

TREK TRACKS

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS OF NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK



TEST YOUR MOOSE IQ

- 1: What's the estimated moose population in Washington?
- 2: What is the large flap of hair-covered skin that hangs beneath a moose's throat?
- 3: How large can a bull moose's antlers grow, measured from one tip straight across to the other side?
- 4: How much do the average male and female moose weigh?
- 5: Where would you find a herd of moose?

Moose IQ Answers

- 1: At least 1,000.
- 2: It's called a bell.
- 3: The "spread" of their antlers can be as much as 6½ feet.
- 4: Males, or bulls, can weigh 850 to 1,100 pounds; cows weigh 600 to 800 pounds.
- 5: It's not likely! Moose tend to be loners, except for mothers, who keep their calves nearby.



MOOOOOOOOSE!

Up-close sightings delight Northwest Trek visitors

Young female moose, wolf pups and fox kits are big draws along walking tour

Marvelous Moose. Moose Mania. Moose Musings. Call it by just about any fun name you can think of, because there's never been a better time for an up-close moose sighting at Northwest Trek. Most people can hardly wait to post photos on social media — and tell family and friends about their "encounter."

And the fascination seems to go both ways. The young Idaho moose, now on exhibit in the central area of the wildlife park, sometimes seems as curious about visitors as they are about her.

She often cozies up to the center mound of her exhibit, watching people go by. And sometimes she stares into the windows of the Baker Research Cabin — and finds people looking back.

The female moose made her debut in the former wolf exhibit over the fall, and she's quickly becoming a "must see" animal at Northwest Trek. Three moose live in the Free-Roaming Area, and visitors often can spot them during the tram tour. But the new moose exhibit along the walking path allows visitors time to stand and watch the young cow as she browses through the foliage for food. *Continued on page 2*



Northwest Trek
Wildlife Park

METRO PARKS TACOMA

AmeriCorps Volunteers Put Long Hours, Hard Work into Northwest Trek

Team of eight completes 23 much-needed jobs in 21 days



A steady Northwest winter rain, muddy soil and tough manual labor couldn't dampen the smiles of eight AmeriCorps workers at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park during a month of work at the park this winter.

The 18- to 24-year-olds from across the country spent about 1,300 hours tackling an array of tough chores, including digging drainage runs, repairing fences and removing invasive plant species. They took immense pride in each job well done, but their service is about much more than that.

"AmeriCorps has given us the opportunity to dig deeper into the roots of the community," said 23-year-old Jacob Lightner of Quakertown, Pa. The work, done far from home and family, is challenging, he added. But it also provides deep

rewards and opportunities for professional development. Many of the volunteers are interested in conservation or zoo careers.

The park benefits, too. "The crew helps with a backlog of projects that might not get attention without additional help," said Jessica Moore, Northwest Trek's Conservation Program Coordinator, who works with the AmeriCorps volunteers.

In 2013 and 2014, AmeriCorps volunteers invested nearly 3,000 hours in Northwest Trek, she said.

"We know these young adults are working to make a difference in this country, and we are very grateful that they chose Northwest Trek as one of the places where they will make their mark," she added.

Moooooooooose! *Continued from page 1*

From rough beginnings, the moose has found a home and grown healthy at Northwest Trek.

"She meets keepers at the gate ready for treats and enrichment daily," Keeper Angela Gibson said. "She appears to be interested in visitors and can regularly be found watching them at the viewing deck or in the cabin."

Visitors have taken note: A throng of onlookers lines up along the railing to watch the moose in her natural forest habitat. Parents hoist small children onto their shoulders; amateur photographers whip out cell phones or focus long lenses and professional-grade cameras at the moose, hoping to snap just the right souvenir picture.

Gibson says visitors are often taken aback by the moose cow's size – the adolescent weighs in at about 700 pounds.

Not far away along the paved walkways, three wolf pups and five fox kits also draw crowds to their respective exhibits. The three little wolves frequently play in the



water or on top of the boulders, which serve as their lookout, in the former black bear exhibit space.

The five fox kits are a bit more reserved, often piled together toward the back of their exhibit, lying in the ferns. And they often busy themselves by pulling up vegetation, chewing on sticks and digging – like a pack of puppies!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Spring Photo Tours:

March 8, April 12, May 10, June 7.

Spring Keeper Tours:

May 25, May 31 (ages 13+), June 14

These exclusive tours allow you to go where others cannot. Get up-close with moose, mountain goats, bison, bighorn sheep and more in the beautiful Free-Roaming Area.

Go to nwtrek.org for details and to register.



April 5-6 Migratory Madness

Join our annual celebration of beautiful birds, highlighting migrating species.



April 27 Wolf Pups' 1st Birthday

Join in the party and watch our three wolf pups get special enrichments to celebrate their first birthday.



May 17-18 Bear Camp

Living with bears is part of the great outdoors experience in the Pacific Northwest. Learn all about these powerful mammals and how to live alongside bears in a peaceful manner.

June 21-22 Slug Fest

Celebrate all that is slimy and silly about the Pacific Northwest's most valuable and misunderstood mollusk: the banana slug. Join us for slug-themed games, crafts, and presentations!





Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

METRO PARKS TACOMA

Friends of Northwest Trek Wildlife Park
11610 Trek Drive East
Eatonville, WA 98328-9502

General Information:

360-832-6117 | nwtrek.org

Spring/Summer Hours

March 14-June 27

Monday - Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

June 28-Sept. 1

Daily: 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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Northwest Trek, accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, is a 725-acre zoological park devoted to the display, interpretation, research and conservation of North American native wildlife.

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Attention Shoppers: Your Rewards Card Can Help Northwest Trek

Next time you buy animal crackers, you could be benefitting real animals at Northwest Trek: Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million a year to Northwest charities through its new Community Rewards program.

All you have to do is register your Fred Meyer Rewards card online and link it to the Northwest Trek Foundation. Then, each shopping trip you make will generate donations — and you'll still earn the same fuel, grocery and rebate rewards as you always have.

If you don't have a card, you can order one online or get it at the Customer Service counter.

The nonprofit Northwest Trek Foundation promotes conservation, education and recreation by supporting Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

For more information or to register your card, visit www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

Adventure awaits on the Zip Wild zip line/challenge courses

Check out the summer season dates and hours

Ever wanted to fly like Superman? Make your summer memorable with Zip Wild and soar through the trees at Northwest Trek. Zip Wild's four zip line/challenge courses include Super Kid for children 6 and up; Discovery for ages 8 and up; the very popular Adventure course for ages 10 and up; and the 80-foot-high Sensation for adults 18 and over. Spots fill up quickly, so get your calendar out to find a date that works for you. And get ready for a breathtaking — and challenging — aerial adventure through the forest. Reservations will open March 24 at nwtrek.org.

Here are the spring/summer hours and days of operation:

Opening Day: May 3

May 3-June 20: Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

June 21-Sept. 1: Daily, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sept. 2-Sept. 28: Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Go to www.nwtrek.org/zipwild for more information.