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February 25, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kate O'Connor, Zoo Curator of Education, at 705-5710

Wild Trackers Information Night: Become A Pocatello Zoo Volunteer!
Event Set for March 3, 2010 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

The Pocatello Zoo is accepting applications from adults interested in volunteering at the Zoo, and there is something for just about everyone! There are positions available in education, marketing/public relations, construction, maintenance, grounds, events, and in zoo keeping. Those interested are invited to attend the Wild Trackers Information Night on March 3, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Zoo Education and Administrative Building, at 3101 Avenue of the Chiefs, across from the Pocatello Animal Shelter.

Most trackers serve as “interpreters” for the Zoo, give their time to educational programs and events, and have duties that are as simple as answering visitor questions, talking about animals, reading a book to small children, putting on short puppet show, or talking about various animal “biofacts.” For those individuals who enjoy more structured programs, trackers can contribute their time to outreach programs, zooric tours, ZooCamps, ZooS^{noo}Z^{zzz} programs and birthday parties. Trackers are also the major workforce at zoo events, and some focus their time on organizing and running activities at various events throughout the year. “Interpreters” can either focus their time at the Zoo to short-term summer program help or long-term year-round assistance.

Trackers may also have the opportunity to work with the Zoo's education animals. They learn to handle and care for a variety of critters and can take them out into the Zoo and the community for “Animal Ambassador” programs. Other trackers may help in the barnyard contact yard, assisting the zookeepers with the care and training of domestic animals, as well as the supervision of youth volunteers. A few trackers even help the zookeepers with other animal care duties that may include clean up and feeding relating to the Zoo's overall animal collection.

If the positions listed don't fit your talents or interests, there are other positions available in construction, grounds/gardening, and maintenance. The Zoo also has some limited positions available to help in the Administrative Office, to include office assistant and marketing/public relations. If you are a college student or recent graduate, who is especially interested in a career in an animal related field, there are also several intensive internships available. These internships will start late spring in the following areas: animal care, marketing/public relations, education and graphic design. These internships may be available for credit or just as a resume builder.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

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The Trackers form an important part of the Zoo organization. The Tracker Training Program will start March 10, and classes on a variety of topics will be offered on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings through mid-May. While designed primarily for the interpretive volunteers, other volunteers accepted by the Zoo are encouraged to attend classes that interest them or pertain to their area of expertise.

If you'd like to join the Zoo Trackers or just learn more about the program, come to the Wild Tracker Information Night March 3 at 7:00 p.m., or for more information, call the Zoo at 234-6264.

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A Tracker Bite: Submitted by Bob Hartman

“Why did I become a Tracker? I am an avid hunter and believe that with proper laws and enforcement, hunting can play an important role in managing wildlife. So, I was not only interested in learning more about our native animals and their behavior, but also in the operation of the Zoo itself. However, once I became a Tracker, I was surprised to find out how little I know about animals and what the Zoo does for their care. I found out that many animal species would not be around today if they were not there being taken care of by zoos. Not to mention, the Zoo offers us a great way to study our animal friends up close and why we can, and should, co-exist. Being a Tracker has given me a chance to teach and inform others about what I now know. Come join me, learn more, and give back to our human and animal communities.”