



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday October 19, 2012

## Karsten Heuer to Become President of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

**Canmore, AB** – Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) is proud to announce that Karsten Heuer will become the organization’s new President in January of 2013. Heuer is a well-known scientist, adventurer, public speaker and best-selling writer, who, for the last 15 years, has devoted much of his time to following some of North America’s most endangered wildlife on foot and skis.

“We are thrilled to have Karsten lead our team,” says Sarah Palmer, Chair of Y2Y’s Alberta Society Board of Directors. “He brings a level of passion, commitment, and first-hand knowledge and experience that will help us navigate through this next phase of Y2Y’s conservation journey.”

Heuer began his career as a wildlife biologist studying the effects of human activities on large mammal movements in Banff National Park. It was also at this time that he volunteered with a project that studied the movements of [Pluie](#), a radio-collared wolf. Pluie’s travels, which spanned over 40,000 square miles of Alberta, British Columbia, Montana and Idaho, not only illuminated Heuer’s belief in the need for large, connected landscapes, but it also helped provide the scientific grounding for the Y2Y vision.

Inspired by the idea of connecting the landscape from Yellowstone National Park to Canada’s Yukon Territory with wildlife corridors, Heuer set off on his first investigative adventure in 1998 as a grizzly bear or wolverine might: by following one of the wildest routes through the Yellowstone to Yukon region on foot. His 2,100-mile (3,400 km) journey was chronicled in his best-selling book, *Walking the Big Wild – From Yellowstone to Yukon on the Grizzly Trail*. Since then Heuer’s name and Y2Y have been virtually synonymous.

Heuer has worked for Parks Canada for 18 years and has undertaken two other expeditions including following the 120,000 Porcupine caribou herd across the arctic tundra to raise awareness of the threats to its calving grounds in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He is the recipient of the Wilburforce Conservation Leadership Award, and has received numerous awards for his writing.

Karsten Heuer will succeed Rob Buffler, who was Executive Director of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative for nine years, and led the organization through a period of growth and success, despite challenging economic times.

Heuer will be officially welcomed to the Y2Y team when he assumes his role as President in January of 2013. To learn more about Karsten Heuer please read through:

[Walking Y2Y](#)

[Pluie the Gray Wolf](#)

[A Necessary Journey](#)