



Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Award Winners

2003 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

Best of Festival:

Rivers and Tides

Not Available

Portrait of Andy Goldsworthy, an artist whose specialty is ephemeral sculptures made from elements of nature.

Genre: Environmental. Filmmaker: Thomas Riedelsheimer.

Best of the Entries:

Riversense

Story of some incredible kayakers

Genre: Adventure. 82 Minutes. Filmmaker: Kate Geis.

2004 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Winners

Best of Festival:

The Legend of Pale Male

In 2004, Pale Male, the red-tailed hawk of Central Park in NYC, flew into the hearts of the Wild & Scenic audience and received the Best of Fest award. The story of Pale Male continues and we are thrilled to have the next chapter in this inspirational tale.

Genre: Wildlife. 85 Minutes. Filmmaker: Frederic Lilien.

Best of the Entries:

Hetch Hetchy

Restoring Hetchy Hetchy Valley.

Genre: Land Preservation, Rivers. 19 Minutes. Filmmaker: Melissa Berman, Deborah Landown.

People's Choice Award:

Counting Sheep

Chronicles the struggle for survival of the wild Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, a majestic emblem of American wilderness, and it captures the plight of this noble creature -- one of the most endangered mammals of North America - The dilemma of Sierra Bighorn Sheep & mountain lions.

Genre: Animals. 59 Minutes. Filmmaker: Frank Green.

2005 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

Best of the Festival Award:

Being Caribou

Hoping to raise awareness of the threat to the survival of the Porcupine Caribou Herd presented by the proposed exploitation of the oil and gas reserves in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the husband-and-wife-team of filmmaker Leanne Allison and wildlife biologist Karsten Heuer, follow the herd of 120,000 caribou on foot, across 1,500 kilometers of rugged Arctic tundra.

Genre: Land Preservation, Wildlife. 60 Minutes.

People's Choice Award:

Return to Balance

Visuals & rockclimbing of Yosemite - Ron Kauk relates stories of his discoveries showing our relationship with nature.

Genre: Environmental Adventure. 50 Minutes. Filmmaker: Sterling Johnson.

Best Children's Film Award:

Stories From the 7th Fire

Missing

Animated/live Native American stories.

Genre: Animated. Filmmaker: Storyteller Productions.

Most Inspiring Adventure Film Award:

Three Women, Three Hundred Miles

This 65-minute documentary chronicles a self support adventure on river boards down the Colorado River, by Coloma local Kelley Kalafatich, along with her friends Julie Munger and Rebecca Rusch. The adventure is gripping, the people are real and engaging, and the Colorado River and Grand Canyon are awe-inspiring as always.

Genre: Adventure. Filmmaker: Kelley Kalafatich.

Spirit of Activism Award:

Inheritance

INHERITANCE: A FISHERMAN'S STORY film follows fisherman Balazs Meszaros as he struggles with the effects of the disaster on his own community, and attempts to confront the corporate forces behind the mining operation

Genre: Resources, Community. Filmmaker: Peter Hegedus.

Best of Entries Award:

Dude, Where's My River?

Teenagers' journey to Hetch Hetchy.

Genre: River Issues, Water. 30 Minutes.

2006 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

People's Choice Award:

What Remains of Us

Missing

A Tibetan-Canadian returns to her homeland to smuggle a secret message from the Dalai Lama and to document the occupation and cultural genocide of Tibet by China.

Genre: Feature. 77 Minutes.

Best of the Festival:

The Real Dirt on Farmer John

Not Available

The epic tale of a maverick Midwestern farmer. Castigated as a pariah in his community, Farmer John bravely transforms his farm amidst a failing economy, vicious rumors, and arson. He succeeds in creating a bastion of free expression and a revolutionary form of agriculture in rural America.

Genre: Feature. 83 Minutes.

Spirit of Activism Award:

Homeland: Four Portraits of Native Action

Nearly all Indian nations sit on land threatened by ruinous environmental hazards: toxic waste, strip mining, oil drilling, and nuclear contamination. The film tells the stories of five remarkable Native American activists in four communities who are fighting these "new Indian Wars" -- dedicated to protecting the lands against disastrous environmental hazards, preserving their sovereignty, and ensuring the cultural survival of their peoples.

Genre: Native American. 88 Minutes. Filmmaker: Roberta Grossman.

Best Children's Film:

Wall Rats

Missing.

Young hot shot climbers join veteran climbers on the famous big wall. How will they fare?

Genre: Adventure, Kids. 60 Minutes.

Best Short Short:

Discover Hetch Hetchy 2006

Magnificent cinematography to see how the Hetch Hetchy restoration could become a reality.
Genre: Resources, Climate. 8 Minutes. Filmmaker: Peter Bull, Center for Investigative Reporting.

Most Inspiring Adventure Film:

Flying Over Everest

Missing.

Handgliding champion attempts to glide over Mt. Everest, with 2 Steppe Eagles, now extinct in the region.

Genre: Mountains, Adventure, Wildlife. 60 Minutes.

John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaker Award:

John de Graaf

Buyer Be Fair: The Promise Of Product Certification

Being a conscious shopper means more than buying organic and non GMO food. Take it a step further.

Genre: Resources. 60 Minutes. Filmmaker: John de Graaf.

Honorable Mentions:

Buyer Be Fair: The Promise Of Product Certification

Being a conscious shopper means more than buying organic and non GMO food. Take it a step further.

Genre: Resources. 60 Minutes. Filmmaker: John de Graaf.

Ansel Adams

Not Available.

Ansel Adams is the intimate portrait of a great artist and ardent environmentalist.

Genre: Mountains. 100 Minutes.

Trudell

This film journeys in and out of modern Indian History and politics. Nice music and poetic musings.

Genre: Native American. 80 Minutes.

The Snowbowl Effect

Controversy around the proposal of a ski resort in Northern Arizona, sacred to 13 tribes.

Genre: Mountains, Native American. 55 Minutes.

Coastal Clash

Beaches in California are disappearing. A coast line look at all sides of the issue.

Genre: Water. 60 Minutes. Filmmaker: Elizabeth Pepin and Christa Resing.

Tales of the San Joaquin

Tales of the San Joaquin reveals how the doors have opened for the river's eventual rebirth.

Genre: Rivers. 32 Minutes.

Sludge

This spill was 30 times larger than the Exxon Valdez, and one of the worst environmental disasters ever in the southeastern United States.

Genre: Resources. 40 Minutes.

2007 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

Best of Festival:

Queen of Trees

The fig tree and fig wasp differ in size a billion times over, but neither could exist without the other. Their extraordinary relationship is a pinnacle of co-evolution, and the basis of a complex web of dependency that supports animals from ants to elephants. Each individual fig is a microcosm – a stage set for birth, sex and death as the tiny players battle against predators and parasites to fulfill their mission. It is one of the most amazing stories in the natural world – a tale of intrigue and drama, set against grand Africa and its wildlife.

Genre: Trees. 52 Minutes. Filmmaker: Mark Deeble, Victoria Stone.

People's Choice:

Arid Lands

The world around the Hanford nuclear site in SE Washington after it was used for plutonium for the Nagasaki bomb.

Genre: Resources. 102 Minutes. Filmmaker: Grant Aaker and Josh Wallaert.

Spirit of Activism:

McLibel

Powerful film about the story of two ordinary people who humiliated McDonald's in the biggest corporate PR disaster in history.

Genre: Food, Activism. 85 Minutes. Filmmaker: Franny Armstrong.

Spirit of Adventure:

Source to Sea (2006 Full Version)

Christopher Swain swims the entire length of rivers and informs people of their environmental problems.

Genre: Water. 88 Minutes. Filmmaker: Andy Norris, Ralph Davis.

Special Jury Award:

Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil

Missing.

How the Cuban society changed from an industrial, global focus to a local, community-based one after the Soviet Union's collapse in 1990.

Genre: Resources, Food. 53 Minutes. Filmmaker: Faith Morgan.

Special Jury Award:

Mujaan

Missing.

A nomad in Mongolia builds a home much the same way as his ancestors have for the past one thousand years.

Genre: Community. 25 Minutes. Filmmaker: Chris McKee.

Best Childrens Film:

Kids Who Rip

Missing.

Featuring young stars in a variety of action sports.

Genre: Adventure, Kids, Short. 15 Minutes. Filmmaker: Rod Parmenter.

John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaker Award:

Mark Deeble and Victoria Stone for Queen of Trees

The fig tree and fig wasp differ in size a billion times over, but neither could exist without the other. Their extraordinary relationship is a pinnacle of co-evolution, and the basis of a complex web of dependency that supports animals from ants to elephants. Each individual fig is a microcosm – a stage set for birth, sex and death as the tiny players battle against predators and parasites to fulfill their mission. It is one of the most amazing stories in the natural world – a tale of intrigue and drama, set against grand Africa and its wildlife.

Genre: Retrospective –see 2007. 52 Minutes. Filmmaker: Mark Deeble, Victoria Stone. 2007 WSFF Best of Fest and 2007 John de Graff award.

Honorable Mentions:

America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie

Missing.

The natural and cultural history of America in relationship to the prairie.

Genre: Land Preservation. 58 Minutes. Filmmaker: David O'Shields. 2007 Honorable Mention.

Birdsong & Coffee: A Wake Up Call

What is the natural organic connection between coffee farmers, coffee drinkers, and birds?

Genre: Wildlife, Food. 58 Minutes. Filmmaker: Anne Macksoud.

Bilby Brothers: The Men Who Killed the Easter Bunny

The Australian bibly has been given a second chance due to the help of many volunteers.

Genre: Animals. 48 Minutes. Filmmaker: Jim Stevens. 2007 Honorable Mention.

Drowned Out

Follow the people of Jalsindhi in central India as they seek solutions to the drowning out of their villages from a dam.

Genre: Climate Change. 75 Minutes. Filmmaker: Franny Armstrong.

Clear Cut: The Story of Philomath, Oregon

In the rural Oregon logging town of Philomath, every high school graduate has their college tuition paid thanks to the generosity of local lumber baron Rex Clemens. But when a new schools Superintendent arrives from Chicago, the administrators of the scholarship become concerned over the increasingly "liberal" direction of the schools. The conflict between the old-time loggers and the "urban immigrants" escalates dramatically, and the scholarship administrators deliver an ultimatum: either the superintendent leaves, or the scholarship is withdrawn, leaving the town's children without money for college.

Genre: Trees. 72 Minutes. Filmmaker: Peter Richardson.

A Life Among Whales

Weaving together natural history and biography, this film is a fascinating exploration of whale biologist Dr. Roger Payne. For four decades Payne has advanced the boundaries of science and activism- beginning with his pioneering work on whale songs in the 1970s, to his study of ocean pollution today. With beautiful and haunting imagery, the film forces us to question our stewardship and our coexistence with some of its most intriguing creatures.

Genre: Oceana, Wildlife. 57 Minutes. Filmmaker: Bill Haney.

Wombat

2007 Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Listen to this little Wombat, he has our future in mind.

Genre: Environmental. 1 Minute. Filmmaker: Jason Ables.

2008 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

Best of Fest:

Recycled Life

For over 60 years children have been born and raised here, parents and grandparents eat and survive here. Thousands of families have thrived in the largest, most toxic, and most dangerous area in all of Central America. For decades, the Guatamala City garbage dump and its inhabitants who recycle the city's trash have been shunned by society and ignored by the government. Through this compelling story, the filmmakers have captured the beauty, the humor, the dangerous realities that resonate throughout this vast wasteland of garbage, as generations struggle through and ongoing cycle of life.

Genre: Resources, Community, Climate. 38 Minutes. Filmmaker: Leslie Iwerks.

People's Choice Award:

Oil and Water Project

Two kayakers embark on an endless summer-style 35,000 km road trip from Alaska to Argentina in a retro-outfitted Japanese fire truck without a single drop of petroleum. They converted their regular diesel engine to run on everything from pig lard to palm pulp and they traveled for 9 months in pursuit of the best whitewater in the Americas. The pair coordinated with schools, local governments, farmers, agricultural research centers and media to conduct demonstrations advocating for the use of alternative energy all along the way. Come ride along with the boys and see how their epic journey unfolds.

Genre: Adventure, Resources, Rivers. 34 Minutes. Filmmaker: Seth Warren.

Spirit of Activism Award:

A Land Out Of Time

The US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are leasing millions of acres to the gas and oil industry and issuing tens of thousands of permits to drill for natural gas all over the heart of the West. Thousands of miles of roads are being built on unspoiled ground to develop gas wells, billions of gallons of water are being pumped from the aquifers of Montana and Wyoming to develop coal-bed methane wells, and the wild places of America's Western geography are being rendered into an industrial landscape. And for what? A few days or weeks supply of natural gas, spread over the next couple of decades. This film introduces you to the

faces and unconventional partnerships behind the fight to save the landscapes of the West.
Genre: Climate, Community, Resources. 53 Minutes. Filmmaker: Mark Harvey.

John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaking Award:

Judith Helfand and Daniel Gold for Everything's Cool

EVERYTHING'S COOL is a film about America finally "getting" global warming in the wake of the most dangerous chasm ever to emerge between scientific understanding and political action.

Genre: Climate. 94 Minutes. Filmmaker: Judith Helfand, Daniel Gold.

I Love the Yuba Award:

Little Bird of the Yuba

Fly into the beautiful canyons of the Yuba River and experience a magical bird's eye view of this spectacular river.

Genre: Rivers. 5 Minutes. Filmmaker: Larry Huntington.

I Love the Yuba Honorable Mention:

Purdon to Prosser

Says filmmaker Brian Sizer, "I was penniless, my car broke down, and with no preplanning I crossed the Sierra on foot with my three dogs and the gear I had in my car. I followed the South Yuba to Canyon Creek and ended up at one of the Yuba's highest tributaries, Paradise Lakes. I've lived in Nevada County for 14 years, and I just realized why I love the Yuba, it is the gateway to the Sierra in Nevada County." Brian shot this film on color and black and white Super 8.

Genre: Short, Rivers, Mountains. 5 Minutes. Filmmaker: Brian Sizer.

Student Filmmaker Competition:

Antarctica, the End?

Seen through the eyes and voice of a 13-year-old boy, Antarctica looks at how climate change and human impact is affecting the frozen continent.

Genre: Climate, Kids, Oceana. 10 Minutes. Filmmaker: Sam Lowe-Anker. (High School category)

Rita

This film is a true story about Alison, a seven-year-old girl who has been dragged around the world by her adventure travel guide/photographer/yoga-teaching parents and longs to be a kid and stay in one place long enough to have friends and go to school with children her own age. Unexpectedly during one of the family's expeditions high in the Himalayas of Nepal, she befriends a seven year old Sherpa girl named Rita. Although they cannot speak each other's language, Alison sneaks out to join Rita and they embark on a wild and touching adventure over

an 18,000 ft. pass near the base of Mt. Everest--a journey that plops them right in Alison's dream world.

Genre: Kids, Adventure, Community. 6 Minutes. Filmmaker: Alison Teal Blehert-Koehn. (College category)

Most Inspiring Adventure:

The Endless Knot

In October of 1999 best friends Alex Lowe and Conrad Anker were overcome by an avalanche in the Tibetan Himalaya. Conrad barely survived the avalanche and soon began to suffer from survivor's guilt. In the months following the tragedy, Conrad and Alex's widow, Jennifer tried to comfort each other and unexpectedly found love. Alex's death was but one of many tragedies that unfold when families lose loved ones in the mountains. The celebrated high altitude Sherpa families suffer this same fate. In honor of Alex's legacy Jennifer and Conrad seek meaning beyond tragedy with a mountaineering school for Sherpas and high altitude workers.

Genre: Adventure, Mountains. 52 Minutes. Filmmaker: Michael Brown.

Best Children's Film:

Little Blue

Little Blue, a young penguin, breaks away from tradition and learns to surf. His pursuit of the dream is a lonely quest... or is it? Come see and share the joy!

Genre: Animated, Adventure, Kids, Short. 8 Minutes. Filmmaker: Bob Svihovec.

Jury Award:

King Corn

Missing.

America's fast-food empire is fueled by a secret ingredient: corn. High fructose corn syrup makes the sodas sweet, corn-fed beef makes the burgers fat, and corn oil crisps the fries. As college buddies Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis find out, their junk food generation has grown up eating so much corn that if you test their hair-- it's actually made of the stuff. King Corn follows Ian and Curt to a tiny town in the middle of Iowa, where they plant and grow an acre of America's most powerful crop, and attempt to follow its fate as food. What they find is alternately hilarious and horrifying: genetically modified seeds and home-brewed corn syrup, a bumper crop of obesity and diabetes, and a government paying farmers to grow what's making us sick. You'll never enjoy a soda again.

Genre: Resources, Food, Community, Feature. 90 Minutes. Filmmaker: Aaron Woolf.

Mountain Top Removal

At times, it seems news of environmental and ecological exploitations of other nations is at the forefront of our awareness. What's happening in our own country, our own backyard, is neglected or ignored. Director Mike O'Connell, though, points a sharp lens at the harsh coal-

mining practice called mountaintop removal, a process that involves clear cutting and then the removal of up to 1,000 vertical feet of mountain by explosives. He is there when citizens, students and evangelical environmentalists confront the nation's fourth largest coal company. Music from Donna the Buffalo, Sarah Hawker and John Specker is featured in the film.
Genre: Mountains, Resources, Community. 74 Minutes. Filmmaker: Michael O'Connell.

The Edge of Eden: Living with Grizzlies

Grizzly bears are considered by many to be the most dangerous animal in the world. But there is one man, Canadian Charlie Russell, who thinks differently. He believes that grizzlies are misunderstood animals and that our fear of them is not only unnecessary but driving them to extinction. His beliefs have taken him to Russia where he has raised orphaned grizzly bear cubs for the past ten years in the wilderness of the Southern Kamchatka Peninsula. Becoming their surrogate mother he struggles to keep his cubs alive and teaches them everything they need to survive a life in the wild. But will it be enough?

Genre: Wildlife. 89 Minutes. Filmmaker: Jeff & Sue Turner.

Honorable Mentions:

The Greening of Southie

Not Available.

The Greening of Southie follows the triumphs and hardships of the construction team that sets out to build Boston's first residential green building and more or less succeeds. Set in the storied neighborhood of South Boston and featuring the music of Force Theory, The Greening of Southie shows what happens when you try to build the environmentally-friendly city of tomorrow... today.

Genre: Resources, Community, Climate. 90 Minutes. Filmmaker: Ian Cheney.

Fridays at the Farm

Missing.

Feeling disconnected from their food, a filmmaker and his family decides to join a community supported organic farm in suburban Philadelphia. Using a digital still camera, the filmmaker takes nearly 20,000 pictures of vegetables and herbs, insect life, and human activity on the farm. Along the way, he notes his three-year old son's increased interest in the growing process and marvels about the baby girl gestating inside his wife's body. The farm emerges as more than a place to get fresh local food- it is a haven where members meet and share in the pitfalls and bounty of life. Technically, the entire film is animated using still photos. Humans appear static, while plants are in constant motion.

Genre: Food. 19 minutes. Filmmaker: Richard Power Hoffmann.

Kintaro Walks Japan

Kintaro is a legendary boy in Japan who was known to have great strength, wrestle bears, and befriend all the animals of the forest. Tyler MacNiven is a young adventurer seeking out the

birthplace of his father, with only a drawing of a shoreline to guide him. In his search, Tyler walks the entire length of Japan, is granted the new name, "Kintaro," and discovers a world of friends and adventure along the way.

Genre: Adventure, Wildlife. 67 Minutes. Filmmaker: Tyler MacNiven.

2009 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

Best of Festival:

So Right, So Smart

Some corporations are realizing that fitting into natural systems is smarter than trying to control them. Under the inspiring leadership of Ray Anderson, Interface is a green leader, alongside Patagonia, Green Mountain Coffee, and New Belgium. What is most remarkable is not the change of mind, but the change of heart these companies experience as they recognize that environmental stewardship is ethical and imperative.

Genre: Environmental. 97 Minutes. Filmmaker: Justin Maine, Guy Noerr, Leanne Robinson-Maine, Michael Swantek.

Spirit of Activism:

Garbage Warrior

Not Available.

The epic story of radical Earthship eco architect Michael Reynolds, and his fight to build off-the-grid self-sufficient communities.

Genre: Activism. 84 Minutes. Filmmaker: Oliver Hodge.

Most Inspiring Adventure Film:

3 Peaks, 3 Weeks

A team of 10 women from Australia and the USA come together to attempt to climb three of Africa's highest peaks in less than three weeks. They hope to raise money and awareness for three key issues affecting East Africa today: environment, education, and HIV/AIDS.

Genre: Adventure, Mountains, Community. 52 Minutes. Filmmaker: Michael Brown.

People's Choice Award:

The Last Descent

Join a group of whitewater kayakers to some of the world's most amazing rivers ... descending them possibly for the last time. All are threatened or are in the process of being destroyed by large scale hydroelectric projects. The film closes with the movement to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley.

Genre: Feature, Adventure, Water, Rivers. 50 Minutes. Filmmaker: Kathryn Scott, Charlie Center, Scott Ligare.

John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaker Award:

Free Range Studios Compilation

Not Available.

Shorts

Genre: Animation. 15 Minutes. Filmmaker: Free Range Studios.

Best Children's Film:

Riddle in a Bottle

The Riddle Solvers are two siblings who run a riddle-solving stand, solving riddles for 5¢ a piece. To solve this riddle, they meet underwater creatures and a one-legged pirate, who sings a song that helps pave the way to the riddle's answer.

Genre: Kids, Animated, Water. 30 Minutes. Filmmaker: Laura Sams, Robert Sams.

Student Filmmaker Awards:

Lynx

When a scientist happens upon a political firestorm, can he remain impartial? Art Wilder is a research ecologist working in Montana's Crazy Mountains. A postdoc in charge of a public research office, Art studies the elusive lynx, an endangered species of cat at home in the snowy forests of the Northwest. His research is controversial because any land shown to be lynx habitat becomes protected, and can't be logged or developed. When someone plants lynx hairs at Art's survey sites, Art has to make a crucial decision: let the false data show that lynx are found in great numbers, thereby protecting the land. Or point out the unethical action, defending the credibility of science but potentially letting the land go.

Genre: Wildlife, Activism. 17 Minutes. Filmmaker: Wynn Padula.

Journey of the Yuba

Family Oriented History of the Yuba River.

Genre: River Issues. 6 Minutes. Filmmaker: Anabella Funk.

Jury Awards:

The Price of Sugar

Not Available.

In the Dominican Republic, a tropical island-nation, tourists flock to pristine beaches unaware that a few miles away thousands of dispossessed Haitians have toiled under armed-guard on plantations harvesting sugarcane, much of which ends up in U.S. kitchens. They work grueling hours and frequently lack decent housing, clean water, electricity, education or healthcare. Narrated by Paul Newman, "The Price of Sugar" follows Father Christopher Hartley, a charismatic Spanish priest, as he organizes some of this hemisphere's poorest people to fight for their basic human rights. This film raises key questions about where the products we

consume originate and at what human cost they are produced.

Genre: Environmental. 90 Minutes. Filmmaker: Bill Haney.

Fighting Goliath: Texas Coal Wars

In 2006, Governor Rick Perry of Texas gives a private enterprise, TXU, authority to produce 11 new coal plants, all using antiquated technology that would effect air quality. But a coalition of mayors statewide started the battle for clean air. The movement was bipartisan, and included Republican representatives, ranchers, farmers, and ordinary people.

Genre: Community. 31 Minutes. Filmmaker: Mat Hames.

Saving Luna

What happens when a wild orca tries to make friends with people? In 2001, when Luna was just a baby, he found himself alone in Nootka Sound, more than 200 miles away from his family. The same social instincts that drove Luna to seek companionship also brought people to him, in spite of the law. Luna became a symbol of the world's wildest beauty: easy to love, hard to save.

Genre: Wildlife. 92 Minutes. Filmmaker: Michael Parfit, Suzanne Chisholm.

Honorable Mentions:

American Outrage

Carrie and Mary Dann are feisty elderly Western Shoshone sisters who have always grazed their livestock outside their ranch in north central Nevada. That range is part of the Shoshone land from the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley. In 1974, the US sued the sisters for trespassing on US Public Land. Why would the US spend millions prosecuting two elderly women grazing a few hundred horses and cows in a desolate desert?

Genre: Feature, Resources, Community. 55 Minutes. Filmmaker: George & Beth Gage.

I Met the Walrus

In 1969, a 14-year-old Beatle fanatic, armed with a reel-to-reel tape deck, snuck into John Lennon's hotel room and convinced John to do an interview. Using the original interview recording as the soundtrack, director Josh Raskin has woven a visual narrative romancing Lennon's every word in a cascading flood of multi-pronged animation.

Genre: Community, Short. 5 Minutes. Filmmaker: Josh Raskin.

Wild Ocean

Filmed off the Wild Coast of South Africa, the film celebrates the life in our oceans, the animals that now depend on us to survive, and the efforts by the local people to protect this invaluable ecological resource.

Genre: Oceana. 39 Minutes. Filmmaker: Luke Cresswell, Steve McNicholas.

Under Our Skin

A gripping tale of microbes, medicine & money, UNDER OUR SKIN exposes the hidden story of Lyme disease, one of the most serious and controversial epidemics of our time. Each year, thousands go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed, often told that their symptoms are all in their head. Following the stories of patients and physicians fighting for their lives and livelihoods, the film brings into focus a haunting picture of the health care system and a medical establishment all too willing to put profits ahead of patients.

Genre: Feature. 103 Minutes. Filmmaker: Andy Abrahams Wilson.

Chickens of the Sea

A sea of grass, that is. Most of the native prairie in North America is gone, and prairie chickens are rare, but if you're lucky enough to find them, they're fun to watch!

Genre: Short, Wildlife. 7 Minutes. Filmmaker: Steve Furman.

Water Loving Doggies 2

When will those dog days of summer at the Yuba return?

Genre: River Issues. 41 Minutes. Filmmaker: Guillaume Habekoss.

2010 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

Best of Festival:

The Legend of Pale Male

In 2004, Pale Male, the red-tailed hawk of Central Park in NYC, flew into the hearts of the Wild & Scenic audience and received the Best of Fest award. The story of Pale Male continues and we are thrilled to have the next chapter in this inspirational tale.

Genre: Wildlife. 85 Minutes. Filmmaker: Frederic Lilien.

Spirit of Activism Award:

A Simple Question: The Story of STRAW

Simple hope and inspiration can be found in the Stemple Creek Watershed of Northern California. In 1922, a fourth grade class-project began what is now a remarkable program restoring over 20 miles of habitat, galvanizing the local community, and leading to significant educational innovations.

Genre: Land Preservation. 35 Minutes. Filmmaker: David Donnenfield & Kevin White.

People's Choice Award:

Homegrown

The Dervaes were the favorite family of last year's festival. This year they are back, this time with a feature film about their story. While "living off the grid" in urban Pasadena, they harvest over 6,000 pounds of produce on less than a quarter of an acre, make their own bio diesel, power their computers with the help of solar panels and maintain a website that gets thousands of hits a day.

Genre: Environmental, Resources. 52 Minutes. Filmmaker: Robert McFalls.

Most Inspiring Adventure Film:

First Ascent: Alone on the Wall

Young climber and Sacramento resident Alex Honnold is making history -- alone. Oh, and did we mention it's without ropes? You have to see this for yourself.

Genre: Adventure. 24 Minutes. Filmmaker: Peter Mortimer, Nick Rosen.

Jury Award:

Green

"Green" is about the rainforest of Indonesia.

Genre: Animated, Kids. 48 Minutes.

"Food Theme" Jury Award:

No Impact Man

An eco-guilty NYC liberal decides to practice what he preaches for one year ... no electricity,

only local food, no garbage-making and no taxis and elevators ... all this with his caffeine-addicted, TV-loving wife and young daughter.

Genre: Activism. 93 Minutes.

Best Children's Film:

Fresh

Let's celebrate the farmers, thinkers and business people who are re-inventing our food system. Forging healthier, sustainable alternatives, they offer a practical vision for a future of our food and our planet.

Genre: Food. Filmmaker: Ana Sofia Joanes.

Best Children's Film Honorable Mention:

Why Don't We Ride Zebras

Have you every wondered why we don't ride zebras? Or why we aren't drinking moose milk or eating hipp hamburgers? Follow a young zebra as he discovers what keeps him from becoming a domesticated animal.

Genre: Wildlife, Kids. 12 Minutes. Filmmaker: Hannah Smith Walker.

Best Student Film:

V is for Volunteer

A 7-year-old girl and her dogs invite kids to volunteer in their local communities to help keep the earthy healthy and green.

Genre: Food. 2010 Honorable Mention for Best Children's Film.

John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaking Award:

Maria Jose Calderon for The Edge of the Sea

In the past fifty years, 61-year old fisherman Pauco Font has seen the white sand beaches of his Puerto Rico hometown disappearing due to erosion caused by mega developments. In 2008, Pauco and members of his community began to fight back.

Genre: Fish. 26 Minutes. Filmmaker: Maria Jose Calderon.

Honorable Mentions:

The Cove

Not Available

Flipper was one of the most beloved television characters of all time. But ironically, the fascination with dolphins that he caused created a tragic epidemic that has threatened their existence and become a multibillion dollar industry. The Japanese town that is the largest supplier of dolphins in the world has a dark, horrifying secret that it doesn't want the rest of the world to know. Part environmental documentary, part horror film, part spy thriller, *The Cove* is

as suspenseful as it is enlightening.

Genre: Wildlife, Activism. 90 Minutes.

Finding Farley

When writer Karsten Heuer and filmmaker Leanne Allison (filmmakers of award-winning *Being Caribou*) along with their two-year old son Zev and dog Willow, set out to retrace the literary footsteps of one of Canada's most famous writers, they meant it literally. Their 5000km trip - trekking, sailing, portaging and paddling from the prairies to the Maritimes - rediscovers the people and places that inspired Farley Mowat's most acclaimed books.

Genre: Adventure. 63 Minutes. Filmmaker: Leanne Allison, Tracey Friesen.

Lords of Nature: Life in a Land of Great Predators

Wolves and cougars, once driven to the edge of existence are finding their way back-from the Yellowstone plateau to the canyons of Zion, from the farm country of northern Minnesota to the rugged open range of the West. In Yellowstone National Park, a land inhabited again by wolves after a 70-year absence, the chain of life flourishes once again since they return.

Genre: Wildlife. 57 Minutes. Filmmaker: Ralf Meyer.

Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai

The simple act of planting trees by Kenya Wangari Maathai grew into a nationwide movement to safeguard the environment, protect human rights, and defend democracy - a movement for which this charismatic woman became an iconic inspiration and winner of Nobel Peace Prize.

Genre: Activism. 80 Minutes. Filmmaker: Lisa Merton & Alan Dater.

2011 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

Best of Festival:

Wasteland

Not Available.

Renowned artist Vik Muniz journeys Rio de Janeiro to photograph the world's largest garbage dump. There he captures an eclectic band of "catadores," self-designated pickers of recyclable materials. Muniz's initial objective was to "paint" the catadores with garbage. However, his collaboration with these inspiring characters as they recreate photographic images of themselves out of garbage reveals both the dignity and despair of the catadores as they begin to re-imagine their lives. Audience Award for Best World Cinema Documentary, Sundance FF; Amnesty Intl' Human Rights Film Award, Berlin FF

Genre: Environmental. 99 Minutes. Filmmaker: Lucy Walker.

Spirit of Activism Award:

Alexandra's Echo

Alexandra has documented that as the wild salmon of this area die off, the Orcas are not returning, the bears and other animals are starving. Norway, Scotland and Ireland have already experienced this cycle. Their experts have warned our government of the disastrous effects of fish farms destroying wild fish runs. Alexandra continues to work with the Orcas, and collects data on the wild salmon depletion. She continues to raise her voice, with many others, waiting for a viable response, not just an echo.

Genre: Oceana, Wildlife.

People's Choice Award:

Eastern Rises

Ben Knight's cynical, snarky narration pulls you along on this humorous and intriguing tale of fishing Far East Russia. The cinematography is superb, the storytelling excellent, and the angling aspirational. Felt Soul may have made better film festival-ey movies, but they've never produced a better flyfishing movie.

Genre: Adventure, Fish. 38 Minutes. Filmmaker: Ben Knight and Travis Rummel.

Most Inspiring Adventure Film:

Redwoods: Anatomy of a Giant

Redwoods: Anatomy of a Giant tells the story of the world's tallest living trees. Humboldt State University's Steve Sillett, the first researcher to explore the redwood canopy, is obsessed with monster redwoods. Just when Sillett thinks he's climbed and measured an unbeatably tall tree, another one turns up in a hidden valley of California and breaks the record. As Sillett investigates redwoods up in their towering crowns, National Geographic Explorer in Residence

Mike Fay is charting the entire redwood range on the ground, step by step, on an epic year long journey to get a sense of the past ... and future of the world's most awe inspiring living things.
Genre: Mountains, Trees. 50 Minutes. Filmmaker: John Rubin and James Donald.

Jury Award:

Bag It

Try going a day without plastic. In this touching and often flat-out-funny film, we follow “everyman” Jeb Berrier as he embarks on a global tour to unravel the complexities of our plastic world. What starts as a film about plastic bags evolves into a wholesale investigation into plastic and its affect on our waterways, oceans, and even our own bodies. We see how our crazy-for-plastic world has finally caught up to us and what we can do about it. Today. Right now.

Genre: Oceana, Climate, Resources. Filmmaker: Suzan Beraza.

First Ascent: Point of No Return

Quests to make first ascents of the most astounding unclimbed rock formations and mountains in the world. Coarse language.

Genre: Adventure. 82 Minutes. Filmmaker: Peter Mortimer and Nick Rosen.

A Murder of Crows

Not Available.

They can pick an individual human face out of a crowd of thousands and they may be more like us than we ever could imagine. Think you know crows? Think again. Shot in full HD, "A Murder of Crows" is an exciting new documentary on the intelligence of crows that will forever change the way you look at these common black birds. Featuring captivating never seen before footage and exclusive access to ground breaking scientific research from around the world this doc offers insight and understanding into one of the most haunting and misunderstood species on the planet - the common crow.

Genre: Wildlife. 52 Minutes. Filmmaker: Susan Fleming.

Best Children’s Film:

LOST AND FOUND

Academy Award winner Jim Broadbent narrates this 24min animated story of a boy who finds a penguin on his doorstep, and unable to determine where it came from, decides to row it all the way home to the South Pole! Based on the best-selling picture book by Oliver Jeffers, and lovingly adapted & directed by Studio AKA’s Philip Hunt, LOST AND FOUND has won over 50 international awards to date, including a BAFTA for best Children’s animation, delighting audiences both young and old with its story about how sometimes friendship finds us when we least expect it...

Genre: Animated, Kids, Wildlife. 2400 Minutes. Filmmaker: Philip Hunt. 2011 Best Children's Film.

Best Student Film:

Mongolian Couch

In a city of tower blocks and tents comes a unique story of energy and enterprise; Begzsuren lives with his wife and four children in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and possesses an inspiring passion to improve both his family's and his community's lot. Installing a rain water shower, changing his family's diet, planting trees, Thai Chi- Begzsuren is a busy, dedicated and extremely forward-thinking individual. Begzsuren welcomes guests into his home from all over the world, offering these visitors aspects of traditional Mongolian culture and in exchange his guests offer insight into how they live and work back home. Everyday Begzsuren is on an adventure and a mission, by exploring and inviting the world into his home, he is slowly but surely improving his own world.

Genre: Community, Resources. 11 Minutes. Filmmaker: George Clipp, Eva Arnold. 2011 Best Student Film.

John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaking Award:

Ben Knight and Travis Rummel for Red Gold

At the headwaters of the Kvichak and the Nushagak Rivers in Bristol Bay Alaska—the two largest remaining sockeye salmon runs on the planet—mining companies Northern Dynasty and Anglo American have proposed to extract what may prove to be the richest deposit of gold and copper in the world. Filmmakers Ben Knight and Travis Rummel spent 70 days in Bristol Bay documenting the growing unrest among native, commercial and sport fishermen who oppose the proposed Pebble Mine as well as giving mine officials a chance to argue their case. The open-pit and underground Pebble Mine could require the largest dam ever constructed to contain toxic runoff from mine waste. Red Gold is a portrait of a unique way of life that would not exist if the salmon didn't return with Bristol Bay's tide.

Genre: Resources, Food. 55 Minutes. Filmmaker: Travis Rummel, Ben Knight.

Honorable Mentions:

Bearwalker of the Northwoods

Not Available.

In the forests of northern Minnesota, biologist Lynn Rogers has gained the trust of wild black bears during a forty year career which has evolved from fear into fascination. Following the fortunes of a mother bear and her cubs over a year, the film reveals an intimate portrait of the lives of black bears.

Genre: Wildlife. 60 Minutes. Filmmaker: David Wright, MiMi McGee.

Carbon Nation

Even if you doubt the severity of the impact of climate change or just don't buy it at all, solutions to climate change can also address other social, economic and national security issues. Meet entrepreneurs, visionaries, scientists, and the everyday man, all making a difference and working towards solving climate change.

Genre: Climate. 82 Minutes. Filmmaker: Peter Byck.

There Once Was an Island: Te Henua e Nnoho

What if your community had to decide whether to leave their homeland forever and there was no help available? This is the reality for the culturally unique Polynesian community of Takuu, a tiny low-lying atoll in the South Western Pacific. As a terrifying tidal flood rips through their already damaged home, the Takuu community experiences the devastating effects of climate change first hand. In this verite-style film, three intrepid characters Telo, Endar and Satty, allow us into their lives and their culture and show us first hand the human impact of an environmental crisis. Two scientists, oceanographer John Hunter and geomorphologist Scott Smithers, investigate the situation with our characters and consider the impact of climate change on communities without access to resources or support. Intimate observational scenes allow Telo, Endar and Satty to take us on their personal journeys as they consider whether to move to an uncertain future in Bougainville or to stay on Takuu and fight for a different, but equally uncertain, outcome. This film gives a human face to the direct impacts of climate change in the Pacific, challenging audiences everywhere to consider their own relationship to the earth and the other people on it.

Genre: Climate. 56 Minutes. Filmmaker: Briar March.

Truck Farm

After filmmaker Ian Cheney plants a garden in the back of his pickup, he and the Truck Farm set out to explore the rooftops and windows that represent NYC's newest edible oases. Featuring time machines, Victorian dancers, physicists, nutritionists, chefs, and explorer Henry Hudson.

Genre: Food. 47 Minutes. Filmmaker: Ian Cheney, Curtis Ellis.

Honorable Mention for Best Children's Film:

Nico's Challenge

A story of a 13 year-old boy who faces special challenges as he climbs mount Kilimanjaro, the world's highest freestanding mountain. His goal, to raise money and deliver free wheelchairs to the people of Tanzania. This coming of age adventure has some unexpected twists that push this child to his limits just before reaching the summit at nineteen thousand feet above sea level.

Genre: Community, Kids, Resources, Mountains. 15 Minutes. Filmmaker: Steve Audette.

Water Loving Doggies II

The water loving doggies are back and bigger than ever in this underwater adventure with mans best friend. From 20 to 200 pounds our furry friends are sure to make a splash on your hearts in this years recut river romp, featuring music by Matisyahu.

Genre: Adventure. 34 Minutes. Filmmaker: Will Keir.

2012 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

Best of Festival:

Into Eternity

Not Available for borrowing.

The world's nuclear power plants have generated an estimated 300,000 tons of high-level radioactive waste that must be safely stored for 100,000 years or more. This is the first feature documentary to explore the mind-boggling scientific and philosophical questions long-term nuclear waste storage poses.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 77 Minutes. Filmmaker: Michael Madsen & Lise Lense-Møller. 2012 Best of Festival.

Spirit of Activism:

The Naked Option

THE NAKED OPTION reveals the inspiring story of an organized group of Nigerian women who use the threat of stripping naked in public, a serious cultural taboo, in their deadly struggle to hold the oil companies accountable to the communities in which they operate. The women, at the risk of being raped, beaten or killed, are trained and armed, but not with anything you can see. Through the leadership of the courageous, charismatic, and inexhaustible Emem J. Okon, these women are taking over where men have failed, peacefully transforming their 'naked power' into 21st century political action and mobilization.

Genre: Activism. 64 Minutes. Filmmaker: Candace Schermerhorn.

Most Inspiring Adventure Film:

Kadoma

Not Available for borrowing.

After more than a decade exploring Central Africa, Hendri Coetzee is a modern legend of African exploration. Solo on the Congo River in 2009, Hendri received an email from American expedition kayaker Ben Stookesberry. "It would be ludicrous," Hendri said, "to take an American who you don't know, and who has never been to Africa, into its very heart." But a year later, he did just that.

Genre: Adventure. 44 Minutes. Filmmaker: Ben Stookesberry. **Jury Awards:**

Best Short Short:

The Story of Broke: Why There's Still Plenty of Money to Build a Better Future

Not Available for borrowing.

The United States isn't broke; we're the richest country on the planet, and a country where the richest among us are doing exceptionally well. But the truth is, our economy is broken, producing more pollution, greenhouse gasses and garbage than any other country. In these and

so many other ways, it just isn't working. But rather than invest in something better, we continue to keep this 'dinosaur economy' on life support with hundreds of billions of dollars of our tax money. "The Story of Broke" calls for a shift in government spending toward investments in clean, green solutions—renewable energy, safer chemicals and materials, zero waste, education. These are real solutions that can deliver jobs and a healthier environment. It's time to rebuild the American Dream... but this time, let's build it better.

Genre: Global Perspective. 8 Minutes. Filmmaker: Free Range Studios, The Story of Stuff Project.

Student Filmmaker Award:

Roots & Hollers

'Roots & Hollers' takes you deep inside the world of wild American ginseng. The legendary root has linked Asia to the Appalachian wilderness for centuries. Considered a cure-all, wild American roots sell for thousands of dollars in Asian markets. The film follows two budding businessmen, Jeremy Tackett and Terry Cable, as they try their luck in a remarkable underground trade now threatened by urban sprawl, over-harvesting, and strip-mining.

Genre: Land Preservation. 25 Minutes. Filmmaker: Thomas Gorman, Patrick Kollman.

John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaking Award:

The Mill Valley Film Group for the 2012 New Environmentalists

"The New Environmentalists" share a common goal – safeguarding the Earth's natural resources from exploitation and pollution, while fighting for justice in their communities. The film is the latest in the Mill Valley Film Group's Emmy Award-winning series featuring inspiring portraits of six passionate and dedicated activists. These are true environmental heroes who have placed themselves squarely in harm's way to battle intimidating adversaries while building strong grassroots support. Narrated by Robert Redford, The New Environmentalists illustrates how ordinary people are affecting extraordinary change. The six short films are "The Grid," "The Rhinos' Flight," "My Toxic Reality," "Troubled Water," "The Solution," and "River of Dreams." The Grid | Germany | Ursula Sladek | Community activists respond to the Chernobyl nuclear accident by creating the country's first successful, cooperatively owned, renewable power company.

People's Choice Award:

Rock the Boat

In the artificial landscape that is Los Angeles, where even palm trees are imported, nothing epitomizes man's short-sighted efforts to reshape the face of the earth more than the LA River: modified beyond recognition, its flow tapped before it even reached the surface, the river was used, abused and essentially forgotten. But when an unassuming boater insists on seeing it as a river again, a local controversy takes on national dimensions, and the once-derided eyesore

turns into a source of hope for the City of Dreams. 'Rock the Boat' is a fun, high-energy and ultimately moving film that tells this every-man's adventure and looks at the price nature has to pay for our urban lifestyle.

Best Children's Film:

Origins: Obe and Ashima

There's a nine year old girl from New York City taking the bouldering world by storm, and her name is Ashima Shiraishi. Under the tutelage of her passionate coach, Obe Carrion, this tiny master is crushing competitions and raising the bar for climbing's youth. Obe brings her to bouldering's proving ground, Hueco Tanks, TX, where he had his own big breakthrough 13 years earlier, and Ashima rips the place apart.

Genre: Adventure. 22 Minutes. Filmmaker: Josh Lowell, Brett Lowell, Cooper Roberts.

Honorable Mentions:

Food Stamped

Food Stamped follows nutritionist Shira Potash and her documentary filmmaker husband Yoav as they attempt to eat a healthy, well-balanced diet on a food stamp budget. Shira teaches healthy cooking classes to elementary students in low-income neighborhoods, most of whom are eligible for food stamps. In an attempt to walk a mile in their shoes, Shira and Yoav embark on the "FoodStamp Challenge," eating on roughly one dollar per meal. Through their adventures they consult with Members of Congress, food justice advocates, nutrition experts, and people living on foodstamps to take a deep look at America's broken food system.

Genre: Food. 63 Minutes. Filmmaker: Shira & Yoav Potash.

A Liter Of Light

The film documents a foundation's project to light up a poor neighborhood through the efforts of a local man who works for them. He becomes a beacon of hope to his community when he installs hundreds of solar-powered light bulbs in his neighbor's houses. The clever device is made from old plastic soda bottles filled with water and bleach. Many of the homeowners can barely afford electricity and because their houses stand so close to each other, they don't really get much daylight. With a little bleach, water and good will, their days are now much, much brighter.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 2 Minutes. Filmmaker: Nick Santiago and Mike Talampas.

Chasing Water

2012 Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Follow the Colorado River, source to sea, with photographer Pete McBride who takes an intimate look at the watershed as he attempts to follow the irrigation water that sustains his

family's Colorado ranch, down river to the sea. Traversing 1500 miles and draining seven states, the Colorado River supports over 30 million people across the southwest. It is not the longest or largest U.S. river, but it is one of the most loved and litigated in the world. Today, this resource is depleted and stressed. Follow its path with an artistic, aerial view on a personal journey to understand this national treasure. McBride teamed up with his bush-pilot father to capture unique footage and also shadowed the adventure of Jon Waterman who became the first to paddle the entire length of the river.

Genre: Water/River Issues. 18 Minutes. Filmmaker: Pete McBride.

Honorable Mention for Best Children's Film:

The Shark Riddle

The second episode in The Riddle Solvers series, The Shark Riddle is a half-hour shark film for the whole family. Follow siblings Laura and Robert on an adventure through the pages of a magical journal to solve a mysterious riddle about shark teeth. Meet a raucous group of singing sea lions, experience the underwater game show Are You a Shark?, hear a shark lullaby and discover the powerful and magnificent world of sharks. Featuring high-definition footage of 20 different shark species from around the world, this charming and hilarious look at the ocean's top predators has received 'two fins up' from sharks everywhere.

Genre: Wildlife. 29 Minutes. Filmmaker: Sisbro Studios, LLC and The Save Our Seas Foundation.

Animal Beatbox

This film was a joy to make. It involved my girlfriend and my mother and 3 days of being children again building sets and cutting out animal pictures. It cost 80 Australian dollars to make and has now screened at over 20 festivals around the world and used in children's classrooms everywhere. Its intention was to wake people up for a second and embrace their spirit again. And also to lovingly appreciate the wonderful world we live in in a fun, insignificant way.

Genre: Wildlife. 2 Minutes. Filmmaker: Damon Gameau.

2013 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

Best of Festival:

Cafeteria Man

A candid look at what it takes to reform unhealthy school lunch programs and provide nutritious, tasty meals to our nation's school kids, profiling Tony Geraci and his success in Baltimore's schools.

Genre: Food. 64 Minutes. Filmmakers: Richard Chisholm, Sheila Kinkade.

Spirit of Activism:

Bidder 70

BIDDER 70 follows Tim DeChristopher, a University of Utah student who on December 19, 2008, in a dazzling act of civil disobedience, derailed the outgoing Bush administration's illegal Bureau of Land Management oil and gas auction. As bidder #70, Tim bid 1.8 million dollars and won 22,000 pristine acres surrounding Utah's National Parks. He had no intention to pay or drill. In February 2009, the new Obama administration agreed the land should be safeguarded and invalidated the entire auction. Nevertheless, Tim was indicted on two federal felonies with penalties of up to ten years in prison. A personal portrait, BIDDER 70 illuminates how the choices we make determine our future and the world we live in. Tim DeChristopher puts a face on Time Magazine's 2011 Person of the Year, the Protestor.

Genre: Activism. 72 Minutes. Filmmaker: Beth & George Gage.

Most Inspiring Adventure Film:

Out Living It

The effects of cancer reach far beyond the physical symptoms of the disease. Those who survive often find themselves dealing with a profound loss of physical strength, community, identity and confidence, with few resources to turn to. On a quest to redefine themselves and defy their diagnosis, Out Living It tells the story of young adult cancer survivors who take on the challenge of rock climbing and whitewater kayaking during a week long outdoor adventure camp in the mountains of Colorado.

Genre: Adventure. 44 Minutes. Filmmaker: Michael Brown.

Best Short Short:

Moonwalk

Dean Potter is nothing if not creative. In this short piece, he highlines across a desert landscape with a massive full moon as his backdrop.

Genre: Adventure. 4 Minutes. Filmmaker: Mikey Schaefer.

Student Filmmaker Award:

Atomic States of America

In 2010, the United States approved the first new nuclear power plant in 32 years, heralding a “Nuclear Renaissance”. But that was before the Fukushima accident in Japan renewed a fierce public debate over the safety and viability of nuclear power.

The Atomic States of America journeys to nuclear reactor communities around the country to provide a comprehensive exploration of the history and impact to date of nuclear power, and to investigate the truths and myths about nuclear energy. Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 90 Minutes. Filmmakers: Don Argott and Sheena Joyce

John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaking Award:

Symphony of the Soil

Symphony of the Soil is a 104-minute documentary feature film that explores the complexity and mystery of soil. Filmed on four continents and sharing the voices of some of the world’s most esteemed soil scientists, farmers and activists, the film portrays soil as a protagonist of our planetary story. Using a captivating mix of art and science, the film shows that soil is a complex living organism, the foundation of life on earth.

Genre: Land Perspective. 104 Minutes. Filmmaker: Deborah Koons Garcia

People’s Choice Award:

Bidder 70

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Genre: Activism. 72 Minutes. Filmmaker: Beth & George Gage.

Best Children’s Film: (Decided by our Kids’ Jury)

Watermelon Magic

International audiences will delight in this nearly wordless burst of color and music that draws inspiration from film classic “The Red Balloon”. Weaving together documentary and narrative elements, “Watermelon Magic” chronicles a season on the family farm, as young Sylvie grows a patch of watermelons to sell at market. The film employs a dynamic visual style that uses high-resolution stills at varying shutter-burst frame rates with stunning time-lapse sequences to

trace the journey from seed to flower to fruit. When harvest time arrives, Sylvie must decide if she will share her precious watermelon babies with the world.

Genre: Food. 38 Minutes. Filmmaker: Richard Power Hoffmann.

Honorable Mentions:

In Organic We Trust

“In Organic We Trust” is an eye-opening documentary that reveals the true meaning of “organic”. When corporations went into the business and “organic” became a brand, the philosophy and the label grew apart. But there’s hope for organic and for us! Director Kip Pastor looks beyond the label and unearths inspiring solutions for our health and environmental problems. Dr. Marion Nestle shares important opinions on the future of health. Individual citizens and communities are taking matters into their own hands, and change is coming from the soil up.

Genre: Food. 81 Minutes. Filmmaker: Kip Pastor

Desert Dreams: Celebrating Five Seasons in the Sonoran Desert

Countering the notion that deserts are little more than a void to be filled, DESERT DREAMS immerses viewers in a world pulsing with life and beauty year-round. This multimedia tapestry showcases 182 species of Sonoran Desert plants and animals in a seasonal chronology. HD video content and time-lapse imagery captured over four years blends with stills from the filmmaker's photographic archive compiled over three decades. Using no voice-over, DESERT DREAMS combines natural sounds with a kaleidoscope of flute and percussion vignettes by Gary Stroutsos.

Genre: Wildlife. 52 Minutes. Filmmaker: Thomas Wiewandt.

Cape Spin! An American Power Struggle

Cape Spin! An American Power Struggle tells the surreal, fascinating, tragicomic story of the battle over America’s most controversial clean energy project. Cape Wind would be the U.S.’s first offshore windfarm... But strange alliances formed for and against: Kennedys, Kochs, and everyday folks do battle with the developer and green groups over the future of American power. With full access to both sides, a commitment to impartial storytelling and fueled by a satiric ‘revolutionary’ soundtrack, Cape Spin! is “a gripping and entertaining study of eco-capitalism and grassroots democracy”. “It proves that environmental films can be crowd pleasers, and not at all just about the environment.”

Genre: Energy, Climate Change, Resources. 86 Minutes. Filmmakers: John Kirby, Libby Handros, Daniel Coffin, Robbie Gemmel.

2014 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

Best of Festival

Gasland II

Not Available for borrowing.

GASLAND PART II takes a deeper, broader look at the dangers of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, the controversial method of extracting natural gas and oil, now occurring on a global level (in 32 countries worldwide). The film argues that the gas industry's portrayal of natural gas as a clean and safe alternative to oil is a myth and that fracked wells inevitably leak over time, contaminating water and air, hurting families, and endangering the earth's climate with the potent greenhouse gas, methane. In addition the film looks at how the powerful oil and gas industries are "contaminating our democracy".

Genre: Activism, 125 Minutes. Filmmakers: Josh Fox, Trish Adlesic, Deborah Wallace

People's Choice Award

Xmas Without China

Two families living in the same community collide when pride and mischief inspire Chinese immigrant Tom Xia to challenge the Jones family to celebrate Christmas without any Chinese products.

Genre: Global Perspective. 63 Minutes. Filmmaker: Alicia Dwyer, Ton Xia.

Spirit of Activism

The Last Ocean

The Ross Sea is a vast, icy landscape that teems with life -- whales, seals and penguins carving out a place on the very edge of existence. This 'living laboratory' is one of the last places where the delicate balance of nature still prevails, largely untouched by humans. But an international fishing fleet has recently made its way to the Ross Sea, targeting the highly lucrative Antarctic Toothfish, sold as Chilean Sea Bass around the world. With stunning footage of Antarctica's unique landscapes and wild life, The Last Ocean profiles the international battle over commercial fishing in the Ross Sea, the last pristine ocean ecosystem on earth.

Genre: Oceans. 53 Minutes. Filmmaker: Peter Young.

Most Inspiring Adventure Film

Maiden Trip

Not Available for borrowing.

14-year-old Laura Dekker sets out—camera in hand—on a two-year voyage in pursuit of her dream to be the youngest person ever to sail around the world alone. In the wake of a year-long battle with Dutch authorities that sparked a global storm of media scrutiny, Laura now

finds herself far from land, family and unwanted attention, exploring the world in search of freedom, adventure, and distant dreams of her early youth at sea. Jillian Schlesinger's debut feature amplifies Laura's brave, defiant voice through a mix of Laura's own video and voice recordings at sea and intimate vérité footage from locations including the Galapagos Islands, French Polynesia, Australia, and South Africa.

Genre: Adventure. 82 Minutes. Filmmaker: Jillian Schlesinger.

Best in Theme

Uranium Drive-In

Uranium Drive-In follows a proposed uranium mill in southwestern Colorado - the first to be built in the U.S. in 30 years -- and the emotional debate pitting a population desperate for jobs and financial stability against an environmental group based in a nearby resort town. Without judgment, both sides of the issue are brought to life in heart-wrenching detail as the film follows conflicting visions for the future. The film offers no easy answers but aims instead to capture personal stories and paint a portrait of the lives behind this nuanced and complex issue.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 70 Minutes. Filmmaker: Suzan Beraza, Michelle Maughan, Judith Kohin.

Best Short Short

The Story of Solutions

Saddened, Bapoto decides he will never roar again. Until one day he stumbles across an animal choir, who help Bapoto realise the beauty of his unique, squeaky roar.

Genre: Animation. 9 Minutes. Filmmaker: Louis Fox, Erica Priggen, Annie Leonard, Jonah Sachs, Ruben DeLuna.

Jury Award

Bringing It Home

Hemp - it's not just for hippies any more. Today they're using it in everything from salad dressings to buildings. Despite the inevitable jokes, industrial hemp is actually a non-psychoactive plant, grown in 31 other countries, but prohibited to farm in the U.S.A. where it could be a money-making crop for farmers and create jobs. So why can't we grow it here? BRINGING IT HOME explores hemp's benefits, past, present and future with animation, archival footage and interviews with business owners using it for healthy construction, textiles, nutrition, soaps and bio-plastics the U.S.A and abroad.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 52 Minutes. Filmmaker: Linda Booker, Blaire Johnson.

Jury Award

Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Not Available for borrowing.

Thousands of miles away from civilization, Midway Atoll is in one of the most remote places on earth. And yet it's become ground zero for The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, siphoning plastics from three distant continents. Journalist/filmmaker Angela Sun travels on a personal journey of discovery to uncover this mysterious phenomenon, meeting scientists, researchers, influencers, and volunteers and learning that the problem is more insidious than we could have ever imagined.

Genre: Oceans. 57 Minutes. Filmmaker: Angela Sun.

Student Filmmaker Award

An Inconvenient Youth

Not Available for borrowing.

For too long, young people – the very people whose lives will be most affected by the consequences of climate change – have been condescended to, or just plain ignored by governments, corporations, mainstream media and UN negotiators. But now there is a vibrant global youth climate movement making changes.

Genre: Children's Films. 11 Minutes. Filmmaker: Slater Jewell-Kemker.

John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaking Award

Christopher McLeod, Standing on Sacred Ground

Not Available for borrowing.

With ancient wisdom and modern courage, threatened cultures around the world protect their sacred lands for future generations. Covering eight indigenous communities, *Standing On Sacred Ground* exposes threats to native peoples' health, livelihood and cultural survival. In the U.S. and around the world, indigenous people defend human rights and restore the environment in their sacred places, the original protected areas. In a growing worldwide movement, their resistance provides the path to our common future. A four film series.

Honorable Mentions

Backyard

Backyard tells the stories of five people in four states, all with very different backgrounds and perspectives, but all at odds with the natural gas extraction occurring around them. Despite their differences, unnerving similarities emerge from their shared experiences with the massive unseen entity that is "the industry." Brief, animated interludes remind us to ask the bigger picture questions as well.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 27 Minutes. Filmmaker: Deia Schlosberg.

North of the Sun

Not Available for borrowing.

Inge Wegge (25) and Jorn Ranum (22) spent nine months of cold, Norwegian winter in the isolated and uninhabited bay of a remote, arctic island by the coast of Northern-Norway, facing nothing but the vast Atlantic Ocean. There they built a cabin out of driftwood and other cast-off materials that washed up on shore and ate expired food the stores would otherwise have thrown away. But the boys brought with them two items of utmost importance: their surfboards -- perhaps their biggest motivation for the arctic adventure -- because the remote bay holds a well-kept secret, some of the world's finest surfing waves.

Genre: Adventure. 46 Minutes. Filmmaker: Inge Wegge, Jorn Nyseth Ranum, Anne Bergseng.

Xmas Without China

Two families living in the same community collide when pride and mischief inspire Chinese immigrant Tom Xia to challenge the Jones family to celebrate Christmas without any Chinese products.

Genre: Global Perspective. 63 Minutes. Filmmaker: Alicia Dwyer, Ton Xia.

Best Children's Film (Decided by our Kids' Jury)

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Genre: Children's Films. 11 Minutes. Filmmaker: Slater Jewell-Kemker.

Honorable Mentions for Best Children's Film

Silent Voices

British Columbia, Canada is in a unique position as its geography lies between vast oil sands reserves in the east and eager markets to the west. Government plans to push hard to export this resource shadow any desire to invest in renewables. This film stands, with many others, as part of a movement that urges policy makers towards creating a greener energy strategy that works for the people, our economy and our environments.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 8 Minutes. Filmmaker: David O'Brien.

The Scared is Scared

I asked a six year old what my movie should be about, and this is what he told me.

Genre: Children's Films. 8 Minutes. Filmmaker: Bianca Giaever.

2015 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

Best of Festival

All The Time In The World (Not Available for borrowing)

A deeply personal documentary that explores the theme of disconnecting in order to reconnect. A family, searching for a new perspective, leaves the comforts of home to live for 9 months, with their three young children, in the remote wilderness of the Canadian North with no road access, no electricity, no running water, no internet and not a single watch or clock.

Genre: Adventure. 88 Minutes. Filmmaker: Suzanne Crocker, Drift Productions Inc.

Spirit of Activism

The Starfish Throwers (Not Available for borrowing)

Worlds apart, a five-star chef, a twelve year-old girl, and a retired schoolteacher discover how their individual efforts to feed the poor ignite a movement in the fight against hunger.

Genre: Food. 83 Minutes. Filmmaker: Jesse Roesler, Melody Gilbert

Most Inspiring Adventure Film

Valley Uprising (Not Available for borrowing)

The greatest untold story of American counterculture is that of the Yosemite Valley rock climbers. Yosemite's massive cliffs have drawn explorers and madmen to leave materialism behind and venture onto the high, lonesome granite. Narrated by Peter Sarsgaard, Valley Uprising is the riveting tale of this bold tradition: half a century's struggle against the laws of gravity -and the laws of the land.

Genre: Adventure. 99 Minutes. Filmmaker: Peter Mortimer, Nick Rosen, Josh Lowell, Zachary Barr, Sender Films

Best in Theme

Emptying the Skies (Not Available for borrowing)

This powerful documentary exposes the the dark world of illegal migratory songbird poaching in Southern Europe. Follow a group of renegade activists as they attempt to rescue these beautiful, endangered creatures and wage a secret war against damaging poaching practices.

Genre: Activism. 78 Minutes. Filmmaker: Roger Kass

Best Short

Pride of Namibia

Namibia is home to one of the greatest wildlife recovery story ever told. "Pride of Namibia" tells the story of communities committed to protecting wildlife, of a nation that has enshrined conservation into its constitution, and of the future of responsible travel - tourism that directly benefits the people who give wildlife freedom to roam.

Genre: Wildlife. 6 Minutes. Filmmaker: Andy Maser, Jenny Nichols.

Jury Award

Drawn

Merging film and illustration, this film transports you on four journeys, from the Venezuelan Amazon, to the China-Mongolian Border, to the northern reaches of Canada, and closer to home in the Yosemite Valley as Jeremy Collins embarks on an epic voyage to honor a beloved friend.

Genre: Adventure. 42 Minutes. Filmmaker: Jeremy Collins, James Q Martin

Jury Award

DamNation

DamNation is a collection of impassioned voices and spirited stories from the people entrenched on both sides of this divisive issue. Examining the history and controversy behind current and proposed dam removal projects, DamNation presents a dynamic perspective on Man's attempt to harness and control the power of water at the expense of nature. Nothing lasts forever, not even the concrete monoliths that have impounded America's free flowing rivers in the name of "progress" for ages.

Genre: Water/River Issues. 3 Minutes. Filmmakers: Ben Knight, Travis Rummel, Matt Stoecker.

Student Filmmaker Award

Jason Jaacks and Steve Fisher, Silent River

Since the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement 20 years ago, U.S. companies have used the Santiago River as their own waste canal. Silent River follows a young woman and her family as they defy death threats to try and save one of the most polluted rivers in Mexico.

Genre: Water/River Issues 25 Minutes. Filmmaker: Jason Jaacks, Steve Fisher

John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaking Award

Denis Delestrac, Sand Wars

This is a surprising investigation into one of the most consumed natural resources on the planet. Due to the high demand for sand, the planet's reserves are being threatened. Three-

quarters of the world's beaches are in decline and bound to disappear as victims of erosion, or of sand smuggling. Triggered by building construction, sand mafias plunder beaches and rivers for this highly prized commodity. Sand Wars will take us around the world to witness this new gold rush firsthand.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 52 Minutes. Filmmaker: Denis Delestrac

Honorable Mentions

Wrenched

WRENCHED captures the passing of the monkey wrench from the pioneers of eco-activism to the new generation which will carry Edward Abbey's legacy into the 21st century. The fight continues to sustain the last bastion of the American wilderness - the spirit of the West

Genre: Activism. 93 Minutes. Filmmaker: ML Lincoln, Kristi Frazier, Patrick Gambuti, ML Lincoln Films.

Black Ice

When the Greenpeace ship Arctic Sunrise set sail to protest the first ever oil drilling in the Arctic Ocean, no one on board could have known what was coming. Seized at gunpoint by Russian special forces, the 'Arctic 30' faced up to 15 years in prison and found themselves at the center of a bitter international dispute. Their imprisonment, which cast the Arctic 30 in the same mold as political prisoners like Pussy Riot and Mikhail Khodorkovsky, lasted months. However, their resolve to try and stop oil drilling in the Arctic was never broken.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 53 Minutes. Filmmaker: Maarten van Rouveroy van Nieuwaal, Tom Lowe, Elaine Hill, Greenpeace International

Sand Wars

This is a surprising investigation into one of the most consumed natural resources on the planet. Due to the high demand for sand, the planet's reserves are being threatened. Three-quarters of the world's beaches are in decline and bound to disappear as victims of erosion, or of sand smuggling. Triggered by building construction, sand mafias plunder beaches and rivers for this highly prized commodity. Sand Wars will take us around the world to witness this new gold rush firsthand.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 52 Minutes. Filmmaker: Denis Delestrac

Best Children's Film (Decided by our Kids' Jury)

Lady B's First Winter: Puppy to Avalanche Dog

Lady B is a puppy that was born in the Rockies and adopted by a husband and wife team of Ski Patrollers in Telluride, Colorado. This is the story of her life from her early days...through her first snowfall, first chairlift ride, first snowmobile and helicopter drills...and all of her training

finding buried skiers under the snow... to become a member of Telluride's Legendary Avalanche Rescue Dogs.

Genre: Adventure. 23 Minutes. Filmmaker: Scott Ransom

Kids Film Honorable Mention

Elisha and the Cacao Trees

What links a village in Belize and millions of North American kids? Chocolate! Meet 13-year-old Elisha, the daughter of a cacao farmer in Belize. We learn about her daily life and her dreams as she and her father show how cacao is grown, harvested and turned into chocolate.

Genre: Global Perspective. 17 Minutes. Filmmaker: Rohan Fernando, Annette Clarke, National Film Board of Canada

2016 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

Best of Festival

The Burden

This is the first film to examine how America's dependence on fossil fuels poses serious immediate and long-term national security threats and how the military is taking a leading role in the battle for clean, renewable energy. The film highlights how heavy reliance upon oil, and other fossil fuels, poses a variety of national security concerns.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 40 Minutes. Filmmaker: Roger Sorkin

Spirit of Activism

The Accidental Environmentalist

John Wathen was just an average guy until coming into contact with toxic chemicals, stumbling upon a video camera, and discovering his passion for protecting Alabama's waters.

Genre: Activism. 12 Minutes. Filmmaker: Kristine Stolakis

Most Inspiring Adventure Film

Unbranded

Ben Masters sets out to inspire adoptions of the 50,000 wild horses and burros living in government captivity. He recruited three friends and hatched an outrageous plot to adopt, train, and ride a string of mustangs 3,000 miles from the Mexican border to Canada through the wildest terrain of the American West. A story told with spectacular cinematography, *Unbranded* is a soaring drama of danger and self-discovery; an emotionally charged odyssey that shines a bright light on the complex plight of our country's wild horses and wild places.

Genre: Adventure. 105 Minutes. Filmmakers: Phillip Baribeau, Dennis Aig, Fin & Fur Films.

Best in Theme

INHABIT: A Permaculture Perspective

Permaculture is a design lens that uses the principles found in ecosystems to help shift our impact from destructive to regenerative. Focused mostly on the Northeastern and Midwestern regions of the United States, *Inhabit* provides an intimate look at permaculture peoples and practices ranging from rural, suburban, and urban landscapes.

Genre: Food. 92 Minutes. Filmmakers: Costa Boutsikaris, Emmett Brennan.

Best Short

Denali

There's no easy way to say goodbye to a friend, especially when they've supported you through your darkest times. *Denali* is the story of the relationship between photographer Ben Moon and his beloved dog, Denali. This short film is about friendship, loss and the beautiful fight for life.

Genre: Adventure. 8 Minutes. Filmmakers: Ben Knight, Ben Moon, Skip Armstrong, Moonhouse.

Jury Award

The Important Places

As a father and son rediscover their connection through a journey down the Colorado River and in the Grand Canyon, this poignant short teaches us that although we may sometimes go astray — stuck in eddies and in life — the path back to the important places is never too far away.

Genre: Adventure. 10 Minutes. Filmmakers: Forest Woodward, Brendan Leonard, American Rivers.

Jury Award

Sonic Sea

Narrated by Rachel McAdams and featuring Sting, *Sonic Sea* reveals the impact of industrial and military ocean noise on whales and other marine life. The narrative is propelled by the story of Ken Balcomb, a former U.S. naval officer who solved a tragic mystery and changed the way we understand our impact on the ocean. *Sonic Sea* was written by Mark Monroe (*The Cove, Racing Extinction*) and has a haunting score by the Grammy-winner, Heitor Pereira (*Minions, It's Complicated*).

Genre: Oceans. 60 Minutes. Filmmakers: Michelle Dougherty, Daniel Hinerfeld, Lisa Whiteman, Francesca Bucci.

Student Filmmaker Award

Marley McDonald, Dan McNew, Art Pekun, Abby Riggleman, Won't Pipe Down

This short documentary presents the definitive David versus Goliath battle between the residents of Nelson County, Virginia and the Dominion Power company. This inside look at the community and their fight against the Atlantic Coast Pipeline raises questions about environmental justice, property rights, and individual rights.

Genre: Activism. 23 Minutes. Filmmakers: Marley McDonald, Dan McNew, Art Pekun, Abby Riggleman.

John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaking Award

Michelle Dougherty, Daniel Hinerfeld, [Sonic Sea](#)

Narrated by Rachel McAdams and featuring Sting, *Sonic Sea* reveals the impact of industrial and military ocean noise on whales and other marine life. The narrative is propelled by the story of Ken Balcomb, a former U.S. naval officer who solved a tragic mystery and changed the way we understand our impact on the ocean. *Sonic Sea* was written by Mark Monroe (*The Cove, Racing Extinction*) and has a haunting score by the Grammy-winner, Heitor Pereira (*Minions, It's Complicated*).

Genre: Oceans. 60 Minutes. Filmmakers: Michelle Dougherty, Daniel Hinerfeld, Lisa Whiteman, Francesca Bucci.

Honorable Mentions

[Deep Time](#)

Ancient oceans teeming with life, Norwegian settlers, Native Americans and multinational oil corporations find intimacy in deep time. This is director Noah Hutton's ethereal portrait of the landowners, state officials, and oil workers at the center of the most prolific oil boom on the planet for the past six years. With a new focus on the relationship of the indigenous peoples of North Dakota to their surging fossil wealth, *Deep Time* casts the ongoing boom in the context of paleo-cycles, climate change, and the dark ecology of the future.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 90 Minutes. Filmmakers: Noah Hutton, Jesse Miller.

[Skateboarding in Pine Ridge](#) (Not Available for borrowing)

In 2011, Walt Pourier, the Founder of The Stronghold Society, started work on the first skatepark in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. In 2015 with the help of Levis® Skateboarding, Vitalogy Foundation (Pearl Jam's non-profit organization) and Wounded Knee Skateboards they began building a new skatepark in the neighboring district of Manderson. This documentary explores the positive impact skateboarding is having on the Oglala Lakota children and the people of Pine Ridge and Manderson.

Genre: Activism. 17 Minutes. Filmmaker: Greg Hunt.

[Voyagers Without Trace](#)

In 1938, three French adventurers came to American West to make the first kayak descent of the Colorado and shoot the first adventure film in color. Filmmaker Ian McCluskey retraces the trio's wake back to Europe, uncovering unexpected connections to the French Resistance, the advent of the French Riviera, and the possibilities that free-spirited risk-taking offers to all.

Genre: Adventure. 80 Minutes. Filmmaker: Ian McCluskey.

People's Choice

Unbranded

Ben Masters sets out to inspire adoptions of the 50,000 wild horses and burros living in government captivity. He recruited three friends and hatched an outrageous plot to adopt, train, and ride a string of mustangs 3,000 miles from the Mexican border to Canada through the wildest terrain of the American West. A story told with spectacular cinematography, *Unbranded* is a soaring drama of danger and self-discovery; an emotionally charged odyssey that shines a bright light on the complex plight of our country's wild horses and wild places.

Genre: Adventure. 105 Minutes. Filmmakers: Phillip Baribeau, Dennis Aig, Fin & Fur Films.

Best Children's Film (Decided by our Kids' Jury)

Worse Than Poop!

Car emissions are worse than poop! In this delightful animated short, an 8-year-old climate scientist and the Green Ninja take on a fleet of pooping cars to save the world. Featuring a flotilla of EVs, trains, bikes, buses, and scooters, *Worse Than Poop!* takes a fresh, humorous, and hopeful approach to the very serious issue of climate change.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 6 Minutes. Filmmaker: Vanessa Warheit.

Kids Film Honorable Mention

Distress Call

After receiving a distress call from the Milky Way galaxy, aliens from the Universe Protection League visit Earth to find that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are reaching dangerous levels. With the help of their super-computer Ziri, the aliens explore the causes and consequences of Earth's changing climate before recruiting a young earthling to help warn his fellow humans.

Genre: Energy/Climate Change/Resources. 15 Minutes. Filmmakers: Taylor Redman, Sean Fleetham, Brooklyn Goosby, Lexi Justus

2017 Wild & Scenic Film Festival Award Winners

People's Choice

In Pursuit of Silence

(Not Available for borrowing)

In our race towards modernity, amidst all the technological innovation and the rapid growth of our cities, silence is now quickly passing into legend. Beginning with an ode to John Cage's seminal silent composition 4'33", the sights and sounds of this film delicately interweave with silence to create a contemplative and cinematic experience that works its way through frantic minds and into the quiet spaces of hearts. As much a work of devotion as it is a documentary, In Pursuit of Silence is a meditative exploration of our relationship with silence, sound, and the impact of noise on our lives.

Genre: Land Preservation. 81 Minutes. Filmmaker: Patrick Shen

Best of Festival

The Island and the Whales

(Not Available for borrowing)

In their remote home in the North Atlantic, the Faroe Islanders have always eaten what nature could provide, proud to put local food on the table. The land yields little, so they have always relied on harvesting their seas. Hunting whales and seabirds kept them alive for generations, and gave them the way of life they love; a life they would pass on to their children. But today they face a grave threat to this tradition. It is not the controversy surrounding whaling that threatens the Faroese way of life; the danger is coming from the whales themselves. One of the first to feel the affects of our ever more polluted oceans, they have discovered that their beloved whales are toxic, contaminated by the outside world. What once secured their survival now endangers their children and the Faroe Islanders must make a choice between health and tradition.

Genre: Environmental Justice. 83 Minutes. Filmmaker: Mike Day

Spirit of Activism

Can You Dig This?

(Not Available for borrowing)

South Los Angeles. What comes to mind is gangs, drugs, liquor stores, abandoned buildings and vacant lots. The last thing that you would expect to find is a beautiful garden sprouting up through the concrete, coloring the urban landscape. As part of an urban gardening movement taking root in South LA, people are planting to transform their neighborhoods and are changing their own lives in the process. Calling for people to put down their guns and pick up their shovels, these "gangster gardeners" are creating an oasis in the middle of one of the most notoriously dangerous places in America. *Can You Dig This?* follows the inspirational journeys of four unlikely gardeners, discovering what happens when they put their hands in the soil. This is not a story of science and economics. This is a story of the human spirit, inspiring people everywhere to pick up their shovels and plant!

Genre: Food. 85 Minutes. Filmmaker: Delila Vallot

Best in Theme

Fractured Land

(Not Available for borrowing)

A coming of age story about a young First Nations lawyer, Caleb Behn, from northern Canada, epicenter of some of the worlds largest fracking operations. Watch as Caleb tries to reconcile the fractures within himself, his community and the world around him - blending modern tools of the law with ancient wisdom.

Genre: Indigenous Perspectives. 80 Minutes. Filmmakers: Damien Gillis, Fiona Rayher

Most Inspiring Adventure Film

Elk River

Scientist Arthur Middleton, photographer Joe Riis, artist James Prosek and filmmaker Jenny Nichols join forces in this documentary that captures the migration of elk in the Yellowstone area through a multidisciplinary lens. For many of the elk herds that summer in Yellowstone National Park, home is outside the protected park boundaries the rest of the year, as far as 70 miles away. Mirroring a similar expedition undertaken in 1871 that fused science and the arts, this modern band of explorers join their ungulate counterparts on a trek from Wyoming's rangeland through snowy mountain passes and treacherous river crossings to the rugged beauty of Yellowstone's high-alpine meadows. Along the way, they meet backcountry guides and cattle ranchers whose lives are intricately tied with the fate of the elk and other migratory species that call the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem home.

Genre: Wildlife. 28 Minutes. Filmmakers: Jenny Nichols, Joe Riis, Arthur Middleton

Best Short

Pangolin

This is an intimate glimpse into the journey of a single pangolin; from the moment it is taken from the wild to its final destination in China. Filmed on location across three countries with the help of reformed poachers and wildlife enforcement officers, the film acts as a surrogate for an estimated hundred thousand pangolins that are poached and smuggled annually throughout Southeast Asia and Africa. This film seeks to inform a broad audience about pangolins and the illegal trade they are central to, in order to address the very real danger that pangolins might be extinct before much of the world ever knew they existed. Filmed with minimal commentary to be as immersive as possible, *Pangolin* offers audiences the opportunity experience the life, death and afterlife of the most illegally trafficked mammal on the planet.

Genre: Wildlife. 13 Minutes. Filmmakers: Katie Schuler, Nick Rogacki

Jury Awards

Boone

Farm founder Mookie Moss and fellow farmers Dana and Zac work relentlessly, sunrise to sundown in order to sustain the fragile balance needed to support the land and animals they care deeply for. Mookie and his crew strive to continue their lifestyle of sustainability and self-reliance, but their passionate dedication is hindered by strict government laws.

Genre: Food. 75 Minutes. Filmmakers: Christopher LaMarca, Katrina Taylor

In Pursuit of Silence

(Not Available for borrowing)

In our race towards modernity, amidst all the technological innovation and the rapid growth of our cities, silence is now quickly passing into legend. Beginning with an ode to John Cage's seminal silent composition 4'33", the sights and sounds of this film delicately interweave with silence to create a contemplative and cinematic experience that works its way through frantic minds and into the quiet spaces of hearts. As much a work of devotion as it is a documentary, In Pursuit of Silence is a meditative exploration of our relationship with silence, sound, and the impact of noise on our lives.

Genre: Land Preservation. 81 Minutes. Filmmaker: Patrick Shen

Student Filmmaker Award

Roshan Patel

Red Wolf Revival

This is the story of the last remaining wild population of red wolves. Centered on the historic recovery effort in Eastern North Carolina, the film documents the multifaceted struggle to reintroduce one of the rarest animals on earth in the face of cultural, economic, and biological challenges in North Carolina.

Genre: Wildlife. 24 Minutes. Filmmakers: Roshan Patel, Nestbox Collective

John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaking Award

David Vassar

(Not Available for borrowing)

Honorable Mentions

Douglas Tompkins: Wild Legacy

Douglas Tompkins was a world-renowned adventurer, entrepreneur, and conservationist. The founder of The North Face and cofounder of Esprit, Doug spent the first half of his life building successful global brands, while simultaneously adventuring around the world, completing first descents of the world's toughest rivers. In 1968 Doug embarked on a trip to Chile, driving with friends from California to the tip of Patagonia. In the early 1990s, Doug sold his part of Esprit and turned his entrepreneurial energies to land and wildlife conservation projects in South America, working alongside his wife, Kristine McDivitt Tompkins, the former CEO of Patagonia, Inc. Over the last 25 years, Tompkins-initiated efforts have helped secure 4.75 million acres in new protected areas in Chile and Argentina including five new national parks. Tragically killed in

a kayaking accident on December 8th, 2015, Wild Legacy tells the story of Doug's incredible life, his lasting impact on the wild landscapes of Patagonia, and Kris and the Tompkins Conservation team's efforts to continue his audacious mission.

Genre: Activism. 16 Minutes. Filmmakers: James Q Martin, Chris Cresci

The Good Mind

Rarely has the Onondaga Nation in central New York State opened its doors to non-Native people. An indigenous sovereign nation that never accepted U.S. citizenship, has its own passport, and still maintains a traditional government led by clanmothers and chiefs, the Central Fire of the Iroquois Confederacy, one of the world's first true democracies, inspired the Founding Fathers. The film's journey reveals the Nation's tireless environmental advocacy, and their legal battle with the U.S. over ancestral land taken by New York State in violation of a 1794 treaty with George Washington. Motivated by ancient prophecies, the Nation seeks environmental stewardship of their sacred land and waters, which have suffered vast degradation by industrial resource extraction and pollution.

Genre: Environmental Justice. 66 Minutes. Filmmakers: Gwendolen Cates

Pickle

Let us reflect on the brief existence of Pickle the fish. Although he could not swim, he was lovingly cared for by a couple that kept him propped up in a sponge. Along with an obese chicken, a cat with a heart condition, and a paraplegic possum, his life is a celebration of man's eternal capacity to care for all creatures. He will be dearly missed.

Genre: Animation | Wildlife. 15 Minutes. Filmmakers: Amy Nicholson

Kids Jury

Best Film: The Gnomist

This true story follows the mysterious appearance of fairy homes in a suburban forest and the magical experience shared by three women.

Genre: Adventure. 20 Minutes. Filmmakers: Sharon Liese, Cynthia Wade, Ty Jones, Jeremy Carr, Samantha Hake