



Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance

(307) 733-9417 • www.jhalliance.org

News Release

For Immediate Release: 5/26/2009

Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance announces successor to long-time Executive Director Franz Camenzind

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Board of Directors has chosen its next Executive Director. The Alliance announced Tuesday that experienced conservationist Paul W. Hansen will take the helm of the organization when its long-time Executive Director Franz J. Camenzind retires at the end of July.

“Thanks to the generous notice Franz gave us of his decision to retire from the Alliance, we were able to conduct a thorough search process to find the right person for the difficult job of filling Franz’ shoes,” said Alliance Board Chairman Anthony Stevens. “We feel very lucky to have found that person in our own backyard.”

Hansen brings a great deal of successful leadership experience in conservation, most recently as director of the Yellowstone Program for The Nature Conservancy. His professional history includes extensive work at the Izaak Walton League of America, where he was executive director, and Canada’s Department of Environment. Last year, Paul was awarded The Keystone Center’s Leadership in the Environment award. (Previous winners include: 2007, Peter Seligmann, Conservation International; 2006, John Adams of the Natural Resources Defense Council; and 2005, Anne Ehrlich, Stanford University.) Paul received his B.A. in Biology from Antioch University – where he studied under Mardy Murie’s son Martin – and an M.A. in Natural Resource Management from Goddard University.

“After 35 years in conservation, it is a dream come true to work for such a great group within my own community – especially a community that is so dedicated to our wildlife and landscape,” Hansen said. “It will be my job to continue the Alliance’s tradition of working with our neighbors: businesses, sportsmen, conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds, to make sure this dedication to the unique character of our valley actually translates into action on the ground.”

Hansen’s professional associations range from a leaders’ forum of CEOs of major national environmental groups to the leaders’ forum of national hunting/conservation groups. Married to artist Kay Stratman, Paul is an avid fly fisherman, mountain biker, upland bird and occasional big game hunter, birdwatcher, wilderness canoeist, whitewater rafter and hiker.

“I’m very excited that the board has chosen Paul,” said Camenzind, who has been executive director of the organization for 13 years and was a board member prior to that. “I think he has a

--More--

great deal of experience and knowledge, and I think his personality fits right into what's needed to keep this organization vital in the years ahead.”

Pegi Sobey, co-vice board chair at the Conservation Alliance, said that this transition will usher in a challenging and exciting time for the organization. Not only is the community dealing with critically important issues, such as the town and county Comprehensive Plan and Bridger-Teton long-term forest planning, the Conservation Alliance is also celebrating 30 years of partnering for a wild and beautiful Jackson Hole.

Sobey said that Jackson Hole residents have repeatedly expressed their dedication to the valley's wildlife, open spaces, clean air, clear water and responsible land use planning. In a letter regarding the E.D. announcement, the Alliance Board assured its 2,000 members that they will be well represented into the fourth decade of the organization's history.

“With these organizational changes, we assure you that our values and yours are aligned, and that the Alliance will remain dedicated to our mission,” the letter stated.

Hansen will officially take over the executive director post on Aug. 1. The public will have an opportunity to meet Paul at the Conservation Alliance's monthly brown bag Info Lunch at noon on July 15 at the Alliance office, 685 So. Cache St.

The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to responsible land stewardship in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to ensure that human resources are in harmony with the area's irreplaceable wildlife, scenic and other natural resources.

###