

Bears, food and camping not a good mix
– Zoo’s grizzlies tear apart a “non-safe” camp site –

WHAT: *What happens when food is not stored properly or garbage is scattered while camping in bear country?* Find out how disastrous this scenario can be as Woodland Park Zoo’s grizzly bears tear into a “non-safe” camp site at **Bear Affair & Big Howl for Wolves presented by Brown Bear Car Wash.**

VISUALS: Grizzly bears will forage through their naturalistic exhibit staged with camping equipment, pots and pans, hammock, cooler, storage container with food and an assortment of scattered food items. For video of a previous year’s camp site demo, go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CARM1-ZQYb4&feature=channel_page.

The zoo’s grizzlies are 15-year-old brothers, Keema and Denali. The 850-pound bears arrived at the zoo in 1994 from Washington State University, which maintains a small collection to conduct a long-term study on bear nutrition.

Also at Bear Affair from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife enforcement officer Bruce Richards and a Karelian bear dog will demonstrate the essential role these dogs play in training nuisance bears to avoid human contact, eliminating the need for relocation or extermination. For more information, visit www.washingtonbeardogs.org.

WHEN: **Photo op of bear camp site demonstration: Saturday, June 6, 11:00 a.m.-noon**
Bear Affair & Big Howl for Wolves: Saturday, June 6, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

WHERE: The grizzly bear exhibit in the zoo’s award-winning Northern Trail. **Enter through the NORTH ENTRANCE at N. 59th St. & Phinney Ave N. and proceed to the Northern Trail.**

INFO: **Bear Affair & Big Howl for Wolves presented by Brown Bear Car Wash** treats zoo visitors to “bear-safe” and “non-safe” camp site demonstrations, keeper talks, enrichment treats for bears and wolves, and an array of activities focused on what these animals need to survive in the wild and how we can all co-exist..

Approximately 25,000 black bears exist in Washington and fewer than 30 grizzly bears remain in the North Cascades and Selkirk Mountains. Biologists believe there may be as few as 10 individual grizzly bears in the Cascades.

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Woodland Park Zoo partners with the Grizzly Bear Outreach Project (GBOP), an independent project promoting an accurate understanding of grizzly bears and their recovery in the North Cascades Ecosystem through community education

and involvement. The GBOP is one of 38 field conservation projects that Woodland Park Zoo partners with in more than 50 countries around the world.

Bear Affair & Big Howl for Wolves is free with zoo admission. Summer admission: Adult (13–64) \$16.50; Child (3–12) \$11.00; Toddler (0–2) free. Seniors and people with disabilities receive a discount and zoo members receive free zoo admission year round.

Parking: \$5.00. Consider taking the bus, biking, walking or carpooling. Conserving resources is one more way of helping the animals. Call Metro at 206.553.3000 for bus service to the zoo and visit www.zoo.org for more information about Woodland Park Zoo.