MontanaPBS, a partnership between KUSM-TV, Bozeman, and KUFM-TV, Missoula, provides high quality public television and related media to the state of Montana. Through the acquisition of relevant national content, development of important Montana programming, targeted educational outreach initiatives, and the development of appropriate delivery technologies, MontanaPBS strives to enrich the lives of all Montanans.

MontanaPBS is estimated to reach over 79% of all Montana households, in over 150 Montana communities. Montanans can view MontanaPBS for free, over the air, via full power stations in Bozeman, Missoula, and Billings. Many additional communities, such as (Helena, Butte, and many others) view MontanaPBS via low-power stations or translators. MontanaPBS is also available on most Montana cable systems, Dish network, and DirecTV in limited markets.

MontanaPBS receives funding via the budgets of both Montana State University and the University of Montana, the federal government (via grants through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Department of Commerce, and others), and individuals and foundations who contribute to the Friends of MontanaPBS, an independent 503(c)(3) organization.

Both stations work closely with the academic programs of their respective institutions. KUSM uses its studio facilities for undergraduate instruction in television production, and strives to provide internships, student employment opportunities, and production experience for MSU undergraduate and graduate students. KUSM’s staff production department also provides professional television production services to MSU departments, centers, and other state agencies.

Fiscal Notes:
1) The increase reflected in 41KUSM for fiscal year 2009 was the result of a consolidation of two previously separate indexed funds into 41KUSM.
2) The increase reflected in 41KUSM for fiscal year 2010 was the result of the decentralization of the university’s benefits pool.

Current Fiscal Challenges:
- MontanaPBS received $400k in OTO funding to support statewide signal distribution in both of the past two legislative biennia. Current biennium funding is part of the Montana Reinvestment Act. Restoring this funding to be ongoing in the state General Fund is critical to the future fiscal health of MontanaPBS.
- MontanaPBS is completing construction of a new, $1.2M, station in Great Falls this year, and looking forward to beginning a new, $1M project in Kalispell in the next 12 months. At this time, the Great Falls project is nearly fully funded and fundraising for the Kalispell project is just beginning.