



Friends of Zoo Idaho

2025

End of Year Report

A Statistical Review of the Second Year

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Director

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FOZI's second year began with a celebration party in January at the Jungle Retreat in Pocatello. Members picked up swag items, free stuff, door prizes and some good food from Café Rio. Aside from those offerings there was a slide show that provided some fond memories of all the great work the club did in the first season of its existence. Very impressive cumulative work statics were cited in the Directors end of year report.



FOZI's first project was in early April and the temperatures were cold. That did not stop the group from assembling some



wooden guard fences around the new badger exhibit. Each week provided a new challenge as the weather warmed. The shed by the elk exhibit needed power-washing, priming, and painting. Then there was the irrigation system in the garden area that was installed for future plant life. Everyone seemed to have a hand in this less strenuous task. FOZI enjoyed smaller projects that the group was able to bring to closure in a timely manner. For example: the barn door repair and paint job, the goat shelter siding replacement and painting, flower pot rail system, Swan Lake pump house – painting, dirt placement in cow corral and the bird lecture area by the administration building were just a few projects that were completed one or two weekly work sessions. Other projects dominated working hours just because of the scope of the project. Two larger scale projects were the donkey corral and the vending machine shed conversion.



Taking on the donkey corral fence project was a laborious and painstaking process and ate up a lot of group work time. Rather than dismantling the wiring fencing on the inside, FOZI opted to paint in between square wiring which destroyed many brushes. A less expensive mode of painting was discovered by purchasing Dollar Tree brushes and cutting the bristles in half to make the brush last longer by painting with 'jabbing' strokes between metal squares. The process was slower but more effective. FOZI managed to paint two wooden benches and half of the fence compound and three shade structures that are built into the corral. The club has the other half to paint in 2026. The vending machine shed – now a children's outside lecture area was a very rewarding project as the finished paint job was turned over to an artist which outlined animal creatures on the shed to be painted by children.

There are many stories and weekly events that happen with the club as we settle into about six to eight dedicated volunteers that come out each week to assist the zoo in their maintenance efforts.

FOZI had many applicants applying through the website, but they never showed up. FOZI gained only one new member this year and we loss some of our most dedicated members due to their personal occupational changes. The club weekly work hours

have been changed a bit to accommodate the zoo staff work hours. Recruiting new members will be a challenge as the new 2:00 – 5:00 pm work hours are consigned to mostly retired folks.

For this club to grow it must focus on younger legions of volunteers. FOZI may consider a few weekend events to entice some new volunteers to join the work force.

FOZI passed on attending the Environmental Fair and ZooBoo this year as the effort spent to attract new members to the club is not advantageous. Some members of FOZI participated in the Roar-n-Pour event as a function of ZIZS [Zoo Idaho Zoological Society].

Next year, FOZI will continue to have display tables to educate the public about the mission of FOZI at select functions. Some notable skill sets or work functions that FOZI performs are:

- Power-washing
- Sanding
- Priming/Painting
- Staining wood benches
- Scraping wood
- Constructing wooden fences
- Lopping branches
- Irrigation piping installing
- Barn door repairs
- Caulking
- Dismantling things
- Moving dirt
- Pulling weeds
- Stacking hay
- Stacking stones into gabions
- Assembling wooden fences
- Applying sealer to wood products
- Flower pot rail painting
- Some brushing
- Some chainsaw work
- Duties as assigned



Based on the national survey of volunteer hours per state (<https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>) for the state of Idaho, the 2024 average hourly rate was \$32.48. Based on that calculated figure, for 2025 FOZI saved the City of Pocatello and taxpayers \$10, 394.00. Considering eight volunteers committed 320 hours [includes a few meetings] to work projects at the zoo. FOZI second year stats are impressive.

No.	Event	Project	No. Vols	Sessions	Tot Vol Hrs.
1	3 Apr	Badger Exhibit Ext. Wood Fence	5	1	15
2	10 Apr	Rest Stop Wood Staining – Flower pot rail painting	6	1	18
3	30 Apr – 1 May	Elk Area Shed	2	2	12.5
4	8 May – 15 May	Garden Irrigation System install	4	2	12
5	15 May	Barn Door – fence repair	5	1	15.5
6	22 & 25 May	Goat Shelter and Children's Slide	3	2	9
7	25 May	Gnome Village Scout – set up/paint	2	1	9
8	26-28 May	Band Stand Area – power wash/stain	2	3	13
9	5 Jun – 3 Jul	Donkey Corral Fence – power wash/stain	6	17	118.75
10	10 Jul – 21 Aug	Vending Machine Shed Conversion	6	5	54
11	18 Sep	Cow Corral – Settle out Dirt	3	1	6
12	25 Sep – 30 Oct	Swan Lake Pump House Shed	4	2	16
13	2 Oct	Red Tail Hawk Exhibit	3	1	7.5
14	9 Oct	Swan Lake – Gabions/power wash Bison Shed	3	1	9
15	14 Oct	Bird Lecture Area – sand/seal	1	1	2.5
Total - actual onsite work hours					319.75

Donations		ZOO & FOZI									
Date	Source	Item	Qty	Cost -ea	SWAG	Expenses	Personal	Notes	ZOO only		
2025											
12 Jan	Walmart	Food for party					\$57.39				
17 Jan	Cafe Rio	Catered food	12			\$160.17					
26 Feb	Pens.com	Journal-pen set	65	\$2.24	\$234.31						
26 May	Home Depot	Caulk and foam	14			\$55.24				\$56.24	
29 May	Harbor Freight	Tamping bar	1	\$29.99	\$29.99				\$29.99		
8 Jun	Batteries Plus	Pocket tool	1	\$13.00	\$13.00				Door Prize		
9 Jun	Home Depot	Hose holder	1	\$10.98	\$10.98				\$10.98		
19 Jun	Home Depot	100' Hose	1	\$38.14	\$38.14				\$38.14		
19 Jun	Cal Ranch	Wraps for handles	5	\$24.32	\$24.32				\$24.32		
20-Jun	Dicks Sporting Goods	Lizard skin wraps	2	\$31.78	\$31.78				\$31.78		
23 Jun	Dollar Tree	Paint supplies	6	\$1.25	\$7.50				\$7.50		
23 Jun	Dollar Tree	Paint supplies	15	\$1.25	\$18.75				\$18.75		
4 Jul	Walmart	Gnome	1			\$9.96				\$9.96	
13 Jul	Home Depot	5/8" 100' hose for donkey barn	1			\$24.98				\$24.98	
21 Aug	Home Depot	Thinner – for brushes	2			\$25.44					
		Lunch for zoo personnel									
15 Oct	Jersey Mikes	personnel	10			\$59.71					
15 Oct	Fred Meyer	Food for party – ZIZS	5			\$33.95					
23 Oct	Walgreens	Halloween Decorations	4			\$31.76				\$31.75	
24 Oct	Goodies	Reservation fee					\$25.00				
24-Dec	Old Toown Embroidery	Beanie with logo	10			\$182.85					
						\$417.16		\$658.06		\$284.39	
		Total donation/expenses					\$1,075.22				

NAME	HOURS
Bob Johnson	159.75
Connie Johnson	72.5
Katherine Watkins	36
Dean Rose	31
Lisa Collins	29
Chris Collins	20
Sarah Jensen	16.5
Jesse Fisher	2.5
Hours includes meetings/offsite work	367.25

FOZI again this year was instrumental in receiving and passing on an anonymous donation of construction supplies which was divided among the city Parks and Recs, Cemetery, City garage, Water Dept, River Dept, and Zoo Idaho. This sporadic donation helps the city offset purchasing supplies and saves the taxpayers. The donor is acknowledged for their generous gift each time. FOZI also donated \$285.00 in construction/repairs supplies during the active season for the projects at the zoo.



FOZI also created a new exhibit at the zoo with zero cost involved. 'Gnomatello' will display various gnomes and their habitat for the visitor to enjoy while visiting with the live animals. FOZI will maintain and staff the Gnome City area during the zoo operating season.



FOZI presents a 'win-win' attitude for all parties seeking to keep the zoo functional. The animals in captivity get a better place to live, visitors recognize an improved and cleaner look for the zoo, and the volunteers get contentment, personal therapeutic gratification and self-rewarding feeling from work 'well done'. FOZI helps get more work done on a regular basis quicker and efficiently.

FOZI is unique as the organization does as it claims. Projects are done to completion, even if it requires more than one session [session equals three hours]. FOZI is closure-driven in most projects. FOZI's frequency of weekly visits allows the organization to produce more results than some seasonal groups and volunteer work days from local companies. No doubt, all free labor is good for the zoo.

FOZI will advance into its third year of operations. FOZI will strive for quality work by volunteers to make the zoo a better place for the animals and visitors. FOZI signature projects are a reflection of their dedication to details, to a job well done, and presenting a better outlook for Zoo Idaho. As long as there are dedicated volunteers willing to put in their time and effort; the FOZI organization will stay relevant, productive, appreciated and eventually revered.



In closing, FOZI would like to personally thank Zoo Idaho personnel for working with the volunteer base that shows up weekly. This year's projects were more detailed and aligned within FOZI's capabilities, personal safety issues and 'fun aspect.' FOZI looks forward to another productive year at the zoo in 2026.

FOZI thanks ZIZS for providing a substantial reward with members volunteered hours worked at the zoo.



FOZI continues to work indirectly with the zookeepers with work projects that 'work around the animals' and not necessarily with the animals. FOZI scope of work is primarily suited for maintaining exhibits, rest areas, structures, walk ways and miscellaneous projects as assigned.

Rick Satterfield with City of Pocatello continues to provide excellent website support for FOZI.

FOZI is slow growing in its membership and perhaps more media attention should be provided for the new fledgling group. A new recruiting poster will be needed this year and posted around town to attract some attention. Not much more can be done to enhance the benefits of joining this august group of volunteer workers. One would think the ISU college would provide an amble unending stream of volunteers, but that just is not the case. Recruiting and maintaining dedicated volunteers for FOZI will be one of the primary functions in 2026. Without expanding the volunteer base to this organization, the consequences may be grave for the future of this non-profit.

Bob Johnson
Director