

Dear Listeners,

Fall Fund Drive is just around the corner! If you haven't pledged already, please renew your commitment now. Members are WPM's largest and strongest source of revenue. The stories you hear and the music you enjoy are funded by YOU. But even more important – the fact that you can hear public radio in Wyoming at all is a miracle of a kind, and one made possible by donors.

Wyoming is a wonderful state in which to operate a public radio and media service. Wyomingites are deeply committed to public radio, both through conviction and by necessity. Conviction comes from their quest for information, culture, and a desire to feel connected to other Wyomingites as well as to the world outside our state. Necessity comes from our vast distances and small, often remote, population centers. There is something very comforting about radio in our cars as we travel from place to place. I was just reminded of this recently driving from the Center of the West in Cody to Laramie late in the afternoon. The long stretch of highway between Sweetwater Station and Muddy Gap can be quite lonely. This time, though, I had our signal at 90.9 which stayed with me almost all the way into Muddy Gap. I was accompanied by Terry Gross and the wonderful hosts of All Things Considered who connected me to the world from this very remote part of Wyoming. I was very grateful to our engineers who improved our signals in that part of Wyoming and made this vital connection possible. I felt indebted to donors whose annual contributions keep us on the air and support a statewide network. Wyoming can be challenging, but it's a challenge made so much easier with a state network of transmitters.

If you're looking for a reason to support Wyoming Public Media, there is no stronger one than our ability to connect communities and link them to the world. The rich programming public radio brings to listeners falls on deaf ears without sites, transmitters, translators, remote monitoring equipment, and all the technology needed to operate a network today, both terrestrially and digitally. Next time you travel through remote parts of Wyoming with the companionship of Wyoming Public Radio on your car radio think of what it takes financially to make it happen!

Paul Montoya, WPM Director of Engineering has more to say about the never-ending task of signal and site maintenance.

“Of the many projects that we have been working on this summer, the new signal into Saratoga has been one of the more challenging installations. We have established a new signal on 88.9 to cover this area that has had poor signal penetration from either the Laramie/Cheyenne signal at 91.9 or the Rawlins signal at 89.8.

The challenge has been that this site is atop Elk Mountain, at over 11,000 feet. This is property owned by the University of Wyoming and has been used by the Atmospheric Science Department for decades for high altitude experiments.

This year I went to the site in early July for preliminary work to refurbish the building. Even with our Polaris track vehicle, I was turned away by still high drifts of snow. Yes, I said early July. By early August I was finally able to reach the summit by four-wheel drive vehicle. We cleaned out the small building and gave it a fresh coat of exterior paint. Our tower crew came up a couple of weeks later to dig and pour the base for a short 40' tower to hold the FM antenna.

Over the next few weeks we got the transmit equipment installed and we began to get the tower and antenna installed the third week of September. I knew we were pushing our luck for good weather and on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> we received 4 inches of snow at this site. Wednesday we had to use four-wheel drive vehicles with tire chains to reach the transmit site. We brought the antenna up and had it hung on the tower on Wednesday and Thursday. By the end of the day Thursday we had the signal on the air and began our broadcast.”

Paul Montoya  
Director Of Engineering

Thank you again, and please pledge if you haven't already!

Sincerely,  
Christina Kuzmych  
General Manager  
Wyoming Public Media



**WYOMING PUBLIC RADIO**  
**CLASSICAL WYOMING**  
**WYOMING SOUNDS**  
**JAZZ WYOMING**

[wyomingpublicmedia.org](http://wyomingpublicmedia.org)