



## **Wildlife Filmmakers will Share Stories and Inspire Action in Jackson Hole Community**

August 27, 2015 (JACKSON, WY) As our planet stands on the verge of its sixth mass extinction, JH WILD Festival invites the community to engage in discussions with some of the world's leading conservationists to protect wildlife and inspire new ways to preserve the natural world. For more than 20 years, The Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, the premier international industry conference of its genre, brings together 650+ filmmakers, conservationists, innovative media creators and thought leaders, in a five-day gathering at Jackson Lake Lodge. This year the Festival has invited a selection of featured guests to the Center for the Arts for a week long public celebration, including premiere screenings and discussions with scientists and filmmakers.

### **About WILD Festival**

Premiering for the first time in 2015, the public Festival will explore the many facets of wildlife conservation and documentary film that celebrate our natural world. Hosted at the Center for the Arts, the exciting lineup of speakers includes Pulitzer Prize Winning Biologist E.O. Wilson, JHWFF Lifetime Achievement Award-winners Iain Douglas Hamilton, Cynthia Moss, Joyce Poole, Beverly and Dereck Joubert, Howard and Michelle Hall and many others. The Festival will be a full seven days of documentary screenings, filmmaker Q&A and keynote speakers highlighting the day-to-day changes and big picture technological advances with potential to protect our wildlife. The week will close with a "Party for our National Parks" an event that will be free to the public, during which National Geographic and Brain Farm will premiere Wild Yellowstone (a finalist in two competition categories this year), to kick off celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. Tickets for WILD Festival will go on sale on September 3rd at noon.

### **WILD Festival Lineup**

**FRIDAY, September 25** – Evening premiere screening of Unbranded a tale of 16 wild mustangs and the young men who trained them to make an epic 5-1/2 month ride from the deep backcountry of Mexico to Canada via Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and Glacier National Parks followed by filmmaker Q&A.

**SATURDAY, September 26 – ‘Elephants’:** Paralleling the 2015 JHWFF Conservation Summit focus on Elephants, the WILD Festival puts a focus on the plight of elephants with film screenings and special expert panels throughout the afternoon. The evening keynote will feature the premiere screening of Beverly and Dereck Joubert’s latest film, NATURE: The Soul of the Elephant followed by Q&A with the filmmakers alongside biologists Cynthia Moss, and Joyce Poole.

**SUNDAY, September 27 – ‘Oceans’:** Day three of WILD Festival will center around the vast, largely unexplored territory of oceans, which are highly threatened by human exploitation and climate change. Featured films and discussion panels will present ocean explorers Howard and Michele Hall, alongside Carl Safina.

**MONDAY, September 28 – ‘Science & Nature’:** Filmmaker/Scientist screenings throughout the day highlight the intrinsic connection between science and the natural world. The evening Keynote Event features renowned sociobiologist and Pulitzer Prize winning author E.O. Wilson interviewed by Kirk Johnson, head of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum.

**TUESDAY, September 29 – ‘Africa’** Filmmaker screenings throughout the day highlighting stories from the wildest place on Earth: Africa. Join Wyoming and Idaho PBS in a free public premiere screening event. “Gorongosa” followed by discussion with the science and conservation team as well as the filmmakers who have been covering this amazing story over the last ten years.

**WEDNESDAY, September 30 – ‘Big Cats’** – A day of filmmaker screenings featuring the world’s great cats. The featured evening keynote event will present Tiger Tiger, the award-winning film following Alan Rabinowitz, the world's leading tiger expert, as he visits the Sundarbans, a mangrove forest between India and Bangladesh.

**THURSDAY, October 1** – No programming will be presented today, as we ready the Theater tonight’s JHWFF Gala Awards Celebration.

**FRIDAY, October 2 – ‘Wild Nature’:** Beginning at noon, this day will be devoted entirely to screenings of the most unique and beautiful wildlife, nature and science

docs in the world. Our final keynote event presents Racing Extinction, followed by a talkback session with the filmmaking team.

**SATURDAY, October 3 – ‘Party for our National Parks’:** Celebrating the 2016 100th Anniversary of the National Parks Service, WILD Festival will conclude with a day-long community celebration, including 20+ local Park conservation and science stakeholders. Special screenings of relevant films will inspire provocative conversation throughout the afternoon. The evening will culminate with a premiere screening of National Geographic and Brain Farm Cinema’s Wild Yellowstone—a finalist in two competition categories, this year!

**A Special Thank You to Our Donors:**

The Jackson Hole WILD Festival is possible due to support from the Charles Engelhard Foundation, the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund, the Jackson Hole Community Foundation, 4JH, the Travel & Tourism Board, Town & County Arts for All, and the Wyoming Arts Council.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.jhfestival.org/wild-festival.html>

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**About JHWFF:** Recognized as the premier event of its genre, the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival is an unparalleled biennial industry gathering. Hosted biennially in Grand Teton National Park, over 650 international delegates participate in an exceptional slate of leading-edge equipment presentations, seminars and state-of-the-art screenings.

The Festival’s international board members include: Animal Planet, BBC Natural History Unit, Discovery Channel, Disneynature, FujiFilm Optical Devices, Gorongosa Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute/Tangled Bank Studios, National Geographic Channel International, National Geographic WILD, National Geographic Society, National Parks Conservation Association, The Nature Conservancy, Nature/WNET, Off the Fence Productions, PBS, Sony Electronics, Terra Mater Factual Studios and UNIVERSUM/ORF, Vulcan Productions, WGBH, and World Wildlife Fund

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