



We are thrilled to share with you the latest developments in our mission to support and expand community-guided and holistic approaches throughout Montana, and beyond.

Life in the Land is a film series produced by Stories for Action and other partners. The films elevate voices from people in rural Montana communities, sharing the value in locally-led, collaborative efforts within the landscape... to benefit both the well-being of people and the lands they are a part of.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to you, our donors, and our Steering Committee for your continued generosity and dedication to this work. The progress we have made is 100% made possible through your support!

*Life in the Land* consists of six films, released between 2022-2024. The project now also consists of over 30 podcast episodes, a Discussion Guide, and Curriculum. **All content is available for free to the public.** Find the full project at [www.LifeintheLand.org](http://www.LifeintheLand.org).

**Growing our Audience:** Our films have been utilized by over 140 community organizations, groups, agencies, universities, and more. We've reached audiences at local, state, national, and international levels - both in person and virtually. Last year, screenings included a virtual sharing of the films by JP Morgan Chase for their global employees, and the North American Congress for Conservation Biology in Canada. Screenings have ranged from Montana high school classrooms to conservation conferences to community gatherings, and more.

**Community Events:** We've seen a continued interest in our Film Screening & Community Conversations, with us being directly involved with over a dozen of them, and dozens more held independently around the country. It is evident that people are craving community connection and we are grateful to facilitate these opportunities for thoughtful dialogue and to remind folks what is possible when we work together.

**Story Workshops:** Additionally, we've paired the Life in the Land film screenings with Story Workshops, educating participants on the craft of impactful communications, and the value in uplifting the story of themselves, their organization, and of their community.

## Outreach by the Numbers 2022 - 2026:

Full Film Views Online:  
**710,000**

Online views of film clips: **820,000+**

Over **1.5 million** people reached on social media

In-Person Screenings & Post-Film Discussions:  
**5,500+** people  
**125+** Events in  
**18 States** Nationally &  
**10 Countries**

Podcast Downloads:  
**12,000+**

Utilized in  
**56 Classrooms**, at high school, college, and adult-ed levels

Film Festivals, in Montana, Nationally, & Internationally: **27**

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## Teaching community resilience through the Life in the Land curriculum

In the past three years, over 56 universities & high schools have utilized the films in their classrooms, in Montana and internationally. Life in the Land now offers **free curriculum** for high schools, colleges and universities, and adult learners. This includes a general lesson plan designed to accompany any of the six films, with three location-specific plans highlighting the Blackfeet Nation, Mighty Few (of the Crow Nation), and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. These three lessons were created in partnership with **Montana's Office of Public Instruction** to ensure the plans meet Montana's **Indian Education for All** content standards.

Lessons are designed to develop a student's critical thinking and problem solving skills while encouraging them to apply concepts to their own community and local landscape.

"Integrating these films into our Natural Resources Conflict Resolution program at the University of Montana has provided students with valuable

insights into the stewardship successes championed by partners across the region. These films have inspired students to advance collaborative stewardship in their communities and landscapes, while honoring connections to land held by Montanans across the state," says Travis Anklam, Co-Chair of the certificate program.

Some of the 56 places these films and lesson plans have been made available include **Montana State University** in their Natural Resources Ecology course and Principles of Environmental Engineering course. As well as **Salish Kootenai College**, Montana high schools, and universities in Connecticut, Washington, Germany, and dozens more. We are excited to see how applicable our curriculum is across a range of subject areas, including Social Studies, Civics, Environmental Science, Agriculture, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Economic Development, and more!

Thank you to Shauni Seccombe, who led the creation of the curriculum.

Email [info@storiesforaction.org](mailto:info@storiesforaction.org) to request a copy.



### Feedback folks have shared:

*"The content and the dialogue that it sparks, reminds us that no matter what happens on the political stage, we are all integrated into these ecosystems together."*

- Rebecca Ramsey, Swan Valley

*"This project is awesome and will really help elevate the voices across our landscape."*

- Emily Harkness, High Divide Collaborative

*"Students really connect to the story narratives - the videos delve into the complexity of these issues but in an accessible way."*

- Montana Professor

*"The Life in the Land series offers an outstanding and meaningful way to connect with stories of folks in Montana making a difference in their communities. The style of storytelling inspires folks to get involved and support one another. The films beautifully intertwine all points of view and perspectives, focusing on common values while recognizing the nuance of collaborative work that can be messy. These stories create connection and build community - and we need more of that in this day and age."*

- Wendy Weaver, Montana Freshwater Partners



## Advancing this work into the future

Life in the Land consists of six films, 30+ podcast episodes (within the Stories for Action podcast series), a Discussion Guide, Curriculum, and an informational website, all available for free. We are hearing feedback that the content itself, and the physical gatherings and dialogue that the films catalyze, is impactful and necessary in our current times. We want to continue to put the time and effort into the outreach work, so that more folks can learn about and engage with the content...and therefore we can help to advance the community-guided and holistic approaches that this project advocates for. We have immense gratitude to you all for allowing this work to take hold and grow.

**Your continued support will allow us to carry this work forward.**

## Fundraising for 2027

We are currently raising funds to meet our goal of **\$10,000**, of which we have **\$2,000** secured. Your support will enable us to continue the following throughout **2027 and 2028**:

- **Offer our content for free**, including all films, podcasts, lesson plans, and the informational website.
- **Expand our reach & impact** by continuing to take the time to research & contact organizations, community groups, academia, and other entities that can utilize this content, as well as allow us to table at public events & conferences.

The Story Workshops will continue to be offered through Stories for Action (the production entity of *Life in the Land*), at a discounted rate for non-profit organizations, public school classrooms, & community groups.

Visit **[www.LifeintheLand.org/Sponsor](http://www.LifeintheLand.org/Sponsor)** for info or contact Lara Tomov [Stories for Action Director] at: [info@StoriesforAction.org](mailto:info@StoriesforAction.org)

Options are available for tax-deductible qualifying contributions.

**Immense gratitude to you, our supporters, for making this work possible!**  
**2022 - 2026 Supporters:**

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Gil Davis

**Reach out to Project Director**, Lara Tomov, for more info  
or to share comments & feedback:  
(406) 531-3283   info@storiesforaction.org

**Find the Life in the Land project at:** [www.LifeintheLand.org](http://www.LifeintheLand.org)  
Podcasts found on the *Stories for Action* series, available on Apple, Spotify, or iHeart

**Thank you to the Life in the Land Steering Committee:**  
Cliff Montagne [BioRegions International], Bill Milton [Milton Family Ranch], Bill Long [Solid Ground Consulting], Kascie Herron [Wild Montana], Shauni Seccombe [Great Falls Development Alliance & Education Associate], Jennifer Solf [Winnett ACES]