wyoming for 28 years and has been active in Teton County in a variety of roles including Chief Operating Officer of St. John's Medical Center, co-founder and Chief Financial Officer of OneWest.net, a regional Internet Service Provider and Vice President of Finance of Teton Trust Company, one of the first private trust investment firms in the State of Wyoming. Trauner is also a former school board chairman and is currently Executive Director of the Jackson Hole Youth Lacrosse Club. He joins us to discuss some of his views.

Time: 12 min

Date: 5-4-18 at 3pm and 5-6-18 at noon on WPR. 5-6-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Despite the concern of others, Wyoming's congressional delegation says EPA administrator Scott Pruitt has been great for the state's industries and they don't seem too worried about all the scandals hanging over him. Correspondent Matt Laslo has the story from Washington.

Time: 4 min

Date: 5-4-18 at 3pm and 5-6-18 at noon on WPR. 5-6-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming U.S. Senator John Barrasso helped craft a sweeping bipartisan bill that could go a long way to deal with Wyoming water issues. Washington Correspondent Matt Laslo has the story on how proponents are hopeful it may be one of the few pieces of legislation to actually pass this election year.

Time: 4 min

Date: 5-11-18 at 3pm and 5-13-18 at noon on WPR. 5-13-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: For the last several years the Wyoming Department of Corrections has urged lawmakers to implement a number of reforms that could reduce a growing prison population. But those efforts have failed in the legislature and recently led to the Department shifting 88 inmates to a private prison in Mississippi. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck reports that the problems seems to center on the lack of treatment.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-18-18 at 3pm and 5-20-18 at noon on WPR. 5-20-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming Attorney Harriet Hageman is seeking the Republican Nomination for Governor. Hageman was raised on a ranch in Goshen county and is the daughter of former State Representative Jim Hageman. She is one of the top private property rights and water rights attorneys in the nation and hopes to bring that background to the governor's office where she hopes to fight a number of federal regulations and restore power to the state. Bob Beck met with Hageman at her office in Cheyenne and she tells me that she has a number of reforms in mind.

Time: 12 min

Date: 5-18-18 at 3pm and 5-20-18 at noon on WPR. 5-20-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: In somewhat of a surprise move, Dan Wenk, the head of Yellowstone National Park announced his retirement Friday amidst speculation he was being reassigned for political reasons. The Mountain West News Bureau's Nate Hegyi spoke with him over the phone about his retirement and his potential reassignment.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-1-18 at 3pm and 6-3-18 at noon on WPR. 6-3-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Jackson Resident [Foster Friess](#) is a highly successful businessman, investor, and philanthropist. After watching the state struggle financially over the last few years he has decided to enter the Republican primary race for governor.

Time: 12 min

Date: 6-1-18 at 3pm and 6-3-18 at noon on WPR. 6-3-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Cheyenne businessman [Sam Galeotos](#) is running as a Republican candidate for governor. He says he's running because he's worried about Wyoming's future. Galeotos is a Wyoming native who sits on the board for [Green House Data](#) in Cheyenne. He tells Bob Beck that he's very interested in growing new businesses in Wyoming.

Time: 12 min

Date: 6-8-18 at 3pm and 6-10-18 at noon on WPR. 6-10-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Cheyenne Attorney, Campbell County Native, and former State Representative Mary Throne says she is running for governor to hopefully change Wyoming's thinking when it comes to the economy. She says Wyoming can continue to have a thriving energy economy and not be a boom and bust state. Throne says that lawmakers have made the boom and bust a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Time: 12 min

Date: 6-8-18 at 3pm and 6-10-18 at noon on WPR. 6-10-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming is trying to figure out what to do about issues related to prison overcrowding and public safety. Marc Pelka is the Deputy Director of the Council of State Governments Justice Center who is helping the state find ways to deal with offenders earlier in life and find ways to keep recently released inmates from violating parole or probation.

He was in Cheyenne this week as part of a conference dealing with these topics and others. Pelka's project is called [Justice Reinvestment](#), he explains it to Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-15-18 at 3pm and 6-17-18 at noon on WPR. 6-17-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: [Wyoming State Treasurer Mark Gordon](#) is looking for a promotion. Gordon is among those who are seeking the Republican nomination for governor. He discusses issues with Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck.

Time: 12 min

Date: 6-15-18 at 3pm and 6-17-18 at noon on WPR. 6-17-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The U.S. House of Representatives has been voting on a slew of opioid-related bills—and they're not done. The plan is to take up more than 30. Some deal with ensuring old pills are easily and safely disposed of, while others try to ensure the government has the best data on the crisis. Still, others seek to prevent drugs from flowing in through the nation's many points of entry—whether the southern or northern borders or via a plane or ships.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-15-18 at 3pm and 6-17-18 at noon on WPR. 6-17-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Rod Miller has worked as a Cowboy and on the staffs of Governor Ed Herschler and Mike Sullivan, was a small businessman and became a ranch manager. Now he wants to become a member of Congress and is challenging Liz Cheney in the Republican primary. Miller is a colorful candidate, but is very serious about this election. He joins me in the studio where we begin our conversation talking about what to do about immigration.

Time: 12 min

Date: 6-29-18 at 3pm on WPR.

Issue: Energy

Topic: A new policy is changing how the public can weigh in on oil and gas leasing. The Bureau of Land Management is speeding up the process for energy companies... but some are concerned it's at the cost of adequate public input, environmental review, and local power. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4-20-18 at 3pm and 4-20-18 at noon on WPR. 4-22-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The eighth largest producer of coal in the country may soon face bankruptcy. Westmoreland Coal Company's stock has been in free fall over the last year and several of its primary customers are moving away from coal. With one of its mines right here in the state, Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports what bankruptcy could look like.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-4-18 at 3pm and 5-6-18 at noon on WPR. 5-6-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The Integrated Test Center is open for business. This Gillette-based facility is aimed at research and testing new uses for carbon dioxide, say, as a building material, common fuel, or green concrete. Many hope the center will find new, profitable uses for coal -- Governor Matt Mead is one of them. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim spoke with the Governor about his expectations for the project and the risks that come with it.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-18-18 at 3pm and 5-20-18 at noon on WPR. 5-20-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: After passing another milestone, the first potential utility-scale solar project in Wyoming *could* be open for business by the end of this year. Some see the sun-fueled power plant as an important step towards opening Wyoming to a wider solar market... but as Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports, there is something big still holding back that possibility.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-1-18 at 3pm and 6-3-18 at noon on WPR. 6-3-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The Trump administration has [confirmed](#) a proposed bailout to the coal and nuclear industries. A [memo](#) from the Department of Energy was leaked recently outlining the plan. It would force utilities to buy electricity and capacity from retiring coal and nuclear plants to keep them alive for two years. University of Richmond Law Professor Joel Eisen, who has written extensively on matters on administrative law, energy, and the electric grid, helps make sense of what the draft memo means.

Time: 6 min

Date: 6-15-18 at 3pm and 6-17-18 at noon on WPR. 6-17-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A nearly million dollar legal battle over taxes is now settled, but the underlying issues are not. The dispute between the recently bankrupt Alpha Natural Resources and Campbell County highlighted how certain taxes aren't prioritized in state law. And that means less money to counties which contribute to the state school system. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports some people are fed up and are looking to the legislature for change.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-29-18 at 3pm on WPR

Topic: Strong winds blowing through a gap in the rocky mountains could generate electricity in Wyoming. And customers in California want to buy it. But wind power's a hard sell in Wyoming, where coal is still king. As part of The World's "50 States" project, reporter Jason Margolis has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-29-18 at 3pm on WPR.

Issue: Education

Topic: Less than half of adults in Wyoming have completed education beyond high school. But Governor Matt Mead says for the sake of Wyoming's economy that must change. In fact, his first executive order of 2018 called for 67 percent of Wyomingites to have advanced degrees by 2025. Wyoming Public Radio's education reporter Tennessee Watson takes a look at what it will take to meet this goal.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-4-18 at 3pm and 5-6-18 at noon on WPR. 5-6-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Gaelynn Lea is an accomplished musician, most notably winning NPR's 2016 Tiny Desk Concert. She plays the violin in an original way—upright, like a cello—to accommodate her small frame. She performs concerts all around the country, but last month, she made an unusual detour to the Rock River School in southeastern Wyoming. She collaborated with students for a concert that became something much more. Tressa Versteeg has the story.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-4-18 at 3pm and 5-6-18 at noon on WPR. 5-6-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The University of Wyoming is also in the mood for reform... When the UW trustees met last week the campus was abuzz with concern about proposed changes to the authority of the board. What the administration is calling a routine update to university regulations was seen by some as a power grab that would give trustees the ability to more easily eliminate academic programs and ax faculty. Wyoming Public Radio's education reporter Tennessee Watson takes a look at what's behind that sense of insecurity.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-18-18 at 3pm and 5-20-18 at noon on WPR. 5-20-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Summer break is in full swing, and across Wyoming high school graduates are moving forward. But who determines what it takes to get that diploma? Wyoming Public Radio's education reporter Tennessee Watson reached out to the Sue Belish of the Wyoming State Board of Education, who tells us how statewide standards get created.

Time: 6 min

Date: 6-8-18 at 3pm and 6-10-18 at noon on WPR. 6-10-18 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Agriculture

Topic: In 2015, Wyoming was the first state in the nation to pass a law allowing people to sell homemade food directly to consumers. The state legislature expanded the Food Freedom Act in 2017, and libertarians, as well as food system activists, have called it a win. But food safety regulations are still an obstacle for small producers who want to expand their businesses. Wyoming Public Radio's Alanna Elder reports tackling that barrier has been one major theme in recent talks about diversifying agriculture in the state.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4-6-18 at 3pm and 4-8-18 at noon on WPR. 4-8-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue was in Wyoming as part of a tour of the Mountain West. Secretary Perdue told me that he is getting a lot of feedback from producers over tariff and trade issues and how that might hurt Wyoming producers.

Time: 7 min

Date: Date: 5-18-18 at 3pm and 5-20-18 at noon on WPR. 5-20-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyomingites once grew food in gardens or hunted it in the mountains. These days, though, more rural people are driving distances to reach a grocery or mini-mart for their food. It's led to nearly 75-thousand people in Wyoming struggling with hunger and access to healthy fresh foods. But as Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards reports, now farmers markets and nutrition groups in the state are collaborating to start a council to address the state's food security issues.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-29-18

Issue: Wildlife

Topic: There was once a time when fur coats were highly prized. You might think those days are over, but for much of the world's very wealthy, it's not. And the most coveted of all is bobcat fur from the American West. But some say they're more valuable alive. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards visited a Wyoming trapper to find out more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4-6-18 at 3pm and 4-8-18 at noon on WPR. 4-8-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The longest mule deer migration route was discovered in Wyoming. Deer travel 150 miles from the Red Desert over the Wyoming Range to Hoback Junction near Jackson. But in 2016 wildlife biologists tracked one doe—she's known as number 255—trekking that distance PLUS another 92 miles into Idaho. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards sat down with the Wyoming Migration Initiative's Director Matt Kauffman to hear the twists and turns of Doe 255's incredible story.

Time: 6 min

Date: 4-20-18 at 3pm and 4-22-18 at noon on WPR. 4-22-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Mountain West states like Wyoming and Montana are high risk for wildlife-vehicle collisions. These accidents result in expensive damages and sometimes even death for both wildlife and drivers. One group of scientists found an unlikely solution.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-11-18 at 3pm and 5-13-18 at noon on WPR. 5-13-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: As climate change heats up the American West, it's drying out the habitat of many birds...forcing them to move north where it's cooler. One such bird is the short-eared owl. It may be not a bird you've heard of, but as Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards found out, it's one that lots of scientists and bird lovers still give a hoot about.

Time: 6 min

Date: 5-18-18 at 3pm and 5-20-18 at noon on WPR. 5-18-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The Draper Natural history museum at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West will open a new permanent exhibition on June 10th. The exhibition focuses on the last 10 years of research on golden eagle activity in the Bighorn Basin. Golden eagles are a top predator so by studying the top of the food chain, researchers are learning not just about the bird but also about the dynamics of animals they eat and the ecosystem they live in. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska joins the team on a scouting trip.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-18-18 at 3pm and 5-20-18 at noon on WPR. 5-20-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Last week the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission voted to move forward with a plan that would lead to the hunting of up to 22 Grizzly Bears this fall and possibly more in the future. It would be the first Grizzly Bear Hunt in Wyoming since the bear was listed as threatened in 1975. The hunt is part of the Game and Fish Department's long-range plan for managing the grizzly. Bob Beck Reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-1-18 at 3pm and 6-3-18 at noon on WPR. 6-3-18 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Guns

Topic: Cody is now the second school district in Wyoming to put guns in the hands of teachers and staff. Unlike Uinta county school district number one which passed the policy in two months, park county school district number six took well over eight months. But what now? Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska explains.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4-20-18 at 3pm and 4-8-18 at noon on WPR. 4-22-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Gun regulation is currently a hot topic as school shootings keep on grabbing national attention. And not one political side can agree whether guns are already too regulated or are not regulated nearly enough. In order to take a step back and understand where we are now as a country with gun regulation, Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska spoke with two gun historians. We start off the conversation speaking with David Kopel, the research director at the independence institute at the University of Denver, about when gun control started in the United States.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4-20-18 at 3pm and 4-8-18 at noon on WPR. 4-22-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Recently the Cody Firearm Museum at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West hosted a number of museum curators who have major gun collections. The topic of conversation centered on the ethics of firearms and the role of curators in educating the public about guns.

Time: 4 min

Date: 6-1-18 at 3pm and 6-3-18 at noon on WPR. 6-3-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: School staff in Wyoming can now carry concealed weapons, on a district by district basis. A bill passed during the 2017 state legislative session gave school boards the power to decide if guns should be a part of security protocol. So far two communities, Cody and Evanston, have taken advantage of the new law. But in Evanston people like Sheila McGuire are pushing back. Tennessee Watson reports.

Time: 6 min

Date: 6-15-18 at 3pm and 6-17-18 at noon on WPR. 6-17-18 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Social Issues

Topic: At the recent Matthew Shepard Symposium at the University of Wyoming, protesters gathered with signs denouncing the LGBTQ community. The group was from the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, and nearly 20 years ago, they also picketed Matthew Shepard's funeral. But *inside* the symposium, a former Westboro Church member was preparing to speak. She was there to explain that when she started engaging in civil dialogue over Twitter, her entire world view changed. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards sat down with Megan Phelps-Roper as part of her series, "I Respectfully Disagree."

Time: 10 min

Date: 4-20-18 at 3pm and 4-8-18 at noon on WPR. 4-22-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: 20 years ago this fall, an openly gay University of Wyoming student was robbed, tied to a fence, brutally beaten, and left for dead on the outskirts of Laramie. He died a few days later. The murder of Mathew Shepard was called a Hate Crime by local law enforcement officers and it lead to worldwide attention on the topic of LGBTQ rights. His parents Dennis and Judy Shepard remain residents of Wyoming and have dedicated themselves to fight discrimination in the name of their son. They both spent a lot of time in Laramie during their youth and I asked them to describe what it's like to return to Laramie.

Time: 12 min

Date: 4-20-18 at 3pm and 4-8-18 at noon on WPR. 4-22-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Artist Estelle Ishigo was one of the few white women that went to a Wyoming Japanese-American internment camp. Estelle and her husband were imprisoned at Heart Mountain in 1942. During their three years at the camp, Estelle painted watercolors portraying the daily life. A new exhibit at Heart Mountain Interpretive Center called *The Mountain Was Our Secret* displays a collection of Estelle's work.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-1-18 at 3pm and 6-3-18 at noon on WPR. 6-3-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Starting this fall, Wyoming Equality will offer scholarships specifically for LGBTQ students. Melanie Vigil, the vice chair of the organization's board, spoke with Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen about how the scholarships will be the first of their kind in the state.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-8-18 at 3pm and 6-10-18 at noon on WPR. 6-10-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Aftab Khan and his family have lived in the Gillette area for over a hundred years, and a few years back the family opened a mosque there. Bret Colvin started a Facebook page called Stop Islam In Gillette and, after the mosque opened, he knocked on the door during services while a large number of people rallied behind him, some of them armed. The event was covered extensively in [the local](#) and the international news. Quickly, the online rhetoric between them grew ugly.

But until now, they've never met in person. They join Melodie Edwards for a special edition of Open Spaces as part of her series I respectfully disagree.

Time: 60 min

Date: 6-22-18 at 3pm and 6-24-18 at noon on WPR. 6-22-18 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Women's issues

Topic: The #metoo movement might have given the impression that disclosures of sexual violence are more out in the open. But Clinical psychology professor Matt Gray says in actuality very few survivors officially report what they've experienced, and that's true at the University of Wyoming as well. Wyoming Public Radio's education reporter Tennessee Watson spoke with Gray, who recently completed a campus climate survey looking at the prevalence of sexual misconduct on campus.

Time: 8 min

Date: 4-20-18 at 3pm and 4-8-18 at noon on WPR. 4-22-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Last week the Wyoming Archaeological Society and the Montana Archaeological Society held a joint conference in Billings, Montana. Three years ago, women archaeologists from both Wyoming and Montana started a group called The Sisterhood of the Traveling Trowel. The group tries to help emerging women archaeologists in their careers. Crystal Allegria and Bonnie Smith are both members of the sisterhood and archaeologists in the Plains Country. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska speaks with both women on the need to help women archaeologists. She first asked Bonnie Smith what the group's goal was this year.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-4-18 at 3pm and 5-6-18 at noon on WPR. 5-6-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Across the country, childcare is one of the biggest expenses families face. It can cost more to put an infant in daycare than it costs to send an 18-year-old to college. Wyoming Public Radio's Tennessee Watson spoke with Linda Barton from the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance about access to childcare in the state.

Time: 4 min

Date: 5-11-18 at 3pm and 5-13-18 at noon on WPR. 5-13-18 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Native American issues

Topic: Over the last few weeks, Native Americans from across the Northern Plains have been traveling toward Fort Laramie National Historic Site in Wyoming. They came by bus, by foot and as Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards found out, even by horse. She talked to two teenage boys from the Cheyenne River reservation, Hycen and Angel, out riding their horses around.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-4-18 at 3pm and 5-6-18 at noon on WPR. 5-6-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Earlier this spring, the two tribes on the Wind River Reservation adopted a new law to help them combat violence against women. As Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards reports, for the first time, the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho will even be able to prosecute crimes committed by non-Natives.

Time: 5 min

Date: 5-11-18 at 3pm and 5-13-18 at noon on WPR. 5-11-18 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Business

Topic: The University of Wyoming will be launching an Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management degree this fall. It's been a three-year effort, but those in the industry have wanted the degree for almost 20 years. But as Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck reports, everyone is happy now.

Time: 5 min

Date: 4-6-18 at 3pm and 4-8-18 at noon on WPR. 4-8-18 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The travel and hospitality industry is the second largest industry in Wyoming. As tourists flood to the state in summer, the industry relies on seasonal workers to keep things running smoothly. But more and more, seasonal workers have been harder to come by in the local workforce so businesses depend on visa programs that bring in foreign guest workers. The two most commonly used are the J1 visa, which sponsors students, and the H-2B visa, which brings in workers to fill in temporary, non-agricultural positions.

The visa process is complicated. And it's causing problems for Wyoming's tourism communities that depend heavily on legal immigrants for their summer workforce. For Cody - it's just getting the workers in the first place. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-29-18

In Jackson, foreign workers are very important to the tourism industry. But business leaders in the community say the difficulty in maintaining a stable workforce doesn't lie specifically in the visa process, but it's still important. Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 6-29-18