

May 2024 - April 2025 **ANNUAL REPORT**





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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 volunteered their time to make sure the greatness of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo continues.

2024 - 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Year's Highlights

June 13, 2024

HISTORIC CAROUSEL REOPENING



Staff, volunteers, media and fans celebrated the reopening of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's historic 1926 Allan Herschel carousel on Thursday, June 13, 2024. The beloved carousel has been a fixture at CMZoo since 1937.

Fans had been eagerly awaiting the carousel's return since it was safely stored away in July 2023. The carousel moved to make way for a new road just west of the current main road through the Zoo.

With the historic road now removed, the Zoo is working to expand its giraffe habitat. Outdoor giraffe space will grow by 25 percent – including access to explore uphill onto the former road space. Giraffe will also get a brand-new 12,000-square-foot barn, the International Center for the Care and Conservation of Giraffe, when it opens in 2026.

August 28, 2024

GRIZZLY HABITAT UPGRADES



After a summer staycation in another habitat at CMZoo, the Zoo's iconic 20-year-old grizzly bears, Emmett and Digger, moved back to their renovated home in Rocky Mountain Wild in August 2024.

The renovation included an expanded lower yard with environmental enrichment features, like a mud pit, a bear-safe overnight outdoor den area, a new training and demonstration panel, and improved staff access to safely provide medical care for the bears, if needed.

The overnight space, dens and two yards can comfortably house two groups of bears separately, so the Zoo could provide a home for orphaned bear cubs needing long-term care. The former grizzly bear boardwalk was removed, making way for a new pathway to visit grizzlies in their new demonstration area and their familiar pond and yard at the top of the habitat. Guests can also get a thrill by riding two huge slides fixed to the iconic fire tower in Rocky Mountain Wild.

September 18, 2024

BLACK-FOOTED FERRET BREEDING BOOM



In Summer 2024, the black-footed ferret (BFF) breeding program saw a record number of kits born: 37. Conservationists tested multi-partner breeding to see if females could conceive and whelp kits from different dads in the same litter, and to see if having multiple breeding partners impacted the number of kits born overall.

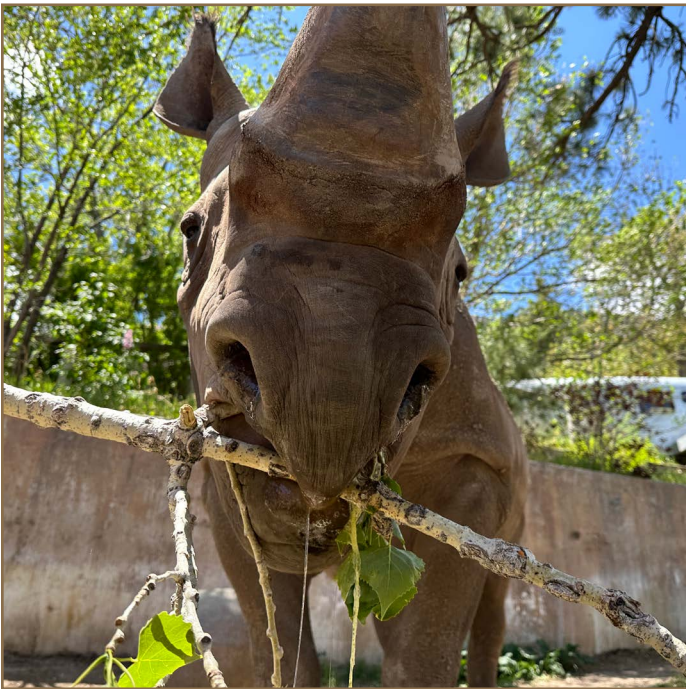
Out of seven females in the trial, two had litters with two fathers represented. Of the twelve breeding females in the CMZoo program, eight had babies this year.

"That's a really high rate of reproduction, and we saw a higher rate of successful birth with the females that participated in the multi-male study, compared to those that didn't," says Jeff Baughman, Wyoming Toad and Black-Footed Ferret Program Manager at CMZoo. "We're not getting ahead of ourselves, but the results are promising because there's potential to increase the genetic diversity and sheer number of kits one female could contribute to the recovery population."

The Year's Highlights

October 30, 2024

\$1M DONATED TO ELEPHANT & RHINO CONSERVATION



CMZoo, its members, visitors and donors celebrated a **conservation milestone**: \$1 million donated to its African elephant and black rhino conservation partner, Tsavo Trust, since establishing a partnership in 2016.

Tsavo Trust was founded in 2012 to help protect the last of the 'Super Tuskers' – African elephants with tusks so large they nearly scrape the ground. It is estimated that 25 Super Tuskers remain, and the majority of these individuals reside in Tsavo National Park, in Kenya, where Tsavo Trust is based. Today, Tsavo Trust protects African elephants, including Super Tuskers, Eastern black rhinos and more.

Every visit and every membership supports Tsavo Trust and the Zoo's other legacy conservation partners, through the Zoo's Quarters for Conservation (Q4C) program. In addition, elephant and rhino feeding opportunities, offered daily in the summer months, raise around \$75,000 annually for Tsavo Trust. With support from the Kratt Family Fund, CMZoo continues to support Tsavo Trust's mission by funding ongoing infrastructure development and community outreach projects.

March 19, 2025

VOTED #2 BEST ZOO IN THE U.S.



CMZoo was ranked **#2 Best Zoo in the country**, in USA TODAY's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards! Dedicated CMZoo supporters voted daily for a month, and earned the Zoo its highest ranking ever.

"We could not have done this without our supporters, who spent their own time promoting the Zoo through the voting period," Bob Chastain, president & CEO of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, says. "Honors like this are earned through the dedicated efforts of people who know, trust and believe in our organization. Thank you for your effort."

Voters earned the Zoo a 'Second Place Triple Crown' this year. In addition to ranking #2 Best Zoo in the country, CMZoo earned the #2 spot for Best Zoo Membership and CMZoo's home for animals native to the Rocky Mountain region, Rocky Mountain Wild, was voted #2 Best Zoo Exhibit.



New Zoo Family Members

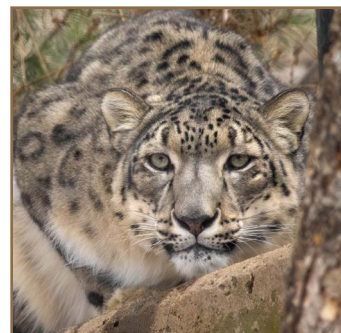
ZOO ADDITIONS



NORTH AMERICAN RACCOONS
July 8, 2024 | *Benton, Baldwin, Baker*



RED PANDA
July 8, 2024 | *Cora*



SNOW LEOPARD
November 13, 2024 | *Valens*

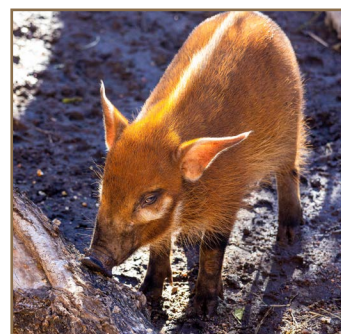
ZOO BIRTHS



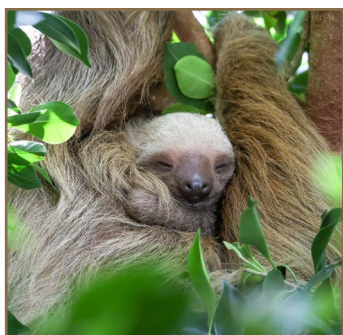
SLENDER-TAILED MEERKATS
May 19, 2024 | *Bumble, Buzz, Honeycomb*



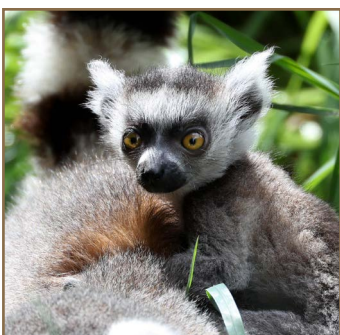
ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOATS
May 19, 2024 | *Tava, Antora*



RED RIVER HOG
August 24, 2024 | *Tumbo*



HOFFMANN'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
Dec. 18, 2024 | *Olive*



RING-TAILED LEMUR PUPS
March 20, 2025 | *not yet named*



AFRICAN PENGUIN CHICK
April 8, 2025 | *not yet named*

Conservation

LEGACY Q4C PROGRAMS

Since 2008, CMZoo's Quarters for Conservation (Q4C) program has raised nearly \$6 million for field conservation. 75¢ from every admission, along with \$25,000 in membership revenue, funds long-term projects represented on guest-interactive kiosks at the Zoo entrance.



AFRICAN ELEPHANTS & BLACK RHINOS

Tsavo Trust continues to play a critical role in protecting Kenya's iconic wildlife by conducting essential aerial and ground-based patrols to defend the last viable populations of 'Super Tusker' elephants, black rhinos and other vulnerable species from illegal hunting and poaching.

In 2024 and 2025, CMZoo and Tsavo Trust launched a new initiative for wild Eastern black rhinos. This effort aims to expand existing black rhino territories and secure new habitats where these critically endangered animals can safely grow their numbers.

CMZoo has committed \$300,000 to this project, funding critical infrastructure and tools — including a helicopter — to help get the Tsavo West region of Tsavo National Park fully rhino ready.



ORANGUTANS & PALM OIL

Consumers can help protect wild orangutans' homes from deforestation by using products made with sustainably-sourced palm oil. PalmOil Scan, a free mobile app available in the U.S., Canada, UK, New Zealand and Australia, helps make those choices easier. The app is owned by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and locally managed by CMZoo.

In 2025, CMZoo helped WAZA expand the app to Singapore via local management by Mandai Wildlife Group, the newest member of WAZA's global effort to advance wildlife conservation through informed shopping.



BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS

CMZoo's efforts with the AZA SAFE Black-Footed Ferret program led to 427 kits born in 2024, the highest in a decade! Program-wide, 195 kits and 39 adults were released at 12 sites throughout the Great Plains; CMZoo contributed 27 kits and released 19 kits and 4 adults. This hands-on work is crucial for reviving one of North America's most endangered native mammals.



GIRAFFE

CMZoo continued its commitment to giraffe conservation, research and anti-poaching efforts in 2024 by supporting the impactful work of the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF), in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service.

Together, these partners are working to protect and study giraffe in Mwea National Reserve in Kenya, a vital stronghold for the species. Thanks to these efforts, recent population surveys show giraffe numbers in Mwea are steadily increasing, offering hope for the future of these iconic animals.



WYOMING TOADS

Wyoming toads were declared extinct in the wild in the early 1990s and are only around today due to decades of recovery efforts. CMZoo's onsite breeding program continues to provide a huge leap forward for these endangered amphibians. In spring and summer of 2024, CMZoo staff released 109 adult toads and 2,267 tadpoles into their native Wyoming wetlands.

Conservation

ONGOING CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

CMZoo supports ongoing wildlife conservation through hands-on fieldwork, research partnerships and species recovery projects, empowering staff and guests to contribute locally and globally to protect animals and wild places.



AFRICAN PENGUINS

African penguins were recently reclassified from Endangered to Critically Endangered, making ongoing conservation support even more critical. In 2024, in continued partnership with the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB), CMZoo funded ranger patrols, contributed over \$10,000 for penguin care and provided \$11,500 for lifesaving diagnostic and medical equipment. These efforts boost SANCCOB's capacity to rescue, treat and rehabilitate penguins and other vulnerable seabirds in South Africa.



OKAPI

Okapi populations are under serious threat due to habitat loss. In 2024, Zoo members voted to send \$24,600 in addition to our yearly level of support to support okapi conservation efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These funds directly support the Okapi Conservation Project, helping provide local farmers with essential tools and education in sustainable agriculture and reforestation practices. This community-based approach both improves livelihoods and fosters long-term protection for the elusive and endangered okapi.

MEMBERS-ONLY CONSERVATION VOTE

Each Zoo membership helps contribute to an annual total of \$25,000 for Q4C and \$75,000 for the Members-Only Conservation Vote. Since 2015, members have directed \$750,000 of revenue to global field conservation efforts.



LOCAL MIGRATORY BIRD RESEARCH

In 2023, Zoo members made an impact for local bird species by funding the installation of three Motus wildlife tracking towers. Two of those towers are now fully operational: one at CMZoo and another at Fountain Creek Nature Center. These towers are part of a growing global network that helps conservationists better understand exact pathways and timing of bird migrations all over the world.

In 2024, members supported flammulated owl research by voting to fund tracking tags for a long-term study led by Dr. Brian Linkhart of Colorado College. CMZoo staff assisted with owl tagging in Pike National Forest as part of this program. In late 2024, a tagged owl was tracked to Texas, providing new insights into migratory routes and informing future habitat conservation across North and Central America.



7
Countries

Zoo staff has worked with conservation partners in 7 countries and across the U.S. in the last decade.



50+
Projects

Over 50 staff-championed conservation projects have been funded by the Members-Only Conservation Vote since 2015.



\$6M
Raised

CMZoo has raised nearly \$6 million for wildlife conservation through Q4C since 2008.



100+
Staff Trips

In the last 10 years, Zoo staff have taken more than 100 trips to support global and local conservation.



WILD NIGHT & STARLIGHT SAFARI



\$206,226

REVENUE

2937

PARTICIPANTS

128

PROGRAMS

ZOOMOBILE



\$130,895

REVENUE

73,374

PARTICIPANTS

582

TOTAL
PROGRAMS

48

AVERAGE
MONTHLY
PROGRAMS

ZOO EXPLORATION

\$64,507

REVENUE
(RECORD YEAR!)

4,057

PARTICIPANTS

88

TOURS
(INCLUDING VIRTUAL)



ZOO CAMP



\$482,795

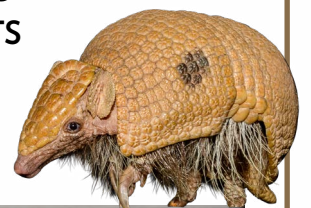
SUMMER CAMP REVENUE
(RECORD YEAR!)

2,194

TOTAL CAMP
PARTICIPANTS

1,610

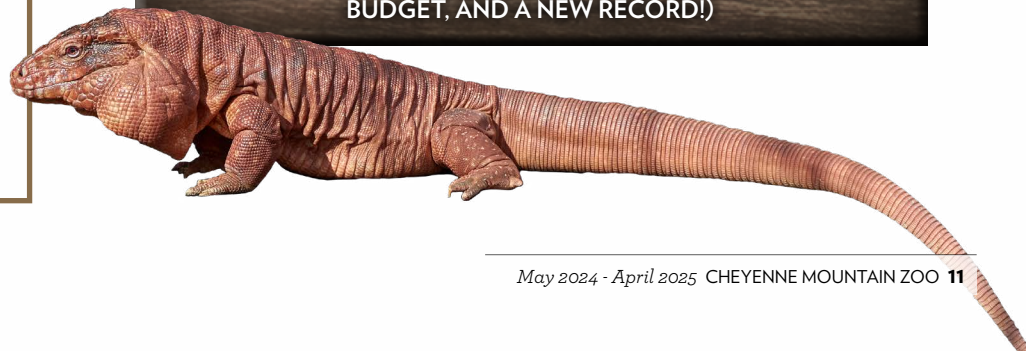
SUMMER CAMP
PARTICIPANTS
(RECORD YEAR!)



\$482,795

OVERALL CAMP REVENUE

(\$101,358 HIGHER THAN PROJECTED
BUDGET, AND A NEW RECORD!)

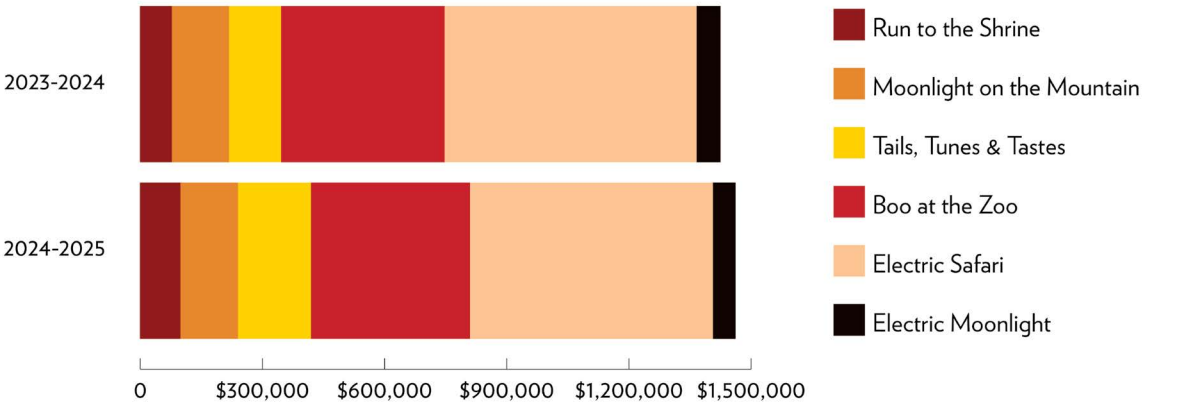


Numbers at a Glance

NUMERICAL HIGHLIGHTS

		2024-2025	2023-2024
ATTENDANCE NUMBERS	Zoo Attendance	825,519	810,319
	Membership Revenue	\$3,809,299	\$3,667,674
DIGITAL MEDIA	Facebook Followers	282,129	271,889
	Instagram Followers	104,526	91,046
	YouTube Subscribers	25,893	24,148
	Website Visits	6,199,580	5,275,462
EDVENTURE PROGRAMMING	Revenue	\$1,175,176	\$1,101,116
	Logged Docent Hours	15,169	11,800
MOUNTAINEER SKY RIDE	Day Rides	\$484,214	\$365,203
	Evening Rides	\$26,921	\$16,032

EVENT ADMISSION REVENUE





Our Sponsors

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

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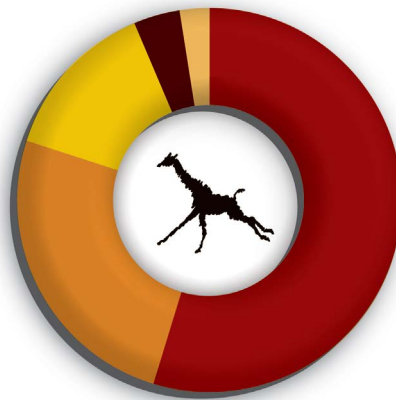
Financial Summary

MAY 1, 2024 - APRIL 30, 2025

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

SUPPORT & REVENUE

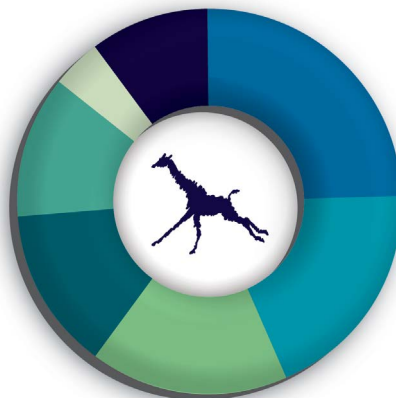
Total Operating Income
\$27,869,400



- Admissions \$15,263,100
- Visitor Services & Programs \$7,088,700
- Membership Dues \$3,809,300
- Operating Contributions \$1,039,000
- Other Income \$669,300

ZOO EXPENSES

Total Operating Expenses
\$21,562,200



- Animal Management \$5,346,200
- Admin / Dev / IT / Marketing \$4,099,000
- Maint / Oper / Hort / Park Quality \$3,581,200
- Depreciation \$2,964,700
- Allocations \$2,547,000
- EdVenture \$902,200
- Other Program Expenses \$2,121,900

\$115,904,000

Unrestricted Net Assets as of April 30, 2025

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 2024 to April 2025.

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of El Pomar Foundation

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 Mr. Alan S. Wright
 Mr. Steve and Mrs. Tish Yanoviak

*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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