

RED (FOXES), WHITE (SWANS), AND CARIBOU: CELEBRATE AN ALL-AMERICAN JULY WITH THESE AND OTHER ANIMALS – INCLUDING LOTS OF NEWBORNS – AT NORTHWEST TREK
Six bison calves, four elk calves and a caribou calf now roam the meadows with their moms

Eatonville, Wash. – Another American bison calf was born at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park near Eatonville over the weekend, bringing to six the number of newborn members of the National Mammal species in the wildlife park’s Free-Roaming Area.

In addition, four woodland caribou females and one newborn caribou calf also are wandering with the herd in Northwest Trek’s 435-acre natural habitat for hooved animals on Tuesday morning.

All told, the number of baby animals now roaming the meadows and forests of the wildlife park is impressive:

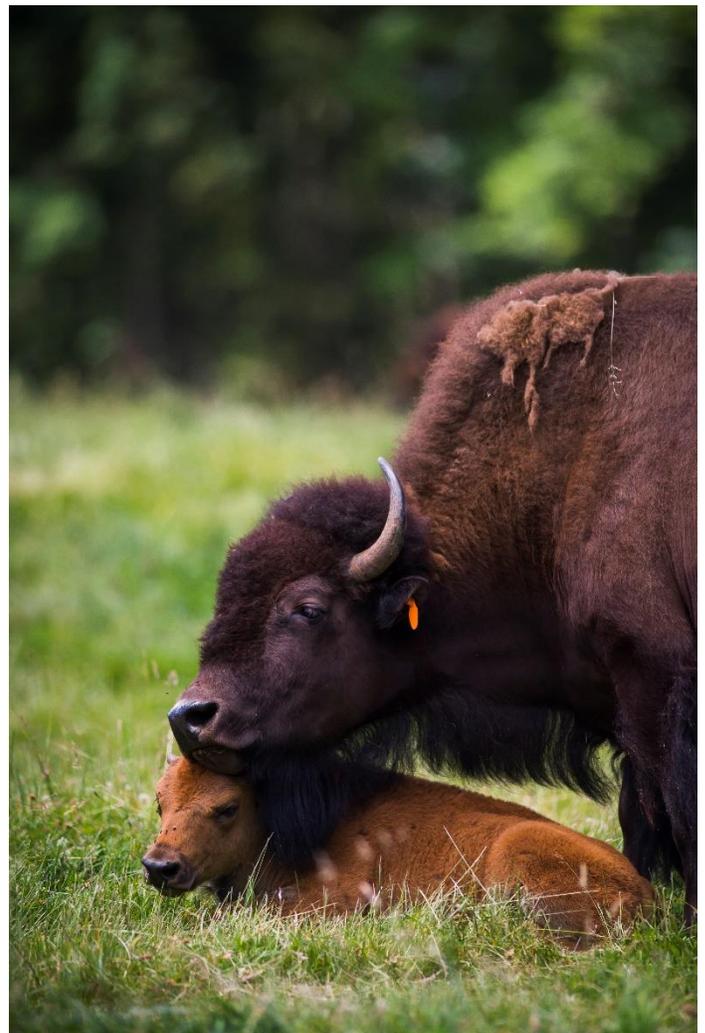
- Six bison calves
- Four Roosevelt elk calves
- One woodland caribou calf
- Two bighorn sheep lambs
- Several deer fawns
- Dozens of goslings

Visitors are likely to see many – or all – of them during the 50-minute, naturalist narrated tour of the Free-Roaming Area that comes with every admission to Northwest Trek. Visitors ride aboard comfortable trams with large windows for ideal animal watching.

And just in time for the warmer, long days of summer, Northwest Trek extended its hours on July 1. The wildlife park is open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through Labor Day.

The last tram of the day leaves the Tour Station at 6 p.m., and visitors have until 7:30 p.m. to make their way out of the wildlife park.

A mother bison nuzzles newborn calf on Tuesday, June 27, in the Free-Roaming Area at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.



“We are pleased to have so many newborn animals in the Free-Roaming Area for our visitors to see and enjoy,” said Northwest Trek Zoological Curator Marc Heinzman. “They help us tell the story of animals that are native to the Northwest and highlight conservation successes like that of the American bison.”



Above: A Woodland caribou mother and her newborn calf explore the Free-Roaming Area on Tuesday, June 27, at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.
Below: A spindly-legged bison calf learns to walk, tagging along behind its mother.



Bison are among several native Northwest herd animals on exhibit at Northwest Trek.

Visitors also are likely to see Roosevelt elk, and Woodland caribou in the forests and meadows.

Several bighorn sheep and newborn lambs, Columbia black-tailed deer, a mountain goat, two trumpeter swans, flocks of Canada geese and six North American moose also live in the Free-Roaming Area.



A female Roosevelt elk and calf sprint through a colorful meadow at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park on Tuesday, June 27.

Although every season carries its own charm – and distinct views of animals and scenery – at Northwest Trek, summer is a wonderful time to come and see newborn animals gain their legs and grow.

In addition to the tram tour through the Free-Roaming Area, visitors may walk forested pathways to natural habitats that are home to black bears, gray wolves, red foxes, coyotes, bobcats, Canada lynx, river otters, beavers and other animals.

Children from toddlers through tweens can climb and slide and play in the nature-inspired Kids' Trek playground, where imagination and exercise reign supreme.

And everywhere visitors go, keepers and members of Northwest Trek's interpretive staff are available to dispense facts about the animals, talk about the need for conservation and provide visitors with lists of small actions they can take to help animals in the wild.

Carrying a refillable bottle for water and other beverages is one easy way people can help the environment. Single-use plastic bottles are one of the biggest culprits in the mountains of plastic trash that clog rivers and oceans, harming the animals that live there.

Northwest Trek and its partners, Lancer Hospitality and Wildlife Trading Co., have eliminated the sale of plastic bottles and single-use plastic bags on site. Visitors are encouraged to bring refillable water bottles with them when they come.

For more information, go to www.nwtrek.org.

###

Northwest Trek, accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, is a 725-acre zoological park dedicated to conservation, education and recreation by displaying, interpreting and researching native Northwest wildlife and their natural habitats. The wildlife park is a facility of Metro Parks Tacoma and is located 35 miles southeast of Tacoma off State Highway 161.

Contact: Kris Sherman, 253-226-6718; kris.sherman@pdza.org