



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Jackson Wild Announces 2022 Media Awards Call for Entry**

**JACKSON, Wyo.** – Jackson Wild opens its call for entries to the annual Jackson Wild Media Awards competition. Considered the highest bar of achievement in natural history filmmaking, the Jackson Wild Media Awards celebrate excellence and innovation in nature, science, and conservation storytelling.

This year, to make the competition more accessible and better reflect the range of filmmakers' experiences, the competition features new categories, including "Breakthrough Film" recognizing achievement in nature-related filmmaking in the face of adversity or limitations, as well as "Global Voices" highlighting non-Western perspectives.

Additionally, Jackson Wild's Special Jury Recognitions are not a competition, but rather a recognition by a jury of peers, celebrating impactful individuals and innovative content pushing the frontiers of storytelling about nature, science, and conservation. Special Jury Recognitions will be curated and showcased to define key conversations at the Summit.

"Compelling films connect us with each other and the world around us," said Lisa Samford, Executive Director of Jackson Wild. "In the face of climate change and biodiversity collapse, the importance of media to inspire personal and industry scale change has never been more evident."

Projects completed since June 1, 2021, are eligible to enter. The competition deadline is June 1, 2022. Finalists will be announced in early August. Winners will be celebrated at the Jackson Wild Media Awards Gala during the Jackson Wild Summit in Burgenland, Austria on September 29th, 2022. For more information, visit [www.jacksonwild.org](http://www.jacksonwild.org).

### **Content Categories**

- **General Short Entry:** Films between 5 and 20 minutes in runtime will submit a single entry for consideration in content categories and the craft category of cinematography.
- **Animal Behavior:** Awarded to the film that most effectively examines animal behavior in an innovative and illuminating way.
- **Ecosystem:** Awarded to the film that most effectively explores a habitat and the interconnectivity of its unique ecosystem.

- **Conservation:** Awarded to the film that most effectively relates conservation issues and/or solutions and the individuals, groups or projects dedicated to the protection of a species, ecosystem, resource or any other aspect of the natural world.
- **Changing Planet:** Awarded to the film that most effectively illuminates the forces affecting both our planet in the face of catastrophic climate change and biodiversity collapse, including social and environmental issues, equity and justice, public policy, community conservation and sustainability.
- **Human Planet:** Awarded to the film that best encompasses the role of humanity as an interdependent part of nature, and how our relationship with nature is critical to our spiritual, social, cultural, and personal identity as well as our health and prosperity.

### **Program Categories**

- **Breakthrough Film:** For outstanding achievement in nature-related filmmaking in the face of adversity or limitations. Prioritizing films that are non-commissioned and not currently in commercial distribution, judging will be based on ingenuity, imagination, passion, and overall quality of the work. There is no fee for entry but along with the film, entrants must submit an essay (500 words or less) detailing the experiences confronted during the creation of the film including but not limited to: budgetary restraints, traditional, political, or cultural barriers, physical, technological and regional limitations. etc.
- **Limited Series:** Awarded to the limited series that most effectively advances a natural history theme. Individual episodes may be entered into other categories. Entrants submit two episodes that best represent the series.
- **Global Voices:** For excellence in wildlife, conservation, science, social or cultural storytelling from less represented geographical and cultural perspectives. Prioritizing productions led by media makers in non-Western regions including but not limited to Asia, Africa, Central and South America, the Middle East, Micronesia and Indigenous communities around the world. Films produced in any language are encouraged to submit, English subtitles must be provided for judging.
- **On-screen Personality:** Awarded to the host, presenter, onscreen investigative journalist, or collection of expert onscreen commentators that best engage the viewer while communicating the knowledge, message, mission and spirit of a film related to our natural world. Judging will be based not only on excellence and clarity in communication but also on tenacity, originality, and ability to engage with new audiences.
- **Micro-Movie:** Awarded to the most effective and compelling film under five minutes in runtime that best advances an understanding or appreciation of the natural world.
- **Feature:** Awarded to the feature-length film, 75 minutes or longer in runtime, factual or narrative, that best advances an understanding or appreciation of the natural world.

- **Student:** For outstanding wildlife, environmental, or natural science-focused film produced by a student currently enrolled or no more than 2 years out of an academic program. Entrants must submit documentation to support their eligibility.

### **Craft Categories**

- **Sound:** Awarded for the combined contribution of sound editing, production mixing, and post-production mixing that most enhances the nature-related film of which it is a part. Judged by Television Sound Peer Group by their own criteria.
- **Cinematography:** Awarded for the cinematography that most enhances the nature-related film of which it is a part. Judged by the American Society of Cinematographers.
- **Editing:** Awarded for the editing that most enhances the nature-related film of which it is a part.
- **Original Musical Score:** Awarded for the original musical score that most enhances the nature-related film of which it is a part.
- **Writing:** Awarded for the writing that most enhances the nature-related film of which it is a part through the union of imagery, storyline, dialog, and narration. Entrants must submit a PDF of the script.

### **Special Jury Recognitions**

- **Legacy Award in Media:** Jackson Wild's Legacy Award in Media recognizes visionaries who have demonstrated excellence and innovation in delivering world-class content. Nominees can be innovative filmmakers, producers, or thought leaders who have embraced using the power of media to shine a spotlight on species and the environment to protect our planet. Their work should demonstrate a career dedicated to content surrounding conservation and environmental impact. Nominations should be made by someone personally familiar with the nominee and their work and impact.
- **Legacy Award in Science & Conservation:** Jackson Wild's Legacy Award in Science & Conservation recognizes either an individual, group, or organization that has demonstrated excellence in science & conservation. Their work places them in the field, embedded in nature and the environment, working closely with species, and often at great risk. The work can be recent or demonstrate a depth of years dedicated to conservation. Nominations should be made by someone personally familiar with the nominee and their work and impact.
- **Rising Star Award:** Jackson Wild's Rising Star Award recognizes an emerging leader in nature, conservation, and science media 35 years or younger in age. This award reflects ongoing and exceptional contributions to our planet while demonstrating leadership and innovation that promises extended impact in the future.
- **Grand Prismatic:** This recognition honors storytellers who are committed to accelerating representation of their communities in wildlife, conservation, and/or science through a unique, cultural or underrepresented perspective in relation to gender identity, ability, people of color, Indigenous/Native, and LGBTQIA+. The jury has the discretion to name one or more recognitions.

- **Innovation in Green Production:** For the best implementation of sustainable practices to reduce the environmental impact through the entire lifecycle of a production. The jury has the discretion to name one or more recognitions.
- **Impact Campaign:** Jackson Wild recognizes innovative approaches to active impact campaigns that extend conservation beyond the screen to inspire measurable on-the-ground change through education, policy change, and engagement and outreach. The jury has the discretion to name one or more recognitions.
- **Engaging Platforms:** This recognition honors content that best integrates the interactive potential of digital media and technology to engage awareness and understanding of the natural world, including but not limited to apps, games, social media content, podcasts, extended reality, mobile, and web-based experiences. The jury has the discretion to name one or more recognitions.

### **About Jackson Wild**

For over 30 years, Jackson Wild has been a catalyst for accelerating and elevating impactful storytelling at the nexus of nature, science, and conservation. Through innovative and collaborative community gatherings, skill-building initiatives, and mentorship programs, Jackson Wild creates an inclusive forum for storytellers to more deeply illuminate connections to the natural world and our collective responsibility to the wild.

Jackson Wild's international board members include: African Wildlife Foundation, ARTE France, BBC Studios, Blue Ant Media / Love Nature, Borealés, Conservation International, Discovery, Doclights, GBH, Gorongosa Restoration Project, HHMI Tangled Bank Studios, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, National Geographic Partners, National Geographic Society, Nature/WNET, Netflix, NEWF (Nature, Environment, Wildlife, Filmmaking), Off the Fence Productions, ORF Universum, PBS, Saint Thomas Productions, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, Seeker, Smithsonian Channel, Sony Electronics, The Nature Conservancy, Terra Mater Studios, Wanda Films, and World Wildlife Fund US.

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