



## Life in the Land Screening and Discussion Guide

Greetings from the Life in the Land project team!

Thank you for hosting a screening of Life in the Land, whether that includes one or more episodes from the series. These films were produced to serve as a tool to prompt deeper conversations and “workshopping” of how collaborative, holistic, and locally-guided approaches can apply in your region or area of work. Perhaps you are an agency who wants to work with more partners or you are local residents who want to start a collaborative group in your community. If you have not done so already, please fill out the short online form (found at [LifeintheLand.org/contact-8](http://LifeintheLand.org/contact-8)) telling us a little about how you are using the film, so that we can track impact for our funding purposes.

Prior to your gathering, we suggest researching if there are other entities working on watershed/community development/agriculture/collaborative conservation aspects in your area. It will benefit the group to know the terrain of work that is already taking place, and who you can partner with and invite to gatherings. You can also explore the links on the “Resources” tab at [LifeintheLand.org](http://LifeintheLand.org) to find examples of other collaborative entities to model or reach out to.

---

As the local host, you will need to manage the following to ensure your event runs smoothly – you may want to designate someone to help with each area:

- **Facilitator:** The facilitator will welcome attendees, and remain neutral during the discussion and help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate. Periodically repeating back perspectives that you are hearing can be helpful to guide the dialogue.

- **Logistical tasks to designate:**

- Securing and getting access to the venue, ensuring chairs/tables are set up, refreshments if applicable, handle the lights, bathrooms, heat/cooling issues, etc.
- You may want a white board or large paper to write talking points and brainstorm feedback. The facilitator can write these or have a designated person.
- Have a note taker to write down feedback and discussion highlights on paper or laptop for future use and planning.
- Ensure someone is present who knows the set-up of the projector, projector screen, speakers, laptop, and other necessary technology or make sure they relay all necessary information (run a technical test of the film playback before attendees arrive).

**How to play the film(s):** You can stream the film(s) directly from the [LifeintheLand.org](http://LifeintheLand.org) site by clicking the “Fullscreen” icon in the lower right corner of the video player screen. **However, we highly recommend** downloading the video file beforehand, especially if you have slower internet speeds at your meeting location: Click on the “Vimeo” icon in the lower right corner of the video player to open the film on the Vimeo.com site. Once here, you will see the “Download” button near the summary paragraph under the video player. Download the “Original File” size or the “1080p” version, depending on data storage availability. This will download an .mp4 file which you can play off of your laptop desktop or from an external harddrive. We recommend testing the playback of the video file before the event, and scrub through different segments to ensure audio and video is playing back throughout.

## **DISCUSSION GUIDELINES (to share with entire group before starting discussion)**

1. **Be curious.** We won't agree on everything (thank goodness!). That's the beauty of bringing together folks with different perspectives. Try to be curious and seek to understand points of view that are different from your own.
2. **Let everyone participate.** Share time so everyone can participate. *Facilitator can suggest hand raising or similar method, to avoid discussion being monopolized by the extroverts in the room.*
3. **Be respectful and courteous.** Please try to keep side conversations quiet so everyone can hear and be heard. *The goal is to create a safe space for trust building to occur.*
4. **Kindly turn off your phones.**

## **SUGGESTED AGENDA - Adjust times as needed**

### **Welcome from local organizers (10-15 minutes)**

Welcome & housekeeping items – bathrooms, post-meeting cleanup, etc.  
Attendee introductions if you wish

### **Screening of Life in the Land Episode (30-45 minutes depending on episode)**

### **Community Discussion (30-45 minutes)**

1. Hand out Response Cards and ask participants to work individually to answer the questions. (10-15 minutes) Of course feel free to add/subtract/customize your prompt questions for your group. We suggest keeping the questions broad and accessible for this initial gathering of laying the foundation
2. Facilitate a discussion using the questions on the Response Card (20-30 minutes)
  - A. In the film, what made you think “that’s impressive”?
  - B. What elements were relatable to you, your own community, or area of work? (perspectives/challenges/approaches that you think do/could work?)
  - C. What made you think “that would never work here”?
  - D. In reference to your community, group, or scope of work:
    - a. What are our strengths? Weaknesses? Blind spots?
    - b. What would you like to see more of? (physical or social)
    - c. Twenty years from now, what elements do you hope exist in the community and natural environment? (can be general)
    - d. What is a big picture goal (pie in the sky/no limits)?
    - e. What are realistic initial steps that are attainable with the bandwidth of the group?
    - f. Who are other potential partners/participants to bring into the work?

### **Summary of community discussion (10 minutes)**

Provide a short verbal report out of high-level themes from the discussion. Highlight any common ground areas.

### **Announce and/or Propose Next Steps:**

Schedule a follow-up gathering to: decide on a collective mission statement, design a survey to gather community input, or assign committees or task leads. Perhaps delegate folks to research certain topics or reach out to potential partners & participants prior to the next gathering. Be sure to give a “hook” to get folks back to a follow-up gathering. Don't adjourn without setting the time and place for the next meeting.

### **Closing & adjourn**

*If you have any logistical questions or follow-up feedback comments, we would love to hear from you.  
You can contact Lara Tomov, Life in the Land Project Director, at [info@storiesforaction.org](mailto:info@storiesforaction.org) (406)531-3283.*

Thank you so much for your commitment to your community and for sparking the important conversations.