



JACKSON HOLE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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## **Mandatory Air Headlines Third Annual Party for the Pronghorn**

Jackson's own Mandatory Air – the favorite locals' band known for its soulful, funky groove – will help pump up the third annual Party for the Pronghorn on Saturday, May 31, 7 p.m. at Snow King Resort's Grand Room.

A community celebration of the Teton Park antelope herd's annual return to the valley, this year's party will also highlight recent strides toward protecting the herd's threatened migratory path between Jackson Hole and the Upper Green River Basin. Antelope have used this "Path of the Pronghorn" – a 90-mile-long crucial artery between the herd's winter range in Sublette County and summer range in Grand Teton National Park – for more than 6,000 years.

"But several places along the path make passage difficult," said Louise Lasley, public lands director for the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, sponsor of the event. "Rivers, trees and steep cliffs pinch the route down to just meters wide at some points, increasing the pronghorns' exposure to predators. Even worse, human development has caused additional bottlenecks. Oil and gas wells, roads, houses, fences – all make a dangerous journey even more perilous."

Conservationists, federal land managers and state wildlife agencies are working together to permanently protect the pronghorns' ancient route, which is one of the longest migratory paths in the western hemisphere, and the event will include announcements about these efforts. This year, however, "the Party for the Pronghorn is all about the *party*," according to organizer Lisa Vogelheim of the Conservation Alliance.

A \$5 donation at the door will give pronghorn partygoers great live music and dancing till 11 p.m., free cake, a cash bar, and the opportunity to participate in raffles and a silent auction for some amazing items donated by generous local businesses and organizations.

"One very special auction item is an oil painting by renowned wildlife artist Dwayne Harty, considered by many to be a modern-day Carl Rungius," Vogelheim said. (Please see related press release below.) Other offerings include dinner for two and a night's stay at Amangani, an original painting of Africa's Okavanga Delta by Huntley Baldwin, a Camelback pack, two Ortovox packs, gift certificates from Skinny Skis, gift baskets from The Herb Store and Lily and Co., fitness and massage gift certificates, a fly reel from Orvis, dinners for two from the Blue Lion, Sweetwater and Calico, and much more!

“We really want to welcome the whole community to join in this celebration of Jackson Hole’s incredible wildlife, and of the people working to protect them,” Vogelheim added.

Other co-sponsors of Party for the Pronghorn include Bridger-Teton National Forest, First Bank of the Tetons, Grand Teton National Park, Green River Valley Land Trust, National Elk Refuge, National Parks Conservation Association, Janet and Mac Munro, Skinny Skis, Snow King Resort, Wildlife Heritage Foundation and Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

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### **Dwayne Harty painting to be auctioned at Third Annual Party for the Pronghorn**

A renowned artist’s passion for Wyoming’s landscapes, plus inspiration sparked by the Teton Park antelope herd’s imperiled annual migration, has led to an exceptional silent auction to take place at the Party for the Pronghorn on Saturday, May 31.

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance will auction a 16 x 20-inch framed oil painting of several pronghorn by Canadian artist Dwayne Harty. Often likened to legendary wildlife artist Carl Rungius, Harty is acclaimed for his paintings of large diorama murals that adorn a number of prominent Canadian museums. A member of the Society of Animal Artists, Harty is the recipient of numerous awards and is co-founder of Wildlife Art International’s “Animal Art in the Park,” Canada’s premier wilderness and wildlife art exhibition held annually in Ontario’s Algonquin Park.

Hardy donated the painting to the Yellowstone to Yukon Foundation after several visits to the Jackson Hole area, where he learned of the Teton Park antelope herd’s annual 180-mile round-trip trek to south of Pinedale each fall and back to Grand Teton National Park each spring. The Yellowstone to Yukon Foundation in turn provided the work of art to the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance to be auctioned during its third annual Party for the Pronghorn, on May 31 at 7 p.m., at Snow King Resort’s Grand Room. The party is a community celebration of the herd’s annual return to the valley.

“This is allowing us to share our conservation story in a different way – it’s being supported by the art,” said Michael Code of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative. Code added that Harty had developed an affinity for the Jackson Hole region and wanted to use his art to support efforts to protect the path of the pronghorn, which is threatened in places by encroaching human development.

“This is Dwayne as an artist using his talent to support efforts of conservation in the region,” said Code. “That’s what I’m so thrilled about.”

Harty’s work typically sells at prices between \$5,500 and \$30,000. The antelope work being auctioned will have a reserve bid of \$6,500.

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The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to responsible land stewardship to ensure that human activities are in harmony with the area's irreplaceable wildlife, scenic and other natural resources. The organization has 2,000 members from Jackson Hole and across the nation.

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative combines science and stewardship, and seeks to ensure that the world-renowned wilderness, wildlife, native plants, and natural processes of the Yellowstone to Yukon region continue to function as an interconnected web of life, capable of supporting all of its natural and human communities, for current and future generations. Visit [www.y2y.net](http://www.y2y.net) for more information.