Network for Nature launches at Woodland Park Zoo Young professionals to drive conservation efforts

SEATTLE—Nearly a hundred young professionals will descend on Woodland Park Zoo this evening, October 24, to formally launch **Network for Nature**, a new young professionals network for those who are passionate about animals, want to save wildlife and create connections with others to help advance the zoo's mission of saving wildlife and their wild places.

The keynote speakers will be Angela and Ethan Stowell, who will discuss their journey as entrepreneurs in the restaurant/food industry. Angela Stowell was recently named one of the Puget Sound Business Journal's Women of Influence, is Owner and CEO of Ethan Stowell Restaurants and the 2017 Co-Chair of the United Way King County Fundraising Campaign. Ethan Stowell is Owner and Chef of Ethan Stowell Restaurants, the 2017 Co-Chair of the United Way King County Fundraising Campaign and a Board member of Woodland Park Zoo.

Those attending the event also will have a special opportunity to purchase <u>Tiger Vodka</u> made by Ian MacNeil Glass Distillery to benefit Woodland Park Zoo. The vodka comes in beautiful, limited edition glass bottles and proceeds will benefit tiger and other endangered species conservation, animal care and science education programs for local youth.

"Network for Nature is an aspiring group of young professionals representing organizations from Seattle Public Schools to Amazon," said Woodland Park Zoo President and CEO Alejandro Grajal. "They are busy increasing community involvement, building a network of peers, raising money and coordinating events. But at the end of the day, they are really geared toward creating a conservation movement."

Guests will have an exclusive ambassador animal experience at the event, in addition to enjoying good food and more.

Benefits for Network for Nature members include invitations to quarterly networking events taking place at the zoo and monthly socials, special access to programming, ticket discounts and more. To join the Network for Nature, go to <u>www.zoo.org/networkfornature</u>.

The Nature for Network event on October 24 is sponsored by Sound Community Bank, Western Towboat, Ethan Stowell Restaurants, Glass Distillery and Fremont Brewing.

Woodland Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and certified by the rigorous American Humane Conservation program. The Humane Certified[™] seal of approval is another important validation of the zoo's long-standing tradition of meeting the highest standards in animal welfare. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats through more than 35 field projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. By inspiring people to care and act, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet's future ecological health and sustainability. Visit <u>www.zoo.org</u> and follow the zoo on <u>Facebook, Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

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