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Jackson Hole Goes Wild & Scenic

(JACKSON, WYO.) – You’ll laugh. You’ll cry. You’ll want to change the world... or at least go play in it for a while.

Patagonia presents the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival on Tour for one night only in Jackson on Friday, Oct. 17. The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance and Skinny Skis are hosting the event for the second year in a row to showcase highlights from the largest environmental film festival in North America.

The main event will take place at 7 p.m. at the Jackson Hole Center for the Arts Center Theater, with tickets on sale for only \$15 at the Center box office and website, www.jhcenterforthearts.org. This year’s festival will include a free after-school program, “Kids Go Wild & Scenic,” from 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., also at the Center for the Arts, aimed at ages 5-12.

“This film festival is an exceptional program, as well as a unique chance for grassroots organizations to partner with businesses and the film industry to make a difference in the world,” said Becky Tillson, one of the event organizers at the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance. “The films depict the balance between our need to enjoy our natural surroundings along with the growing importance of protecting them for future generations.”

The evening program – approximately three hours including intermission – will include eight short films ranging from two minutes to 33 minutes in length. The variety of films offers something for everyone – from awe-inspiring skiing in the Swiss Alps, to a breathtaking time-lapse look at organic farming; from unusual partnerships to save rivers for fish, to adventuring in the “Dangerous Archipelago” of French Polynesia.

One of the festival favorites elsewhere (and being shown locally) is a 33-minute tale about two kayakers who embark on an endless-summer-style road trip across the Americas in an experimental vehicle that obtains its fuel from plants along the road. A complete film list is attached and available on the web at www.jhcenterforthearts.org.

Bring a friend and qualify for a special door prize. There will be great raffles from local and national sponsors, and the Conservation Alliance will draw the winner of its vacation raffle for two to a five-star resort in Cabo, Mexico. Vacation raffle tickets are \$10 through Alliance staff and board; need not be present to win.

The after-school program, “Kids Go Wild & Scenic,” offers a special mix of short, inspiring films chosen because they are award-winning works by young filmmakers or because their subject matter is accessible

to the young or young at heart. After the 50-minute program concludes, a filmmaker will take the stage to answer questions kids may have about the art and profession of filmmaking. Kids will also have a chance to win free raffle prizes. "Kids Go Wild & Scenic" was made possible through partnership with the Center of Wonder.

"Jackson Hole has such a strong connection with its natural surroundings and with other environmentally significant places in the world, that bringing this type of film festival to the valley has become a really popular part of the Conservation Alliance's outreach and education efforts," said Cindy Harger, the Conservation Alliance's managing director.

Harger said this film festival in particular inspires Conservation Alliance staff and board members because it was begun by a small watershed advocacy group in Nevada City, California, and it has grown to be the largest environmental film festival in North America.

"We are very thankful that the South Yuba River Citizens League and national sponsors, such as Patagonia, Clif Bar, Tom's of Maine, Earth Cinema Circle, Whole Foods, and Brighter Planet have made it possible for us to share the festival with Jackson Hole," Harger said.

Harger also credited several local sponsors who have made this year's event possible, including Skinny Skis, Center of Wonder, Dave Taylor and Associates, The Jackson Whole Grocer, and many raffle prize donors. Silent auction and raffle prizes will include a season pass to Snow King, restaurant vouchers, outdoor gear and a local's stay at Terra resort.

Details in Brief

Event: Patagonia Presents the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival, hosted by the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance and Skinny Skis

Date: October 17, 2008

Time: 7 p.m., main event
4:30-5:45, Kids Go Wild & Scenic (free)

Location: Jackson Hole Center for the Arts, Center Theater

Ticket prices: \$15, available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, 733-4900, or online at www.jhcenterforthearts.org

Film List: Attached

Film Stills and Filmmaker Contact Info: Available on request

More Info: Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, 733-9417