

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROOTS SO DEEP DOCU-SERIES COMES TO PAONIA'S PARADISE THEATRE NOVEMBER 20

Free community screening of Episodes 1 and 4 followed by panel discussion with local regenerative producers and filmmaker Peter Byck

October 26, 2026 — Paonia, CO — *Roots So Deep* (you can see the devil down there), filmmaker Peter Byck's four-part documentary series exploring regenerative agriculture, soil health, and the future of rural communities, will come to Paonia's Paradise Theatre on Friday, November 20, 2026, for a free community screening hosted by Western Slope Ecological Restoration Services (WSERS).

The event will feature Episodes 1 and 4 of the series, followed by a panel discussion with *Roots So Deep* director Peter Byck and three Western Colorado regenerative ranchers: Tony Prendergast of Crawford, Cynthia Houseweart of Hotchkiss, and Benjamin Capron of Paonia.

"This is, hands-down, the best agriculture filmmaking I've ever seen. The characters are all so likable and captivating, the graphics are stunning, and I learned a ton about ecology... but none of that would matter without Peter Byck's soul and empathy as storyteller." — Bill Weir, CNN Chief Climate Correspondent

Roots So Deep follows farmers, ranchers, and scientists investigating whether an adaptive approach to grazing cattle—**one that mimics the way wild bison moved and grazed across North American grasslands**—can improve soil health, support farm economics, restore wildlife habitat, and increase ecological resilience.

Rather than presenting regenerative agriculture as a simple solution, the series follows farmers on both sides of the fence: those experimenting with adaptive grazing and neighbors continuing generations-old approaches. Byck and a team of scientists measure what is happening on both sides, asking what the science can tell us about the relationship between grazing practices, healthy soils, and agricultural livelihoods.

The series ultimately explores a question that extends beyond agriculture: **If the science demonstrates that different grazing practices can benefit both land and farmers, what does it take for producers to change the way they manage their land?**

For WSERS founder and ecological restorationist Matt Eland, that question connects directly to the organization's work on the Western Slope.

“Regenerative agriculture and ecological restoration can be complementary processes. Land management decisions can influence not only soil and livestock productivity, but also habitat, biodiversity, water cycling, nutrient cycling, and the resilience of the larger landscape.”

The November 20 event will also highlight Western Colorado producers and the agricultural systems that sustain local communities. **Chef Dan Geltz of Mountain View BBQ will be on-site throughout the event, serving food for purchase featuring products from the participating producers.**

Event Details

Roots So Deep (you can see the devil down there) — Free Community Screening Friday, November 20, 2026

Paradise Theatre — 215 Grand Ave., Paonia, CO 81428

Doors open: 4:30 p.m. MT

Film screening: 5:00–8:10 p.m.

Panel discussion and audience Q&A: 8:10–9:00 p.m.

Seating at the Paradise Theatre is limited. Registration is encouraged through [WSERS / Upcoming Events](#) so organizers can plan for the expected audience and Chef Dan can prepare an appropriate amount of food.

— **MORE** —

Doors open at 4:30 p.m., with food available for purchase from Chef Dan Geltz of *Mountain View BBQ* throughout the event. Chef Dan will feature products from the participating producers, giving attendees an opportunity to connect the film's themes with food produced by local agricultural operations.

The evening's program will include:

- **4:30 p.m.** — Doors open and food service begins
- **4:55 p.m.** — Welcome from Western Slope Ecological Restoration Services
- **5:00 p.m.** — *Roots So Deep*, Episode 1
- **6:05 p.m.** — Food and community break
- **6:40 p.m.** — *Roots So Deep*, Episode 4
- **7:50 p.m.** — Food and community break
- **8:10 p.m.** — Panel discussion and audience Q&A

- **9:00 p.m.** — Event concludes

The panel will bring together three Western Colorado regenerative ranchers—Tony Prendergast, Cynthia Houseweart, and Benjamin Capron—along with filmmaker Peter Byck.

Tony Prendergast, owner of Sunshine Beef in Crawford, is a fourth-generation Coloradoan who began raising grass-fed beef in 2011. Today, Sunshine Beef raises grass-fed and grass-finished cattle on perennial pastures, using frequent pasture rotations to build soil fertility while maintaining working lands that support wildlife and open space.

Cynthia Houseweart, owner of Princess Beef in Hotchkiss, raises 100% grass-fed and grass-finished beef on a Colorado Centennial Farm. Her family's approach centers on sustainably and holistically producing food while improving the well-being of their animals and the integrity of the environment in which they are raised.

Benjamin Capron, owner of Farmhand's Harvest in Paonia, raises 100% grass-fed and grass-finished lamb in the North Fork Valley. His sheep live on pasture year-round, with carefully managed rotations designed to provide fresh forage while minimizing stress on the pasture ecosystem. His operation also produces wool and naturally tanned lambskins.

Peter Byck, director of *Roots So Deep*, will join the panel remotely. Byck is a professor of practice at Arizona State University's School of Sustainability and Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. He is helping lead a \$10 million research project comparing Adaptive Multi-Paddock (AMP) grazing with conventional grazing, examining soil health, soil carbon storage, biodiversity, and water cycling. His documentary work also includes *Carbon Nation* and *Carbon Cowboys*.

The panel discussion will include approximately 15 minutes of audience Q&A, giving community members an opportunity to ask questions directly of the filmmaker and local producers.

About Western Slope Ecological Restoration Services

Western Slope Ecological Restoration Services (WSERS) is hosting the screening as part of its commitment to connecting ecological restoration, regenerative agriculture, and healthy working landscapes in Western Colorado.

WSERS provides practical, process-based solutions for restoring degraded landscapes and the ecological functions that support healthy communities.

The organization combines hands-on restoration with community education and knowledge-sharing to make ecological restoration more approachable—and to help people become active participants in the recovery of the landscapes that sustain them.

About *Roots So Deep*

Roots So Deep (you can see the devil down there) is a 4-part documentary series about inventive cattle farmers, their animals and land, and a group of maverick scientists, researching whether a type of cattle grazing that mimics the way bison once roamed the land, can be a tool for environmental health and ecological resilience.

For more information about the film, visit [*Roots So Deep*](#).

Event Registration

The November 20 screening is **free and open to the public**, but seating at the Paradise Theatre is limited. Community members are encouraged to register in advance through [WSERS / Upcoming Events](#). Advance registration will also help organizers and Chef Dan Geltz prepare for the expected attendance.

Media Contact

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[Event flyer follows]



WHAT CAN REGENERATIVE GRAZING DO FOR OUR LAND?

A *FREE* community screening exploring the science, practice, and possibilities of regenerative agriculture in **Western Colorado**.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2026

4:30–9:00 PM MT



PARADISE THEATRE

PAONIA, COLORADO



WATCH THE FILM

Roots So Deep follows farmers and scientists investigating Adaptive Multi-Paddock (AMP) grazing and its potential to improve soil health, water quality, biodiversity, economic outcomes, and ecological resilience.



MEET LOCAL EXPERTS

Following the film, join a live conversation with:



PETER BYCK

Director

Roots So Deep



TONY PRENDERGAST

Sunshine Beef



CYNTHIA HOUSEWEART

Princess Beef



BENJAMIN CAPRON

Farmhand's Harvest



TASTE REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Chef Dan Geltz of *Mountain View BBQ* will prepare food featuring products from participating local regenerative producers.



RSVP & MORE EVENT INFO



HOSTED BY

MODERATED BY



MATT ELAND MNRS, CERPIT
FOUNDER OF WESTERN SLOPE
ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION SERVICES