

# Paw Prints

August 2017

## Fisher Conservation at Trek!



As some of you are aware, Trek staff had the opportunity to participate in several fisher releases over the past year and were able to start the conversation with staff from Mount Rainier, WDFW and Conservation Northwest about how Trek could be involved with this

important and exciting project.

In June we learned that the greatest need for the project at this time is funding. We have moved forward very quickly with admissions staff asking visitors at the window if they would like to round up for Fisher Conservation. We have also moved a coin collector with the fisher image down to the fisher exhibit, and Animal Care staff are now doing a regular daily fisher talk. We have raised over \$3500 with a goal of raising \$5000 by October!

We are in the process of creating additional messaging around the Park, as well as a graphic to be placed next to the fisher exhibit. We are hoping to tell the story of the successful reintroductions that have taken place in both the Olympic Peninsula and the South Cascades.



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## Welcome to our new Lead Naturalist, Emily!

Hi everyone! My name is Emily Santiago and I am so excited to join the team at Northwest Trek as Lead Naturalist! I will be focusing on program development and event planning. I was born and raised in the Midwest, so moving to Washington is the adventure I've been waiting for! I began volunteering at my local zoo doing interpretation when I was in high school and knew moving forward what my career goals would be.

I went on to receive my Bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences with a minor in Anthropology and my Master's degree in Agricultural Education with a concentration on program development, both from the University of Illinois. After graduating, I became a Naturalist for Scott County Conservation in eastern Iowa. I managed the volunteers and animal husbandry program at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center in addition to offering dynamic conservation education and recreation programs to people throughout the region. I absolutely love helping people discover how fascinating our local plants and animals are and how they fit into the bigger picture through hands-on activities and experiences. I'm looking forward to exploring the Pacific Northwest and getting acquainted with the native biodiversity!



I'm moving across the country with my husband of 3 years, Sean, and my two pups, Kiwi and Pongo.

I can't wait to meet and get to know everyone at Trek!



## Volunteer BBQ Potluck



Thanks to everyone who made it out to the potluck at the end of last month and extra kudos to Jim Behee (Peggy's husband) for being Grill Master for the evening! It was so much fun to relax at the Hellyer Center in the evening, enjoying everyone's delicious food, and take a free roaming area tour when the animals were starting to be more active. We saw lots of new deer fawn and other babies, as well as lots of bald eagle activity on the lake! Big thanks to Nickole as well for driving our tram tour!

See you on our next adventure!



## Note from Jake about Tansy Ragwort

Tansy with cinnabar larvae



Hello, It is that time of year when the yellow bloom of Tansy can be seen around Trek. As many of you know, we have been pulling it by hand. We have chosen to use "No herbicides" to control this plant. This method has been very effective and environmental safe choice. In the 10 years that I have worked at Trek, I have seen us go from close to a truck load, down to a couple bags of Tansy. It is a state listed noxious weed that is toxic to animals that ingest it. That is a major concern for people with livestock and for us in the Free Roaming Area (FRA). It is required by the state and county that we remove and/ or control this plant when found.

We also have an insect helper in our battle with Tansy. The cinnabar moth is the common name for *Tyria jacobaeae*. The cinnabar moth, in its larvae stage, serves as a form of biological control in helping to control tansy weeds.

If found, please pull plants if they are accessible to you and place in the garbage or a garbage bag, so the seed does not spread. If not accessible, please let Horticulture staff know where plants are sited on Trek land and we will deal with them. Attached is a photo of the flower and leaves. It has been our policy to **not pull Tansy that has the cinnabar larvae** on it, unless it is found in the FRA. Please take time to look at the plant before you pull. We want to make sure that our little helpers can continue to spread.

We have a Tansy Ragwort look-a-like: Woodland Groundsel. It is related to Tansy Ragwort, but is not toxic and does not need to be removed. The flowers never open to full petals like Tansy Ragwort does.



Tansy Ragwort



**A huge thank you to the volunteers, interns and staff who helped conduct bat colony emergence counts at Northwest Trek!** Participants were able to observe and record a colony size of more than 230 individual bats!

Why is this important?

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a deadly fungal disease that has killed millions of hibernating bats in eastern North America. Unfortunately, in March 2016, the first western detection of this disease was found in King County, Washington on a little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*). To evaluate the impact of WNS and monitor the overall health and survival of bat populations in Washington it is important to collect baseline information on bat colonies (e.g., roost locations, colony size). Many bat species group together in the summer months, forming maternity colonies, where females give birth and raise their young (pups). Monitoring these summer colonies will provide important information on reproduction success and survivorship in the face of this emerging disease.

The goals of these colony emergence counts are to:

Collect baseline information on summer bat colonies, e.g., colony size, species

Evaluate the impact of white-nose syndrome on bat colonies, e.g., colony health, survivorship



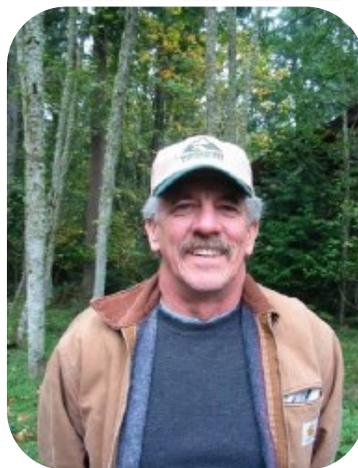
Bats are a vital part of the ecosystem, and your help monitoring summer bat colonies will allow WDFW to make informed decisions about protection and conservation measures for bats in Washington.

~ Rachael Mueller

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Nancy Bagley  
August 3rd



Steve Bagley  
August 17th



Gloria Massey  
August 22nd

**August is National Family Fun Month, so we hope to see you out at Trek having fun with your families!**

