



For Immediate Release:

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Film Festival Recognizes the Best Wildlife and Nature Media for 2017

JACKSON, Wyo. — It's the biggest year yet for the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival and Conservation Summit. The week will be packed with awards, speakers, and brand new events up organizers' sleeves.

2017 Legacy Awards

This year, the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival (Sept. 24 through 29) honors two outstanding conservation projects with Legacy Awards: the Gorongosa Restoration Project, represented by Greg Carr, and Tompkins Conservation, represented by Kris Tompkins. Both Carr and Tompkins will also be speaking during the Cat Conservation Summit, focusing on the urgent need for new and innovative ideas to secure the last wild cat populations that still roam the planet. This year's honorees will accept their Legacy Awards at a gala event slated for the evening of Sept. 28.

2017 Featured Speakers

The Festival and Summit will host a remarkable line-up of top-notch speakers, including:

- Sylvia Earle, President and Chairman of Mission Blue/The Sylvia Earle Alliance. She is a National Geographic Society Explorer in Residence, and is called Her Deepness by *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*, Living Legend by the Library of Congress, and first Hero for the Planet by *Time* magazine. She is an oceanographer, explorer, author and lecturer with experience as a field research scientist, government official and director for several corporate and nonprofit organizations.

- George Schaller, a field biologist with the Wildlife Conservation Society and Panthera. He has studied and helped protect such species as the mountain gorilla, tiger, giant panda and snow leopard. These have been the basis for his books, among them *The Year of the Gorilla*, *The Serengeti Lion*, *The Last Panda*, and *Tibet Wild*. He continues his field work, particularly in China, India and Brazil.
- Thomas Lovejoy is a professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University and a senior fellow at the United Nations Foundation based in Washington, D.C. Lovejoy has served on science and environmental councils under the Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations and was also the World Bank's chief biodiversity advisor and lead specialist for environment for Latin America and the Caribbean. Lovejoy holds a Bachelor of Science and Ph.D. in biology from Yale University.

A New Addition to the Week: Excursion Day

Excursion Day gives festival attendees a chance to appreciate the wide range of wildlife that reside in the natural landscape of Jackson, Wyo., as well as an opportunity to work with professionals and gather new skills pertaining to wildlife filmmaking. Workshops include Wildlife Safari Tours, Hands-On Blackmagic Filmmaking, Scenic Rafting, and even a Drone Field workshop sponsored by Freefly. Drones have become a very important tool in today's production field, and pilots, filmmakers and conservationists will share their experiences on how to best utilize the power of drones. Please visit the JHFestival.org [website](#) for a full schedule of events.

A New Partnership: Jackson Hole WILD and the National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation has awarded a prestigious grant to Jackson Hole WILD and partners from Colorado Mesa University to conduct ground-breaking empirical research on communicating science to public audiences, through media. The NSF-funded program will support participation of eight STEM-Media Fellows from around the country. Selected from a highly-competitive pool of 350+ nominees, the fellows represent emerging leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Media professions. Their learning experiences through Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival 2017 and Science Media Awards & Summit 2018 will provide valuable insight about the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in science storytelling and media development. For a full list of the selected fellows, click [here](#).

The Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival and Conservation Summit attracts a world-class audience and participation from key influencers in the conservation and filmmaking community. Again this year, a series of community screenings in Jackson are planned. For more information, tickets, sponsorship, or conference attendance, please call 307-733-7016 or visit www.jhfestival.org.

About JHWFF: Recognized as the premier event of its genre, the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival is an unparalleled biennial industry gathering. Hosted in Grand Teton National Park, more than 750 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 Studios Natural History Unit, Discovery Channel, Disneynature, FujiFilm Optical Devices/Fujinon Lenses, Gorongosa Foundation, HHMI/Tangled Bank Studios, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Nat Geo WILD, National Geographic Society, The Nature Conservancy, Nature, Thirteen/WNET, Off the Fence Productions, PBS, Sony Electronics, Terra Mater Factual Studios/Cinemater, The Science Channel, Swedish Television, UNIVERSUM/ORF, VER, Vulcan Productions, WGBH, and World Wildlife Fund.

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