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**Sun Valley Institute for Resilience and Local Food Alliance
Announce Merger**

KETCHUM, IDAHO—The Sun Valley Institute for Resilience (SVI) and Local Food Alliance (LFA) announced today that their organizations have merged.

Founded in 2015, the non-profit Sun Valley Institute is investing in the people and natural systems of the Wood River Valley across five key areas: energy, food, water, environment and community (personal resilience, economic opportunity) to benefit quality of life in the Wood River Valley and to serve as a resource for communities everywhere.

Founded in 2013, LFA's mission is to create a robust local food system in the Wood River Valley. LFA collaborates with non-profits, schools, businesses, community food providers and farmers, offering a backbone of coordination and support toward common food-related health, economic and environmental goals.

LFA is now the food program of the Institute, positioned for even greater collaborative impact by integrating the five key areas of energy, food, water, environment and community.

The new partnership between SVI and LFA will increase LFA's reach and capacity to develop systemic solutions for the Wood River Valley.

"Localizing our food choices can be a powerful asset, benefiting our land and water and providing local jobs, educating our children, nourishing all in our community," says Aimée Christensen, founder and executive director of SVI. "The Local Food Alliance has been working to bring the smartest innovations to our area, providing information and inspiration as well as resources, building programs throughout our food system. With the Local Food Alliance, the Institute looks forward to growing the food program, improving health, water, energy,

environmental and economic outcomes for our area and serving as a model and resource to others.

“Joining forces with SVI is a logical and timely step,” says Ali Long, director and co-founder of LFA. “As with LFA’s ongoing commitment to support, facilitate and coordinate existing valley efforts toward a regional food system, SVI is also cultivating existing efforts. Merging with LFA demonstrates the Institute’s inclusive strategy.”

“Changing our food system is no easy feat,” Long adds. “But it’s critical if we want to solve problems such as food insecurity, obesity and diabetes, animal mistreatment, and climate change. Food has the power to transform our community and is the key to a vibrant future.”

To learn more about Sun Valley Institute, visit Sunvalleyinstitute.org and follow SVI on Twitter at [Twitter.com/SunValleyInst](https://twitter.com/SunValleyInst) and on Facebook at [Facebook.com/SunValleyInstitute](https://facebook.com/SunValleyInstitute).

To learn more about LFA, go to Localfoodalliance.org and follow LFA on Twitter at [Twitter.com/5BLocalFood](https://twitter.com/5BLocalFood) and Facebook at [Facebook.com/LocalFoodAlliance](https://facebook.com/LocalFoodAlliance).

For additional information, contact Aimée Christensen, Ali Long or LFA’s Communications Director Stacy Whitman at the phone numbers and email addresses listed above.

ABOUT SUN VALLEY INSTITUTE FOR RESILIENCE

Sun Valley Institute for Resilience is a center for public education, policy leadership and investment to ensure economic prosperity, environmental protection and human well-being in its home community of Idaho’s Wood River Valley and in vulnerable communities everywhere.

Leaders in the Wood River Valley founded SVI in spring 2015 to strengthen the area’s ability to bounce back from harm to the local economy, whether from wildfires, poor snowfall, or global economic conditions. The Institute is doing so by mobilizing investments to build more robust energy, food, transportation and water systems and diversify the economy in collaboration with and support of local governments, businesses, citizens and non-profits.

The Institute provides thought leadership through research, data and tools development and dissemination with its academic partners, and hosts marquee events to further research, knowledge and deployment of community resilience.

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