

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Adventure into the remarkable journey of an ordinary wolf.

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Kickstarter: <http://bit.ly/WolfOR-7>

Expedition to retrace 1,200 miles of a lone wolf's journey into California

This May, a team composed of a wildlife tracker, storyteller, expedition filmmaker, National Geographic Young Explorer, outdoor educator and conservation adventurer will retrace Wolf OR-7's route across Oregon and Northern California by foot and mountain bike.

Inspired by the lone Wolf OR-7's epic journey from his pack in Northeast Oregon into California, a Wild Peace Alliance expedition team, with support from Sculpt the Future and Xplore, will retrace his tracks. The expedition will cross mountain ranges and high desert to raise awareness for human/wolf coexistence and to celebrate the wild lands where Wolf OR-7 travelled and where he still roams.

When the lone Wolf OR-7 crossed the border into California he became the first known, free-roaming wolf in the state for nearly 90 years. The last wild wolf in California was killed in 1924.

Wolf OR-7 continues to leave more questions than answers in his wake. The expedition team will compile questions posed by students and the public throughout the expedition, and will carry the top 20 questions to wolf scientists, conservationists, ranchers, hunters and others who have direct experience with wolves. This week the team launches their Kickstarter campaign to produce educational products to raise awareness for coexistence with wolves.

The team is composed of six adventurers to date, including **David Moskowitz**, wildlife tracker and author of ***Wolves in the Land of Salmon***: "Parts of the landscape that Wolf OR-7 discovered on his journey are much as they were when wolves last patrolled these areas a century ago, while others are almost unrecognizably different. Our aim is to see for ourselves what the modern world looks like for a contemporary wolf and share what we discover with folks following along from home."

The expedition team is a dynamic crew:

Rachael Pecore-Valdez, storyteller and outdoor educator from Aurora, Oregon. **Galeo Saintz**, founder of the Wild Peace Alliance and a conservation adventurer, joins the team with experience

leading expeditions to raise awareness for rhino conservation and elephant corridors in Africa. **Daniel Byers** is an award-winning documentary film-maker with Skyship Films. **Jay Simpson** is a multimedia producer with previous experience as a National Geographic Young Explorer, and **Michelle Van Nearsson**, outdoor educator and wilderness adventurer, will be our expedition's logistics coordinator.

“Wolf OR-7’s dispersal and the recent discovery of wolf tracks on Mt. Hood highlights the question where will wolves head next?” says Rachael Pecore-Valdez, a multi-generation Oregonian who spearheaded the expedition. “Wolves returning to their historic rangelands can pose challenges to communities not accustomed to living near wolves. We are on a quest to learn from Northeast Oregon’s experience with wolves so that wherever the next westward wolf tracks are discovered, surrounding communities will know more about what to expect.”

“The recovery of wolves ultimately depends on people,” Galeo Saintz of the Wild Peace Alliance comments. “As endangered species wolves are currently protected by law, but without the support of people who understand what it takes to coexist, wolves will remain at risk.” The Wild Peace Alliance is a global initiative bringing organizations, communities and individuals working at the interface of human-wildlife conflict together to support peaceful coexistence between wildlife and people.

For basic suggestions to prevent conflict with wildlife in Oregon see Oregon Fish and Wildlife’s recommendations, including an online form to report wolf sightings:
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living_with/

We are a team of outdoor adventurers, sponsored by Sculpt the Future Foundation and Xplore, collaborating through the Wild Peace Alliance to undertake this epic walk and mountain bike journey in the tracks of Wolf OR-7.

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