Festival Overview

The Fish & Wildlife Film Festival at the University of Idaho is dedicated to enhancing knowledge and stewardship of wild nature, including fish and wildlife, the wild landscapes they depend on, and the communities that they sustain.

Through our film festival, we challenge filmmakers at all levels, from K-12 students to university students and professionals, to develop and share dynamic films that excite and engage for the benefit of nature and natural resources.

Films span a broad array of subjects, in the following categories:

- Animal behavior and ecology
- Science and research
- Wildlife-human connections
- "Wild Side" submissions (fun, creative, and unusual formats such as music videos)

Top entries are determined by a panel of judges from the wildlife and creative professions (contact us at cnr-fwff@uidaho.edu if you are interested in becoming a judge for the 2021 festival).
We are excited to offer our first virtual film festival in 2020!

Detailed Program for November 6 and November 13.

Our film festival webinar starts at 6pm Pacific time and runs for ~ 2 hours.

Nov 6 Films

Renewal: Think Like a Scientist

Credits: Directed by Jessica Plumb
Category: Habitat and Ecosystems
Award status: 1st Place
Overview: Featuring an emerging young scientist Cameron Macias from the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Renewal is a heart-warming story of transformation and restoration. Supported by HHMI and Tangled Bank Studios, this short film is part of HHMI's "Think Like A Scientist" series. This short is also a follow-up story to a feature film by the same Producer, Return of the River, chronicling the largest dam removal in history. The feature was recognized with a dozen awards and screened at over 25 festivals. Cameron is currently a PhD student in the Fish and Wildlife Sciences Dept at the University of Idaho.

A Kind of Common Thread

Credits: Directed by Cella Wright
Category: Wild side
Award status: 2nd Place
Overview: In this artistic interpretation of the connections between all forms of life, a cheetah, a pair of ostriches, and an Anna's hummingbird materialize from one common, mischievous thread.

Poachers and Protectors: The Story of Scarlet Macaws in Honduras

Credits: Directed by Christi Lowe
Category: Human-Wildlife Connections
Award status: Official Selection
Overview: In the dangerous La Moskitia region of Honduras, poachers seek out the chicks and eggs of wild scarlet macaws. Their goal: sell them in the lucrative illegal pet trade. To counter the traffickers, brave community members have united to patrol and protect the nests, recognizing that in some ways, their own fates are tied to those of the birds. Poachers and Protectors: The Story of Scarlet Macaws in Honduras puts a spotlight on the wildlife
trafficking crisis in Latin America, but introduces us to some of the heroes who are willing to risk it all for these iconic birds.

The Human
Credits: Directed by Harko Wubs
Category: Wild Side
Award status: 1st Place
Overview: By observing 'the human' in a traditional 'nature-documentary style' and by showing how we get our daily food, questions are being raised about mankind's relation to nature.

Masters of Camouflage
Credits: Directed by Grant Callegari
Category: Ecology and Behavior
Award status: 1st Place
Overview: What superpower would you choose? If you said "invisibility cloak," you’re not alone! The oceans are full of creatures that prefer to remain concealed, and they use all sorts of strategies to stay hidden.

Horse Rich and Dirt Poor
Credits: Directed by Ben Masters and Charles Post
Category: Feature-Length Film
Award status: 1st Place
Overview: Wild horses are caught between an incredibly polarized and emotionally charged debate aiming to write their future in the American West. While some wild horse activists largely want their numbers unbridled, others see wild horses as a resource that needs to be managed. The means by which management may be accomplished are hotly contested. The result of this debate is a legal stalemate causing wild horse numbers to continue rising well beyond unsustainable levels, causing irreversible damage to public lands, range ecosystems, wildlife and horses competing in a hard and increasingly degraded landscape. Horse Rich and Dirt Poor follows ecologist Charles Post as he explores America’s pressing wild horse issue and the effects it has on the surrounding ecosystem.

Helping 6 Species Adapt to Climate Change
Credits: Directed by Lacy Robinson
Category: Habitat and Ecosystems
Award status: Official Selection
Overview: The Idaho Panhandle Bees to Bears Climate Adaptation Project is restoring 250 acres of forested lowland habitat to improve landscape climate resiliency for 6 Species of Greatest Conservation Need on the Boundary-Smith Creek Wildlife Management Area. This
video details specific conservation actions we are taking to help these 6 species adapt to climate change.

Ferret Town

**Credits:** Directed by Virginia Moore, Produced by Virginia Moore and Geoffrey O’Gara, Videographer Kyle Duba

**Category:** Wildlife-human connections

**Award status:** 2nd place

**Overview:** The black-footed ferret was thought to be extinct when a small population was discovered in a remote corner of Wyoming in 1981, setting off an urgent race to recover the species from only 18 animals. This film follows the ongoing efforts of many dedicated individuals to return the black-footed ferret to ranches outside Meeteetse, a small, tight-knit community at the epicenter of the discovery almost 35 years ago. Central to the film is the charismatic mammal itself, both cute and ferocious, a predator that gives meaning to an entire ecosystem. Reared in captivity from the original Meeteese stock, black-footed ferrets have now been released at over 24 sites throughout North America, but they still have a long way to go towards recovery. "Ferret Town" presents one of the best conservation stories in the United States, posing the question- how far will we go to save one species?

Birds In Their Hands

**Credits:** Undergraduate Filmmaker. Directed by Olivia Belluck, Olivia Coleman, and Noah Kane

**Category:** Wildlife-human connections

**Award status:** Official Selection

**Overview:** We have always relied on the resources of nature, using whatever the earth has to offer to push us to be the most successful creature on the planet. Falconry, before it was a sport, was a means for survival, as well as to build the mutual bond between humans and the rest of the planet. While humans no longer rely on falconry for survival, it has still sustained in our culture because it allows us to continue that strong bond with nature. The hope of this film is to remind audiences that that bond is still possible, and how a meaningful relationship with nature can uplift a human life.

The Hart

**Credits:** Directed by Henry Lin

**Category:** Habitat and Ecosystems

**Award status:** Student Winner

**Overview:** The Hart depicts the story of an old Red deer stag in his struggle and determination in preventing rivals from mating with the hinds of his Kingdom. The Hart not only has to worry about the young bachelor herds but also the growing presence of Londoners within his kingdom.
Smart Slime?

**Credits:** Directed by Juliette Martineau  
**Category:** Ecology and Behavior  
**Award status:** Student Winner  
**Overview:** Slime mould is strange in many ways: it’s neither a plant, an animal nor a fungus, but a giant single cell that crawls around eating dead matter. With beautiful and mesmerising time lapse videography, Smart Slime? takes us on a journey though its lifecycle, and introduces us to the quirky work of two high profile slime mould researchers. Building intricate and efficient networks that rival man-made ones and learning by habituation are only some of this creature’s many talents. So can it be considered intelligent?

The Last Green Thread

**Credits:** Directed by Danny Schmidt and Eric Bendick  
**Category:** Feature-Length Film  
**Award status:** Official Selection  
**Overview:** In 2018 three friends set out on an expedition into the most rapidly developing landscape in Central Florida, traveling the narrowest and most imperiled wildlife corridor in the state.

Nutz & Bolts

**Credits:** Sam Avery  
**Category:** Wild Side  
**Award status:** Official Selection  
**Overview:** One pesky squirrel may finally bring Mr. Nutz to his knees...After proudly hanging his brand new bird feeder in the backyard, Mr. Harold Nutz is harassed endlessly by an obnoxious squirrel who wreaks havoc and then bolts! Determined to stop this squirrel, Harold goes to extreme measures to end this madness. FUN FACT: This film is very much based on the real ongoing backyard battle I have with squirrels who will go to incredible lengths to get their filthy paws on my precious bird feeders... DEVIL RODENTS!!!

Pangolin

**Credits:** Directed by Katie Schuler  
**Category:** Human-Wildlife Connections  
**Award status:** Official Selection  
**Overview:** Pangolins are believed to be the most trafficked mammals in the world. As the four Asian species of pangolins have dwindled, poachers are increasingly turning to the African species to supply the trade. In this short film, meet the bold Nigerians who are fighting to protect this gentle and vulnerable creature.
Nov 13 Films

Where Life Begins

**Credits:** Directed by Katie Schuler  
**Category:** Human-Wildlife Connections  
**Award status:** Official Selection  
**Overview:** Along the Arctic Coast, at the northmost point on American soil, we explore the inseparable bond between mother and child, the sacred and fragile moments after birth and the importance of protecting the place "Where Life Begins".

Noor- Queen of Ranthambore

**Credits:** Directed by Porus Khareghat  
**Category:** Ecology and Behavior  
**Award status:** 2nd Place  
**Overview:** NOOR is a short film on the life of a mother Tigress with three female cubs. It is a tribute to her skills of motherhood, loving & caring at the same time a perfect assassin to provide food for four. It shows the true nature of the jungle, survival of the fittest.

The Catch

**Credits:** Directed by Sam Avery  
**Category:** Wild Side  
**Award status:** Official Selection  
**Overview:** Sometimes, it really is just a fish story...Fun Fact #1: When the original owner of the boat featured in the film, a man named Roger Van Patton, decided to sell it to me - he told me he would reduce the price so long as I promised to name the boat after him... I agreed and now this little 17 foot 1989 bowrider officially has the prominent name "The Roger Van Patton" despite being one of the smallest boats in the marina...Fun Fact #2: One calm and peaceful evening, Mitchell Ensman (the fisherman) and I decided to take The Roger Van Patton out for some fishing... However, soon after dropping the anchor up river a tremendous storm blew in from the north. The skies turned instantly black and lightening was striking all around us. Needless to say, we were quick to get out of there... However, for whatever reason, the engine refused to start... In total panic, Mitch and I grabbed for the oars and rowed ourselves back to the marina... By the time we reached the dock, the scene looked like something out of The Perfect Storm with massive waves, pouring rain and thunder/lightening everywhere... Soon after, the local news station that Mitch works for overheard the fateful tale and asked to feature The Roger Van Patton in their weather app promo as an example of "what not to do..."
Markets for Conservation: Reining in the Wild Horse Crisis

Credits: Directed by Holly Fretwell
Category: Habitat and Ecosystems
Award status: Official Selection
Overview: Wild horse and burro populations have skyrocketed and are now more than triple the size that our public landscapes can sustain. On the range, these animals compete for water and forage with other wildlife. The result is that there are too many horses on too little range and many horses are facing starvation. To reduce the degradation, some wild horses and burros are taken off the range and put in federally run holding facilities. Housing the horses and burros cost taxpayers $50 million annually. This is not a sustainable solution. In 2016, PERC researchers came up with the market-based idea of an incentive payment program. Based on this research, the BLM began paying $1,000 for horse or burrow adoptions last March to help cover the expenses associated with caring for them. PERC's latest video in our Markets for Conservation series shares this story and demonstrates how getting the incentives right is key to finding lasting, sustainable solutions to our conservation challenges.

Anegada- Land of the Iguanas

Credits: Directed by Madeleine Westwood
Category: Wildlife-human connections
Award status: 1st place
Overview: With an ancestral lineage that goes back to the Dinosaurs the Anegada Rock Iguana once had a homeland that stretched for thousands of miles but today it is perilously close to extinction. Threatened by invasive species, climate change and land grabbing, the last 300 rock iguanas survive on just 28 sq kilometres of coral and limestone rock. It's an almost impossible challenge but Mickey Young conservationist from the National Parks Trust, Kelly Bradley, scientist at Fort Worth Zoo and the community on Anegada have joined together in a last ditch effort to save the most endangered lizard in the world.

Beauty and the Bees

Credits: Directed by James Bateman
Category: Wildlife-human connections
Award status: Official selection
Overview: For thousands of years flowering plants have captured the imagination of humankind. But in a world where scientific understanding is increasingly allowing their natural beauty to be “enhanced”, their ‘form’ is gradually becoming more important than their ‘function’. With pollinators the world over suffering heavy declines due to habitat loss and pesticide use, can the latest developments in gene-editing technology provide an opportunity to alter flowers in a way that helps, rather than hinders, this extremely important group of animals?
When roads meet wildlife migration paths

Credits: Directed by Katrina Bellefeuille
Category: Habitat and Ecosystems
Award status: Official Selection
Overview: For centuries, animals have migrated in and out of Yellowstone. These days they have to deal with roads crossing their paths. Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) is proud to support Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation and Teton Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in our shared mission to make roads safer for people and wildlife — from elk to moose, bears to deer and more.

Golden

Credits: Directed by Charles Post
Category: Wildlife-Human Connections
Award status: Official Selection
Overview: Peering out her tall bedroom windows to the highway below, Caitlin Davis dreamed of life as an ecologist. When she saw mountains for the first time on a backpacking trip after college, her fate was sealed. Today, in Idaho’s demanding sagebrush country, the raptor biologist spends her days rappelling into golden eagle nests studying how human impact affects their reproduction and productivity.

To BOLDly Go

Credits: Directed by Josh Silberg and Katrina Pyne
Category: Science and Research
Award status: 2nd Place
Overview: Space may be the final frontier, and yet we still have light years to go before we fully understand the rich diversity of life at home. The current mission? Catalog all of Earth's multicellular lifeforms—tens of millions of species—in one giant DNA library. Imagine this: just as you would scan a cereal box's barcode at the grocery store, the same thing could be done with any plant or animal's DNA to find out its species. It may sound like science fiction, but scientists around the world are working toward that reality. Their goal? To create an international barcode of life! So just how are scientists stocking the library's shelves? Come with us to British Columbia and California to find out!

The Bee Rescuer

Credits: Directed by Bidit Roy
Category: Human-Wildlife Connections
Award status: Official Selection
Overview: Bees are some of the hardest working creatures on the planet, and because of their laborious work ethic, we owe many thanks to this amazing yet often underappreciated insect. Amit Godse, popularly known as Bee Man, has been relentlessly saving honey bees in
urban India since 2013. He is the founder of a social enterprise ‘Bee Basket’ which works towards conserving bees, training people in beekeeping and raw honey distribution.

**The Sixth Extinction**

**Credits:** Directed by Klopas Oey  
**Category:** Wild Side  
**Award status:** Student Winner  
**Overview:** This animation aims to raise the awareness of animal protection as scientists widely consent that human activity is accelerating the extinction of many animal species. Different scenes are created in this animation to depict those human activities such as the destruction of habitats, the overhunting of animals, and the elimination of species that humans view as threats or competitors. A mass extinction might take many thousands of years to play out and we may not see its devastating outcome in our lifetime, but the current rate of extinction is 10 to 100 times higher than in any of the previous mass extinctions in the history of Earth. There is no dispute that humans are responsible for the elevated extinction rates we see now, will humans be the victim under our own bullets?

**The Puddle**

**Credits:** Directed by Rob Tiffin  
**Category:** Wildlife-Human Connections  
**Award status:** Official Selection  
**Overview:** The intricacies of life in a puddle are revealed as time unfolds through a season, and so much is going on in and around this single body of water.

**(Re)Connecting Wild**

**Credits:** Directed by Jake Willers  
**Category:** Feature length (10-16 min)  
**Award status:** Official Selection  
**Overview:** (Re)Connecting Wild tells the remarkable story of the decade-long effort by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and its partners to improve human safety by re-connecting a historic mule deer migration that crosses over both US-93 and I-80 in rural Elko County, Nevada. Witness the wildlife crossing structures along I-80 from construction to the restoration of safe passage for migratory mule deer to more than 1.5 million acres of summer and winter habitat.

**Reef Revolution**

**Credits:** Directed by Rebecca Pratt  
**Category:** Human-Wildlife Connections  
**Award status:** Student Winner  
**Overview:** An undocumented reef, 11km offshore of Pātea, New Zealand, has captured the curiosity and passion of a dedicated team and their local community. Follow in this
sentimental journey, as the younger generation join 'Project Reef Life' team members in their journey of ocean discovery, and in turn surprise an older generation about life under their local ocean. Featuring interviews with Karen (Joint Project Lead), Josh (Marine scientist) and Oliver (Student).

Flying With Spider Monkeys

**Credits:** Directed by Luis Palomino Benítez and Molly Ferrill
**Category:** Science and Research
**Award status:** 1st place

**Overview:** Habitat encroachment and trafficking for the pet trade threaten the spider monkey population in Southern Mexico. Conservation scientist Denise Spaan and her team are exploring a new way to detect and count the monkeys using drones with thermal cameras. Through their research, they discover that algorithms that use astrophysicists will be a breakthrough for the conservation and preservation of the species.