

The WildeBeat Changes Format and Schedule

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(San Jose, CA) The WildeBeat, the audio journal about getting into the wilderness, is getting a new format and a new release schedule.

A public-radio-style program that is freely available on the Internet and as a podcast, the WildeBeat is a nonprofit project of Earth Island Institute. The host and producer, Steve Sergeant, explores wild places and introduces listeners to skills and gear to make their own wilderness adventures safer and richer.

Since its launch in 2005, ten-minute WildeBeat segments have been produced reliably, every week, with few interruptions. The new production schedule will generally be monthly, and the new format will be a 15- to 30-minute wilderness news magazine that showcases a variety of segments and sound-rich documentary pieces. The Vox WildeBeat listener-feedback podcast will be folded into the main program, and each edition will include the highly popular gear reviews from BackpackGearTest.org. The new format shows will be released in a higher quality file format.

"I'm excited that I get to try something new," Steve says. "Being freed from a weekly schedule gives me a chance to present a wider range of news and more sound-rich, engaging stories." Part of the new focus will be in getting listeners to talk about their own wilderness experiences and encouraging them to contribute trip reports, thoughts, and observations. Also welcome will be announcements by educational or nonprofit organizations about wilderness activities and opportunities.

The first new-format program will be produced for release in December, 2008.

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