



A Better Future for Wildlife

Oregon Zoo
FY 2016-17 Report

Inspiring respect and action for the natural world

The Oregon Zoo welcomes visitors from across the Pacific Northwest and around the world to experience the wonders of nature and learn about animals and conservation. Our efforts make a difference for animals at the zoo and in the wild, while boosting Portland's regional economy.

Total spending	\$101.6 million
Total jobs	980
Total earnings	\$42.2 million
Total tax revenue generated	\$2 million



Conservation at the zoo: the California condor

This spring, seven California condor chicks are being raised at the Oregon Zoo's Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation—and they're helping ensure their species survives. With more than 60 chicks hatched and nearly 50 birds released since 2003, the zoo has helped substantially grow the population of this critically endangered bird.

The zoo's first-ever condor chick, Kun-Wak-Shun, also made history this year. He fathered and raised the first wild-hatched condor at Pinnacles National Park to survive since the 1890s.

California condor population: 22 in 1982 > 450+ in 2017

It's Nora!

When Nora the polar bear arrived in Portland last fall, she immediately became a fan favorite, known at the zoo and on social media for her playful antics, diving acrobatics and charisma. She also played a role in research, helping scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey to understand how climate change is affecting polar bears. In September 2017, she'll move on to her permanent home at Utah's Hogle Zoo, where she'll be paired up with Hope, a young polar bear about Nora's age. Soon after Nora's big move, we will break ground on a new polar bear habitat, Polar Passage, a larger, more open space expected to open in 2020.



The Education Center opens its doors

The Zoo's new Education Center opened in March, welcoming visitors to explore a beautiful and innovative Conservation Lab, lecture hall, Insect Zoo and more. Located opposite the Amur tiger habitat and adjacent to the train station, the center will welcome thousands of children each year for zoo camps and classes. It also serves as a regional hub for conservation education programs and partnerships.

In the Insect Zoo, visitors can gaze at insects, spiders and millipedes and learn about their role as nature's tiny recycling crew. The Conservation Lab showcases the zoo's species-recovery efforts, which raise animals like western pond turtles for release in the wild. Stories about local "conservation heroes"—told through photos and comic books—show how small actions can make a big difference for wildlife.

The Education Center is the fifth of eight major projects funded by the 2008 community-supported zoo bond. Still to come: improved habitats for polar bears, primates and rhinos.



Event highlights

Throughout the year, events at the zoo give visitors an up-close look at wildlife and allow them to engage with efforts to conserve animals and nature.

180,643
Attendees



ZooLights

November - January

63,650
Attendees



Summer Concerts

June - September

70,632
Attendees



Second Tuesdays

Year-round

"I visited the Oregon Zoo in March and was impressed with both the beauty of the facility itself and the work they're doing on behalf of species conservation, education and animal welfare. Oregonians can be very proud of their zoo — it's one of the top zoos in the country."

Dan Ashe,
President and CEO
of the Association of
Zoos and Aquariums



From the director

At the annual Association of Zoos and Aquariums conference in San Diego in September 2016, one thing was abundantly clear: We have something very special here at the Oregon Zoo, and it all comes down to community. This was particularly evident during AZA's annual awards luncheon, when we earned top honors for the collaborative western pond turtle recovery project.

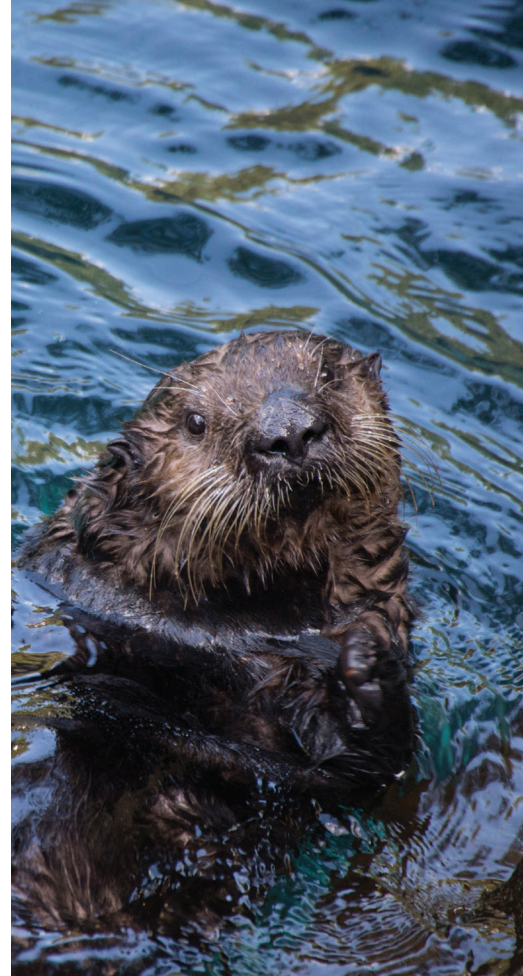
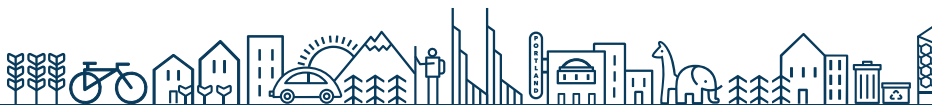
Two decades ago, western pond turtles were on the verge of completely dying out in Washington, with fewer than 100 left in the state. Now, they're making a comeback, but not without a little help. Each year, new turtle hatchlings get a head start at the zoo, growing large enough to succeed in the wild and avoid non-native predators like bullfrogs.

And it's not just turtles that are getting a boost: We're also head-starting young conservationists. People coming to the zoo—we had more than 1.5 million visits in FY16-17—get to see these turtles grow inside our Education Center, one of eight major projects made possible by a community-supported zoo bond measure. The center, which opened in March, puts our species-recovery efforts on full display and aims to inspire the next generation of conservation leaders.

FY16-17 brought much success, but we don't plan to rest on our laurels. In the spring of 2018, work begins on new habitats for primates, rhinos and polar bears. And when construction of these three projects is complete in 2020, we'll be looking at a substantially improved zoo: one that offers even more opportunities for inspiration.



Dr. Don Moore
Director, Oregon Zoo



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