

## 35 Productions Selected to Share \$1.5 Million in Montana Big Sky Film Grant Awards

March 23, 2022

MONTANA – Thirty-five (35) film productions will share \$1,500,000 through the Big Sky Film Grant Program for fiscal year 2022 from the Montana Film Office to film on-location across the state.

Film, television, and commercial productions have a direct economic impact in Montana including employee wages, local spending, and tax revenue. The Big Sky Film Grant is one enticement in a suite of incentives the state offers to filmmakers - making Montana competitive with other states and countries as the ultimate filming location.

The 35 film projects have a total estimated production cost of \$56 million and an estimated \$26 million in Montana spend.

A total of 77 projects applied to the FY22 cycle of the program and requested \$13 million in grant funds. Application submission totals for the FY22 cycle, within the three (3) categories of BSFG Program, are as follows:

16 - Feature Film & TV  
18 - Resident Filmmaker  
43 - Short-Form Content

The BSFG Committee has selected these totals for awards:

8 - Feature Film & TV  
10 - Resident Filmmaker  
17 - Short-Form Content



**ABOUT THE PROGRAM:** Established in 2013, the Big Sky Film Grant Program builds and supports partnerships with filmmakers and production companies with the intention to create Montana film industry jobs. The Program serves as an advocate for Montana filmmakers, crew, and service industries. To qualify, a production must shoot at least 50% of principal photography in Montana.

Typically, the program grants \$500,000 per year/grant cycle. This year/cycle (FY22) the program had \$1.5 million to award. The FY22 cycle was open for submissions from October 1 to November 29, 2021. The Committee met on January 12 & 13, 2022 to determine awards.

The Committee recommends these awards per category, alphabetically:

## FEATURE FILM & TV

Awarded to a feature-length film, TV series, or limited series that has a Montana spend of \$350K or more.

These **8 projects** will receive funding totaling \$590,000.

### ***Beasts Undiscovered*** — Feature Film, Comedy

Awarded \$150,000 to Beasts Undiscovered, LLC

**Logline:** An aging cryptozoologist must convince his estranged daughter to join him on one last wilderness adventure — to find mythology’s rarest creature.

Producer, Writer: Cat Dale — Director, Writer: Jeremy Dehn — Director of Photography: Frazer Lockhart

This script was a quarterfinalist in the Academy Nicholl Fellowship, was covered in Variety, and spent six months as a “Top Script” on the Black List. One reviewer called it, “a charming, off-beat crowd- pleaser.” Made through a combination of independent financing, a partnership with acclaimed production and finance company Myriad Pictures, and substantial support from universities, *Beasts Undiscovered* will feature the work of a cast with proven box office potential, an award-winning production team, and special effects from Jim Henson's Creature Shop. The film also plans to showcase some of the breathtaking locations and scenery of The Rocky Mountains.

### ***Big Sky Highway*** — Feature Film, Drama

Awarded \$50,000 to 352 Pictures

**Logline:** During a merciless Montana snowstorm, a destitute couple must survive a drug run gone wrong to escape poverty and find redemption out west.

Producer: Jessica Jacobs — Director: Tayo Amos — Writer: Luke Klompier

Facing eviction during a brutal Montana winter, a pair of trailer park lovers find themselves with their backs against the wall. Jake, a gritty dreamer haunted by a felony drug charge, can’t find work, while Kate, a talented but jaded nail technician, just found out that she’s pregnant. With the dream of a new start in California, they agree to act as couriers for a lucrative drug deal, sending them and their beat-up truck into the teeth of a historic winter storm. As the night unfolds, Jake and Kate find themselves fighting not only for a new beginning, but for their own lives in the process.

Big Sky Highway is a neo-western love story about two desperate people seizing a chance to escape the trenches of rural poverty and the sacrifices they must make to realize their American Dream.

***Butcher's Crossing*** — Feature Film, Western

Awarded \$60,000 to Valley Buffalo, LLC

**Logline:** A frontier epic starring Nicolas Cage and Fred Hechinger about an Ivy League drop-out as he travels to the Colorado wilderness, where he joins a team of buffalo hunters on a journey that puts his life and sanity at risk. Based on the highly acclaimed novel by John Williams.

Producers: Gabe Polsky, Molly Conners, Amanda Bowers, Andy Mayson, Will Clarke

Director: Gabe Polsky — Writers: Gabe Polsky, Liam Satre Melloy

At its heart, *Butcher's Crossing* is a story about the search for meaning and purpose in a world that can often be confusing, harsh, and inscrutable. Like many generational stories, *Butcher's Crossing* asks profound questions about human nature, good and evil, and man's relationship to his environment.

***Circus On The Run*** — Feature Film, Comedy

Awarded \$125,000 to Circus On The Run, LLC

**Logline:** After robbing a bank, a young woman in her attempt to flee a small town, stumbles upon a traveling circus whose eclectic owner makes a deal with her to be his daredevil act for one week to protect her from the police that are hunting her.

Producers: Erik MacArthur, Karen Barber, Jim Agnew, Richard Gray — Director, Co-Writer: Erik MacArthur  
Cinematographer: Thomas Scott Stanton

A stylized comedic love story, set against a fictional Americana town in an indistinct time somewhere in the range of the 1950s to the 1980s. With the story having a fantastical love story element to it, the filmmakers aim to take full advantage of Montana's vast dramatic landscapes, its textured practical locations, and its growing production infrastructure both in front and behind the camera.

***Comic Relief*** — Feature Film, Drama

Awarded \$50,000 to Comic Relief, LLC

**Logline:** A children's party entertainer chases her dreams while struggling with ever-increasing alcoholism and depression.

Director: Koura Linda — Writers: Koura Linda, Spaceship, Alex Hawthorne

Comic Relief shows everyday people who have hopes and dreams but who are themselves struggling, those who on the surface seem to have it all together when in fact they are about to explode.

***Guttermuckers*** — Feature Film, Comedy

Awarded \$65,000 to Guttermuckers, LLC

**Logline:** A group of ragtag roofers experience a series of misadventures on their quest to reclaim their lost roofing company.

Producers: Jeri Rafter, Brick Patrick, John Budge, Mark Kaplan — Director: Christie Will Wolf

*Guttermuckers* is a blue-collar comedy made for blue-collar workers. The two writers, Brick Patrick and John Budge have spent significant time in Butte. Brick was born and raised there, working in the mines as a teenager before moving to Los Angeles for a career in acting. John was a founding member of the Buttenik Ensemble, a theater group dedicated to making original works and restoring Uptown Butte's Covellite Theater before moving to New York City. For side money, both Brick and John spent long, hot hours roofing houses in Butte. All the blisters and sunburns were worth it because the time spent on the roof planted the seed for what would become *Guttermuckers*.

***The Quiet Miracle of a Normal Life*** — Feature Film, Drama

Awarded \$50,000 to UTM, Inc.

**Logline:** In 1998, a Montana farmer aims to marry his high-school sweetheart. But, when his brother borrows the ring money on a downward spiral, he must question his brotherly love. What will he sacrifice and how much will he lose to try restoring his brother to the man he once was?

Producers: Joshua Gollish, Karen Ruth Getchell — Director, Writer: Joshua Gollish

1<sup>st</sup> AC: Adam Kirschhoffer

*The Quiet Miracle of a Normal Life* is a love letter to Montana. Based on personal experiences, it will examine how far we will go for the ones we love most, and why we must ultimately let go if we truly love.

***Thine Ears Shall Bleed (Your Ears Shall Bleed, working title)***

Feature Film, Mystery, Thriller

Awarded \$40,000 to TESB, LLC

**Logline:** In 1860s Montana, a minister and his family are traveling in a covered wagon when they hear a mysterious sound coming from the woods. Believing the sound to be God, they worship it, until they discover the sound is something much more sinister touching upon their own ambitions and weaknesses.

Producers: James Kouf, Lynn Kouf, Dennis Aig — Director, Writer: Ben Bigelow — Writer: William Bigelow  
Director of Photography: Chris Cavanaugh

## RESIDENT FILMMAKER

Awarded to a feature-length project that is produced by a Montana resident filmmaker that has a validated credit as a Producer, Director, or primary Director of Photography.

These **10 projects** will receive funding totaling \$480,000.

### ***Bring Them Home*** — Documentary

Awarded \$50,000 to Thunderheart Media, Inc.

**Logline:** Two-hundred years ago, the Blackfeet tribe witnessed the near-extinction of bison, one of the most important links to their identity, culture, and spirituality. Today, a small group of Blackfeet are working to right this historic wrong by returning wild bison to their lands - an act that would heal people, re-enliven traditional culture, and bring economic opportunity to their community.

Producers: Ivan MacDonald, Daniel Glick, Sarah Clarke

Executive Producers: Lily Gladstone, Melissa Grumhaus

Directors: Ivan MacDonald, Ivy MacDonald, Daniel Glick — Director of Photography: Zane Clampett

### ***Clara Boone*** — Feature Film, Western

Awarded \$55,000 to Form & Pressure Films

**Logline:** Clara Boone, an out-of-place dreamer in 1890 Philadelphia, goes West to find the place where she belongs, only to become haunted by the suspicious death of her neighbor, and meet her greatest challenge yet. Based on a true story.

Producers: Jenna Ciralli, Alexa Alberda — Director: Cat Dale — Writer: Jenna Ciralli

Cinematographer: Logan Triplett

*Clara Boone* is ultimately a timeless story about a woman finding her voice in 1890. Clara is in a healthy marriage with fellow dreamer, Damon Boone. He leads the way to Montana when the couple tires of Philadelphia. But they are soon put to the test by a ghost story set within a historical Old West backdrop.

***Cuisine de la 'Pocalypse*** — Feature Film, Comedy

Awarded \$50,000 to Cuisine Movie, LLC

**Logline:** 10 years after mankind went kaput, one eccentric chef puts his hidden apocalyptic town in jeopardy when he uploads his cooking show to their makeshift internet service. Now, he must traverse the wastelands searching for the mysterious viewer equipped with nothing but his culinary knowledge and a spatula.

Producers: Zuzu Weingart, Eden Bryant — Director, Writer: Kyle Weingart

Director of Photography: John Nilles — Executive Producer: Joe McNeal — 1<sup>st</sup> AD: Ryan Graham-Laughlin

*Cuisine de la 'Pocalypse* is a one-of-a-kind concept that will bring heartfelt humor and inspiration to a post-apocalyptic Montana world. It's a story of following your dreams, no matter what stands in the way. Just because the world ends, doesn't mean your dream should end along with it. With the uncertainty of today's world, *Cuisine de la 'Pocalypse* will be a light of hope to people everywhere showing that even in an uncertain world, dreams can still come true.

***Mollie's Pack*** — Documentary

Awarded \$70,000 to Grizzly Creek Films

**Logline:** On January 12, 1995 wolves returned to Yellowstone, 50 years after their extirpation. Mollie Beattie, Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, carried the first Canadian born wolf into the park's experimental acclimation enclosure, Alpha Female Wolf No. 5. From that day forward, their lives would be forever connected. This is the true story of Mollie's Pack.

Producer, Director: Thomas Winston — Cinematographers: Warren Kommers, Jeff Reed

*Mollie's Pack* is a gripping feature documentary told with primary 16mm film footage that was thought to be forever lost, alongside in-depth interviews with the key players at the center of the historic Yellowstone Wolf reintroduction. It's a modern American epic that has never been told.

***Ryan Zahn Goes "Pro"*** — Documentary

Awarded \$55,000 to Rabbit Foot Entertainment

**Logline:** Ryan Zahn proves himself to be extremely talented in a world that often assumes otherwise; even though he was born without arms, he pursues his passion for off-road and motorcycle competitions, tackling extreme challenges and winning races. After leading in the "knobby tire" class of amateur flat track racing in Montana last year, he is now challenging himself to see if he has what it takes to keep up with the faster riders on a more serious bike, training hard, traveling out of state for races and starting back at the bottom in hopes of climbing the ranks of the "Open Pro" Class at his home track at the Billings Motorcycle Club..

Director, Producer: Jessica Jane Hart

***Somewhere in Montana*** — Feature Film, Drama

Awarded \$50,000 to Fabian Verdugo Productions

**Logline:** Two diametrically opposed men, a rancher and a filmmaker, must come to terms with the idea that fate may have tied their fortune or their failure to each other.

Producer: Eden Matson — Director, Writer: Brandon Smith — Director of Photography: Derek Bauer

This story examines the human condition of two men who are opposites of each other. Even though they desperately need each other, they have difficulty in overcoming their individual ideologies to see the person underneath.

***The Caller Returns*** — Feature Film, Mystery, Thriller

Awarded \$40,000 to Yellowstone Film Ranch

**Logline:** When a crank caller turns out to be a killer from their past calling from outside the house, two young women must work together to survive until help arrives or they can escape.

Producers: Julie Campbell, Carter Boehm, Samson Alli, Ade OMole, Jimmy Matthew

Director: Samson Alli — Writers: Matthew Mosley, Tee Jay Dan — Executive Producer: Jogee Reynolds

This film will address and support the need for diversity in film. Written by an award-winning Nigerian screenwriter and directed by an American based Nigerian highly acclaimed director, it will be evident that talent comes in many colors.

***The Given Days*** — Feature Film, Drama

Awarded \$20,000 to Selway Studios, LLC

**Logline:** A young man suffering from PTSD is returning home to Montana after serving in the military and must face and try to rebuild the shattered remains of his past life with the young Blackfoot girl he left behind.

Directors, Writers: Joshua Michael, R.J. Gennari — Director of Photography: James Gartner

The original story concept creator, Joshua Michael, is himself a combat veteran who has struggled with the effects of PTSD. Much of the war sequences are quasi-biographical as are some of the interpersonal relationship scenes.

***Then They Came For Us (Triumph of Her Will, working title)*** — Documentary

Awarded \$40,000 to Same Land Films, LLC

**Logline:** After becoming the target of a neo-Nazi “troll storm” and receiving thousands of death threats against her, a Jewish American woman reaches into the past to overcome her present trauma.

Producers: Brooke Pepion Swaney, Eunice Lau — Executive Producer: Susan Margolin

Director: Eunice Lau — Director of Photography: Hiroo Takaoka

As white supremacy returns to the mainstream and attacks against American Jews become more prevalent, one woman fights back. This is the story of Tanya Gersh, a Montana soccer mom who won the landmark lawsuit against a neo-Nazi website that targeted her for being Jewish.

***Treasure State*** — Feature Film, Action

Awarded \$50,000 to Watershed Films, LLC

**Logline:** A young woman in 1930s Montana is pulled into a fractured mob's power feud and finds herself in a race against time and malicious men to find the former mob boss's treasure cache.

Producer: Laura Pieri — Director, Director of Photography: David Moum

Sound Engineer, Composer: Robert Parr — 1<sup>st</sup> AD: Barri Chase

This project showcases Montana in a way that breaks from many of the stereotypes of the state. While a rancher makes an appearance in the film, the story is not centered around ranching, cowboys, fishing, or cattle, nor is it a Western. Montana has an extremely rich history, yet film pigeon-holes it into a stereotype. *Treasure State* showcases a different side of Montana, highlighting the moxie of Montana people and taking advantage of the stunning visual landscapes readily available. As a period-piece, the film also highlights some of the history of Montana that isn't readily found in tourism centers or even taught in history classes.



## SHORT-FORM CONTENT

Awarded to filmmakers who create short-form content. Examples include short narrative, pilots, documentary, animation, and series 60 minutes or less with budgets under \$350K per episode.

These **17 projects** will receive funding totaling \$430,000.

### ***406 Masters on Film*** — Documentary, Series

Awarded \$10,000 to Bozeman Art Museum

**Logline:** *406 Masters on Film* will document the lives and work of Montana's excellence in art and the artists that create the work.

Producer: Beth Ann Kennedy

The series of profiles well-known national artists Deborah Butterfield and her brilliant depiction of the horse in steel, bronze and other materials which grace the collections of American's finest fine art museums, Steve Huston, who quietly produces massive figurative paintings for the international art market, to Brian Brush creating the phenomenal visual effect that emerge from the interaction of light, material, and geometric structure in art, the importance of documenting the lives and work of these important Montanans is crucial.

### ***American Triage (P.L.U., working title)*** — Short Film, Drama

Awarded \$50,000 to Spin Film, LLC

**Logline:** Bearing Witness to an American Hate Crime

Producers: Andrew Carlberg, Skye Fitzgerald — Director: Skye Fitzgerald

From Oscar, Emmy and IDA-nominated Director Skye Fitzgerald, "American Triage" will place the viewer into the center of a hate crime as it unfolds in the American West. The film's primary scene will immerse the audience into the visceral horror experienced by those targeted by racists and bigots, wherever they are in the world. By using cutting edge camera stabilization tools while experimenting in the cinematic sandbox of Rashomon, the film aims to deeply affect our perception of hate in the U.S. in important, illuminating, and disturbing ways.

### ***Barbecue Heroes*** — Reality, Pilot

Awarded \$20,000 to Montana Outlaw Productions

**Logline:** Two Montana pit masters search the country for local heroes who will compete in a BBQ cooking competition in some of the nation's biggest BBQ cities. All winners come back and compete in the season finale for a chance to win \$25,000 dollars for their local charities.

Producer, Director: Timothy Lofing — Director of Photography: Torrell Vinson

***Big Two-Hearted River*** — Short Film, Drama

Awarded \$10,000 to Sojourn Productions

**Logline:** Tired of running from himself, a WWI vet uses nature to regenerate for his future and confront his past.

Producer, Writer: Zander Smith — Executive Producer, Director: Adam Smith

Director of Photography: Carson Shields

*Big Two-Hearted River* is an adaptation of an Ernest Hemingway short story of the same name. Hemingway's writing is known for many things, and tragedy - or how a person bears tragedy - is a hallmark theme from 'Papa'. But while many of his famous works embrace a tragic notion of life, *Big Two-Hearted River* is decidedly more optimistic, in ways that are perhaps uncharacteristic of Hemingway's later work. Ultimately, it is a story about how the courage to face tragedy, and the courage to face that fight another day, are equally noble endeavors.

***Blonde Instinct*** — Webisode, Drama

Awarded \$30,000 to MT Target Films

**Logline:** A blonde ingénue and skittish hairdresser escape a seedy world, ditching wealth, pretense, and luscious platinum hairdos to stay alive in the Montana wilderness.

Producers: Nancy Bevins, Tyler Grutsch — Co-Director: Nancy Bevins — 1<sup>st</sup> AD: Kyle Weingart

Cinematographer: James Gartner

This cautionary tale unravels as young women who seek fame, fortune, and security succumb to the lure of powerful and rich men. We all witness this ongoing facade. Women who seek to tether themselves to wealth and power and often even under the guise of love.

***Burst!*** — Video Game

Awarded \$27,000 to Add-A-Tudez

**Logline:** *Burst!* is a science-powered music game where players blow up fireworks to the beat while swapping out Periodic Table elements to change the explosion colors! *Burst!* features a wide assortment of music, and casts players as the director of a pyrotechnics show. The game consists of a rhythm game set up similar to *Dance Dance Revolution* or *Guitar Hero*. In this vein, players hit notes (buttons on their controller) when the game tells them to, and correct presses results in fireworks exploding on the screen.

Producers: Josh Hughes, Cyndi Hughes, Trevor Hughes — 3-D Art Director: Colin Martin

2-D Art Director: Micha Rauch — Senior Programmer: Gerardo Monreal — Programmer: Raven Johnson

## **Dan Bailey: So The River Reflects The Sky — Documentary**

Awarded \$30,000 to Auster Productions

**Logline:** This is the story of Dan Bailey, a nuclear physics professor who left that all behind and moved to Livingston, Montana in 1938 to open what would become a world-renowned fly- fishing stop. Along the way he would also empower women into the formerly all-male world of fly-tying, lead the successful fight against the damming of the Yellowstone River, the longest free-flowing river in the lower 48, and advocate for public access to all of Montana's waters.

Producers: Suzy Vandebeek-Rea, Sam Auster — Director, Writer: Sam Auster

The producers have been granted unprecedented access to the Bailey Family archives by Dan's son, John. Interviews with John Bailey, other people who knew and worked for Dan Bailey, including Dale Sexton, present owner of Dan Bailey's Outdoor Company, as well as State officials, conservationists, writers, and journalists will blend with vintage photographs, maps, documents, as well as animation and period recreations.

## ***Demon Girlz* — Short Film, Comedy**

Awarded \$6,000 to Strange Town Productions

**Logline:** Willow and Cam, both 13, run their own business capturing demons, but need help after their demon assistant escapes her binding.

Producers: Neil Carlson, Jeffrey Kampfe — Director: Neil Carlson — Writer: Virginia Korus Spragg

AD: Jeffrey Kampfe — 1<sup>st</sup> AC: Samuel Justig

*Demon Girlz* is a short filmed entirely in Red Lodge, MT. Everyone involved in this project longs to try new techniques, to push their limits. Storytelling is what they each want to do with their lives, the contribution they wish to make. To entertain, to uplift, to inform.

### ***Growing Up Grizzly*** — Documentary

Awarded \$30,000 to VisionHawk Films

**Logline:** As the drama of two different orphaned grizzly bear cubs unfolds, the surprising twist in their stories reveals a Montana filmmaker's evolving view of nature.

Producer, Writer: Sue Houghton — Executive Producer: Deny Staggs — Director: Casey Anderson

Casey Anderson is a naturalist and filmmaker and a native of Montana. Living and devoted to outreach for 18 years with Brutus, Casey came to realize that, while he was giving Brutus the best possible life for a bear in captivity, it was still a far cry from what the bear could have experienced in the wild. Casey became an advocate for letting nature take its course with regards to orphaned bear cubs - until he got a call from Alaska that, once again, forced him to rethink his stance and change his mandate.

### ***Life in the Land*** — Documentary, Series

Awarded \$17,000 to Stories for Action

**Logline:** Experience stories from across Montana that provide global inspiration for healthy relationships between people and the land, through collaboration and leadership from local communities.

Director, Cinematographer: Lara Tomov

Life in the Land is a documentary film series that shares stories of those who interact with the complexities of Montana's land, waters, and communities, looking at the success and value in collaborative and locally led initiatives. This project will offer viewers an opportunity to hear unique perspectives from local leaders, ranchers, biologists, and more from within Montana's rural and tribal communities. Viewers will witness how the characters are working together to promote resilient communities and landscapes for all life to thrive.

### ***Lone Mountain*** — Short Film, Drama

Awarded \$10,000 to Kinovision Productions, LLC

**Logline:** A miner, traveling home to his family alone, finds himself trapped in a time loop and slowly forgets his loved ones and his past. Unable to escape the wilderness and isolation alone, someone from the future must find him.

Director, Writer: Tanner Browning — Executive Producer: Jordan Roper  
Associate Producer: Kyle Hollinger — Director of Photography: Alex Browning

This film is centralized on the idea of connecting us in the modern-day with our ancestors who have long since left the earth. It is a message of finding those that have been lost with time and bringing them to light again. It's a story all people can relate to. This project is essential to Montana as its main character is based on many miners, trappers, and families who traveled the Bozeman Trail. It's central to the founding of the west and plays an interesting role in this story.

***Man Baby*** — Short Film, Comedy-Horror

Awarded \$15,000 to Story Street Films

**Logline:** An anxious new father turns into a baby.

Producers: Jeri Rafter, Kat Bitnar — Director, Writer: Aaron Murtagh  
Director of Photography: Hallie Swain

Set in Montana during the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the story is about a young couple struggling with an immense amount of change as they adjust to a new life with their first child. This relatable experience goes to a new level when the father starts to lose control of his body and turn into a baby. Part psychological thriller, body horror, and cultural satire, the film tells a fantastical story within the context of a subtle, emotional, and authentic world.

***PITON: The Pat Callis Story*** — Documentary

Awarded \$40,000 to Nathan Norby, LLC

**Logline:** At 83 years of youth, Patrick Callis is still teaching Physics at his local university, ice climbing, rock climbing, running endurance races, as well as being a mentor to local students and athletes. What keeps him going? With a sparkle in his eyes, this documentary explores human drive and motivation with Pat's story at the forefront.

Producer: Claire Kleese — Director: Nathan Norby

***Righteous for the Rangeland*** — Documentary

Awarded \$25,000 to MT Public Lands Council

**Logline:** Personal stories from ranchers who have lived in partnership with the land for generations, we will take a deep dive into the cultural significance and history of this once forgotten landscape that is critical to the health of Montana's ecosystem and the American West.

Director: Phillip Baribeau — Director of Photography: Wes Overvold

*Righteous for the Rangeland* will tell the story of the importance of public lands, grazing, and humans on the landscape. The cultural significance to Montana, the history of public lands, and the century-long stewardship efforts to protect these special places is a story many people are unaware of but have heightened interest in learning more about.

***The Return of the Grizzly*** — Documentary

Awarded \$20,000 to Maaike Middleton

**Logline:** What will our world look like if we do not learn to coexist.

Producer, Director: Maaike Middleton — Executive Producer: Doug Peacock, Dan Sullivan

Director of Photography: Erik Petersen

This documentary will speak to ranchers on both sides of the grizzly issue, those using predator friendly methods and those who are not. Whisper Camel-Means who is studying where to place wildlife overpasses and the best ways to get grizzlies to use them. On the Blackfoot Nation and lands of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes we will hear their relationships to the grizzly and see how they are coexisting with them. The residents of the Yaak River Valley are fighting to protect the 25 remaining bears from poachers and the impending Black Ram logging operation.

***The Visions of Chief Plenty Coups*** — Documentary

Awarded \$40,000 to Firebrand Creative

**Logline:** In Fall 1921, leaders from nations worldwide gathered in Washington to honor the unknown soldiers who had fallen in battle. Among them was Chief Plenty Coups, the last of the great Crow chiefs. Who was this man, and why do hundreds of people gather every year to honor him?

Producers: Richard Peppers, Justin Ras

This project is led by a Montana Native American filmmaker. Crow tribal members will guide him to produce a documentary-style film chronicling how Native American Chiefs selected Chief Plenty Coups to represent all native tribes at the inaugural ceremonies of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 100 years ago. This project will tie a nationally significant event to tribal and state park interests in Montana and provide context to this culturally historic milestone that happened over 100 years ago.

***Untamed*** — Documentary

Awarded \$50,000 to Boulder, LLC

**Logline:** A story about the powerful connection American Indians have with horses and how that life-giving connection is alive today in the Indian Horse Relay.

Producer: Anthony Augustinack — Director: Zach Johaneson — Director of Photography: Chris Murphy

Indian Relay Racing is the oldest competitive sport in America. Its origins are mixed depending on the tribe. No matter the origin, horses are sacred among the Plains Indians. Then, and now, the Indian Relay is a test of horse, rider, and team. This short film aims to tell the poetic story of connection between man and horse through the lens of the relay, set where the plains meet the mountains in Northwest Montana. Untamed tells its story with an articulate Native written script, set to a series of carefully chosen poetic scenes.