

Films at Prescott Creeks

Bugs of the Underworld

35 min

Aquatic insects live secretive lives beneath the quicksilver mirror. Their transformation into a winged adult, particularly when viewed from underwater, is a marvel of grace and beauty. Upon viewing Bugs of the Underworld the universal statement among flyfishers is, "I didn't know that!" These insects are far more than simply trout bait; they profoundly influence the aquatic ecosystem and their presence is an accurate measurement of stream health and water quality.

Butte Creek Spring Run are the largest wild population of this race of salmon left in California and extraordinary efforts have been made to increase their numbers. This film shows the success and encourages the viewers to continue supporting efforts to keep this population healthy. This sustaining population may be a key part of recovering Spring Run Salmon on other California rivers.

The Green Zone

47 minutes

The riparian zone: as important to the river as the water itself. The strip of vegetation along a waterway is called the riparian zone. A stream and its riparian zone are really a single entity. The riparian zone protects the structure of the stream, maintains water quality, and provides food and shelter for animals and insects. It's as important to the river as the water itself. Over time a river or stream will occupy different paths, moving like a wave pattern traveling down a valley. Periodic floods deposit rich sediments--fertile soil for the vegetation that supports the stream. This video shows that protecting a stream or restoring a river requires preservation of this vital green zone.

The Verde River

Explore our Verde River. See the beauty of its wildlife and riparian corridors. Travel the Verde and experience the uniqueness and challenges that resulted in its listing as one of the top 10 endangered rivers in the United States by American Rivers.

A RIVER REBORN: The Restoration of Fossil Creek

47 minutes

Fossil Creek is among the brightest jewels of Arizona's Rim Country. After 100 years of diversion it is now reborn as one of the last free-flowing, year-around streams in Arizona, a magnificent ribbon of life in the high desert. Fossil Creek is a startling case study of collaboration in the decommissioning of a hydroelectric facility. It is also the site of one of the most significant watershed-level restoration efforts ever undertaken in the Southwest. This documentary recounts both the natural and human history of the scenic waterway. It introduces scientists who have studied Fossil Creek's outstanding biological and geological features, environmental advocates who have fought for its restoration, federal and state resource managers who are working to establish it as a refuge for threatened native fish, and officials at Arizona Public Service, the utility that ran the hydroelectric facility for a century and voluntarily agreed to shut it down and remove the existing infrastructure.

Trout Grass

45 minutes

For many anglers, a fly rod is more than a fishing instrument. It's an antenna, capturing signals of the natural world. But what of the process that turns ordinary materials into extraordinary tools? And why

do people around the world continue to spend their days happily wading in rivers if they do not keep what they capture?

Unveiling the magic of international camaraderie, fine craftsmanship and flowing water, Trout Grass tracks the 10,000-mile journey of bamboo around the world. From a lush forest in China's Guangdong Province to a rustic workshop in Montana, this film follows the transition of bamboo from a living plant to a finished fly rod. As a renowned rod maker treks to the source of his inspiration and a craftsman half-way around the world feels the "spirit of the bamboo world" we find what it takes to convert a piece of grass into a six-sided baton ready to conduct an orchestra of trout and water.

Ride of the Mergansers

11 minutes

The Hooded Merganser is a rare and reclusive duck found only in North America. Every spring, in the Great Lakes region, the wary hen lays and incubates her eggs in a nest high in the trees. Just 24 hours after hatching, the tiny ducklings must make the perilous leap to the ground below to begin life in the wild. This age-old rite is rarely observed by humans. 'Ride of the Mergansers,' an 11-minute wildlife documentary, brings this hidden drama to the screen. Filmed entirely in northern Minnesota, 'Ride of the Mergansers' is a heartwarming blend of natural history, humor, and suspense. You'll be entertained, educated, and inspired - and leave with a newfound appreciation of the phrase 'leap of faith.'

The Verde River: Beautiful and Beleaguered

11 minutes

For years Gary Beverly had the feeling that the Upper Verde River was special, that it was a secret paradise known only to a few. This spring, he spent three days on a solo backpack exploring the Upper Verde River. Starting at Perkinsville Bridge, I walked up river to Highway 89, nearly 30 miles, taking photographs along my journey. For three days, I walked through a riparian garden, meeting not one soul. "Beautiful and Beleaguered" is his attempt to alert you to the beauty of, and the threats to, the Upper Verde River.

Inflatable Journey - A Brothers' Adventure on the Escalante River

58 minutes

Timing is everything when it comes to taking a boat down southern Utah's Escalante River. If the winter brings enough snow to the mountains, the spring runoff that follows can make it possible to run the 80 spectacular miles through Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

For brothers Bill and Brian Cass, the heavy winter snows did come, offering them a chance to ride this untamed river through the splendid backcountry of the Escalante Canyons. Using small inflatable boats, they embark on a memorable 12-day journey that weaves together the incredible beauty of an obscure Southwest river with the unknown challenges and surprises they encounter along the way.

Inflatable Journey is as much about the connection between two brothers and their sharing of a wilderness experience as it is about the exhilarating adventure they undertake. This personal documentary shares the unexpected wonders that canyon country delivers in the form of grueling hikes, Eden-like pools, and frightening water perils. Throughout, the brothers' appreciation for this special place comes through in their spontaneous commentary and humor.

Swim for the River

56 minutes

Chris Swain braved whitewater, sewage, snapping turtles, hydroelectric dams, homeland security patrols, factory outfalls, and PCB contamination to become the first person to swim the entire length of the Hudson River from the Adirondack Mountains to New York City. In the film, Swain's experience links together stories of the river, which begins in wilderness and ends in one of the nation's densest population centers. We meet heroes who are fighting to protect the Hudson against a range of threats from industry, inept regulatory agencies, and public indifference.

In the film, the epic of the 19th century destruction and redemption of the Adirondacks compliments the modern-day story of citizens fighting to block the building of a huge trash plant that would burn one quarter of New York City's garbage. Meanwhile the environmental group Riverkeeper battles the ExxonMobil Corporation to force it to clean up the largest oil spill in the United States and we get the latest in the three-decade old fight to make General Electric take responsibility for its PCB contamination.

We meet famous people, like folk singer Pete Seeger, but we also see how ordinary citizens can and do make a difference through choices they make effecting the environment, and by joining together around a common cause. SWIM FOR THE RIVER is a hopeful film that avoids preaching to the choir. Swain's lighthearted commentary and incredible physical achievement appeal to a wide audience.

Against The Current

19 min

Growing towns and cities, sustained drought, the quest for national energy independence, and climate change are all putting new pressures on dwindling water supplies. In the face of such water demand, fish and wildlife are often left out. And there is one simple fact: fish need water. Told through the wisdom of four people, two ranchers, a biologist, and an environmental lawyer, this film brings together unexpected partners restoring a river.

The Good Fight

25 minutes

In the realms of wilderness conservation, Martin Litton is a powerful voice. He has comfortably worn many hats: senior editor of Sunset magazine, board member of the Sierra Club and founder and guide for Grand Canyon Dories (the first company to run wooden dories through the Grand Canyon). Martin Litton has taken a leading stand, along with David Brower, in major conservation efforts... from the protection and establishment of Dinosaur National Monument and Redwood National Park to protecting the Grand Canyon from two intended dams. His latest passion is saving the last tracks of giant sequoias. At 90, he is not daunted by the ferocious whitewater of the Grand Canyon nor the limitations of government bureaucracy with regard to environmental protection. Martin continues to fight with a force as noble as the giant sequoias themselves.

The Good Fight chronicles an extraordinary man's efforts in saving the Grand Canyon from being ruined with dams and his ongoing struggle to preserve the Giant Sequoias from the axe of the Forest Service. Martin has been an active force for preservation since 1934.

After the Storm

DVD and VHS copies of the popular 1/2 hour television program about watersheds -- After the Storm -- co-produced by EPA and The Weather Channel (TWC) are now available at no charge. This program premiered on TWC on Feb. 24, 2004.