









ACKSON HOLE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Empowering Conservation Leaders

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Young Jackson Hole residents sign cards committing to vote locally in 2016.



Ryan Sheets

Josh Metten

Melia DeVivo



A word from Alliance Board Co-Chair Mark Sullivan

Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Members and Supporters,

I am proud to have served on the Board of the Directors of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance for nearly 6 years now, the last two as Board Co-Chair along with David Hardie. In that time, we have in many ways reshaped the organization while remaining true to its organizing mission: the protection of the wildlife, wild places, and community character of Jackson Hole. We are advancing that mission by employing both old-

school watchdog-style advocacy, and progressive advocacy tools centered on civic engagement and proactive advocacy.

At the heart of our proactive approach is our Conservation Leadership Institute ("CLI"), through which we are helping train Jackson's conservation leaders of the future. CLI was started over two years ago, and by the end of this year, we will have over 100 graduates working in our community on a wide array of issues, all fighting for a better future. We could not be more proud of this program and its achievements, and we hope you share in our enthusiasm once you have read about some of our stellar graduates.

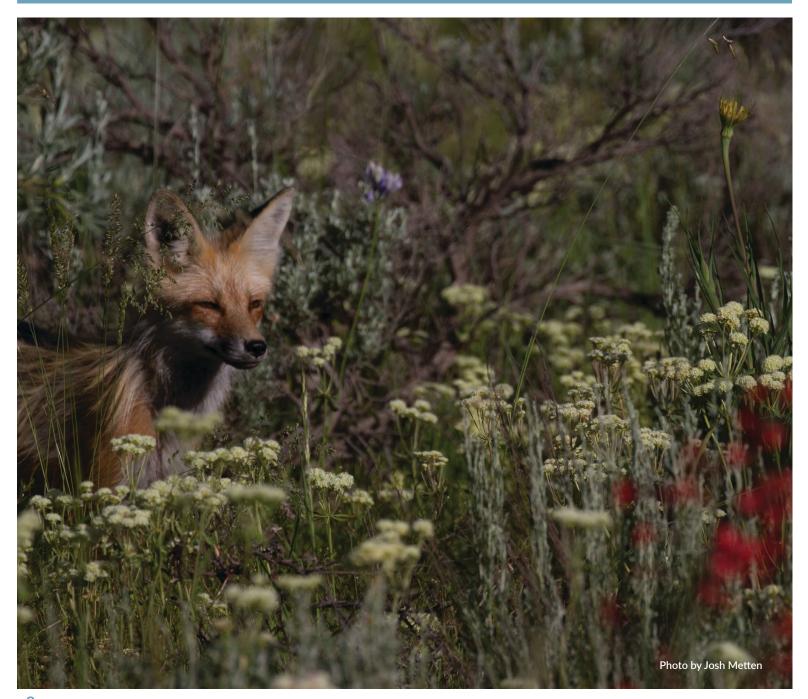
In this issue, you will read about the ambition and accomplishments of some of the more inspiring CLI graduates. You will read about how they are putting the skills they learned in our program to use in wildlife conservation, community planning, education, and local politics. Working with the Alliance, or pursuing their own objectives, our graduates are making a difference in many ways, large and small, and many give credit to the training they received through CLI. Given the dedication and accomplishments of our CLI graduates, and seemingly never-ending supply of human talent in this Valley, we have never been more enthusiastic about the future of conservation advocacy in Jackson Hole, or, more importantly, the future of our extraordinary wildlife and wild places.

Of course none of this would be possible without the support of our membership. We thank you for your continued support, and look forward to an even brighter future for Jackson Hole.

With gratitude,

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WILDLIFE



PROGRAM: Wildlife Management & Public Lands



GOAL: Support healthy, wild, and abundant wildlife populations and protect our American public lands

LEADER HIGHLIGHT

CLI graduate and Wyoming Conservation Coordinator for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC), Pat Kearney (PK)

What do you think is the greatest threat facing wildlife? How about public lands? Two of the biggest (threats) I see for wildlife are climate change and population growth in and/or near habitat. It will be increasingly important that wildlife

management be addressed with the ecosystem in mind and species have habitat to move to and through in a predicted hotter and drier climate. Wildlife corridors that take in mind migration corridors and wildlife crossings will be increasingly important. Public lands face similar challenges, but also face increased political challenges to transfer public lands to the state control. The conservation community needs to continue to show the economic, social, and political importance of our public lands to the people who live around them. Public lands are one of the things that make life here in Wyoming so great.

How has the Greater Yellowstone Coalition partnered with the Alliance to advocate for wildlife and public lands? We work with the Alliance all the time. Chris Colligan, GYC's wildlife program coordinator, and Siva have collaborated to

work on wildlife crossings, garnering support and influencing key decision makers on important issues such as the proposed grizzly bear delisting rule. I work with Alliance staff on the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative to make sure that conservation interests and values are protected into the future.

How did the Conservation Leadership Institute help prepare you for your current wildlife and public lands advocacy?

Public lands advocacy is a complicated and huge topic. CLI helped me to think more strategically and to break down big campaigns into their component parts which helps me manage my workflow and be more effective. One of the most important things I got out of CLI were the relationships. At its core, conservation work is relational, and those relationships have been hugely helpful.

What advice would you give to other conservationists about how to effectively organize around conservation issues? Other than taking CLI? Conservation issues are often complicated and conveying that complexity can be challenging. Helping people understand your personal interest can go a long way.

What is your most memorable moment and/or proudest achievement while working on wildlife and public lands issues?

One of my most memorable moments was in helping organize an event here in Jackson with National Geographic photographer Ronan Donovan and our Executive Director Caroline Byrd. Ronan is great storyteller, and his images of Yellowstone are amazing. His talk, combined with Caroline's comments on GYC, helped people understand why the work we do matters to wildlife and people.

PROGRAM: Wildlife Crossings



GOAL: Reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and protect critical migration corridors

LEADER HIGHLIGHT

Longtime wildlife advocate and founder of Safe Wildlife **Crossings Jackson Hole, Vance Carruth**

How long have you been working on wildlife crossings and what are the biggest milestones so far in the campaign?

I've spent the past 7 years working on providing for safe passage of wildlife in Teton County. The greatest milestone for me was the vote taken to spend \$100,000 on designing a Master Plan for Wildlife Crossings.

What is your most memorable moment and/or proudest achievement while working as a volunteer?

Viewing a group of Pronghorn Antelope crossing over the Trapper's Point Wildlife Crossing for the very first time a few years ago. It was a thrill for me to see firsthand the success of a group of Pronghorn able to "discover" the safe crossing.

You've spoken to numerous Conservation Leadership Institute classes. What message do you try to convey in those talks?

It has been an honor for me to be able to speak to the many CLI classes made up mostly of young adults who have a desire and passion to make a difference for wildlife and lifestyle choices in Jackson Hole. The message I try to share is the idea that all of us in our own way, both individually and collectively, can make an enormous difference to inspire a whole generation of wilderness and wildlife advocates over their lifetime.

What advice would you give to others who want to advocate for wildlife in Jackson Hole?

My advice to those in the future who wish to support the wildlife crossings movement would be to get involved with CLI in order to educate themselves as to how best to make the greatest impact on this community. Leadership skills are sometimes learned, sometimes come naturally to gifted individuals, but both will be needed to varying degrees, and are necessary to the success of any endeavor of this magnitude.

What is your vision for our community, particularly in regards to wildlife?

My vision for our community particularly in regards to its wildlife, is to develop a system of wildlife crossings that best suits the needs of the many different species of wildlife we wish to preserve and protect for the future viability of all species that live and move across the valley.

PROGRAM: Wildlife Crossings

GOAL: Reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and protect critical migration corridors

LEADER HIGHLIGHT

CLI Graduate and current grad student at the University of Vermont, Anya Tyson

How did you get involved in the wildlife crossings campaign?

Vance spoke about Wildlife Crossings at one of our first CLI gatherings; he was frank and selfless. His words hit home: our amazing experiences with animals in this valley are not a given.

What is your most memorable moment and/or proudest achievement while working as a volunteer?

The first was decidedly zany, as I hopped in my packraft-turned-Start Bus to chase a raft full of ungulates down the Snake River during the 2015 Pole Pedal Paddle race. The second was more understated when a whole lot of hard work and

dedication came quietly to fruition in June 2015 as the county commissioners approved funding for the Wildlife Crossing Master Plan.

How did the Conservation Leadership Institute influence the work you do now to protect wildlife, including with the wildlife crossings campaign?

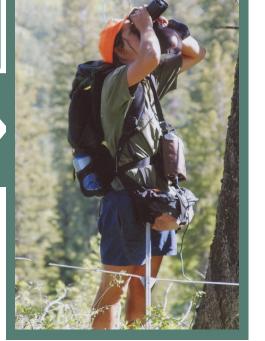
CLI helped me turn concepts into practice. People are moved to action by effective storytelling. In order to motivate people to act on behalf of wildlife, whether you're asking them to collect citizen science data or vote, sharing something about your own journey can create the spark.

You've heard Vance's story through the Conservation Leadership Institute and seen his passion and dedication to the wildlife in our valley through working on the Safe Wildlife Crossings Campaign. What about his story do you find particularly compelling?

I am drawn to his focused resolve. There are many ways to help wildlife, but Vance considered his values and settled on a specific course of action: we need wildlife crossings.

How has the Conservation Alliance helped you in your mission of protecting wildlife and helping shape the next generation of conservation leaders?

The Alliance was a key catalyst for me in my transition from intention to action. CLI introduced me to the mechanisms by which local decisions are made, a cadre of accomplished people who drive these decisions, and a whole cohort of passionate, up-and-coming conservation rockstars.



COMMUNITY PLANNING



PROGRAM: Community Planning



GOAL: Create walkable neighborhoods, connected by transportation choices, surrounded by protected open space, working agricultural lands, and connected wildlife habitat

LEADER HIGHLIGHT

Former Alliance intern and current Management Analyst with Pitkin County (Aspen, CO), Kara Silbernagel

What interests you about community planning and why do you care about how our community plans for the future?

Growing up in small western Colorado. I continue to be influenced by the New West/Old West dichotomy and how increasing populations and changing economies influence the sense of community that is synonymous with the West. We all want to "shut the gates" behind us once we enter a community and keep it the same as when we first arrived. But the fact is we can't. Doing nothing is not going to keep the sense of community and the West. To maintain the community character, we must plan for the future.

During your time as an Alliance intern, what skills did you learn that help you advocate for good planning at the town and county level?

My time at the Alliance helped me focus the remainder of my grad school and pursue opportunities at the local level. At the time I was working for the National Park Service and realized that local government was the best vehicle for me to be a part of community change.

You drafted the Teton County Effective Population Report. What were the key takeaways of your research and what specific areas do you think our community could improve based on what you found?

No surprises here, but Teton County needs to continue to focus on housing and maintaining a stable workforce. The community needs to continue to look beyond just a lack of housing stock, but how a long-term housing shortage can contribute to a breakdown in the very social fabric of the community. After working in Aspen for the past two years, I would encourage Teton County to continue to maintain the services and retail shops that help comprise a community.

What are you up to now and how did your internship at the Alliance help prepare you for this role?

I'm a Management Analyst with Pitkin County (Aspen, CO) working on a variety of projects including broadband access for the rural areas of the county, housing, community health and legislative policy. I live in Carbondale and remain dedicated to the impact of a commuter and tourism community. The more we can engage with all generations to become active and engaged in community action, the democratic process and local government, the more we can help build strong communities.

PROGRAM: Community Planning



GOAL: Create walkable neighborhoods, connected by transportation choices, surrounded by protected open space, working agricultural lands, and connected wildlife habitat.

LEADER HIGHLIGHT

CLI graduate and Alliance Field Organizer, Karyn Greenwood

Why do you choose to dedicate your time to causes that support creating more affordable housing options and transportation choices in our community?

From the moment I moved here, I was struck by how many people dedicate their time to making this a vibrant, fun, beautiful place. But a few years ago I started seeing those same people being forced to make difficult choices – either struggle to find housing and continue to live and contribute to our community, or leave, along with all their hard work and talents to live somewhere with affordable housing. I don't want Jackson Hole to be a

What have you learned about the housing and transportation struggles our community faces through your work on the campaign to pass the 1% local option sales tax?

I am so inspired by how much people care about these issues and want to find a path forward. As a community, we identified affordable housing and transportation choices as two of our highest priorities, and right away we were working on solving these problems.

While organizing for the 1% local option sales tax, what have you learned about our community, organizing, and running an effective campaign?

Being a part of this campaign was the most difficult job of my life. Even a campaign as focused and streamlined as ours had so many moving parts. The hardest part was keeping up with my canvassing team. They had so much energy, were always trying to get out and knock on that extra door, talk to just one more voter. I could hardly keep up! My canvassing team kept me motivated to show up, give 110%, and push just that little bit more.

What do you think Jackson Hole's goal for housing and transportation should be?

community devoid of these diverse community members, and I don't feel like it has to be.

Initially, I was focused on passing the 1% local option sales tax. I want real funds to go toward real solutions. But long term, I also want the community to show up and get involved in what those solutions look like. The town and county will need lots of community input and support to craft solutions that are acceptable to our community, accountable to voters, and effective for those who need these solutions the most.

How has CLI helped you work in this area and what skills did you use on the 1% local option sales tax campaign?
CLI taught me how to create goals, how to write the roadmap to reach those goals, and how to organize and motivate a team to get you over the finish line. CLI took me from being a volunteer to a leader.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



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Program:

Civic Engagement & Leadership Development



GOAL: Foster an effective local government by engaging our community in the civic process

LEADER HIGHLIGHT

New Voter Project Fellow, Maggie Shipley

What excites you about civic engagement and the New Voter Project in particular?

Only a year ago, I only followed national elections. Now, I've spent the better part of eight months wrapping my entire identity around civic engagement in local elections. Each and every new voter is a vic-

tory. I believe we made a small difference in this election, but even more importantly, we are building the base for increased voter engagement in the future.

Why do you think it is important that local government reflects the diversity of our community?

Local government, as all levels of government, should reflect the demographic makeup of the population it represents. People will take ownership of their community when government representatives have a shared history.

What specifically did you learn in CLI that you use for the New Voter Project?

CLI taught me so much, but what I was most moved by is the ability of one person to make a big difference. With a good idea and a lot of strategic legwork, one person can make a splash. I cannot do all of this by myself, but if enthusiastic people fill in the gaps, we collectively can do so much!

What's the best part of talking to voters? What has surprised you?

Most often, when I first mention voting or elections, people immediately think about the Presidential elections where young people believe their votes don't count. But in a pool of 12,000 voters, I love telling voters that their voice does matter in Teton County and decisions that are made on the Town and County levels affect each of us every day.

How do you think improved civic engagement in our community affects our conservation goals?

If each of us can translate that love for where we live to holding our elected representatives accountable for making good policy decisions, we will make progress on the conservation front. The current disconnect is that many people come here to play in the mountains and could be the best advocates for protecting habitat and open space, but instead, they do not pay attention to the decisions being made in local government. They do not show up to public meetings. They do not vote. And, that is a problem. It doesn't have to take a lot of time to engage in local politics in order to protect this place that we love.

Program:

Civic Engagement & Leadership Development

GOAL: Foster an effective local government by engaging our community in the civic process

LEADER HIGHLIGHT

CLI graduate and project leader, Phoebe Stoner



What excites you about civic engagement and the New Voter Project in particular?

Democracy works best when citizens are engaged and participating in the system.

Participation can take many forms, but one of the most fundamental pieces of this is voting. People are often consumed with national issues and elections, but most affected day-to-day by local policy-making.

What did you learn from CLI that you use in the New Voter Project? What about in your outside work?

CLI taught me a lot about the structure and function of our local government, a base on which I have built my passion. The lessons learned about messaging and targeting have served me in thinking about what message we want to deliver to each audience and how it will be most effective.

You have led several class projects through CLI. What do you learn through teaching others about organizing?

Each time I have led a project, we have made major improvements based on feedback and experience from the project before. Participant buy-in is essential. We've increased this buy-in by allowing more participant ownership. I want the CLI participants to drive the direction; I see my role as a facilitator of this process.

If you could share one piece of advice to people interested in grassroots organizing, what would it be?

It's important to be personally passionate about the topic you are organizing around. This genuine connection organically moves people to follow. Progress can feel slow, but don't let this discourage you. Define measurable milestones along the way and celebrate when you reach them.

How do you think improved civic engagement in our community affects conservation goals?

There are so many passionate conservationists in our valley and if they understand how to voice their opinion on relevant issues then local representatives will understand how their constituents feel and, in an ideal world, shape policy around this that helps meet our collective conservation goals.

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Program:

Conservation Leadership Institute



GOAL: Develop and empower emerging conservation leaders

LEADER HIGHLIGHT

CLI graduate and 2016 candidate for Teton Conservation District, Travis Ziehl

You've been involved and interested in community government for awhile. What inspired you to now run for Teton Conservation District?

After spending 16 years working for Special Districts in WY (Weed & Pest Districts), I decided to step away from the employee role this past year and move into more of a leadership role offering to

serve the citizens of Teton County by helping guide the strategic implementation of natural resource conservation and preservation in our little niche of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. I was inspired to run because I care about the good work these organizations do and I want to continue supporting them the best way I know how: by getting involved.

Did the Conservation Leadership Institute help prepare you or motivate you to take the next step and run for office? If so, how?

CLI sparked the belief and confidence that I can get involved even at what is generally seen as a young age for running for an office. It provided me with the tools to be a more compelling communicator and gave me insight into how local elected government functions as well as how campaigns can be structured for success.

Describe your experience in CLI. Did the course change any preconceived ideas you had about civic engagement or local government?

CLI was a fantastic experience - I honestly thought 10 weeks was too short, I enjoyed much of the content, the guest speakers were great, and I can't forget to mention the most important part - getting to know my amazing and talented classmates.

I almost was fearful of our elected representatives (maybe it was working in the government, I was worried about the power they held), but, after the course and the confidence it instilled as well as some post CLI efforts in support of the Safe Wildlife Crossings campaign, that perception melted away. I'm one of their constituents, in most cases they want and need to hear from me. And just past their title - they're people, good people serving the public in the best way they know how.

If someone asked you why they should apply to the Institute, what answer would you give them?

If you go in with an open mind and with the desired outcome to become a better person and a leader within the conservation community, the entire experience is worth every second of your time, the people you meet will change your life, and you will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to start making a difference.

Program:

Internship Fund

GOAL: Provide professional experience for the next generation of community leaders

LEADER HIGHLIGHT

2016 Community Planning Intern, Bentley Regehr



What drew you to the Alliance and motivated you to apply for the 2016 Summer Planning Internship?

I have an interest in rural planning and Teton County provides one of the most

fascinating settings imaginable. It is hard to envision another community that combines the challenges of both the built and natural environment to the degree that Jackson Hole does.

What were the key takeaways from your project? Based on your findings, what advice would you give to Teton County moving forward with planning?

The idea of balance is central to intelligent planning, and this is particularly true in Teton County. Balancing the types and amounts of housing and commercial development will undoubtedly shape the character of the valley.

What did you learn while interning at the Alliance that will influence your future planning work? And in regards to conservation in particular?

One large takeaway I had was the interconnectedness of the profession. You simply can't be an effective planner if you work in a bubble. Establishing relationships and consulting with everyone involved in an issue helps create the most well-informed decision.

Through your time at the Alliance, were there aspects of land use advocacy that you found surprising, interesting, or frustrating?

The far-reaching impact of land use decisions was something I found to be all of the above. Surprising and interesting in how land use can affect nearly everything, including the community's character, economic profile, and impacts on the environment. The frustration comes from understanding that poor land use decisions can have irrevocable damage that reaches across multiple spectrums. However, I am optimistic there are enough vigilant people at the Alliance and in the community that we can avoid such misfortune.

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A word from one of our supporters, CLI graduate and Leadership Council member, Paul Wendland

What has the Conservation Alliance done for me today?

In early 2014 I had just stepped off a plane from Afghanistan, finishing my "last" consulting assignment after more than a decade of traveling the world. I was VERY ready for change. I moved to the Tetons to begin a career in conservation, to put down roots.

A friend recommended I apply to the Alliance's Conservation Leadership Institute (CLI). I would no longer be regarded for my frequent flyer status, but as a "conservation superhero" as touted by the Alliance. What I learned from CLI has proven immeasurable. After countless workshops and conferences in more countries than I can count, CLI remains one of the most empowering professional development experiences of my life.

Craig and the team have proven to be true professionals, in every sense. Their dedication shows in their impact in our community writ large, creating lasting and meaningful impact for all those who call this beautiful place home.

For all of the results and great work that come from the Alliance team, it comes with a cost, a real financial cost. I'm here to ask for your support, real financial support. Please consider even a modest (or NOT so modest) donation today. So tomorrow, we can say... "what impact is the Alliance having today?!"





To help protect the wildlife, wild places, and community character of Jackson Hole, visit JHAlliance.org/give-now.

LEADERSHIP: Alliance Board, Leadership Council, & Staff

Alliance Board of Directors:

David Hardie & Mark Sullivan - Co-Chairs Lin Heffner - Vice Chair Alexander A. Kastor, CFA - Treasurer Claire Fuller - Secretary Bruce Hawtin, Mike May, Tim O'Donoghue, Karla Pendexter, Taylor Phillips, Luther Propst, Dan Smitherman, Shirley Thomas

Leadership Council:

Joe Albright, Nancy Doane Babbott, Jean Barash,

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Alliance Staff:

Craig Benjamin - Executive Director
Carter Cox - Development Director
Mary Gibson - Community Planning Director
Skye Schell - Civic Engagement Director
Siva Sundaresan - Conservation Director
Dawn Webster - Operations Manager
Marisa Wilson - Communications and Field Coordinator





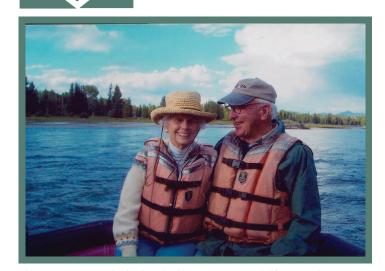
A thank you to Ted and Addie Donnan

While the Alliance is excited about the future of conservation advocacy and the young conservation leaders featured in this newsletter who are picking up the baton and leading the charge toward a better future, we are also extremely indebted and thankful for those who have fought for conservation over the years, especially Addie and the late Ted Donnan.



The Donnans passion for wildlife, commitment to conservation, and support of the Alliance in many ways deserves our gratitude. In memory of Ted's dedication to wildlife and conservation and in honor of Addie's continued commitment to these causes, we are pleased to dedicate our State of Wildlife project to Ted and Addie.

Thank you, Ted and Addie. Below and on the following page are are a few comments by just a few community members touched by Ted and Addie over the years.



Photos courtesy of the 'Ted and Addie Donnan Fan Club' Facebook page.

"The community in and around Jackson Hole has been the beneficiary of Ted and Addie Donnan's generosity and leadership for decades. We at the Conservation Alliance are extremely grateful for their involvement and are delighted to now dedicate the State of Wildlife Study to Ted and Addie in recognition of their contributions to our community.

Through this project we will better understand the threats and challenges to our area wildlife. As a result, we will be better able to tailor our advocacy and achieve our mission of protecting the wildlife, wild places and community character of Jackson Hole.

We believe it is a fitting project to reflect the Donnans' love and passion for our area and our wildlife.""

-David Hardie. Alliance Board Co-Chair





"Addie and Ted did so much for this community, they never stopped giving whether through their philanthropy, by the countless times they opened their home to causes they held dear to their hearts, or by their endless volunteering for the Alliance. They are leaders by example. They lived their lives with strong commitment to their values. And they valued this valley as much as anything."

-Franz Camenzind, former Executive Director

"Addie & Ted have always been my conservation heroes. They embody the spirit & passion for the wildlife & character of Jackson Hole, and have been instrumental in inspiring members of the community to give of themselves in support of the Alliance. [They] leave a legacy of the finest, most caring, and giving individuals. I love them both and hope to follow in their footsteps as a conservation advocate."

-Alliance Board Member Shirley Thomas

"Because Addie and Ted were known in the community for their conservation ethic and expressed how they felt about Jackson Hole, others naturally followed them. They were known for their loyalty to the Alliance. I believe that both Addie and Ted felt the critical importance of carrying on the preservation of our natural environment from generation to generation."

-Nancy Hoffman, Former Board Member

"Addie and Ted have played a critical role in shaping the future of our valley. They are part of a generation who understood the treasure we have in this valley and the need to preserve it. They established a foundation of leadership and education that will allow the next generations to keep our valley a model of conservation and a wonderful place to live and raise our families."

-Dick Collister, Friend of Ted and Addie

"[Addie] and Ted have made the Jackson community better by their insight for a better world and their generosity with time and talents and financial contributions. The Donnans have always been people who have made this area a much more wonderful place."

-Mary Lou & Dick Klene, Friend of Ted and Addie

"Through Addie and Ted's positive efforts and many successes, the generations to come have two incredible examples to emulate going forward."

- Lisa Carlin, Friend of Ted and Addie



As a special thank you to Addie and the late Ted Donnan, featured on pages 17 and 18, the Alliance has dedicated the State of Wildlife Study to the Donnans.

The State of Wildlife Study will analyze the status of and threats to wildlife and habitat in Jackson Hole in order to help our community use the best available and most accurate science to strategically protect what makes this place special.

To learn more about the project, visit JHAlliance.org/state-of-wildlife.

You're Invited

Alliance Winter Open House Wednesday, December 14, 2016 4-7pm Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance 685 S Cache St

Jackson, WY 83001



To learn more about the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, visit JHAlliance.org Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance 685 S Cache St / P.O. Box 2728 Jackson, WY 83001





