

Fall/Winter 2017

# TREK TRACKS

PUBLISHED FOR THE FRIENDS OF NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK



## GO WILD WITH GIFT IDEAS

Wildlife abounds at Northwest Trek, and so do opportunities to bring smiles to the faces of all of your favorite nature lovers, adventurers and photographers.

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**Northwest Trek**  
Wildlife Park

METRO PARKS TACOMA

## New faces among our animals Northwest Trek is now home to two new badgers and a new Canada lynx

Two young badgers are now at home in the Wetlands area. Their habitat is completely renovated, giving these two burrowing animals lots of space and time to spend in their dens.

Meanwhile, over in Cat Country, there's a new girl in town.

And out in the Free-Roaming Area, a 12-year-old female mountain goat recently arrived from the Oregon Wildlife Foundation. She joins two other females, ages 14 and 11.

Plus, our six moose are busily exploring the woods, with the three "youngsters" often hanging out together.

It's a wonderful time to come and see them all. Just like with your human friends and family, Thanksgiving Weekend and the rest of the holiday season are perfect for fitting in a visit, or two, or three, to see your favorite animal friends.

And there are new faces with which to get acquainted.

American badgers Sage and Camas arrived at Northwest Trek just a few weeks ago from Hemker Park & Zoo in Freeport, Minn. Sage is a female; Camas is a male. They are unrelated, and each is about 21 months old.

"We think our visitors will enjoy watching these two and learning more about this interesting species, which plays an important role in the ecosystem," Northwest Trek Zoological Curator Marc Heinzman said.

Badgers are members of the Mustelidae family, which includes weasels, otters, ferrets and wolverines. They help keep rodent populations in check. Their extensive burrows can provide homes for other animals and improve soil quality.

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## COME SEE WHO'S NEW...continued from page 1

The animals are typically found in drier grasslands and open forests.

There are exciting changes among the Canada lynx population, too.

Female Nuka recently arrived at Northwest Trek and soon will be viewable by visitors. She will be introduced to Omak, who has lived in Cat Country since 2014. Omak's brother, Sherman, moved to a new home at another zoo.

"We are hopeful they will get along and that they may successfully mate in the future," Heinzman said. A pairing would be done through a breeding recommendation under the Species Survival Plan®, he added.

Canada lynx, known for their large feet made for plowing through snow, are endangered in Washington. The species is pressured by a number of factors, including the forest fires that have destroyed much of their native habitat in Okanogan County, according to the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Out in the Free-Roaming Area, moose spotting is always a favorite visitor activity.

Northwest Trek's six moose are doing well and tram riders should have their cameras at the ready to perhaps catch a shot of adults Ellis, Connie and Nancy and youngsters Willow, Spruce and Aspen.

The three older moose, all rescued as orphan calves five years ago, are doing well, Heinzman said. Ellis often is off on his own, while Connie floats in and out of the group of moose. Young females Willow and Aspen and young male Spruce hang out together quite a bit, Heinzman said. Willow and Spruce were born at Northwest Trek to parents Ellis and Nancy. Aspen arrived a year ago, also as an orphaned calf from Idaho.

"We're excited for our members and other visitors to spend some of their holiday season with us," Heinzman said. "Northwest Trek is beautiful in the fall and winter and it's interesting to see how animals adapt to the changing weather and shorter days. Plus, we're always eager to talk about the conservation of native Northwest species and inspire members of the public to care about these animals and take steps to help their wild counterparts."

## GIFT IDEAS...continued from page 1

**Give the gift of membership:** A family membership for two adults and legal dependents, ages 3-18, costs just \$124.95. The price is the same for a grandparent membership that includes two adults and up to five grandchildren, ages 3-18. Every membership includes unlimited visits for a full year.

**Photo Tours:** Photographers can set up their gear on a special Free-Roaming Area tram tour that allows them to photograph magnificent animals in a natural environment.

**Flip for Zip Wild:** Thrill-seekers will flip for a chance to soar through the Northwest Trek tree canopy on a Zip Wild zip line/challenge course.

To buy gift cards for Northwest Trek admission tickets, programs or Zip Wild adventures, call Jeri Burgess at 360-832-7166 or email her at [holiday@nwtrek.org](mailto:holiday@nwtrek.org). To buy gift cards for memberships call Jeannie Marsh at 360-832-7170 or email her at [holiday@nwtrek.org](mailto:holiday@nwtrek.org).



## CONSERVATION CORNER



**Photos above:** Fishers are released into Mount Rainier National Park.  
Photos by Paul Bannick/Conservation Northwest

## Northwest Trek steps up for fishers—and your donations play a big role

When Northwest Trek visitors were asked to help fishers in the wild, they scurried to the task quicker than one of the mustelids in pursuit of prey.

By the end of a fund-raising drive that concluded on Sept. 30, members and visitors had contributed \$6,279.89 toward a project that reintroduces fishers to the Cascade Range. The Northwest Trek Foundation pledged an additional \$5,000, bringing the total to \$11,279.89.

Visitors to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium contributed \$8,985.73 to the same campaign. The Zoo Society's Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund pledged \$5,000.

The combined total of \$25,265.62 far surpassed a mutual fund-raising goal of \$20,000.

Northwest Trek, home to fishers Oly and Minnie, is playing a key role in the fisher reintroduction project, working with the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife,

the National Park Service and Conservation Northwest. Several staff members helped release fishers into Mount Rainier National Park last year.

The animals disappeared from the Cascades in the early 1900s, hunted for their thick pelts and falling victim to deforestation. In the last few years, conservation partners relocated fishers from British Columbia to the Olympics, Mount Rainier National Park and Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

They help balance forest ecosystems by reducing rodents and other animals that can negatively impact native plants and nesting birds.

The money raised at Northwest Trek and Point Defiance Zoo will help fund aerial tracking of the animals so scientists can more efficiently monitor their movements and evaluate the success of the recovery effort, Conservation Engagement Manager Karen Povey said.

## WHAT THEY TEACH US

"I bring a pelt to my talks so people can see and feel the thick fur that helps keep fishers warm during snowy winters," keeper Miranda Mauck said. "Unfortunately, it also explains why these animals were hunted to near extinction. Luckily, with successful conservation efforts, these animals are being restored to their historical range in Washington. Our native animals deserve protection, just like many threatened species around the world."

## ABOUT OUR FISHERS



**AGE:** 9

**GENDER:** Male  
(brother to Minnie)

**SIZE:** At just over 16 pounds and about 30 inches long, Oly is about double the size of sister Minnie. His face is both longer and more broad than hers.

**PERSONALITY:** Oly keeps a low profile, but wouldn't miss out on a chance to show his "weasely" tendencies, keeper Miranda Mauck said. By that, she means trying to sneak up on his unsuspecting sister and steal a favorite treat or enrichment item.



**AGE:** 9

**GENDER:** Female (sister to Oly)

**SIZE:** At 8 pounds and 24 inches long, she is "much more petite" than brother Oly, Mauck said.

**PERSONALITY:** Minnie "can be a bit sassy" and tends to be the dominant animal of the pair.



**Northwest Trek**

Wildlife Park

METRO PARKS TACOMA

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

**General Information:**

360-832-6117 | [nwtrek.org](http://nwtrek.org)

**Winter Hours**

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays: 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Special Closures**

Nov. 23, Dec. 24, Dec. 25

**Special Openings**

Dec. 26-Jan 1: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily

JEANNIE MARSH, *Membership Coordinator*  
360-832-7170 | [Jeannie.Marsh@nwtrek.org](mailto:Jeannie.Marsh@nwtrek.org)

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.

Connect with us:

Thank you to our Community Partners:



## Winter Wildland

**DEC. 29 & 30**

**PUT SOME WILD IN YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON**

Come watch our animals enjoy winter-themed treats and enrichments.

PRESORT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TACOMA, WA  
PERMIT NO. 702

## COMING UP

### **PHOTO TOURS: March 4, April 7, May 5, June 2**

Moose, elk, bison and other animals are ready for their close-ups. Special tram tours give photographers excellent views of our animals. Go to [nwtrek.org](http://nwtrek.org) for reservation details.

### **KIDS 'N' CRITTERS: Feb. 17, 18, 19**

Up to four kids are admitted free with each paying adult on Presidents' Day Weekend.

### **SPRING FLING: APRIL 7-8**

Watch our animals sniff and chow down as they receive special spring enrichments like bouquets made of native flower and plant materials.

## COMING SOON

Look for premium—and more adventuresome—keeper tours coming soon to the Free-Roaming Area. It's a whole new experience!



**NORTHWEST TREK MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES—AND THEY ARE ABOUT TO GET EVEN BETTER. LOOK FOR OUR NEW WILD REWARDS PROGRAM COMING SOON.**