

## TECH UPDATE:

With more favorable weather, the WPM technical staff will begin addressing facility issues around Wyoming. (Read more) We currently have six projects to complete over the summer that will improve service. This group includes critical projects that are cost-prohibitive for WPM, but made possible by the Wyoming State Legislature funding. This tech update highlights the Sheridan listening area.

We currently broadcast to the Sheridan area from Banner Mountain above the town of Story. We occupy space in a building owned by WY PBS. We have a mutual agreement with WY PBS to share signals around the state, where as to maximize resources for both WPM and WY PBS. They were notified last year that the land that they lease through the WY State Land Board was going to be sold. The buyer of the land notified WY PBS after the sale, that they would not be renewing leases at this site and that WY PBS and WPM, amongst others, would need to vacate the site by the middle of 2017. This meant that we had to scramble to find a site so as not to disrupt service for Sheridan area listeners.

We identified a site at Red Grade Mountain west of Sheridan as an ideal site. We fortunately found a current site owner at this USFS site that was discontinuing their operation at the site and was willing to sell their building and short tower to WPM for a very reasonable price. We moved forward with this purchase and are now moving forward with the forest service to transfer the USFS lease to the University of Wyoming / WPM. WY PBS will provide a new tower that will replace the small tower. They will share the building space with us.

While we were moving to this site, we looked at the possibility of upgrading the signal within the budget of the project. We found that we could upgrade the signal from 450 watts to 30,000 watts and greatly improve the reception throughout this area. This will allow listening over a greater distance in outlying areas from Sheridan and allow a better signal into buildings in the area.

We are operating on a very tight timetable and budget to complete this project and we hope not to have any signal disruptions for listeners in this area. Watch our website, [wyomingpublicmedia.org](http://wyomingpublicmedia.org), for updates on this and other projects.

In the next newsletter, we'll address signal improvement in the Saratoga area.

Paul Montoya  
Director of Engineering



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