

## 2017 4th Quarter Issues Report for Wyoming Public Media

### ENERGY

Topic: The Trump administration's announcement that it's rolling back the Obama-era Clean Power Plan is being greeted with glee by energy state lawmakers. But Matt Laslo reports from Washington that the effort is already facing court challenges and it could take years to resolve.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10-20-17 at 3pm and 10//22/17 at noon on WPR. 10-22-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Applications for four coal leases in the Powder River Basin will now have to go back to the drawing board. A recent court decision says those leases neglected to properly take climate change into account when listing all the possible environmental impacts. The decision could have widespread consequences for energy development on federal land in the West. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10-20-17 at 3pm and 10//22/17 at noon on WPR. 10-22-17 at 9am on WPM

Topic: A draft of the Interior Department's five-year strategic plan has been leaked. The 50-page document draws a road map for the federal agency to prioritize energy dominance, with few mentions of conservation and no mention of climate change — both departures from the last strategic plan. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim speaks to Jesse Prentice-Dunn — advocacy director to the Center for Western Priorities, a conservation non-profit — about what else stands out in the five-year plan.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10-27-17 at 3pm and 10//29/17 at noon on WPR. 10-29-17 at 9am on WPM

Topic: Wyoming has the potential to be one of the country's top wind energy producers. Obviously one benefit...it's really windy. But the state is lagging behind others in vying for these kinds of development projects - and a window may be closing to get in on the wind energy boom. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11-3-17 at 3pm and 11-5-17 at noon on WPR. 11-5-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming's Republicans in Washington are hoping to pass broad energy policy in this congressional session, after inter-party squabbling in the GOP derailed the effort last year. Correspondent Matt Laslo has the story from Washington on how hopes are still dim for passing a broad energy bill.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12-1-17 at noon and 12-3-17 at noon on WPR. 12-5-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: It's been a busy week for energy in Washington D.C. While you may only be hearing about the tax debate in Congress, new bills are moving forward that relate to energy development out west. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim speaks with Dylan Brown — a reporter for E & E news covering coal and mining to give some background on what's being discussed and what it means.

Time: 6 min

Date: 12-1-17 at noon and 12-3-17 at noon on WPR. 12-5-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming's biggest bet on clean coal is almost finished. The Integrated Test Center outside Gillette aims to host researchers who are finding ways to turn carbon emissions into marketable products. But what does this test center and clean coal mean for the state, the coal industry or climate change? Inside Energy's Madelyn Beck takes us on a 360 degree view of clean coal to answer that question.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12-1-17 at noon and 12-3-17 at noon on WPR. 12-5-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have both passed a tax bill — and that has implications for the energy industry in Wyoming. Renewable energy advocates are *not* happy while the fossil fuel industry can rest easy. Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim speaks with a lawyer whose worked on project financing in energy, Allan Marks, about tax reforms impacts on renewables... followed by a conversation with the President of the Western Energy Alliance Kathleen Sgamma about fossil fuels.

Time: 7 min

Date: 12-8-17 at 3pm and 12-10-17 at noon on WPR. 12-10-17 at 9am on WPM.

## Environment and Natural Resources

Topic: It's been quite a year for major forest fires, in fact it's been a major few years. The fires are impacting wildlife and communities. The issues range from climate change to poor forest management due to the lack of proper funding. National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Collin O'Mara recently testified on the issue before Congress. He tells Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck that he's optimistic that members of Congress are interested in finding a solution.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10-20-17 at 3pm and 10//22/17 at noon on WPR. 10-22-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The warming climate isn't just melting glaciers. It's also melting away permanent ice patches in the highest mountains. Trapped safely inside that ice are artifacts of people who lived at these high elevations for thousands of years. Now those incredibly fragile artifacts are melting out. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards joined one archaeologist racing time to learn what he can about these prehistoric alpine peoples before all the clues are gone.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10-20-17 at 3pm and 10//22/17 at noon on WPR. 10-22-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The EPA's announcement that it's rolling back an Obama-era rule to expand regulations on the nation's waters and streams is being cheered by Wyoming lawmakers who now are offering input on how to rewrite it. But correspondent Matt Laslo reports from Washington that Democrats say it's a part of disturbing trend at the EPA.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11-3-17 at 3pm and 11-5-17 at noon on WPR. 11-5-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Changes are coming to the 2015 sage grouse management plans. The amendments are giving *some* businesses hope, but as Wyoming Public Radio's Cooper McKim reports, others are worried it could unravel a decade of negotiation and compromise.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11-17-17 at 3pm and 11-19-17 at noon on WPR. 11-19-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Last winter, protestors packed committee meetings after lawmakers proposed a constitutional amendment to allow the state of Wyoming to take over management of federal

lands. Republican Senator Larry Hicks supports the idea, but decided to reach out to Shane Cross and the Wyoming Wildlife Federation who opposed land transfers. He challenged them to come with a better solution. As part of her series, "I Respectfully Disagree," Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards sat down with Senator Hicks at the dining table of Wyoming Wildlife Federation president Shane Cross on his ranch near Douglas. Hicks says, there is one thing they do agree on... forever protecting access to Wyoming's wild places.

Time: 8 min

Date: 12-8-17 at 3pm and 12-10-17 at noon on WPR. 12-10-17 at 9am on WPM.

## **Education**

**Topic:** When lawmakers created the Hathaway Scholarship in 2005, it was meant to encourage all Wyoming high school students to go to college by making it easier to afford. However, there is one group of Wyoming students that will never qualify for the Hathaway Scholarship--those without U.S. citizenship. Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10-20-17 at 3pm and 10//22/17 at noon on WPR. 10-22-17 at 9am on WPM.

**Topic:** Women engineers face a lot of challenges, some of which begin as early as their college education, where they are highly outnumbered by their male peers in the classroom. To address this disparity, the University of Wyoming has launched a new mentoring program, that pairs female engineering undergraduates with female alumni working in the field. Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen spoke with Teddi Freedman, a senior coordinator for UW's College of Engineering that is heading up the new program.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10-27-17 at 3pm and 10//29/17 at noon on WPR. 10-29-17 at 9am on WPM

**Topic:** It's been a rough couple of years for the University of Wyoming where budget cutting, layoffs, and reorganization have been themes. Lately, the focus has been on less stressful ventures like enhancing STEM teaching, diversity, and a variety of initiatives. One issue for University of Wyoming President Laurie Nichols is to try to address that lack of faculty and staff pay raises. She speaks with WPR's Bob Beck.

Time: 8 min

Date: 11-3-17 at 3pm and 11-5-17 at noon on WPR. 11-5-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: For the last eight months, a legislative committee has been trying to wrap their heads around the true cost of K-12 education. Senator Dave Kinskey is part of that effort, and he's become well known for saying he wants to see . . . the most bang for the buck. Wyoming Public Radio's Tennessee Watson visited Kinskey in Sheridan to ask him what that means.

Time: 6 min

Date: 11-17-17 at 3pm and 11-19-17 at noon on WPR. 11-19-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A Wyoming legislative committee been looking to trim education spending out of what is called the school funding model. A Denver-based consulting firm is in the process of reviewing the model to determine how much actually needs to be spent on education in the state. It presented some initial findings this week. Wyoming Public Radio's education reporter Tennessee Watson sat down with Campbell County District #1 Superintendent Boyd Brown and Converse County District #1 Superintendent Paige Fenton Hughes to get their reaction to what they've heard so far.

Time: 8 min

Date: 12-1-17 at 3pm and 12-3-17 at noon on WPR. 12-3-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Teachers and educators globally are beginning to incorporate technology more in their classrooms. Microsoft's Skype in the Classroom breaks the walls of classrooms allowing students to take virtual field trips to museums, zoos and other institutions. One of the facilities is the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody. The museum has situated itself to be one of the program's most prolific partners. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska joined a lesson at the center.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12-1-17 at 3pm and 12-3-17 at noon on WPR. 12-3-17 at 9am on WPM

Topic: Budget shortfalls have lawmakers questioning how to fund the most effective education practices. Education consultants hired to advise lawmakers have pointed out that Wyoming's 56 most successful schools have a few things in common. They emphasize teacher collaboration and provide students with tailored interventions. Wyoming Public Radio's education reporter Tennessee Watson looks at one approach to success.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12-8-17 at 3pm and 12-10-17 at noon on WPR. 12-10-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The Park County School District six board in Cody is working on a draft policy which would allow employees to carry concealed firearms in schools. This comes after the state legislature passed a law in March of this year allowing school districts to choose whether their employees can carry firearms. Wyoming Public Radio's Kamila Kudelska spoke with Cody Police Chief Chuck Baker to discuss how the local law enforcement feels about the policy and what concerns they have if the policy were introduced.

Time: 6 min

Date: 12-8-17 at 3pm and 12-10-17 at noon on WPR. 12-10-17 at 9am on WPM.

## **Health**

Topic: It's open enrollment time for Medicare recipients. This is when you should review your drug coverage and sign up for a plan. Kelly Wicks is the Wyoming State Health Insurance Information program manager. She helps people review their coverage and she tells Bob Beck it's not uncommon for people to need to switch plans.

Time: 4 min

Date: 10-20-17 at 3pm and 10//22/17 at noon on WPR. 10-22-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: It's Open Enrollment time for health insurance and for those choosing their insurance on the federal marketplace there is interesting news for Wyoming residents. Subsidy payments for those on the marketplace have increased and so in many cases people can get more affordable and possibly better coverage. Enroll Wyo Navigator Monica Jennings tells Bob Beck that people should consider a new plan.

Time: 6 min

Date: 11-3-17 at 3pm and 11-5-17 at noon on WPR. 11-5-17 at 9am on WPM.

## **Politics**

Topic: Wyoming's revenue forecasting arm known as the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group or CREG had some good news for state officials. CREG says Wyoming's general fund will see an increase of \$141 million from January projections. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck reports that state lawmakers and the governor say it's good news, not great news.

Time: 4 min

Date: 10-27-17 at 3pm and 10//29/17 at noon on WPR. 10-29-17 at 9am on WPM

Topic: Wyoming's lawmakers in the nation's capital are trying to help their party deliver on its promise to overhaul the nation's tax code. Correspondent Matt Laslo reports from Washington that the effort is testing party unity and is far from certain.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10-27-17 at 3pm and 10//29/17 at noon on WPR. 10-29-17 at 9am on WPM

Topic: This month the federal government released a dire assessment of climate change that says human beings are likely the cause of the problem. But, as Matt Laslo explains, the report isn't having an impact on Wyoming lawmakers or the Trump administration.

Time: 4 min

Date: 11-17-17 at 3pm and 11-19-17 at noon on WPR. 11-19-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming's senior senator, Mike Enzi, is getting a seat at the head table in the GOP's rush to get a tax reform bill passed in the coming weeks. Correspondent Matt Laslo has the story from Washington on Enzi's new role as a part of the select group of Senate and House lawmakers who are now trying to combine the two chamber's vastly different tax bills.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12-8-17 at 3pm and 12-10-17 at noon on WPR. 12-10-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: This week the legislature's Revenue Committee pushed off a number of tax measures until the end of January. The committee has been trying to find revenue to offset losses in revenue that led to massive budget cuts, including a renewed effort to reduce education funding. Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard speaks with News Director Bob Beck about this.

Time: 6 min

Date: 12-8-17 at 3pm and 12-10-17 at noon on WPR. 12-10-17 at 9am on WPM.

## **Wildlife**

Topic: A study done by the University of Wyoming Raccoon Project was recently published in the journal *Animal Cognition*, and tests how well raccoons can figure out a problem posed in an ancient Greek story. Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard spoke with the researcher spearheading the study, PhD candidate Lauren Stanton, who says the fable they tested centers around a thirsty crow.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10-20-17 at 3pm and 10//22/17 at noon on WPR. 10-22-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: It's only been in the last few years that scientists have realized that pronghorn, elk and mule deer are migrating rugged terrain over hundreds of miles to reach the best grazing around Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. It's almost impossible to conceive what these animals endure on those journeys. But that's what wildlife photographer Joe Riis set out to document through pictures. Melodie Edwards talked to him about his new book, *Yellowstone Migrations*.

Time: 6 min

Date: 10-27-17 at 3pm and 10//29/17 at noon on WPR. 10-29-17 at 9am on WPM

Topic: Seven grizzlies have been shot and killed by hunters in Wyoming, since the state took over grizzly bear management. That compares to two grizzlies killed last fall. And, four people were injured in bears attacks. The question is how can those conflicts be reduced? Penny Preston reports experts say preparation is the key.

Time: 4 min

Date: 11-17-17 at 3pm and 11-19-17 at noon on WPR. 11-19-17 at 9am on WPM.

## **Social Issues**

Topic: The #metoo started flooding social media following the news about Harvey Weinstein. But the campaign has extended beyond women in Hollywood -- inspiring millions of people to speak out about their experiences with sexual harassment and assault. In our ongoing series about campus sexual misconduct, education reporter Tennessee Watson takes a look at what happens when students come forward at the University of Wyoming.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10-27-17 at 3pm and 10//29/17 at noon on WPR. 10-29-17 at 9am on WPM

Topic: Both private and public institutions are bound by federal law to respond to reports of sexual harassment and abuse. But this fall the U.S. Department of Education announced it plans to overhaul the guideline. In response, UW law students organized a panel of university administrators to address potential changes. A Laramie attorney -- who has represented a student facing sexual misconduct violations -- spoke out at the event. Wyoming Public Radio's Tennessee Watson followed up with Linda Devine to get her take.

Time: 6 min

Date: 11-3-17 at 3pm and 11-5-17 at noon on WPR. 11-5-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: For many women, getting their haircut means going to the same stylist every 6 weeks for years, or even decades. In an effort to take advantage of those enduring ties, the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is training beauticians to recognize the signs of abuse and how to help. But as Wyoming Public Radio's Maggie Mullen reports, getting the program off the ground is slow going.

Time: 4 min

Date: 12-1-17 at 3pm and 12-3-17 at noon on WPR. 12-3-17 at 9am on WPM

## **Justice Issues**

**Topic:** Half of Native Americans living on Indian reservations say they or a family member feel they've been treated unfairly by the courts. That's according to a new poll by NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard T-H Chan School of Public Health. It's a lack of justice that Wind River Reservation residents say they live with every day. As Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards reports, now the tribes are working together to solve that problem.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11-17-17 at 3pm and 11-19-17 at noon on WPR. 11-19-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A new report says Wyoming's prison system is growing, which is driving up costs and the culprit is the lack of prison reform a new legislation that could lead to more people being placed behind bars. ACLU of Wyoming has released a report called [\*Bucking the Trend: How Wyoming can reverse course through reduced incarceration and lowered costs\*](#). State Policy Director Sabrina King says they've given the legislature some ideas.

Time: 7 min

Date: 11-17-17 at 3pm and 11-19-17 at noon on WPR. 11-19-17 at 9am on WPM.

## **Arts and Culture**

Topic: The Buffalo Bill Center of the West is in the midst of a major upgrade of the Cody Firearms Museum. The Museum's Robert W. Woodruff curator Ashley Hlebinsky says it's more than just a western firearms museum.

Time: 5 min

Date: 10-27-17 at 3pm and 10//29/17 at noon on WPR. 10-29-17 at 9am on WPM

Topic: Ever since the 2016 presidential election, some have seen American politics as extremely partisan and polarized. People are finding it difficult to find common ground on serious issues. So the University of Wyoming Department of Theatre and Dance is trying something unique: singing about it. Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 11-3-17 at 3pm and 11-5-17 at noon on WPR. 11-5-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Comic books get kids thinking about complex issues. That's definitely the case for an art show now up at the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum. All the comic book art in this show is by Native American artists. The museum's marketing director Morgan Marks gave Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards a tour that starts with the illustrated robe of the great Eastern Shoshone chief Washakie. Marks says it shows how deeply ingrained picture storytelling is in Native American cultures.

Time: 6 min

Date: 11-3-17 at 3pm and 11-5-17 at noon on WPR. 11-5-17 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The new podcast and photography series "Women In Wyoming" profiles accomplished women living in the Equality State. Its creator photographer Lindsay Linton Buk grew up in Powell thinking that in order to be successful in life she would eventually have to leave the state. As an adult she moved to New York City to work as a photographer, but came back to Wyoming contemplate her next move. She told Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard that her project "Women in Wyoming" came out of the desire to see how other women in Wyoming were thriving.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12-1-17 at 3pm and 12-3-17 at noon on WPR. 12-3-17 at 9am on WPM

Topic: The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities is launching a five-year strategic plan to advocate for better policies for the disabled in Wyoming. Andy Imparato is a lawyer and the executive director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. He recently visited the University of Wyoming to help kick off this initiative and discuss the benefits of grassroots advocacy. He spoke with Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard about why having real people tell their stories to policy makers results in better laws.

Time: 6 min

Date: 12-8-17 at 3pm and 12-10-17 at noon on WPR. 12-10-17 at 9am on WPM.

## **Business and Economy**

Topic: The longtime President of the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort Jerry Blann is stepping down next year. He has overseen major changes at the resort since 1995. He joins Bob Beck to discuss how his vision became a reality.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12-1-17 at 3pm and 12-3-17 at noon on WPR. 12-3-17 at 9am on WPM

Topic: On Monday the group [ENDOW](#), which stands for Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming, will release its preliminary findings on ways to diversify the state's economy. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck reports that ENDOW has been working while many have been quietly skeptical, but those involved in the effort think they will finally break through.

Time: 5 min

Date: 12-8-17 at 3pm and 12-10-17 at noon on WPR. 12-10-17 at 9am on WPM.