

Issues List 3rd Quarter 2015 – Wyoming Public Media

Issue: Natural Resources

Topic: A plague vaccine might help bring one of the most endangered mammals in North America back to Northwest Wyoming where they were discovered. Black Footed Ferrets may be restored to the Pitchfork Ranch near Meeteetse, because their food, prairie dogs, are coming back. Penny Preston reports.

Time: 3:30 min

Date: 7/10/15 at 3pm and 7/12/ 15 at noon on WPR. 7/12/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Polar bears are one of the species that's been hardest hit by climate change. But scientists have long thought the bears might be capable of effectively hibernating in summer, to save energy during a longer open water season. New research from the University of Wyoming disproves that hypothesis though. Merav Ben David is a professor of wildlife ecology and one of the authors of the new study. She told Wyoming Public Radio's Stephanie Joyce that without hibernation, it's an increasingly long and hungry summer for the bears.

Time: 6 min

Date: 7/31/15 at 3pm and 8/2/15 at noon on WPR. 8/2/ 15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: For women, it's never been easy breaking into male-dominated fields. That was the case for Susan Marsh. She's the author of a new book called *A Hunger For High Country*. It's a memoir about how her childhood love for nature led her to become a landscape architect for the U.S. Forest Service. Marsh is now retired and writing a natural history of Jackson's Cache Creek. On a wildflower walk along the creek with Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards, she talked about her years of struggle during a time when the Forest Service hired very few women.

Time: 6 min

Date: 7/31/15 at 3pm and 8/2/15 at noon on WPR. 8/2/ 15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The phrase "mountain streams" usually comes with the word "pristine" in front of it. But here in Wyoming, some outdoor recreation groups are saying...not for long. That's because last year, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality downgraded the status of about 87-thousand miles of small creeks and drainages in the state's high country. For years, these

streams have been considered primary recreation...that means they could be used for swimming and the DEQ would clean them up even if a small amount of e. coli was found in them. But now the DEQ has re-classified them as secondary, which would allow five times more of the bacteria before they'd get cleaned up. Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards took some kids up into the Snowy Range near Laramie in search of some of these downgraded streams.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/14/14 at 3pm and 8/16/15 at noon on WPR. 8/6/15 and 9am on WPM

Topic: Four years ago Ozone in the Pinedale area was compared to that of Los Angeles. The culprit was enhanced energy development in the Upper Green River basin. The area was listed by the Environmental Protection Agency as a non-attainment area for ozone pollution under the federal Clean Air Act. But this week the EPA said that efforts to reduce those levels to healthier standards have worked. Wyoming Outdoor Council Chief Legal Counsel Bruce Pendery has been closely following the issue. He tells Bob Beck that the response to the problem was excellent.

Time: 7 min

Date: 8/28/15 at 3pm and 8/30/15 at noon on WPR. 8/30/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: You might have heard a strange sound this last Tuesday morning around 10 a.m. It was a sigh of relief from ranchers, oil and gas workers and miners all over the West at the announcement that the greater sage grouse won't be listed as an endangered species. But you probably also heard the slapping of foreheads from wildlife advocates who say the grouse needs full federal protections if it's going to survive.

Time: 5 min

9/25/15 at 3pm at 9/27/15 at noon on WPR. 9/27/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Last weekend Wyoming's annual Sage Grouse hunt began. Many hunters were worried that this could be the last hunt in a while since the bird was facing the possibility of getting listed as an endangered species. Wyoming continued its hunt after changing the start date and limiting the take. One of those who has studied the Sage Grouse for many years is Doctor Jeff Beck an associate professor of Wildlife Habitat Restoration Ecology at the University of Wyoming. He's also an avid Sage Grouse hunter. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck has more.

Time: 5 min

9/25/15 at 3pm at 9/27/15 at noon on WPR. 9/27/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: People in Wyoming are passionate about wildlife. And it's the state's long history of negotiating with the federal government over endangered species like the sage grouse and the grizzly that has prompted Governor Matt Mead this month to announce an initiative to reform the 42 year old Endangered Species Act. He spoke with Melodie Edwards.

Time: 7 min

Date: 9/11/15 at 3pm and 9/13/15 at noon on WPR. 9/13/15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Energy

Topic: The song is called Paradise. Recorded in 1971 by folks musician John Prine. In it he criticized Peabody Energy's mining practices in a Kentucky town called Paradise. (SOUND UP MUSIC). Its now being used as a protest song in another coal mining town, Gillette Wyoming. In 2013, 2 Colorado activists were arrested there for demonstrating at Peabody shareholders meeting. Peabody is now suing over the lyrics. Leigh Patterson reports.

Time: 4 min

Date: 7/10/15 at 3pm and 7/12/ 15 at noon on WPR. 7/12/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: From the roof of the Confederation of Danish Industries building in downtown Copenhagen, Denmark's energy past and future are within view. Smokestacks from several coal-fired power plants share space on the horizon with a fleet of wind turbines. But most of those smokestacks are coming down soon. Denmark is transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy—the culmination of a decades-long effort that began with the energy crisis of the 1970s. Wyoming Public Radio's Stephanie Joyce explains why this is of interest to Wyoming officials.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/10/15 at 3pm and 7/12/ 15 at noon on WPR. 7/12/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Federal regulators are working on new rules that are supposed to protect the electric grid from a threat you've probably never considered: solar storms. If you've ever seen the Northern Lights, you've seen the most visible evidence of this kind of storm. They can be powerful enough to wreak havoc on our electric grid, 93 million miles away. Inside Energy's Emily Guerin reports, that new protections may not go far enough.

Time: 4 min

Date: 7/31/15 at 3pm and 8/2/15 at noon on WPR. 8/2/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: The coal industry in other parts of the country has fallen on hard times in recent years... but the Powder River Basin has been left largely unscathed. But under the Obama administration's new regulations for carbon emissions from power plants... demand for coal is expected to plummet. Even so, as Wyoming Public Radio's Stephanie Joyce reports, Gillette isn't giving up on its black gold anytime soon.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/14/14 at 3pm and 8/16/15 at noon on WPR. 8/16/15 and 9am on WPM.

Topic: Energy has always been an important topic in Wyoming, but it's increasingly becoming an important global conversation, especially in the context of climate change. Wyoming, as the second-largest energy producing state in the nation, is central to that conversation. In an interview with Wyoming Public Radio's energy reporter Stephanie Joyce, Governor Matt Mead started by saying he thinks it's time to move past the debate about climate change.

Time: 10 min

Date: 8/14/14 at 3pm and 8/16/15 at noon on WPR. 8/16/15 and 9am on WPM.

Topic: Congress hasn't passed an energy bill since 2007, but a bill is winding its way through Congress that has the chance of becoming law. Matt Laslo reports from Washington that while the bill is attracting support from Republicans and Democrats, no one is completely happy with it.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/14/14 at 3pm and 8/16/15 at noon on WPR. 8/16/15 and 9am on WPM.

Topic: Many of the country's biggest coal deposits are on federal land- land that belongs to the American public. So, when companies mine that coal, they pay royalties to the federal government and to the states. 85 percent of federal coal comes from Wyoming and last year the state received around a quarter of a billion dollars in royalty payments. But a new effort to raise those royalty payments is surprisingly controversial. Our Inside Energy reporter Leigh Paterson has more.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/21/15 at 3pm and 8/23/15 at noon on WPR. 8/23/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Four years ago Ozone in the Pinedale area was compared to that of Los Angeles. The culprit was enhanced energy development in the Upper Green River basin. But this week the EPA said that efforts to reduce those levels to healthier standards have worked. Wyoming Outdoor Council Chief Legal Counsel Bruce Pendery tells Bob Beck that the response to the problem was excellent.

Time: 6 min

Date: 8/28/15 at 3pm and 8/30/15 at noon on WPR. 8/30/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: In a joint press conference with President Obama, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a commitment put a price on carbon emissions. The plan is a cap and trade program which would effectively make china the world's biggest carbon market. It is a key part of joint efforts by the US and China to find cleaner ways to burn and use coal. Inside Energy's Leigh Paterson recently traveled to one of China's main coal-producing provinces, to see what the country is doing to clean up coal.

Time: 5 min

9/25/15 at 3pm at 9/27/15 at noon on WPR. 9/27/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: In recent years, solar energy has gone from the fringe to mainstream. Solar still provides less than 1 percent of the nation's power, and in states like Wyoming, it's virtually nonexistent. But many predict solar power will play a much larger role in the future. Among them is Philip Warburg, author of the recently-published book Harness the Sun: America's Quest for a Solar-Powered Future. He joined Wyoming Public Radio's energy reporter, Stephanie Joyce, to talk about what he learned on his tour of solar projects across America.

Time: 8 min

Date: 9/25/15 at 3pm at 9/27/15 at noon on WPR. 9/27/15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Education

Topic: Wyoming remains one of 10 states that do not fund a pre-K program. But Wyoming does fund some early childhood education—including eight ‘family literacy’ programs around the state. The Teton Literacy Center runs one of those programs in Jackson. Wyoming Public Radio’s Aaron Schrank reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/21/15 at 3pm and 8/23/15 at noon on WPR. 8/23/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Staying globally competitive by teaching future generations of workers how to innovate is a national concern. At Jackson Hole High School, a new program is teaching students the skills they will need to be innovators by assigning them real problems to solve.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/28/15 at 3pm and 8/30/15 at noon on WPR. 8/30/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: This summer, the University of Wyoming’s College of Education welcomed a new dean. Dr. Ray Reutzel was hired amid a major effort by the University’s Board of Trustees to boost the College to national prominence in teacher training. Reutzel himself attended the College decades ago. Wyoming Public Radio’s Aaron Schrank sat down with Reutzel—and began by asking him what impact his experience as a student at UW’s College of Ed has on his approach as its dean.

Time: 6 min

Date: 9/11/15 at 3pm and 9/13/15 at noon on WPR. 9/13/15 at 9am on WPM.

Housing:

Topic: Despite efforts to solve a growing problem, it appears that Jackson’s Housing shortage will not be solved soon. Miles Bryan reports.

Time: 4 min

Date: 7/10/15 at 3pm and 7/12/ 15 at noon on WPR. 7/12/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Housing in Jackson is a problem for seasonal and low-income workers. But, increasingly, it's also a problem for middle-income earners. Among them, some vital occupations—like teachers. Wyoming Public Radio's Aaron Schrank reports on Teton County School District's struggle to recruit and retain top educators.

Time: 4 min

Date: 7/10/15 at 3pm and 7/12/ 15 at noon on WPR. 7/12/15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Religion

Topic: Pope Francis made international headlines last month by calling on the world to proactively address human-caused climate change.

The document, a so-called encyclical, is one of the most important statements a pope can issue. Shortly after its release, Inside Energy reporter Dan Boyce sat down with Paul Etienne, Catholic Bishop of Cheyenne.

Time: 7 min

Date: 7/10/15 at 3pm and 7/12/ 15 at noon on WPR. 7/12/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment is getting a thorough reading here in Wyoming—the country's top coal-producing state. The letter presents a moral framework for approaching issues like global climate change. As Wyoming Public Radio's Aaron Schrank reports, it's a difficult subject for Catholics in the Cowboy State.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/14/14 at 3pm and 8/16/15 at noon on WPR. 8/6/15 and 9am on WPM.

Issue: Social issues

Topic: Finding a place to put Cheyenne's troubled youth is harder than you think. The city has been without a Youth Crisis Center for many years and the current solution is to use the County Jail. Wyoming Public Radio's Miles Bryan reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/10/15 at 3pm and 7/12/ 15 at noon on WPR. 7/12/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Cheyenne Frontier Days has been Wyoming's biggest party for nearly 120 years. But for many gay and lesbian people, the rodeo tradition is one of intolerance and exclusion. Wyoming Public Radio's Aaron Schrank reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/24/15 at 3pm and 7/26/15 at noon on WPR. 7/26/ 15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A Wyoming group has received permission to collect nearly 25 thousand signatures by February in an effort to get an initiative on the ballot. It would legalize the use of medical marijuana among other things. Chris Christian is the Executive Director of the group Wyoming NORML and she says it was time legalization became a topic of discussion in Wyoming. She explains her interest to Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck.

Time: 7 min

Date: 7/24/15 at 3pm and 7/26/15 at noon on WPR. 7/26/ 15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: In Laramie the Eppson Center for Seniors is looking at how it should operate in the future. Lynne Simpson is overseeing that effort. She says the kinds of discussion surrounding independent living that's taking place in Laramie should occur throughout Wyoming. She speaks with Bob Beck.

Time: 6 min

Date: 8/14/14 at 3pm and 8/16/15 at noon on WPR. 8/16/15 and 9am on WPM.

Topic: Wyoming is the only state in the country without a refugee resettlement program – the office that chooses refugees to bring to the U-S, helps them find jobs, and teaches them English. But that doesn't mean there aren't former refugees living in Wyoming. Wyoming Public Radio's Caroline Ballard brings us the story of one former refugee who is trying to change things in Wyoming. Bertine Bahige is a Math teacher who lives in Gillette, but was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Time: 6 min

Date: 8/21/15 at 3pm and 8/23/15 at noon on WPR. 8/23/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: This summer, the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act went into effect nationwide, laying out new protocols colleges and universities must follow when it comes to preventing, reporting, and responding to sexual assault. Wyoming—with its one university—ranks fourth in the country in sexual assault reports per student. Wyoming Public Radio's Aaron Schrank spoke with administrators and advocates at the University of Wyoming about how sexual assaults are handled there—and has this report.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/11/15 at 3pm and 9/13/15 at noon on WPR. 9/13/15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Native American Issues

Topic: The Arapaho language is one of many indigenous languages considered endangered. But a new book of bilingual Arapaho stories attempts to help the problem by collecting hundreds of songs and prayers into one place. University of Colorado linguist Andrew Cowell discovered a treasure trove of translated stories during his research. He speaks with Wyoming Public Radio's Melodie Edwards.

Time: 7 min

Date: 7/10/15 at 3pm and 7/12/ 15 at noon on WPR. 7/12/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: On July 18, two Native American men were shot at an alcohol detox center in Riverton. The man charged with the brutal crime is white. He worked for the city's parks department and told police he was on a mission to kill homeless people. But the victims' families and tribal officials say the attack was racially motivated—and they're pushing for the suspect to be charged with a hate crime. Wyoming Public Radio's Aaron Schrank reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/31/15 at 3pm and 8/2/15 at noon on WPR. 8/2/ 15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: By some estimates, sexual assault on U.S. Indian reservations is the worst in the world with one in three Native women assaulted during their lifetime. And the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming is no exception. It's the kind of big issue that would normally scare most people away. But not nine courageous women at Wind River Reservation. Melodie Edwards has more.

Time: 7 min

Date: 8/28/15 at 3pm and 8/30/15 at noon on WPR. 8/30/15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Jobs and Business

Topic: Wyoming has long struggled to keep its young people from leaving the state. A post high school or post-college move to bigger cities in Colorado or elsewhere is so common it's practically a tradition. But it's not a happy one for state employers, who struggle to find skilled young workers. The state's most recent effort to deal with this problem is called Wyoming Grown. It's a job matchmaking program that tries to convince Wyoming expats to move back home. Wyoming Public Radio's Miles Bryan reports.

Time: 4 min

Date: 7/31/15 at 3pm and 8/2/15 at noon on WPR. 8/2/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Almost ten years ago Wyoming came under intense political and media scrutiny for its lax standards for setting up businesses. That made the state a hotspot for fake businesses known as "shell companies." In response, the state tightened its regulations. But Wyoming Public Radio's Miles Bryan reports, that the business of business formation is booming once again.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/14/14 at 3pm and 8/16/15 at noon on WPR. 8/16/15 and 9am on WPM.

Topic: One part of Wyoming's deeply held "cowboy culture" is cowboy coffee. Coffee in Wyoming is often more about strength than flavor...but now a new coffee roastery in Laramie is trying to change that. Since last summer, H+S Coffee has been doing small batch, artisan coffee roasting. Wyoming Public Radio's Miles Bryan visited the roastery and had a taste.

Time: 4 min

Date: 8/21/15 at 3pm and 8/23/15 at noon on WPR. 8/23/15 at 9am on WPM

Topic: Sitting in an airplane is usually cramped and stressful. But sitting in the pilot's seat is a different story. For people who really love piloting a plane there is one ultimate dream: living in an airpark. That's a planned community where your garage is a hangar and the runaway is in

your backyard. Wyoming Public Radio's Miles Bryan visited an airpark just outside the town of Alpine, and has this report.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/25/15 at 3pm at 9/27/15 at noon on WPR. 9/27/15 at 9am on WPM.

Issue: Politics

Topic: The state is trying to spruce up its image in other ways, too. After years of planning, Wyoming is finally going ahead with a multi-year effort to renovate the state capitol building and to completely re-do the neighboring Herschler building. The 300 million dollar project is called a necessity, but concerns about paying for such a project at a time when energy prices are slumping has some worried. Wyoming Public Radio's Bob Beck reports.

Time: 5 min

Date: 7/31/15 at 3pm and 8/2/15 at noon on WPR. 8/2/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: Congress hasn't passed an energy bill since 2007, but a bill is winding its way through Congress that has the chance of becoming law. Matt Laslo reports from Washington that while the bill is attracting support from Republicans and Democrats, no one is completely happy with it.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/14/14 at 3pm and 8/16/15 at noon on WPR. 8/6/15 and 9am on WPM.

Topic: Energy has always been an important topic in Wyoming, but it's increasingly becoming an important global conversation, especially in the context of climate change. Wyoming, as the second-largest energy producing state in the nation, is central to that conversation. Decisions made today will likely affect the state and the country for years and decades to come. In an interview with Wyoming Public Radio's energy reporter Stephanie Joyce, Governor Matt Mead started by saying he thinks it's time to move past the debate about climate change.

Time: 8 min

Date: 8/14/14 at 3pm and 8/16/15 at noon on WPR. 8/16/15 and 9am on WPM.

Topic: Now that the Supreme Court has legalized same-sex marriage, conservatives in Congress, including Wyoming Republicans, are debating how to protect religious groups who disagree with the ruling. Matt Laslo reports from Washington that opponents of the most popular plan say it would lead to discrimination if it becomes law.

Time: 5 min

Date: 8/21/15 at 3pm and 8/23/15 at noon on WPR. 8/23/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: A decade ago a federal law created a national sex offender registry, and required each state to update it regularly. Most people associate those registries with adults, but the “Adam Walsh Act” also mandated the creation of registries for children found guilty of sex crimes. Recently the practice of putting minors on sex offender registries has come under scrutiny. Here in Wyoming, state officials are debating whether to change the system. But as Wyoming Public Radio’s Miles Bryan reports, *there aren’t easy answers*.

Time: 5 min.

Date: 8/28/15 at 3pm and 8/30/15 at noon on WPR. 8/30/15 at 9am on WPM

Topic: Now for another kind of Wyoming phenomena. Small town politics. In Wyoming, it can be a sleepy affair. Neighbors elect neighbors, and if you go to a town council meeting you’re less likely to get riled up, than to be put to sleep. But here’s what a recent town council meeting sounded like in the town of Pinedale.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/11/15 at 3pm and 9/13/15 at noon on WPR. 9/13/15 at 9am on WPM.

Topic: This is Wyoming Senior Senator Mike Enzi’s first year as chairman of the Budget Committee. Yet the government may still be screeching towards a shutdown in a month and Enzi may have an uphill battle to get the nation’s finances in order.

Time: 5 min

Date: 9/11/15 at 3pm and 9/13/15 at noon on WPR. 9/13/15 at 9am on WPM.