



Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
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News Release
December 24, 2008

Conservation Alliance Obtains Grant to Advance Science-Based Planning to Protect Wildlife

(Jackson, Wyo.) -- Patagonia has recognized the importance of local land-use planning on sustaining Jackson Hole's world-class wildlife populations with an environmental grant to the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance.

Patagonia awarded the Conservation Alliance \$6,000 toward its "Corridors and Communities: Keeping Jackson Whole" campaign. The campaign aims to advance the integration of conservation science into local land-use planning. Funding will enable outreach by the organization and citizens for strong policies to protect habitat and wildlife connectivity throughout Jackson Hole and the southern Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

"This grant will go directly toward the integration of stronger wildlife protection standards in our town and county regulations," said Kristy Bruner, the Conservation Alliance's community planning director. "We are very appreciative of Patagonia's support, which comes at a critical time – during Jackson Hole's comprehensive planning process."

The grant reflects Patagonia's Freedom to Roam initiative, which has a goal of connecting the great "wildways" of North America to assure that animals will survive a warming planet. Wild animals need corridors that will provide for their survival; if their ability to migrate between shifting habitats is blocked by development, scientists predict that by the beginning of the next century many species will be extinct, according to Patagonia Environmental Grants Manager Ilysia Shattuck.

In one regard, Jackson Hole is a step ahead of the rest of the nation in supporting Freedom to Roam; in the last several months, community surveys have made it clear that protecting wildlife and habitat is the top priority for valley residents. Yet, the complexity of local planning issues poses great challenges to sustaining wildlife connectivity in the valley. The local government comprehensive planning process, which began in 2007 and continues into 2009, will have huge influences for decades on whether Jackson Hole will still function as an area with crucial, intact wildlife habitat and corridors, Bruner said.

"With every planning document we review, and with every meeting we attend and hold, we work to bring step-by-step measurable results to this process," Bruner said. "We are committed to bring policy alternatives forward that will better protect wildlife."

"Overall, at the end of this process, we would like to see a comprehensive plan that directs our community to protect the wildlife and natural resources of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem," Bruner said.

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