



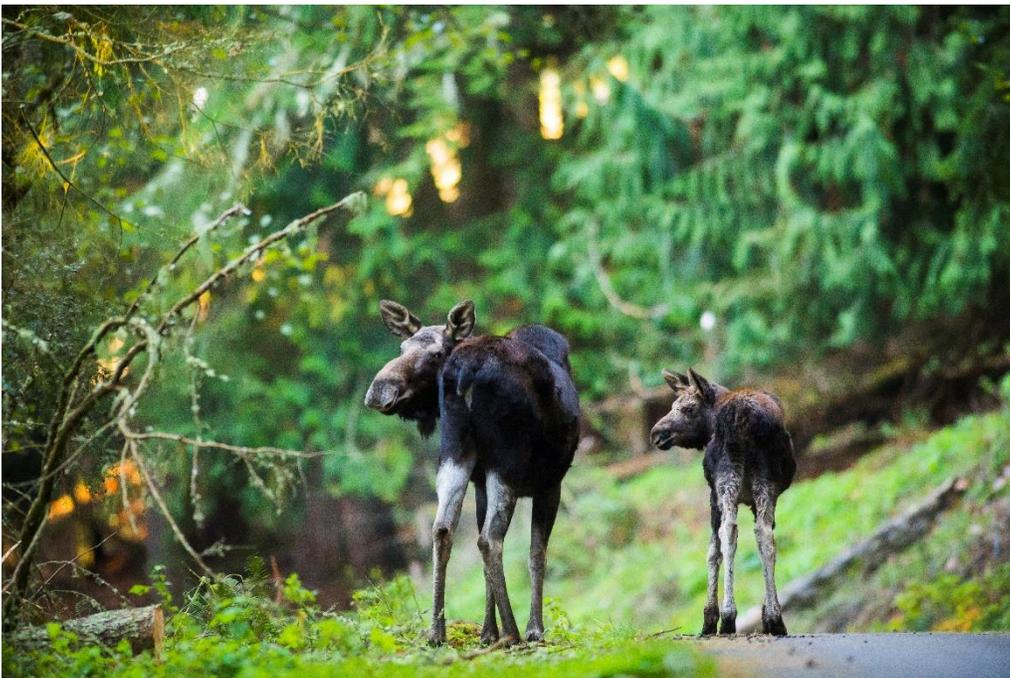
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BE A PART OF HISTORY: HELP NORTHWEST WILDLIFE PARK BREAK ITS ALL-TIME ATTENDANCE RECORD WITH A YEAR-END VISIT

Plus, up to four kids 12 and younger get in free with each paying adult through Dec. 31

EATONVILLE, Wash. – Some folks count down to the New Year. We're counting up. Every visitor through the gates at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park between now and Dec. 31 adds to the total of what could be a record-breaking year.



And as a special Thank You to visitors for 40 fabulous years, up to four kids 12 and younger get in free with each paying adult through Dec. 31.

Northwest Trek is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily through Sunday, Jan. 3 (including on New Year's Day).

As of Monday, the wildlife park was just 1,800 visitors shy of the all-time attendance record of 214,196, set in 1994. That was the year the bear exhibits first opened to the public.

In 2015, there have been many reasons to celebrate – and for visitors to come to Northwest Trek to view native Northwest wildlife.

American bison and Roosevelt elk calves, plus bighorn sheep lambs and deer fawns were born in the spring.

And on July 17 – fittingly on the wildlife park's 40th birthday – the star of the entire 2015 show made her surprise appearance. Willow, the first moose calf at Northwest Trek in 15 years, was born to Connie, a former orphaned moose named in honor of the wildlife park's co-founder, Connie Hellyer.

Willow is one of four moose in the wildlife park's 435-acre Free-Roaming Area, and every ticket to Northwest Trek includes a 50-minute narrated tour of the area aboard a heated tram. The driver takes guests through fields and forests



that are home to bison, elk, deer, mountain goats, bighorn sheep and other animals. The animals are stunningly dressed in their winter coats, and the scenery is gorgeous.

Visitors should keep their cameras at the ready; moose sightings, though not guaranteed, are frequent.

In addition to the tram ride, visitors also can walk forested pathways to see more native Northwest animals like wolves, foxes, Canada lynx, beavers, fishers, river otters, owls and other animals in natural exhibit spaces.

For more information about Northwest Trek, go to www.nwtrek.org

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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.