



For Immediate Release
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Y2Y Announces 2010 Partner Grant Recipients

Canmore, AB - The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) today is announcing its 2010 Partner Grants Program recipients. Nineteen grants totaling \$47,980 are being awarded to organizations in support of their conservation efforts within the Yellowstone to Yukon region.

The magnificent landscape from south of Yellowstone National Park in the United States to the central Yukon Territory in Canada is the only intact large-mountain ecosystem remaining in the world where healthy populations of all the original native species, such as grizzly bears, wolves, lynx, caribou, and elk still flourish. This region is one of the world's few remaining landscapes with the geographic/climatic variety, large blocks of protected parks and wilderness, and ecologically connected landscape necessary to allow wildlife to evolve and adapt to a rapidly changing climate. The Y2Y effort is working to attain a web of life-sustaining protected wildlife habitats linked by movement corridors along the continent's northern spine, an ambitious vision for a Rocky Mountain landscape that supports wildlife populations, vibrant communities and sustainable economic opportunities.

Y2Y's Partner Grants fund on-the-ground efforts of partner organizations that support the Y2Y mission and vision in one or more of Y2Y's 12 Priority Areas for conservation. Now in its thirteenth year, the Y2Y 2010 Partner Grants program is providing financial support to: **Birds Studies Canada** to engage local citizen scientists and advance knowledge of bird distribution and abundance in the Flathead Valley, BC, an area with a high diversity of breeding birds; **Castle-Crown Wilderness Coalition** to engage businesses and the general public in the Castle Special Place conceptual proposal, suggesting that southwest Alberta's Castle River watershed be legislated and protected; **Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Southern Alberta Chapter** to develop a series of maps for public distribution that describe the proposed Castle Special Place protected area; **Defenders of Wildlife** for the establishment and educational outreach of Bear Aware Neighborhood Networks to reduce human-wildlife conflict in the Clearwater River Watershed, MT; **Friends of the Scotchman Peak Wilderness** for outreach and education to increase public awareness and support for congressional Wilderness designation of the Scotchman Peaks area which spans the Idaho/Montana border; **Hells Canyon Preservation Council** to identify and map wildlife movement corridors in the Hells Canyon Wallowa Ecosystem, which spans the Idaho/Oregon border; **Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance** to develop and

promote environmentally responsible highway expansion to mitigate human impact on wildlife in Teton County, WY; **Keystone Conservation** to reduce the risk of human-bear conflict through cost-share of bear-resistant containers for businesses and residences and public education outside Yellowstone N.P., WY; **Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative** to ready the High Divide landscape for future bear expansion by bear-proofing a campground in Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest and creating bear-proof waste management facilities in Madison and Granite Counties, MT; **Rock Creek Alliance** to protect the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area in northwestern Montana from proposed mining activities through public education and advocacy; **Selkirk Conservation Alliance** to provide bear safety education to residents who live and recreate in the mountains of north Idaho and northeastern Washington; **Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter** to mobilize the public to protect British Columbia's upper Flathead Valley, one of the last unsettled low-elevation valleys in southern Canada; **Treaty 8 Tribal Association** to frame a unified action plan to address the BC Hydro proposed Site C dam on the Peace River, BC; **Valley Advocates for Responsible Development** to reduce the density and impacts of human fragmentation of critical wildlife habitat and migration corridors by reversing the course of rural sprawl in Teton County, ID; **The Vital Ground Foundation** to maintain wildlife habitat connectivity on private lands between the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem in northern Idaho and northwest Montana; **Western Transportation Institute** to communicate the conservation value of wildlife mitigation structures along U.S. Highway 93 in northwest Montana; **Wildlands CPR** for monitoring of Legacy Roads – U.S. Forest Service funded restoration work to refine best management practices for road reclamation and culvert upgrades and develop opportunities for citizen-assisted monitoring in Idaho and Montana; **Wildlife Conservation Society, Yellowstone Rockies** to build a vision among Indigenous People for conservation and bison restoration along the Glacier-Waterton front; **Wildlife Conservation Society Canada** to assess the implications of climate change on select fish and wildlife species in the Canadian Flathead River Valley.

Y2Y is a joint US-Canada effort based in Canmore, Alberta and Bozeman, Montana, uniting environmental non-government organizations, scientists, foundations, businesses, communities, Aboriginal groups and individuals from Yellowstone National Park to the central Yukon. These diverse groups are working together to ensure that the Yellowstone to Yukon region continues to function as an interconnected web of life, capable of supporting all of its natural and human communities, for current and future generations.

For more information about Y2Y's Partner Grants program please contact Nancy Quimet, Development Coordinator at (403) 609-2666 ext 8 or nancy@y2y.net.