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New Documentary "American Scar" Reveals Border Wall Destruction

Local Environmental Group to Host Virtual Screening and Q&A for New Yorker Film

TUCSON, Ariz. — on Wednesday, May 4, at 5 p.m. MST, Sky Island Alliance will host a virtual screening of a new short border wall film produced by *The New Yorker*.

The 13-minute documentary, "American Scar," reveals new footage of border wall destruction, as well as clips of wildlife that are threatened in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. Following the short film, there will be a panel moderated by Sky Island Alliance's Program Director Emily Burns with the documentary's director, producer, and other featured photographers and conservationists. Emily is also featured in the film.

The free <u>event</u> will be on Zoom, presented in English and Spanish, with film subtitles and simultaneous translation provided by the National Center for Interpretation.

"Our borderlands are beautiful — home to a diversity of wildlife, plants, and human communities — and they deserve protection," said Emily Burns, Program Director for Sky Island Alliance. "This film shares the story of this amazing place and the senseless harm caused by border wall construction."

The wall being constructed at the U.S.-Mexico border has cut through the heart of the Sky Islands, causing enormous environmental harm — endangering springs, damaging waterways like the San Pedro River, and stopping wildlife in their tracks. It's also harming public lands, Indigenous lands and culture, local communities, human rights, and civil liberties.

To date at least <u>84 federal and state laws and regulations</u>, including the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Protection Act, have been waived to advance border wall construction in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

Sky Island Alliance is committed to working to halt all future border wall construction, monitor the region's critical wildlife corridors, document damage inflicted on the landscape, and track impacts the wall has on wildlife.

Sky Island Alliance is a regional conservation nonprofit dedicated to protecting and restoring the diversity of life and lands in the Sky Island region of the U.S. and Mexico. Sky Islands are mountain ranges primarily in Arizona and Sonora that rise out of arid grasslands and desert seas and provide vibrant habitat for plants and wildlife.