



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Inspiring Film Festival Comes to Santa Barbara Join the Environmental Defense Center at The Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival On Tour**

SANTA BARBARA, CA—The largest environmental film festival in North America is coming to Santa Barbara. Join the Environmental Defense Center when they host the *Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival On Tour* at Campbell Hall, UCSB on November 14, 2008.

The tour brings together a selection of films from the annual festival held the second week of January in Nevada City, CA. “The films include narratives directly from people throughout the world engaged in mobilizing citizens to protect our natural resources and wild places,” says tour manager, Susie Stuphin. “The films highlight the ‘tipping points’ that the planet is reaching yet portray the “Turning of the Tides” as communities realize and respond to these crises with creativity, resolve, and heart.”

The Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival was started by the watershed advocacy group, the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL). The festival’s namesake is in celebration of achieving Wild & Scenic status for 39 miles of the South Yuba River in 1999. The festival enabled SYRCL to mobilize their community for the advocacy of its local watershed. As they celebrate their 7<sup>th</sup> annual in January 2009, the 3-day event will feature over 125 award-winning films and welcome guest speakers, celebrities, and activists who bring a human face to the environmental movement. By partnering with grassroots organizations, SYRCL is sharing their success as an environmental group with other organizations nationwide. It is building a network of grassroots organizations connected by a common goal, to use film to inspire activism.

The Wild & Scenic On Tour partners with environmental and grassroots groups to host tour venues across the country reaching 75 cities. For the second year in a row, the Environmental Defense Center was selected as a partner organization to host the festival in Santa Barbara. The festival brings a community together around film allowing audiences an opportunity to evaluate local and national issues affecting their environment. The films inspire and motivate people to go out and make a difference in their community and around the world. Films to be shown in Santa Barbara include:

***For the Price of a Cup of Coffee:*** Follow the life cycle of a paper cup and the environmental repercussions of a society reliant on convenience. Maybe this will inspire you to bring your own cup next time you go to a café!

***Oil and Water Project:*** Join two kayakers on an adventure from Alaska to Argentina as they search in pursuit of the best whitewater in the Americas and advocate the use of alternative energy.

***The Edge of Eden: Living with Grizzlies:*** Grizzly bears are considered by many to be the most dangerous animal in the world. Charlie Russell thinks differently. His beliefs have taken him to Russia, where he has raised orphaned grizzly bear cubs for the past ten years in the wilderness of the Southern Kamchatka Peninsula.

The festival is a natural extension of the Environmental Defense Center's work to protect and enhance the local environment through education, advocacy, and legal action. EDC works primarily within Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties. Since 1977, EDC has empowered community based organizations to advance environmental protection. Program areas include protecting coast and ocean resources, open spaces and wildlife, and human and environmental health.

**EVENT DETAILS:**

**Date & Time:** November 14. Doors open at 6PM and show starts at 6:30PM

**Where:** Campbell Hall, UCSB

**Cost:** Adults \$10, Kids Under 12 \$5

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.edcnet.org](http://www.edcnet.org), by calling 963-1622 or can be picked up at the Patagonia store in Ventura (235 W. Santa Clara St). Tickets are also available at the door.

**For more information:** Contact Betsy Weber at 963-1622 or [bweber@edcnet.org](mailto:bweber@edcnet.org).

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