

2006 - 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

C H E Y E N N E M O U N T A I N Z O O



Photo by Tracey Gazibara

President's Message



Photo by Tracey Gazibara

I called my sister recently to wish her good luck on a medical mission trip to Haiti. During the conversation, she shared her concern about people that disappear during such assignments and asked if I would come looking for her if that should happen. Obviously, the conversation was partly in jest. I think she wanted to be reassured that if the unthinkable happened, we would not stop looking for her. She teased me about all the tracking, survival and outdoor skills I had acquired over the years and was sure they would come in handy in such a situation.

After reflecting on our conversation, I came to the conclusion that those skills would be of little use to her. What would have far more impact is my reaching out to anyone who had connections.

In my position, reaching out to people has become a way of life. When you work from the assumption that everyone has something to offer in the solution of a problem, asking for help or advice comes naturally. Often times that help comes from the most unusual sources.

Whether it's working with the City of Fountain to secure bonds for a new exhibit, collaborating with Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services to obtain a Great Outdoors Colorado grant, connecting with Alameda East Veterinary Hospital to repair the fractured arm of a siamang, or obtaining four orphaned mountain lion kittens from Wyoming Game and Fish, relationships are critical to building a great zoo.

We are fortunate to live in a community that values having a great zoo. And with your continued support, we can ensure that the wonders of nature that we celebrate today will survive to captivate children and adults well into the next century.

Bob Chastain
President & CEO

Our Mission

Providing a crucial link between people and nature in a complex and changing world.

Our Vision

Every Kid, Every Time. Every kid of any age will have an experience for a lifetime with every visit.

Celebrating the Natural World

From the opportunity to hand-feed a giraffe or touch a baby wallaby to the thrill of an overnight adventure in the Zoo, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo provides abundant opportunities for enjoying the diversity of the natural world. In 2006-2007, as in every year past, the Zoo enhanced the quality of the visitor experience through new and improved exhibits and growing animal collections, special events and educational offerings that spotlight nature.



Photo by Jenny Kerchner

Feeding giraffes is a favorite activity of Zoo visitors.

Among the most significant births at the Zoo was the much-heralded arrival of a lowland gorilla (only the second born at the Zoo in 10 years), a male Bornean orangutan, Geoffrey's marmoset twins and 24 black-footed ferret kits that ultimately will be released onto the plains of the southwest. The Zoo also celebrated the arrival of four orphaned mountain lion kittens.



Photo by Michelle Shireman

Four orphaned mountain lion kittens found a home at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

The kittens were slated for euthanasia, but thanks to the assistance of the Cougar Fund and Wyoming Game and Fish the foursome will be featured in an expansive new exhibit, Cougar Canyon, part of the *Rocky Mountain Wild* complex opening in May 2008.

Wallaby Walkabout proved to be one of the most popular summer exhibits ever, offering visitors a chance to go "Down Under" with some of Australia's most beloved species... wallabies, red kangaroos and emus. Eighteen Aboriginal-inspired totem poles created by Air Academy High School art students enhanced the exhibit and have since become a permanent collection at the Zoo.

The Zoo was in the national limelight with baby gorilla *Umande*, who was born on Feb. 18, 2006. Anticipating that first-time mother *Kwisha* might be reluctant to raise the infant, which ultimately was the case, the Zoo worked closely with Columbus Zoo, a pioneer in hand-raising gorillas, to develop a plan that would simulate the upbringing he would receive in the wild. A fleet of surrogate human moms provided 24-hour care for the infant, sleeping with him, soothing him with "gorilla grunts," tickling him while playing, and scolding him with barking coughs when he misbehaved. Doing their best to act like a mother gorilla, they even crawled around on all fours, carrying the baby on their backs. Meanwhile, gorilla keepers began a regimen of "maternal training" for the four female adult gorillas – none of whom had ever raised her own young. But when it became apparent that none of them would "adopt" *Umande*, the decision was made to transfer him to Columbus Zoo, which is internationally recognized for its gorilla surrogacy program. A friend of the Zoo graciously donated the use of a private jet to make *Umande's* journey as stress-free as possible. Happily, at Columbus Zoo, *Umande* bonded with 41-year-old *Lulu*, who adopted him as one of her own, and the youngster quickly adjusted to a new home and new family. The Zoo's most recent gorilla baby, born nearly one year after the birth of *Umande*, is being raised by its mother, much to the relief of primate keepers.



Photo by Steve Nickerson

Surrogate moms provided 24-hour care for baby gorilla *Umande*.

The Spirit of Inclusiveness

A record 448,548 visitors experienced unforgettable adventures at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo last year. Community inclusiveness remains central to the Zoo's mission and throughout the year, collaboration with dozens of organizations ensured that access to the Zoo was made available to all facets of the community.

Although a self-supporting non-profit facility, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo worked with other non-profits such as the Red Cross, Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, Hillside Community Center, Griffith Center for Children, YMCA, Salvation Army, Head Start and many public schools and charity organizations to provide admissions to underserved residents. The Zoo collaborated closely with our military community to provide joyful experiences for returning war veterans and their families. As well, the Zoo is committed to the Sentimental Journey Program developed by American Medical Response and Pikes Peak Hospice to create lasting memories for families facing the loss of a loved one.

Thanks to a generous gift from Central Bancorp, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is now able to connect people with animals outside the Zoo, educating and inspiring participants to make a difference for the natural world. The new Zoo on the Move (ZOOM) held its



Photo by Nicole Mantz

Bricker Elementary students meet a California king snake.

inaugural program in April at Bricker Elementary School, thrilling students with up-close and personal encounters with a variety of animals. The program was created by the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Auxiliary in 1984 but regulations forced its suspension less than 10 years later. The Central Bancorp gift will fund up to 100 free programs annually for Title I schools and organizations working with disadvantaged children.

Living Classrooms

In the quest to preserve wild animals and wild things, education guides the way. Our "living classrooms" are used to share the wonders of nature's vast diversity, its constant struggle for survival and our role in ensuring its legacy for future generations.

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo once again teamed with area schools in offering lessons designed to pique student interest and advance science learning beyond textbooks. More than 25,000 students from 16 school districts were impacted by Zoo field trips and docent programs. Thousands more embraced life science adventures successfully paired with recreation in such programs as WildNights, Moonlight Safaris, Beastly Birthday Parties, Preschool Discovery, and a plethora of classes, camps and student career programs.

More than 500,000 people visited the Zoo "virtually" through its web site, www.cmzoo.org. Visitors from throughout the world "dropped in" to visit the giraffes, which can be seen live via a special cam, or to reference specifics about our animal collection or programs. These programs represent a commitment by Cheyenne Mountain Zoo to provide information about the Zoo and the natural world we all share.

Photo by Tracey Gazibara



In August the Zoo celebrated the rich cultural heritage of the Hispanic community during Fiesta Latina.

Conserving for Our Children

From breeding endangered animals to collaborating with conservation partners around the world, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is a leader among mid-sized zoos in the global battle to preserve vanishing animals and fragile habitats.

The Zoo is on the forefront of addressing the palm oil crisis. The increased demand for this alternative to hydrogenated oils is fueling destruction of the rainforest habitat of Sumatran and Bornean orangutans, pushing these endangered species ever closer to extinction. Estimates indicate that at the current rate palm oil plantations are spreading into the forests that harbor these intelligent primates, the species will be extinct in 10 years. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo mounted an initiative earlier this year to raise awareness of this complex issue, becoming an information clearinghouse for zoos and conservation organizations nationwide.

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo also partnered with Eco-cell in a cell phone recycling program to help save endangered lowland gorilla habitat. Cell phones contain coltan, an ore extracted from the forests of the Congo in Central Africa. Fueled by the worldwide demand for cell phones, mining for coltan has led to dramatic reductions in the gorilla's habitat and additionally has led to the slaughter of great apes for the bush-meat trade.

The Zoo's emphasis on partnerships led to technical and financial support for a number of field conservation projects including mountain tapir conservation in Colombia, the Okapi Project and the International Elephant Foundation. Recognized internationally for our extensive involvement in a nationwide management program for species survival, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo cares for more than 30 species of endangered and threatened animals – more than any zoo of similar size.

Shaping a Strong Future

Thanks to the community's strong commitment to the Zoo, the \$8.2 million *Rocky Mountain Wild* complex is on schedule to open in May 2008. This new complex will connect visitors with the wild heritage of the Rocky Mountains and its wildlife – grizzlies, moose, mountain lions, otters and lynx.



The Zoo will be one of a handful of zoos to showcase moose.

Propelling us towards our goal, the Zoo received an anonymous gift of \$1.46 million to the capital campaign – the largest donation from an individual in the zoological park's 80-year history. The donor was inspired by recent improvements at the Zoo, our record of spending donor money wisely, and the hope that the gift would bring in other major donors. The record-setting donation was matched with a \$1.46 million gift from El Pomar Foundation, which has been an active supporter of the Zoo and has played a major role in project realizations. Other gifts soon followed, and by the close of the 2006-2007 fiscal year, a total of \$7,197,186 had been pledged to *Rocky Mountain Wild*. Of that amount, 55 percent was contributed by individuals, 35 percent from foundations and five percent from corporations. The remaining five percent came from miscellaneous sources, including two estate gifts and grants from Great Outdoors Colorado and Colorado Council on the Arts.

Rocky Mountain Wild mirrors our continued commitment to shaping a strong future vision for Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, ensuring an ongoing tradition of outstanding service to our visitors, our community and our natural world.



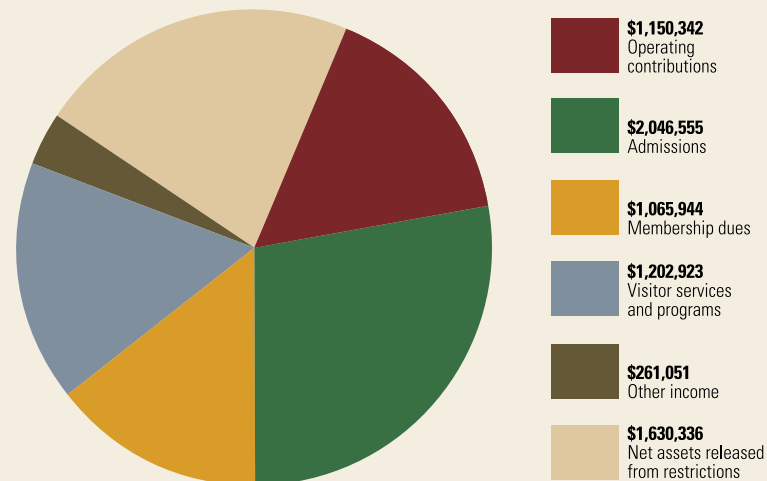
Photo by Arnie Spencer

Orangutans could be extinct in the wild in as few as 10 years.

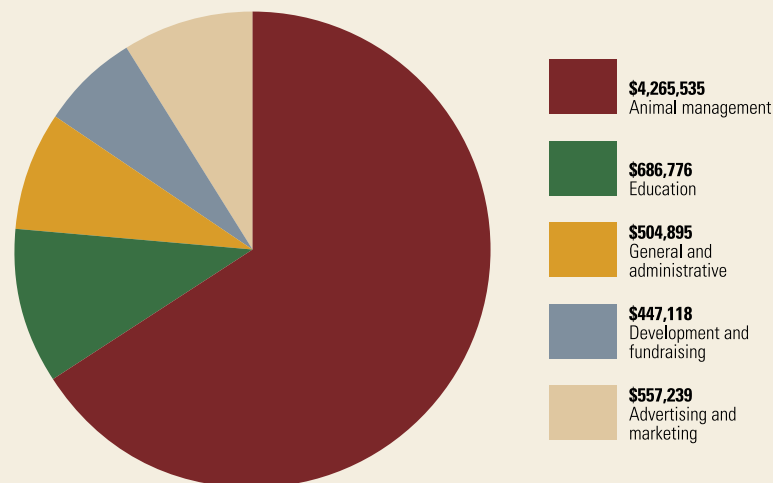
Financial Summary

May 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007

Support & Revenue – Total Operating Income \$7,357,151



Expenses – Total Operating Expenses \$6,461,563



Net Assets, May 1, 2006	\$17,796,241
Net Surplus from Operations	\$1,886,689
Less Depreciation this Period	(\$991,101)
Net Assets, April 30, 2007	\$18,691,829

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo was founded in 1926 by philanthropist Spencer Penrose to house his growing collection of exotic animals. In 1938, the Zoo was deeded to the people of Colorado Springs as a 501(c)3 non-profit public trust. The Zoo is one of a handful of accredited zoos in the nation that operates without local tax support, depending on admissions, membership dues, donations and grants for support. All gifts are tax deductible.



Photo by Jenny Kerchner

Wallaby Walkabout was one of the Zoo's most popular summer exhibits ever.

Supporting Our Cause

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is grateful to all of our patrons who support our vision of inspiring caring and stewardship for the natural world. As a self-funded facility, our donors and sponsors are critical to our success. Although all gifts are deeply appreciated, space precludes us from individually acknowledging all of our generous friends. The following supporters contributed gifts of \$2,500 or more from May 2006 through April 2007:

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