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CONTACT: Kyle Kissock, Communications Manager

Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation

kyle@jhwildlife.org

307-739-0968

JACKSON HOLE



WILDLIFE  
FOUNDATION

### **Executive Director of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation to Depart**

**Jackson, WY** – The Board of Directors announces today that Jon Mobeck, Executive Director of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation (JHWF), plans to depart the organization in early 2020, after four years of extraordinary service both to JHWF and the local wildlife-conservation community.

Mobeck's career in Jackson began in 2001, when he accepted the position of Communications and Public Relations Manager for the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce. After briefly leaving the valley, Mobeck returned in 2009, to work as the Director of Programs at The Murie Center; here he eventually took on the role of Executive Director, serving until 2014.

Mobeck's prodigious achievements during his tenure at JHWF have led to a level of growth unprecedented in the organization's 26-year history.

"Jon has been a rock star for the Foundation," said JHWF Board President Bruce Pasfield. "When he took over four years ago, he brought immediate stability, fresh enthusiasm and grew our programs to the strong sustainable state they are in today."

Mobeck's successes were buoyed by his ability to work effectively with diverse interest groups towards a common goal; reducing our community's impact on local wildlife. "Jon has been an exceptional leader, collaborator, facilitator and friend throughout his tenure at Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation," said Ben Wise, JHWF Board Member and scientist for Wyoming Game and Fish Department. "He has an uncanny ability to bridge the gap between managers, advocates, landowners, elected officials and the thousands of visitors that come to the Jackson area every year, resulting in landscape scale work to be accomplished for the benefit of our wildlife."

These successes include overseeing a period of sustained revenue growth, an increase in full-time staff, and the bolstering of JHWF's "wildlife-friendlier landscapes" programming. Under Mobeck's leadership, JHWF volunteers removed or made wildlife-friendly modifications to over 42 miles of fences, which served as barriers to wildlife movement and migration. He also oversaw the expansion of JHWF's flagship citizen-science program, Nature Mapping Jackson Hole, from which roadkill observations were used to identify priority sites for wildlife crossing solutions in Teton County's Wildlife Crossings Master Plan.

Mobeck plans to officially resign from his role as Executive Director in early-Spring of 2020 and will be relocating out of state. During this brief transitional period, the Foundation will be in excellent hands as Kate Gersh, the Foundation's Associate Director, will serve as the Interim Executive Director. The JHWF Board of Directors will soon be initiating a broad search for a new Executive Director to lead JHWF into the next decade.

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## **ABOUT JACKSON HOLE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION**

Founded in 1993, the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation (JHWF) works to promote ways for our community to live compatibly with wildlife. It accomplishes its mission primarily through on-the-ground projects that it guides in collaboration with agencies, organizations and private landowners. Through its Nature Mapping Jackson Hole program, it gathers and disseminates wildlife data that can inform wildlife-friendly policies and educate the public on how to reduce potential conflict with our wild neighbors while increasing local knowledge of all wildlife species. JHWF has utilized thousands of volunteers in its Wildlife Friendlier Fencing Program over the past two decades to remove or improve more than 200 miles of fences for the benefit of migrating wildlife.

Since 1996, JHWF has introduced a variety of measures to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) on Teton County highways. JHWF's Give Wildlife a Brake program has strategically installed fixed radar signs and variable digital message signs to protect wildlife in collision "hotspots" identified in its comprehensive Teton County Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions Database and in its corresponding "hotspot" maps.