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7 of 8 receive \$71,735 in 1% for Tetons grants

By Thomas Dewell, Jackson Hole, Wyoming

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Seven of eight regional sustainability projects were granted their requests from a pool of funds donated by area businesses through 1 Percent for the Tetons.

Organization members donate 1 percent of their annual sales revenues to fund trail repairs, energy projects, studies, education and other efforts designed to preserve and protect Jackson Hole and its surroundings.

On Monday, 1 Percent gave a total of \$71,735 to seven projects.

"We are very excited to fund these seven projects this year, for each addresses a key challenge or opportunity facing the Tetons region," organizer Jonathan Schechter said in a prepared statement.

"Our grant recipients cover the entire span of the region's ecosystem," he said, "both geographically and biologically, reflecting the diversity of interests and issues involved in sustaining the Tetons region."

This year's grants caps a successful five-year run in which 1 Percent has granted \$557,000 to 44 projects.

This year, Craighead Beringia South was granted \$20,000 for a \$97,000 project to bring into area high school classrooms on-going bald eagle and cougar tracking studies.

Friends of Pathways won \$20,000 of a \$100,000 project to repair and restore trails in the Teton Pass area in col-laboration with Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance was granted \$9,600 of a \$26,000 project to assess the habitat and population needs of Jackson Hole's key native animals.

Jackson Hole Public Art Initiative will use its \$9,600 grant and total project budget of almost \$12,000 to work with a host of organizations to create an Open Air Science and Art Museum. Families, artists and professionals will install larger-than-life reproductions of valley wildlife along valley pathways.

Teton Regional Land Trust will use \$4,000 in grant money on a \$12,000 project to increase awareness of and support for conservation along the Teton River in Teton Valley, Idaho.

The Teton Valley Ranch Camp Forest Legacy was awarded \$6,000 for its \$19,000 project to replant areas ravaged by the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

The Teton Valley Sustainability Series — awarded \$2,500 of its \$19,000 total — will educate community residents about how land-use decisions have affected development patterns on the west side of the Tetons.

One Percent for the Tetons did not fund a \$30,000 request from the Conservation Research Center of Teton Science Schools, which planned to deepen the

understanding of how climate change is impacting the Teton Region.

Schechter said the project was a worthy endeavor, but ultimately One Percent decided against funding it because of the size of the request.

By allocating the \$30,000 requested to other applicants, the organization could fund a total of seven projects.

"We wish we could have funded that one, but given the way money came in, we funded the seven," Schechter said Monday.

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