

A close-up photograph of a tiger's face, showing its distinctive orange and black stripes and a focused, amber-colored eye. The tiger is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its head slightly turned. The background is a soft-focus green forest, suggesting a natural habitat. The overall mood is serene yet powerful.

CAT TALES RELOCATION MASTER PLAN

A NEW ANIMAL CONSERVATION CAMPUS FOR SPOKANE

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PLANNING PARTICIPANTS

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UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture

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Special thanks to

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Zac Caruolo, RLA *Associate, CLR Design*



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT STATEMENT

Surpassing its current site in both space and longevity, Cat Tales Wildlife Center in Spokane, Washington, is in need of a new location and a corresponding master plan to invigorate its fundraising efforts. This project involved close collaboration with Cat Tales' directors to conceptualize a visionary new zoological campus, developed through a landscape architectural framework. The new master plan prioritizes best-in-class care for its animals, zookeepers, and visitors, underscoring the center's commitment to animal conservation and the assurance of its future.

“In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.”

-Baba Dioum

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

Cat Tales Wildlife Center has been providing a safe haven for big cats and other wildlife for over 30 years. At just three acres, the current site is too small to meet the needs of the animals, and there is no room for expansion. Additionally, the facility does not meet the standards set by the Zoological Association of America (ZAA), which sets the benchmark for animal welfare and care. Therefore, the relocation of the zoo is necessary to provide adequate living conditions for the animals as well as to create a better experience for visitors.

The relocation of the zoo would not only benefit the animals but also the Spokane community. The current facility is not equipped to provide

visitors with a real zoo experience, and many Spokane residents are looking for a larger, more comprehensive zoological institution. A new zoo would provide a unique opportunity to educate the community about animal welfare and conservation, as well as providing an enjoyable experience for families and tourists.

The new master plan document for the zoo is an excellent way to build momentum for the project and can be a catalyst for a successful capital funding campaign. With a new, larger facility, the zoo can attract more visitors and generate more revenue, which can be used to expand and improve the zoo even further. In addition, a new zoo would create jobs and stimulate economic

growth in the surrounding community.

The relocation of Cat Tales Wildlife Center to a new, larger facility would provide a better living environment for the animals, create a real zoo experience for visitors, benefit the Spokane community, and create economic growth opportunities. The current site is inadequate and does not meet the standards set by professional industry associations. The new master plan is an excellent way to generate support and funding for the project, and the relocation of the zoo would be a positive step forward for animal welfare, conservation, and the greater Spokane community.



CAT TALES' HISTORY

Cat Tales Zoological Park, founded in 1991 by Mike and Debbie Wyche, is a wildlife sanctuary and educational institution dedicated to the rescue and protection of big cats and other wildlife in Spokane, Washington. This non-profit charity, registered with the Secretary of the State of Washington and granted 501(c)3 status by the IRS in 1991, has a rich history of growth and transformation.

In its early days, Cat Tales was a modest endeavor with just four cats and tours conducted within the founders' house. The gift shop, located in the living room, featured wildlife photos adorning the walls. Over time, the sanctuary began to evolve, incorporating a dedicated team of volunteers who received training in the care of big cats and educational tour guidance.

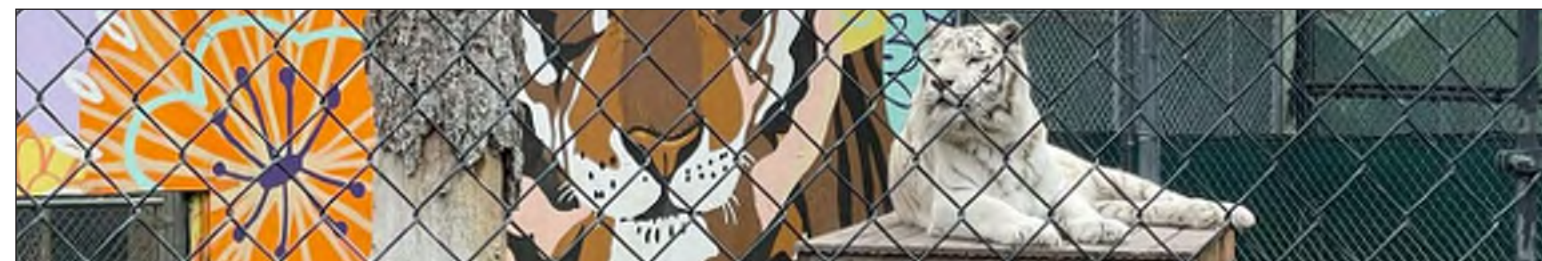
Word of Cat Tales spread across the United States, leading to an increased focus on rescuing cats and other animals from private ownership. By 1993, the sanctuary had expanded its family to include various big cats, including tigers, pumas, leopards, and more.

Fast-forwarding to 2016, Cat Tales had become home to 36 big cats, including lions, tigers, leopards, bobcats, and black bears. Additionally, various non-feline animals found refuge at the sanctuary, contributing to the education of students in the zoo school program.

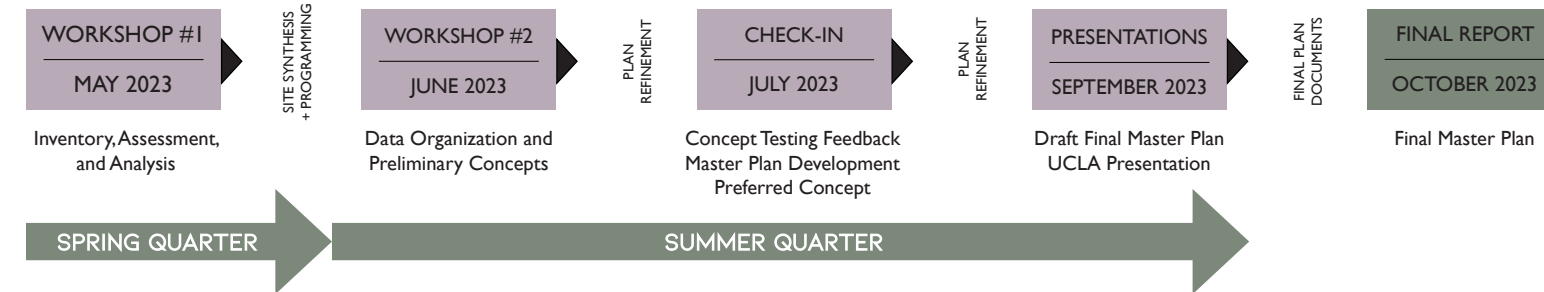
As of 2019, Cat Tales marked nearly three decades of compassionate animal care. The sanctuary's mission had evolved, emphasizing its role as a nonprofit Big Cat Sanctuary and Wildlife Rescue. The organization adapted to changing times by restructuring its messaging while continuing to provide sanctuary and education.

One significant milestone was the establishment of the Cat Tales Wildlife Academy, a vocational and zoological technology school, recognized by the Workforce Training and Education Board. Graduates of this program found employment opportunities within the international zoological community.

Cat Tales remains a beacon of hope and education, rescuing animals from challenging circumstances and sharing their stories to inspire support for wildlife conservation.



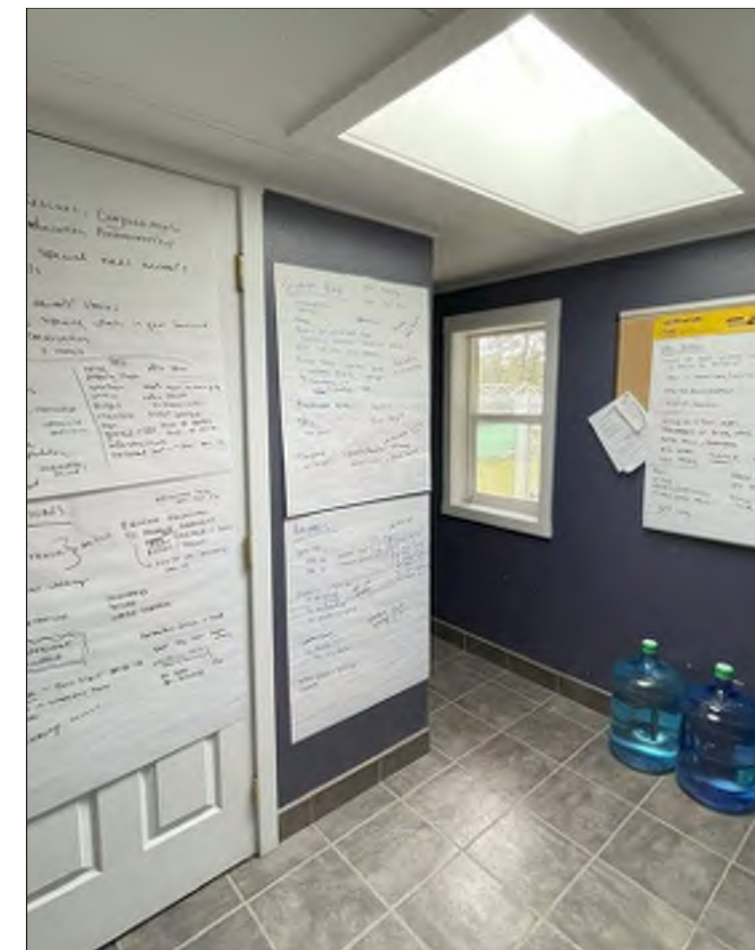
PLANNING PROCESS



Led by Megan Clermont as part of her Capstone Project at UCLA Extension's Landscape Architecture program, two interactive workshops gave Cat Tales' executive team, staff, and zookeeper students an opportunity to think critically and creatively about campus-wide needs, big picture vision and the role that Cat Tales will play as a regional attraction. This seven-month process began in April 2023, coinciding with Spring Quarter at UCLA. The first workshop was held the following month to understand the needs and

goals of the Wildlife Center. An additional workshop and check-ins meeting focused on concept testing by way of plans, sketches, imagery, and narratives to thoroughly vet ideas. Megan presented these concepts to the workshop participants, documented feedback, and refined ideas for preparation of the final Master Plan Booklet in the Fall of 2023.

During the first workshop, the Planning Team identified the following Priorities and Mission Strengths that helped inform the direction of the Master Plan:



PRIORITIES

- *Mission: Wildlife Rescues, Compassionate Care, Education Ambassadorship*
- *Rejected, special needs animals, "misfits"*
- *Telling animals' stories*
- *Education of species, what's in your backyard, local Conservation*
- *Zoo School*

STRENGTHS

- *Up-close encounters*
- *Personal experience*
- *Guest relations, interaction*
- *Not "fake"*
- *Transparency*
- *Community Outreach*
- *Animal Choice*
- *Reputation of Zoo School*
- *Beautiful murals*
- *Adaptable*
- *Family-oriented*
- *Inspection record*



SITE ANALYSIS

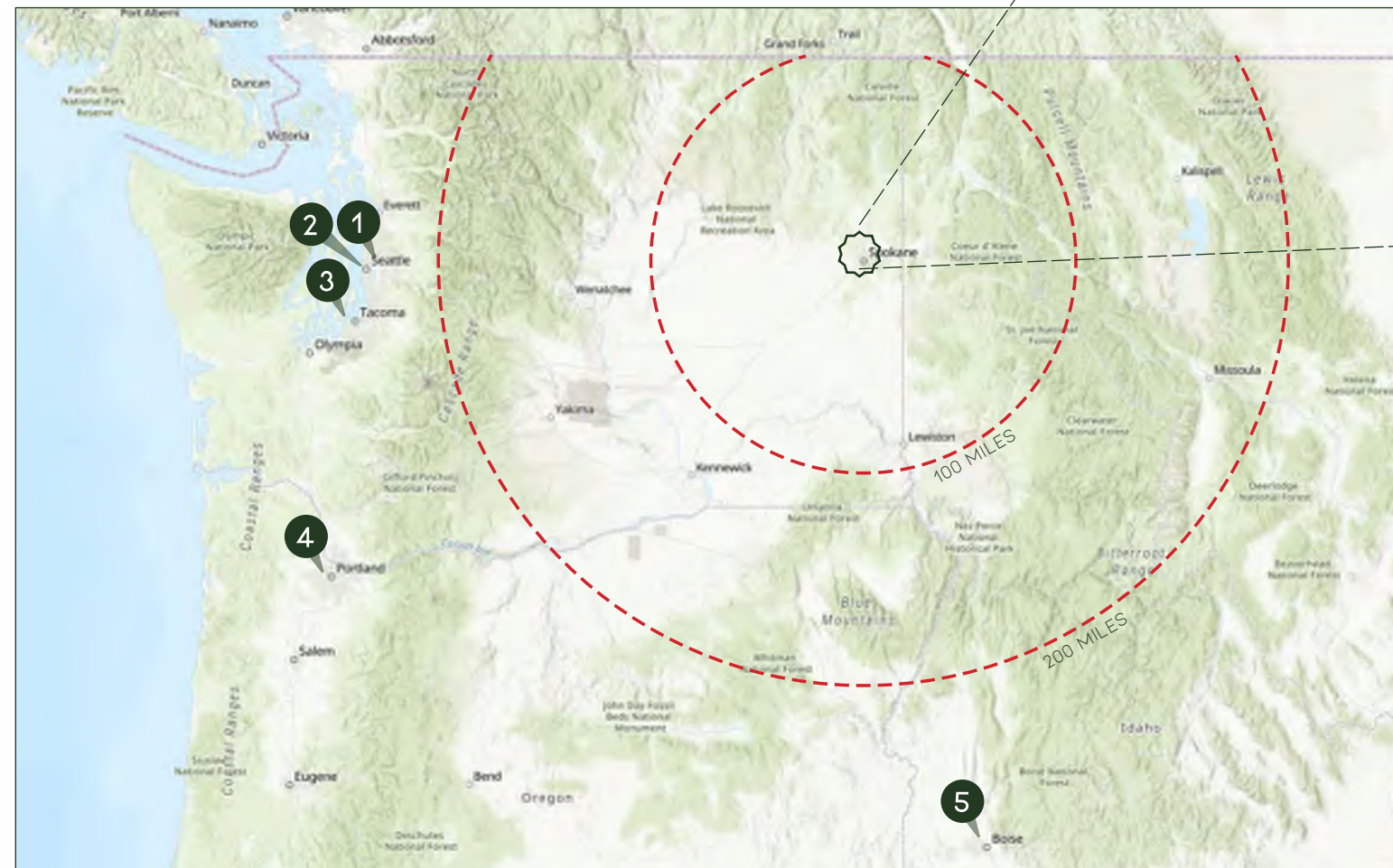
REGIONAL CONTEXT

Cat Tales Wildlife Center holds a distinctive position in the heart of the Inland Northwest, standing alone as the sole zoological institution within a 200-mile radius of Spokane, Washington. This unique geographical setting grants Cat Tales a remarkable opportunity to shape its mission and offerings in a way that larger institutions, like Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle and Oregon Zoo in Portland, cannot replicate.

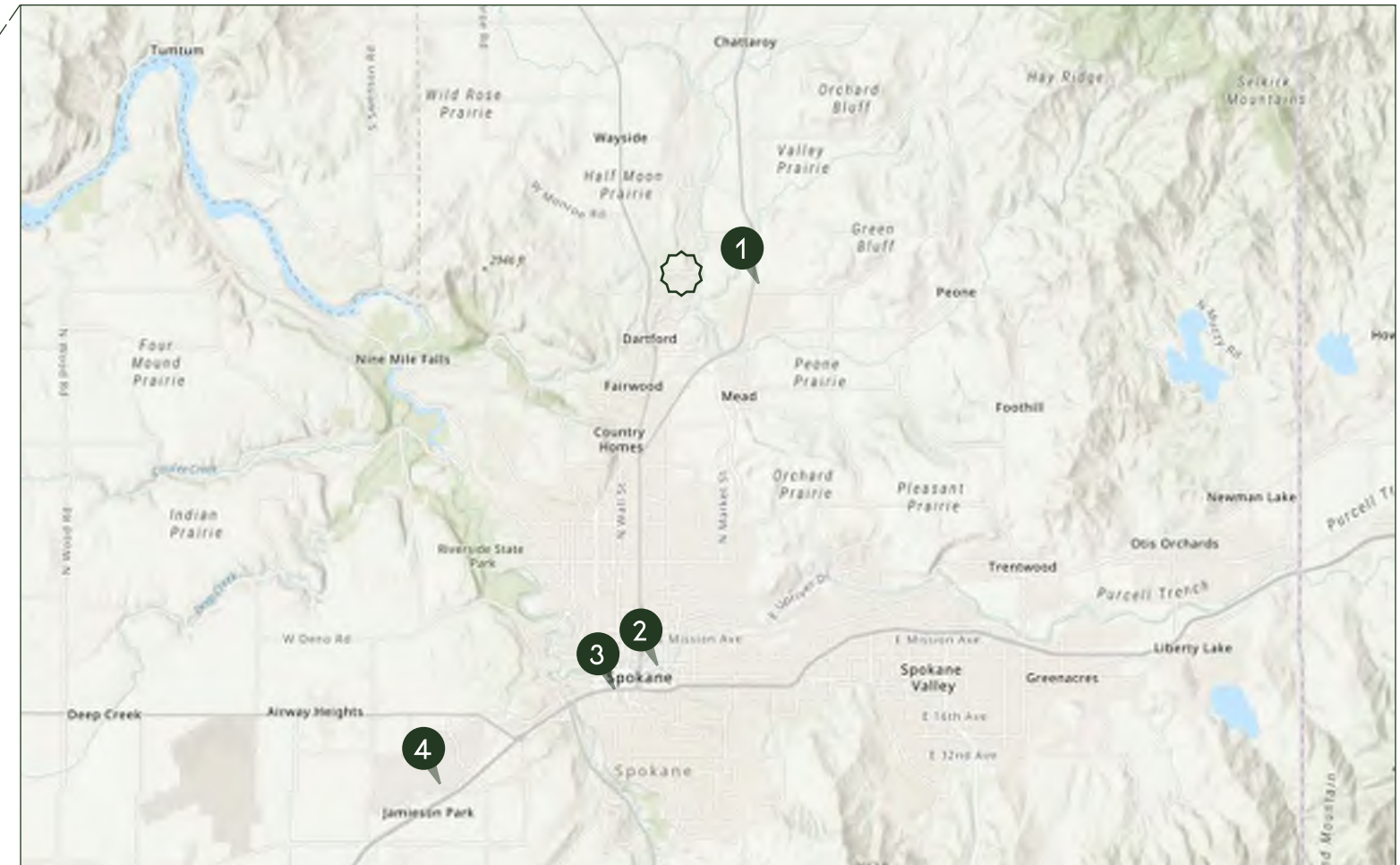
For many Inland Northwest residents, travel to larger zoos in cities like Seattle, Portland, or Boise can be challenging, if not impossible. Cat Tales thus becomes a cherished local destination, offering a unique opportunity for the community to experience wildlife up close and engage in educational programs and conservation efforts that might otherwise be out of reach. This intimate sanctuary plays an invaluable role in bringing the wonders of the animal kingdom to the doorstep of those who call the Inland Northwest home.



1. Woodland Park Zoo
2. Seattle Aquarium
3. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
4. Oregon Zoo
5. Zoo Boise



LOCAL CONTEXT



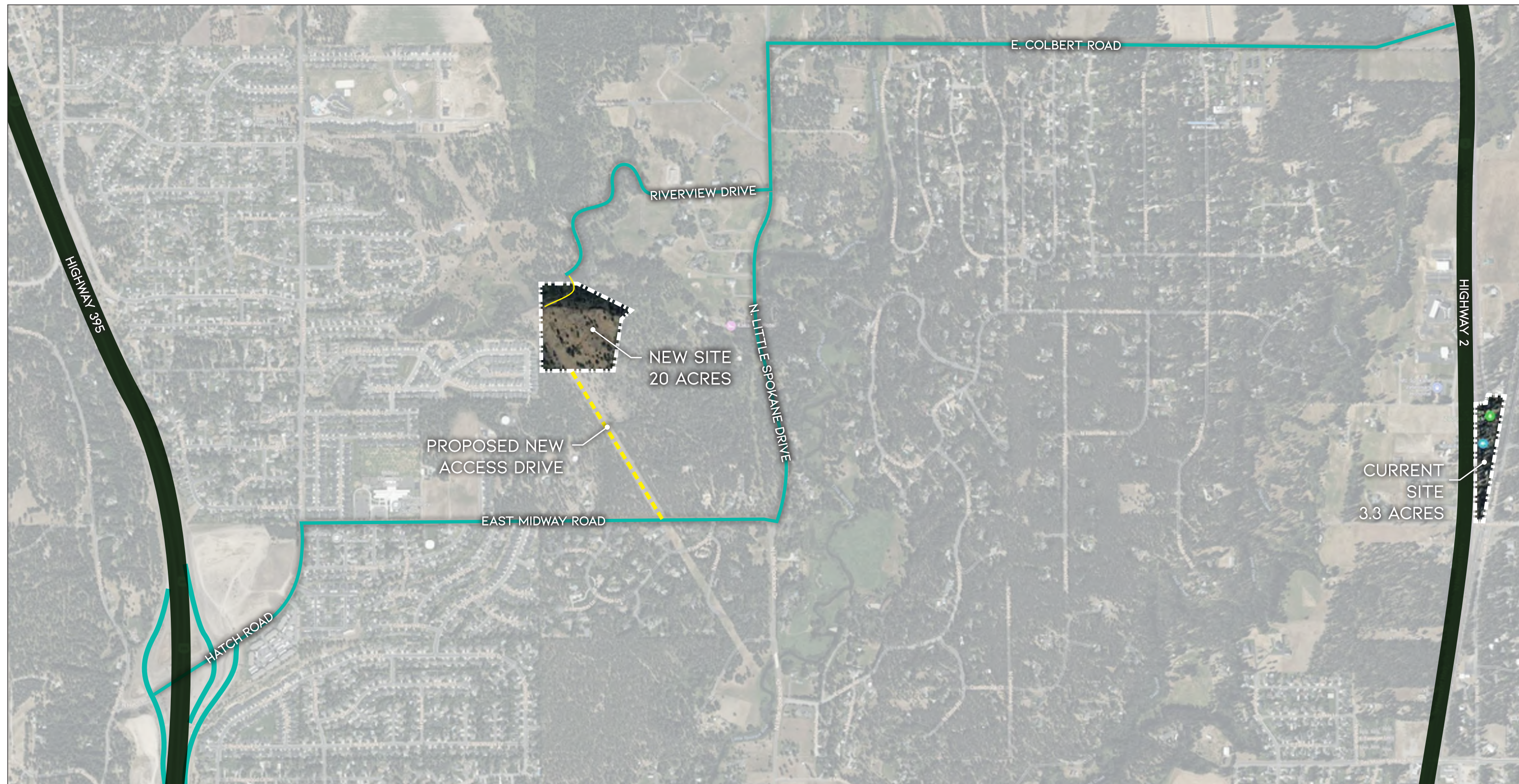
Cat Tales Wildlife Center is nestled in a unique local context, situated just a short drive from Spokane, Washington. Despite its proximity to the city, Cat Tales provides a serene escape from urban life. Located within the metro Spokane area about 10 miles north of city limits, the Wildlife Center is easily accessible from the city's bustling downtown and iconic landmarks.

Spokane, known for its vibrant arts scene, downtown Riverfront Park, and Gonzaga University, is a hub of culture and activity in the Inland Northwest. Spokane International Airport, serving as a gateway to the region, places Cat Tales Wildlife Center in a prime position for tourists and travelers looking to explore both the city's downtown core and the area's natural wonders. Cat Tales a cherished local destination that offers the opportunity to explore the sanctuary, learn about wildlife conservation, and provide a vital link between urban life and the wild.

1. Existing Site
2. Gonzaga University
3. Downtown Core
4. Spokane International Airport

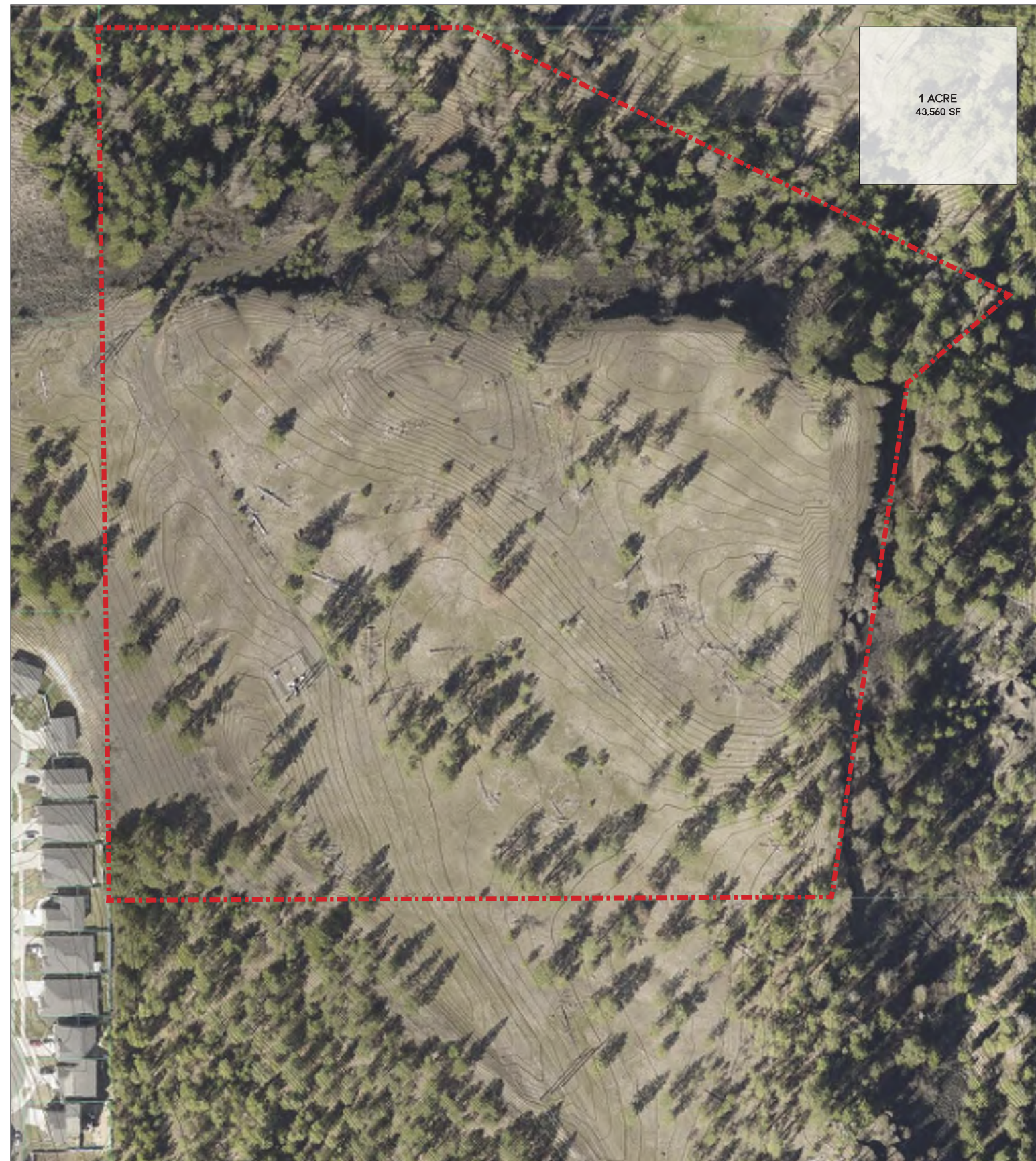
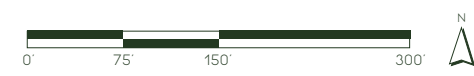


SURROUNDING CONTEXT

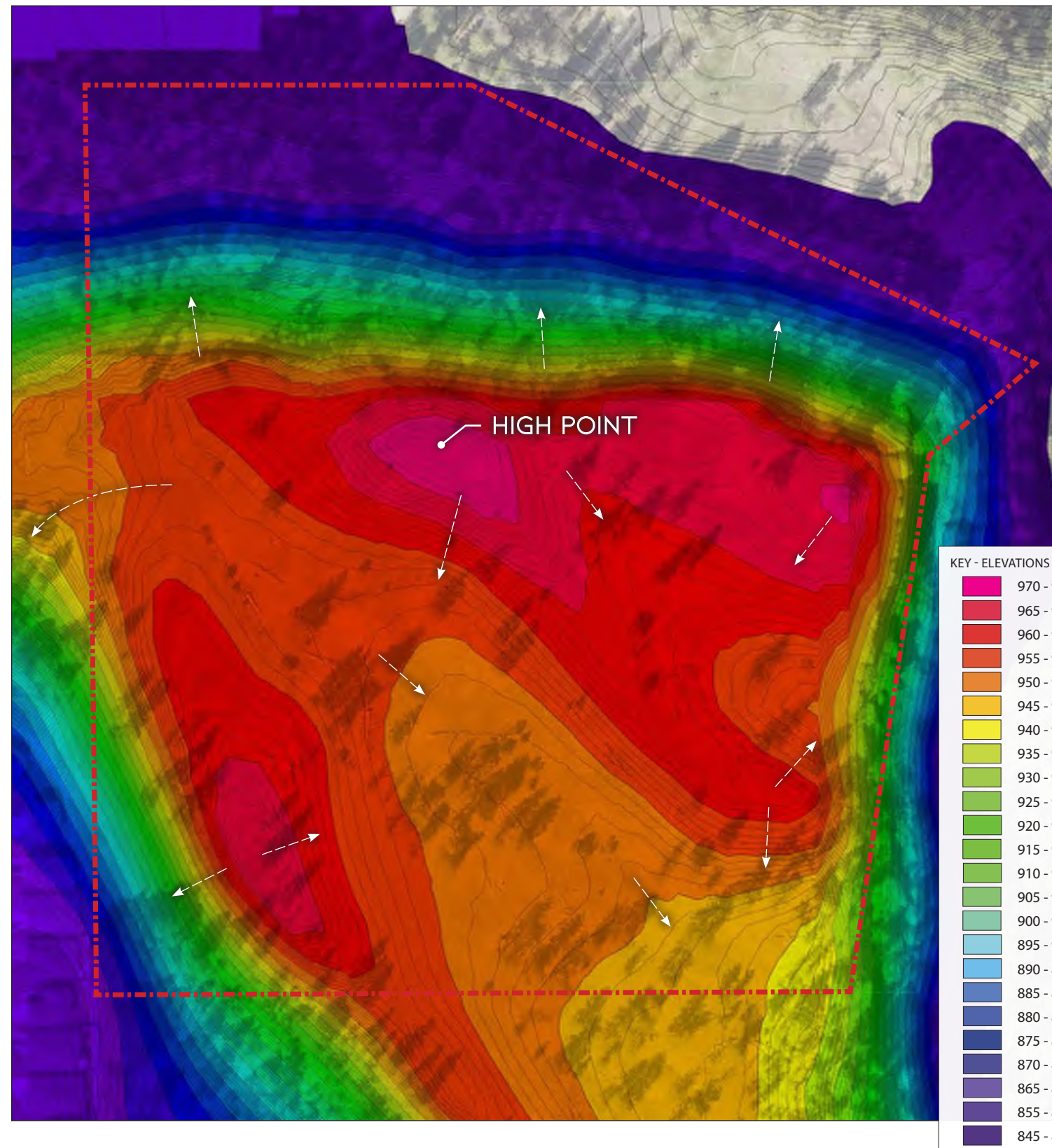


SITE OVERVIEW

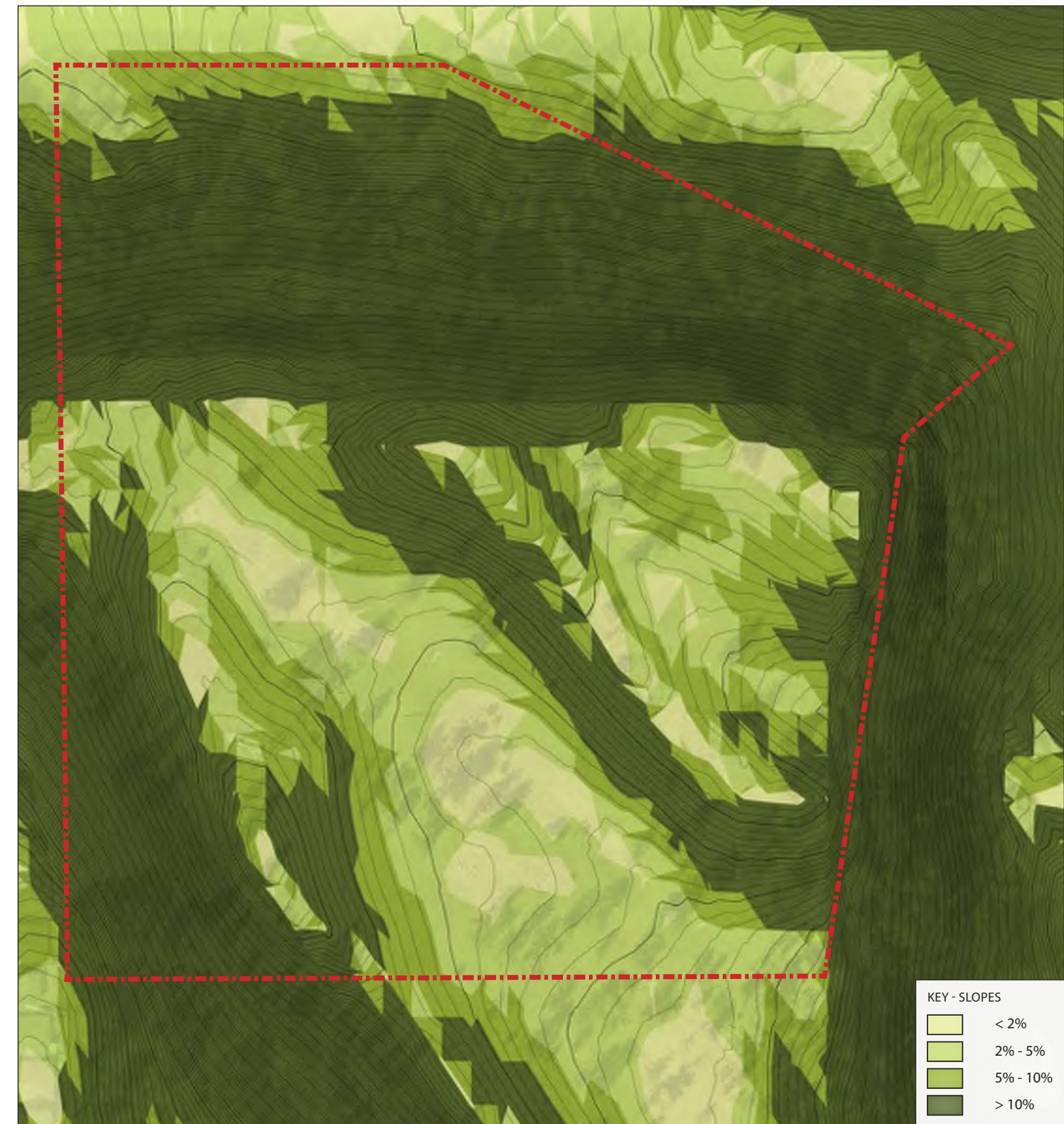
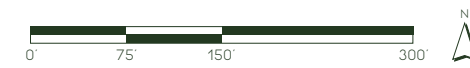
Situated at the top of a mesa, this dramatic property offers an ideal location for the new Cat Tales Wildlife Center. Its tall escarpments provide natural security and isolation from the community while still being easily accessible and close to major roads. Stunning 360° views will provide an incredible backdrop for new animal exhibits, and the top of the mesa has enough topographical variation to provide interest without being overly challenging to manage.



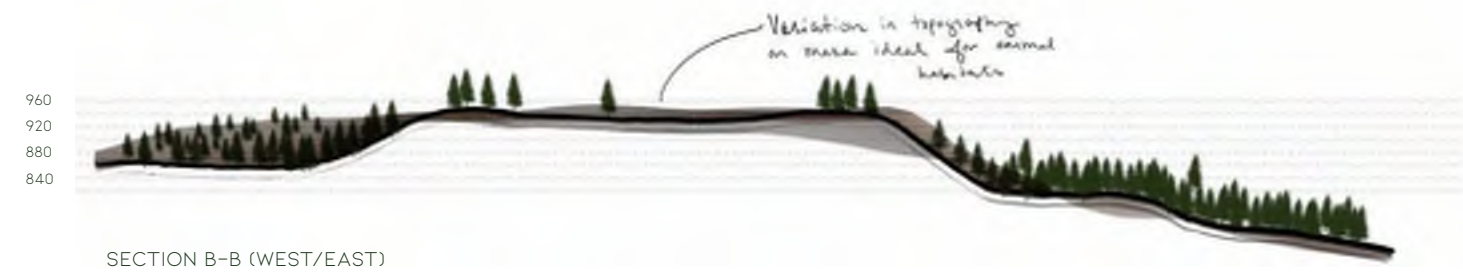
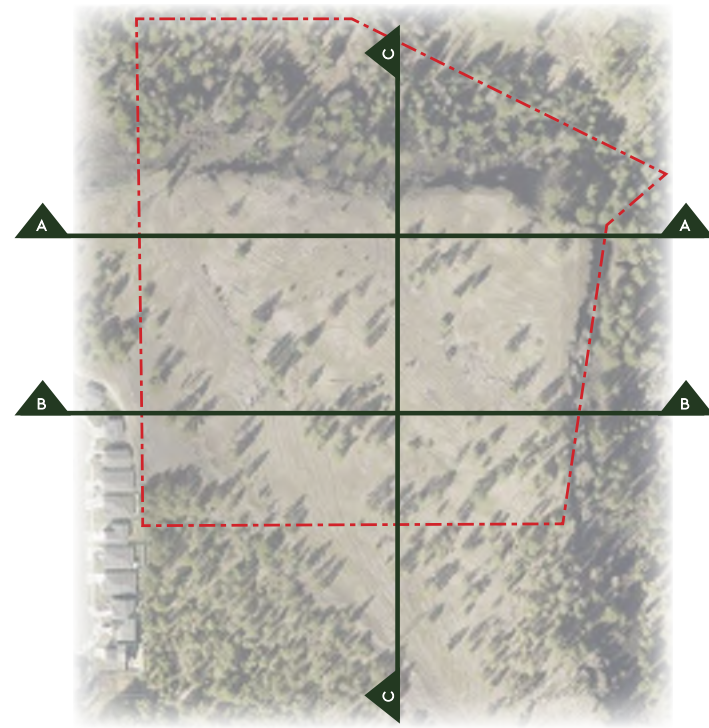
ELEVATION ANALYSIS



SLOPE ANALYSIS

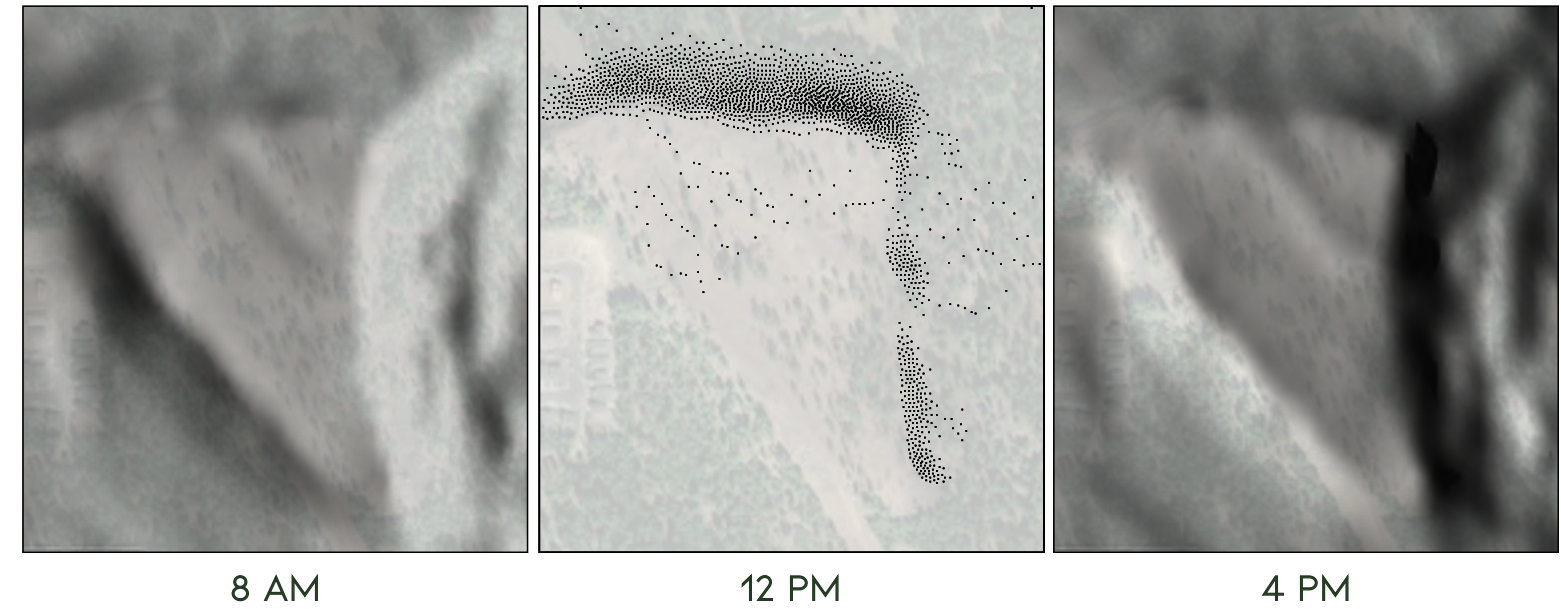


SITE SECTIONS



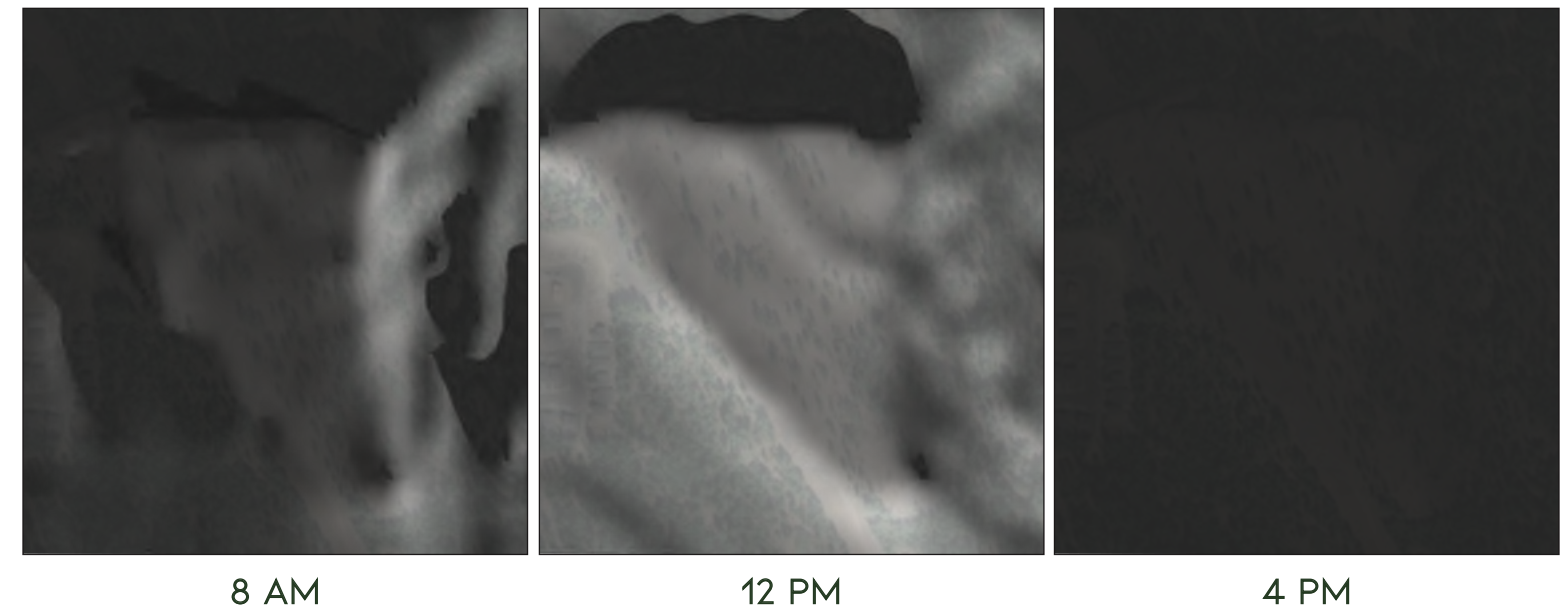
SHADE ANALYSIS

JUNE 21



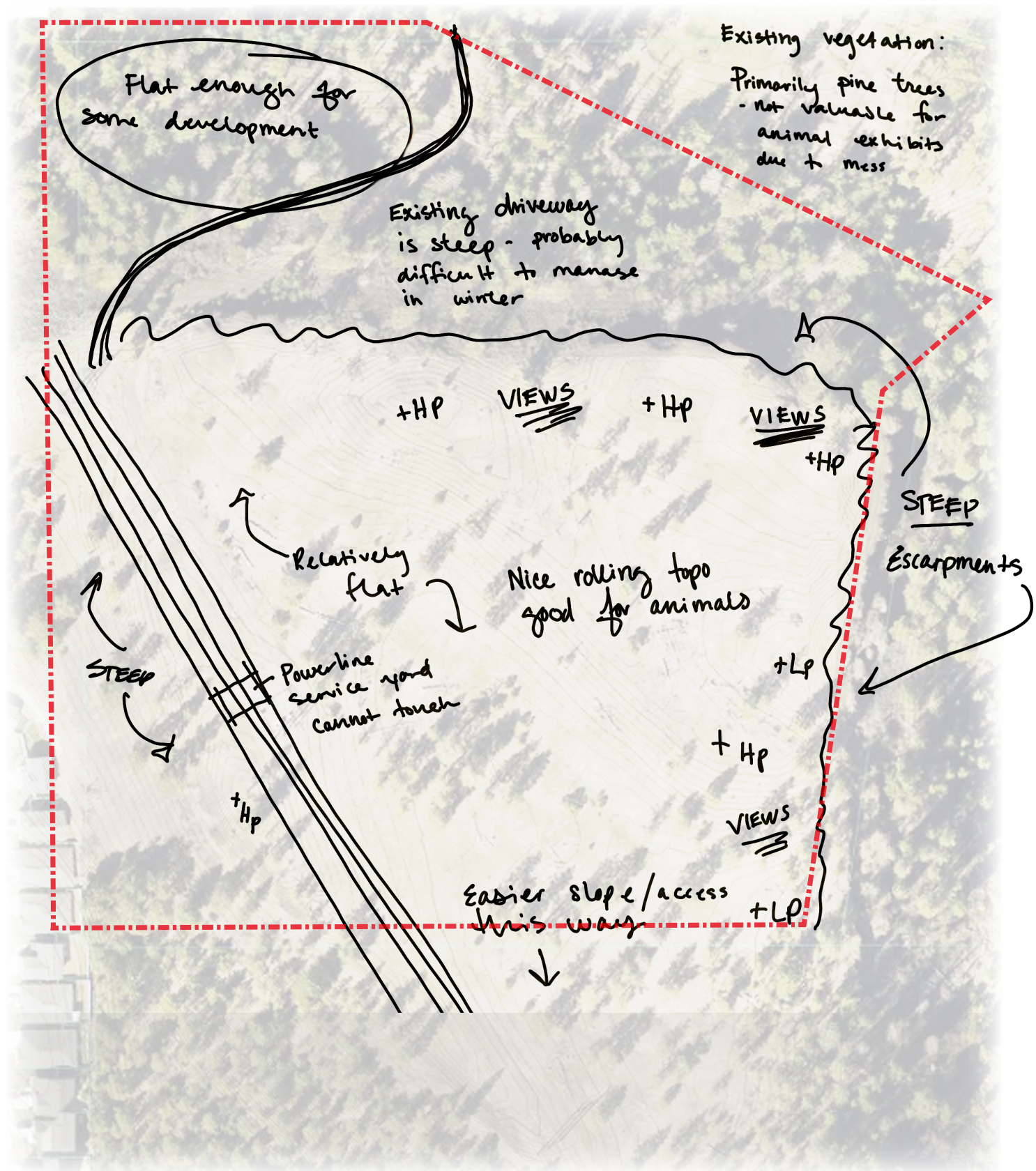
FINDINGS: *Being an elevated plateau, the proposed site will have high sun exposure in the summer and will require significant planning for shade and heat mitigation to ensure the comfort of animals, guests, and keepers.*

DECEMBER 21

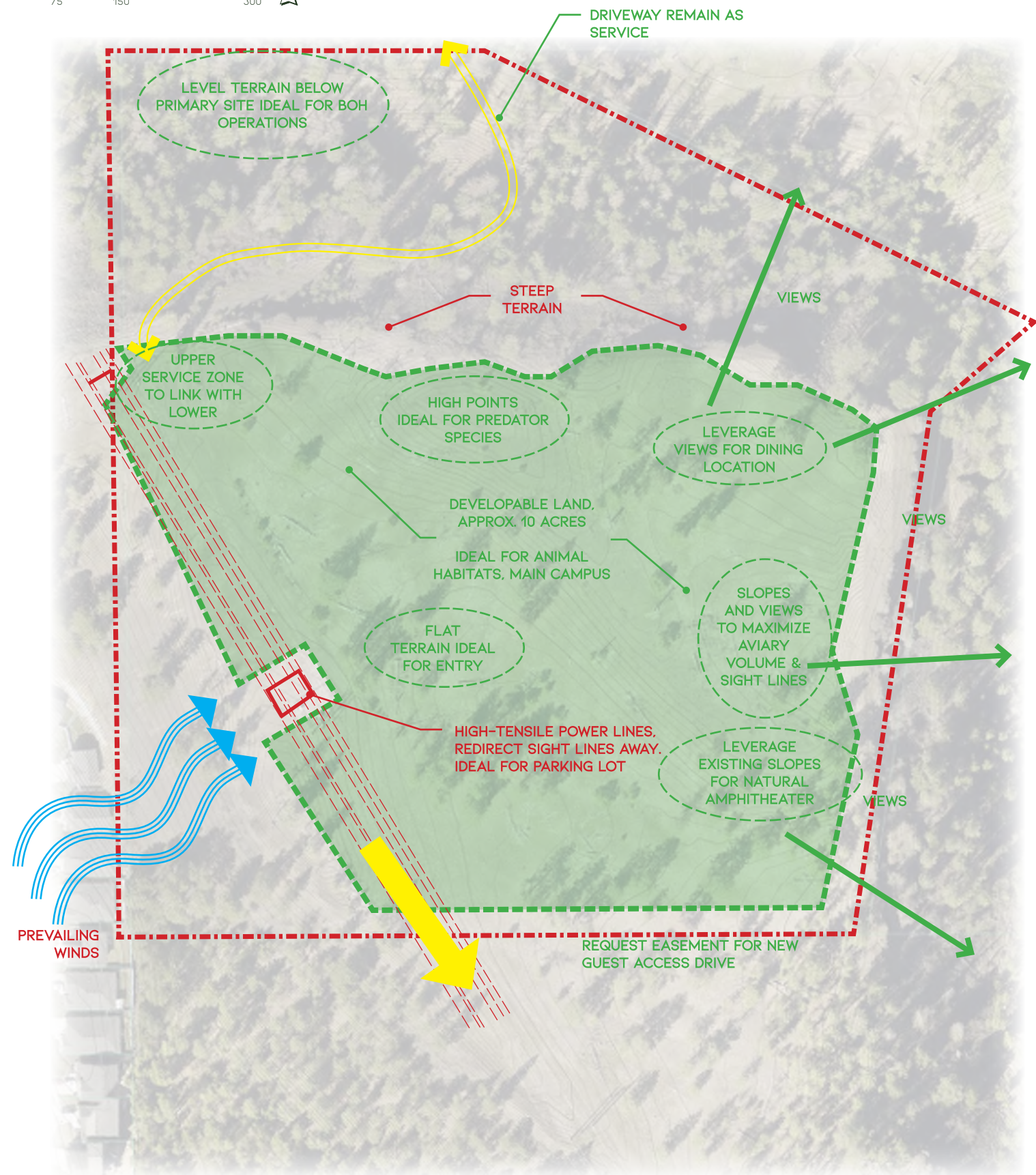


FINDINGS: *With limited daylight in winter, the plateau could prove an advantage in getting much needed winter sun. However, site lighting, particularly on the north end at the base of the plateau, will be an important design consideration.*

FIELD NOTES



OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS





DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



PROJECT GOALS



ANIMAL CONSERVATION

Provide modern, expanded animal habitats to provide best-in-class care for rescued, non-releasable, and "misfit" exotic animals



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

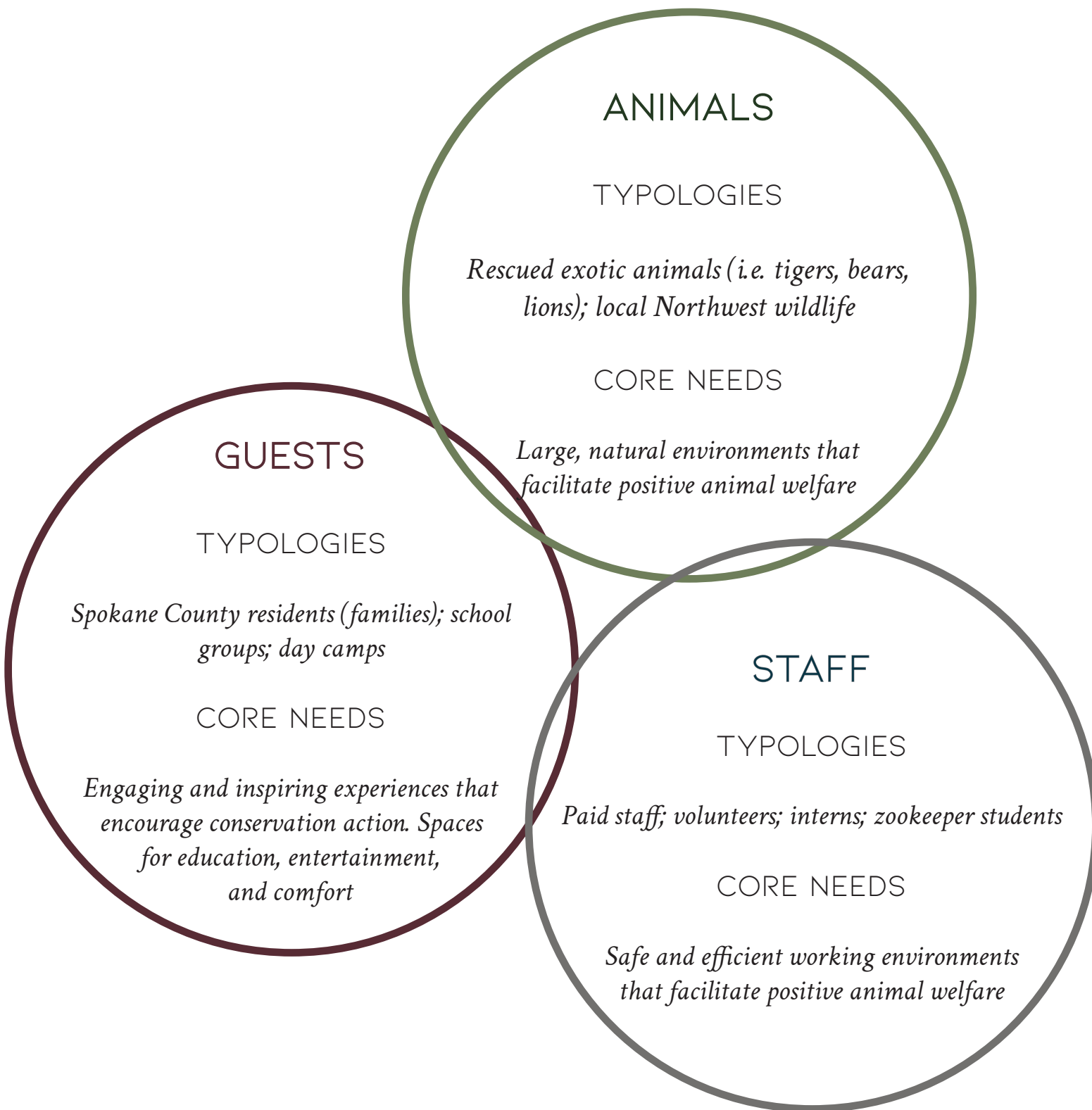
Share animals' stories and local conservation messaging with the community



SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable and fully integrated campus ecology solutions for increased self-sufficiency

CORE USER GROUPS & NEEDS



ANIMALS

- *Black Bears*
- *Bobcats*
- *Canada Lynx*
- *Coyotes*
- *Foxes*
- *Pumas*
- *Raccoons*
- *Servals*
- *Bengal Tigers*
- *Siberian Tigers*
- *White Tigers*
- *Wolfdogs*

STAFF

Paid Staff

Three core staff members.

Interns

Unpaid positions designed for those studying biology, zoology, and/or wildlife management. Work alongside animal care staff, students, and volunteers in closer proximity to the animals.

Volunteers

16 years and up (18 for animal care) with a minimum commitment of 1 day per week. Positions in all departments, including administration, guest services, maintenance, animal diet/food preparation, and animal care.

STUDENTS

Cat Tales Wildlife Academy

The Wildlife Academy is licensed by the Workforce Training and Education Board as a vocational trade school specializing in employable Zookeeper skills. Students from across the globe attend a 24- or 48-week program to learn how to manage the feeding and caring of exotic animals. Cat Tales educates and trains some of the most talented and professional zoological staff who find successful jobs throughout the international zoological community.

VISITORS

Spokane County Residents

Population of approximately 550,000, zoo visitors are typically diverse in terms of demographics but primarily include families with young children. The community is relatively rural, blue collar, and appreciative of nature and the great outdoors.

School Groups

School tours (K-12), summer camps (K - 7)

STAKEHOLDERS

Cat Tales Board of Directors

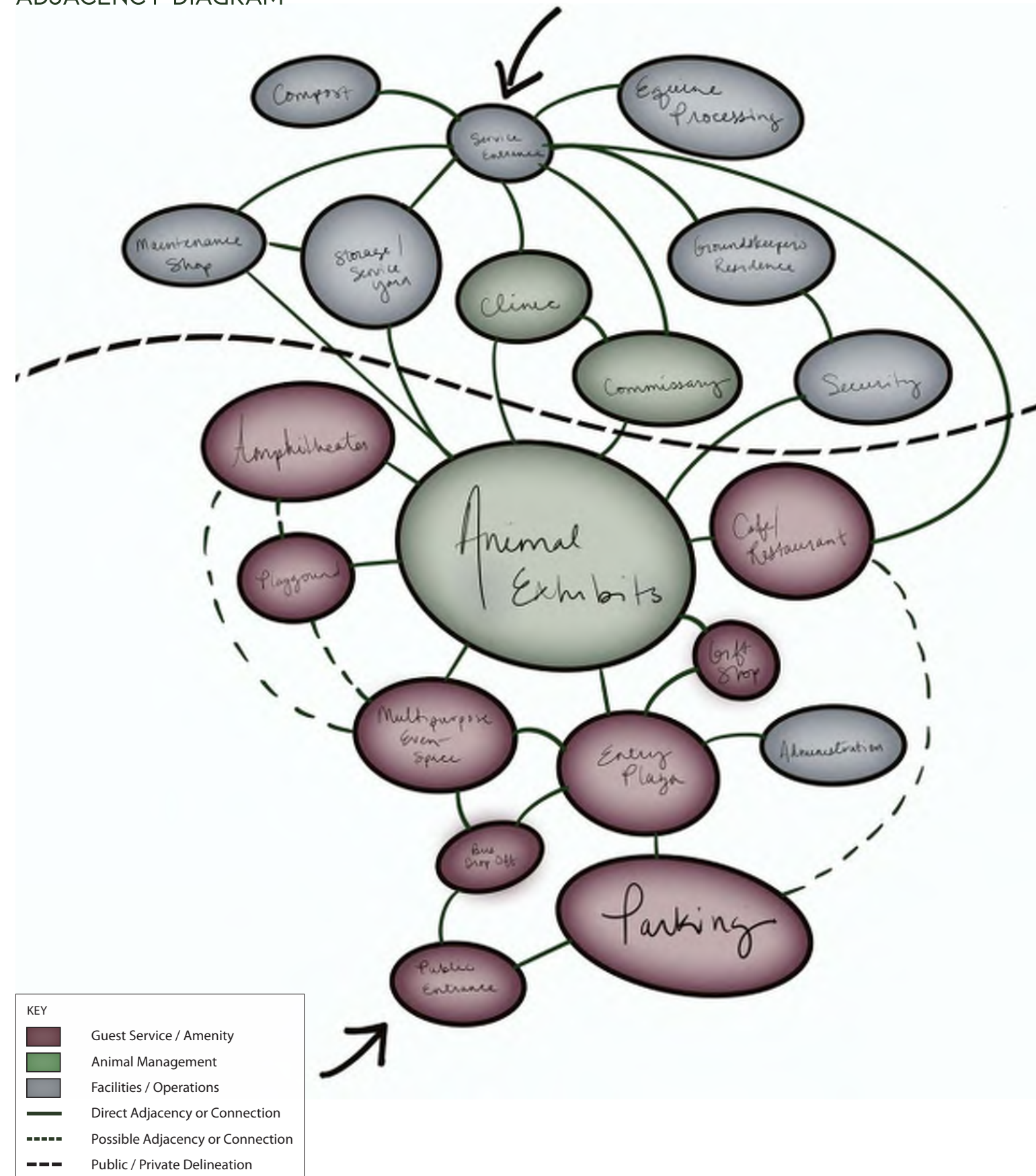
The Board provides oversight of Cat Tales programs and the organization's financial health. As dedicated volunteers, they are an essential part of their leadership team and their efforts to responsibly raise funds and awareness.

PROGRAM

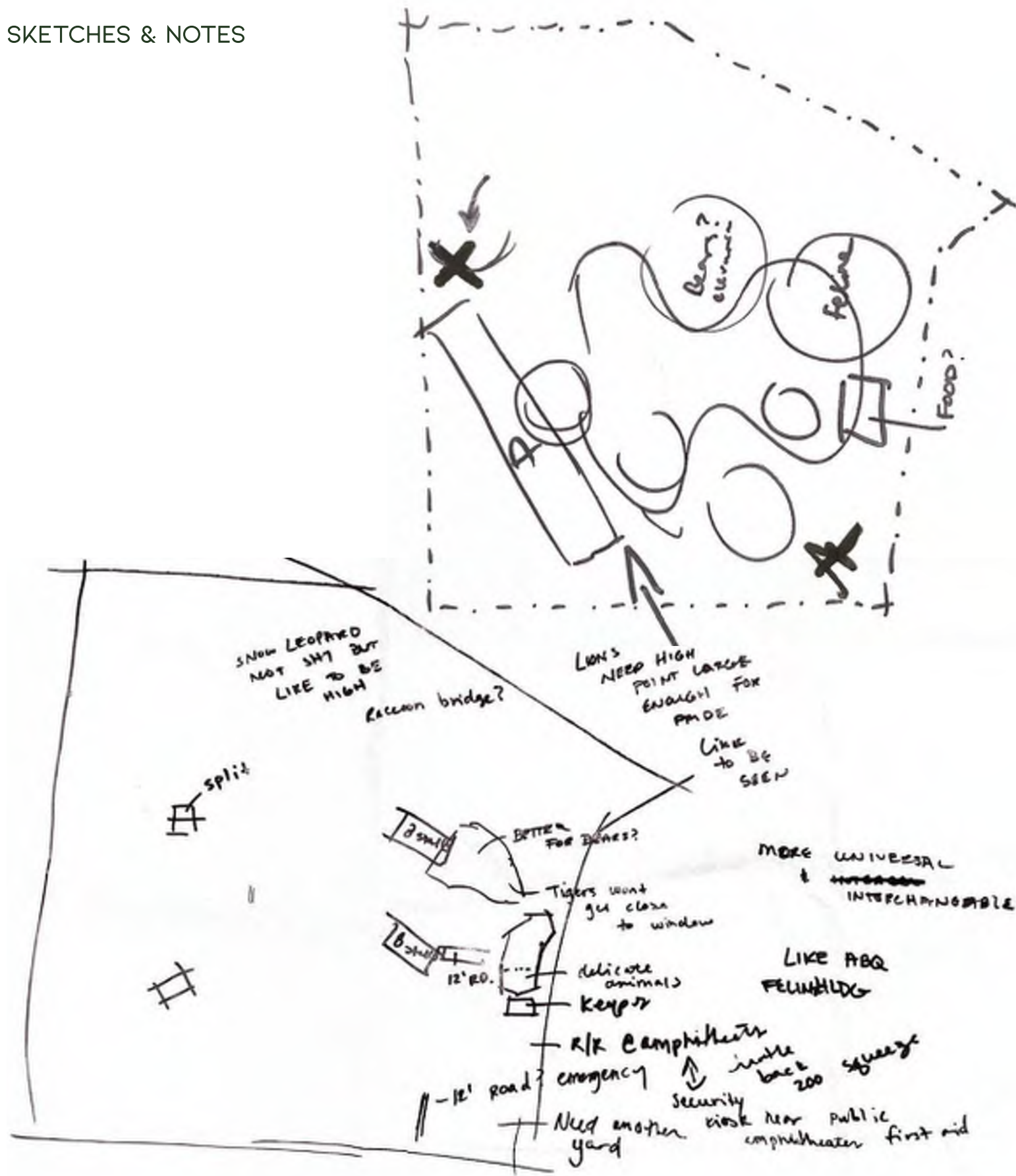
HABITATS & ANIMAL MANAGEMENT	
Habitats, Animal Management, Off-Exhibit Yards	
Large Felines	1.5 acre
Small Felines	.5 acre
Canines	.5 acre
Bears	.5 acre
River Otter	2,500 SF
Beaver	2,500 SF
Aviary	5,000 SF
Hoofstock	.5 acre
<hr/>	
Commissary "Zooplex"	1,600 SF
Clinic	1,000 SF
<hr/>	
4 acres	
<hr/>	
GUEST EXPERIENCE	
Parking	35,000 SF
Entry Plaza	.5 acre
Cafe/Restaurant	1,000 SF
Playground/Splash	.5 acre
Amphitheater	2,500 SF
Multipurpose Space	3,400 SF
Events/Rentals	
Classrooms	
<hr/>	
2 acres	

OPERATIONS	
Commissary	1,600 SF
Clinic	1,000 SF
General Administration	1,000 SF
Maintenance Shop	3,000 SF
Equipment Storage	2,000 SF
General Storage	3,200 SF
Equine Processing	2,000 SF
Compost	1,000 SF
Browse Garden	5,000 SF
Groundskeeper's Residence	1,400 SF
<hr/>	
1 acre	

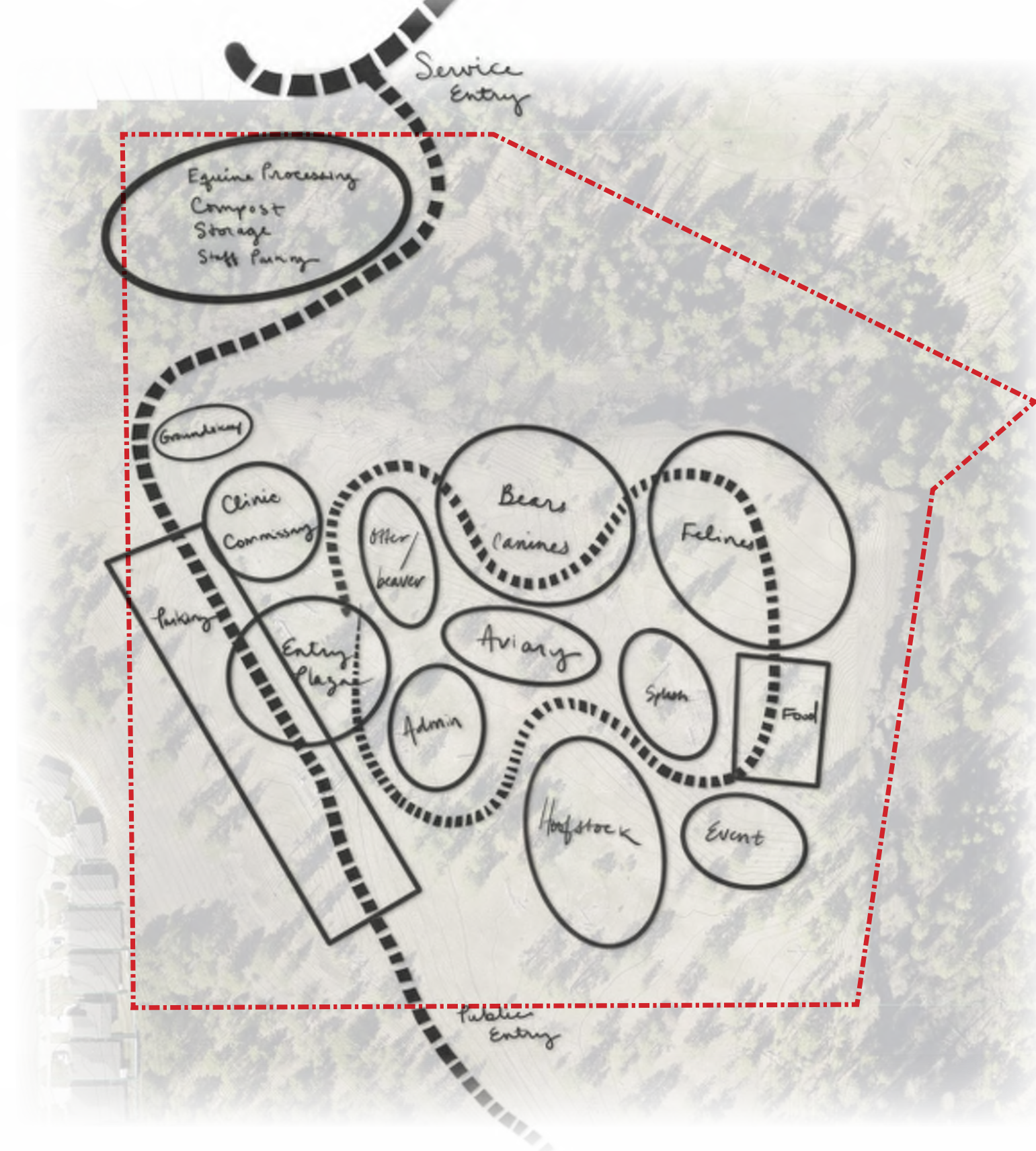
ADJACENCY DIAGRAM



SKETCHES & NOTES



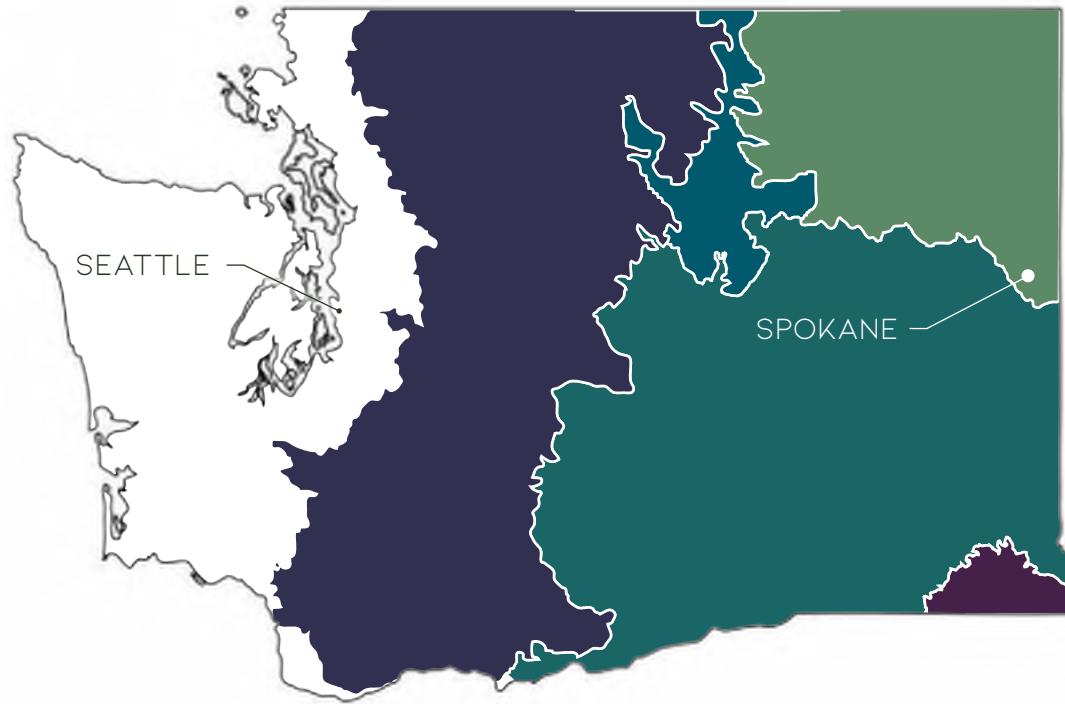
PRELIMINARY BUBBLE DIAGRAM



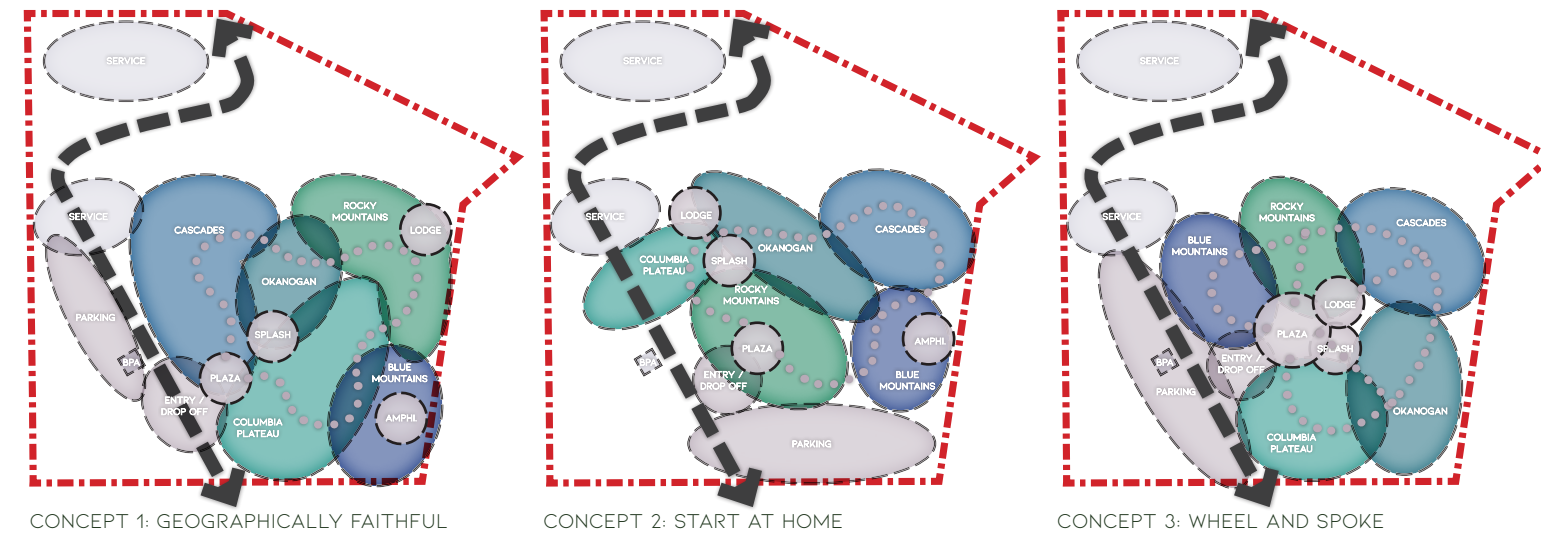
DESIGN METAPHOR

A Journey Through Eastern Washington

A pathway through a series of habitat transects representing Eastern Washington ecoregions highlights local wildlife conservation messaging while showcasing the adaptability of rescued exotic animals.



CONCEPT PLAN DEVELOPMENT



REFINED CONCEPT PLAN



KEY	
	Blue Mountains
	Cascades
	Okanogan
	Columbia Plateau
	Rocky Mountains



ACCESS PLAN

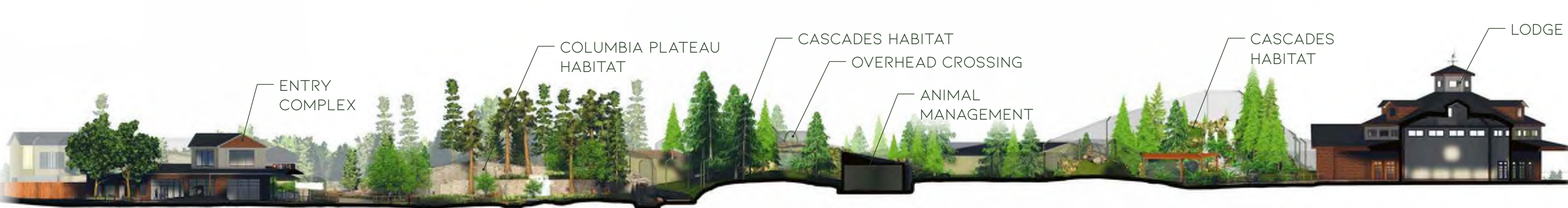


ILLUSTRATIVE CAMPUS PLAN





SECTION A-A, NTS



SECTION B-B, NTS



PROJECT CONCEPTS



ENTRY & PARKING

A generous entry plaza provides plenty of space and shade for safe drop-off and gathering prior to entering the zoo. The education building is has direct zoo-side access, which prevents crowding at the turnstiles from large school groups and programs. A cluster of guest amenity buildings are accessible without entering the Center, including restrooms, a gift shop, and a cafe.

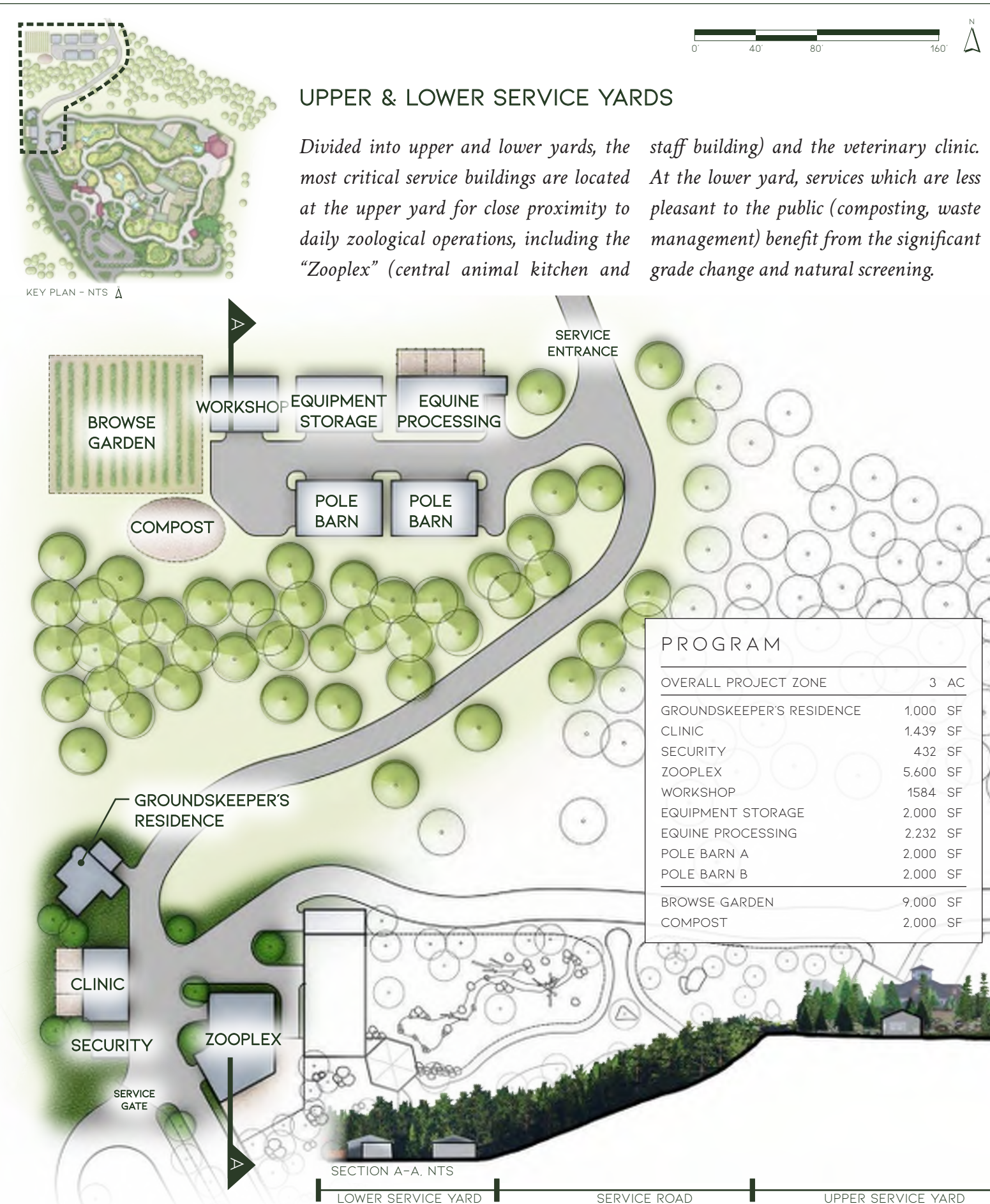
A water tower, part of the Center's sustainability initiative, is located on one of the site's high points with easy service access from the North or South.

PARKING ASSESSMENT

- 1) Design Day = 1% of annual attendance
- 2) Parking Demand = Design Day x 80% / 3.5 per car / 1.5 to 1.75 turnover

ANNUAL ATTENDANCE	DESIGN DAY	PARKING DEMAND
10,000	100	14 TO 16 SPACES
20,000	200	27 TO 31 SPACES
30,000	300	40 TO 46 SPACES
40,000	400	52 TO 61 SPACES
50,000	500	66 TO 77 SPACES

PROGRAM	
OVERALL PROJECT ZONE	2 AC
EDUCATION	2,723 SF
GIFT SHOP / CAFE	2,443 SF
TICKETING	270 SF
RESTROOMS	528 SF
PLAZA	7,300 SF
GENERAL PARKING	69 SP
BUS PARKING	7 SP



UPPER & LOWER SERVICE YARDS

Divided into upper and lower yards, the most critical service buildings are located at the upper yard for close proximity to daily zoological operations, including the "Zooplex" (central animal kitchen and staff building) and the veterinary clinic. At the lower yard, services which are less pleasant to the public (composting, waste management) benefit from the significant grade change and natural screening.

PROGRAM	
OVERALL PROJECT ZONE	3 AC
GROUNDKEEPER'S RESIDENCE	1,000 SF
CLINIC	1,439 SF
SECURITY	432 SF
ZOOPLEX	5,600 SF
WORKSHOP	1,584 SF
EQUIPMENT STORAGE	2,000 SF
EQUINE PROCESSING	2,232 SF
POLE BARN A	2,000 SF
POLE BARN B	2,000 SF
BROWSE GARDEN	9,000 SF
COMPOST	2,000 SF





IMAGE: MAGAZINE.WSU.EDU



IMAGE: IINSPLASH.COM



IMAGE: INATURALST.ORG



IMAGE: CANYONRIVER.NET



COLUMBIA PLATEAU

IMAGE: WASHINGTONISFORADVENTURE.COM



KEY PLAN - NTS

Characterized by vast, arid plateaus and deep canyons, the Columbia Plateau ecoregion features sagebrush steppe, grasslands, and unique basalt rock formations. This semi-arid region experiences hot summers and cold winters, with limited precipitation.

At Cat Tales, this region is where the visitor journey begins. Upon passing through the turnstiles, guests are greeted with a panoramic view of the large hoofstock exhibit, which features characteristic basalt formations and a dramatic waterfall, inspired by the Palouse Falls. Pronghorn, mule deer, and bighorn sheep are all possible species within this habitat.

The stream course spills over into the adjacent splash pad, where children can play on rock formations and splash through geysers, while possibly getting a chance to play hide and seek with a neighboring otter!

A smaller habitat to the left of the entry plaza is an ideal location for smaller canines such as the red or gray fox.



BIGHORN SHEEP



MULE DEER



PRONGHORN



GRAY FOX



RED FOX



SECTION A-A. NTS

PLAZA

COLUMBIA PLATEAU HABITAT

SERVICE ROAD

CASCADES HABITAT

PROGRAM	
OVERALL PROJECT ZONE	0.7 AC
SPLASH PAD	2,500 SF
HOOFSTOCK HABITAT	11,600 SF
FOX HABITAT	1,600 SF
YARD	530 SF
FOX HOLDING	700 SF
HOOFSTOCK HOLDING	1,000 SF







IMAGE: FLECKR.COM/MTHIELMANN



IMAGE: NATURALISTPHOTO



OKANOGAN



IMAGE: UNSPLASH.COM



IMAGE: NORTHWESTBUTTERFLIES.BLOGSPOT.COM



IMAGE: OKANOGANHIGHLAND.BLOGSPOT.COM



KEY PLAN - NTS

The Okanogan ecoregion is an alpine ecosystem that is nestled between the Cascade and Rocky Mountains. Here, high-elevation meadows are characterized by lush grasses, wildflowers, and pristine lakes, surrounded by rugged mountains. They provide critical habitat for various wildlife, including deer, elk, and numerous bird species, making them an ecologically significant and visually stunning natural area.

Flanking the splash pad is the river otter habitat with underwater views to showcase these playful and agile swimmers. Across the visitor path, a smaller trail leads to the beaver habitat, which encourages the animals to engage in natural behaviors of gathering sticks and building dams. Underwater viewing windows provide guests with the opportunity to see the beavers at work above and below the water's surface.

Continuing on the path leads to two small feline habitats, ideal for local species such as bobcats. The final exhibit is the Okanogan Forest Trail, a unique, walk-through woodland experience that showcases smaller forest species such as the skunk, badger, and raccoon.



AMERICAN BEAVER



NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER



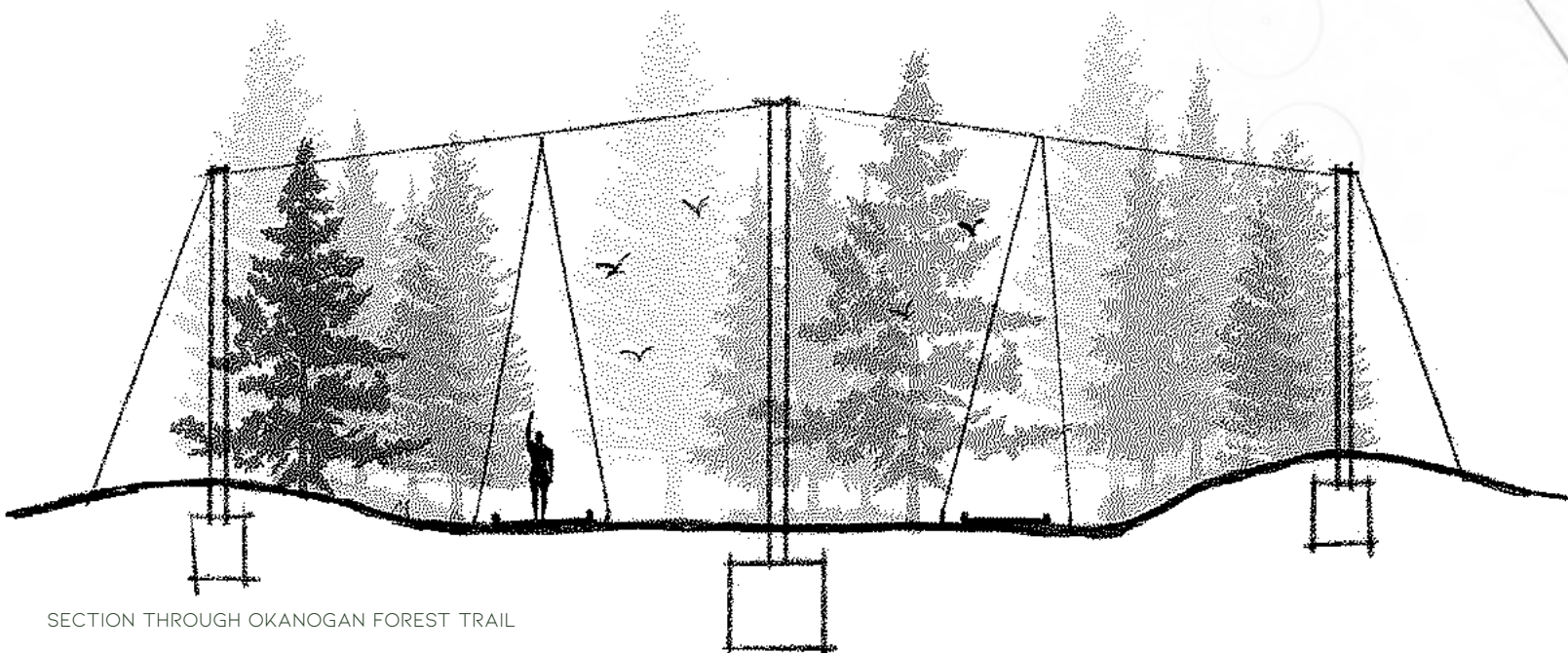
WOODPECKER



STRIPED SKUNK



AMERICAN BADGER



SECTION THROUGH OKANOGAN FOREST TRAIL



VISITOR PATH THROUGH THE OKANOGAN REGION

PROGRAM	
OVERALL PROJECT ZONE	13 AC
BEAVER HABITAT	1,700 SF
OTTER HABITAT	1,875 SF
SMALL FELINE HABITAT A	6,600 SF
SMALL FELINE HABITAT B	6,600 SF
OKANOGAN FOREST TRAIL	7,200 SF
YARD	900 SF
SMALL FELINE HOLDING	2,160 SF
OKANOGAN HOLDING	450 SF
BEAVER HOLDING	700 SF
OTTER HOLDING	700 SF
LIFE SUPPORT	700 SF

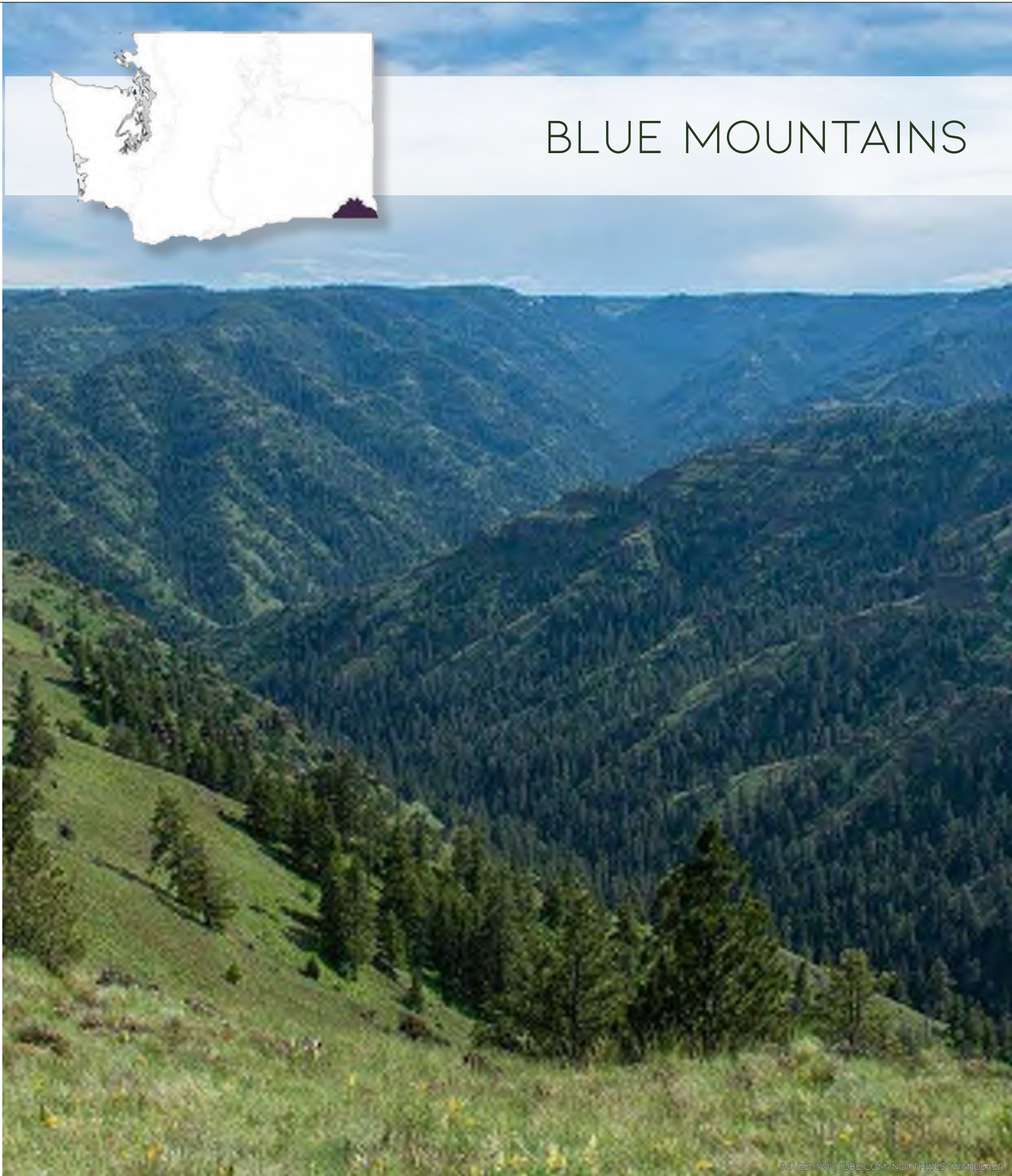




IMAGE: INATURALIST.ORG



IMAGE: FLICKR.COM/TERRYANDCHRISTINE



BLUE MOUNTAINS



IMAGE: INATURALIST.ORG



KEY PLAN - NTS

The Blue Mountain ecoregion in Washington State is characterized by forested mountains and deep canyons. It features diverse ecosystems, including coniferous forests, grasslands, and shrub-steppe habitats. This region experiences a wide range of temperatures and precipitation levels, fostering rich biodiversity.

Entering from the west, visitors are first greeted with a view into Habitat C, which is dedicated to off-duty ambassador animals. Just beyond lies a first aid station and restroom. From there, a lush green lawn opens up with expansive views over the mesa's escarpments to the east. Just below, a forested amphitheater overlooks the Habitat Theater, a programmable space that can be used for regular presentations, school groups, and special events.

Across the pathway, an intimate footpath leads to two habitats ideal for smaller felines such as bobcats and pumas. Connected to two separate animal management buildings as well as two yards, there is plenty of opportunity for animal rotation and flexibility.

Finally, an exciting walk-through raptor aviary gives visitors the chance to walk among birds of prey such as bald eagles, golden eagles, and red-tailed hawks. Protected by a mesh enclosure, this 360° experience is backdropped with impressive views to Mt. Spokane.



BALD EAGLE



RED-TAILED HAWK



COUGAR



AMERICAN PORCUPINE



COMMON RACCOON



FIRST AID STATION, LAWN, AND AVIARY

PROGRAM	
OVERALL PROJECT ZONE	1.5 AC
FIRST AID / RESTROOMS	1,140 SF
LAWN	5,250 SF
AMPHITHEATER	1,300 SF
SMALL FELINE HABITAT A	4,300 SF
SMALL FELINE HABITAT B	3,000 SF
AMBASSADOR HABITAT C	7,600 SF
HABITAT THEATER	1,100 SF
WALK-THRU AVIARY	8,500 SF
YARD A	1,350 SF
YARD B	1,350 SF
SMALL FELINE HOLDING	2,160 SF
AMBASSADOR HOLDING	700 SF

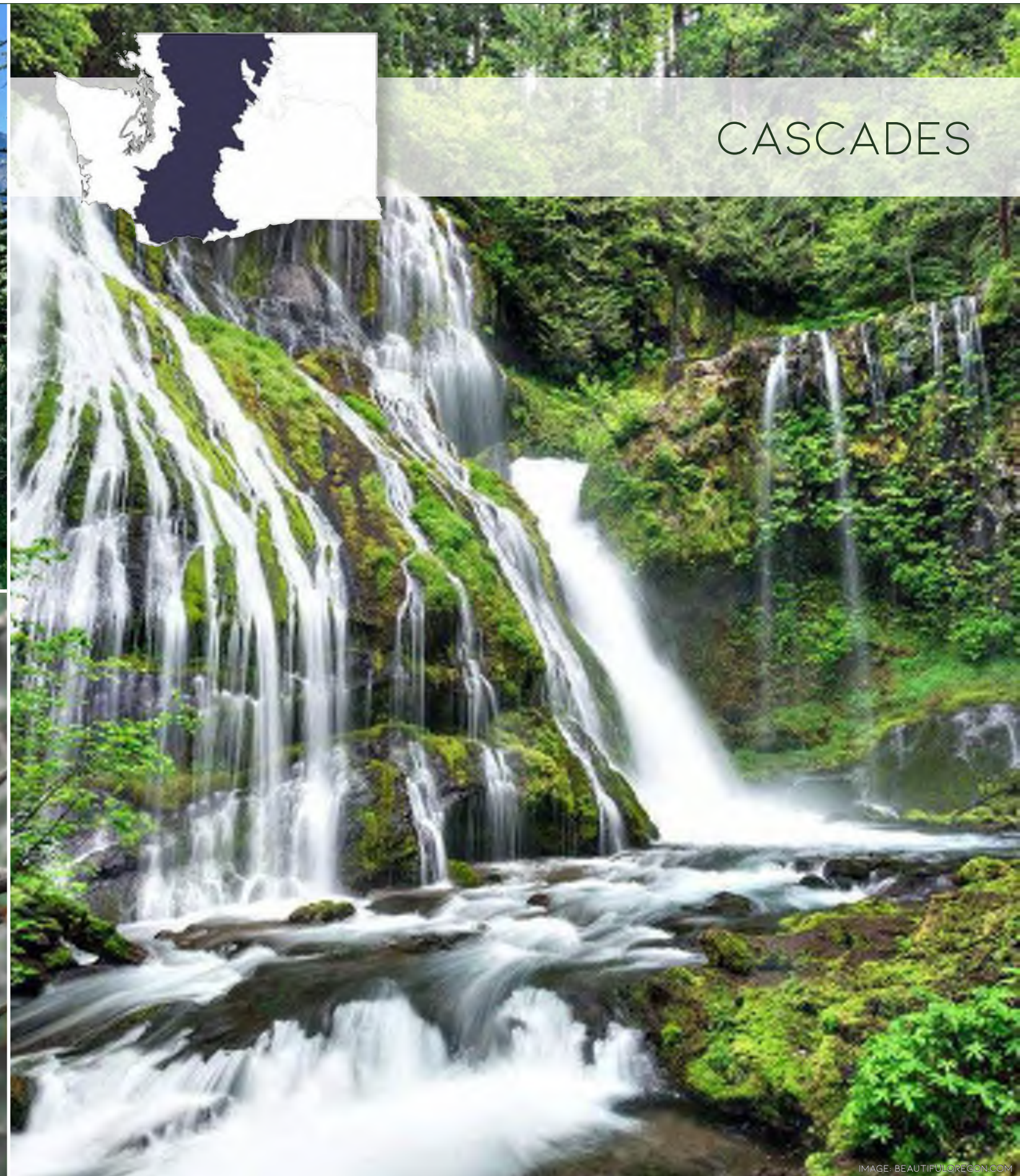




IMAGE: ADOBESTOCK.COM



IMAGE: TRAVELIZE.ME



CASCADES

IMAGE: BEAUTIFULREGION.COM



IMAGE: CASCADEFOREST.ORG



IMAGE: INATURALIST.ORG



KEY PLAN - NTS

The Cascades ecoregion, located in the Pacific Northwest, is defined by its volcanic peaks, lush forests, and abundant rivers and lakes. It experiences a temperate climate with heavy precipitation, fostering old-growth forests and diverse ecosystems. Here, the adaptability of exotic big cats can be showcased, with interpretive messaging focused on comparing the animals native environments with that of the Cascades.

Five habitats and three off-exhibit yards, interconnected with either overhead crossings or through the animal management buildings, provide maximum flexibility for Cat Tales to manage the animals in its collection. As a rescue center, its residents are not always a fixed list of species, and the ability to adapt and rotate animals around is ideal from both an animal husbandry and animal welfare standpoint. The mesh-enclosed logs that provide overhead passage also provide a memorable experience for guests, who likely haven't seen a tiger cross over their heads before!

A large, multipurpose lodge at the Northeast edge of the site capitalizes on the stunning views. Serving as the major food service provider on campus, it is ideally positioned within the visit sequence to capture lunchtime diners. Inside, a classroom/flex space features an oversized picture window overlooking Habitat A. Restrooms, a catering kitchen, and an expansive interior space also make it an ideal event rental opportunity.



BENGAL TIGER



SIBERIAN TIGER



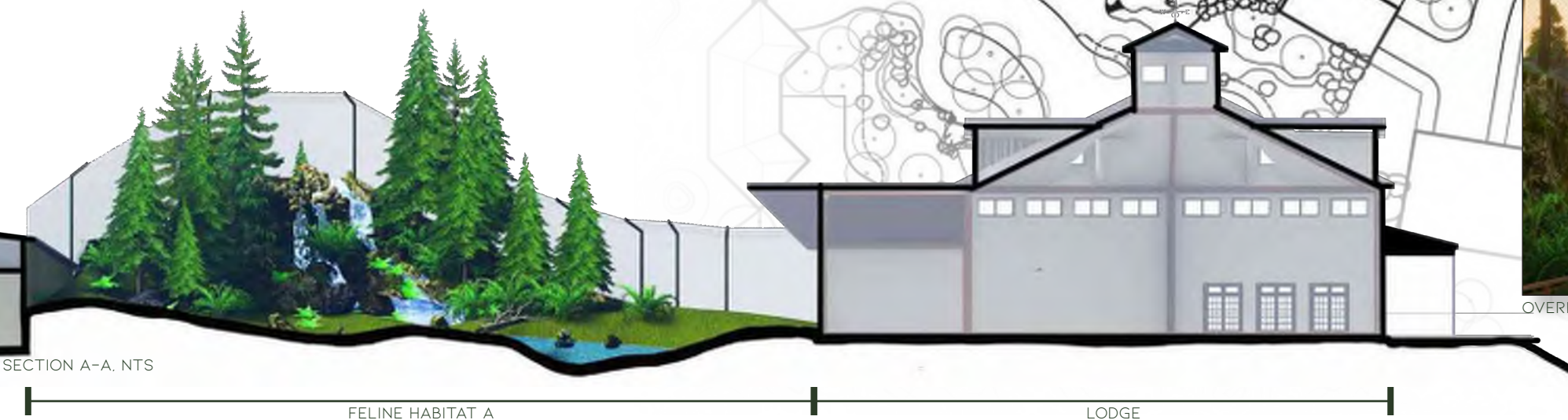
SNOW LEOPARD



CANADA LYNX



JAGUAR



SECTION A-A. NTS

FELINE HABITAT A

LODGE



OVERHEAD CROSSING

PROGRAM	
OVERALL PROJECT ZONE	2.3 AC
LODGE	6,200 SF
DECK	2,600 SF
PLAYGROUND	2,800 SF
HABITAT A	10,000 SF
HABITAT B	5,900 SF
HABITAT C	8,500 SF
HABITAT D	7,500 SF
HABITAT E	10,400 SF
YARD A	1,300 SF
YARD B	1,800 SF
YARD C	1,930 SF
LARGE FELINE HOLDING A	4,185 SF
LARGE FELINE HOLDING B	4,600 SF

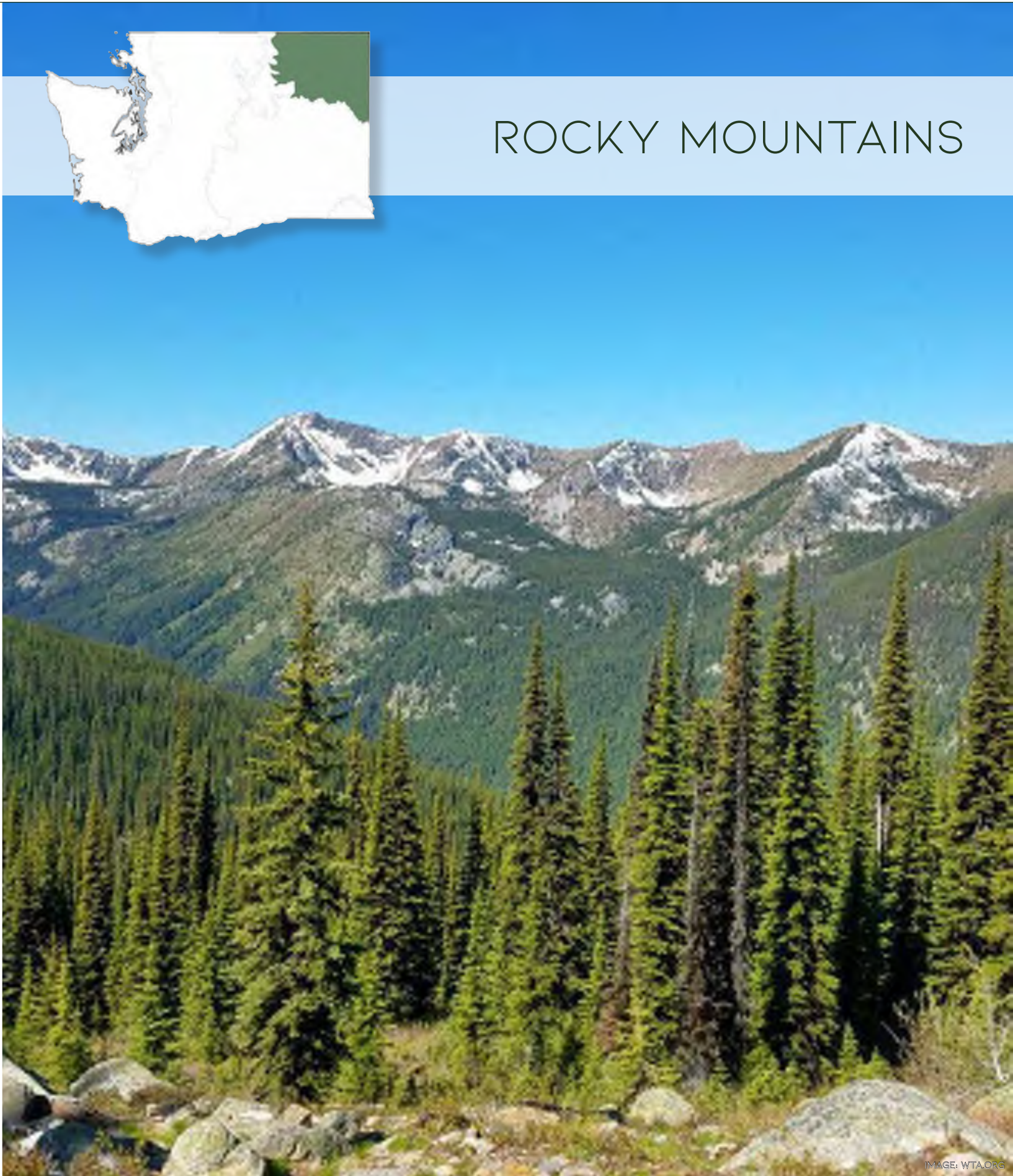




IMAGE: ADOBESTOCK.COM



IMAGE: ALLTRAILS.COM



ROCKY MOUNTAINS



IMAGE: FREEPIK.COM



IMAGE: ADOBESTOCK.COM

IMAGE: WTA.ORG



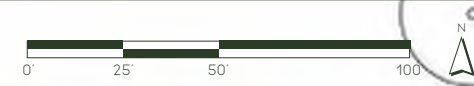
KEY PLAN - NTS

The Rocky Mountains ecoregion in Washington State encompasses rugged, mountainous terrain with diverse ecosystems. It features coniferous forests, alpine meadows, and pristine lakes and rivers. This region experiences cold winters and mild summers, supporting a wide range of wildlife.

Entering from the east, the experience through this region begins with an opportunity for a moment of quiet pause by taking in the views from the north overlook. Continuing onwards are two expansive bear habitats, anchored by a view shelter between them for all-weather viewing. Across the path, a habitat for small canines which can be subdivided into three separate enclosures is ideal for some of the more petite canine species such as the coyote, wolfdog, or arctic fox.



NORTH OVERLOOK



BLACK BEAR



WOLFDOG



COYOTE



ARCTIC FOX



GRAY WOLF



SECTION A-A, NTS

BEAR HABITAT A

VIEW SHELTER

BEAR HABITAT B

PROGRAM

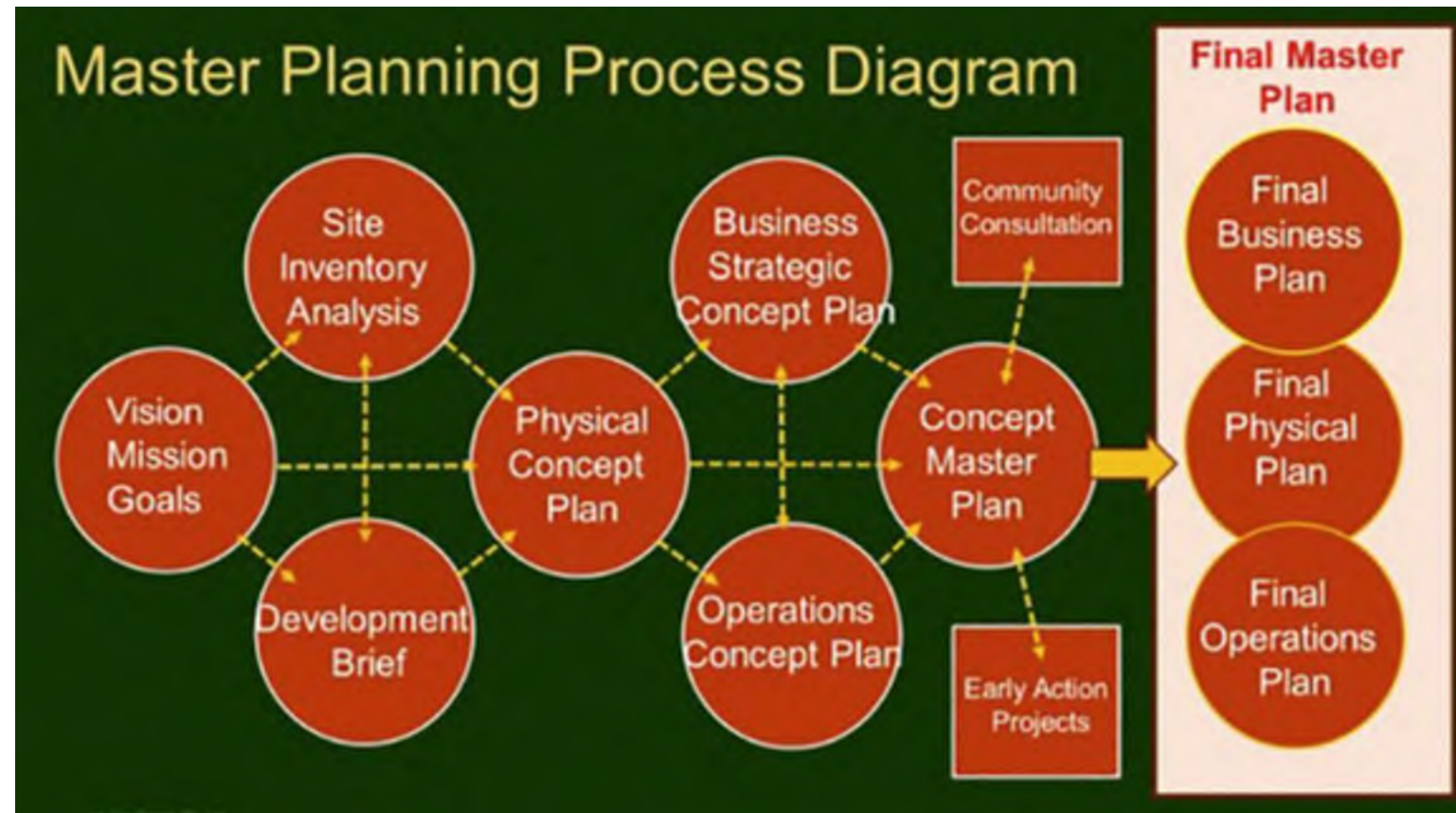
OVERALL PROJECT ZONE	1 AC
VIEW SHELTER	840 SF
HABITAT A	10,730 SF
HABITAT B	8,665 SF
HABITAT C	6,665 SF
YARD A	1,900 SF
BEAR HOLDING	3,200 SF
SMALL CANINE HOLDING	1,100 SF
LSS	640 SF



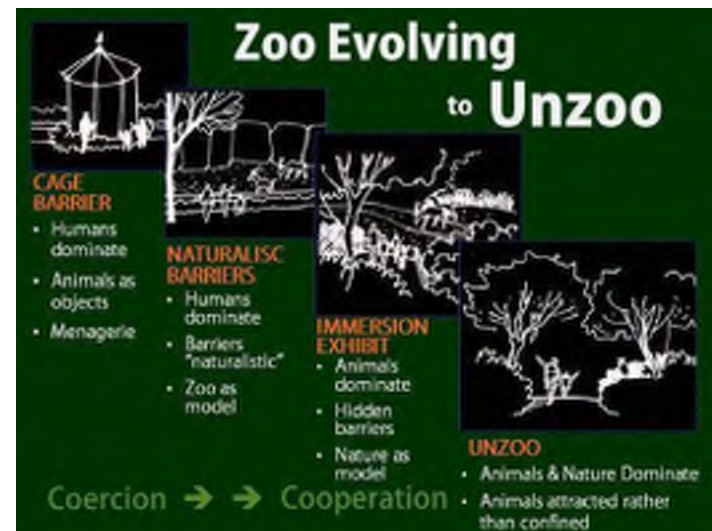


APPENDIX

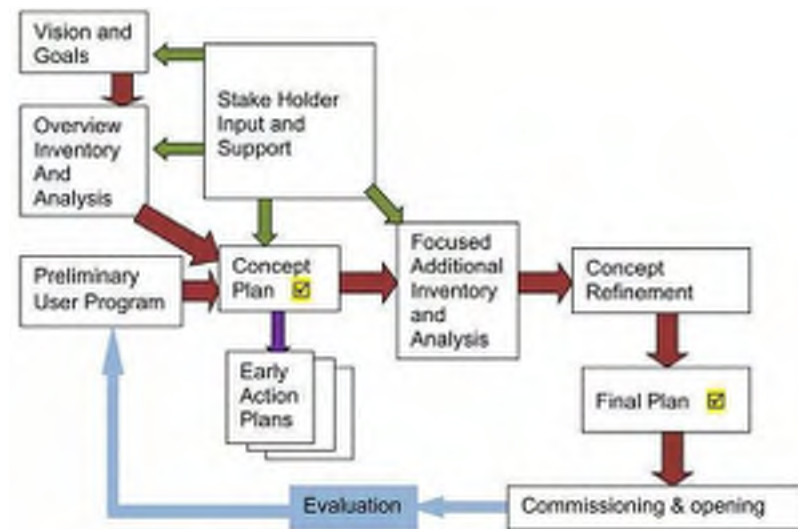
REFERENCE DIAGRAMS



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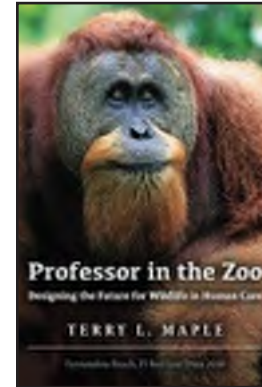


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BOOKS



Professor in the Zoo: Designing the Future for Wildlife in Human Care
Terry Maple, PhD

Professor in the Zoo presents a vision for future zoos and aquariums based on the author's forty years of experience as a zoological leader and a university scholar. Dr. Terry L. Maple was the reform CEO of Zoo Atlanta where he transformed the zoo into one of the most innovative zoos in the world. Dr. Maple is known worldwide for his advocacy of empirical, ethical zoos where the welfare of the animals is the first priority. His research on the construct of wellness has provided opportunities to design zoos of exceptional quality where animals are encouraged to thrive.



Zoo Buildings: Construction and Design Manual
Natascha Meuser

This is the first ever manual to systematically delve into the zoo as an architectural typology. The author examines five generations of zoological structures in order to show that the architecture of zoos has always incorporated social values, fostering the coexistence of humans and animals, ever since the opening of the first scientifically run zoo. The manual presents documentation of 30 historical, pioneering zoo buildings that set new standards both functionally and aesthetically. Moreover, it offers an in-depth analysis of 50 international zoos that have been built in the last 20 years. It includes floor plans to scale, elevations, and sections as well as large photos that offer deep insights that have never been available before. The author also presents ten design parameters that can serve as guidelines for the planning of a zoological structure.



Creating Great Visitor Experiences: A Guide for Museums, Parks, Zoos, Gardens, and Libraries
Stephanie Weaver

Museum and other non-profit professionals have begun to realize that the complete visitor experience is the key to repeat attendance, successful fundraising, and building audience loyalty. Taking lessons learned by successful experience-shapers in the for-profit world, Stephanie Weaver distills this knowledge for museums and other organizations which depend on visitor satisfaction for success. Weaver breaks the visitor experience down to 8 steps and provides practical guidance to museums and related institutions on how to create optimal visitor experiences for each of them. In a workshop-like format, she uses multiple examples, exercises, and resource links to walk the reader through the process.

ORANGE COUNTY ZOO

PROJECT FACTS	
Location:	Orange, California
Size:	8 acres
Established:	1985
Latest Update:	2022
Attendance:	190,000
Collection Size:	47 Species
Collection Focus:	Southwest US

The Orange County Zoo, located within the larger Irvine Regional Park, is a small but well-regarded zoo that offers visitors an up-close look at native California wildlife. One of the most successful aspects of the zoo is its focus on education and conservation. Through its animal exhibits and educational programs, the zoo teaches visitors about the importance of preserving natural habitats and protecting endangered species. The zoo also offers opportunities for visitors to interact with animals through its petting zoo and other animal encounters.

One of the design deficiencies of the Orange County Zoo is the



heavy use of chain link caging in its animal exhibits. While chain link is a common material used in zoo design due to its durability and affordability, some visitors have noted that it can detract from the natural beauty of the animals and their habitats. Alternative materials, such as glass or natural barriers, could be used to provide a more aesthetically pleasing and authentic experience for visitors.

However, the zoo recently completed a new 2-acre large mammal exhibit, which has become a popular attraction for visitors. The exhibit features several species of large mammals, including mountain lions, black bears, and bobcats. The new exhibit provides visitors with a larger and more varied selection of animal exhibits, addressing a previous concern of cramped exhibits. The use of woven

metal mesh instead of chain link provides a more natural appearance, improved safety, and durability.

The zoo's facilities and amenities could be improved to enhance the visitor experience. Some visitors have noted that the restroom facilities and food options could be improved, and that additional seating areas or shade structures would be appreciated on hot days.



BUTTONWOOD PARK ZOO

PROJECT FACTS	
Location:	New Bedford, MA
Size:	7 acres
Established:	1894
Renovated:	2000
Attendance:	222,000
Collection Size:	83 Species
Collection Focus:	Global



Buttonwood Park Zoo, located in New Bedford, Massachusetts, is a small zoological garden known for its successful design and integration of natural habitats, environmental education, and conservation efforts. The zoo's design elements provide visitors with an immersive experience, while its amenities ensure a comfortable visit, even in the winter months.

One of the most successful aspects of Buttonwood Park Zoo's design is its focus on conservation and

education. The zoo hosts a variety of educational programs, including interactive exhibits, workshops, and camps. Additionally, the zoo's exhibits are designed to mimic the animals' natural habitats, providing a more authentic experience for visitors and a better quality of life for the animals.

The zoo takes several measures to provide a comfortable experience for visitors during the winter months. One strategy is to offer indoor exhibits that are climate-controlled and provide

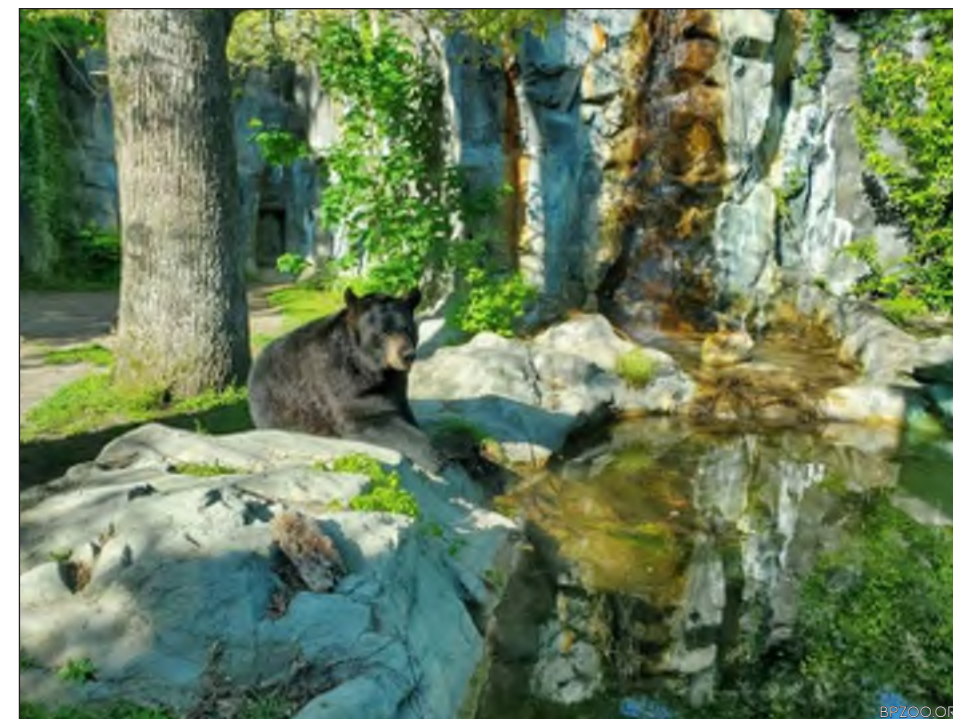
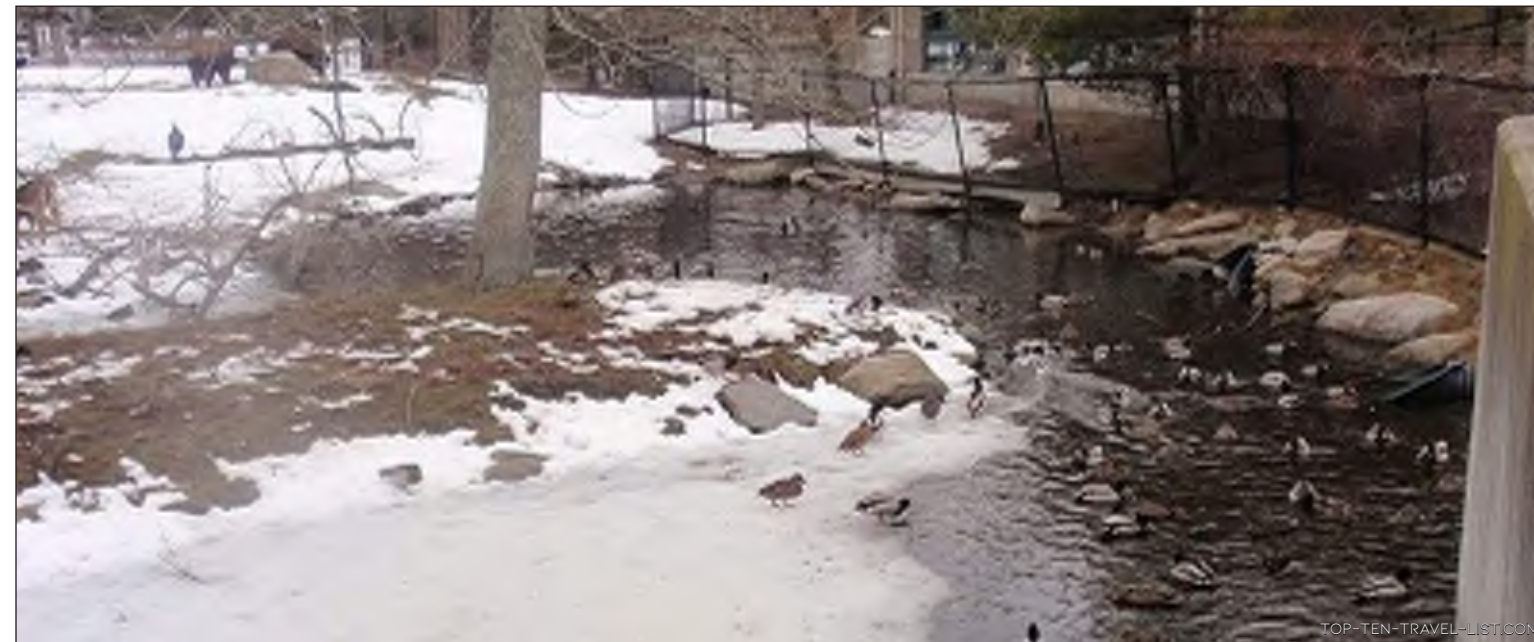
protection from the cold weather outside. The Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic is open year-round, providing visitors with a behind-the-scenes look at the zoo's animal care and rehabilitation efforts. Additionally, the zoo's North American River Otter exhibit features a heated pool that allows the otters to swim and play even when there is snow on the ground. The Arctic Tundra exhibit is also open year-round and features animals adapted to cold environments.

The zoo's amenities ensure a comfortable visit regardless of the weather. Visitors can take advantage of a heated indoor café and gift shop, as well as outdoor fire pits where they can warm up and roast marshmallows. The zoo encourages visitors to dress

appropriately for the weather and provides helpful tips on its website.

While some visitors have expressed concerns about the size of some exhibits and the zoo's layout, the overall success of Buttonwood Park Zoo's design has made it one of the best small

zoos in the United States. The zoo's focus on conservation and education, natural habitats, and comfortable amenities combine to create an engaging and enjoyable experience for visitors.



JURISDICTIONAL AGENCIES



United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Enforces the Animal Welfare Act, which establishes standards for the care and treatment of animals in captivity.



Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife

Issues wildlife rehabilitation permits



Spokane County

Local ordinances and regulations related to zoning, building codes, and public safety.



Zoological Association of America (ZAA)

A non-profit, membership-based accrediting organization dedicated to responsible wildlife management, conservation, and education. The ZAA upholds the highest level of professional standards in animal welfare, safety, and ethics. Its accreditation process is designed to accommodate a wider range of facilities including smaller or newer facilities, and those that focus on specific taxa.



Memorandum

Cat Tales Wildlife Center

Page 2

Date: May 14, 2023
To: Lisa Grey, Debbie Wyche
From: Megan Clermont
Re: Master Plan Workshop #1 – May 6-7, 2023

Master Planning Workshop #1 – Cat Tales Wildlife Center – Meeting Minutes

1. Cat Tales Priorities

- a. Mission: Wildlife Rescues, Compassionate Care, Education Ambassadorship
 - i. Rejected, special needs animals, “misfits”
 - ii. Telling animals’ stories
 - iii. Education of species, what’s in your backyard, local conservation
- b. Zoo School, currently only have 3 students but would like to build program and have more
- c. Strengths & Weaknesses

Strengths	Weaknesses
Up-close encounters	Noise (traffic)
Personal experience	Property shape limits design/expansion
-Guest relations, interaction	Weather (winter)
-Not “fake”	Budget (lack thereof)
Transparency	Lots of chain link
Community Outreach	Age of facility (25 years)
Animal Choice	Gravel pathways are messy
Reputation of Zoo School	Aging infrastructure
Beautiful murals	Seasonal tasks (i.e. shade, snow, ice)
Adaptable	Lack of office space
Family-oriented	Trash located next to main entry gate
Inspection record	Access to water is limited, high mineral content
	Animal substrate
	Lack of mature shade trees that are not pine

2. Site Visit to Proposed Relocation Property

- a. Site offers incredible vistas and is very secluded and peaceful.
- b. Perimeter fencing on the cliffs could be challenging – consider how to preserve incredible views while maintaining required 12’ security fencing and subsequent serviceability.
- c. Site has enough topography to provide interesting landforms for animal exhibits while still being accessible for guests. Some regrading may be required but preserving as much of the existing landform would be prioritized.
- d. High-tensile power lines (Bonneville Power Administration) running through the west edge of the property should not be ignored, but provide a opportunity for locating parking and other non-animal programming underneath.

- e. The current access through Riverview Drive and existing driveway up to the top are not ideal for primary guest access. It would be preferable to request an easement from the two neighboring properties to the South for a new driveway connecting to Midway, a major artery. The current easement for the power lines running the same route makes this a likely possibility. The existing driveway would work well for service and back-of-house operations. Consider steepness of drive in winter operations – possible to regrade?
- f. Utilities could be a challenge but feasible. Water access to Whitworth Water District available from the South side of the site. A water tower may be necessary to maintain needed supply and pressure. Neighboring properties to the North and East are all on well/septic.
- g. Power is available through Inland Power.

3. Animal/Habitat

- a. Phase 1 priority would be to provide better habitats for existing collection, which consists primarily of rescued/confiscated big cats and canines:
 - i. 7 Tigers
 - ii. 3 Wolf hybrids
 - iii. 2 Coyotes
 - iv. 2 Bears
 - v. 8 Fox
 - vi. 3 Pumas
 - vii. 5 Bobcats
 - viii. 2 Lynx
 - ix. 2 Serval
- b. Strong desire to remain an available refuge for future confiscated/rescue/surplus animals, including additional feline species such as lions, jaguars and leopards. There is a need for surplus placement of big cats. While not a member of AZA, Cat Tales has participated in big cat SSPs.
- c. Phase 2 could expand collection, but would prefer to keep with native, Northwest Species:
 - i. Bears: Grizzly and Black
 - ii. Canines: Wolves, Coyote, Fox (incl. red, silver, grey, arctic, fennec)
 - iii. Hoofstock: Moose, Big Horn Sheep, White Tail Deer,
 - iv. Semi aquatic: River Otter, Beaver, Turtles
 - v. Ambassador animals: porcupine, skunk
 - vi. Aviary: Raptors, Falcons, Turkey Vultures, Bats
 - vii. Insectarium a possibility
- d. Consider a centralized barn for each major animal group (large feline, small feline, canine, etc), would include a couple off-exhibit yards and about three larger habitats that animals could flex into. Enough interior stalls for each animal. Interior stalls would need to be large enough that animals could be ok all day.

4. Cat Tales Wildlife Academy

- a. 1-year program that is a licensed trade school for zookeeping.

- b. School is highly reputed and produces in-demand graduates. Zoos seek out Cat Tales grads.
 - i. The extensive exposure to and experience working with large carnivores like tigers and bears makes the students highly skilled and able to work with almost all taxa upon graduation.
- c. Minimal classroom/lecture time, but students have expressed that more could be beneficial at the beginning of the program. Consider space for dedicated classroom time.
- d. Public speaking/PR is part of the curriculum, incorporate dedicated keeper talk spaces.
- e. Lack of student housing has been an issue in recruiting more students. A dormitory for max 10-15 students would be a great addition to the campus.
- f. Office/administrative areas needed for both staff and students. Students need a place to sit down and do animal records/charts.
- g. Students expressed interested in a dedicated space to develop and construct animal enrichment

5. Operations/Facilities

- a. **Animal Clinic:** could be about 30x30, also needs a few recovery/quarantine rooms. 2 @ 10x10 and 1 @ 20x20. Recovery rooms fully padded. An upstairs apartment for vet extern would be great.
- b. **Commissary:** 40x40, need dry, cold and freezer storage.
- c. **Staff break room** needed, incorporate into commissary?
- d. **Maintenance Workshop:** including space for welding
- e. **Equine Processing:** processing space for equines and possibly other livestock that are donated for meat. Currently process about two animals per week, 6 hours of work per animal.
 - i. Main space approximately 20x35, ability to crosstie the animal is helpful.
 - ii. Stalls with outdoor runs for being about to take in multiple animals at once and hold for 48 hours max. Not in view of main processing space.
 - iii. Ideal layout would have exit in different location from entrance, horses tend to want to flee from the way they came in.
 - iv. Restroom with shower important
 - v. Freezer storage
- f. **Equipment Storage:** could be just a pole barn
 - i. Loader, Plow/Truck, Mower
- g. **General Storage:** Barn sized, approximately 80x40
 - i. Crates, fencing, etc
- h. **Security Building**
 - i. Should be away from front entrance (too distracting)
- i. **Groundskeeper's residence**
 - i. Small house for 24/7 on-site personnel, one person
- j. **Self sufficiency:**
 - i. Compost

- ii. Grow vegetation
- iii. Genators
- iv. Solar
- v. Water Storage (rainwater harvesting?)

6. Guest Experience/Services

- a. **Parking**
 - i. Current attendance 10,000 annually. Could see up to 30,000 at new campus.
 - ii. Plan for RV parking space
 - iii. Bus drop-off/turnaround
- b. **Food offering**
 - i. Belly-up counter food service, a kitchen that could support catered events
 - ii. Consider spaces that could accommodate food trucks, kiosks throughout site.
- c. **Gift**
 - i. 30x30 gift shop idea, would need an additional 15x15 for merchandise storage
- d. **Event space**
 - i. Fully conditioned space, could support an event up to 100 people.
 - ii. Ideally multi-purpose, could be subdivided into two classrooms
 - iii. Restrooms inside
- e. **Administration building**
 - i. Located near front entrance, would house new Education Department and other administrative roles
- f. **Playground**
 - i. Nature/adventure play, a small splash pad would be great in the summer
- g. **Amphitheater**
 - i. 100 seats plus grass/lounge space
 - ii. Consider after-hours accessibility, possible to isolate from zoo when needed?

7. Next Steps / To-Dos

- a. **Cat Tales**
 - i. Consider space requirements more carefully. Determine absolute minimums for each program element, as well as ideals and maximums.
 - ii. Debbie: provide sketch of ideal cat house layout
- b. **Megan**
 - i. Develop full program requirements
 - ii. Begin site diagramming
- c. **Next Workshop:** Scheduled June 24-25

These notes represent my best recollection of the conclusions reached at the meetings. Please notify me within five (5) days of any changes or comments to these minutes



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