

A close-up photograph of a butterfly with black wings featuring white and orange spots, perched on a red flower. The butterfly's wings are spread, showing a pattern of white spots on a black background, with orange spots along the edges. The flower has bright red, pointed petals. The background is a soft-focus green.

# Oregon Zoo ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014



# From the interim director



When was your last visit to the Oregon Zoo? Chances are, you came away awestruck by the wonder and beauty of the animals and their surroundings. Our mission is to inspire our guests to take action on their behalf.

The past year has been one of the most pivotal in Oregon Zoo history. Thanks to support from our community, we accomplished several key projects. We began construction on Elephant Lands—a world-class habitat that sets a new bar for elephant welfare and education—and opened the new Condors of the Columbia exhibit, the result of our decade-long effort to bring this important species back from near extinction. Soon, the refurbished zoo train will run along a reconfigured route

providing guests with exciting new viewing opportunities.

These important projects are funded by the 2008 zoo bond and demonstrate the zoo’s commitment to fulfill our promise to voters: increasing capacity for conservation education, protecting animal health and safety, and improving sustainability through new exhibits.

As part of Metro, the zoo continues to play a central role in preserving the region’s natural beauty and supporting a thriving economy. I invite you to learn more about the projects that will define the zoo for the next generation in this report and at [oregonzoo.org](http://oregonzoo.org).

*Teri Dresler*

Teri Dresler, Oregon Zoo interim director

# Creating a world-class elephant habitat

Since the birth of Packy in 1962, the Oregon Zoo’s elephants have inspired millions of visitors to appreciate and care about wildlife. In February 2014, the celebrated herd stepped into a new era when they walked into the first portion of their new habitat, Elephant Lands. The most ambitious project in the Oregon Zoo’s 125-year history, Elephant Lands brings together science-based care and thoughtful design to produce an amazing exhibit that will delight and educate visitors for generations to come.

Construction of Elephant Lands began in 2013, and the project is scheduled for completion in 2015. The zoo is building the exhibit thanks to the community-supported zoo bond measure passed in 2008. Four times larger

than the current elephant habitat, it will extend around the eastern edge of the zoo and encompass rolling meadows, 4-foot-deep sand yards and one of the world’s largest indoor elephant facilities, offering stunning views of the Oregon Zoo herd.

“To thrive at the Oregon Zoo, elephants need to move, interact with other members of the herd and the males need to be able to come in and out of the herd as they do in the wild,” said Bob Lee, the zoo’s elephant curator. “This habitat provides elephants with the opportunity to do all of that. It also lets us at the zoo apply our five decades of knowledge about what works for elephants and make the habitat as functional and purposeful as possible.”



15,000

Cubic yards of sand at Elephant Lands for maintaining healthy feet

# Engaging the community

The Zoo Animal Presenter (ZAP) program entered its 15th year in 2014, marking a decade and a half of providing teens from underserved communities with valuable work experience while strengthening their connection to the natural world.

A demonstration of the zoo’s educational mission, the three-year paid internship program gives young adults exposure to careers in education and the natural sciences and empowers them to become positive role models in their own neighborhoods. “Without the skills I learned at ZAP, I wouldn’t have accomplished all the goals I had set out for myself in high school,” said ZAP alum Tatiana Umaña. “The ZAP program allows teens to find themselves in a way they never thought of before.”

ZAP members provide live animal outreach programming to children and families across the Metro region—as of 2014, nearly 93,000 local young children had participated in a presentation delivered by a ZAP member. ZAP partners with social service agencies to engage diverse audiences that would not typically receive conservation education, primarily residents of diverse, low-income neighborhoods where ZAP members live.



\$1,579,432

Total support from the Oregon Zoo Foundation for Zoo Animal Presenter and Urban Nature Overnight programs, 2000-2014

# Zoo train returns

After a yearlong hiatus, the zoo railway is set to reopen to the public—just in time to carry visitors along a brand new route for the 2014 ZooLights season.

In June, the Oregon Zoo sent the Centennial steam locomotive and the iconic Zooliner to Pacific Power Group in Ridgefield, Washington for repairs and refurbishing. Over the summer, Pacific Power’s experts gave the engines a total overhaul—installing a new smoke box and steel frame carriage on the Centennial and giving the Zooliner a new diesel engine with advanced emissions-control technology. Both trains received custom paintwork to spruce them up while retaining their historic attributes.

At the same time, construction crews were hard at work updating a route that hadn’t changed since the trains first carried zoo visitors more than 50 years ago. The new half-mile loop will circle an elevated trestle in the forest north of Elephant Lands, offering spectacular views of the ZooLights display and Portland’s famous pachyderms when the spacious North Meadow section of their new habitat opens in 2015.



Zoo train engines receive new parts and a fresh paint job at Pacific Power Group in Ridgefield, Washington.



## Building conservation connections

Formed in 2013, the Oregon Zoo's Conservation Action Team, or CAT, is working to inspire people to take action on behalf of wildlife. When families stop for a few moments to see animals and explore exhibits, CAT has the opportunity to provide information about the threats that issues like the illegal ivory trade and palm oil production pose to sensitive habitats.

The Conservation Action Team is a diverse collection of zoo staff and volunteers that includes zookeepers, conservation scientists and members of the education and communications teams. By focusing on initiatives with a direct zoo connection, the Conservation Action Team is able to engage visitors about the challenges facing the species they see at the zoo.

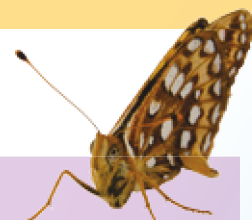
# Restoring species in our backyard and beyond

The Oregon Zoo's impact on wildlife reaches far beyond Washington Park—extending to habitats across the western United States where the zoo is partnering with conservation groups, government agencies and other zoos to restore populations of imperiled native species.



### Oregon spotted frog

Once common in the Pacific Northwest, the Oregon spotted frog has disappeared from 95 percent of its range, largely due to habitat loss and the negative impact of invasive species such as the American bullfrog. Since 1998, the zoo has worked with conservation partners to monitor, study and recover populations of these amphibians.



### Oregon silverspot butterfly

The species once fluttered across prairies west of the Cascade Mountains, from British Columbia through Oregon's Willamette Valley. Today, 99 percent of the silverspot's range has become farmland, pasture and city. The zoo and its conservation partners are working to revegetate its range and at the same time, rear and release butterflies to increase wild populations.



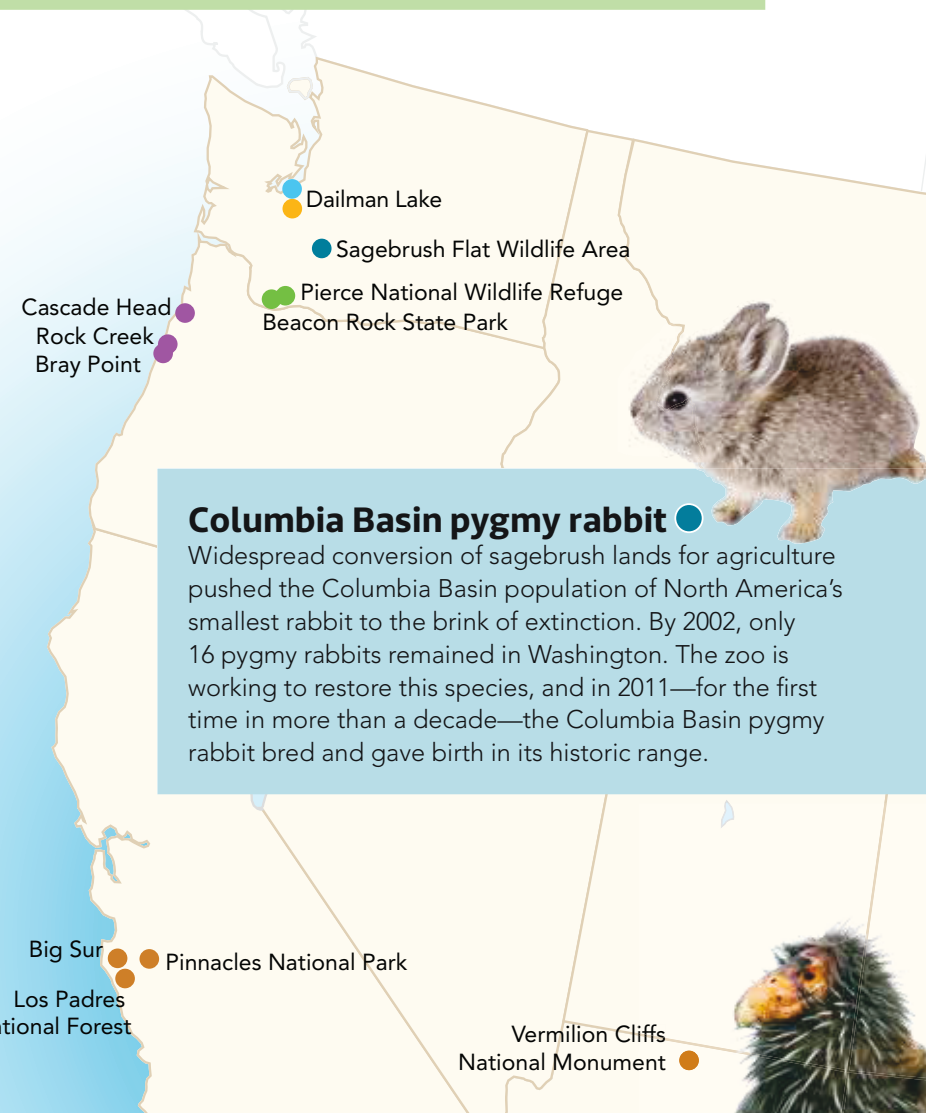
### Taylor's checkerspot butterfly

Almost two centuries of agriculture and urban growth in its native habitat crowded out this butterfly. As of 2009, its range was limited to 12 isolated sites in Washington, two in Oregon and one in Canada. The zoo is rearing and releasing checkerspot butterflies to build populations and restore this pollinator to the remaining areas of its historic range.



### Western pond turtle

Destruction of wetland habitat has severely reduced the western pond turtle population. The zoo participates in a head-starting project to help vulnerable hatchling turtles avoid predators in early life.



### Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit

Widespread conversion of sagebrush lands for agriculture pushed the Columbia Basin population of North America's smallest rabbit to the brink of extinction. By 2002, only 16 pygmy rabbits remained in Washington. The zoo is working to restore this species, and in 2011—for the first time in more than a decade—the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit bred and gave birth in its historic range.



### California condor

By 1987, the entire California condor population had been reduced to 22 individuals. Today, lead poisoning poses a significant threat to these endangered birds. The zoo operates a condor breeding facility at the Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation in Clackamas County.



## Future for Wildlife turns 15

Over the past 15 years, the Future for Wildlife program has grown from a small effort to protect penguins in Peru into a worldwide conservation program for threatened and endangered species and ecosystems.

Community support has played a crucial role throughout the program's history. In 1998, Dr. David Shepherdson, the zoo's deputy conservation manager, visited Punta San Juan, Peru, where he learned about the desperate need for funding to protect a colony of endangered Humboldt penguins. When he returned to the zoo, he worked with the Oregon Zoo Foundation to raise funds for the project, forming the basis of the Future for Wildlife program.

Today, Future for Wildlife is an ongoing partnership between the zoo and the foundation that provides grants to local and global conservation efforts. Over the years, Future for Wildlife grants have helped protect species ranging from the California condor to the giant panda.

# New condor habitat demonstrates commitment to conservation

Each day, the Oregon Zoo builds connections between people and animals—informing visitors, spurring action and supporting conservation efforts in our region and around the globe.

*“This amazing exhibit brings together the best of what the zoo has to offer by providing a greater understanding of the history of the region we live in and our place in it.”*  
— Kelli Walker, senior condor keeper

One of the zoo’s newest exhibits, Condors of the Columbia, takes that mission to the next level, providing visitors with a view of condors in Portland for the first time in more than 100 years.

Condors of the Columbia opened on May 24, 2014, and is now home to three non-releasable birds from the condor recovery program. Today, Oregon Zoo visitors have the opportunity to see these colorful, intelligent and highly endangered birds up close and learn about the challenges to their survival.

California condors are the largest land birds in North America, and they once ranged from British Columbia to Baja California and inland to the Rocky Mountains. These incredible birds are massive, stretching 10 feet from wingtip to wingtip. When Meriwether Lewis and William Clark made their historic journey to the Oregon coast, the California condor soared above the Columbia River. But by the 1980s, the species had all but disappeared.

Condors of the Columbia is a symbol of the zoo’s commitment to species recovery and habitat conservation. The exhibit tells the story of condors’ historic fall and their current rise, guiding visitors through the zoo’s decade-long condor recovery effort at the Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation. In 2003, the zoo joined the national condor recovery program in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Diego Wildlife Park, the Los Angeles Zoo and many other partners. Named for the “buzzards of the Columbia” mentioned in Lewis’ expedition journal, the habitat is the third of eight major projects funded by the community-supported zoo bond measure.

Opening one year to the day after its 2013 groundbreaking, the \$2.3 million project was completed on schedule and under budget.

By bringing families face to face with these critically endangered birds, the exhibit provides visitors with the opportunity to observe a species that was nearly extinct and to learn about continued threats from lead and trash in the environment.

“This amazing exhibit brings together the best of what the zoo has to offer by providing a greater understanding of the history of the region we live in and our place in it,” said Kelli Walker, senior condor keeper.

\$1,894,377

Total support from the Oregon Zoo Foundation for the zoo’s condor recovery efforts, 2000-2014



## Thanks to you, a new zoo

In 2008, voters across the region approved a \$125 million bond measure to support new construction, renovation and innovation at the Oregon Zoo. The bond put the zoo in a strong position to protect animal health and safety, expand access to conservation education and increase sustainability.

In the past year, zoo bond funds enabled completion of the \$2.3 million Condors of the Columbia exhibit and the first section of the

\$57 million Elephant Lands project. The entire 6.25-acre home for the herd is slated for completion in 2015.

Other current bond-supported projects include construction of a service access road, rerouting of the zoo train loop, relocation of the zoo’s Wildlife Live headquarters and plans for a new zoo education center scheduled to begin construction in 2015.



**With deepest gratitude**, we honor those who support the Oregon Zoo's commitment to conservation, education and animal welfare. The following individuals and organizations helped advance the zoo's efforts in these areas with generous gifts to the Oregon Zoo Foundation between January 2013 and June 2014.

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# From the Oregon Zoo Foundation director



A trip to the zoo can create memories that last a lifetime. Interacting with animals from around the globe has an incredible power to inspire wonder and foster a deeper understanding of our place in the world. When we couple this experience with education about the challenges facing the world’s ecosystems, it becomes more than a memory—it becomes action.

Landon Clark first saw Inji the orangutan when he was two. Six years later, Landon learned more about the threat that palm oil harvesting posed to the habitat that sustains orangutans in the wild. He responded by urging his family to take action in their own home by replacing some products that contain palm oil and by collecting money, which he donated to the zoo to help conservation efforts worldwide.

This strong bond between humans and the natural world doesn’t stop at the zoo gates. This year, the Zoo Animal Presenters program celebrated 15 years of mentoring teens and connecting children in underserved communities with animals and the environment. The program has been life-changing for teens like Tatiana Umaña, and all of us at the Oregon Zoo Foundation are proud to generate support for this valuable program.

Thank you for your commitment to the future of the Oregon Zoo. Together, we’ll continue building a zoo that brings everyone in our community closer to the natural world.

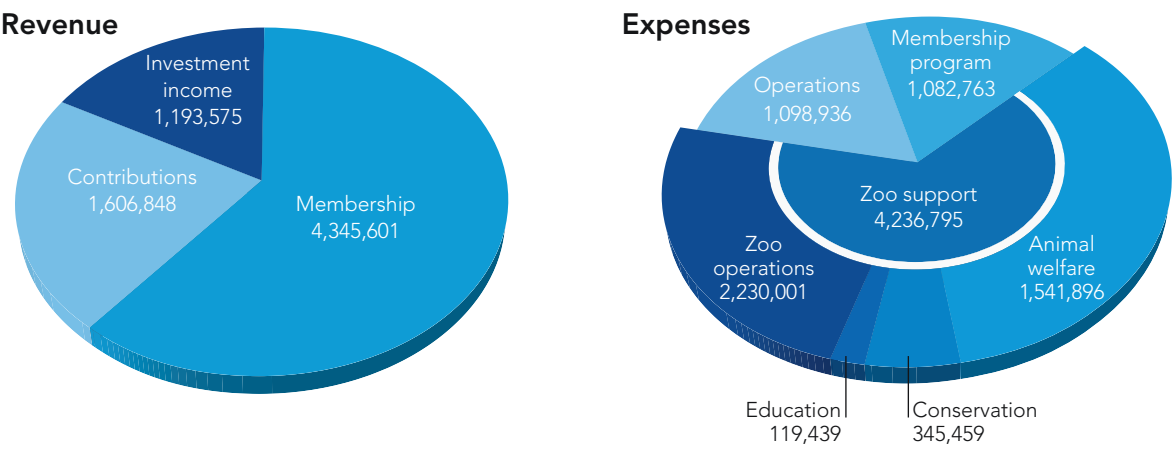
*Jani Iverson*

Jani Iverson, Oregon Zoo Foundation director

# Oregon Zoo Foundation financials

for fiscal year 2013-2014

Through the generosity of individuals, families and corporate and foundation partners, the Oregon Zoo Foundation advances the zoo’s mission of inspiring the community to create a better future for wildlife. Each year, the Oregon Zoo Foundation provides funds to support the operation of the zoo and to enhance efforts in conservation, education and animal welfare.



The foundation performs investment and endowment management functions for the funds with which it has been entrusted. The foundation manages four board-designated endowment funds in support of the zoo and maintains unrestricted investments that are available for the zoo's unforeseen needs. The foundation administers these funds and acts as fiduciary, monitoring investment performance and compliance with foundation investment policy. Endowment appropriations are available annually in support of the zoo.

- Thank you** – continued

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## Making a great, wild place

Spread across 64 acres of natural beauty, the Oregon Zoo is home to more than 2,200 animals from 260 different species. Some, like the lion cubs, have just recently joined the Oregon Zoo family, while others have thrived for decades. All these creatures delight families on a daily basis and help educate visitors about the wonders and challenges of our natural world.

The Oregon Zoo is owned and operated by Metro, serving nearly 1.5 million people in 25 cities in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties.

Whether your roots in the region run generations deep or you moved to Oregon last week, you have your own reasons for loving this place—and Metro wants to keep it that way. Help shape the future of the greater Portland region and discover tools, services and places that make life better today.

[oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov)

[oregonzoo.org](http://oregonzoo.org)

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# 165,797

Volunteer hours performed at the  
Oregon Zoo in FY 2013-2014

# 1,525

Volunteers at the  
Oregon Zoo in FY 2013-2014



## Oregon Zoo Foundation

Through the generosity of individuals, families and corporate and foundation partners, the Oregon Zoo Foundation advances the zoo's mission of inspiring the community to create a better future for wildlife. Since 1997, the foundation contributed more than \$52 million to support the Oregon Zoo's conservation, education and animal welfare programs.

[oregonzoo.org/ozf](http://oregonzoo.org/ozf)

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