



Hunting Blinds

80 min - Feature Documentary

Hunting Blinds is a feature length time-travelling documentary exploring Indigenous technology found at an ancient gathering place in the Southern Yukon.

This film will follow a twenty-first century “hunting party” of archaeologists, land guardians, hunters and storytellers as they share their personal stories and knowledge about this place and what it reveals about their ancestors and about themselves.

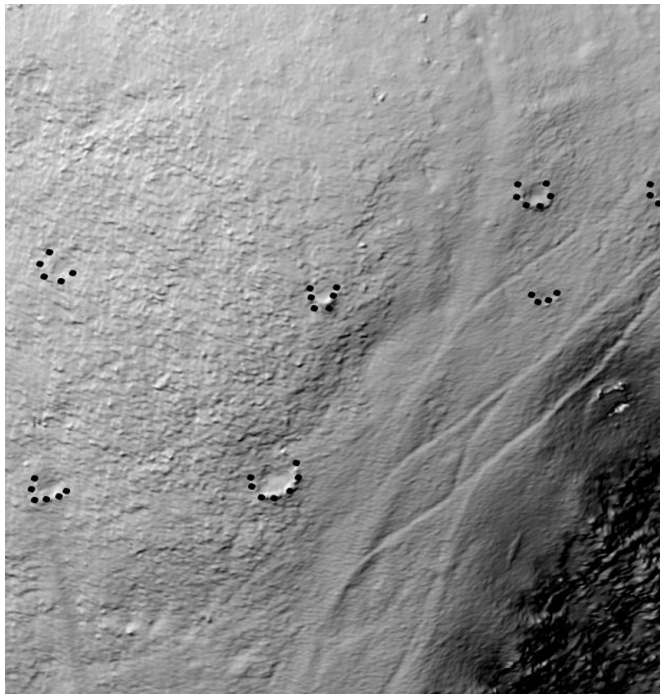
All-Together Mountain, is a place of bountiful resources, where people hunted, gathered, traded, and partnered for thousands of years. Prehistoric hunting blinds were strategically built alongside game trails that have been carved out by generations of wildlife. The mountain also hosts ice patches which are melting due to climate change, revealing centuries old belongings of hunters and travellers.



Nestled below in the resource-rich valley is a multi-nation meeting place and harvesting grounds, connected to the surrounding around by a network of ancient trails. Situated on the overlapping Traditional Territories of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, this area is still essential to local hunters and land users.

Hunting Blinds is set in a visually stunning and poetic landscape. Talking head interviews will be avoided and each member of the “hunting party” will be met on the land, or on their journey to the mountain. This is a film about discovery, and over the course of the story key details and ideas are revealed by the subjects and by the mountain itself. Director Melaina Sheldon will discover that her grandfather was born at All-Together lake, and that possibly, her great grandfather was buried there as well. She will also discover another relative within the hunting party itself.

The film is set primarily on the mountain, but will also feature scenes of characters preparing for their visit, the artifacts / belongings of the ancestors found previously and the journey they take to get there. Through stories and observations, the film will travel almost ten millennium backwards in time to show how and why the the hunting blinds were built, along with other ancient land based technology, demonstrating that the forward-thinking societies of the past anticipated the needs of future generations and that their technology worked.



Hunting Blinds is not intended to be a survey documentary. Western science and archaeology will play a role in this film, but the approach will be cinematic. Hunting Blinds aims to bring the audience to this mountain and lake complex to feel like they are a part of the “hunting party”, through choice of lenses and filming style, but also through the use of sounds of nature, the sound of grass, trees and wind, and the crunch of volcanic rock that surrounds the blinds. Time lapse will be used to take our audience to the past and back again, and pacing will allow the landscape to become a character. Photography of artifacts, 3D models, and illustrations will provide additional visual elements.

The audience for this film will include those with an interest in Indigenous technology, archaeology, geology, hunting, oral history, climate change and First Nations history and culture, Yukon and Canadian history. Any personal or family stories shared will not be used without explicit permission.



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