



FOR MEMBERS OF WOODLAND PARK ZOO • FALL 2015

THANK YOU, ZOOKEEPERS!

GRIZZLY BEARS: HOME IN THE NORTH CASCADES WHO'S WHO AT THE ZOO BACCIVOROUS BERRY EATERS

MY**ZOO**

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



DEAR MEMBERS,

Each year, dozens of children send us colorful drawings about how visiting the zoo inspires them to become a zookeeper someday. Something about chatting with keepers always puts a gleam in children's eyes! National Zoo Keepers Week was July 19-25, so it's fitting that this magazine issue features the dedicated professionals who care for your favorite animals' well-being 365 days a year.

Keepers are at the heart of everything: diet and food prep, medical treatment, training, enrichment, breeding, landscaping and exhibit design. They contribute research to the overall body of zoological knowledge. And, as wild animals face more threats to their habitat, keepers' roles as educators and compelling storytellers are more critical than ever. In fact, many themselves are active in field-based wildlife conservation.

A new way your zoo is partnering in wildlife protection is Initiative 1401, a groundbreaking effort that asks voters to end the trafficking of endangered animal parts in Washington state. Such trafficking is bigger business than you might think, and a path to extinction for many iconic species. Next time you visit the zoo, ask a keeper or educator to tell you how such parts end up in our U.S. consumer market. What you learn will astound you.

Expanding our hands-on role in species conservation, and involving ever wider audiences in the cause, is a key goal in our new Strategic Plan 2015-2018: Growing our Reach and Impact. Serving a growing regional population means engaging more people, more effectively, in learning to share the planet's resources sustainably with other species. On behalf of our board, staff, and volunteers, I'd like to thank Deborah B. Jensen, our departing President and CEO, for leading us to set a high bar for the plan, and for her 13 years of thoughtful, caring service to our mission. Her leadership has indelibly shaped our growth.

With the new plan as our compass, we're evolving to meet our community's current and future needs, thanks to you. Your generous support enables WPZ to shape and model the purpose of zoo-based conservation in the 21st century.

brue

Bruce Bohmke Acting President and CEO Chief Operations Officer

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A COZY SEASON

Autumn is one of the most wonderful times to visit the zoo: a bouquet of fall colors will soon drape the zoo's vast canopy; the cooler temperatures allow animals to be their most active; a full schedule of cozy events such as Brew at the Zoo, Pumpkin Bash and Turkey Toss are in store including daily penguin feedings (starting Oct. I)! As we celebrate the end of summer, pick the last blackberries, and feel that crisp fall air bring a sense of rejuvenation, we explore our gratitude for an incredibly dedicated staff of zookeepers that makes this institution a benchmark in animal husbandry, animal health and conservation education. Their work and your membership support animals here in the Northwest and all over the world by saving habitat and protecting wild places.



ON THE COVER

A grizzly bear, Ursus arctos horribilis, fills the cover of this fall's MyZoo magazine. These incredibly powerful and aweinspiring giants face an uncertain future in the Pacific Northwest ecosystem, but there is hope in collaboration and research.



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OUR MISSION:

WOODLAND PARK ZOO SAVES ANIMALS AND THEIR HABITATS THROUGH CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGING EXPERIENCES, INSPIRING PEOPLE TO LEARN, CARE AND ACT.

ZOO HOURS

SPRING/SUMMER May I – September 30 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

FALL/WINTER October I – April 30 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A ZOOKEEPER

What is it like to be a zookeeper at Woodland Park Zoo? We asked three keepers from three different units to give you the lowdown on their daily routines, their biggest challenges and their favorite experiences. What is it like to spend your morning with an emerald tree boa or eat your lunch with a chicken named Pie? Did you know fanny packs are still in style?

What time do you start your day?

Susan: 7:30 a.m.

Nick: 8:00 a.m.

Christine: 7:25 a.m.

Do you wear any special clothing?

Susan: When I'm handling birds I wear a rockin' fanny pack for the tidbits of meat they get and a leather glove to protect the hand they stand on. Waterproof shoes are also critical to my happiness at work—it's no fun spending the day in soggy socks!

Nick: Rubber boots for cleaning/hosing, sometimes chest waders when moat work is required, comfortable shoes, a hat when working or cleaning in certain exhibits.

Christine: The green WPZ uniform and a good pair of waterproof rubber boots or hiking boots on hot days.

What is the first thing you do when you arrive at the zoo?

Susan: The first thing I do is check every animal to make sure they're all safe.

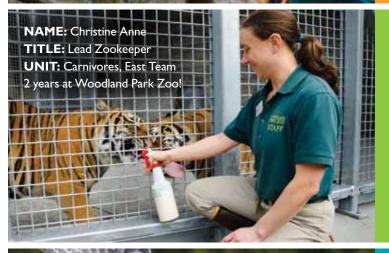
Nick: I check every animal on my string, drink coffee, log on to computer and check emails.

Christine: I visually check all the animals in my area to make sure they are well.

How do you spend your morning?

Susan: My morning routine mainly consists of weighing all the birds, preparing food for the birds, and cleaning their mews (bird housing). I also do training sessions with the lowland anoa, Priscilla, and the porcupine, Skyáana.

NAME: Nick Sutton Tin E: Zookeeper (Coach) UNIT: Tropical Rain Forest, West Team I years at Woodland Park Zoo!



NAME: Susan Burchardt TITLE: Zookeeper UNIT: Raptors, North Team 6 years at Woodland Park Zoo!

STAFF

Nick: Unload all of the food items from commissary that were sent for my diets, carefully check all the animals on my string, check various exhibit support systems, heat and humidity levels, anything out of the ordinary, etc. Then begin to feed out all morning diets, and begin cleaning shortly after.

Christine: The morning consists of preparing diets, shifting animals into holding for feeding and access to clean the exhibits, and then cleaning the holding areas.

How many animals do you work with?

Susan: I work with 20 animals including two mammals and three chickens and many, many humans.

Nick: Quite a few! Two golden lion tamarins, five red ruffed lemurs, three spilotes (tiger rat) snakes, four emerald tree boas, one yellow anaconda, three bushmasters, a dozen poison dart frogs, one yellow spotted side-neck turtle, one pink-toed tarantula, various schools of tropical freshwater fish and a bunch of fruit flies!

Christine: Anywhere from 16 to 32! I work with lions, tigers, warthogs, meerkats, keas, tree shrews, Indian flying fox, springhaas, two-toed sloth, tamandua, sloth bears, patas monkeys and Asian small-clawed otters!

Do you work with people too?

Susan: Raptor keepers work with docents, volunteers, education staff and temporary keepers. I work closest with my fellow raptor keepers, and our amazing group of animal unit volunteers!

Nick: All of the other zookeepers in my building, and my wonderful managers!

Christine: I do. I work closely with other keepers in my units, managers, veterinary staff and education staff.

How do you spend your afternoon?

Susan: After lunch I have a training date with the great-horned owl, Bob, and then we prepare for and present the 1:00 talk and 2:00 flight programs. After that we do any extra training we have planned for the day, distribute enrichment for the evening, feed our geriatric peregrine, work with the anoa again, and write up reports. The last part of every day is checking every lock twice.

At lunch, my sandwiches are closely monitored by the Raptor Center's resident chicken, Pie, who desperately hopes I'll drop something for her to eat!

Nick: Afternoon is different from morning and includes a lot of varied tasks, such as animal training, animal enrichment, more cleaning of all exhibits and service areas, weighing animals, improving and maintaining healthy and nice looking exhibits, working with our aquatic species, feeding more animals, collecting and installing various items for exhibits, giving keeper talks, computer data entry into zoo animal database, building new enrichment items for our animals, and meetings with keepers and managers... whew!

Christine: The afternoon consists of feedings and animal training as well as enrichment projects.

What is the most challenging part of your routine?

Susan: The most challenging part of my routine is coordinating with all the other people. Almost all of the training we do requires two or more people and everyone has to be in the right place at the right time with the right food for the birds to be successful.

Christine: No day is ever the same. There is a general routine but the animals are different every day, so each day is different.

What is the most rewarding part of your day?

Susan: The most rewarding part of my routine is free flying the birds and getting to watch them do what they do and knowing that they are letting me be a part of it.

Nick: Working with extraordinary animals and seeing how much people enjoy their zoo experience; helping to make someone's day a little bit brighter.

What is something you've learned by working so closely with animals?

Susan: I've learned the value of observation. Many things I don't understand become clear when I just pay attention and allow patterns to surface. The birds have really taught me to be a good trainer. I apply this level of observation to most parts of my life.

Nick: This job never ceases to amaze and inspire me. Something fascinating is always seen or learned. With animals, there is always more to learn and understand.

Christine: Patience.





HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE A GREAT

ZOOKEEPER? Is it the dedication one shows to outstanding animal care? Is it the way one interacts with the community to inspire and educate others about animals? Perhaps it's the time spent advocating for endangered animals, volunteering or taking part in field research? A great zookeeper is ultimately defined by each individual—but these traits are shared by our entire team of Woodland Park Zoo animal care experts.

Our team of zookeepers is a dedicated crew who works together to provide world-class animal care and ensure the highest quality animal welfare to more than 300 species. From daily cleaning and feeding to providing creative enrichment and participating in education outreach, our zookeepers are passionate about their work. In addition to top-notch animal husbandry, many of our keepers are very involved with conservation work—whether it's through the zoo's field conservation programs, collaboration with wildlife researchers or simply raising awareness and advocating for animals in the wild.

Zookeepers know their animals inside and out. They are responsible for monitoring any behavior changes or signs that their animals need special attention. From the chirp of a newborn argus pheasant to the way a jaguar interacts with its exhibit—keepers are able to read into these clues and access the well-being of each animal. Animal personalities and preferences are as diverse as our own; keepers get to know each animal and its routine and our animals know their keepers too. Sometimes animals have favorite keepers, and sometimes they just follow whoever is holding the fish bucket! Most of our keepers work with a variety of animals within a single unit; although some focus on a single species, such as the gorilla keepers. Woodland Park Zoo has 57 regular zookeepers, and several temporary keepers and seasonal exhibit attendants, all of whom work closely with the animals.

While it would be impossible within the confines of this page to express our gratitude worthy of the time, energy and passion our keepers dedicate to the zoo, we would like to extend a most heartfelt Thank You to each and every one of our zookeepers. Their professionalism, dedication, research, and fundraising efforts as well as their personal commitment to this institution, community and—most of all—the animals are overwhelming.

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By Kirsten Pisto, Editor

Photos by Ryan Hawk, WPZ, and Kirsten Pisto, WPZ.











Our zookeepers are incredible people who are passionate about their work.









UPCOMING EVENTS at woodland park zoo

ZOOFARI: Member Appreciation EveningSEPTEMBER 15

*BREW AT THE ZOO presented by Fred Meyer and QFC.....OCTOBER I

PUMPKIN BASH presented by Delta Dental of Washington....OCTOBER 24-25

VETERANS DAY DISCOUNT..... NOVEMBER II

TURKEY TOSS..... NOVEMBER 21

*WILDLIGHTS presented by Sound Credit Union NOVEMBER 27, Closed December 24-25 OPEN THROUGH JAN. 3

WINTER CELEBRATION ENRICHMENT DECEMBER 12-14, 19-21

CHRISTMAS DAY ZOO/WILDLIGHTS CLOSED.....**DECEMBER 25**

* Indicates a separately ticketed event. All other events are free with regular zoo admission or membership.





THURSDAY, OCTOBER I

Join us for the fifth annual Brew at the Zoo beer-tasting event. Sample imports, domestics, microbrews and even ciders from over 40 different breweries.

Get tickets at **zoo.org/brew**



PUMPKIN BASH

presented by Delta Dental of Washington

OCTOBER 24-25

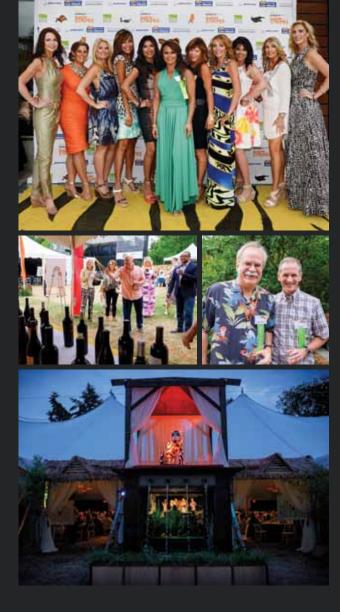
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



PUMPKINS FOR ANIMALS! TRICK-OR-TREATING! FEATURING BOOMAZIUM!

FREE with zoo admission or membership. Visit zoo.org for more information.





ON FRIDAY, JULY 10, WOODLAND PARK ZOO'S

premier fundraiser, Jungle Party, had a record breaking year raising over \$2 million! These funds included support for this year's Fund-Our-Future initiative: Show Your Stripes: Cause An Uproar, which will help aid the zoo's world-class animal care, education programs for people of all ages, and conservation collaborations in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Jungle Party attracts over 1,000 of the Puget Sound region's civic and philanthropic leaders each year. This year, Jungle Party had II co-chairs led by board member Patti Savoy and 10 of her closest girlfriends: Deborah Anderson, Cindy Benezra, Shalisan Foster, Dana Frank, Fredda Goldfarb, Susan Kropp, Stacy Jones, Nicole Knowles, Stacy Lill and Sheila Otter. Their leadership and enthusiasm helped make Seattle's premier summer fundraiser a roaring success!



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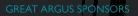
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For photos from Jungle Party, visit www.zoo.org/jungleparty

MYZOO

GRIZZLY BEARS: Home in the North Cascades

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KEEMA AND DENALI, THE TWO BROTHER BEARS

that live at Woodland Park Zoo, are only slightly outnumbered by their wild counterparts in the North Cascades. With the Western Washington grizzly bear population at a trickle, Keema and Denali offer a crucial connection to a species that needs your support. The playful duo tell the story of our very human affection for these lovable giants. Grizzlies, especially in the Pacific Northwest, are icons for the rugged mountain peaks, crystal clear lakes and streams, alpine wilderness and wildness that make Washington state such a treasure. Grizzly bears embody the spirit of adventure, are significant talismans for indigenous peoples, and are woven tightly into the very history of the West. Not only are these bears culturally significant to our community and symbols of a strong ecosystem—their very presence has a positive impact on our human health.

Wildlife biologists have determined that the grizzly bears in the North Cascade ecosystem (NCE) are the most at-risk population in the United States today. The NCE range covers 6 million acres in Washington state and about 882,000 acres north in British Columbia. Within this range, the resident population of grizzlies is estimated to be between as few as five and 20 bears. To be considered stable, researchers estimate that the bear population will need to number between 200 and 400 individuals. The NCE contains the most federal land in the lower 48, with over 40% of this area designated as wilderness or national park. This pristine habitat should be an ideal landscape for grizzlies—there are few motorized roads, luscious alpine meadows with berries, fish and plenty of snowpack. So, where are the bears?

A LITTLE HISTORY: Grizzly bears once ranged from Alaska to Northern Mexico, and as far east as Missouri—Lewis and Clark famously observed their first as they set off on their westward travels from St. Louis. As settlers moved west, hunting



and trapping followed. Our colleagues at Western Wildlife Outreach report that, "between 1850 and 1920, grizzly bears in the U.S. were eliminated from 95% of their original range, with extirpation occurring earliest on the Great Plains and later in remote mountainous areas." The booming fur trade gave way to a sort of open season on these bears. The population continued to decline between 1920 and 1970 and in the last 100 years, 98% of grizzly bear range was eliminated.

Within the contiguous U.S., grizzlies remain in five small pockets all of which are designated recovery areas where bears receive the full protection of the Endangered Species Act. Here in Washington, there are two grizzly bear populations; a handful of grizzlies are thought to remain in the North Cascades and 40-50 bears live in the Selkirk Mountains to the east. However, not all of those bears live in Washington, since the Selkirk Mountains are shared with Idaho and southern British Columbia.

In 1983, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee was formed to help ensure the recovery of a viable grizzly bear population through policy, management and research. Biologists spent a decade hiking steep terrain, placing camera traps and hair snare devices, and evaluating habitat in relation to bear range sizes and reproduction patterns to establish a recovery plan for these dynamic members of the NW landscape. They found that although the NCE is capable of supporting a self-sustaining grizzly bear population, the bears' slow reproductive rate, limited dispersal capability, and fragmented habitat all contribute to making recovery a challenge. By 1997, the recovery plan for the NCE grizzly bears was officially written; and it was no longer a question of *should* we protect these bears, but a matter of how we would go about it.

In January 2015, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initiated a North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, which engages citizens in the recovery planning process and evaluates various recovery options, as well as focuses each agency's role in the restoration effort.

PROTECTING APEX PREDATORS: Ecosystems exist within a highly nuanced set of parameters. As subtle as those arrangements may seem, once a single species is removed there is always a ripple effect, and apex predators create quite a ripple. Globally, 75% of apex predators are in decline. Tigers, polar bears, sharks, lions—we are losing them. In the Pacific Northwest, apex predators include grizzly bears, cougars, black bears, wolverines, gray wolves, orcas and us—to name a few. The gray wolf is still listed as endangered in Western Washington. Killer whales (orcas) are also endangered and grizzly bears are listed as threatened. While our own population continues to grow, other creatures face habitat fragmentation and competition for resources. The global trend of vanishing predators is, unfortunately, apparent here in our own backyard; without human action, the grizzly bears of the NCE are very much at risk of disappearing within our lifetime.

WHY GRIZZLIES MATTER: It's important to note that humans benefit from grizzly bears living in the North Cascades ecosystem. Grizzly bears operate as an indicator species canaries of the Cascades—albeit large, furry, huckleberry-filled canaries. Their very presence signifies wildness, biodiversity and health in our region.

In the grizzlies' case they sit at the top of the food web, but their impact goes well beyond snacking. Woodland Park Zoo Senior Conservation Fellow, Robert Long, explains, "...their behaviors digging large areas in search of plants and small mammals, dispersing salmon carcasses and the nutrients within throughout the forests adjacent to streams and rivers—have important MYZOO



effects on the entire animal and plant community to which they belong." Grizzly bears fertilize forests, they help deposit fruit and nut seeds, they clean up carcasses, and as predators, they keep deer and moose populations in check.

In addition to the ecological benefits, bears offer links to human health and wellness. Studies of bear hibernation can teach people about osteoporosis and calcium retention in bones. Their ability to mitigate kidney damage after hibernation may lead to treatments for kidney disease, and their super-slow metabolism may help prepare us for long-distance space travel and stabilize trauma patients. They also draw economic value as tourists and photographers flock to view them. Grizzly bears are an integral part of the Pacific Northwest and it's in our best interest to ensure their survival.

THE GOOD NEWS: An ecosystem is a living, breathing structure and has the potential to heal itself. One example of this can be seen in the wolf's return to Yellowstone National Park. Ecologist and author William Ripple described a *trophic cascade*; where at first elk had nearly wiped out much of the browse and natural vegetation, soon after the reintroduction of the apex predator (in this case wolves), the willow trees began to grow along stream banks, cooling water temperatures for trout, providing food that encouraged beavers to move back into their ponds, and providing habitat for songbirds and amphibians. Other prey species including grizzly bears, eagles and coyotes now benefit too by scavenging wolf kills. A naturally balanced ecosystem is a healthier ecosystem for all species within it, humans included.

What can be done in Yellowstone can be done in the North Cascades; the full benefits of the grizzly bear's presence might only be revealed to us in time upon their return. The grizzly bear has been listed federally under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species in the lower 48 United States since 1975 and was listed as endangered by the state of Washington in 1980.



Bottom-up, top-down and sideways approaches to ecology are required to understand the bigger picture. We are all connected; from bears to mountains, salmon to moss, rivers to people. Let's appreciate the importance of a balanced ecosystem that supports a variety of complex relationships among creatures large and small. Our understanding that these living parts create a healthy landscape contributes to our commitment to saving wild things and wild spaces.

Here's to healthy landscapes, healthy bears and healthy people.

By Kirsten Pisto, Editor

ZOOPARENT BEAR ADOPTION SPECIAL

Celebrate our grizzly brothers Keema and Denali with a bear adoption! Give this unique gift and support the zoo's conservation efforts here at home and around the world.

YOUR ADOPTION PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Bear plush
- Adoption certificate
- Animal fact sheet
- Color photo of animal
- ZooParent decal
- Online recognition for one year

Visit us online at **zoo.org/zooparent** to adopt today.

Hurry! Offer expires Oct. 31, 2015.





MYZOO

ZooSprouts: WHO'S WHO AT THE ZOO



NEON RAIN JACKETS AND A RAINBOW OF RUBBER BOOTS

are piled against the wall in the Education Center. Eager to claim their spot on the floor amongst the picture books and stuffed animals their teacher has laid out, a group of 3 and 4 year olds survey the room. Building blocks and sliced wooden stumps are an invitation to this hands-on learning environment. For most of these kiddos, kindergarten will begin next year, so having a parent join them in the classroom is a big help in easing any shyness. Andrew Lombardi, early childhood specialist, has been an educator for II years; he knows how to make the kids feel like experts right away.

"This class is a little bit different," teases Andrew. "Animals are really cool, but so are the people who work at the zoo!" The kids gather in a circle as Andrew asks them what kind of jobs they think might be important at the zoo.

"Feed animals!" "Get the shells!" "Make them nice for people."

All good answers. Andrew prompts them a bit more. The keepers give the animals their food, but where do the keepers get the food? We learn what the word commissary means—certainly this must be a new addition to their vocabulary—and they pick up on the concept quickly. We discuss the exhibits team, security, veterinarians, horticulture and the grounds crew.

Who's Who at the Zoo is just one theme offered at Woodland Park Zoo's Zoo Sprouts early education classes. Classes



are focused on special topics that combine creative play and inquiry-based learning to inspire curiosity for nature, introduce scientific investigation and promote selfexpression. At this young age, kids are just beginning to relate to others and problem solve—skills that are important in higher level math and science down the road.

Andrew gathers the group closer as he introduces a curious cloth bag. The kids are captivated by its potential contents and Andrew doesn't disappoint. He removes a small, plastic animal figure, "This hippo needs a home. Who can build an exhibit for this animal?" Hands shoot up into the air. Each student is assigned a plastic animal and the building begins. Moats, bridges, feeding areas, beds, yards, swimming pools and even secret caves are imagined. Andrew introduces some faux foliage to further illustrate the extra attention to shade, browse and natural habitat that goes into exhibit design. The kids don't miss a beat; they rearrange their designs to incorporate each new prompt: foliage, water, shade, hiding spaces and even keeper access.

Andrew's pedagogy involves a simple approach to curiosity and experimentation. "I believe in hands-on, experiential learning. Giving kids a chance to learn by being kids and asking questions. Allow kids to learn by exposing them to new experiences and letting them see, touch, smell, play and pretend." It's simple, but powerfully effective.

The next half of the class takes the group out of the classroom and into the heart of the zoo. Sarah Harris, commissary manager, welcomes them into the "animal grocery store." They visit the commissary where Sarah shows them boxes upon boxes of food supplies stacked high in the warehouse. They get up close to the anchovies and berries waiting in pre-measured bins to be delivered to the animals, a quick lesson on animal diet and nutrition. They also peek inside the giant walk-in freezer.

Photos by Kirsten Pisto, WPZ.

Next they visit the Security office. Security officer Mike Perniciaro greets them with a smile and hands out junior security badges for each student. Wide-eyed and eager, the kids take turns checking out the lights, siren and special first-aid equipment in the security vehicle. We talk about being safe, watching out for our friends, and helping people when they are hurt.

On our way to Komodo dragons we take a detour where Andrew points out the animal hospital and veterinary headquarters. Then we pass the Zoo Doo yard where fresh compost is being turned over with a small Bobcat loader. The kids are transfixed and we hang out here for a long time while Andrew explains compost in a way only an early childhood educator can. The group is full of questions about poop. I can't blame them, Zoo Doo is really cool. It's nature in action, literally steaming in front of our eyes.

Our last stop is the Komodo dragon exhibit where zookeeper Peter Miller shows the kids an actual Komodo dragon skull and lets them touch the sharp teeth. Then we turn around and see Selat, a massive male Komodo dragon right up against the viewing glass. The connection between skull, teeth and animal is obvious. Seeing how bones, muscle, and movement work together in an animal is a really tangible way for them to grasp basic anatomy.



FALL 2015



We head back to the Education Center where Andrew says goodbye to the students and parents. They are tired; we've asked them to soak up a lot of info in just a few hours. When I ask a little boy what he would want to do if he worked at the zoo, he says he's going to be an animal firefighter. I tell him that sounds like a wonderful choice and he gives me a coy smile. It is clear these kids are passionate about protecting animals and that means Andrew has done his job.

By Kirsten Pisto, Editor

Classes are focused on special topics that combine creative play and inquirybased learning to inspire curiosity for nature, introduce scientific investigation and promote self-expression.





Want to sign up for the next Zoo Sprouts Who's Who at the Zoo class? Visit zoo.org/education/zoo_sprouts to register for the September 17 class!





an OTTERLY adorable duo

WOODLAND PARK ZOO is thrilled to welcome Valkyrie and Zigzag to the zoo's award-winning Northern Trail exhibit. The energetic, 18-month-old male river otter Zigzag, nicknamed Ziggy, is from the Oregon Zoo and the I-year-old female river otter Valkyrie is from the Pueblo Zoo in Pueblo, Colo. Both otters arrived this spring and have quickly adjusted to their new surroundings. Valkyrie and Ziggy are a recommended breeding pair who were matched up through the Association of Zoos & Aquariums Species Survival Plan.



NAME: Valkyrie (Val-K-R-ee)

WEIGHT: 6.5 kg (14 lb)

FAVORITE ACTIVITY OR PART

OF THE EXHIBIT: Valkyrie loves playing with the public, especially kids. If they run along the window on the floor, she will follow them. Frequently when kids are at the window, she will swim up to them and put her paws on the window, soliciting play from them.

DISTINGUISHING MARKS OR

BEHAVIORS: Valkyrie has a very weasel-like physique, especially noticeable when she's moving on land. North American river otters are semiaquatic mammals related to weasels, badgers and ferrets. Their habitat ranges over most of North America in coastal areas, estuaries, freshwater lakes, streams and rivers. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to contribute information to the captive breeding, husbandry and public awareness of this captivating native species. Five of 13 otter species are endangered due to water pollution, overfishing of commercial stock and habitat destruction.



NAME: Zigzag aka Ziggy (Zig-ee)

WEIGHT: 8.9 kg (19 lb)

FAVORITE ACTIVITY OR PART OF THE EXHIBIT: Ziggy likes to play with small sections of bamboo and short pieces of wood. He loves to hang out under the stump in the back of the exhibit. Both youngsters spend a lot of time rolling in the grass.

DISTINGUISHING MARKS OR BEHAVIORS: Ziggy has more wide set eyes and a smaller nose than Duncan.

Come visit Ziggy, Valkyrie and
Duncan at the Taiga Viewing Shelter in Northern Trail. Valkyrie and Ziggy join the zoo's 17-year-old male river otter Duncan. He is the largest of the otter clan weighing 9.7 kg (21 lb). Duncan has "stripes" on his belly. His muzzle is white and his black nose is big. Duncan likes to play with small rocks and will carry them on the top of his head. Ziggy and Duncan are very bonded and will frequently be seen grooming each other and synchronized swimming.

FUN FACTS

- Otters may swim in circles, creating a whirlpool which brings up fish hiding on the bottom of the river or lake.
- When running, otters can attain speeds of up to 18 mph (29 kph).
- Otters are very vocal and communicate to one another with a large variety of calls such as whistles, buzzes, twitters, staccato chuckles and chirps.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Now is a great time to take advantage of the long days and fun summer programs! Zoo gates close at 6:00 p.m., but you can stay on grounds until 7:00 p.m. through September 30. Check out engaging summer keeper talks and animal encounters, and remember you can share these up-close animal experiences with two halfprice guests every time you visit:

Tiger Gate Experience, 2:00 p.m. daily except Tuesdays Watch keepers engage with these powerful animals to ensure they are healthy and strong.

Sloth Bear Snack, 11:30 a.m. daily except Thursdays

Sloth bears love to eat insects, and they have a unique way of catching them they suck bugs out of their nest! How strong is that suction? Come find out!

Giraffe Feeding Experience, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. daily except *Tuesdays*

Get close to giraffes as you feed them on a raised platform in the African Savanna, and learn how you are helping save wild giraffes. Cost: \$5 per person, cash only, children 5 and under free with paying adult.

ZOOFARI MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENING

Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars! Our annual member celebration event will be bigger and better than ever this year as we keep the whole zoo open after hours just for members. Join us for free carousel rides, face painting, bouncy houses and more. Look for your invitation soon.

SHOP AND SAVE ANIMALS

When's the last time you stopped in the ZooStore? Have you seen our unique selection of fair trade items? New this summer, find special items discounted just for you, members! See the current member special online at zoo.org/membernews, or duck into either store during your next visit. Right now, members receive 15% off a soft, fleece blanket—a perfect picnic perch during a ZooTunes concert on the meadow this summer!

WILDLIGHTS 2015; BACK AND BRIGHTER THAN EVER!

Don't forget that as a member, you may purchase discounted tickets to the zoo's winter holiday lights festival! Gather family, friends and neighbors for a festive evening!

For questions, contact us at membership@zoo.org or call 206.548.2400.





Sharing your photos on social media? **Use #WPZmember**

WASHINGTON VOTERS TO FINISH WHAT WOODLAND PARK ZOO BEGAN

Due to extensive poaching and habitat loss, fewer than 300 Malayan tigers exist in the wild. More tigers live in captivity.

In just one decade, one million pangolins have been snatched from the wild to be used as folk medicine.

Even though sea turtles have lived for millions of years, they can't survive being overfished for human food.

African lion populations are dwindling from hunters using their body parts for home décor and trophies.

For these reasons, and many more, Washingtonians must support I-1401, a voter initiative banning the sales of endangered species products in our state.



Earlier this year, Woodland Park Zoo was in Olympia fighting for legislation that would stop the illegal sales of elephant ivory and rhino horn in our state. We were not alone. By our side were conservationists from Vulcan who also provided testimony supporting the urgent need for Washington state to help elephants and rhinos.

To our great disappointment, opposition from special interest groups was strong and the legislation failed. But soon after our legislative attempts in Olympia, Vulcan invited us to join the movement to take the decision to protect endangered animals to Washington state voters. With barely-tamed enthusiasm, we said yes, we're all in.

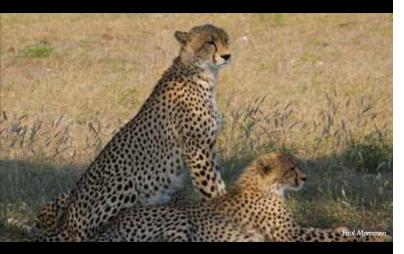


INITIATIVE 1401

In November, Washington state will have the opportunity to finish what Woodland Park Zoo began. Voters will be asked to do their part to save species from extinction by voting into law a ban on trafficking endangered animal parts. This is Initiative 1401.

We laid the foundation with elephant and rhino protection, but if I-1401 passes, tiger, lion, cheetah, leopard, pangolin, marine turtle, shark and ray products will also be illegal to sell in the state of Washington. It makes sense: these animals are the most trafficked species in the world, and all are threatened with extinction.

Trafficking endangered species products will soon be a business of the past. Over time, these laws will pass state by state, until the U.S. is closed for good to this illegal market. Here in Washington, we have the opportunity to be the first state to take this critical issue to the people.



Join Woodland Park Zoo and set a precedent. Let's tell the entire country that Washingtonians are serious about conservation. On November 3, vote yes on Initiative 1401. For more information about Initiative 1401, visit zoo.org/yeson1401

> VOTE YES ON INITIATIVE 1401

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT WILDLIGHTS



PRIVATE PARTIES AT WOODLAND PARK ZOO

Experience a WINTER WONDERLAND this year at Woodland Park Zoo's fourth annual WILD**LIGHTS**! Enjoy one of our unique indoor venues, with festive food and refreshments, for your holiday gathering of 20-250 before venturing out to be dazzled by over 600,000 LED lights illuminating the zoo.

Call 206.548.2590 or email groupsales@zoo.org for more information.



BACCIVOROUS BERRY EAFERS

It's summer here in the Pacific Northwest

and although you may curse prickly blackberry vines during the rainy, cold winter, we bet you don't mind picking those plump, deliciously sweet bursts of summer now that the brambles are heavy with berries. We are lucky to have a variety of local berries to forage to our heart's content: blackberries, blueberries, salmon berries, wild raspberries, elderberries, cloudberries, strawberries, thimbleberries, golden currants, crowberry, sumac, bearberries and something called a hairy manzanita-to name just a few! And while Seattleites might stick to the blackberries and blueberries for our pies, tarts and homemade ice cream, the other wild baccivores in the Pacific Northwest take advantage of most all of these summer delights. From crows to wolves, bears to raccoons and everything in between, it's hard to find a Pacific Northwest animal that doesn't take advantage of the seasonal spread. At the zoo's commissary, some local fruit is delivered according to the season, but throughout the year berries are in high demand from a majority of our residents.





Most of the berry diets are year-round,

meaning zoo animals expect a berry breakfast every morning. Since blueberries are easy to source, and come readily frozen, they are a staple for many of our species. Blueberries are used in a large variety of diets ranging from birds to bears, turtles to gorillas:

- Bird Salad alone uses about ½ a ton of blueberries per year (1,170 pounds)! This delicious meal goes to most of our birds except for penguins, waterfowl and cranes.
- Our Indian flying fox go through about 65 pounds per year!
- Orangutans can snack through around 260 pounds in a year.
- All the other animals combined add up to another 725 pounds of blueberries per year. This includes so many species—meerkats, red-footed tortoises, red pandas and even grizzly bears!









Blueberries

Thimbleberry

••••••

By Kirsten Pisto, Editor

Blueberries are clearly the favorite!

Berry photos by Chuck Grimmett via www.cagrimmett.com, Flickr: Michael Bentley, via Flickr @ rsseattle, Liz West via Flickr: liz west, Masayo Wright via Flickr: kahvikisu, Sten Porse via Wikimedia Commons, Jerry Kirkhart via Flickr: jkirkhart35, Flickr: petur r, Kirsten Pisto/WPZ, Dennis Dow/WPZ, Mat Hayward/WPZ, Ryan Hawk/WPZ

The zoo commissary serves up a total of about 2,220 pounds of blueberries per year! Animals enjoy the sweet taste, but also the nutritional benefits of a

Raspberries and blackberries are used to a much smaller degree. Currently only two species (siamangs and princess parrots) receive them. The commissary goes through less than 75 pounds yearly of both these berries combined.

berry high in fiber, vitamin K and vitamin C.

We even have a hornbill named Blueberry, in honor of her favorite treat!

<u>Blackberries</u>

Cloudberry

ANIMAL SPOTLIGHT WHITE-NAPED CRANES

Puffing out their chests, their heads thrown back and their beaks skyward, the pair elegantly flaunt their silvery gray wings and call out in unison as they jump and run together throughout the exhibit. The frequent dance that occurs between the zoo's white-naped crane pair is a common courtship practice among all crane species. Visitors can observe the zoo's new crane pair bow, jump, run and flap their wings as they establish a bond with one another prior to breeding.

Zookeeper Bill McDowell studies the pair from the exhibit's viewing area in the Temperate Forest while explaining the importance of their courtship ritual. White-naped cranes Cal and Laura are not just new to the zoo; they are also a new breeding pair that need to establish a bond with one another in order to breed. A successful pairing could mean the first white-naped crane chicks to ever hatch at Woodland Park Zoo!

We spent time observing courtship rituals while Bill told us more about these stunning birds: WPZ: Bill, tell us more about white-naped cranes.

Bill: There are 15 species of cranes. White-naped cranes are one of the larger species weighing 10 to 12 pounds and reaching up to 4 feet in height. They breed in Russia, Mongolia and China; in the winter, they migrate to southern China, parts of Japan and the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea. The DMZ is an especially important area for these birds as no one inhabits this area so there is less risk of being hunted.

WPZ: What can you tell us about Woodland Park Zoo's white-naped cranes?

Bill: We have a male named Cal who is 5 years old and a female named Laura who is 4 years old. Cal and Laura are a recommended breeding pair and are exhibiting courtship behaviors to establish a bond. They are new to the zoo and still a bit leery about the keepers; we can get about 20 feet away but that's it. We don't want them to become too tame and focus on us rather than each other as our focus is on breeding.

WPZ: What do white-naped cranes eat?

Bill: During breeding time they are on a special diet which gives the female time to store up the energy and nutrients

she needs to breed and nest. The rest of the year we give them supplemental treats including mealworms, crickets, grapes and mice; they seem very fond of the mealworms and crickets! In the wild, white-naped cranes forage for whatever is in season as far as grains and seeds go. They also search for protein such as insects and small reptiles.

WPZ: What is one thing that people are most surprised to learn about white-naped cranes and cranes in general?

Bill: White-naped cranes have bare red skin on the front of their heads which they can expand nearly 2 cm, similar to humans raising their eyebrows; they do this when they feel threatened.

WPZ: What is the most interesting part of working with white-naped cranes and other bird species?

Bill: Breeding. Trying to stimulate them to become a pair and breed, like what Cal and Laura are doing now, and observing their behaviors to learn more about their breeding habits for the future. Also, making sure they have plenty of nesting materials so they feel comfortable in their environment.





WPZ: Why did you want to become a keeper?

Bill: I've known since I was a little boy that I wanted to work with animals. I have always been fascinated by them.

WPZ: What other animals do you work with?

Bill: I work with off exhibit birds, frogmouths, western pond turtles, golden breasted starlings and we take care of some of the birds from the Conservation Aviary during incubation.

WPZ: What is your favorite animal to work with? Bill: Turtles. I've always had a fascination with turtles.

WPZ: What is a typical day for you?

Bill: When I arrive, the first thing I do is check on everybody to make sure they are where they are supposed to be and that they are happy and healthy. Then I clean their enclosures and feed them and continue to check in on them throughout the day.





Bill McDowell has worked at Woodland Park Zoo for over nine years, and before that at Audubon Zoo in New Orleans. He has worked with birds for 30 years and participated in Association of Zoos & Aquariums projects in Hawaii, the Marianas Islands and Guam.

By Alissa Wolken, Public Relations Coordinator





EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSES

Designed for parents/caregivers to attend with their children.

See our website for class descriptions.

WALKIN' AND ROLLIN'

Ages: Birth - 18 months Time: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Fee: \$100/6-week session each adult/child pair

9415: Wednesdays, Oct 7 - Nov 11

TINY TYKE TIME

Ages: 18-36 months Time: 9:00-10:30 a.m. Fee: \$100/6-week session each adult/child pair

9425: Thursdays, Oct I-Nov 5

ZOO SPROUTS

Ages: 3-5 years Time: 10:00-11:30 a.m. Fee: \$25 each adult/child pair, \$10 for each additional child 3-5 years

3375: Aug 26, Terrific Tigers
3385: Sep 3, SSSSSlithering Snakes
3395: Sep 9, Zoo Vets
3405: Sep 10, Penguins on Parade
3415: Sep 16, Outrageous Otters
3425: Sep 17, Who's Who at the Zoo
3435: Sep 24, Leaping Lemurs
3445: Sep 30, Cruising with Critters
3455: Nov 12, Here Kitty Kitty...

YOUNG EXPLORERS

Ages: 2-5 years Time: 9:45-11:00 a.m. Fee: \$20 each adult/child pair, \$7/ additional family member 2-5 years

2375: Aug 27, Diggin' in the Dirt 2385: Sep 2, Spots and Stripes

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL GROUPS

Bring your young learners to the zoo for a fun-filled class including a guessing game with animal specimens and a short tour! Programs are 45 minutes to one hour long and available to kindergartens, preschools, daycare centers and other groups of 10-18 children and one adult for every four children. Offered Sept.-April each year, please call for availability.

Fee: \$10.25 per person, includes admission

WHO AM I?

- African Savanna
- Tropical Rain Forest
- Family Farm

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Kids will enjoy a fun-filled evening with zoo staff inside Zoomazium while you enjoy a night out on the town. Supervised activities include games, an educational film, a live animal encounter, plus pizza for dinner!

Ages: 4-11 years Time: 5:30-10:00 p.m. Fee: \$30/child, \$22 each additional sibling

4335: Friday, Sep 11 **4415:** Saturday, Oct 17 **4425:** Saturday, Nov 13

BUG CLUB

Ages: 5-12 years Time: 10:00 a.m.-noon, generally the fourth Sunday of every month

Fee: \$55 per quarter plus a one-time \$12 materials fee for new members

SCOUT CLASSES

Each class is designed to meet scout award requirements for Girl Scout Brownies, Girl Scout Juniors or Cub Scouts. One adult for every six scouts is required and included in the registration fee.

See our website for more information at www.zoo.org/scoutclasses.

Age: 5-12 years Time: 10:00 a.m.-noon Fee: \$18/scout, \$10/additional adult

1315: Oct 3, Bugs

- (Girl Scout Brownies Badge) 1415: Oct 24, Into the Woods
- (Cub Scout Webelos Elective) 1435: Nov 21, Animal Habitats

(Girl Scout Juniors Badge)

SENIOR PROGRAMS

SENIOR CLASSES

Each class generally includes an educational presentation and an activity before heading on grounds for a short zoo tour.

See our website for class descriptions at www.zoo.org/education/adult.

Time: 10:00-11:30 a.m. **Fee:** \$20

5335: Sep 9, Mysterious Owls
5415: Oct 14, Misunderstood Animals
5425: Nov 4, Bears
5435: Dec 2, Creating the Wonder of Wildlights

SENIOR ZOO WALKERS

For individuals 55 and older, please see our website for information at www.zoo.org/education/adult.



ZOO OVERNIGHT AND EVENING ADVENTURES

Reserve your 2016 Zoo Adventure Now!

All Zoo Adventures include a pizza dinner and an exclusive after hours look at the zoo! Overnight Adventures also include a light breakfast. Zoo Adventures are offered March through mid-November. Program runs rain or shine so come prepared for any weather.

Ages: 7 and up

- Time: Overnight Adventures run 6:30 p.m.- 9:30 a.m.
- Evening Adventures run 6:30-10:00 p.m. Fee: Prices range from \$38-58/person, depending on program selected.

For more information and to register, visit www.zoo.org/overnights. Questions? Email group.registration@zoo.org

ADVENTURES FOR YOUR GROUP OF 22 OR MORE:

- A Zookeeper's Life for Me!
- Stealthy Science: Research After Dark
- Living Wild!
 NEW Living Wild! is now offered with the option of sleeping indoors

SCOUTS FOR ADVENTURE

Multiple dates are available for small scout groups; information is available on our website.



SCHOOL YEAR CAMPS

These camps coincide with select days off of school for several local school districts. PM Extended Day is available for all full-day sessions.

AMAZING ARTHROPODS

I-Day Camp

Enter the world of arthropods and discover what makes them necessary around the world. Visit Bug World to get familiar with some amazing arthropods and explore the zoo to get to know the animals that rely on them for survival.

Ages: 5-9 years **Fee:** \$85

6415: Oct 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

ANIMALS IN THE AIR

3-Day Camp

Look up! Is that a bird, a bat or a bug? We'll devote a day to each of these flying creatures and discover what makes each one unique.

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Half-Day Session:

Ages: 4-6 years **Fee:** \$135

6425: Dec 21-23, 9 a.m.-noon

Full-Day Session:

Ages: 5-9 years **Fee:** \$215

6435: Dec 21-23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

ANIMALS AND MYTHOLOGY

4-Day Camp

Unicorns, werewolves, dragons, oh my! We will have fun exploring myths and legends from around the world and discovering how they are connected to animals at the zoo.

Half-Day Session: Ages: 4-6 years

Fee: \$165

6445: Dec 28-31, 9 a.m.-noon

Full-Day Session: Ages: 5-9 years

Fee: \$265

6455: Dec 28-31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

NATURE EXPERIMENTS

I-Day Camp

Animal scientists do experiments all the time. Become a scientist as you conduct your own experiments to learn about nocturnal animals, tracking, vegetation and more.

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Ages: 5-9 years **Fee:** \$85

6116: Jan 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

FEBRUARY AND SPRING CAMPS

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Watch our website at: www.zoo.org/school_year_camps and future publications for details.



You are a Grizzly bear! You love to explore, and are especially driven by new tastes and smells. You can be competitive when resources are scarce, but typically you get along with other creatures big and small. Your dream vacation is a sunny, salmon-packed river near a patch of huckleberries—and a cozy den wouldn't hurt!

You are an Oregon silverspot butterfly! You are a vibrant creature, who rose from flowers on the coastal grasslands of the Pacific Northwest, spent fall and winter as a sleepy caterpillar, spun your silky pupa in spring, and emerged a gorgeous and vibrantly winged beauty in early summer! You tend to wander instead of taking a straight path and you like it that way!

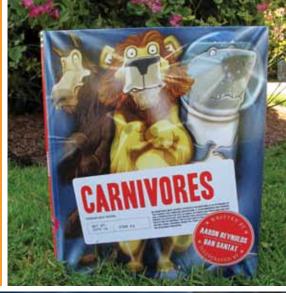
You are a Western pond turtle! Your ability to blend in keeps you safe, but you aren't afraid to jump in to catch a crawfish or insect lunch! You might hide in your shell, but you'll venture out when you are ready. You are small, but you are a very important part of pond life! You are a Golden eagle! Kakawww! You are the icon of cool. Soaring above your peers, you use logic and a keen sense of detail to catch prey. You fly over the vast open landscape, using thermal currents to float across the shrub-steppe!

You are a Gray wolf! Howl at the moon, you're a wolf at heart. Whether you are an alpha or an omega, you are loyal to your tight pack of friends. When you are on the prowl, you prefer a woodsy trail deep in the heart of the forest and when it comes to dining out—only a local proteinpacked meal will do!

Check out: Carnivores

This hilarious look at meat-eaters, including a great white shark, a timber wolf and a lion, will make you think twice about the food chain. It's lonely at the top, and even carnivores have feelings! We love the humor and awesome illustrations this book offers, plus you might learn a thing or two about apex predators!

Find 20 copies available at Seattle Public Library! Carnivores By: Aaron Reynolds and Dan Santat. Chronicle Books 2013



Grizzly Slam Dunk!

Zookeepers do all sorts of things to enrich the lives of the animals at the zoo. Enrichment can be special treats like salmon and huckleberries, or an activity, such as a basketball toy! Grizzly bears are driven by their incredible sense of smell, so a rubbery-scented basketball is especially intriguing for a bear!

WHOA!

Did you know grizzly bears eat an average of 30,000 calories a day? That means they might eat between 50,000 and 200,000 berries in one day...now that would make one giant pie!

COFFEE BEARS

Create your own grizzly family by making some coffee bears!

Grizzly bears LOVE the smell of coffee! You can glue stale coffee grounds to this shape (or draw your own bear shape) to give your art a special smell!

Items you will need

• Glue

Ages 3-5

- ¹/₄ cup old coffee grounds
- A piece of paper with a bear shape drawn on it.

VISH

Use this shape to trace some bears onto a sheet of paper.

Make a whole family of bears if you like!

BERRY BEAR TRAIL

Color in the berry shapes to help the grizzly find its way to the den.

STAR

A **COZY** FALL DEN

Here is a wolf den in Montana! The pack snuggled up inside the dry den to keep warm in the winter. You can see the entrance from the forest and you can see what the den looks like from the inside. The wolves have left the den, where did they go?

Would you like to sleep in a den?

Tell us a story about a wolf pup: Bring this page to Zoomazium and earn points at Nature Exchange!

E DEN

Check out: Where Do I Sleep?

We love this beautifully illustrated book of Pacific Northwest nature lullabies that soothe young ones to sleep and share the animals' habitats and sleeping patterns. Blomgren and Gabriel's magical collaboration is spot on as they describe salmon, otters and a gray wolf pup among many others.

Find two copies available at Seattle Public Library! Where Do I Sleep?: A Pacific Northwest Lullaby By: Jennifer Blomgren and Andrea Gabriel. Sasquatch Books, 2001 Photo by Hilary Cooley, courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters via Flickr: USFWS Headquarters

Where Do I Sleep?

UT FROM

NOLF PUPS

TRANCE

THE DEN



USPS 019-056

QUARTERS FOR CONSERVATION



Each time you visit the zoo, you can vote for your favorite conservation project at the Quarters for Conservation kiosks located at west and south gates! Remember to pick up your token when you enter, then head to the kiosk to vote for conservation projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Remember to pick up your token each time you visit. Every vote counts!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US PROTECT WILD THINGS AND WILD PLACES!

VOTE YES ON I-1401

Stop sales of endangered species products in Washington state. This November, you'll have the opportunity to save species from extinction by voting into law a ban on trafficking endangered animal parts. Visit **zoo.org/yeson1401**



VOTE