



## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

### **Synopsis**

*Life in the Landscape* 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. Hear unique perspectives from ranchers, scientists, local leaders, and more from within Montana's rural and tribal communities. Witness how they are working together to promote resilient communities and landscapes for all life to thrive.

The series will consist of four episodes, each ten minutes in length. Each episode will share perspectives from different regions of Montana where unique collaboration on the landscape is taking place; the Big Hole Watershed, the Seeley Swan Valley, Blackfoot Nation, and Montana's Central Plains.

### **Need for Project**

Throughout Montana, human activity is directly intertwined within natural systems, creating a great opportunity for global inspiration for healthy coexistence. Across the state, there are varying value systems and methods of interacting with the land, waters, and the life it supports. This series will show the positive effects of working in interconnected ways, just like the elements of a healthy ecosystem. By connecting these stories of locally driven, collaborative efforts to the theme of a reciprocal human and landscape relationship, this series will be a catalyst for guiding healthier systems of life in our modern world. By offering a glimpse of how this coexistence can work within today's ever increasing complexities, this project will offer the hope and guidance necessary for furthering such interactions.

### **Distribution & Outreach**

The *Life in the Landscape* series will be hosted on the Stories for Action YouTube & Vimeo platforms, and promoted on its social media handles. The episodes will be available for organizations to share individually or as a series with their members and followers. Organizations, community groups, and other entities will be able to use the content as needed to accompany workshops or panel discussions. Other avenues of public and private media outlets will be pursued (public television, online media hubs, etc). The episodes can be cut together to result in a single 30 minute documentary film, to be submitted to national film festivals and used for further distribution options.

If sufficient funding is secured, this project will incorporate outreach events within Montana's rural and urban communities that will pair screenings of the content with workshops for those working within the featured sectors or relatable communities. This project's partners will work with Conservation Districts, community development groups, watershed groups, conservation events and summits, agriculture alliances, agencies, and more to coordinate these viewing and workshop opportunities. There is great opportunity for network building around these events and online viewership of the content. We will also coordinate viewership of the series with pertinent policy efforts and have them available for academic institutions.

## **Project Leadership**

This project is a collaborative effort in itself. The film production of the series is led by Lara Tomov, a Montana resident filmmaker and cinematographer and director of the new media brand, Stories for Action. The project is guided by a steering committee of consulting partners from various sectors and communities, including agriculture, conservation, tribal, and more. This team includes the Watershed Coordination Council, Montana Forest Collaboration Network, Western Sustainability Exchange, BioRegions International, The Common Ground Project, Heart of the Initiative, Lailani Upham [producer and Blackfeet tribal member], Bill Milton [a Montana rancher and facilitator of collaboration on the landscape], Bill Long [retired Managing Director for Montana Land Reliance and Facilitator for Devil's Kitchen Management Team], Cole Mannix [strategist for elements of agriculture and conservation policy], Chris Boyer [Kestrel Aerial], and Kelly Beevers [Topos & Anthros], as well as others in the agriculture, tribal, and conservation communities.

For further information, including a pitch packet and visual concept video, please visit the following site: [www.storiesforaction.org/about-3](http://www.storiesforaction.org/about-3) Password: MontanaStories  
Contact: Lara Tomov, (406) 493-6138 info@storiesforaction.org

## **Fiscal Sponsor**

The Common Ground Project will serve as a fiscal sponsor for the *Life in the Landscape* project. This organization is based in the Tom Miner Basin of Montana, and holds a mission to experience the power of wild landscapes to foster learning, promote community, and encourage healing for people and the environment. Founder and Managing Director, Daniel Anderson, believes that the interconnection of all humans of any color, creed, geography, and identity holds the key to address and resolve the most pressing social and environmental issues of our time. The Common Ground Project was an early consulting partner on this project, and both their mission and emphasis on the power of sharing stories of our interactions with the land, aligns precisely with the goal of this series.

All grants and donations to this project will be made to The Common Ground Project, which is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in good standing. All such grants and donations will be held in a designated account, from which fund disbursement is restricted to the support and implementation of the project as determined by Stories for Action and Project Director Lara Tomov.

More information: [TheCommonGroundProject.us](http://TheCommonGroundProject.us)

## **Donation Details**

Checks to be written to: "The Common Ground Project"  
with "Stories For Action" written in the Notes or "For" section.

Tax ID # 83-0813780

Mailing Address:

527 Tom Miner Creek Rd

Emigrant, MT 59027

*Please specify if you would like your donation to be an anonymous gift.*

Thank you very much for your consideration.

For questions or further information, please contact Lara Tomov, Project Director:  
(406) 493-6138 info@storiesforaction.org