



FISH & WILDLIFE

Film Festival



Fridays, April 16 & 23, 6:00 pm

YouTube Premier, followed by Q&A with film makers

To register, please visit uidaho.edu/fwff

Students and under 18 free
Suggested \$10 donation for others



University of Idaho
College of Natural Resources

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:

- Feature Length
- Animal Behavior and Ecology
- Science and Research
- Habitat and Ecosystems
- Wildlife-Human Connections
- "Wild Side" submissions (fun, creative, and unusual formats such as music videos, but should still be about wildlife)

Top entries are determined by a panel of judges from the wildlife and creative professions (please contact us if you are interested in becoming a judge for next year's festival at cnr-fwff@uidaho.edu). The top 2 entries and the best student film from each of the 4 categories will be screened at our festival along with other official selections as screen time allows.

This year, we are excited to offer our festival virtually, as a way to share these amazing wildlife stories with more people than ever before, and to connect film-makers and professionals with learners of all ages in a safe way during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Although this will allow us to connect as never before, we also can't wait to welcome you all again to our in-person festival at the Kenworthy Theatre in Downtown Moscow, ID in 2022.

Please register to attend the virtual Film Festival premieres on [April 16th](#) and [April 23rd](#). After registering, you will receive a YouTube link for the premiere one day in advance. You can use the link to view the films any time after the premiere. Additionally, you will also be sent a Zoom link for the Filmmaker Q & A that will be held after each premiere. The Film Festival is free for all K-12 and University students but we recommend a \$10 donation for other adults. You can make your donation [here](#), under designation pick Fish and Wildlife Film Festival.

Learn more at: www.uidaho.edu/fwff

Awards by Category

Feature Film

- *Unbroken: Saving Belize's Jaguar Corridor*, Directed by Brandon Thompson, **1st Place**
- *Protect People, Protect Bats, Avoid Rabies!* Directed by David McGowan and Ravenswood Media, Inc., **2nd Place**
- *Sagebrush Steppe: A Beautiful Secret*, Directed by Sacha Wells, **Student Winner**

Animal Behavior and Ecology

- *Those in Grass Houses*, Directed by Christian Lawes, **1st Place**
- *Blue-Ringed Octopus*, Directed by Catrin Pichler, **2nd Place**
- *Painted Ladies*, Directed by Megan Brown, **Student Winner**

Science and Research

- *University of Wyoming Toad Research*, Directed by Mason Lee, **1st Place**

Habitat and Ecosystems

- *Now I am an Axolotol*, Directed by Alejandra Medellín, **1st Place**
- *A Word of Warning*, Directed by Yaz Ellis, **Official Selection**

Wildlife-Human Connections

- *The Flying Gold of Arabuko*, Directed by John Davies, **1st Place**
- *The Common Ground*, Directed by Conor Ferris, **2nd Place**
- *Flying Barn Doors*, Directed by Jake Davison, **Student Winner**
- *Life in the Buffer Zone*, Directed by Constantinos Christou, **Official Selection**
- *Los Monos*, Directed by Jessica Mills, **Official Selection**
- *Red Maasai Heritage*, Directed by Fiona Tande, **Official Selection**
- *Sons of the Savanna*, Directed by Paula Webster, **Official Selection**

Wild Side

- *The Running of the Bulls*, Directed by Dustin Masin, **1st Place**
- *Salt of Life - Explore the Azores*, Directed by Robert Schröder and Lennart Rossenfeld, **2nd Place**
- *Of Water*, Directed by Alexa Velez, **Student Winner**

Congratulations to all! *Thank you* to all the filmmakers who submitted films to our 2021 University of Idaho Fish and Wildlife Film Festival. Are you working on a film about fish and wildlife? Consider submitting your film to the 2022 Film Festival!



Program for Live Screenings

Night 1, Friday, April 16th

Those in Grass Houses

Credits: Christian Lawes (*Director, Producer*)

Category: Animal Behavior and Ecology

Award Status: 1st Place

Panelist: No

Overview: Those in Grass Houses explores the complex and fascinating lives of one of Africa's most compelling bird species – the Sociable Weaver. Their nests, the largest in the world, envelop the acacia trees they hang from in the arid savannah of Southern Africa. The nests are home to hundreds of individuals across many generations and this film delves into the highs and lows of living in a tightly knit community of such scale. This society demands cooperation as well as conflict; but ultimately, their strong family bonds will have to tolerate more than just internal rivalry to overcome their most dangerous threat.

Blue-Ringed Octopus

Credits: Catrin Pichler (*Director*)

Category: Animal Behavior and Ecology

Award Status: 2nd Place

Panelist: No

Overview: The Blue-Ringed Octopus is highly venomous. But he's small and friendly and it's amazing watching him when he performs his flashing rings.

Sons of the Savanna

Credits: Paula Webster (*Director, Producer*), Michael Webster (*Writer*)

Category: Wildlife-Human Connections

Award Status: Official Selection

Panelist: Yes

Overview: Traditional ranching methods in Los Llanos of Colombia help protect a rare bird

Connect: [Website](#) [Facebook](#)

Salt of Life - Explore the Azores

Credits: Robert Schröder (*Director, Writer, Producer*), Lennart Rossenfeld (*Director, Writer, Producer*), Anna von Boetticher, Lukas Müller, and Alois Maurizi (*Freedivers*)

Category: Wild-Side

Award Status: 2nd Place

Panelist: No

Overview: Salt of life is a film about the high biodiversity and beauty of the islands of the Azores. Several divers are exploring the underwater world... on their way they're get into beautiful encounters with sharks, dolphins and massive bait balls.

Connect: [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

The Common Ground

Credits: Conor Ferris (*Director*)

Category: Wildlife-Human Connections

Award Status: 2nd Place

Panelist: No

Overview: Java, Indonesia once produced so much coffee that the island's name became synonymous with the product. When deforestation and monocultures lead to landslides and failed crops, a small collective of coffee farmers change their ways to benefit both the forest and the farms.

Sagebrush Steppe: A Beautiful Secret

Credits: Sacha Wells (*Director, Writer, Producer*), Janet Rachlow and Courtney Conway (*Key Cast*)

Category: Feature Film

Award Status: Student Winner

Panelist: Yes

Overview: A documentary short film about the sagebrush steppe habitat. Learn about the ecology, history, and conservation of this ecosystem.

Now I am an Axolotl

Credits: Alejandra Medellín (*Director, Writer, Producer*), Emilio De La Vega (*Editor*), Particio Aguilar (*Post Production*), Santiago Azuela (*Director of Photography*), David Montero (*Sound Mixing and Design*) Laura Aguilar (*Location Sound*), Horacio Mena, Fernando Gual-Sill, Elsa Valiente, and Luis Zambrano (*Key Cast*)

Category: Habitat and Ecosystems

Award Status: 1st Place

Panelist: Yes

Overview: The Xochimilcan Axolotl is an endemic species to Mexico City. It's currently critically endangered because of water pollution issues. Even though it's a tiny animal, it's extinction would affect us all. "Now I'm an Axolotl" tells the story of the demise of the Axolotl, consequences and possible solutions.

Flying Barn Doors

Credits: Jake Davison (*Director*)

Category: Wildlife-Human Connections

Award Status: Student Winner

Panelist: No

Overview: Flying Barn Doors examines our changing relationship with nature and wildlife through the story of the White-Tailed Eagle in Scotland. Once revered among ancient cultures, the rise of agriculture and industry led to their complete eradication from Britain. With the eagles now thriving on the Isle of Mull, following their reintroduction in the 1970s, they have again come into conflict with man. In a world where our climate hangs in the balance, can we learn to coexist with predators once more?

The Flying Gold of Arabuko

Credits: John Davies (*Director, Producer*)

Category: Wildlife-Human Connections

Award Status: 1st Place

Panelist: No

Overview: The Flying Gold of Arabuko is the living story of ‘the butterfly effect’. It follows the practise of butterfly catchers and famers in Kenya and how it has become an unlikely saviour of the last and largest indigenous forest of the East African Coast. It is told through the perspective of an ex-illegal logger and poacher, Charo Ngumbao. Like many others in the area, he has left his past exploitative livelihood behind and discovered the benefits of forest conservation through sustainable farming butterflies to supply tropical butterfly houses around the world.

Night 2, Friday, April 23rd

University of Wyoming Toad Research

Credits: Mason Lee (*Director, Writer Producer*), Bryce Tugwell (*Producer*), Rachel Arrick (*Key Cast*)

Category: Science and Research

Award Status: 1st Place

Panelist: No

Overview: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and University of Wyoming researchers released hundreds of endangered Wyoming toads into the wild June 2020. PhD student Rachel Arrick shares how her research will help us better protect this extinct-in-the-wild species.

Connect: [Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

A World of Warming

Credits: Yaz Ellis (*Producer, Writer, Camera*), Jack Mifflin (*Editor, Camera*), Sinead Cooper (*Colourist*), James Spooner (*Dubbing*)

Category: Habitat and Ecosystems

Award Status: Official Selection

Panelist: No

Overview: The charismatic and gorgeous Mountain hare live in the Cairngorms of Scotland. They depend on winter's snow but on a warming planet things are not as they should be...

Connect: [Instagram](#)

The Running of the Bulls

Credits: Dustin Masin (*Director, Producer, Writer*)

Category: Wild-Side

Award Status: 1st Place

Panelist: No

Overview: The Running of the Bulls is an attention grabbing, informational release about a native Idaho fish species. The intent of the video is to bring awareness to the public about Bull Trout and highlight a vulnerable period of their life history: spawning.

Red Maasai Heritage

Credits: Fiona Tande (*Director, Producer*), Tony Wild (*Writer*), Alfred Shungur (*Narrator, Key Cast*)

Category: Wildlife-Human Connections

Award Status: Official Selection

Panelist: Yes

Overview: This story explores the unique relationship Maasais have with the color red and how this influences how they interact with their environment as well as the wildlife/human aspects of their culture.

Connect: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

Of the Water

Credits: Alexa Velez (*Director, Dancer, Choreographer, Music and Sound, Editing*), Jamie Castano (*Electric Guitar*), Ryan Erickson, Lauren Parker, Andrew Smith, and Amanda Velez (*Voice Actors*)

Category: Wild-Side

Award Status: Student Winner

Panelist: Yes

Overview: "Of the Water" is a short experimental film that explores a longing to drown out the ambient noise of the surrounding environment by submerging the imagination in an underwater reverie evoked by movement and sound. Through dance and music, I examine our disconnect from the natural world, engaging with the element of water from a physical and emotional perspective.

Life in the Buffer Zone

Credits: Constantinos Christou (*Director, Producer, Camera, Editor*), Nicholas Ioizou (*Additional Footage*), Haris Nicolaou (*Additional Footage, Scientific Responsible*)

Category: Wildlife-Human Connections

Award Status: Official Selection

Panelist: Yes

Overview: Deneia is one of the 4 villages of Cyprus that are completely in the dead zone after the Turkish invasion in Cyprus in 1974. At a short distance from the village there is the prehistoric settlement of Deneia, where the carved tombs of the cemetery contributed to the rapid growth of the rodent population. These rodents afflicted the community in agricultural and livestock work as well as being a source of infection and disease. Now the community is using a biological way to fight rodents; Barn Owls have replaced the use of harmful rodenticides.

Connect: [Website](#)

Protect People, Protect Bats, Avoid Rabies!

Credits: David McGowan (*Director, Writer*), Ravenswood Media, Inc. (*Director, Producer*), Rita D. Dixon, Mark L. Drew, and Leslie Tengelsen (*Writer, Key Cast*), Idaho Department of Fish and Game (*Producer*), Ryan MacLaren Wallace and Kate Rugroden (*Key Cast*)

Category: Feature Film

Award Status: 2nd Place

Panelist: Yes

Overview: This short film explains the connection between human health, bat health, and the environment and how best to avoid a rabies exposure. Bats are experiencing unprecedented threats from white-nose syndrome and wind energy. We lose over 25,000 bats each year in the United States to rabies testing. Learn how to live safely with bats while increasing your awareness of rabies prevention.

Connect: [YouTube](#)

Los Monos

Credits: Jessica Mills (*Director, Producer*)

Category: Wildlife-Human Connections

Award Status: Official Selection

Panelist: No

Overview: A short documentary film which explores Gibraltar's tourism and the impact it has on their Barbary Macaques, the only free roaming monkeys in Europe.

Painted Ladies

Credits: Megan Brown (*Director, Producer*)

Category: Animal Behavior and Ecology

Award Status: Student Winner

Panelist: No

Overview: One of nature's most extraordinary journeys begins with a tiny blue egg. The film will take you on a journey with the creature inside this blue egg as it undergoes the most mysterious transformation found in nature; metamorphosis.

Unbroken: Saving Belize's Jaguar Corridor

Credits: Brandon Thompson (*Director, Writer, Editor*), Jose Gabriel Noguez (*Director of Photography*), Elma Kay (*Producer, Key Cast*), Karen Wood and Howard Quigley (*Producer, Panthera*), Bar Harmsen, Rey Cal, Omar Figueroa, and Jaime Awe (*Key Cast*)

Category: Feature Film

Award Status: 1st Place

Panelist: Yes

Overview: A university professor, a jaguar researcher, a cabinet minister and a Mayan ranger come together to save one of the last critical jaguar habitats in Belize. This film, created with the generous support of Panthera, is currently being used to raise funds for a land purchase in Central Belize.

Connect: [Website](#)

Discussion Panelists

Night 1: Friday, April 16th

Richard Webster

Film: *Sons of the Savanna*

Executive Producer

Biography: Dr. Richard Webster is clinical researcher, amateur photographer and executive producer for Living Wild In South America. Dr. Webster's research on child health often involves 1) utilizing health administrative data, 2) making science more impactful and cost effective with improved statistical power analysis, and 3) developing sustainable healthcare solutions. When not data crunching, he can be found outside spending time in nature.



Sacha Wells

Film: *Sagebrush Steppe: A Beautiful Secret*

Director, Writer, Producer

Biography: Sacha was born and raised in Idaho, living in southern Idaho as a child and moving to northern Idaho with her husband. She has had a passion for animals and nature all her life and has channeled that love into a degree in ecology and conservation biology from the University of Idaho. She hopes to pursue a career in environmental education through film making.

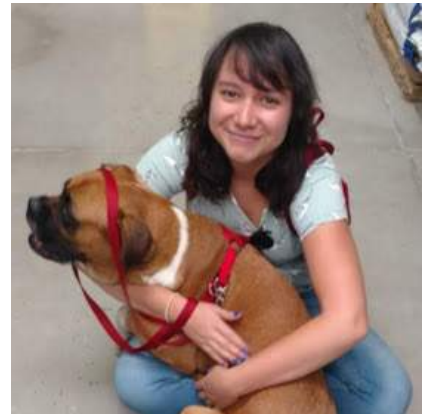


Ale Medellín

Film: *Now I am an Axolotl*

Director, Writer, Producer

Biography: Alejandra was born in Mexico City. She began working in documentary filmmaking as assistant director in the short film 400 Meters, selected in 10 festivals. Her passion for biology took her closer to researching the biggest ecosystems in Mexico, amongst which is Xochimilco, where she fell in love with the Axolotls. Alejandra believes that all ecological problems are larger than believed, and by documenting



Night 2: Friday, April 23rd

Fiona Tande

Film: *Red Maasai Heritage*

Director, Producer

Biography: Fiona Tande is a wildlife conservationist turned wildlife filmmaker. She is born and based in Kenya and is parlaying her experience in the conservation world into the filming world in order to promote the stories of the wild continent she hails from (Africa) from a local perspective.



Alexa Velez

Film: *Of the Water*

Director, Editor, Dancer, Choreographer, Music and Sound

Biography: In 2017, Alexa Vélez graduated from the University of North Florida (UNF), where she received two undergraduate degrees: a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in photography and a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in film studies. At UNF, she was a recipient of the Outstanding Graduating Senior Award in the field of photography. Alexa is currently a Chancellor's Fellow in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis, where she will complete her Master of Fine Arts degree in Visual Art this spring.



Constantinos Christou

Film: *Life in the Buffer Zone*

Director, Producer, Editor, Camera

Biography: Constantinos Christou is a filmmaker from Cyprus, who studied Film at Plymouth College of Art. He participated in various filmmaking projects as well as numerous photoshoots, both professionally and independently. These include works assigned by Microsoft Cyprus, TEDx Limassol, Plymouth College of Art, Plymouth Citybus and Erasmus Student Network. The projects ranged from event highlights, promotional videos, documentaries, short films to commercials and time lapses. His work has been recognized from numerous Film festivals across the USA, Caribbean, France, Cyprus, China, Hong Kong, Spain, Italy and Poland. Furthermore he is a member of IAWF (International Association of Wildlife Filmmakers), GTC (The Guild of Television and Camera Professionals), the NHN (Natural History Network) and the DGC (Directors Guild of Cyprus). Constantinos is currently focusing on wildlife filmmaking and natural history videography.



David McGowan

Film: *Protect People, Protect Bats, Avoid Rabies!*

Director, Writer

Biography: David McGowan is an Academy Award nominated filmmaker. His company, Ravenswood Media, was established to advance conservation and environmental initiatives. Dave became involved with the White-nose Syndrome response shortly after the disease first hit bat populations in 2008. His role is to assist government agencies and conservation organizations with their messaging goals.

His current project is a documentary on the emergence of the Anthropocene Epoch and how to confront its impact on the Earth.



Rita Dixon

Film: *Protect People, Protect Bats, Avoid Rabies!*

Writer, Key Cast

Biography: Rita Dixon is State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, where she works to conserve at-risk species and the habitats they depend on. Rita believes that all conservation depends on relationships and that each of us has a role in protecting our land, air, and water; wildlife; and way of life. She is a Certified Public Manager® with over 34 years of experience in the wildlife field and holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Natural Resources from the University of Idaho, a Master of Science in Wildlife Resources from the same institution, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of California, Riverside. Although Rita’s early formal training and graduate work were in ornithology, she has been working with bats for 21 years, including the captive care and rehabilitation of sick and injured bats. She strives to raise awareness for bat conservation while increasing appreciation for these often-misunderstood animals.



Mark Drew

Film: *Protect People, Protect Bats, Avoid Rabies!*

Writer, Key Cast

Leslie Tengelsen

Film: *Protect People, Protect Bats, Avoid Rabies!*

Writer, Key Cast

Biography: Dr. Tengelsen is the State Public Health Veterinarian and senior level epidemiologist, working at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare since 1998. She focuses her work on protecting people from zoonotic diseases, such as rabies. Zoonotic diseases are infections that can be acquired from animals and animal products. She has a PhD in Microbiology from Oregon State University and a DVM from Michigan State University. She was an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention prior to coming to Idaho.



Kate Rugroden

Film: *Protect People, Protect Bats, Avoid Rabies!*

Key Cast

Brandon Thompson

Film: *Unbroken: Saving Belize's Jaguar Corridor*

Director, Writer

Biography: Brandon Thompson is a self-taught short documentary filmmaker who got his start working in GoPro's Cause media division, which leveraged the company's mighty brand power to raise money for nonprofit organizations. Brandon started his own company, Story House, which supports nonprofits and cause-based organizations by telling meaningful, heartfelt stories. Brandon enjoys every aspect of filmmaking, and is an adept writer, director, shooter, and post production specialist



Jose Gabriel Noguez

Film: *Unbroken: Saving Belize's Jaguar Corridor*

Cinematographer

Biography: Gabriel was born and raised in Tijuana, México. He studied cinema and media arts at UCLA. He worked at MTV and GoPro as an editor. He's a cofounder of the multi-media company named Ceremony. He currently works as a Sr. Media Producer at the Hammer Museum while teaching a video class at his alma-matter UCLA.



Karen Wood**Film:** *Unbroken: Saving Belize's Jaguar Corridor***Producer, Director of Global Policy at Panthera**

Biography: Karen Wood is Sr. Director of Global Policy at Panthera, a conservation non-profit focused on the recovery of wild cat populations around the world. She leads the development of Panthera's science-based policy positions and its strategy for shaping international conservation policy through the lens of wild cats. From 2015-2020, she was Panthera's Sr. Director of Communications. Before returning to the non-profit world in 2009, Karen spent 11 years as a vice president at CNET Networks, the pioneering technology media company that was acquired by CBS in 2008. During her tenure in both external and internal-facing communications roles, Karen helped to grow CNET from a just-gone-public, 200-person start-up to one of the highest valued and most visited Internet media companies in the world. A graduate of Vassar, Karen began her career at the March of Dimes and has pursued mission-driven work consistently as an employee, volunteer and board member. She lived in London, San Francisco and Boston before returning to her native New York.

