



GOOD FIRE



They tried to extinguish fire knowledge, but it never left the land—is it here to stay?

Good Fire is a feature-length documentary about how fire came to the land as a tool to warm people, cook meals, and purify the land. It also tells the story of how colonization separated Yurok people from their cultural fire practices and how that separation of people, land, and fire has had dire consequences for the people and the land. Ultimately, **Good Fire** is the story of how Yurok people are working to ensure that people, land, and fire remain united now and into the future.

The film follows **Margo Robbins** (Yurok), and the leadership team of the **Cultural Fire Management Council** (a non-profit organization created and led by tribal members to facilitate the practice of cultural fire on Yurok lands). **Elizabeth Azzuz** (Yurok/Karuk), **Robert McConnell** (Yurok), and **Claire Brown** bring their knowledge and strengths to return fire to the people. To further their vision of healing the world, they are seeking to purchasing a piece of land in Weitchpec to build a **Cultural Fire Training Center**—a firehouse dedicated to placing fire on the land and educating the world about good fire.



Good Fire explores the following issues:

- Fire suppression is connected to climate change and the increase of catastrophic fire throughout the western United States
- Fire is integral to the cycles of nature that ensures healthy forests, water, salmon, and the continued survivance of Indigenous peoples
- Indigenous peoples, in particular Klamath Tribes, understand fire’s ability to heal the land and provide for the people
- Prejudice and an overwhelming loss of people who currently carry fire knowledge threaten to keep the land separated from good fire—but there is hope



The film **Roni Jo Draper, Ph.D.**, (Yurok, she/her) (Director, Writer) grew up listening to her father’s stories of placing fire on the land at the direction of his grandmother, a master basket maker. The stories fascinated her, and she longed to experience the wonder of burning the land. Meanwhile, **Marissa Lila** (they/them), (Co-director, Cinematographer) with their voracious curiosity, found in this project the opportunity to tell a story about powerful women who approach fire and land stewardship as both a material and spiritual practice.

At the heart of Yurok knowledge keeping and sharing is storytelling. Documentary film offers another way to extend Yurok storytelling to people beyond the villages that dot the lower Klamath River. Like all Yurok stories, **Good Fire** seeks to tell a story that is simultaneously about life and community and land and futures told in a beautiful way.

Good Fire comes off the success of **Fire Tender**, a short documentary about cultural fire, which was nominated as best short documentary at the American Indian Film Festival and will air on PBS’s The World program in April to celebrate Earth Day.

We have raised \$400,000 of our budget thanks to support from a California Humanities Grant and an ITVS partnership. We anticipate an extensive education and outreach initiative to ensure that the film is seen by people interested in Indigenous sovereignty and climate health.

We are seeking \$500,000 to complete **Good Fire**.

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Good Fire sample
<https://vimeo.com/878368972/550d31130d?ts=0&share=copy>

