



May 2017 - April 2018

ANNUAL REPORT

President’s Message

Dear Friends, Supporters and Donors,

Every year at this time, as we’re reviewing the prior year’s accomplishments, challenges and events, I am struck by the magnitude of the impact we are able to make – with your help. From giving guests experiences that last a lifetime, to helping save endangered species in the wild, to providing cutting-edge animal care to our own animals, we are working hard to do our part. We hope you are as proud as we are of the work we’re doing and the impact we’re making. A lot of exciting things are happening, and we know the best is yet to come.

For the fourth year in a row, we set a record for Zoo attendance. With more than 780,000 guests visiting, we had more opportunities than ever to help kids of all ages fall in love with nature and the natural world. Whether you’re helping to care for a blue-tongued skink in The Loft, feeding a rhino in Encounter Africa, or seeing an Amur tiger natural-behavior show in Asian Highlands, we hope you’ll find your own personal connection to wildlife and wild places at the Zoo.

As our attendance continues to increase, we also have a growing need for additional amenities. This year, we designed and built two new food and beverage options, Pizza with a View and the Cozy Goat coffee shop. This two-level building provides 100 additional seats and offers another heated and air-conditioned space for our guests. Originally planned for a 2020 opening, we expedited the process to better serve our guests. Excavation, construction, and utilities were primarily completed in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, with the remaining work happening just after. So far, we’ve heard rave reviews on both the food and drink, as well as the incredible view. Besides our new dining options, other guest favorites this year were the births of our two litters of meerkat pups, who delighted guests and staff by being the first baby meerkats born at the Zoo in a number of years.

If you’ve been to the Zoo recently, you have seen lots of construction activity. This year, we began construction on our new hippo and penguin exhibit as well as our new EdVenture complex. These projects are the result of our Making Waves campaign, a \$10.4 million capital campaign we completed in October 2017. The EdVenture complex, which features space for our popular youth and teen programs, will also house the Membership department and provide modern, ADA-accessible restrooms for our guests. It is on schedule to be completed in early 2019. The hippo and penguin exhibit, which will also feature gazelles, lemurs and more, will see a Summer 2019 opening. Like you might be, we are eagerly awaiting the return of beloved hippos, Zambezi and Kasai, who have been “on vacation” at Dickerson Park Zoo in Missouri while their new home is being built. We can’t wait to see them in their incredible new exhibit.

As we have in the past, CMZ continued to embark on important and ambitious conservation efforts both in our backyard and around the world. This year, we hit a huge milestone – through our Quarters for Conservation (Q4C) program, we have reached \$2 million raised for conservation projects. Unbelievable! After increasing our Q4C fees from \$.25 per admission to \$.75 per admission, we were able to raise more than \$600,000 in the last year alone. In addition to supporting our seven Q4C programs, our members also helped decide which additional conservation projects should be supported through a \$75,000 allocation from membership dues. Just by visiting, you’re helping us to save animals around the globe.

We’re so grateful for your generous and loyal support to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. You are helping us make an incredible impact. From my entire staff, thank you.

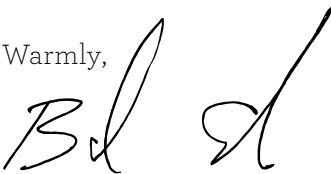
Warmly,

Bob Chastain, *President & CEO*



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Who We Are

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.

OUR LEADERS

With only a mission and vision to guide them, these are the people who volunteer their time to make sure the greatness of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo continues.

2017 - 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bob Chastain, *President & CEO*

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Katherine H. Loo

The Year's Highlights

PRIMATE IMPROVEMENTS



Significant improvements were made in Primate World which allowed for more indoor and outdoor spaces for our great apes. The upgrades allowed individual animals to have more time outside, and also provided more flexibility for animal groupings, which helped to facilitate introductions between our silverback gorilla and the rest of the troop. Improvements also included brand-new perching for orangutans, gorillas and siamangs and a new training panel, which can help demonstrate husbandry care to guests.

ELECTRIC MOONLIGHT



On Dec. 7, CMZ merged two great events into one with the first-ever Electric Moonlight, combining our popular summer event, Moonlight on the Mountain, with our award-winning holiday lights display, Electric Safari. In addition to launching this successful new fundraiser, the Zoo also received national ranking once again with 9th place in USA Today's 10Best Reader's Choice Awards for "Best Zoo Lights," and set a new Electric Safari attendance record of more than 48,000 guests.

TAPIR COLLARING



Three CMZ staff braved the tundra of the Andes Mountains in March 2018 to track and radio-collar endangered mountain tapir. These conservation efforts, in partnership with Andean Bear Foundation, will give us additional data about the elusive species and help us learn more about their wild habitat and plan ways to help them survive.

MAKING WAVES



The original goal of \$10.4 million was surpassed in October 2017, but fundraising efforts continue on our new exhibit for hippos, penguins and other species. GE Johnson Construction Company broke ground on the new space, and work will continue through an expected Summer 2019 completion.

GIRAFFE WORKSHOP



CMZ hosted 30 giraffe care professionals from around the country (and the globe!) to learn best practices for giraffe training and welfare from our staff and other husbandry experts. The workshop provided hands-on training with our herd in innovative areas such as hoof care, browse, conservation and guest interactions.

4TH BEST ZOO



CMZ was voted the 4th best AZA-accredited zoo in North America by USA Today's 10Best Reader's Choice Awards. CMZ was nominated by a panel of travel experts who chose facilities that excel in animal care and enrichment while also facilitating meaningful interactions between animals and guests. The public then voted for their favorite 10 zoos from the 20 nominees, and put us among esteemed peers like Saint Louis Zoo and Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium. This ranking put us two spots higher than the 2017 ranking.

RETURN TO THE WILD



During the 17/18 fiscal year, CMZ celebrated the release of 15 black-footed ferrets to the Great Plains of North America. Our zoo is one of only six facilities that breeds and releases black-footed ferrets, and the most-recent release brings our total of released ferrets to 259. We also raised and released a substantial number of Wyoming toads and tadpoles into wild habitats near Laramie, Wyoming, with the help of dedicated zoo keepers and staff (more on page 8).

Photo credit: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

New Zoo Family Members

ZOO BIRTHS



CANADA LYNX
May 2017 | Adelaide, Aspen, Frisco, Norrie



MEERKAT
July 2017 | Molly, Nugget
March 2018 | Flower, Kalahari, Scout



RED-NECKED WALLABY
September 2017 | Poppy

ZOO ADDITIONS



AMUR LEOPARD
May 2017 | Anadyr



SIAMANG
May 2017 | Eve



MATSCHIE'S TREE KANGAROO
June 2017 | Tristan



RED-NECKED WALLABY
July 2017 | Bugsy



CAPE VULTURE
September 2017 | Godric, Hedwig



MEXICAN WOLF
November 2017 | Navarro



ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT
April 2018 | Albert

MEMBER CONSERVATION VOTE

Top three conservation projects, chosen by members:



POLLINATOR GARDENS
\$9,000 to fund pollinator gardens at local schools



SNOW LEOPARD
\$10,000 to fund new camera trap equipment



AFRICAN LION
\$16,100 to fund Ewaso Lion Kids Camp

Four projects received the remaining funds, chosen by the Zoo:



BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS
\$25,000 to replace outdated CMZ enclosures



MOUNTAIN TAPIR
\$8,000 to support new tapir alliance in Colombia



AFRICAN VULTURES
\$5,900 to monitor birds released in previous year



RADIATED TORTOISE
\$1,000 to support trade confiscation in Madagascar

Photo credit: Turtle Survival Alliance



\$2 MILLION SURPASSED

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, \$513,542 was raised for field conservation. Each guest received three tokens (worth 25¢ each) to help show support for the conservation legacy projects of their choice. On April 23, 2018, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo reached the exciting milestone of \$2 million raised since starting to collect tokens in 2008. Q4C is a clear example of how each Zoo visit helps support wildlife.

FIELD PROJECTS



WYOMING TOAD | May-August 2017
Wyoming toads had another productive year with the wild release of 145 toads and 7,644 tadpoles. Reintroduction sites were also established in Wyoming through landowner safe harbor agreements. 2017 marked the most wild breeding seen in this species since reintroduction began in the 1990s.



PALM OIL | July 2017
The CMZ palm oil team expanded their reach by creating an interactive “grocery store” in Primate World. Here visitors can see examples of products made with RSPO-certified palm oil, and practice using the Zoo’s sustainable palm oil shopping app on their smartphones.



GIRAFFE | August 2017
As part of Operation Twiga, CMZ helped relocate 19 Nubian giraffe across the Nile River in Uganda and into an area not currently affected by oil mining. CMZ continues to help with the strategic planning of the long-term conservation work needed for this iconic species.



SAVING SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION (SAFE) | November 2017
African vultures and black-footed ferrets were both added to the AZA SAFE initiative. CMZ has supported African vulture conservation since 2009, and black-footed ferrets since 1991. CMZ also continues to co-lead the Giraffe SAFE program. By partnering with AZA institutions and other stakeholders through AZA SAFE, CMZ is able to make a greater conservation impact for these species.

WILD NIGHT



\$116,062
WILDNIGHT REVENUE
↓
2,080
PARTICIPANTS

75
PROGRAMS

ZOOMOBILE



\$65,159
ZOOMOBILE REVENUE
↓
59,605
OFF-GROUNDS PARTICIPANTS

252
TOTAL PROGRAMS
←
21 MONTHLY AVERAGE

ZOO CAMP



\$171,401
SUMMER CAMP REVENUE
↓
1,273
TOTAL ZOO CAMP PARTICIPANTS

84
BEST FALL BREAK ATTENDANCE EVER!

360
SCHOOL BREAK CAMP PARTICIPANTS

\$616,366 TOTAL REVENUE (\$68,962 OVER ESTIMATED BUDGET)
\$533,894 TOTAL EXPENSES (\$28,085 UNDER ESTIMATED BUDGET)

\$97,047
EDVENTURE NET REVENUE

THE LOFT



>200,000
LOFT ANIMAL INTERACTIONS
↓
20,000
AVERAGE VISITORS PER MONTH

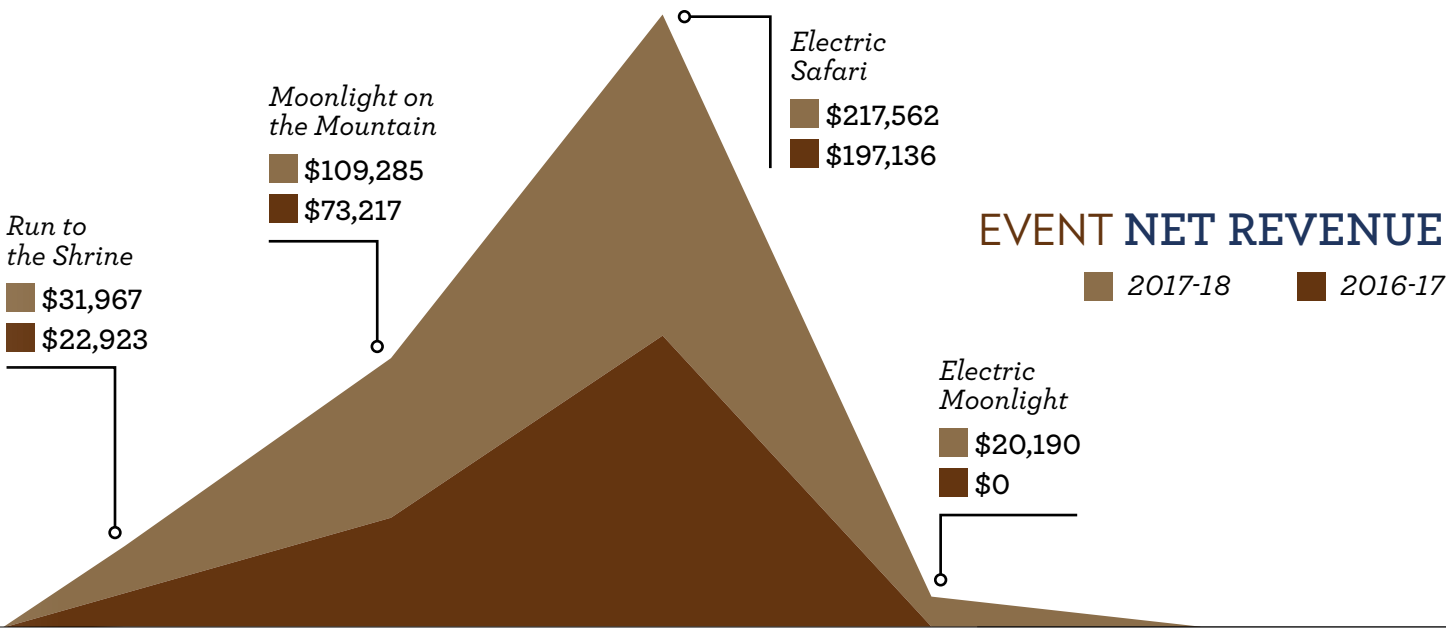


Numbers at a Glance

NUMERICAL HIGHLIGHTS

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS	Zoo Attendance
	Membership Revenue
SOCIAL MEDIA	Facebook Fans
	Instagram Followers
	Website Visits
OTHER NOTABLE NUMBERS	Food & Gift Commissions
	Animal Artwork Revenue
EDVENTURE PROGRAMMING	Logged Docent Hours
	Teen Participants
ANIMAL FEEDING EXPERIENCE REVENUE	Elephant & Rhino Snack Time
	Giraffe Feeding
	Goat Nibbles

2017-2018	2016-2017
784,005	778,863
\$2,423,422	\$2,383,368
128,253	110,694
23,875	17,400
1,757,913	1,048,583
\$1,310,594	\$1,266,063
\$10,557	\$9,232
22,205	17,013
100	92
\$97,035	\$83,250
\$748,257	\$721,727
\$14,487	\$5,019



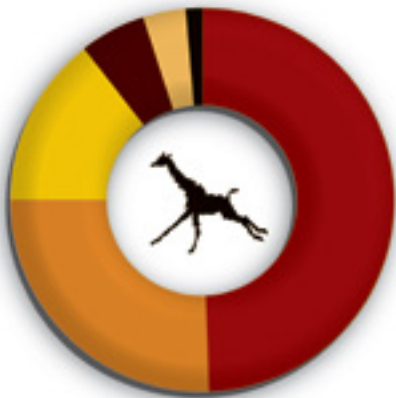
Financial Summary

MAY 1, 2017 - APRIL 30, 2018

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is one of very few AZA-accredited zoos that does not receive any tax support. The Zoo relies solely on donations, membership dues, admissions and grants for funding. Figures are from 2017-18 audited consolidated financial statements, which are available on the Zoo's website.

SUPPORT & REVENUE

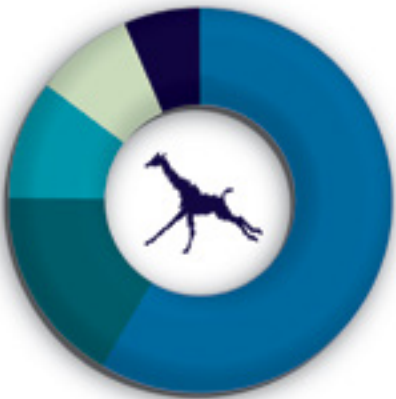
Total Operating Income
\$16,959,006



- Admissions \$8,411,690
- Visitor services & programs \$4,340,286
- Membership dues \$2,423,422
- Operating contributions \$958,120
- Other income \$600,087
- Net assets released from restrictions \$225,401

ZOO EXPENSES

Total Operating Expenses
\$11,184,781



- Animal management \$6,556,938
- Education \$1,883,637
- General and administrative \$1,120,821
- Advertising and marketing \$919,253
- Development and fundraising \$704,132

NET ASSETS

Total Net Assets
\$53,622,003

Net Assets, May 1, 2017	\$47,872,170
Net Surplus from Operations	5,774,225
Add Net Assets Released for Capital Assets	2,480,766
Less Depreciation this Period	(2,505,158)
Net Assets, April 30, 2018	\$53,622,003



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 (cash or in-kind) from May 2017 to April 2018.

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Mr. Joe and Mrs. Linda Woodford

Mr. Alan Wright and Mrs. Susan Hall-Wright

Mr. Jack and Mrs. Ellen York

Mr. Rich and Mrs. Penny Young

**Deceased*

Our Sponsors

The following corporate sponsors recognize the mutually beneficial partnership that Cheyenne Mountain Zoo offers. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Jenny Koch at (719) 633-9925 x114.

Bestway Disposal	Colorado Springs Pediatric Dentistry	Griffis Residential	Red Noland Jaguar Land Rover Colorado Springs
Black Bear Diner	Colorado Springs Utilities	Kaiser Permanente	Sam's Club
Central Bancorp	Cordera	Les Schwab Tire Centers	Sherman & Howard
Children's Hospital Colorado	El Pomar Foundation	Navy Federal	T. Rowe Price
Colorado Springs Independent	Ent	Pioneer Sand	Toyota

Making Waves Campaign Donors



A wave of change is washing over Cheyenne Mountain Zoo as we continue to build fantastic new homes for our hippos, penguins and other species! Also underway is construction on our new EdVenture complex near the Zoo’s main entrance.

We surpassed our \$10.4 million goal this year, thanks to our generous donors who are “Making Waves” at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

Gifts of \$2,500 or more to the Making Waves campaign are recognized below.

Anna Keesling Ackerman Fund
Dr. Charles and Mrs. Celine Afeman
Mr. Jeff and Mrs. Sheree Ahrendsen
Mr. Tuck and Mrs. Liz Aikin
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Mr. Joe and Mrs. Linda Woodford
Mr. Alan Wright and Mrs. Susan Hall-Wright
Mrs. Barbara Wright
Mr. Jack and Mrs. Ellen York
Mr. Rich and Mrs. Penny Young

**Deceased*

1926 Society

The following are members of the Zoo's 1926 Society, generous friends who have provided for the Zoo in their wills or estate plans. To learn more about planned giving at the Zoo, contact Kelley Parker at (719) 424-7810.

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Mr. Jack and Mrs. Michel Tomsic

Mrs. Suzanne Twohig

Mr. David and Mrs. Kay Van Dykman

Mr. Michale Waller and
Mrs. Jennifer Farnsworth

Dr. Glenn* and Mrs. Joan* Williams

Mr. Randy and Mrs. Audrey Woodard

Mr. Jack and Mrs. Ellen York

Ms. Kristine Zabrusky and
Mr. Tim McAndries

**Deceased*





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