2025 ANNUAL REPORT















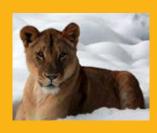




































THANK YOU

Message From the Director

Each year at Utah's Hogle Zoo, we are reminded that progress in conservation begins with connections with one another, with our community, and with the remarkable animals who inspire us daily. This year, we've taken meaningful steps forward in building those connections through innovation, education, and care.

We proudly received a perfect score from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) after a stringent reaccreditation process that examined all aspects of our operation. Indeed, in the past 51 years and 2800 accreditation inspections, Hogle is only the tenth zoo to achieve this rare accomplishment. As "One Zoo," the team at Hogle Zoo couldn't be prouder of this achievement.

This past year we also advanced vital habitat improvements across the zoo, enhancing the wellbeing of our animals and the experience for our guests. Future projects like the giraffe and hoofstock barn expansion are designed with the future in mind to provide more flexibility for giraffe care, greater comfort during Utah's winters, and opportunities for visitors to see conservation in action.

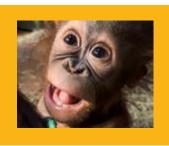
Beyond our grounds, our teams continue to extend the zoo's impact worldwide. From protecting lions and leopards in Mozambique to supporting amphibian research here in Utah, our conservation partnerships reflect our belief that the health of our planet depends on collective effort. Every field project, every educational program, and every rescued animal tells a story of hope, and we're proud to share those stories with you.

Most importantly, none of this is possible without you. Your support, your visits, and your belief in our mission allow us to educate, inspire, and spark compassion for wildlife every single day. Together, we are shaping a future where people and wildlife can thrive together.

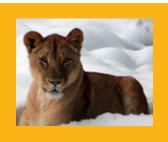
Thank you for being part of our zoo family and for helping us protect the natural world we all share.

With gratitude,

Doug Lund President & CEO Utah's Hogle Zoo











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About Us

OUR MISSION

Create champions for wildlife by making connections between people and animals to inspire action.

OUR VISION

A world where people and wildlife thrive together.

OUR VALUES

- We value our purpose-driven work: We are committed to the zoo's mission and to make a positive difference for animals, people, and Utah.
- We value wildlife and nature: We believe the wellbeing of wildlife and their environment is the responsibility of all.
- We value a future in which wildlife and people live in harmony: We encourage bold thinking and courageous actions to protect wildlife with hope for a better tomorrow.
- We value our guests: We appreciate that every guest's visit and their care for all animals is important to achieving the zoo's mission.
- We value community: We collaborate with diverse partners and engage our community in our mission and work.
- We value zoo staff and volunteers: We encourage and support zoo team members and value effective communication, courtesy, professionalism, and respect.
- We value collaborative teamwork as One Zoo: We lend a helping hand to one another as a dedicated team believing our collective actions are for the greater good.





Attendance November 2024 - November 2025



BE A PROVIDER OF CARE WELL EXCELLENT CARE BEING





CELEBRATING A POPULATION ASSOCIATION SECOND SECOND

AZA Accreditation

In September 2025, we reached a historic milestone by earning a perfect score during our accreditation inspection from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Accreditation is regarded as the global gold standard for animal wellbeing, safety, conservation, and education. Receiving a completely clean evaluation is an exceedingly rare honor, and we're proud to be only the tenth organization in AZA's 51-year history to achieve this distinction.

The rigorous, multi-day inspection reviewed every aspect of our operations, including animal care, veterinary services, staff training, education programs, guest experience, governance, and financial stability. Inspectors commended our well-organized facilities, innovative safety systems, and comprehensive security programs. They also highlighted the collaborative spirit among our team, noting how teamwork and professionalism are woven into our daily operations.

Several of our programs and exhibits received special recognition during the review:

- Aline W. Skaggs Wild Utah habitat was celebrated for its modern approach to animal care and education.
- Canine Champions for Conservation program was highlighted for enhancing both conservation outcomes and guest engagement.
- iSEE program was praised for reaching second-grade students across Utah and serving as an example of impactful community education.

Together, these accomplishments reflect the dedication of our entire team and reinforce our commitment to being a leader in animal care, conservation, and education.













SUPPORTING SURVIVAL SPECIES SURVIVAL

One Birth at a Time

Hogle Zoo proudly participates in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan (SSP), a collaborative effort to ensure healthy, sustainable populations of threatened and endangered species. Through careful coordination among accredited institutions, we manage genetics, family lineages, and animal transfers to strengthen global conservation efforts.

This year, our animal care team celebrated several significant births that contribute to these goals:

Nguvu - Born February 7, 2025

Our African Savanna team kicked off the year with the birth of a male giraffe calf named Nguvu (pronounced N-goo-voo), born to Stephanie (mom) and Ja Raff (dad). His name, chosen by donor Jennifer Speers, means "strength" in Swahili, a perfect fit for this sturdy little calf. The birth was closely monitored through cameras funded by the Marriner S. Eccles Foundation, and both mom and baby did beautifully. Giraffe populations continue to decline across Africa, so every birth is meaningful.

Basil - Born March 30, 2025

In early spring, our primate team welcomed a playful colobus monkey named Basil (pronounced Baa-zl), born to Violet (mom) and Sefu (dad). Donor Amanda McKell chose his name, which means "kingly" or "royal" in Greek, reflecting his lively and demanding nature. Since the day he was born, Basil has filled the habitat with energy, often seen leaping between branches or clinging to mom. His birth helps strengthen the global population of colobus monkeys, which face serious threats from habitat loss and hunting.

Blake - Born April 27, 2025

Spring also brought us Blake, an adorable baby North American porcupine born to Blackberry (mom) and Barton (dad), both rescued wildlife ambassadors. Donors Sue and Craig Jones named her in loving memory of their friend Blake. Blake recently transitioned to the Oklahoma City Zoo to be part of their wildlife ambassador program. You can still see her parents, Barton and Blackberry, in the Wild Utah exhibit. North American porcupines face challenges from habitat fragmentation and vehicle collisions, and Blake and her parents help us teach guests how to live peacefully alongside Utah's native wildlife.









PERFECT PAIR



Miraculous Milestones

Weila - Born June 21, 2025

For the first time in more than a decade, the primate team welcomed the birth of Weila (pronounced Wey-lah), a female Bornean orangutan, born to Kawan (mom). Her name, chosen by the Needham Family, honors their daughter Willa. The birth occurred naturally and was carefully monitored through cameras funded by the Marriner S. Eccles Foundation. When successful nursing was not observed, our team, in consultation with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), made the decision to step in and hand-rear Weila. With round-the-clock care, Weila grew stronger each day. Our team guided her through key developmental milestones such as learning to grip, lift her head, and feed consistently, while ensuring she received the specialized attention needed during her earliest weeks. Once she was strong enough, they began introducing her to Acara, an experienced orangutan who had previously fostered another infant, her brother Tuah, after the loss of their mother. Today, Weila has formed a heartwarming bond with Acara, who has embraced her foster role with patience and affection. Guests can often see the pair together in the Great Apes habitat or resting behind the scenes as their connection continues to grow.

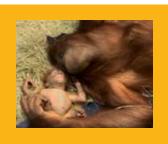
Southern Giant Pouched Rats - Born July 25, 2025

We celebrated another special birth; four southern giant pouched rat pups born to Acacia (mom) and Baobab (dad) in the Small Animal Building (SAB). Acacia is caring attentively for her young, nursing them and keeping them close while our team monitors their rapid development from hairless pink newborns to dark-furred explorers.

This birth is particularly special because the successful breeding of pouched rats in human care is exceedingly rare. Also known as "Hero Rats," this species plays a heroic role in conservation and humanitarian work worldwide. They can be trained to detect landmines, identify tuberculosis, and help in search and rescue, work that saves lives and advances conservation in communities around the globe.













NEW TO THE ZOO

New Arrivals

Black-footed Cats - Thelma and Louise

There are two new faces in the Small Animal Building–Thelma and Louise, a pair of black-footed cat sisters who recently arrived from Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Texas. Their arrival marks the return of black-footed cats to Utah's Hogle Zoo and brings exciting potential for the future of this vulnerable species. Thelma is bold and playful, while Louise is a little more reserved—cautiously curious and content to observe before leaping into the action. Together, they roll, chase, and tumble through their space.

Arabian Sand Cat - Cleo

Cleo came to Hogle Zoo from North Carolina Zoo on an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) sand cat Species Survival Plan (SSP) breeding recommendation with resident male sand cat, Asim (4).

Described as a shy but inquisitive cat, Cleo is settling in and beginning to explore her new habitat in the Small Animal Building. Guests may catch glimpses of her playing, investigating new sights and scents, or napping in a cozy corner.

Pallas' Cats - Phil and Kaarina

The Asian Highlands team now has 3 Pallas' cats. A group of Pallas' cats is affectionately called a "grump" by the Pallas' cat SSP (coined/made up by the SSP coordinator), so we have ourselves a grump!

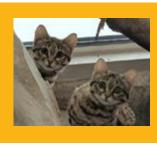
While Phil will now be the Pallas' cat guests can spot in Asian Highlands, he's not the only one calling the zoo home. Kaarina, who arrived earlier this year on a Pallas' cat SSP breeding recommendation, is currently living behind the scenes with a third Pallas' cat—Khir. Khir and Kaarina will remain behind the scenes as part of their breeding recommendation, while Phil settles into his new habitat in Asian Highlands.













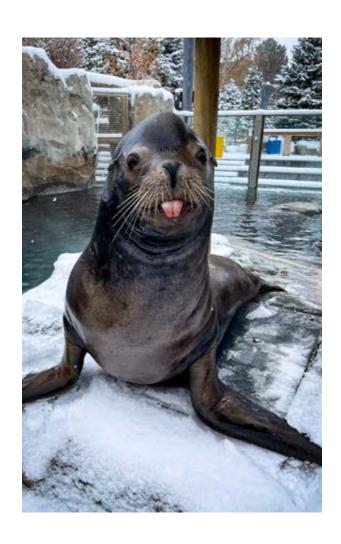
CARE & MILESTONE IN ZOO MEDICINE

Diego's Legacy

This year, we said goodbye to Diego, our beloved California sea lion, who brought joy to everyone who worked with him. When he was diagnosed with degenerative disc disease, our care team went above and beyond to ensure his comfort. He received specialized medications, laser therapy, and habitat adjustments, and a CT scan provided detailed insight into his condition, helping guide his treatment and improve his quality of life.

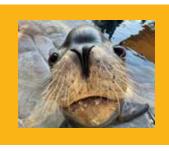
Diego's cooperation with his care and the CT scan allowed our veterinary team, alongside specialists from the University of Utah Health System, to study his condition in depth. Through these efforts, our team gained valuable knowledge about marine mammal spinal care and treatment options. Diego's participation made him a vital contributor to the advancement of aquatic animal medicine.

Beyond his contributions to science, Diego left a lasting impression on the people who cared for him. His playful spirit and affectionate nature reminded us every day why our work matters. While we miss him dearly, Diego's story reflects both the dedication of his care team and the positive impact one animal can have on conservation, veterinary knowledge, and the Hogle Zoo community.















BE THE WILDLIFF LEADER & CONSERVATION LEADER





JUMPING & ACTION

Western Toad Conservation

We're leading efforts to protect one of Utah's most vulnerable amphibians through our Western Toad Conservation program. Our work combines population monitoring with conservation breeding, helping restore Western toad populations in the wild.

Working alongside the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), U.S. Forest Service, and Sageland Collaborative, our field research team collects critical data across Utah's montane wetlands. Each year, we recruit and train volunteer community scientists to help with single-day surveys and multi-day expeditions, gathering information that informs conservation strategies.

This past summer, our volunteers and staff achieved remarkable results:

- 59 volunteer community scientists contributed 484 hours
- 117 surveys conducted across 93 sites
- 161 toads, 1,155 tadpoles, and over 500 eggs documented
- Two new breeding sites identified in central Utah
- Western toad presence confirmed at a previously unexplored area in the Uinta Mountains

Our breeding program also made great strides in 2025. Animal care staff successfully brumated and bred Western toads from a key population on the Paunsaugunt Plateau, an area affected by habitat loss and chytrid fungus, a lethal invasive fungus for amphibians. In August, 14 juvenile toads were released into the wild. Biologists even observed breeding activity at the release site for the first time since 2018, a hopeful sign of recovery.

These achievements were made possible thanks to collaboration with partners including Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium, Loveland Living Planet Aquarium, Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance, and Wahweap Fish Hatchery. Our conservation team also expanded research to study how habitat restoration along the Wasatch Front impacts local wildlife, providing data that guides statewide forest and wildlife management.













DOWN BY THE RIVER

Jordan River Project

Through our partnership with the Jordan River Commission, our team is helping restore this vital urban waterway while engaging the community in hands-on conservation. Volunteers participate in bi-monthly events, including floating and trail cleanups, invasive-weed removal, and planting trees and pollinator habitats. In 2025, we began evaluating the program through volunteer surveys to better understand its impact and strengthen community involvement.

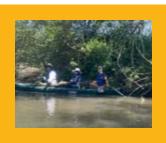
Since 2020, we've also monitored wildlife along the river using non-invasive cameras. These cameras have captured millions of images, documenting the wide variety of species that rely on the river for habitat and as a migratory corridor. This work underscores the ecological importance of protecting urban waterways and demonstrates how community engagement can support wildlife.

This year our volunteers and staff made a substantial impact:

- 240 Volunteers
- 715 Volunteer Hours
- 106 Trees Planted
- 105 pollinator/understory plants planted
- Over 1,000 pounds of trash removed from the river and trails
- 1,066 pounds of puncturevine (goatheads) removed













BE A Z O FOR A L





CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

Better Together

Visits to Ronald McDonald House and Primary Children's Hospital

Each month, our Guest Engagement team brings the magic of Hogle Zoo to families facing medical challenges at the Ronald McDonald House. With the help of our ambassador animals, fascinating biofacts, and hands-on activities, we create moments of curiosity, comfort, and connection for children and their families. These visits remind them that they're surrounded by a community that truly cares.

We also visit Primary Children's Hospital and have virtual programs in Seacrest Studios, where our ambassador animals are featured in hospital-wide broadcasts reaching patients in Salt Lake City and at the Lehi clinic. Children who can attend in person enjoy a close-up meet and greet, while others join virtually from their rooms. These visits bring the joy of wildlife to kids who can't come to the zoo, sparking smiles, learning, and inspiration right when they need it most.

Zoo For All Program

Our Zoo for All program ensures that cost is never a barrier to connection with wildlife. Guests with an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card who receive SNAP benefits can enjoy discounted admission year-round.

In 2025, we welcomed:

- 27,427 adults
- 11,227 children

That's over 38,000 guests who experienced the joy of wildlife and nature, many for the very first time.

ZooPals Nonprofit & Government Institutions

Through ZooPals, we're able to share free admission with nonprofit and government partners serving Utah communities. This year, we provided 5,544 free tickets, helping ensure that everyone has a chance to experience meaningful connections with animals.







EDZOCCATION ACTION & ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

Free Field Trips

We're proud to offer free field trips for all K–12 students from public, private, and charter schools across Utah, ensuring that wildlife conservation education is accessible to all. A field trip to the zoo is more than just seeing animals; it's an educational experience that exposes all guests to the wonders of the wildlife and nature around them. By engaging students, we hope to inspire future generations to coexist peacefully with wildlife and to care for the natural world.

During the 2024-2025 school year, we hosted:

- 41,325 students
- 2,805 teachers
- 9,100 chaperones

This year also marked the launch of our new standards-based field trip program, designed to connect classroom learning to real-world science.

- For grades K–5, students can participate in interactive, grade-specific activity stations around Hogle Zoo, with optional pre- and post-visit lessons for teachers.
- For grades 6–12, our "Careers in Conservation" days introduce students to wildlife and environmental career paths through hands-on activities and direct engagement with our staff.

These programs make science come alive and help inspire Utah's next generation of invaluable conservationists.













INFORMAL SEE EDUCATION SCIENCE SEE ENHANCEMENT

iSee Habitat Investigations

Our Informal Science Education Enhancement (iSEE) program continues to spark curiosity in students across Utah. Designed for K–12 classrooms, these programs invite students to explore science hands-on and discover how to think like scientists.

The Habitat Investigations outreach program, aligned with 2nd-grade standards, lets students use real science skills to explore two Utah habitats: wetlands and deserts. Students examine samples collected by our "research team," make observations, measure, collect data, and share their findings. They also meet live Utah animals and connect their discoveries to how each species adapts to survive in its environment.

2024-2025 iSEE Program Reach:

- 185 schools
- 568 classrooms
- 11,537 students

Every curious question, observation, and "wow!" moment helps build a lifelong love for science and wildlife.

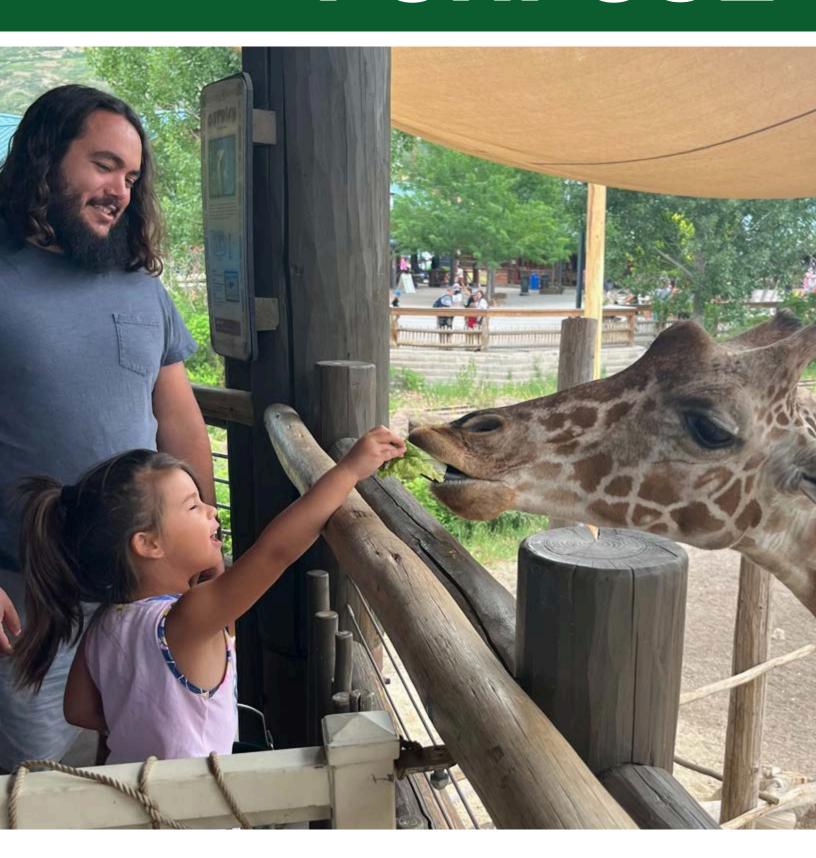








BE A DESTINATION PURPOSE





HELPING HENDS

Career & Technical Education Program

Our Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program gives Utah students hands-on experience that connects classroom learning to real-world conservation and STEM careers. By partnering with local high schools and Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs, we help students gain technical and environmental skills while inspiring stewardship and protecting wildlife.

In 2025, CTE students put their talents to work across the zoo, supporting projects that improved safety, sustainability, and guest engagement.

Together, they:

- Completed over 20 Ruhl bars to improve safe access into animal areas
- Created six metal structures for BooLights
- Designed and produced J-bars to improve storage areas
- Donated 100 lbs of microgreens, 80 lbs of lettuce, and 20,000 mealworms for animal diets
- Donated and planted 300 pollinator plants in the parking lot to expand pollinator habitats
- Partnered with Theater and Drama CTE students to enhance guest engagement programs, performing alongside teen volunteers for more than 1,700 guests

Students also made an incredible impact through our Monarch Conservation Project, helping restore pollinator habitats and support citizen science efforts.

Their work included:

- Assembling 1,000 native seed packets, with over 500 distributed to the public
- Creating or improving 10,000 square feet of pollinator habitat
- Recording 250 monarch eggs, caterpillars, or butterflies for citizen science projects
- Harvesting seeds from 10 native plant species on zoo grounds
- Participating in hands-on lessons about monarchs and pollinator conservation with over 200 students

Through these collaborations, our CTE Program continues to empower students to explore conservation careers, build valuable skills, and make a lasting difference for wildlife and their communities.



OWN BACKYARD

Wild Utah

Makers Space

Our Wild Utah Makers Space is more than just an outdoor classroom; it's a hub for creativity, discovery, and connection. This hands-on learning area invites guests to take action for wildlife while learning about Utah's unique ecosystems. Led by passionate staff and volunteers, the Makers Space blends education with action, giving guests tools to support native species long after their visit.

This year 13,679 guests joined us for projects including:

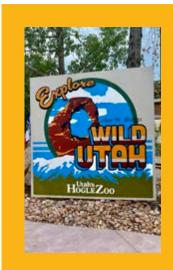
- Making native seed dumplings
- Processing milkweed for monarch conservation
- Building toad abodes for amphibians and other small critters
- Constructing bee hotels for solitary bees
- Building bat boxes for roosting bats
- Preparing and distributing native wildflowers
- Monitoring macroinvertebrates for clean waterway conservation

Our partners in this effort include the Ogden Nature Center, Timpanogos Cave National Monument, USU Water Quality Extension – Utah Water Watch, Utah Native Plant Society, and Hollow Tree Honey Foundation, with materials funded by the Harold R. Burton Foundation. Together, we're turning learning into lasting conservation action.

Interactive Interpretive Kitchen

In the Wild Utah Norma W. Matheson building, our Interactive Interpretive Kitchen gives guests a behind-the-scenes look at animal care and nutrition. This year, we connected with 9,799 guests through programs highlighting how our animal care team prepares and delivers specialized diets for species like burrowing owls, tortoises, salamanders, and toads.

These engaging presentations showcase the science behind each animal's diet and enrichment plan, showing how thoughtful nutrition and daily activities support health, wellbeing, and natural behaviors.









WILD AWARE DWR BERRYMAN UTAH PARTNERSHIP DWR INSTITUTE

Wild Aware Utah

Our Wild Aware Utah partnership, with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and The Berryman Institute, continues to grow and reach new audiences across the state. Together, we focus on teaching communities how to safely and responsibly coexist with Utah's native wildlife.

Wild Aware Utah Day at Hogle Zoo welcomed 5,954 visitors, who joined hands-on activities and expert-led discussions about living alongside wildlife. Beyond our gates, our conservation team met with outdoor enthusiasts at campgrounds and community events, bringing wildlife safety education directly to the places where people and wildlife connect.

At the Utah State Fair, our partners at DWR helped share Wild Aware's message with thousands of fairgoers, spreading simple, memorable ways to be good neighbors to Utah's wild residents.













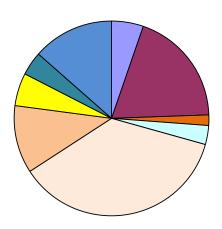


STABLE GROWTHA

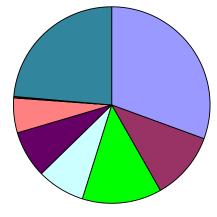


MONEY

Financial Summary



Attendance 875,736 11/24 - 11/25



OPERATING SUPPORT:

State of Utah:	\$ 1,147,000	5.3%
Salt Lake County (ZAP Tax):	\$ 4,152,101	19.1%
■ Isee	\$ 381,586	1.8%
□ Donations and Grants:	\$ 682,930	3.1%

12,398,132

1,051,367

OPERATING REVENUE:

Interest:

Admissions:	\$ 7,917,492	36.5%
Memberships:	\$ 2,443,720	11.3%
☐ Concessions:	\$ 1,184,590	5.5%
■ Group Sales	\$ 852,330	3.9%
Other Income:		13.5%
Education Programs:	\$ 98,095	
Train: (Reopened 05/2024)	\$ 590,340	
Carousel	\$ 522,470	
Miscellaneous:	\$ 668,685	

OPERATING REVENUE: 21,692,706

ODEDATING EVDENCES:

Insurance

Contract Services

Information Technology

Major Repairs & Projects

OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Animal Care:	\$ 6,081,927.65	30.6%
■ Building, Grounds, Housekeeping & Exhibits M	\$ 2,222,623.13	11.2%
Administrative:	\$ 2,598,054.05	13.1%
Marketing, Development, Graphics:	\$ 1,565,352.65	7.9%
■ Guest Services & Security:	\$ 1,539,882.85	7.7%
Education/Educational Programs :	\$ 1,133,522.26	5.7%
Concessions	\$ 16,513.88	0.1%
■ Memberships	\$ 35,835.54	0.2%
Other Expenses:		23.6%
Advertising	\$ 760,196.00	
Utilities	\$ 899,276.00	
Train	\$ 236,523.99	
Carousel	\$ 101,420.86	

OPERATING EXPENSES: 19,886,777 100%











396,362.00 1,239,190.00

265.184.61

794,911.55



& WILDLY DEDICATED

Volunteers

Our volunteers are the heartbeat of Hogle Zoo. Every year, hundreds of dedicated individuals give their time, energy, and enthusiasm to support wildlife conservation and create memorable experiences for our guests.

In 2025, 897 volunteers (and counting) contributed an incredible 24,269 hours of service, strengthening every corner of Hogle Zoo, from helping our animal care teams to supporting education programs, guest engagement, and special events.

Our Teen Volunteer Program continues to inspire the next generation of conservation leaders. This year, 86 teens gave more than 7,000 service hours, engaging guests in over 82,930 conservation-based interactions; a work value estimated at \$214,000. With up to 25 volunteers active each day, these teens play an essential role in connecting guests with wildlife.

Their enthusiasm has lasting impact:

- 88% said the program increased their interest in pursuing a zoo or conservation-based career.
- 100% said they learned something new about animal science or conservation.

Their passion, curiosity, and teamwork reflect what makes volunteerism at Hogle Zoo so special.









LIONSTIGERSBEARS

Wildlife Ball

Our 2025 Wildlife Ball: Lions, Tigers, & Bears brought the magic of The Wizard of Oz and Wicked to life with dazzling music, delicious food, and unforgettable experiences. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors and sponsors, we raised over \$300,000, surpassing our fundraising goal!

These funds directly support Hogle Zoo's newest capital initiative, the Giraffe Barn Expansion, and provide much-needed equipment for departments across the zoo, including Animal Care, Education, and the Animal Hospital.

Each year, the Wildlife Ball reminds us how powerful our community is when it comes together for wildlife.

\$300,000+















CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Giraffe Barn Expansion

Every summer, more than 25,000 guests participate in giraffe feeding experiences, creating unforgettable moments with these gentle giants. Guided by our staff and volunteers, these encounters deepen understanding of giraffe behavior and conservation needs.

To build on this success, we're launching a new Giraffe Barn Expansion, which will feature an indoor feeding area and additional heated indoor space to accommodate our growing herd.

The new design will:

- Provide more room for giraffes to move comfortably year-round
- Offer better separation areas for health and care
- Increase flexibility for daily training and enrichment activities

This project ensures that as our herd grows, every giraffe continues to receive the best possible care, even through Utah's coldest months. It also creates new, meaningful opportunities for guests to connect with giraffes and learn how to protect their wild counterparts through SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) initiatives.

By expanding both space and impact, this project embodies what Hogle Zoo does best: connecting people and wildlife to inspire conservation action.











HOGLE ZOO

CREATE CHAMPIONS FOR WILDLIFE