



Wyoming one of 10 states chosen to host local events in conjunction with “American Spring LIVE”

WyomingPBS and Jackson Wild join forces with national orgs to promote citizen science and celebrate spring

JACKSON, Wyo., March 22, 2019 – Just 10 communities nationwide were chosen through a competitive application process to participate in an ambitious national initiative to celebrate spring and citizen science with PBS Nature. WyomingPBS and partner organization Jackson Wild are proud to announce their participation in the “American Spring LIVE” community engagement initiative which will include a family event, a special “Spring Live” edition of *Wyoming Chronicle*, and citizen science outreach slated for late April and early May.

American Spring LIVE is an impassioned new endeavor by WNET of New York – the producer of PBS Nature, American Masters, Great Performances, Live from Lincoln Center, PBS NewsHour Weekend and other highly acclaimed series. In the coming weeks, award-winning cinematographers and producers will be capturing one of nature’s greatest performances – Spring – and sharing the results in live broadcasts Monday, April 29 through Wednesday, May 1.

WNET has chosen WyomingPBS and nine other stations to participate in community engagement initiatives in support of the project through local companion productions, large-scale family events, and face-to-face training sessions for viewers to participate in the featured citizen science projects. With funding provided by the National Science Foundation, the Anne Ray Foundation, and PBS Nature, Wyoming’s outreach will include a family event in Jackson, a special episode of *Wyoming Chronicle*, and opportunities to train in local and national citizen science projects.

“WyomingPBS is honored to be one of 10 PBS stations selected to participate in this nationwide community engagement initiative,” said Jennifer Amend, WyomingPBS’ marketing and outreach director. “Our partnership with Jackson Wild has helped provide the additional support and outreach necessary to make these events impactful and meaningful.”

The family event, called **Spring Earth Fest**, will take place on Earth Day weekend – **Saturday, April 20** – from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Center for the Arts theater and lobby in downtown Jackson. The afternoon will include free family-friendly activities, a scavenger hunt, giveaways, films, opportunities to contribute to citizen science projects, and a panel of experts discussing “Citizen Science and Climate Change.” Full event details are available at JHWild.org/Events.

“We are thrilled to be able to assist in throwing a community celebration of spring and to highlight the innovative citizen science projects underway in Wyoming,” said Cindy Harger, Jackson Wild’s community partnerships and events director. “What we hope will become more



clear is the critical role citizen scientists can play in helping us understand the changing of seasons, as well as the greater issue of climate change.”

On Friday, April 27 at 7 p.m., *Wyoming Chronicle* will air a companion piece on the Wyoming Migration Initiative. Dr. Matt Kaufman, the director and lead scientist, will discuss the initiative and the research of Mule Deer migration in Wyoming.

American Spring LIVE will broadcast for three consecutive nights, Monday, April 29 - Wednesday, May 1, at 7 p.m. and will also stream live on Facebook. Each *Nature: American Spring LIVE* episode is built around a central theme chosen to reveal how the new season triggers extraordinary biological change. Tentative live locations include California’s Sequoia National Park and Point Reyes National Seashore, Florida’s Everglades, the Eastern shore of Virginia, a sheep farm in Maine, a black bear den in rural Western Maryland, and Texas’s Bracken Cave and Gulf Coast.

Acclaimed news anchor Juju Chang will host the multi-platform event, with on-camera experts, including biologist Thor Hanson and entomologist Phil Torres, showing springtime phenomena in various locations across the country, in ecosystems ranging from the Rockies to the Everglades, from inner-city parks to remote wilderness preserves. The series will include a mix of live and pre-taped footage highlighting some of the most pivotal events in nature’s calendar.

For more information, contact:

- Jennifer Amend, Wyoming PBS Marketing and Outreach Director, jamend@cw.edu, (307) 855-2372
- Cindy Harger, Jackson Wild Community Partnerships and Events Director, cindy@jhwild.org, (307) 200- 200-3286, Ext. 6
- Chelsey Saatkamp, Nature, saatkampc@wnet.org, (212) 560-4905

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