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New Film Spotlights Importance of Snake River Corridor to Wildlife

Jackson, WY – <u>The Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation (JHWF)</u> is excited to premier <u>a short documentary film</u> which explores the ecological importance of the Snake River corridor and the immense challenge of preserving this corridor amid an expanding human footprint.

The film was produced by award-winning cinematographer Jake Willers (<u>Nine Caribou Productions</u>) as part of JHWF's <u>Snake River Corridor Project</u>, an ongoing educational campaign which seeks to bring attention to the Snake River's headwaters in Jackson Hole as crucial habitat for Wyoming's wildlife.

This documentary highlights the Snake River's riparian zone as the single most critical movement and migration corridor for native fauna in the entire Jackson Hole valley. As an artery for wildlife travel extending from Moran to Alpine, this river corridor "connects spatially disjunct pieces of habitat and provides more food and refugia for more species across more days per year than any other habitat in Jackson Hole," says Morgan Graham of the Teton Conservation District.

The rich wildlife habitat within the Snake River corridor is also a hub for human recreation, including boating and fishing, both critical components of Jackson's economy and cultural identity. And as much of the riparian zone south of <u>Grand Teton National Park</u> is private land, the potential for development of new homes, roadways and fences is immense.

"Jackson is growing and will continue to grow," says JHWF Executive Director Renee Seidler. "If we can think about the best ways to grow in the interest of preserving the wildlife we have, that's the best thing that we can do."

As we flock to take advantage of all the Snake River has to offer, the film inquires whether our community can continue to balance our love and reliance on the Snake River with the needs of wildlife that depend on it.

"The way the film develops, its narrative is intended to leave the viewer with more questions than answers," says JHWF Communications Manager Kyle Kissock. "While we present several action steps, there's no silver bullet for intact preservation of all habitat within the Snake River corridor. Rather, protecting the area in perpetuity will depend on establishing an equilibrium between conservation and increased human-use. We believe decisions to develop within the corridor can continue to be made with wildlife in mind."

Major funding for the film, as well as the Snake River Corridor Project, was provided by an anonymous donor and select footage was donated by local wildlife filmmakers. Special thanks to Leslie Steen (<u>Trout Unlimited</u>), Erica Hansen (<u>Jackson Hole Land Trust</u>) and Tom Segerstrom (formerly of the Teton Conservation District) for donating time and expertise during the production of this film.