

# Sacred Land Film Project

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Award-Winning Four-Part Film Series *STANDING ON SACRED GROUND* Broadcast Nationally throughout April, May and on Earth Day**

*Series Airs on PBS World Channel, First Nations Experience Network (FNX),  
KQED and KCSM (check local listings)*

Berkeley, CA (Tuesday, April 5, 2015): ***Standing on Sacred Ground***, a four-part documentary series on indigenous struggles over sacred sites, seven years in-the-making, will be broadcast nationally on PBS's [World Channel](#), First Nations Experience channel ([FNX](#)) and San Francisco Bay Area stations [KQED](#) and [KCSM](#) throughout April and May, including special broadcasts on Earth Day. *Check local listings, broadcast schedule details below.*

The World Channel is now carried by 72 licensees/155 stations reaching 65% of U.S. TV households. The FNX network is distributed to 16 PBS and tribal stations in 18 states throughout Indian country, illustrating healthy, positive and authentic lives and cultures of Native American and indigenous peoples around the world, showcasing TV series, documentaries and short films. FNX reaches more than 20 million households in the U.S.

*Standing on Sacred Ground*, produced by the Sacred Land Film Project, shares stories from eight indigenous communities around the globe resisting threats to lands they consider sacred in a growing movement to defend human rights, protect culture and preserve the environment. In the series, native people share ecological wisdom and spiritual reverence while they battle government and corporate megaprojects, New Age tourism, resource extraction, climate change and repression by dominant religions.

In episode one, ***Pilgrims and Tourists***, indigenous shamans of the Altai Republic of Russia and a northern California tribe find common ground resisting government projects: the raising of Shasta Dam and a Gazprom pipeline through a sacred burial area and World Heritage Site. In episode two, ***Profit and Loss***, from Papua New Guinea to the tar sands of Alberta, Canada, native people fight the loss of land, water and health to mining and oil industries. In episode three, ***Fire and Ice***, from the Gamo Highlands of Ethiopia to the Andes of Peru, indigenous communities protect their sacred lands from development, competing religions and climate change. In the final episode, ***Islands of Sanctuary***, Aboriginal Australians and Native Hawaiians reclaim land and resist the erosion of culture and environment from government and military.

“We’re giving public television viewers the opportunity to hear challenging, global perspectives from a chorus of indigenous voices—activists and elders who are defending against attacks on their resources, sacred places and the future we share,” said producer and director Christopher “Toby” McLeod. “We are proud to partner with FNX and KCSM, which are striving to provide public television viewers with diverse, enlightening programming.”

The film series has screened to great acclaim around the world since its release at the Mill Valley Film Festival in October 2013. It received the Best Documentary Feature Award at the Native American Film Festival in 2013, and director Toby McLeod received the John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaking Award at the Wild & Scenic Film Festival 2014. The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian screened the series last year as part of the U.S. Environmental Film Festival, and the films were featured at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia, in November 2014. The films have also been screening in the Altai Republic, Moscow, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Australia’s National Indigenous Television (NITV), and last year, the films had a nationwide broadcast on the PBS World Channel.

**BROADCAST SCHEDULE DETAILS — World Channel:**

***Profit and Loss***

- Monday, April 11 (*check local listings*), 7 PM (ET)

***Fire and Ice***

- Monday, April 18 (*check local listings*), 7 PM (ET)

***Islands of Sanctuary***

- Monday, April 25 (*check local listings*), 7 PM (ET)

**BROADCAST SCHEDULE DETAILS — FNX\*:**

***Pilgrims and Tourists***

- Tuesday, April 19, 9 PM (ET)
- Wednesday, April 20, 3 PM (ET)

***Profit and Loss***

- Wednesday, April 20, 9 PM (ET)
- Thursday, April 21, 3 PM (ET)

***Fire and Ice***

- Thursday, April 21, 9 PM (ET)
- Friday, April 22, 3 PM (ET)

***Islands of Sanctuary***

- Friday, April 22, 9 PM (ET) (Earth Day)
- Saturday, April 23, 3 PM (ET)

\*FNX airs nationally on 16 PBS stations throughout Indian Country. A program broadcast on FNX at 9 PM Eastern Time airs in the Central Time Zone at 8 PM, the Mountain Time Zone at 7 PM and Pacific Time Zone at 6 PM.

**BROADCAST SCHEDULE DETAILS — KQED:**

***Profit and Loss***

- KQED World: Tuesday, April 12, 5 AM (PT)
- KQED World: Tuesday, April 12, 11 AM (PT)

***Fire and Ice***

- KQED World: Tuesday, April 19, 5 AM (PT)
- KQED World: Tuesday, April 19, 11 AM (PT)
- KQED Plus: Thursday, May 26, 11 PM (PT)
- KQED Plus: Friday, May 27, 5 AM (PT)

***Islands of Sanctuary***

- KQED World: Tuesday, April 26, 5 AM (PT)
- KQED World: Tuesday, April 26, 11 AM (PT)
- KQED World: Sunday, May 15, 8 PM (PT)

**BROADCAST SCHEDULE DETAILS — KCSM:**

The *Standing on Sacred Ground* series will also be broadcast in the San Francisco Bay Area over four nights on KCSM-TV, starting Sunday, April 17 at 10 PM (PT) and continuing the following three nights at 10 PM (PT).

Praise for **STANDING ON SACRED GROUND:**

*“Beautifully illuminates Indigenous peoples’ resistance to environmental devastation and their determination to protect our common future.”* —Robert Redford

*“Some of the finest minds on the planet are featured in this documentary—and they’re talking about the biggest problems our planet has ever faced!”* —Bill McKibben

To learn more about the series and access our Media Kit visit [www.StandingOnSacredGround.org](http://www.StandingOnSacredGround.org)

**Standing on Sacred Ground Vimeo Links:**

***Episode One: Pilgrims and Tourists (Altai Republic, Russia and northern California)***

Link: <https://vimeo.com/91463503>

case sensitive password: Pilgrims

***Episode Two: Profit and Loss (Papua New Guinea and tar sands of Alberta, Canada)***

Link: <https://vimeo.com/91546102>

case sensitive password: Profit

***Episode Three: Fire and Ice (Ethiopia and Peru)***

Link: <https://vimeo.com/91558724>

case sensitive password: Ayni

***Episode Four: Islands of Sanctuary (Australia and Hawai`i)***

Link: <https://vimeo.com/91570213>

case sensitive password: Ohana

**About the Partners:**

***Standing on Sacred Ground*** is a co-production of Sacred Land Film Project and Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) in association with Vision Maker Media (VMM), with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

***Sacred Land Film Project:***

For 30 years, the Sacred Land Film Project has produced documentaries, journalism and educational materials—films, DVDs, articles, photographs, school curricula and website content—to deepen public understanding of Indigenous cultures and environmental issues. Our 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor is the nonprofit Earth Island Institute.

***First Nations Experience Network (FNX):***

The FNX television channel presents Native American stories to create a diverse and entertaining channel across all media platforms 24/7. The non-profit channel is the result of a shared vision between the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and PBS/KVCR both located in San Bernardino, California. FNX illustrates healthy, positive, and real lives and cultures of Native American and indigenous people around the world showcasing TV series, documentaries, short films, PSAs, and films in the categories of lifestyle, children's, drama, comedy, sports, music, art, dance, politics, news, cooking, health, animation, fitness, talk show, nature and gardening.

***World Channel:***

WORLD<sup>SM</sup> is a 24/7, full service multicast channel featuring public television's signature nonfiction documentary, science and news programming complemented by original content from emerging producers. Launched in August 2007, WORLD is produced and distributed by WGBH/Boston, American Public Television (APT) and WNET/New York in association with Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA). WORLD is distributed by APT and is now carried by 72 licensees/155 stations representing 65.8% of U.S. TV households.

***KQED:***

KQED serves the people of Northern California with a community-supported alternative to commercial media. KQED provides citizens with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions; convene community dialogue; bring the arts to everyone; and engage audiences to share their stories. KQED helps students and teachers thrive in 21st century classrooms, and take people of all ages on journeys of exploration—exposing them to new people, places and ideas.

***KCSM:***

KCSM's television and radio stations, licensed to the San Mateo County Community College District, made their broadcast debuts in 1964. KCSM is located in the San Francisco Bay Area, the heart of the fifth largest television and radio market in the United States with the potential of reaching an audience of more than 6 million people.

**Christopher (Toby) McLeod, Producer/Director:**

Toby McLeod circled the globe for five years filming the *Standing on Sacred Ground* series. McLeod founded the Sacred Land Film Project in 1984 to make high-impact documentary films relevant to indigenous communities and modern audiences. He produced and directed *In the Light of Reverence* (P.O.V., 2001) and other award-winning documentary films: *The Four Corners: A National Sacrifice Area?*, *Downwind/Downstream*, and *NOVA: Poison in the Rockies*. Awards include the Council on Foundation's Henry Hampton Award, the John de Graaf Environmental Filmmaking Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship for filmmaking and a Student Academy Award in 1983. His first film was *The Cracking of Glen Canyon Dam – with Edward Abbey and Earth First!* McLeod holds a master's degree from U.C. Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism and a B.A. in American History from Yale.

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