



METRO PARKS TACOMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 20, 2017

Contact: Whitney DalBalcon, 253-404-3637; 253-278-6343 or whitney.dalbalcon@pdza.org

NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK WELCOMES 7 MILLIONTH VISITOR

EATONVILLE, Wash. – Seven million: That's nearly the population of Washington state, more than 10 times the population of Seattle, and about seven times the total attendance at last year's Seattle Seahawks games.

And it's the number of people who have walked through the front gate of Northwest Trek Wildlife Park since it opened in 1975.

Just who was the person who sent Northwest Trek over the 7 million mark? Lacey Wellborn who visited the wildlife park with her husband, Kent, and their children, Lindsay and Robert, on Saturday, March 18 at 1:30 pm.

Northwest Trek hit the 6-million mark in 2012, and in 2016 reported record attendance of just over a quarter-million visitors, thanks to the opening of the Kids' Trek nature-inspired playground and the births of several animals, including a moose calf. The previous attendance record was 214,696, set in 2015.

The 7 million milestone comes as the wildlife park gears up for another exciting year, with several baby animals expected to arrive this spring and a full slate of events and activities to engage young and old alike in the wonders of nature.

"We're thrilled that so many people are excited to spend the day in nature, learn about native Northwest species and experience this very special place," said Interim Deputy Director Donna Powell. "We believe our natural



setting, up-close animal experiences and conservation stories resonate with people from throughout Washington and around the world."

Northwest Trek is not only a unique treasure for the Pacific Northwest; it is one of only a handful of large-landscape wildlife parks in the nation. It is just a 45-minute drive from many places in the Puget Sound region and only an hour from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

Every visit to Northwest Trek includes a 50-minute narrated tour of the 435-acre Free-Roaming Area aboard a heated tram. The forest-and-meadow-studded area is home to herds of American bison and Roosevelt elk, plus bighorn sheep, mountain goats, deer and moose.

Guests also may walk paved pathways through the forest to view native Northwest wildlife such as wolves, foxes, bobcats, Canada lynx, coyotes, beavers, fishers, river otters, owls and other animals in natural exhibits.

Northwest Trek is open from 9:30 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday and 9:30 am to 5 pm Saturday and Sunday.

###

Northwest Trek, accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, is a 723-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.