

November 11, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Friends of Hyalite Announces New Executive Director

BOZEMAN – Friends of Hyalite, a non-profit 501c3 committed to access to and stewardship of Hyalite Canyon, announces Josh Fairchilds as the Executive Director effective on November 1, 2017. Mr. Fairchilds replaces founder Joe Josephson who served as Executive Director since 2010. Mr. Josephson will remain on the Board and as the volunteer Director of Friends of Hyalite's signature event, the Bozeman Ice Climbing Festival, December 6-10. Mr. Fairchilds brings 20 years working in the outdoor industry as well as over five years of non-profit board experience. Most recently, Mr. Fairchilds served as a co-founder and senior manager for Bozeman-based company Oboz Footwear.

"Josh's connections to the local business and recreation communities will be a tremendous asset to Friends of Hyalite," says Josephson. "We couldn't be more fortunate to have someone of Josh's caliber and vision to lead the organization."

Friends of Hyalite is the only organization dedicated to the support for winter plowing of the Hyalite Canyon. Since 2011, Friends have secured more than \$82,000 in grants and donations to keep the road open through a unique cost-share partnership with the Forest Service and Gallatin County. Currently, Friends of Hyalite needs to raise \$15,000 per year to allow the road to stay open in winter through the end of March. Over 20,000 people per winter month enjoy the skiing, climbing, ice fishing, wildlife and outstanding scenery the 33,000 acre Hyalite Canyon has to offer. Hyalite is a primary source of Bozeman's water supply.

"We are very grateful for Joe's countless hours of work and dedication to Friends of Hyalite and the Custer Gallatin National Forest. His efforts have resulted in an immense number of volunteer hours being spent cleaning, having winter access to, and maintaining the Hyalite drainage. The Forest is looking forward to working with Josh to continue this stewardship legacy," said Mary Erickson, Custer Gallatin National Forest Supervisor.

"I am excited to utilize my broad experience and passion for the Bozeman community to grow and enrich the Friend's mission," said Fairchilds. "I look forward to continuing the energized and positive relationship with the Forest Service and Gallatin County to ensure continued winter access to Hyalite Canyon." Friends of Hyalite also organizes bi-annual volunteer clean up days, road use studies and supports other groups and activities from Eagle Scout projects and is a founding member of the Gallatin Valley Trail Ambassador Program. Mr. Fairchilds can be reached at friendsofhyalite@gmail.com.

About Friends of Hyalite

Friends of Hyalite is a non-profit organization dedicated to stewardship of, access to, and support for year-round recreation in Hyalite Canyon. For more information visit www.hyalite.org. Friends of Hyalite organizes the 21st Annual Bozeman Ice Climbing Festival, December 6-10. Hyalite Canyon is one of the premier winter climbing destinations in the world, with more than 250 ice and mixed routes within a few square miles. The Festival organizes world-class instructional clinics along with evening events and films at the Emerson Cultural Center. For more information or tickets visit www.bozemanicefest.com.