

Focus on Animals

THE FOUNDATION FOR ANIMALS ANNUAL REPORT NEWSLETTER  2019-2020 EDITION



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BIRDS THRIVE AT MONTANA WILD Improvements Needed for Raptors and Visitors

After many years and hundreds of injured and orphaned birds successfully rehabilitated, there is now a growing need for new bird enclosures at Montana WILD's wildlife center adjacent to Spring Meadow Lake State Park in Helena.

This year FFA is joining a fundraising campaign for a new configuration of enclosures that will benefit raptors that come to the center. The improvements will enhance rehabilitation for birds, while also expanding public viewing opportunities of ambassador birds.

The enclosures that are planned at the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks facility meet species-specific standards, provide a more natural environment, and have better access to outdoor elements for all the birds. In addition, they will accommodate the different housing needs of those in rehabilitation and those of ambassador birds. Seclusion and limited exposure to humans help ensure birds in rehab their best chance for a return to the wild. Enclosures designed for public viewing are suitable for ambassador birds that become members of the education team.

If you would like to contribute to the project, please designate your donation to the Bird Enclosure Fundraising Campaign, Foundation For Animals, PO Box 389, Helena, MT 59624. 




Wildlife photos courtesy of Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks

One of Montana WILD's ambassador birds, a Great Horned Owl, recently was a surrogate 'mom' to four Great Horned owlets. In the rehabilitation center, she taught them the owl skills needed to survive on their own so that all four owlets were able to be released back to the wild.

ORPHANED BEAR CUBS A Different Journey for Each Species

It happens sometimes. Orphaned cubs can result from a hunting, car or train accident that kills the sow, or a sow may abandon her cub because of drought or other conditions. Fortunately, in Montana, orphaned cubs often have a second chance at a new life.

Montana's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at Montana WILD, a division of MT Fish Wildlife & Parks, receives both black bear and grizzly cubs that are orphaned too young to survive on their own, but the two species are managed differently. Black bear cubs at the center are potential candidates for release back to the wild. Grizzly cubs require special handling and State policy prevents releasing them into the wild, so Montana WILD staff works with other agencies to place them in a certified wildlife sanctuary or zoo to ensure their future.

Over the years, the Foundation has raised funds through donations and grants to meet the needs of the center's bear cub compound, from materials for denning enclosures and off-loading gates to muscle-building outdoor jungle gyms and other equipment. Interest in the cubs grew quickly, but the rehabilitation area is closed to the public in order to give black bear cubs the best chance at a successful release to the wild. FFA funded an exhibit at Montana WILD that shows visitors how the bear cubs are rehabilitated. 



All in the family: Grizzly cubs at Montana WILD before the orphaned siblings traveled to their new home at Bearizona Wildlife Park.