

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

For immediate release | June 3, 2013
Media contact: Gigi Allianic, Caileigh Robertson
206.548.2550 | woodlandparkzoo@zoo.org

Pike Place Fish Market to do famous salmon toss to grizzlies to spotlight Saturday's Pacific Northwest conservation event

WHAT: Fishmongers from the world famous Pike Place Fish Market will show off their aerial stunts on **June 6** by tossing salmon to Woodland Park Zoo's 750-pound grizzly bears. Pike Place Fish serves only sustainable, best quality seafood, and has a longstanding partnership with the zoo to provide salmon for the bears as part of its sustainability program.



The salmon toss to the grizzlies is to promote the zoo's annual **Bear Affair: Pacific Northwest Conservation presented by Brown Bear Car Wash**, which will be held on June 8. Bear Affair will focus on bears, wolves, raptors and other Pacific Northwest wildlife, what these animals need to survive in the wild and how humans can co-exist. Bear Affair is a signature event of Seattle Science Festival, the largest celebration of science in the Pacific Northwest. For event details, visit www.seattlesciencefestival.org.

While campers in Washington and residents living near parks and green spaces are more likely to encounter black bears than grizzly bears, the zoo's pair of grizzlies will demonstrate what kind of trouble follows when food, gear and garbage aren't stored properly. Scientist and conservationist Chris Morgan and zoo staff will help make you more bear aware to avoid catastrophe in bear country.

Meet representatives from Western Wildlife Outreach, Wolf Haven International, Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation and zoo experts. Other activities include Karelian bear dog demonstrations that highlight how the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife partner dogs play an essential role in training nuisance bears to avoid human contact, safety camping tips by Boy Scouts, and more.

WHEN: **Photo op: Pike Place Fish Market salmon toss: Thursday, June 6, 10:30-10:40 a.m.**

WHERE: Grizzly bear exhibit at the zoo's Northern Trail. Park in the inner 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, 19-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: Pacific Northwest Conservation presented by Brown Bear Car Wash takes place at the zoo on Saturday, June 8, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. A complete schedule of activities can be found at www.zoo.org/BearAffair2013

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).

###