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**Give the gift of the outdoors to our youth at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Wildlands Alliance Backcountry Film Festival**

Sandpoint, Idaho --- Winter is full of ups and downs so why not celebrate winter and embrace the UP? It's time to dust off the skis, pull on your parka, grab your ski buddies, and celebrate the fun and beauty of winter at the 9th Annual Winter Wildlands Alliance Backcountry Film Festival. The ten unique films included in this year's Backcountry Film Festival will inspire you to embrace the UP! The Backcountry Film Festival makes its world premiere November 1 in Boise, Idaho and will then tour to more than 100 showings around the world, including a stop in Sandpoint, Idaho at the historic Panida Theater on Friday November 22nd, 2013.

This showing of the Backcountry Film Festival will be of special importance. Centered on addressing the need to provide intentional, affordable, and accessible outdoor education for local area youth, SOLE will host this event to raise essential funds for it's Fieldwork Experience program, including their Winter Wildlands Alliance SnowSchool – the nations largest on-snow outdoor science program. With an average poverty rate of 60% at most area schools this need is noteworthy. Event proceeds will ensure youth will have novel and purposeful outdoor education opportunities during the winter months. To facilitate this, the showing in Sandpoint serves up a silent auction for those in search for some holiday outdoor gift ideas; a raffle of various local goods and services for all attendees; a VIP pre-event with additional benefits including premier seating, as well as, special presentations from local organizations and agencies all of which make this yearly event definitely worth attending!

The films come from renowned and grassroots filmmakers who search backcountry corners across the globe to submit their best work. 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, Canada and overseas to Antarctica, Europe, Australia and Asia. Funds raised stay in local communities to support like-minded, human-powered recreation efforts and to raise awareness of winter management issues, avalanche training/safety and winter education programs, such as SOLE.

Come take the ride and support a great cause while doing so!

Additional Info, including tickets price levels and how to purchase tickets:  
[www.soleexperiences.org/news/upcoming-sole-experiences/backcountryfilmfest/](http://www.soleexperiences.org/news/upcoming-sole-experiences/backcountryfilmfest/)

Additional Info on SOLE's Fieldwork Experience program:  
<http://www.soleexperiences.org/experiences/fieldwork/>

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This year's Backcountry program includes:

- **Valhalla** from Sweetgrass Productions and winner of the 2013 "Best of Festival," is the tale of one man's search to rediscover the freedom of his youth. Feeling the distant heat of its fire still burning in the mountains of the frozen north, he sets out in search of those tending the flame—the untamed, the wild, and the outcast dwelling on the fringe.
- **Trail Break** by Powderwhore is a beautiful black and white portrait of deep powder skiing.
- **Morning Rituals**, is a day in the life of an undercover ski bum. Presented by Chris Dickey of Orange and Purple.
- **Youth**, from filmmaker Corey Rich, inspires us to pack up the kids and proves that backcountry skiing is a family affair.
- **Bolton Valley** is the story of how a small community fought to save their beloved ski area. Winner of "Best Conservation Film" award.
- **Nokhoi Zeekh: In search of the Wolverine**. Five Americans set off on a month-long ski expedition through northern Mongolia to document one of the world's most iconic but least-known winter species.
- **Bigger Braver**, filmmaker Luc Mehl turns the camera on a young female athlete who shares her insight into the courage and strength involved in seeking big mountain adventure. Winner of "Best Short Film" award.
- From filmmaker and storyteller Fitz Cahall at Duct Tape then Beer comes **Strong**. Capturing Roger Strong's reflections about moving forward after a tragic avalanche.
- **Poor Man's Heli**, skier Antoine Boisselier thinks outside the skin track and comes up with a new and unique way to the top of the mountain. From Mike Douglas at Switchback Entertainment.
- From filmmaker Jason Thompson comes **Take the Ride**, asking the question; "when you have a dream will you buy the ticket? Will you Take the Ride?"