

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Pike Place Fish Market tosses salmon to grizzlies to spotlight Saturday's conservation event

WHAT: Pike Place Fish Market will bring its world-famous salmon toss to Woodland Park Zoo's grizzly bear brothers on **June 5** to help kick off the very popular **Bear Affair: Living Northwest Conservation presented by Brown Bear Car Wash**. Bear fans are welcome to watch the fishmongers' amazing aerial stunts and the bears chomping on a favorite treat.



The salmon toss kicks off the zoo's annual event, which will be held on **June 7**. Bear Affair activities focus on bears, wolves, raptors and other Pacific Northwest wildlife. A highlight will be the grizzlies ransacking a mock backyard wedding reception set up in their exhibit as well as a camp site. Zoo staff and conservation experts will be on hand to share safety tips, and information on what these animals need to survive in the wild, how to help keep these animals safe from humans and what humans can do to peacefully co-exist. Conservation and community partners include Western Wildlife Outreach, Vital Ground, Wolf Haven, and National Parks Conservation Association. Karelian bear dogs return to demonstrate how the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife partner dogs play an essential role in training nuisance bears and cougars to avoid human contact. Boy Scout Troop 638 shares safety camping tips, and kids can make a butterfly garden marker and take home sunflower seeds for planting.

WHEN: **Photo op: Pike Place Fish Market salmon toss: Thursday, June 5, 10:30-10:40 a.m.**

WHERE: Grizzly bear exhibit at the zoo's Northern Trail. Press may park in the Otter lot at the NORTH end where offices are located off N. 59th St. & Phinney Ave. N. Meet at the West Entrance for staff escort or head to the grizzly exhibit

WHO: Pike Place Fish Market and the zoo's grizzly bear brothers, 20-year-old Keema and Denali. The bears arrived at the zoo in 1994 from Washington State University, which maintains a small collection to conduct a long-term study on bear nutrition.

INFO: **Bear Affair: Living Northwest Conservation presented by Brown Bear Car Wash** takes place at the zoo on Saturday, June 7, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. A complete schedule of activities can be found at www.zoo.org/bearaffair

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.

COST: Bear Affair is free with zoo admission or membership. Summer hours: 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. daily. For more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500 or 548.2599 (TTY).

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