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KUFM TO EXPAND TO GREAT FALLS AREA

MISSOULA--

Great Falls residents will be able to listen to KUFM, a National Public Radio network affiliate located on the University of Montana campus in Missoula, within the next year, according to Greg MacDonald, KUFM station manager.

The Great Falls Public Radio Association, a non-profit organization formed last fall to bring public radio to Great Falls, received word that the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) has awarded the corporation a grant of \$98,808 to help build a transmitter and local studio facilities.

The Great Falls Public Radio Association, headed by attorney Bruce MacKenzie, raised over \$40,000 locally from residents and businesses in order to qualify for the NTIA grant, MacDonald said.

Actual start-up time will depend on how long it takes to deliver the needed equipment and on the weather, he said. The transmitter will be located at Black Eagle and the studio facilities, which will be staffed by volunteers, at Paris Gibson Square.

The station will operate at a full 5,000 watts of power and will reach residents within a 40- to 50-mile radius of Great Falls. KUFM broadcasts 24 hours a day from Jan. 1 until the middle of June, and from 6 a.m. until 2 a.m. the rest of the year. It carries no advertisements and is supported

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KUFM
add one

entirely by state and federal grants and donations from corporations, businesses and listeners.

MacDonald said KUFM has access to a variety of programs which it receives via satellite through the NPR Network Interconnect system.

In addition to news programs supplied by NPR, the station carries a wide variety of entertainment programs including symphony concerts, jazz, folk, drama and children's programs.

KUFM currently serves about 225,000 residents in Missoula, Butte and Helena. MacDonald said he expects the new transmitter will add about 200,000 new listeners in the Great Falls area.

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