



International Wildlife Film Festival 48

2025 Community Impact Report



Photo by Josh Taira

IWFF 48 by the numbers.

BOX OFFICE

4 venues

The Roxy Theater, The Wilma, The Dennison Theatre, The University of Montana UC Theater.

48 community sponsors

3,181 attendees

2,060 students

from across Western Montana experienced the IWFF youth matinee screenings for free thanks to support from community sponsors.

43 volunteers

who gave 122 hours of their time.

PROGRAMMING

- 297 Film submissions
- 79 Film selections
- 18 Feature films
- 56 Short films
- 5 Series
- 26 Filmmakers & guests
- 6 Countries represented by visiting filmmakers¹
- 3 Judges
- 28 Post-film discussions
- 22 Film premieres²
- 53 Films in the virtual festival

¹ United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, India

² 9 World premieres, 6 North American premieres, 4 US premieres, 3 Montana premieres

“Since its founding by the legendary bear biologist Chuck Jonkel, the **International Wildlife Film Festival** has served as an illuminating, inspiring source of conservation storytelling that champions species of all stripes and sizes. Given our shared roots in the bear world and our shared desire to build connections between conservation-minded people and between people and the natural world, Vital Ground is proud to sponsor this important and uplifting event that makes the Earth more healthy and whole.”

—Matt Hart, Communications Director, Vital Ground Foundation



Photo by Josh Taira

Some IWFF event highlights.

WildWalk Parade & WildFest

More than 4,000 community members walked, slithered and hopped down Higgins Ave. 18 WildFest vendors participated.

Lost Wolves of Yellowstone

759 attendees at The Wilma.

Featuring the director and producer, Tom Winston & editor Avela Grenier.

A Balancing Act: New Threats to Recovering Endangered Species – Salmon, Wolves, and Grizzlies

An Evening with IWFF and the University of Montana Wildlife Biology Program. Free public event.

Featuring Tom Murphy, Will Rice, and Amanda Foster.

The Americas – The Wild West & Animal Wonders

Family-friendly event.

Special animal presentation following the screening.

Coral Sea + Music Time with SISBRO

Family-friendly event

Special presentation from the creators of the popular show, *Get Your Feet Wet!*

Featuring Laura Sams and Robert Sams.



Photo by Prisma West

IWFF 48 Award Winners

Best of Fest — *Lost Wolves of Yellowstone*

Best Feature — *Out of Plain Sight*

Best Short — *The Last Observers*

Best Short Short — *On the 8th Day*

Best Series — *Ireland's Wild Islands*

Best Animal Behavior Program — *Animal Pride*

Best Living with Wildlife Program — *The Shepherd and the Bear*

Best Wildlife Conservation Program — *The Little Brown Bird*

Best New Vision Program — *Wander Alone*

Best Sustainable Planet Program — *Frozen Frames: Murphy's Yellowstone*

Best Youth Program — *Tule*

Best Student Film — *Even So*

Special Jury Award — *Birdsong*

"I was so honored to have my film selected for **IWFF** this year, and even more so to be able to attend in person. The festival was set in Missoula, and it was so wonderful to see the sense of community around it. The team behind it at **The Roxy** were amazing, and made it feel like home. The curation was excellent - and I ended up watching several films each day! I truly left a bit of my heart in Missoula."

—Taira Malaney, Director of *Turtle Walker*, Goa, India



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International Wildlife Film Festival 48

**Thank you for helping to make this year's festival such a success.
We look forward to seeing you next year.**

**IWFF 49 submissions open November 1, 2025
IWFF 49 will be held April 18–23, 2026.**

 wildlifefilms.org

 [@wildlifefilmfest](https://www.instagram.com/wildlifefilmfest)