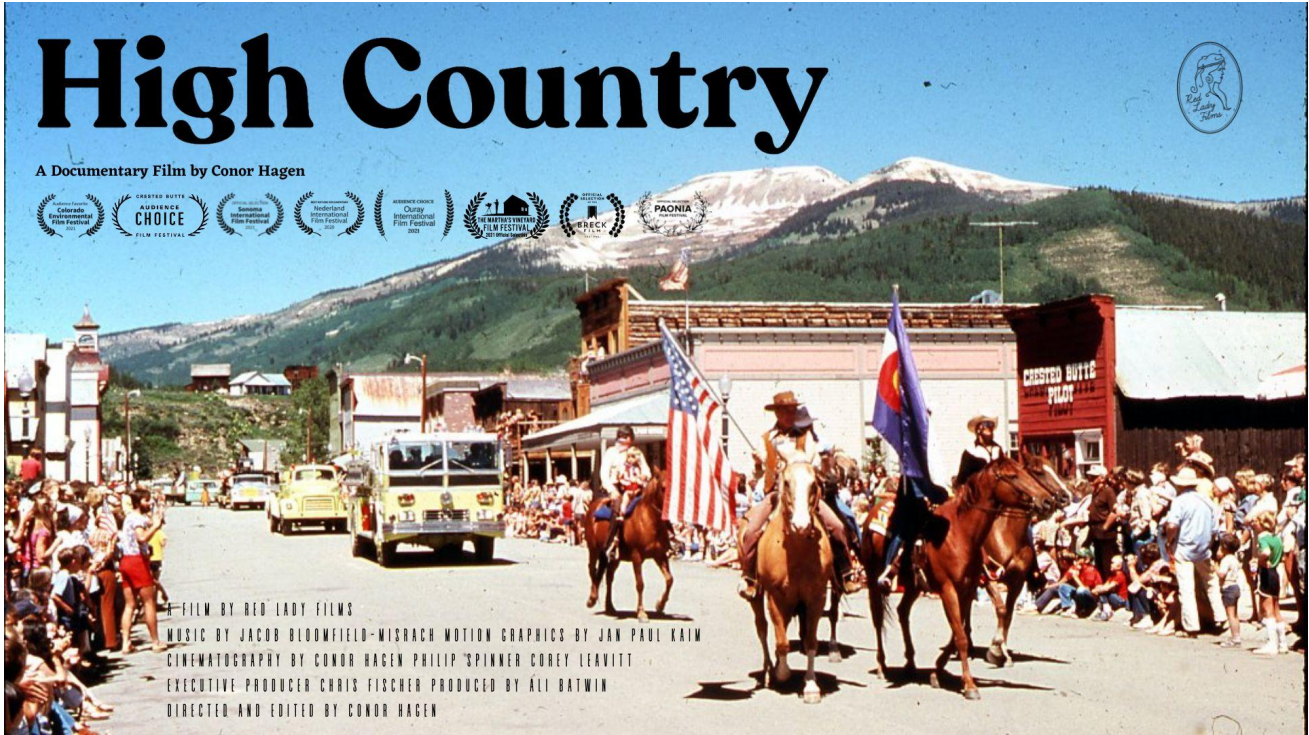


⇨ PRESS KIT ⇨



A RED LADY FILMS PRODUCTION

DIRECTED AND EDITED BY CONOR HAGEN

PRODUCED BY ALI BATWIN

EXEC. PRODUCED BY CHRIS FISCHER

ORIGINAL SCORE BY JACOB BLOOMFIELD-MISRACH

RUNNING TIME: 1 HOUR 2 MINUTES

For Sales and Bookings: Conor Hagen | [conorhagen@gmail.com](mailto:conorhagen@gmail.com) | 505-470-5919

[www.thehighcountryfilm.com](http://www.thehighcountryfilm.com) IG/Facebook: @redladyfilms

Film Freeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/projects/1854844>



### **LOGLINE:**

HIGH COUNTRY tells a timeless American tale of how a community of forward-thinking young people, disguised as hippies, happened upon a ramshackle mining-town on the fringe of society, and worked to conserve and protect it for years to come.

### **SHORT SYNOPSIS:**

Entrenched in nostalgia, HIGH COUNTRY tells a timeless American story of how a community of forward-thinking young people, disguised as as hippies, happened upon a ramshackle mining town on the fringe of society and worked to conserve and protect it for years to come.

Hidden amidst the high peaks of the Rocky Mountains, Crested Butte, Colorado has always been a place defined by its people. During the 1960s and 70s, this lawless frontier town provided a hide-out, an escape, and ultimately a paradise for the wandering souls who stumbled upon it. Driven by stewardship over greed, this progressive group found themselves with a blank canvas of a town in which they would create a world of their own. Since that time, Crested Butte has continued to grapple with how best to walk the line between growth and conservation - a challenge faced by small towns across America today.

It's a film about how if you don't take care of a place you risk losing it forever.

### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:**

The nickname "Paradise" is often used when describing my hometown of Crested Butte, Colorado, also the subject of my documentary film, HIGH COUNTRY, and rightly so. Crested Butte is an old mining-town-turned-ski-town nestled at the headwaters of the Gunnison Valley in Southwestern Colorado. It is surrounded by some of the most pristine, untouched wilderness in Colorado. It's the kind of place, that when driving into, one literally gasps in awe of the beauty. To the outside world, it is a town known for its world-class biking, skiing, hiking, wildflowers, and natural beauty. But, to locals, it is known for much more. It is considered with great pride as a place defined by its conservationist spirit, it's antics, it's costume parties, it's defiance of the norms, and mostly by its strength of community. But, as a resort town, Crested Butte is not alone in it's struggles to cope with economic pressures and environmental impacts at the hand of tourism and growth.

"Crested Butte is a microcosm of a much larger American debate, a debate of who we want to be." If we simply acquiesce and standby as progress bounds forward, we're going to be left in the dust, licking our wounds and complaining. But, if we embrace our local communities with care, if we consider the future, then we might see some positivity within the progress. We exist in one of the most divisive eras in American history; in order for us to save our communities and conserve our natural world we must embrace progress with care and consideration, much like the town of Crested Butte has consistently attempted to do.

**ADDITIONAL INFO. / SCREENINGS:**

HIGH COUNTRY is a passion project by Director Conor Hagen, a native of Crested Butte, and Producer Ali Batwin of Red Lady Films. It was Executive Produced by Chris Fischer. It was produced over 5+ years and includes interviews with over 15 of the so-called “Mid-timers”, the 70's era generation. The film has won the Audience Choice Award at 3 festivals: the Crested Butte Film Festival, Colorado Environmental Film Festival, and Ouray International Film Festival. It also won best Nature Documentary at the Nederland Film Festival. It has screened at 9 film festivals within the United States since September, 2020.

In October 2022, HIGH COUNTRY was broadcast on Rocky Mountain PBS, with more air dates coming in 2023. Numerous small town governments and non-profits have hosted screenings of the film as a way to promote community involvement, civic action, and environmental conservation.



*“High Country is both a visual pleasure as well as a civics lesson, teaching its viewers the importance of a shared, positive and creative vision for the future. You can’t help but walk away from the film inspired to make a difference in your own community.”*

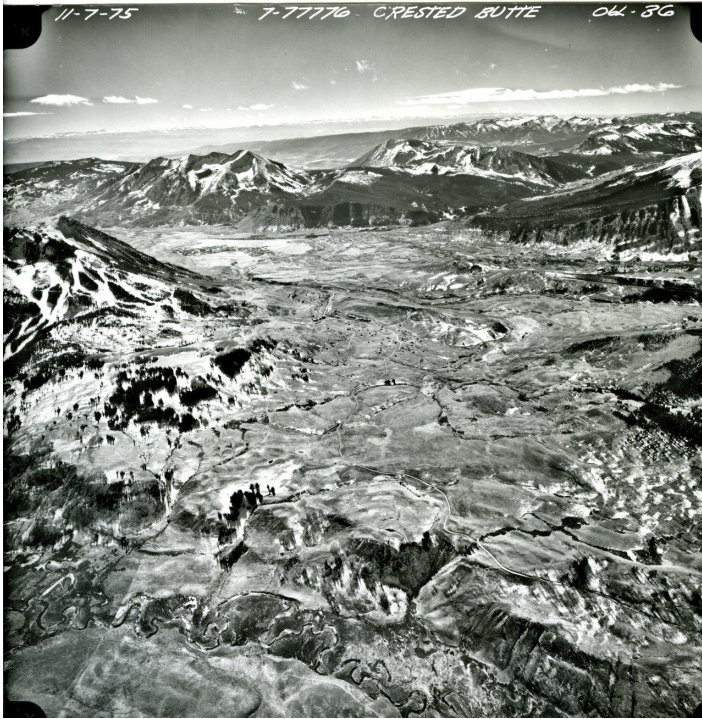
– Chris Fischer, Executive Producer

**IMPACT:**

By examining one town’s efforts to maintain it’s identity, character, and open spaces, HIGH COUNTRY thus shares a very relatable story for small towns around the country. The film’s impact and community screenings campaign will help small town governments, local non-profits, and individual citizens to recognize the invaluable importance of real, local, community. Further more, HIGH COUNTRY will help to act as a reminder of the potentially devastating impacts that can occur when a small community succumbs to external, corporate interests. HIGH COUNTRY serves as a civic reminder of the value of local economy and environmental stewardship.

**PARTNERS TO DATE:**

- Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum
- High Country Conservation Advocates
- The Town of Crested Butte
- Rocky Mountain PBS
- The Crested Butte Land Trust
- Park City Leadership



## THE TEAM:

### Conor Hagen | Director/D.P./Editor

Conor is a native of Crested Butte, Colorado and grew up in New Mexico. He graduated with a B.A. in Film and Television Studies from the University of Vermont before moving to New York City to work alongside his mentor, Albert Maysles. He's had multiple films screen at various festivals across the United States. He is currently working on a number of different music videos and other new projects. Conor considers *HIGH COUNTRY*, a documentary about his hometown, to be a very personal passion project; he has been working on it for over seven years. Conor currently lives in Northern California.

### Alison Batwin | Producer

Ali has produced films in a number of countries including China, France, Spain and the Czech Republic. She's coordinated countless Google projects, created content for National Geographic, traveled far and wide with *The Amazing Race*, and produced exhibits for the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Her newest side-gig: supporting new mothers and babies as a postpartum doula and lactation counselor in Boulder, Colorado.

### Chris Fischer | Executive Producer

Chris Fischer is a chef and farmer from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. He has produced many short films and currently stars on and produced *Amy Schumer Learns to Cook* and *Expecting Amy*.

### Jacob Bloomfield-Misrach | Composer

Jacob Bloomfield-Misrach is a composer and sound supervisor. He owns the post production company IMRSV Sound, and has expanded the company nationally, partnering with Berkeley Sound Artists. Jacob now oversees 100 projects per year for clients like Marvel, Google, Apple, and Facebook, and won a Telly Award in 2016.

