



Photo by Charlie Craighead

# JACKSON HOLE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

## *Annual Report FY 2009 • Message to Our Members*

Happy holidays to you and your family!

Another year has come and gone, and what a year 2009 has been! We've celebrated the Alliance's 30th anniversary, weathered one of the roughest economic years since the Great Depression, faced some of the most significant community planning challenges in over a decade, experienced organizational leadership changes, and commemorated two of the most exciting public lands victories in years.



We've also learned a lot about our organization and what it means to be a grassroots community group comprised of many people with a deep-seated passion for this valley and its wildlife. It means that when we work together, our potential grows. We've seen that positive team impact throughout 2009. For example:

- Together – with some 2,000 members, neighborhood groups, individual citizens and dedicated planners – we've made major improvements in the ongoing rewrite of the town and county's comprehensive plan. As a team, we will continue to work to ensure that land-use planning in the valley allows the community to thrive, while still allowing wildlife to have a home into the future.
- Together – with members, volunteers, citizens, public officials and other organizations – we found many reasons to celebrate. From the end of new oil and gas leasing in prime wildlife and recreation areas, to well-attended educational forums that offered expert insights... from federal laws that protected the headwaters of the Snake River forever, to acquiring funding for critical wildlife habitat research... we saw many endeavors

come to fruition. (See our accomplishments list later in this report for more examples.)

- Together – through strategic planning, board and staff foresight over the years, and committed supporters like yourselves – the Alliance has been able survive the continuing economic downturn without faltering in its mission. That doesn't mean we haven't trimmed to the bone, honed priorities and changed some of our operations. We, like other nonprofits, have had to make some hard choices based on financial realities. We feel lucky that those financial realities have been tempered by reserve funds, strategic decisions, loyal members and new donors – donors who understand that the importance of the Alliance's work increases during times of national economic distress.

- Together – staff, board and volunteers transitioned from the leadership of Franz Camenzind, who retired after 13 years as executive director. Due to high degrees of experience at the Alliance and elsewhere, our organization's staff of eight and dedicated board of 15 didn't miss a beat when a newly hired replacement resigned, citing personal reasons. The organization's presence in its program work and in the community hasn't wavered. Once again, it just goes to show that the life and vision of a grassroots group depends more on a collaborative team than any one person.

**Together, we all are the Alliance.** Thank you for joining us for the past 30 years of work to keep Jackson Hole unique, wild and beautiful. We look forward to your continued support in the decades to come to ensure the continued integrity of the areas' natural and scenic resources, and our quality of life. See you in 2010!

*Cindy Harger*  
Cindy Harger, Interim Executive Director

*Anthony Stevens*  
Anthony Stevens, Chairman of the Board

# We're weathering the financial storm, thanks to YOU!

Has any individual or group remained untouched by the recession? At the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, we're no exception, and every donor and every dollar are needed – now more than ever.

We genuinely appreciate everyone who supports our work. This year, we're especially thankful for donors who have been able to increase their gifts, which help to make up for those who have been forced to decrease theirs.

## Fundraising year in review

This past year has been packed full of outreach and fundraising events. In February, Franz Camenzind led a fundraising field trip to Yellowstone to watch wolves. Later in the month we partnered with Craighead Environmental Research Institute to offer "A Conservation Scrapbook" at the Center for the Arts. Some 200 people really enjoyed Charlie and Lance Craighead's stories and slides.

In May we celebrated our 4th Annual Party for the Pronghorn. Joe Riis amazed a crowd of several hundred with his stunning photos of pronghorn before the Random Canyon Growlers played bluegrass late into the night. The raffle ticket sales and silent auction helped make this outreach event a real success.

Thanks to the organizational abilities of Addie Donnan, a group of people who went on our 2007 field trip to the Arctic had a reunion in June in Jackson and visited Yellowstone. As a thank you to Franz for being their guide, many gifts were made to the Conservation Alliance.

In July the Friends of Franz fund was created as part of our endowment. Many donated to honor our now retired executive director of 13 years. August brought Addie's Benefit Boutique, our largest annual fundraiser, which we share with St. John's Medical Center Foundation. Also, Charlotte Oliver and Buz

Dimond hosted our second Picnic Supper Under the Tetons this summer. The rain didn't dampen our spirits or the fun!

Leading up to the Alliance's 30th anniversary, two cocktail parties were held to give past board members an opportunity to get together, meet current board and staff, tell old tales and learn more about our current issues.

Old Bill's Fun Run in September was another great community event. Many dropped by our interactive issues booth, and our loyal supporters were there as always.

## 30th Anniversary a night to remember

The highlight of the year was our 30th Anniversary celebration held in September at Jackson Lake Lodge. Three of the seven founding board members were present and were joined by more than 230 other guests. We premiered Charlie Craighead's newest film on the first 30 years of Alliance work. (Copies of the DVD will be available for sale in mid-December.) Our silent art auction, "The Art of Conservation: 30 Artists, 30 Years" raised over \$18,000, and the evening reunited us in our common cause. Late November provided the opportunity for us to show our 30th Anniversary film to the public at the Pink Garter Theatre, helping us to tell our story.

## Times are tough... but we're tougher!

Economic times are tough, but with your continued help, we can rise to the challenge.

We are blessed with loyal members and are very fortunate to own our building. Thanks to the vision of our board, we also have the start of an endowment and a planned-giving program.

We will weather these tough times, but only through the generous support of you – our committed members and valued volunteers!

– Lisa Rullman, Development Director

## How's FY 2010 shaping up?

The Conservation Alliance is alive and well heading into 2010, although we remain cautious and diligent as we watch the nation's struggling economy, understanding that recovery is not close at hand.

Our most significant funding loss comes from declines in foundation grants, but we've been working hard to make up the difference with gifts from donors, our two big fundraising events – Addie's Benefit Boutique and our 30th Anniversary celebration – and the African rug raffie.

To meet the changing economic climate, the Alliance has made some hard decisions, including cutting staff salaries. We also have "rainy day" reserve funds to help carry us through. Our FY 2010 operations expense budget is \$678,000, and, as of Oct. 31 (four months into our fiscal year 2010) we had approximately \$700,000 in the bank, including operational reserves, building and endowment funds, and internship program money.

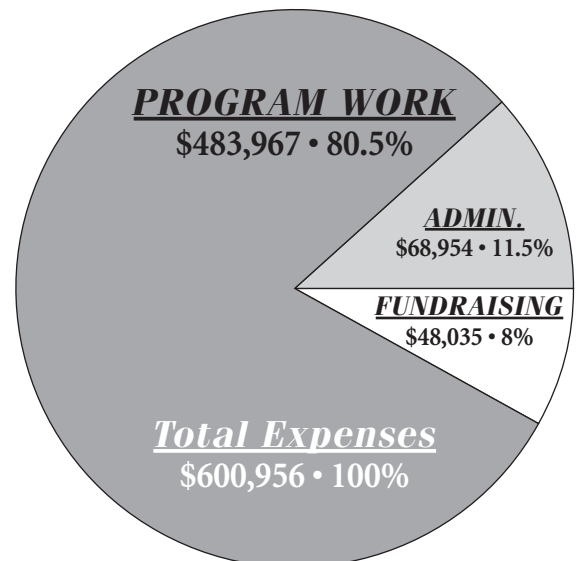
We remain grateful for our loyal base of donors and supporters, who are as committed to our mission as we are. For example, this past fall, one very generous anonymous donor provided a significant source of funding for outreach and Comprehensive Plan work, which has greatly increased our capacity to accomplish our goal of keeping Jackson Hole wild and beautiful.

Economic times may get worse, and if they do, our work will become even more challenging, so your support is more critical than ever. This fabulous ecosystem depends on you and me to preserve it. **Thank you all for your support.**

– Nancy Hoffman, Alliance Board Treasurer

## Revenues for Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) Statement of Expenses FY 2009

	Revenue	% of Total Revenue
<b>Contributions &amp; Gifts (Excluding Endowments)</b>	<b>\$426,192</b>	<b>75%</b>
Foundation Grants	\$86,716	15%
Investment Income	\$18,353	3%
Educational Forums, Films & Net Events	\$9,186	2%
Sale of Goods & Other	\$4,256	1%
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$544,703</b>	
Endowment Fund Contributions	\$16,375	3%
Kimberly Doane Stewart Memorial Internship Endowment Contributions	\$4,875	1%
<b>TOTAL OVERALL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$565,953</b>	<b>100%</b>
Operational Reserves (Including Building Fund)	\$347,114	
Endowment Fund & Internship Program	\$159,246	



## TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2009

1 Through our research, educational forums, publications and community meetings, the Conservation Alliance provided the valley's most in-depth analysis and recommendations on each draft of the community's new Comprehensive Plan to ensure that the plan will work to protect Jackson Hole's unparalleled wildlife, natural resources and rural character.



In 2009, the Craig Thomas Snake River Headwaters Legacy Act brought nearly 400 miles of the Snake and its tributaries under the protection of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, something the Alliance and many other groups and individuals have worked toward for years.

victories – obtaining federal Wild & Scenic status for some 400 miles of the Snake River and its headwaters, and preserving 1.2 million acres of prime wildlife and recreational lands in the Wyoming Range from new energy development.

5 We brought smart growth, affordable housing, transportation and other planning experts to the valley to provide objective insight into local planning efforts, thanks to funding from our members and the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole.

6 Nearly 250 people gathered to celebrate the Conservation Alliance's 30th Anniversary at a gala event and fundraiser at Jackson Lake Lodge in September.

7 With the expert help of filmmaker Charlie Craighead and the aid of many of the folks who made the Alliance what it is today, we chronicled our roots in *the Alliance*. The film debuted at our 30th Anniversary event and attracted more than 100 others to a second showing at the Pink Garter Theatre in November.

8 We secured funding through 1% for the Tetons to jump-start a much-needed interagency vegetation mapping project.

9 We, along with other citizens and planners, successfully encouraged a draft proposal for an Environment Commission for Teton County and the Town of Jackson.

10 Our monthly Info Lunches, Summer Rendezvous events and field trips offered hundreds of people the opportunity to explore the environmental issues most pressing in Jackson Hole – all while having fun and meeting neighbors.

2 Thanks to the input of Alliance members, staff, citizens and public officials, the Bridger-Teton National Forest's off-highway vehicle summer travel plan was finalized with great results. The plan ensures better protection for wildlife and habitat in the northern portion of the forest, while still providing safe, sustainable access for recreationists, hunters and anglers.

3 With support from the South Park Neighbors group and other citizens, we produced an illuminating synthesis of wildlife information for South Park, an area being considered for intensive development.

4 After years of collaborative efforts with other groups and citizens, we joined the community in celebrating two major shared

### A few of our goals for 2010...

- To continue attending meetings, analyzing documents, reviewing proposals, offering workable solutions and getting information out to you – our members – to ensure that the community's vision is carried out in the new Comprehensive Plan, and in all land-use decisions.
- To continue work to ensure that Jackson Hole's vulnerable wildlife populations – including pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, wolves and grizzlies – are protected and preserved forever.
- To encourage those who care about Jackson Hole's environment to participate in the Bridger-Teton National Forest management plan revision process, which is expected to ramp back up this year. We'll be there every step of the way to make sure the land's scenery, recreational uses and wildlife are protected from energy development and other threats.
- To continue to offer a variety of resources on conservation issues, such as scientifically based proposals, informative discussions, and

in-the-field educational experiences – resources that wouldn't otherwise be available to the community.

- To make serious headway on several areas of ongoing private and public lands program work. For instance:
  - exploring solutions for the Bridger-Teton National Forest so that it doesn't have to sell public lands to fund its operations;
  - ensuring that redevelopment in the Town of Jackson is done with an eye toward preserving its small mountain-town character;
  - working with public agencies to minimize threats of potentially disastrous wildlife diseases;
  - continuing our successful "Don't Poach the Powder" program; and
  - ensuring that road construction projects in the region don't unnecessarily harm wildlife and their movement corridors.
- To continue efforts to bring together divergent views and interests to help frame a future that benefits all who value this precious place.

## Cindy Harger appointed Alliance interim executive director

After working nearly four months as executive director of the Conservation Alliance, Paul Hansen unexpectedly resigned on Nov. 16 citing personal reasons, and longtime managing director Cindy Harger has stepped up as the Alliance's interim E.D.

Cindy originally joined the Alliance staff as communications director in May of 1999 and over the years her leadership on outreach, development and finance steadily grew, resulting in her appointment as managing director in January 2006.

"Although we regret that it didn't work out, we can assure our members and the community that the Alliance's quality of work, level of work

and our commitment to standing up for a wild and beautiful Jackson Hole is greater than ever," Cindy says. "We have a strong staff with high levels of expertise and experience. Together, we have more than 30 years of combined experience at the Alliance alone. Also, our board is active, knowledgeable, and willing and able to step in to fill any gaps that may arise.

"The Alliance is one of the oldest and largest membership organizations in the valley, and we are proud to have just celebrated our 30th Anniversary. As we move into our fourth decade of service to this community, we can assure you that we do so on solid footing financially, with committed board, staff and members, and with a strategic eye toward the future."

Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance  
P.O. Box 2728  
Jackson, WY 83001

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83002

## Thinking about end-of-the-year donations? Think Alliance!

The approach of year-end prompts us to check our giving – as well as other financial affairs – to make certain we have reached our goals. The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance is blessed by many donors whose generosity is expressed at this time of year.

You can designate your gift to benefit any program of the Alliance, such as Public Lands, Endowment Fund, Community Planning, Building Fund, Community Outreach, General Fund or to address any specific issue of special interest to you. Undesignated gifts are used by the Alliance for strategic initiatives in programs or equipment and supplies. Many friends give in gratitude for some benefit that they or their family have received, while others give in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

As you consider giving to the Alliance, please keep the

following principles in mind:

- To be deductible on your 2009 tax return, your gift must be received or postmarked by December 31st.
- All gifts to the Alliance are deductible to the full extent allowed by law. The Alliance promptly issues a receipt to document your gift.
- Gifts of cash or cash equivalents (checks, etc.) are deductible up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income, and gifts of securities and other valuables up to 30 percent.
- Gifts of appreciated securities often offer the most benefit because your deduction is based on the market value as of the date of the gift, and you avoid capital gains tax. But to gain this advantage, the securities must be transferred to the Alliance prior to sale.
- Giving depreciated securities is most advantageous to you if you sell them first (to take a deduction on

the loss), and then make your gift.

- The Alliance also accepts gifts of real estate, life insurance policies, certificates of deposit and other valuables. Because the valuation processes vary with the gift and often take time, these gifts should be started prior to year-end to receive a deduction in 2009.

Thank you for considering the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance among your priorities for year-end giving. If we can assist you in any way, please email Alliance development director Lisa Rullman at [Lisa@jhalliance.org](mailto:Lisa@jhalliance.org) or give her a call at (307) 733-9417.

*(Please remember that the above information is not meant as legal, accounting or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, the services of appropriate advisors should always be obtained.)*

### **Alliance memberships, 30th anniversary film make great gifts!**

The holidays are coming right up, and now's a great time to consider giving your friends and family members Conservation Alliance gift memberships. They're a thoughtful way to share your love of Jackson Hole, and perhaps inspire new conservation advocates. Please visit [www.jhalliance.org/join.htm](http://www.jhalliance.org/join.htm) for information on member benefits, and click on "Give a Gift Membership" for our secure online donation system.

Other super gift ideas include the DVD of our brand new 30th anniversary film (pictured at right), our Tom Mangelsen posters and our Alliance tote bags. Click on the links at [www.jhalliance.org](http://www.jhalliance.org), call us at (307) 733-9417, or stop by our office at 685 S. Cache Street for details!



Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance • (307) 733-9417 • [www.jhalliance.org](http://www.jhalliance.org)

*Partnering for a wild & beautiful valley since 1979*