

For Immediate Release

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Documentary filmmaker makes raw footage available to the public. Statement by Lindsey Grayzel

Skagit County, Washington – Documentary Filmmaker Lindsey Grayzel (aka Lindsey Goodwin-Grayzel) and cinematographer Carl Davis were both arrested and jailed on October 11th, as they filmed a direct action protest by Grayzel's film subject, Ken Ward. They both face felony charges with punishments that could total over 30 years in prison.

Grayzel has made raw footage captured that day available to the public, by posting it to her Vimeo account, where it is available to download.

<https://vimeo.com/188582850>

Lindsey Grayzel released the following statement:

“Freedom of the press is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. The protections given to the press extend to documentary filmmakers, who bring context to a story that is not possible under the constraints of commercial news outlets. My focus is long form documentary, and I’ve been working to craft a film about Ken Ward’s climate activism for over a year. It is a rare person who will acknowledge the reality of climate change and react not with helplessness, but instead with a determination to do everything in his power to stop or at least slow down the destruction. My job now is to tell Ken’s story to the public, and I look forward to finishing this film.”

Background:

Filmmaker Grayzel and cinematographer Davis are both well-known professionals in the Portland, Oregon filmmaking community, with decades of producing professional level work for broadcast, non-profit organizations, government agencies, public lands visitor centers and museums. Grayzel has made her living producing professional media since 1994. More about Grayzel’s professional documentary filmmaking career, including her resume, can be found on her production company’s website Goodwin-Grayzel Productions.

www.goodwingrayzel.com

Grayzel’s current documentary film about environmentalist Ken Ward has been in production for over a year. In May of 2016, Grayzel publicly presented excerpts of the film she is producing about Ward as a film-in-progress at the Oregon chapter of the national organization Women In Film’s Doc Camp, an annual workshop gathering of professional documentary filmmakers.

Both Grayzel and Davis were arrested October 11, 2016 in Burlington, Washington after filming activist Ken Ward engaging in a protest action at the TransMountain pipeline. Both Grayzel and Davis were outside a fenced area and were filming what was taking place inside the fenced area. They were jailed, and their footage confiscated by law enforcement officials based on the faulty presumption that documenting a direct action is a crime, the same as performing that action. Grayzel was held in custody in the Skagit County Jail for 34 hours before being released on bail. Her charges include:

- Burglary, 2nd Degree (Class B Felony): ten years imprisonment, a fine of \$20,000, or both.
- Criminal Sabotage, (Class B Felony): ten years imprisonment, a fine of \$20,000, or both.
- Assemblage of Saboteurs (Class B Felony): ten years imprisonment, a fine of \$5,000, or both.
- Criminal Trespass, 2nd Degree (Misdemeanor): ninety days imprisonment, a fine of \$1,000, or both.
- Total maximum punishment: 30 years + 90 days imprisonment, a fine of \$46,000 or both.

Grayzel’s attorney: Neil Fox, 206-728-5440

Independent documentary filmmakers serve a unique role, informing the public about crucial, complex issues. The craft of cinema is a powerful tool for interpreting the world we live in and presenting key aspects of our culture and history. No different legally than journalists working for “mainstream” media outlets, independent documentary filmmakers play a vital role in our country and democracy, bringing in-depth coverage of vital issues to the public. As a documentary filmmaker, Grayzel’s work sometimes includes capturing images that allow the public to witness personally powerful acts of direct action and civil disobedience and to explain why activists like Ward feel compelled to put their liberty at risk. By charging documentary filmmakers with felonies for doing their work, the Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney is breaching basic rights guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and interfering with the public’s right to know what is happening in our country.