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LOCATION:

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URL: <http://www.nwtrek.org>

ANIMALS:

Family:	Species:	Common Name:	Capacity:
Anatidae	<i>Cygnus cygnus buccinator</i>	trumpeter swan	4
Bovidae	<i>Bison bison</i>	bison	25
Bovidae	<i>Oreamnos americanus</i>	mountain goat	5
Bovidae	<i>Ovis canadensis californiana</i>	California bighorn sheep	25
Cervidae	<i>Alces alces</i>	moose	5
Cervidae	<i>Cervus elaphus roosevelti</i>	Roosevelt elk	30
Cervidae	<i>Odocoileus hemionus columbianus</i>	blacktail deer	25
Cervidae	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	caribou	25

DESCRIPTION: Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, owned by Metro Parks Tacoma, opened to the public in July 1975 to offer the public, especially children, the opportunity to see and learn about native wildlife in a natural setting. The Free Roaming Area Exhibit located in the heart of the park encompasses 176 hectares of rolling landscape with native forest, meadows, wetlands, ponds, creeks and two lakes.

SIZE: The Free Roaming Area Exhibit encompasses 176 hectares.

COSTS: \$US 500,000 including 5 % for design. The Free Roaming Area Exhibit was part of the original \$2,600,000 cost for the development of Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. The funds were provided by a public bond issue passed by Metro Parks Tacoma in 1973.

OPENING DATE: 17 July 1975

DESIGN: Beginning: March 1971

* Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design: Jones and Jones, Seattle

* Architecture, Design: TRA, Seattle

CONSTRUCTION: Beginning: October 1973

* support structures: Leo Finnegan, Tacoma, WA

* site surveying: Sitts and Hill, Tacoma, WA

* other Trek exhibit construction: CemRock, Tucson, Arizona

FEATURES DEDICATED TO ANIMALS: The array of varied and appropriate habitats in the free roaming area offers the various animal species displayed continuous access to elements of their natural environs year round.

FEATURES DEDICATED TO KEEPERS: Keepers use a designated truck to negotiate the asphalt road system, gravel paths, or to go off-road where

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appropriate and possible. The truck enables the keeper to deposit pelleted grain and alfalfa hay throughout the Free Roaming Area, transport veterinary teams and immobilized animals, remove excess hay, or pull trailers in and out.

FEATURES DEDICATED TO VISITORS: Tram tours of the Free Roaming Area Exhibit are available, without additional charge, to every visitor paying admission to the park. The naturalist-narrated tours last 55 minutes and take visitors over a 9 kilometer asphalt road system winding through the 176 hectare exhibit. The road was laid out to pass by the animals' favourite spots and the most outstanding viewpoints of the park.

INTERPRETATION: The tram drivers are all trained naturalists who interpret the wildlife in view, explaining their characteristics and behaviors.

MANAGEMENT: The free roaming area is managed as a mixed species exhibit with all animals portraying the natural state of native wildlife as closely as possible in terms of herd structure and behavior. The principal display species are all individually identified and tracked by the keeper on a daily basis to insure they are active, alert, and behaving normally. A park veterinarian implements a nutrition and preventative medicine program, as well as emergency care for critically ill or injured animals. All managed animals are provided a supplemental diet as well as access to natural forage. Maintenance of all park grounds and facilities are carried out by Trek's in-house maintenance department.

RESEARCH: There is no research scientist on staff, but collaboration with university and government researchers in place. Students may submit approved, minimally invasive research protocols that can be accommodated within the existing animal management structure.

CONSERVATION: The Free Roaming Area Exhibit tour narration provided by park naturalists addresses the wild status of animal species observed in the exhibit and suggests ways that the public can become more involved in efforts to conserve and protect all native wildlife. The park also provides a "Conservation Awareness" program to all park visitors in the Core Area on a daily basis as a part of its Animal Presentation Program.