



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 12, 2016

Contact: Whitney DalBalcon, 253-404-3637 or whitney.dalbalcon@pdza.org

ENDANGERED SPECIES SPOTLIGHT, MAY 21-22, WILL CELEBRATE CONSERVATION EFFORTS
Weekend event includes activities for guests and conservation actions to take home



TACOMA, Wash. – Conservation is at the heart of the work done at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

Endangered Species Spotlight, held on May 21-22, will put the focus on endangered species represented at the Zoo – and will leave visitors with tips on how to help protect those animals' wild counterparts.

Everyone can make a difference in helping endangered species – and little actions go a long way.

In addition to learning about conservation, visitors can enjoy the following slate of activities:

- **Animal Enrichments:** Elephants, sharks, red wolves, polar bears, and other animals will receive enrichment treats
- **Memory Game:** Visitors can test memory skills using their sense of touch
- **Catch of the Day:** Visitors will learn how polar bears capture their food
- **Bears in the Balance:** Visitors will learn about the importance of sea ice for polar bears
- **Keystone Wolves:** Visitors will learn how red wolves are a keystone species in their ecosystem
- **Shark Senses:** Visitors will learn about electroreception by acting like a shark and finding animals in the sand
- **Tails Up:** Visitors can learn to identify endangered animal species

In addition to teaching individual conservation actions, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium supports conservation and wildlife research to expand scientific understanding of wild animal populations both locally and around the world.

Since 2002, the Zoo Society's Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund has provided more than \$1.4 million in grants to study and conserve wildlife and wild places, benefiting a diverse range of creatures from frogs and fish to wolves and walruses. The conservation grants also have advanced the health and management of the Zoo's animals through studies of animal behavior and reproduction.

All Endangered Species Spotlight activities are free with membership or admission to the zoo.

For more information, visit www.pdza.org.

###

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The zoo, a division of Metro Parks Tacoma, is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).

Photo caption: *Blizzard the polar bear enjoys a fishy treat. (Photo/Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium)*