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### Wilderness conference features global experts, festival

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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May 3, 1999

**Contact:** Joan Brehm, UM Conferences and Institutes, (406) 243-6098.

**WILDERNESS CONFERENCE FEATURES GLOBAL EXPERTS, FESTIVAL**

**MISSOULA--**

More than 160 wilderness researchers, scientists, managers and authors from around the globe will convene in Missoula May 23-27 for an international conference to explore changes and challenges in wilderness science. Not since 1985 has such a conference been held.

Co-organized by Continuing Education at The University of Montana, "Wilderness Science in a Time of Change" is designed to capture the current state of knowledge and help prepare for the future.

The conference will open at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 23, in Caras Park with a free, public celebration of wilderness. The festival will feature environment- and family-oriented educational activities, musical presentations, wildlife art for children and a horse-packing demonstration. Organizations such as Yellowstone to Yukon, Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Women's Voices for the Earth will present educational displays.

At 6:30 p.m. Gary Snyder will keynote the conference with a free, public talk at the Wilma Theatre. Snyder is on the University of California-Davis faculty in the cross-disciplinary Nature and Culture Program and creative writing. He also works with the Yuba Watershed Institute, focusing on sustainable forestry issues and community interactions with public lands.

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The Sunday program will conclude in Caras Park with a reception from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The Cocinando Latin Jazz Ensemble will provide entertainment, and Missoula restaurants, breweries and bakeries will have their wares for sale.

The full conference will open at 8 a.m. Monday at the Holiday Inn Parkside and will continue through Thursday with sessions from 8 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 5 p.m. Presentations and discussions will range over topics such as wilderness restoration, visitor perceptions of management actions, and assessing change in wilderness.

The six plenary speakers are Peter Vitousek of Stanford University, George Stankey of the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station, Baird Callicott of the University of North Texas, Dave Foreman of The Wildlands Project, Jill Belsky of UM's sociology department and Daniel Botkin of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

In addition to Continuing Education, conference organizers are the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, U.S. Forest Service and UM's School of Forestry.

The registration fee is \$225 for the general public and \$100 for students. Pre-registration closes May 7, but on-site registration will be available if space permits. Registration materials are available by calling Christine Ross at (406) 243-4623, e-mailing [nrm@selway.umt.edu](mailto:nrm@selway.umt.edu), or visiting <http://www.umt.edu/wildscience>. The full conference agenda is available at the Web site.

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