2020 CURATED PROGRAM: Saving Places



Rocky Intertidal Zones

Filmed on the stunning Oregon Coast, this short film follows a 7-year-old boy as he explores rocky intertidal zones. Prehistoric creatures and art materials further inspire musings about ancient and present day life.



In Your Hands

Visceral imagery, emotional score, and a powerful speech by John F. Kennedy underscore a timeless theme: we come from the sea. 'In Your Hands' invites viewers to look inward and rediscover our connection with - and responsibility to - the natural world.



Wild Possibilities

This film highlights unique conservation efforts of 5 different land trusts in Oregon to help show and explain their value to their local communities.



Fighting Fire With Fire

In an effort to restore the role of Native people as land stewards and mitigate the threat of wildfires, UC-Davis professor Beth Rose Middleton Manning fires up a hands-on lesson in cultural burning. Tribal Chairman Ron Goode leads students in an immersive experience preparing the land, igniting the fire, and carrying out indigenous traditions that have restored California landscapes for centuries.



Meadows – Yosemite Nature Notes

Yosemite National Park has over 3,000 meadows, which hold the greatest diversity of plant and animal species despite only making up 3% of the park. In just the past 150 years, people have negatively impacted these fragile ecosystems. Yosemite National Park, with the help of Yosemite Conservancy, is working hard to rehabilitate these meadows that are an important part of the park's natural and cultural history.



There's Something in the Water

Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in Texas, but its delicate eco-system is threatened by a seemingly unstoppable invasive species of floating fern: Giant Salvinia. There's Something in the Water is an 8-minute animated documentary featuring interviews with people who live and work on the lake, demonstrating the damage that has been caused, and how everyone can work together to try and fix it.



Land Without Evil

Throughout history, people have always been searching for a perfect place. This short film, based on Guaraní mythology (Tierra sin mal), offers another point of view on paradise: what is the real paradise is inside us and lies in the harmony and unity of everything alive?

















Mi Mamá

Nadia Mercado grew up in a working-class community with her single mother, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, and three sisters. In this film, Nadia recounts the ways that her mother helped shape the woman she is today: a cardiac nurse, an outdoor athlete, and a woman who is dedicated to helping the Latinx and POC outdoor communities.

In Celebration of Open Space

Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park pursues collaborative solutions to critical environmental problems through discovery and learning. In 2018, we worked with organizations and volunteers from Maine, the United States, and more than 19 different countries to enhance our understanding of the land and seascapes of Acadia National Park and surrounding areas. After volunteers spent time outside walking, observing, and recording data, we asked, what does open space mean to you?

A Bird in the Hand

Birds amaze us with flight, song, and beauty, but their abundance in North America has declined by almost a third in the past 50 years. A team of committed volunteers is working together at Empire Mine State Historic Park to understand local songbird populations and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards

Love, Trails & Dinosaurs

This heartwarming film tells the story of the first person with autism to hike every trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Garan Moore. His mother, Theresa, shares their story of a journey for weight loss that developed into a passion for hiking - and 900 miles later...one historic achievement

Insect Guardian – Butterfly Paradise

82-year-old Willem bought a remote potato farm field back in 1980 and transformed it into a butterfly paradise. For almost 40 years, he has worked the land with shovel and scythe in order to preserve the butterflies. Willem's paradise has become one of the most important habitats in the region for these fluttering beauties. But Willem has a problem. Due to an overload of nitrogen in the air, Willem's flower-rich butterfly paradise gets slowly driven away by a monoculture of grass. Butterflies that used to be common just a few decades ago are rare these days or have completely disappeared.

Wild Toddler Chronicles: Legacy

With an endless supply of fruit snacks, plenty of extra underwear and a pile of old photographs, two parents set out to retrace the

route of an old adventure, this time with a two-year-old in tow, hoping to inspire the next generation to care about wild places.

I Am Public Lands

Being a veteran who continues to battle with frequent PTSD is exhausting; so Soul River Inc. is bringing both diverse youth and veterans into the natural resource conversations centered around environmental challenges. Soul River youth of diverse backgrounds learn at an early age that they can form their own opinions about public land, while escaping the city for a long weekend in the wild Ochoco mountains.

The Saving Places curated program presents films that demonstrate the urgent necessity to protect and preserve our wild places. From the coast to the mountains to the desert to alpine meadows, all of these places are crucial to the harmony of our planet and ecosystem. The films in this program explore a variety of those places and present solutions for the problems that are plaguing them and throwing them out of balance. Total run time 1 hour, 49 minutes.