

Saving Wildlife: Zoo Highlights Lesser-Known Species on Endangered Species Awareness Day

SEATTLE—Today, May 17, people around the world are shining a light on creatures large and small in recognition of Endangered Species Awareness Day. It's a global day of action to raise awareness for wildlife at risk of extinction.

Woodland Park Zoo is home to several endangered species, some of which you may not have heard of before.

Scaly-sided Mergansers *Mergus squamatus*

The scaly-sided merganser, also known as Chinese mergansers, are a species of diving ducks that are very rare in zoos and in the wild. Woodland Park Zoo is home to nine scaly-sided mergansers, including two ducklings that hatched this spring and will be viewable to the public in the zoo's Temperate Wetlands area later this summer.

Scaly-sided mergansers are native to Eastern Asia, primarily Manchuria and southeastern Russia. They live in fast moving forest streams where they use their agility and eyesight to capture fish and other invertebrates. They're named for the scaly pattern on their flanks.

Scaly-sided mergansers are endangered, their population is decreasing due to many challenges including loss of habitat and food sources, and illegal hunting.

Golden Lion Tamarin *Leontopithecus rosalia*

These small monkeys have beautiful long, silky, golden-orange fur. They live in coastal rain forests in the state of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, South America. In the past, so many of these tiny monkeys were captured to sell as exotic pets that the species was classified as Critically Endangered. The government of Brazil created strict rules to protect them, and zoos around the world have bred tamarins and successfully released them in the wild. However, their habitat is small and under threat as houses, ranches and roads spread into the area.

Visit Woodland Park Zoo's golden lion tamarins inside the Tropical Rain Forest Building, where we keep temperatures warm and humidity high all year long. Their habitat contains live trees of different heights, perfect for climbing.

Partula Snail *Partula nodosa*

The Partula snail was originally found in Tahiti but is now extinct in the wild. These tiny snails were decimated after an invasive carnivorous snail was introduced to Tahiti and neighboring islands. There is now a small wildlife preserve on Tahiti that is free of the invasive snails. The preserve measures just 20 square meters—only slightly larger than an average parking space!



Woodland Park Zoo is proud to be a part of a coordinated effort to breed Partula snails in zoos and release them in their native range. About 2400 snails currently live at the zoo, the public can view them in the Partula Snail Lab near Bug World.

Saving Wildlife:

Through the [Forests for All](#) campaign, Woodland Park Zoo is activating a conservation revolution. And it starts with each individual—because every person has the power to create meaningful change. Join the zoo today to save forests and the countless lives they sustain.

Current zoo 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. Follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

###