

From the director

It seems each year brings more milestones for the Oregon Zoo, and FY17-18 was no exception. Attendance-wise, it was the most successful year in the zoo's 130-year history with 1.7 million visits — an all-time high. As usual, we enjoyed the strongest attendance of any cultural institution in the region.

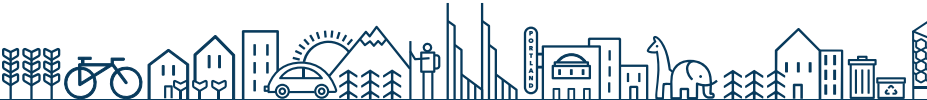
Attendance at the zoo is just the beginning of our story. Each person who walks through our gates represents an opportunity for us to make positive change together. Our purpose, after all, is inspiring the community to create a better future for wildlife, and 1.7 million visits adds up to a lot of teachable moments. Each visit also supports the zoo's conservation, education and animal welfare efforts — including ongoing recovery actions for California condors, Taylor's checkerspot butterflies and other endangered species.

While 1.7 million visits will be hard to top, we're looking forward to making an even greater positive impact in the years ahead. We're increasing accessibility through programs like Zoo For All, a discount option for lower-income families. And we're expanding our conservation reach through innovative partnerships with government agencies and others at our new Education Center.

As we enter the home stretch of projects funded by the 2008 zoo bond measure promoting animal welfare and sustainability, it is exciting to see the changes taking place. When all is said and done, we will have completely transformed more than 40 percent of the zoo campus! As always, we remain committed to the animals in our care, the wildlife of this planet and the community we serve. See you around the zoo!



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A Better Future for Wildlife

Oregon Zoo
FY 2017-18 REPORT



Oregon Zoo
Portland's Centers for the Arts
Portland Expo Center
Oregon Convention Center

oregonmetro.gov/venues

Record-setting attendance

The Oregon Zoo reached an all-time record attendance, making this the most-visited year in the zoo's 130-year history. The strong attendance supports the zoo's conservation, education and animal welfare efforts.



Total visitors:
1.7 million



Busiest season: Summer, with more than 400,000 visits in July and August



ZooLights attendance:
270,081, a new record



In the home stretch

We've entered the home stretch of projects funded by the 2008 zoo bond measure promoting animal welfare and sustainability. With work about to begin on new habitats for polar bears, primates and rhinos, we will continue to evolve in a way that makes this community proud.

Highest honors awarded for conservation and design

The Oregon Zoo team earned two prestigious awards from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums — one for conservation work on behalf of imperiled California condors and another recognizing excellence in exhibit design for Elephant Lands. Received at AZA's annual conference, these awards are some of the highest distinctions in the zoo world.

Regional economic impact, FY17-18



Total spending
\$88.9 million



Total jobs
830



Total earnings
\$37.2 million



Total tax revenues
\$2 million

Returning an endangered species to the skies

The Oregon Zoo and its partners in the California condor recovery project took top honors in the North American Conservation Awards category, which recognizes "exceptional efforts toward regional habitat preservation, species restoration and support of biodiversity." California condors were included in the original 1973 Endangered Species Act and are still classified as critically endangered. In 1982, only 22 remained in the wild. By 1987, the last condors were brought under human care in an attempt to save them from extinction. Thanks to these efforts, there are now more than 400 condors, with most flying free over California and Arizona. Our next goal is to return these impressive birds to Oregon's skies.



"People in the Pacific Northwest have a strong connection to animals. We have a shared vision in this community of creating a better future for wildlife, and that means a lot."

Dr. Don Moore, Oregon Zoo director and conservation biologist



At zoo, elephants are walking more than ever

Scientists developed "elephant Fitbits" to monitor pachyderm activity levels in the new, state-of-the-art Elephant Lands. The motion-measuring ankle bracelets use GPS data loggers to tally the elephants' daily movement. Elephant Lands is four times larger than the Oregon Zoo's former elephant area, allowing elephants to forage and explore for up to 16 hours a day—and earning the zoo top honors from the AZA. Portland State University researcher Sharon Glaeser conducted the four-year study on the elephants' wanderings. In her words, "the elephants are taking more steps, in more places, than ever before."



With help of inmates, butterfly is coming back from the brink of extinction

Inmates at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility have helped save the day for Taylor's checkerspot butterfly larvae. As part of a collaboration with the Oregon Zoo and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 562 grown caterpillars raised and cared for by inmates were released on western Oregon prairies near Corvallis. At Coffee Creek's butterfly conservation lab, zoo staff taught inmates how to care for butterfly eggs and raise larvae, supporting their efforts along the way.

The Oregon Zoo has raised nearly 25,000 checkerspots for release since joining the recovery effort in 2004. And while the butterflies are small, the restoration of their high-quality native prairie habitat benefits a multitude of other species associated with this ecosystem.

