



# Usufruct

## Screening Toolkit



# About The Film

**Runtime:** 10 minutes

**Directed by:** Andy Cochrane,  
Adam Wells

## Logline

Usufruct is a short film about three friends on an atypical bikepacking trip near Durango, Colorado. Instead of planning a route with the best riding or most scenic vistas, they opt to ride through burn zones and beetle kill areas, diving into the impact and implications that climate change is having on their home trails. Their goal is to learn what they can do—and what we all can do— to start to change the tide.

## Synopsis

Travel along any high elevation trail in Western North America and you are bound to encounter three things: pines with orange needles, trees fallen across the trail and evidence of wildfires. All three are symptoms of climate change. While we can all relate to these factors, few recognize them all as the result of a beetle. The pine bark beetle is prolific throughout the Rockies, Sierra and Cascades and recently has a growing (and soon to be historic) relationship with high elevation forests. By linking up with the Mountain Studies Institute (MSI), the National Park Service scientists studying beetle and pine relationships and the organizations at the forefront of trails and advocacy in California, we can tell a story of interconnectedness, climate and cycling.

Osleger showcases the impacts of the pine bark beetle in his short film, *Usufruct* which is about three friends on an atypical bikepacking trip near Durango, Colorado. Instead of planning a route with the best riding or most scenic vistas, they opt to ride through burn zones and beetle kill areas, diving into the impact and implications that climate change is having on their home trails. Their goal is to learn what they can do—and what we all can do— to start to change the tide.

**Produced by:** Andy Cochrane,  
Dillon Osleger

## Social Media

- [@dillon.osleger](#)
- [@thegreenevan](#)
- [@sarah\\_sturmy](#)
- #usufructfilm
- #beetlesandbikes
- #powerofthebeetle



-Credit: Andy Cochrane



# Discussion Questions

- Dillon mentions that as a geologist he's used to studying a moment in time, and looking to the past and the future for perspective. Have there been any times where you were particularly tuned into a moment in time of the natural world? Are there trends you've observed? Or goals you hope will be achieved in the future?
- Sarah, Evan, and Dillon find connection with this area through their passion for riding bikes. Are there certain places you've spent meaningful time in? What is the state of that area today compared to 30 years ago?
- As he inspects a tree, Dillon states that the trees circulatory and digestive systems have been ruined from wildfire. Are there personal, physical effects of climate change that you've thought about? Any that you have experienced?
- Are there ways in which you support the natural spaces in your area? Are there ways you're not involved but wish that you were?
- When witnessing systemic breakdowns, what role can an individual play in enacting change?

# Film Resources

**Official Trailer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pl1W-l6v8HQ>

**Full Film:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q056hYXdtdM>

**Download:** contact [ross@protectourwinters.org](mailto:ross@protectourwinters.org)

**Project Webpage:**

<https://protectourwinters.org/grant-project/usufruct/>

**Blog Article:** [“Usufruct” Showcases the Impacts of Beetle Kill on the Trails of the Rocky Mountain West](#)

**Zine:** [https://issuu.com/collegedownload/docs/usufruct\\_zine](https://issuu.com/collegedownload/docs/usufruct_zine)



-Credit: Andy Cochrane

**“The reason I like bikepacking - you have to stop and camp and be a part of your natural surrounding .”**

-Sarah Sturm, Professional Off Road Cyclist

# The How To's

Thank you for your interest in screening Usufruct!

This guide and toolkit is intended to help you host an impactful and successful screening. Here we have included a few tips to help bring this event to life.



-Credit: Andy Cochrane

**Promotion:** Make sure you promote your event! Social media, email, and phone calls are great ways to spread the word. Resources, sample language, and images can be found here.

**Timing:** Give yourself at least two weeks to schedule, plan, promote, and execute your event.

**Organizing your Event:** We highly recommend having a post-screening conversation or panel. Partner with other organizations for participants, reach across the aisle for different points of view, and develop a list of questions that will address the local and personal issues your audience cares about. If you'd like support in film discussion questions, please contact [info@protectourwinters.org](mailto:info@protectourwinters.org)

**Event Preparation:** Make sure you test your technology at least a day in advance of your screening so you have plenty of time to troubleshoot. If you are doing a panel conversation, do a test run with your participants and ensure they are all comfortable with the run of show.

**Creating Impact:** We're making this film available to you for free but we need your help! In this guide you will find ways for you and your audience to take action. Encourage your audience to get involved and to inspire others to join them. To learn more about how POW is creating impact and to join the cause, [Join Team POW!](#)

There are 50 Million passionate outdoor enthusiasts across the country. This is our common ground. Together, we can use our votes to protect the places we love.



# About The Alliance Member

Dillon Osleger is an athlete, environmental advocate, and scientist driving the outdoor community's narrative on climate, conservation, and access. He splits his time between Truckee and Santa Barbara, California working to better the trail and conservation conditions in each respective region through trail building, land trust conservation initiatives, and equitable access programs.

[Visit Dillon's POW Alliance Profile](#)

[@dillon.osleger](#)



-Credit: Adam Wells

**“I don’t want to make it seem like the problem is the beetles or the trees ...it’s kind of us ”**

-Dillon Osleger, Professional Mountain Biker