

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 8/26/10

Contact: Dorothy Jankowsky, (307) 733-9417

Former Bridger-Teton supervisor Kniffy Hamilton joins Alliance board

Three diverse citizens have recently been appointed to the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance Board.

Continuing her years-long commitment to conserving the nation's public lands, Kniffy Hamilton, supervisor of the Bridger-Teton National Forest for the past decade, joined the board of the Conservation Alliance on August 25.

"I'm delighted to be on the board of this very active conservation group, which works to protect the wildlife and natural resources that make this part of Wyoming such a treasure," Hamilton said.

Hamilton retired in early June after 30 years of government service, more than 10 spent as forest supervisor of the 3.4-million-acre Bridger-Teton. During her tenure, Hamilton's work with conservation organizations, other agencies and the Jackson Hole community to keep lands in the upper Gros Ventre and the Wyoming Range safe from energy development has been a major factor in keeping the area's wildlife diverse and abundant. She also spearheaded efforts to help the Teton Park pronghorn herd by protecting its migration corridor between Jackson Hole and Sublette County. A wildlife biologist by profession, Hamilton worked for the Bureau of Land Management for almost 20 years in various jobs before moving to Jackson and her position with the Forest Service in 1999.

"Kniffy has always engaged the community, listened to concerns and made some hard decisions that have gone a long way toward protecting our wildlife and forest," said Cindy Harger, Alliance interim executive director. "It's been evident that she shares the Alliance's dedication to well-researched policies that are based on science and that will strengthen the community. We're honored to have her on our board."

Hamilton joins two other dedicated community members recently appointed to the Alliance board:

Shirley Thomas, a registered nurse and retired health care administrator, first became involved with the Alliance in the mid-1990s through her daughter, Heather (Thomas) Overholser. (A longtime former Alliance employee, Heather is now head of Teton County's recycling and solid waste program.) "I've remained a member ever since," said Thomas. "I'm excited to be able to share some of my knowledge and passion for our wonderful community as a member of the Alliance board."

Taylor Phillips, owner of EcoTour Adventures, hopes to engage younger community members in conservation issues. "A large part of Jackson Hole's population recreates in and enjoys the outdoors, and if they see that it can be jeopardized then they will start to care," he said. "Many of them do care but don't know how or aren't inspired to act. I hope to change that."

The board of directors of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance appointed the three new members, and the general Alliance membership will officially elect them at the group's annual meeting in December.

"These new board members bring a high level of energy and commitment to make the Alliance an even stronger organization and expand our collaborative efforts to find long-term solutions to help protect this precious valley," said Pegi Sobey, Alliance board chair. "The ability to attract individuals of their caliber is a testament to the positive impact our work has on our community."

###