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Greater Yellowstone Coalition selects Craig Benjamin for key leadership role

BOZEMAN, MONTANA, OCTOBER 3, 2022 - The Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC) is pleased to announce Craig Benjamin will be joining its team as director of conservation, a critical leadership role at the largest organization focused on conserving the world-renowned Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. He will be based out of Jackson, Wyoming and starts October 24.

Craig was selected following a national search led by executive search firm Thinking Ahead. He comes to GYC from National Wildlife Federation, where for the past five years he has served as director of conservation partnerships & habitat connectivity for Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. Prior to that, he was executive director of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance. Before landing in Greater Yellowstone, Craig worked in Seattle for several Washington-based conservation organizations and political campaigns. He holds an undergraduate degree in Public Policy from Washington & Lee University and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Washington’s Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.

“Craig’s breadth and depth of experience working on conservation issues within and beyond Greater Yellowstone will be integral to GYC’s mission of working with all people to protect the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem,” said Executive Director Scott Christensen. “Our ambitious 5-year strategic plan encompasses inspiring campaigns and projects that will benefit from his unique skill set and experience.”

Over the past decade, Craig has run successful campaigns and programs to build and fund new wildlife highway crossings in Teton County, Wyoming, bring new people into the conservation movement through an innovative conservation leadership program, and most recently he has built up and supported effective state-based wildlife conservation organizations in four states.

“We are thrilled Craig will be joining GYC in this leadership role,” said search committee member and deputy director of conservation Kathy Rinaldi who works from GYC’s Driggs, Idaho office. “He will be able to hit the ground running with his wealth of knowledge and solid relationships. I’m excited to have him lead from just over the hill.”

Craig adds to other recent hires in Wyoming, including Jared Baecker (Jackson) and Matt Cuzzocreo (Lander). Matt began his new role as GYC’s senior wildlife associate in September and will use his skills and experience to protect Greater Yellowstone’s unique wildlife in Wyoming with an emphasis on conflict reduction, reducing barriers for wildlife movement, and exploring new opportunities for habitat restoration. Jared starts October 17 as GYC’s
Wyoming Conservation Coordinator. He was formerly the Snake River Fund’s executive director. He has a long history of building partnerships, working with agencies, community engagement, and leading staff, which will be paramount to his new role in managing conservation programs across Wyoming.

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GYC is a 501c3 conservation organization that works with all people to protect the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, now and for future generations. GYC has a long history of working across three states: Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana in support of a healthy and intact Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Its offices are strategically located in Cody, Lander, Jackson, and Fort Washakie, WY; Driggs, ID; and Bozeman, MT. For more information about GYC and its work, please visit [www.greateryellowstone.org](http://www.greateryellowstone.org).