



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Woman Fights For Her Life, A Species Fights Off Extinction

RUNNING WITH WOLVES

A Smithsonian Channel Original

Premieres March 7 at 8pm ET/PT

Biologist, Mother, Cancer Survivor Gudrun Pflueger Returns to Mountain Terrain of Western Canada to Research World's Most Elusive Wolves

WASHINGTON, DC, February 4, 2010 – Wolf biologist Gudrun Pflueger is an extraordinary individual, a heroic and determined woman who defied medical odds in an attempt to see her dream come true. A true woman of the wild, two years ago she had come within touching distance of a pack of Canadian wolves, without fear. Not even that could prepare her, however, for the biggest challenge of her life: a malignant golf ball size tumor that was found growing on her brain. Her inspiring story about miraculously returning to the Canadian wilderness, in search of the one of the world's most elusive creatures, is told in a **Smithsonian Channel** original, *Running with Wolves*, premiering March 7 at 8pm ET/PT.

Weeks after a rare close encounter with a pack of Canadian wolves, Gudrun was staring down a deadly form of cancer. During the most hopeless moments of her battle, she drew on the memories of her encounter and the desire to one day see her animal friends again. After recovering she was blessed with an even bigger miracle - motherhood. Armed with renewed strength, Gudrun wants nothing more than to give back to the animals that kept her going in her darkest hours and to return to the wilds to help them stave off extinction.

The wilderness areas of British Columbia and Alberta are among the most awe inspiring in the world. It was on one of the coastal islands there that, two years ago, Gudrun came face to face with wolves so trusting and curious that they let her come so close she could almost touch them. That experience was documented in *A Woman Among Wolves*, which premiered last year on Smithsonian Channel. An encore presentation of *A Woman Among Wolves* will lead into the premiere of *Running with Wolves*.

Gudrun's latest task is not an easy one. Wasted by disease, her body is not as resilient as it once was. Throughout her journey, her personal battle with brain cancer is documented as is her recovery and then ultimate joy when she learns that she is pregnant. *Running with Wolves* explores what will happen to these endangered creatures, once hunted to the brink of extinction, if the rapidly shrinking wild places of this world disappear.

Gudrun hopes that her message will help convince others of the importance of preserving nature. Aerial cinematography helps bring alive the spectacular backdrop of remote coastal islands, endless rainforests, rugged mountains and congested valleys.

Running with Wolves was directed by Richard Mathews and produced by Off The Fence Productions. David Royle is Executive Producer for Smithsonian Channel.

ABOUT SMITHSONIAN NETWORKS

Smithsonian Networks (SNI/SI Networks L.L.C.) is a joint venture between Showtime Networks Inc. and the Smithsonian Institution. It was formed to create new channels that showcase scientific, cultural and historical programming largely inspired by the assets of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex. The network features original documentaries, short-subject explorations and innovative and groundbreaking programs highlighting America's historical, cultural and scientific heritage. Visit them on the internet at www.smithsonianchannel.com.

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