



International Wildlife Film Festival 49

2026 Community Impact Report



IWFF 49 by the numbers.

2610 attendees across **3** venues

288 films submitted ▶ **68** films accepted ▶ 17 features
47 shorts
4 series

30 filmmakers from **4** countries ▶ Canada
Japan
United Kingdom
United States

19 filmmaker Q&As ▶ 13 in-person
3 live video
3 pre-recorded

51 premieres ▶ 35 Montana premieres
4 US premieres
7 North American premieres
5 World premieres

29 volunteers gave **91** hours



International
Wildlife Film
Festival 49

Youth Matinees

2,476
attendees

from **28**
schools

■ Furthest traveled ►

Dixon (45 miles)
Corvallis (45 miles)
Stevensville (30 miles)
Arlee (28 miles)

620
students received
transportation scholarships



“IWFF has the best vibe! This was our second time attending. It has quickly become one of our favorite film festivals, and we were incredibly honored to have our short film, **Speaking Eep! included in this year's selections!**

Communication and hospitality are always top notch at this fest. They take excellent care of attending filmmakers, and we were able focus on enjoying the festival and meeting fellow filmmakers and other members of the local community. Can't wait to return!”

—JinYoung Jayson, Director, Speaking Eep!

A background image showing a group of people, including a man in a blue jacket, looking at a large open book on a wooden table. The book features detailed illustrations of various animals, such as a deer and a bird. The scene is dimly lit, with warm light coming from the book and the people's faces.

IWFF Special Events

Wildlife Art Gallery

Wildlife-themed drawings, paintings, sculptures, prints, and photography by seven local artists displayed throughout the festival.

Wildlife Trivia at OddPitch Brewing

A rousing evening of wildlife trivia corresponding with the release of our festival beer, Coelacanth.

WildWalk Parade & WildFest

More than 4,000 community members walked, slithered and hopped down Higgins Ave. Accompanied by 16 vendors at WildFest.

Opening Night Party

IWFF filmmakers, staff, and guests gathered to celebrate the beginning of festival week.

A Wilder Way Forward: UM Wildlife Biology Event

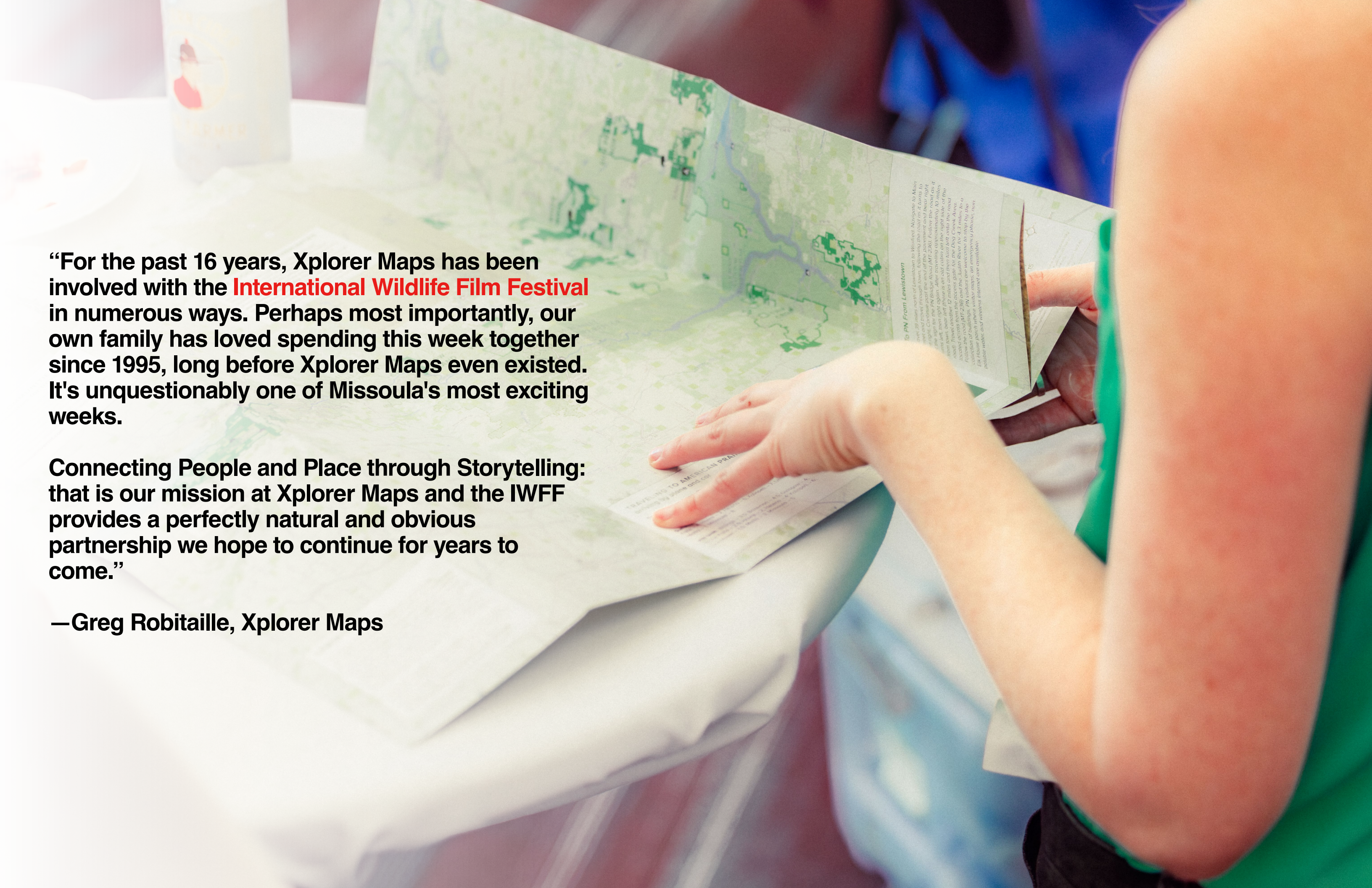
An evening of film screenings and a panel discussion focused on rewilding.

Closing Night Social

A final gathering to say goodbye and cheers to a successful fest.

Family-Friendly Programming

Student film showcase and live-animal presentation by Animal Wonders.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand pointing at a map spread out on a table. The map shows a green landscape with a river and some buildings. The person is wearing a green shirt. In the background, there is a white bag with a logo that says "XPLORER".

“For the past 16 years, Xplorer Maps has been involved with the **International Wildlife Film Festival in numerous ways. Perhaps most importantly, our own family has loved spending this week together since 1995, long before Xplorer Maps even existed. It's unquestionably one of Missoula's most exciting weeks.**

Connecting People and Place through Storytelling: that is our mission at Xplorer Maps and the IWFF provides a perfectly natural and obvious partnership we hope to continue for years to come.”

—Greg Robitaille, Xplorer Maps

International Wildlife Film Festival 50

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

Submissions open November 1, 2026.

IWFF 50 will be held April 17–22, 2027.

IWFF 50th Anniversary Safari to Brazil, September 19–26, 2027

 wildlifefilms.org

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