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Michael Kinsley, an expert on growth management, to be featured at Conservation Alliance's Annual Meeting and holiday gathering on Dec. 2

(JACKSON, WYO.) Thirty years ago, the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance was formed in the midst of a battle for the future of Jackson – the 1978 Jackson/Teton County Comprehensive Plan. Three decades later, after countless struggles and successes, the community and the Conservation Alliance are again facing a comprehensive planning process that holds the key to the region's future.

The Alliance has consistently worked to ensure that growth in the valley is responsible, and this year's Comprehensive Plan debate is no exception. To celebrate the Alliance's past while looking towards the future, our 2009 annual membership meeting will feature special guest speaker and expert on growth management, Michael Kinsley of the Rocky Mountain Institute.

The evening of Wednesday, Dec. 2, will begin with our annual membership meeting at 6 p.m., followed by light holiday refreshments and live music with Tom Marshall at 7 p.m., and a presentation and question and answer session with Kinsley from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend any and all of the evening's events. A suggested donation of \$5 to cover speaker costs is encouraged. We will also be pulling the winning raffle ticket for a stay for two at Amangani immediately after the membership meeting.

Kinsley is an expert on growth management practices and will discuss the creation of economies not dependent on growth. He will also talk about ways in which Jackson, in the rewriting of the Comprehensive Plan, can move forward in a sustainable, measured way that protects the community's top priorities – the stewardship of wildlife and natural resources, responsible growth, and the provision of affordable housing.

"Given the importance of growth management to the community and the prevalence of the concept in the draft Comprehensive Plan, Kinsley will be an excellent resource for the public and the decisionmakers alike," said Kristy Bruner, Conservation Alliance community planning director.

"Just as the community and the Alliance did in the late 1970s, we are now facing the largest planning issue of the decade, the rewrite of the Comp Plan," said Bruner. "The Alliance hopes that with input from people like Kinsley, coupled with continued involvement from the community, we will end up with a plan that leads to a sustainable future for our community and our ecosystem."

Details in Brief:

What: Conservation Alliance Annual Meeting featuring guest speaker Michael Kinsley of the Rocky Mountain Institute

When: Wednesday, Dec. 2, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. (annual membership meeting 6-7 p.m., light refreshments and music 7-7:30 p.m., speaker 7:30-8:30 p.m.)

Where: St. John's Episcopal Church, Hansen Hall, 170 N. Glenwood, Jackson

Cost: \$5 suggested donation to cover speaker costs

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The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance is a nonprofit 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.