



## Sample Proposal for SDF Filmmaking Grant

**Project Title:**

Red Wolf Revival: An Uncertain Tomorrow

**Applicant name:**

Madison McClintock

**Do you meet the below criteria?:**

Applicants must live or work in NC ,Applicants must be 18-years of age or older,Applicants must have a US social security number or US federal tax ID

**Fiscal sponsor:**

No.

**Applicant's role on project:**

Co-Producer

**Applicant's phone number:**

[Withheld]

**Applicant mailing address:**

[Withheld]

**Applicant's email address:**

[Withheld]

**Project website and social media links:**

<http://www.nestboxcollective.com/redwolfrevival/>

<https://www.facebook.com/RedWolfRevival>

<https://twitter.com/redwolfrevival>

**Director's experience:**

Emerging

**Filmmaker(s) name and one paragraph bio:**

Roshan Patel, Director & Co-Producer Roshan is a filmmaker based in Bozeman, MT. With a background of community engagement and environmental education, he is now pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in Science and Natural History Filmmaking. He has produced short films for a variety of topics, ranging from lions in western India to the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on deep-sea artifacts and ecosystems. His latest film, *Pride*, screened at festivals around the globe and has won awards, such as "Best Short" at the International Wildlife Film Festival, and "Best Conservation Success Film" at the NY Wild Film Festival. It is also featured on National Geographic's "Short Film Showcase." Roshan is keen on exploring human relationships with our environment, and uses filmmaking as his way to share those stories.

Madison McClintock, Co-Producer Madison has been known to chase mushroom hunters through Montana forests, chat with doomsday preppers and crazy cat ladies, deeply ponder the implications of self-transcendence, and explore many other absurdities for the sake of film. She is particularly interested in how filmmaking can be used as a creative medium to explore the extraordinary ways humans interact with their environments, the strange and beautiful, and how it can help people rediscover their childlike curiosity about the world. Madison is a co-founder/producer at Nestbox Collective and holds a Master of Fine Arts in Science & Natural

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History Filmmaking. Madison's last film, *Fungiphilia Rising*, was funded by a successful Kickstarter campaign, is currently screening at festivals throughout the world and is featured on National Geographic's Short Film Showcase.

### **Other key personnel/crew:**

Susannah Smith, Executive Producer Susannah Smith is the marketing director for The Vault, a restored 1919 bank building in downtown Tampa's arts district. Her communications specialty is in social marketing and qualitative research-- with a passion for wildlife conservation as it applies to human behavior. Her research has taken her across Florida to interview exotic pet owners regarding human-wildlife interactions on television. Susannah worked at Busch Gardens Tampa for eight years as media spokesperson, zoo educator, and presentation trainer. She represented Busch Entertainment Corporation on CNN, Good Morning America, CBS' Early Show, Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures, and others. She was selected as an Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leader in 2005 and serves as President on the Board of Directors for The Wildlands Network.

### **How did you learn about SDF's Filmmaking Grants?:**

Friend

### **Project Type:**

Documentary short (40 minutes and under)

### **Project Stage:**

Post Production (early editing)

### **Shooting format and camera:**

4K and HD, Sony FS700 and Sony A7S

### **Logline (1-2 sentences max):**

With the fate of the red wolves at stake, *Red Wolf Revival* explores whether or not they can still survive in their last wild home in North Carolina.

### **One paragraph synopsis:**

Today, the red wolf is facing a decision that will ultimately decide its fate as a species. Over the course of its history, it has gone from abundant to extinct in the wild, and finally exists today as a small re-introduced wild population near the coast of North Carolina. This year, the state requested that the federal government list the species extinct in the wild and terminate its official support of the re-introduction program. This would make the red wolf extinct in the wild for the second time in thirty years. In an effort to understand how this decision came to be and before the federal government makes their decision, *Red Wolf Revival* aims to help facilitate an open dialogue about the future of red wolves; is there room for this predator, or is it facing its final days? What does this decision mean for other endangered species in the US? The film features landowners, writers, scientists, politicians, and concerned citizens to examine the cultural landscape in the region, how the story became urgent, and explores the implications of the decisions to come.

### **Project Timeline:**

Principal photography occurred between February and June of 2015, and we are now transition into post-production. Through a generous private donor, we funded our first set of production days with \$5,000. In April and May of 2015 we launched a Kickstarter Campaign to raise funds to complete production, post-production, and cover some distribution costs. We raised nearly \$18,000. The film will be finished in November 2015, with premiere screenings that month in North Carolina. In late November, will begin submitting the film to various film festivals.

### **Story treatment:**

*Red Wolf Revival* will be told by a mosaic of characters with differing perspectives and stakes in the issue. There are clearly several points of view of how and why a red wolf should be a part of the wildlife in North Carolina. This method will highlight these nuances by having a variety of perspectives represented, and letting audiences meet the people who ultimately live and work

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with the red wolf. As there is controversy inherent to the story, we feel this approach will give more authenticity and transparency. In addition to these conversations, we will introduce the region to the audience, highlighting not only the red wolf, but also its environment. The controversy has several facets, but one of the most prominent connects to land use. We will visualize the relationship between managed land and wild land through various film techniques, including aerial footage. We want our audience to experience the space where the red wolf lives and to understand its place in the environment and culture there. Additionally we will have animated graphics that will illustrate important concepts and history. Because our ultimate goal with this film is to facilitate a dialogue regarding potential next steps for the Red Wolf Recovery Program, it will be accessible and visually engaging.

### **Access to story/characters:**

In June 2015, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, who ultimately will decide the fate of this species, announced they will be reviewing and evaluating all aspects of the red wolf program before making its formal decision by the close of 2015. Because of this timeline, this film will fall perfectly within a period of increasing engagement and knowledge of this species and issue. As our production started within weeks of the announcement, we were able to film people with a variety of perspectives; from the landowner living with the red wolf, to conservationists fighting for its survival. We have collected releases from every subject, and have been permitted to film throughout the refuge and region. This gave us the access we needed to talk to people involved with this story across the country. Having previously made a film about human and wildlife intersections, Roshan wanted to tell this story as it was going unnoticed not only within the US, but also within North Carolina. Between his previous filmmaking experience, early funding, projected timeline and access to this story, we feel uniquely qualified to share this story.

### **Audience engagement:**

Our primary audience for this film is stakeholders in the five- county recovery area of Northeast North Carolina (Dare, Tyrell, Hyde, Washington and Beaufort counties). This includes everyone from landowners and residents to U.S. Fish and Wildlife scientists, non-profits and politicians in North Carolina. We hope the film can help the conversation reach a point that considers the importance of wild species, while recognizing and addressing concerns from people being directly affected by these decisions. We plan to host our premiere screenings in November 2015 in the towns of Engelhard and Columbia, North Carolina followed by a panel discussion with regional experts, people from the film, and concerned citizens. Additionally, we will have a screening in the Raleigh/Durham area for those who do not live in the recovery area. We will donate copies of the film to local libraries, schools, and community centers in the five-county recovery area so that it is available as a resource for those that would like to learn more about the issue. After these screenings, we will screen it throughout the country through events at nature centers and zoos, online options, and film festivals. As the decisions regarding the future of red wolves will have implications to every endangered species, we will screen the film in other areas where endangered species are considered inconvenient in hopes to engage them in this conversation.

### **Total project budget:**

\$28,667.21

### **Total money spent to date:**

\$12,213.07

### **Estimate to complete:**

\$7,275.09

### **Fundraising plan:**

We received our starting funds of \$5,000 as result of the private fundraising efforts of our Executive Producer, Susannah Smith. These initial funds allowed us to both develop our story and prepare in pre-production and then do our first round of production in February 2015. With our footage and findings on our first trip to North Carolina we were able to develop a Kickstarter

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campaign in April 2015. We raised \$16,392.12 to complete production as well as cover baseline post-production and initial distribution. The Southern Documentary Fund grant will ideally cover additional post-production work to improve our animations, music licensing, final sound mix, and color correction. We have also applied for fiscal sponsorship through the Southern Documentary fund which would allow us to receive donations from organizations and individuals to go towards outreach, screenings, and distribution of this story unique to the south and its ecosystems. The Wildlands Network has already expressed interest in donating to early screening costs, as well as various red wolf captive breeding centers (Endangered Wolf Center, Wolf Conservation Center, Point Defiance Zoos and Aquarium). Without fiscal sponsorship, they are unable to donate and help cover our screening fees. Kickstarter Campaign link:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/544053515/red-wolf-revival-an-uncertain-tomorrow>

### **Specifically how SDF grant monies will be spent?:**

SDF grant monies will be used to fill gaps in our post-production budget that we did not anticipate during our initial fundraising endeavors. The funds will go towards additional personnel costs in editing, animating/motion graphics, and sound design as well as for commissioning an original score for the film.

### **Work sample URL and password:**

Red Wolf Revival Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/redwolfrevival/144586847>

[Submission sample was the trailer for RWR's Kickstarter campaign. It included footage from their first round of production in February 2015, which introduced some key characters and initial footage of red wolves and their environment.]