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EOU OUTDOOR PROGRAM PRESENTS THE 10TH ANNUAL WINTER WILDLANDS ALLIANCE BACKCOUNTRY FILM FESTIVAL

La Grande, OR — The EOU Outdoor Program and Anthony Lakes in conjunction with the Winter Wildlands Alliance Backcountry Film Festival present nine unique films aimed to inspire winter adventurers to seek the snow less traveled. Produced by the Boise-based nonprofit, Winter Wildlands Alliance, the Backcountry Film Festival will show at the Art Center in La Grande on Feb. 20th and travel to more than 100 showings around the world.

The Backcountry Film Festival is renowned for its mix of professional and grassroots films – from well-known filmmakers who search backcountry corners across the globe to submit their best work to first-timers who take a video camera out on their weekend excursions.

The festival was created in 2004 to highlight Winter Wildlands Alliance’s efforts to preserve and promote winter landscapes for human-powered users. From a single showing in Boise that first year, the festival has grown to include showings in locations throughout the United States and Canada and now in Antarctica, Europe, Australia and Asia. Funds raised stay in local communities to support like-minded, human-powered recreation and conservation efforts and to raise awareness of winter management issues, avalanche training/safety and winter education programs.

This year’s program includes:

- **Winner, Best of Festival, Out on a Limb** from T-bar Films tells the story of Vasu, who’s love for skiing and the backcountry overcomes all obstacles.
- **Best of the Backcountry Award winner, Powder Pilgrimage** from Joey Howell, chronicles the ventures of two friends ski-bumming it to Valdez, Alaska, a trip we should all take once.
- Best Grassroots Film winner, **Backcountry Baker** by Jeremy Lurie follows Labrador retriever Baker and his owner as they pursue their love of mountains through backcountry skiing.
- **From the Road** by Fischer Creative portrays the balance between liberation and limitation as a group of athletes come together to help a skiing comrade gain reconnection with the Alaska peak where a 2009 accident ended his professional guiding career.
- **Afterglow** from Sweetgrass Productions is a revolutionary and visually spectacular film that brings a whole new light to skiing in the dark.
- **95 to Infinity** by Dogtooth Media follows brothers Andy and Mike Traslin as they keep the torch lit for 95 months of winter turns.
- **IRS Traverse** by filmmaker Luc Mehl is fun and quirky adventure through the Alaska Wilderness.
- **Sundog** from SturgeFilms capture the dog days of skiing in Patagonia.
- **Higher** continues the journey of athlete Jeremy Jones as he reaches new heights. From Teton Gravity Research.

Tickets are available for purchase at the door for $5 and free to students with a valid EOU ID. There will be a raffle for fantastic outdoor gear and prizes like ski equipment, mountain bike gear, avalanche and snow safety books, KEEN footwear, Anthony Lakes season pass and lift tickets, gift certificates to Ten Depot, Mountain Khakis, and more.

The event will be catered by Benchwarmer’s Pub and Grill with food and good beer available for purchase.

For more information on the Eastern Oregon Backcountry Festival please visit [https://www.eou.edu/outdoor/eastern-oregon-backcountry-festival-2015](https://www.eou.edu/outdoor/eastern-oregon-backcountry-festival-2015) or like the EOU Outdoor Program on Facebook.