

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Crystal Mountain delivering snow for grizzly bears' 20th birthday

WHAT: *Spring is here but the forecast for April 15 points to a one-hour stretch of snow at Woodland Park Zoo!* In celebration of the zoo's grizzly bears turning 20, Crystal Mountain is delivering snow, fresh from the Cascades. The Northwest ski resort also trucked in snow in 2004 when the grizzlies turned 10.



The press will be given access to the roof overlooking the bear exhibit.

The grizzly bear brothers, Keema (KEY-muh) and Denali (de-NAW-lee), turned 20 in January, but bears being bears, they were in a winter slumber and snoozed right through their milestone birthday. The bears arrived at the zoo in 1994 at 10 months old from Washington State University, which maintains a small collection to conduct a long-term study on bear nutrition. They currently weigh about 835 pounds apiece.

The zoo will live stream the bears romping in the snow at www.zoo.org/bearcam. In addition, the bears will be live streamed in the zoo's indoor nature play space, Zoomazium, and in the grizzly bear viewing shelter. As the bears enjoy their birthday present, zoo staff will share fascinating facts about the zoo's popular grizzlies, the natural history of bears, and how the zoo plays an important role in helping to conserve bears and other apex predators in the state.

WHEN: **Tuesday, April 15**
Unloading of snow: 9:30 a.m.
Grizzlies playing in snow: approximately 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: The grizzly bear exhibit in the zoo's award-winning Northern Trail. Enter through the West Entrance on Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55th & N. 56th Sts. Staff will escort the press to the roof of the exhibit.

INFO: Approximately 25,000-30,000 black bears exist in Washington and biologists believe there may be as few as 10 individual grizzly bears in the North Cascades and 50-70 in the Selkirk Ecosystem of northeast Washington.

The birthday snow celebration is free with zoo admission or membership. Hours through April 30: 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily. For admission fees, more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500 or 548.2599 (TTY)

Just two hours southeast of Seattle, Crystal Mountain Resort offers visitors spectacular views, world-class skiing, fine dining and an outdoor escape from everyday life. Originally focused on skiing and winter sports alone, Crystal Mountain Resort has grown to include a full array of summer activities for all walks of life, including scenic rides on the state's only gondola that whisks visitors to 6,872 feet, gourmet dining at Washington's highest restaurant, unparalleled views of Mt. Rainier, hiking, horseback riding, disc golf and so much more.

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