

2009-2010 Annual Report



President's Message

As we reflect on the year behind us, we cannot help but think about the exciting projects in our immediate future. At Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, our passion is to ensure those unique, memorable and once-in-a-lifetime experiences for each and every person that enters our front gate. In this past year, we added a new entry plaza as well as a completely redesigned Grizzly Grill—improvements specifically selected to enhance and strengthen the guest experience.

At Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, we are building for the future. We are building for you, the community of Colorado Springs. We cannot take our popularity for granted and refuse to let complacency set in. We are extremely aware of the importance of ongoing improvements—to the facilities themselves, to the programs offered, to the customer service provided and to the value afforded Zoo members.

Our staff works tirelessly each day to continue the wonderful tradition that is Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. We recognize the invaluable support of our donors, volunteers and sponsors. Their assistance grants us the opportunity to dream...and dream big. So, we thank you.

Bob Chastain
President & CEO



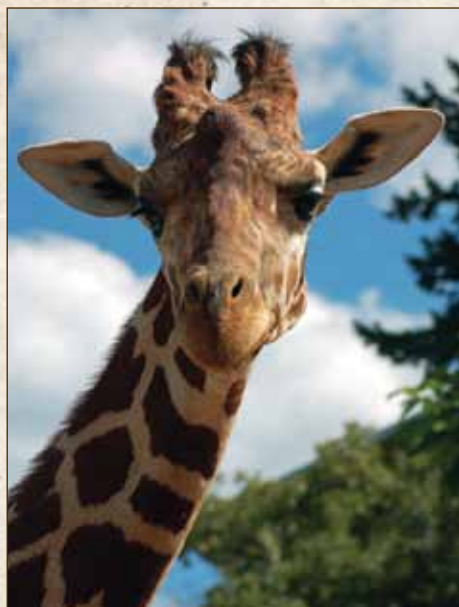
Our Mission

A leader in conservation, captive breeding and animal care, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo connects people with wildlife and wild places through experiences that inspire action.

Our Vision

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

We Couldn't Do it Without You!



Thanks to our friends and supporters, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo completed another incredible year! The Zoo welcomed 537,556 guests and engaged more than 15,000 household members. Because of this strong community support we are able to continue to evolve and offer activities and experiences that inspire a connection with nature.

Beyond our guests and members, the Zoo also benefits from a dedicated group of docents and volunteers. This past year, 106 active docents provided volunteer and interpretive services totaling more than 13,750 hours. This enables us to expand our reach both on Zoo grounds and

in area classrooms. More than 3,300 individual and group volunteers provided thousands of valuable service hours. Volunteers assisted with significant one-time projects like replacing perching in the Monkey Pavilion, as well as day-to-day job duties that helped to keep the Zoo moving forward.

This year the Zoo also had an opportunity to experience just how our animal collection has connected with and impacted our community. When our community was given a chance to support the Zoo as we raised funds to purchase a digital X-ray machine, the response was amazing! A total of 396 individuals, local businesses and foundations contributed to our X-ray campaign with gifts ranging from \$10 to \$25,000. In fact, the X-ray campaign inspired 105 of our members to make their first donation ever to the Zoo!

Conservation Around the World and at the Zoo

Our work to save imperiled amphibian species from extinction brought us to the jungles of Eastern Panama. In November 2009, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and the Smithsonian led the first rescue expedition of the Panama Amphibian Rescue and Conservation Project. The goal of the first expedition was to collect living specimens of frogs not yet affected by the deadly chytrid fungus. Unfortunately, the project veterinarians found that the frogs collected had already been infected with chytrid.

After learning about this finding, a second expedition trip was quickly scheduled for early December 2009. This expedition crew, which included our Zoo President, Bob Chastain, along with three other Zoo staff members, set out to collect living specimens identified as priority species. Once collected in the field, the rescue team transported the frogs to safety at an isolation unit at the Summit Municipal Park in Panama, where they were treated for the fungus and will be kept as an assurance population, in the hope that someday they will repopulate these remarkable species.



In another conservation effort on the other side of the world, the Zoo's Animal Behavior Manager, Megan Sanders, traveled to Mongolia in August 2009 to work with the Snow Leopard Trust. The purpose of the trip was to facilitate a meeting with over 50 native Mongolian herders and citizen leaders to work toward a more unified conservation effort for snow leopards. This never-before-attempted meeting was made possible by funds collected through *Quarters for Conservation*.

Here at the Zoo we are continuing our leadership role in the black-footed ferret recovery program. This year our breeding program produced thirteen endangered black-footed ferret kits. Six of our kits and six of our adult ferrets were later released into the wild. Once thought to be extinct, today there are approximately 1,000 black-footed ferrets living in the wild because of the efforts of our Zoo and the six other organizations participating in the recovery program.



We also care for and breed a collection of critically endangered Wyoming toads. This year the Zoo produced 400 tadpoles that were released at Buford Lake, Wyoming. During the year our staff assisted with field surveying for the Wyoming toad at Mortensen Lake. The results were promising as we identified 45 new toads and 12 recaptures. This indicates these toads are breeding on their own and increasing their population! Our hope is that the toad population at Buford Lake will also begin breeding and naturally increase their population.

Thanks to your support, *Quarters for Conservation*, our guest-driven conservation program, raised \$102,709 this year to support and expand both local and global conservation efforts. Of the amount collected, 50% was earmarked for the six *Quarters for Conservation* programs that guests have been voting for throughout the year. The remaining 50% is designated for ongoing flagship conservation programs at the Zoo, such as the black-footed ferret, Wyoming toad and mountain tapir.

Based upon your votes, the money raised through *Quarters for Conservation* was distributed to the following programs:

Endangered Wild Orangutans and their forest habitat\$13,689
Native Skippers in Colorado\$10,804
Wild Andean Bears in Ecuador\$9,788
Bats in Colorado and throughout North America\$8,669
Amphibians in Panama\$7,305
Wild African Vultures\$6,797

Now beginning its third year, *Quarters for Conservation* has fast become a fun, interactive and educational part of each and every Zoo visit for kids of all ages.

Inspiring a Connection with Nature



With more than 500,000 visitors each year, one of the most meaningful ways we connect with guests is through our natural behavior animal shows. These entertaining and educational shows feature our animals displaying the same behaviors that help their species adapt and survive in the wild. After months of training, we added two entirely new natural behavior shows and revamped our existing shows to highlight new animal behaviors. Adding new behaviors helps keep things fresh for our guests, staff and, perhaps most importantly, our animals.

The Zoo continues to bring animals off of the mountain and into the community for up close and memorable animal experiences through the *Zoo on the Move* (ZOOM) Outreach Program. Sponsored by Central Bancorp, ZOOM is one of the unique ways that Cheyenne Mountain Zoo can connect with audiences across our community that may not have an opportunity to visit the Zoo's grounds.

This year *Zoo on the Move* presented 377 programs and brought animals and conservation messages to more than 26,000 children and adults throughout our region. Scholarship funds enabled us to serve more than 8,400 members of our community, ranging from preschoolers and students at Title One schools to residents of adult care facilities.

Through ZOOM, we continued to strengthen our partnership with the military community by participating in Red Ribbon days and USO community events. With support from Central Bancorp, we also visited nearly every classroom at Patriot Elementary and Carson Middle School on Ft. Carson, reaching 1,520 students!

Building for the Future

We care about our animals and we care about our guests, too! In this past year, we focused our energy and resources on projects that enhanced the guest experience. One of our biggest improvements at the Zoo, and most noticeable for guests, was the completely redesigned front entry plaza. The new front entry complex, built over the winter months, enables us to be more efficient and guest-friendly with seven admission gates, more than double our previous number! By streamlining the front gate process our guests have more time to spend exploring the Zoo's grounds with family and friends.

The improvements did not stop at the front gate! The renovation of our Grizzly Grill was also completed over the winter. The new grill covers more than 5,000 square feet, and is under the culinary direction of Chef's Gala winner, Chef Beau Green. The menu at the new grill features gourmet selections as well as traditional Zoo fare.

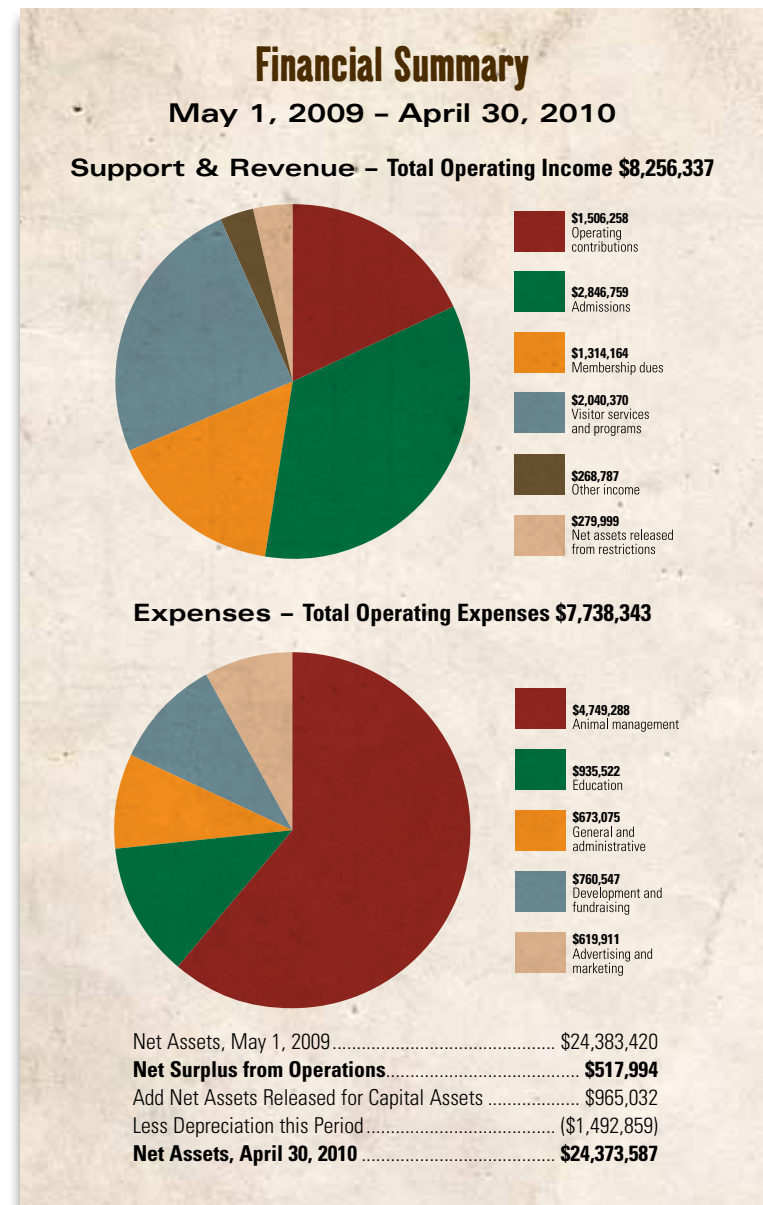


The improvements don't end there, as we are excited to announce our next HUGE project, Encounter Africa! Encounter Africa will involve the complete renovation of our African elephant exhibit and will include an entirely new state-of-the-art elephant barn, as well as a significantly larger

outside yard filled with many new forms of enrichment. The new exhibit will provide us the space to welcome back the black rhino to the Zoo and move our African lions to a spacious new home. The ground breaking for the new elephant barn is Fall 2010, and the estimated completion date for this spectacular new exhibit is Spring 2012.



What makes our Zoo great is the collaborative effort of passionate members and guests, dedicated staff, active volunteers and loyal supporters. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is truly built on community support and we can't thank you enough for helping us care for endangered species, educate kids of all ages and participate in important conservation programs.



Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, a non-profit 501(c)3, is one of a handful of accredited zoos in the nation that operates without local tax support, depending entirely on admissions, membership dues, donations and grants for funding. All gifts are tax deductible.

Supporting Our Cause

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is grateful to all of our patrons who support our vision of inspiring caring and stewardship of 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 2009 through April 2010:

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