

The Flagstaff 2017 Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour Film Program

The Living Forest

Marc Silver (UK, 2015, 9min)

The Kichwa tribe in the Sarayaku region of the Amazon in Ecuador believe in the ‘living forest,’ where humans, animals and plants live in harmony. They are fighting oil companies who want to exploit their ancestral land. A delegation of indigenous people are at the Paris COP21 climate conference to make sure their voices are heard. Can they win their battle?

Think Like a Scientist: Boundaries

Neil Losin, Nathan Dappen, Day’s Edge Productions (USA, 2016, 7min)

Humans construct boundaries -- around our homes, our neighborhoods, and our nations -- to bring order to a chaotic world. But we rarely consider how these boundaries affect other creatures. Meet conservation photographer Krista Schlyer, who has spent the last seven years documenting the environmental effects of the U.S./Mexico border wall, and biologist Jon Beckmann, who studies how man-made barriers influence the movement of wildlife. Schlyer and Beckmann have seen damaging impacts of the border wall firsthand, but they remain optimistic. Humans probably won’t stop constructing walls and fences any time soon, but planning our boundaries with wildlife in mind can help prevent these structures from causing environmental harm. Winner, Jackson Hole Science Media Awards.

Yellowstone’s Northern Range

Steven M. Bumgardner (USA, 2016, 6min)

The Northern Range is the hub of wildlife in Yellowstone National Park. Occupying just 10 percent of the park, it is winter range for the largest elk herd in Yellowstone and is arguably the most carnivore-rich area in North America. Early predator removal changed the ecosystem and restoration of carnivores has had significant and unexpected impacts on the habitat.

Pangolin

Katie Schuler, Nick Rogacki (Philippines, Indonesia, Hong Kong, USA, 2016, 13min)

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, Pangolin offers audiences the opportunity to experience the life, death and afterlife of the most illegally trafficked mammal on the planet. Panda Award Nominee, Wildscreen FF; Short Film Award Winner, American Conservation FF.

Red Wolf Revival

Roshan Patel, Nestbox Collective (USA, 2015, 24min)

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. Best Short, Conservation Award Intl Wildlife FF; Best Emerging Filmmaker, Jackson Hole Science Media Awards.

Intermission

Our featured film this year is being shown with special permission from the filmmaker, Alan Lacy. It is not an official part of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival 2017 On Tour film program.

Gray Area: Wolves of the Southwest

Alan Lacy (USA, 2017, 50min)

In the American Southwest, a unique species of wolf unlike any other is making a comeback. Considered extinct nearly 40 years ago, the little known Mexican gray wolf has slowly pulled back from the very brink — against all odds. From a founding population of just seven animals, this species has slowly grown to a current wild population of approximately 100, only to face a new threat from within: its own genetics. As part of a bold recovery mission, one lone wolf is given a chance to offer new hope for the survival of her species. In telling this story, narrated by Chris Morgan, “Gray Area” explores whether there can be a balanced and sustainable future where ranchers, conservationists, locals, and biologists alike can coexist with this apex predator.