

Reaching across the wall to save endangered butterflies: opportunities and challenges for zoos partnering with prisons

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Vision of the Oregon Zoo

"A better future for wildlife"

- Species Recovery (ex-situ & in-situ)
- Funding
- Public Awareness, Outreach, Forum

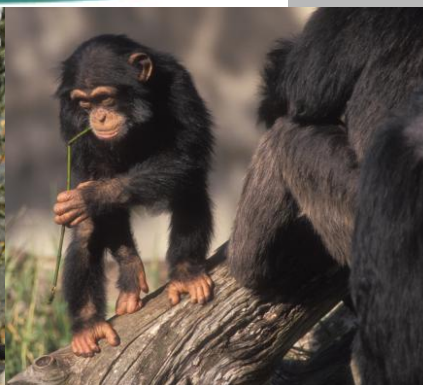
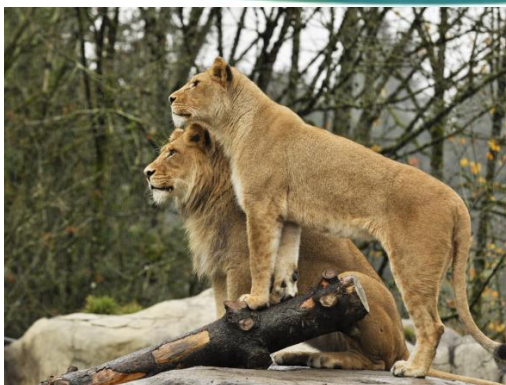


Role of Zoos in Species Recovery

The Ark

Lifeboats

for Species Survival



Oregon Zoo

Species Recovery Programs

- Oregon Silverspot Butterfly*
- Western Pond Turtle*
- Oregon Spotted Frog*
- Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbit
- California Condor
- Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly*

*Projects with SPP partnership



Major Species Recovery Partners

- USFWS
- Woodland Park Zoo
- The Nature Conservancy
- WDFW
- Xerces Society
- JBLM
- Parks Canada

Why add prisons to this list?



Challenges of Species Recovery to a Zoo

- Staffing*
- Resources*
- Funding*
- Unpredictability*
- Staff expertise
- Communication/coordination
- Inter and intra institution Protocol “drift”



*Prisons have a lot of folks with time on their hands...

Benefits of Species Recovery to a Zoo

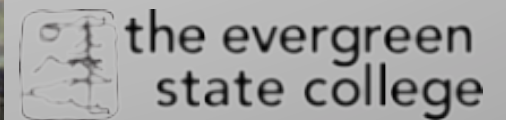
- Fulfilling our mission*
- First hand knowledge and hands on experience
- Compelling and engaging story & message*
- Staff, volunteer & intern development*
- Credibility in the wildlife conservation community
- Media exposure
- Funding and donations*

*Partnering with prisons fits AND it expands the audience for our conservation message

Taylor's Checkerspot
(*Euphydryas editha taylori*)



Build program capacity: Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women



Captive propagation annual objectives

- Collect at least 20 wild females
- Obtain about 10,000 eggs annually
 - 1/3 from captive-bred females
 - 2/3 from wild females
- Produce about 5,600 postdiapause larvae annually
 - 600 for mating
 - 5,000 for release

Second year objective for Mission Creek exceeded in the 1st year!!

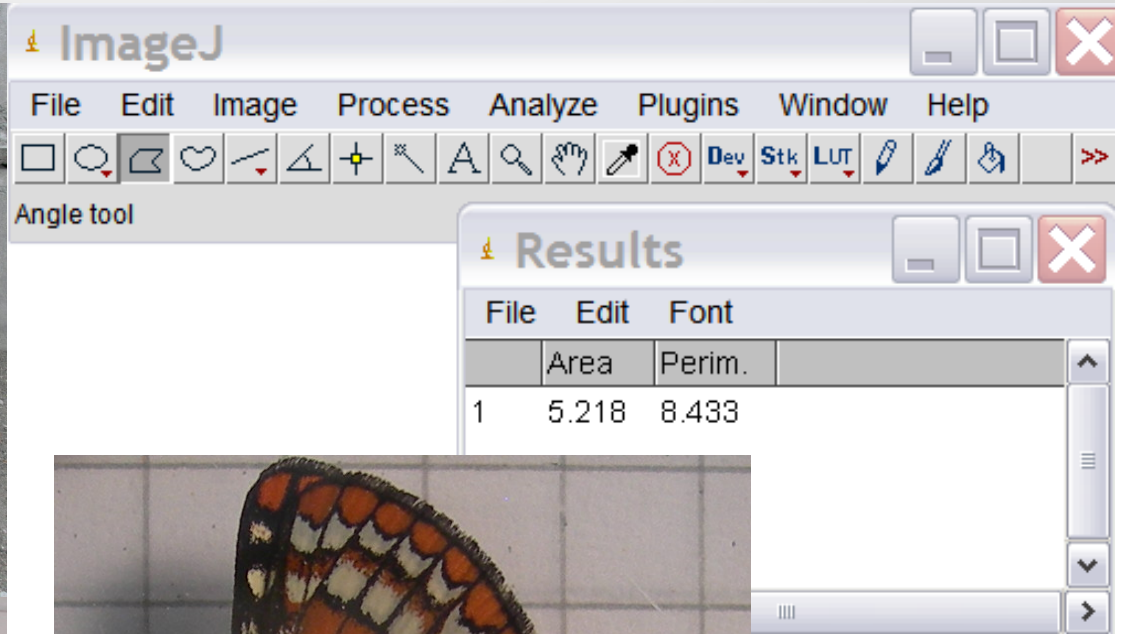
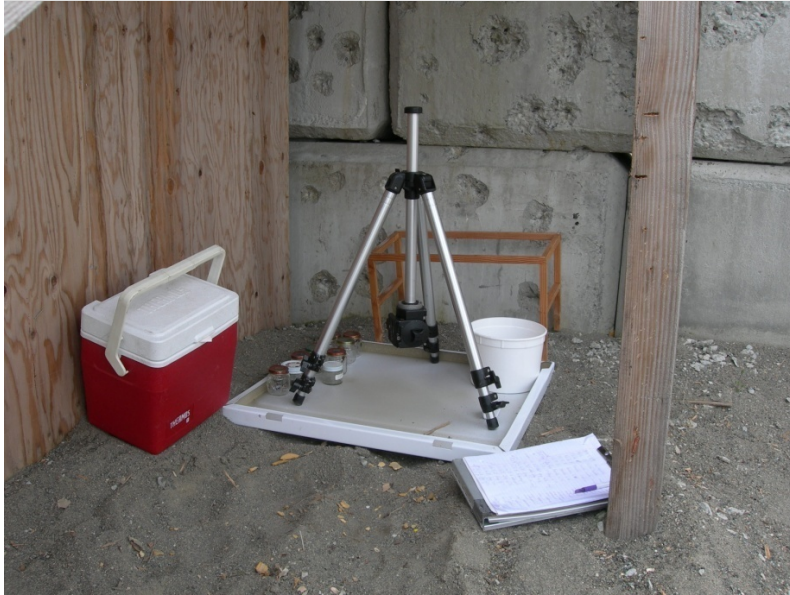
Challenges of Partnering with a Prison

- Husbandry Adjustments
- Data Entry & Reporting
- Technician recruiting and training
- Grad student training
- Lack of access to technology

Timely (hours to days), full-loop communication is necessary



Specific Challenge: Morphometrics



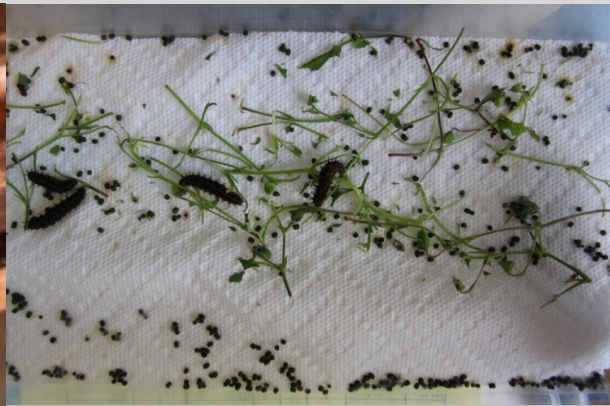
Benefits of Partnering with Prisons

- 365 days/year animal care
- Eager and committed technicians
- Thorough care of individual animals
- Land area available for project expansions
- Bringing the conservation message to an underserved community
- Increasing diversity within the conservation community

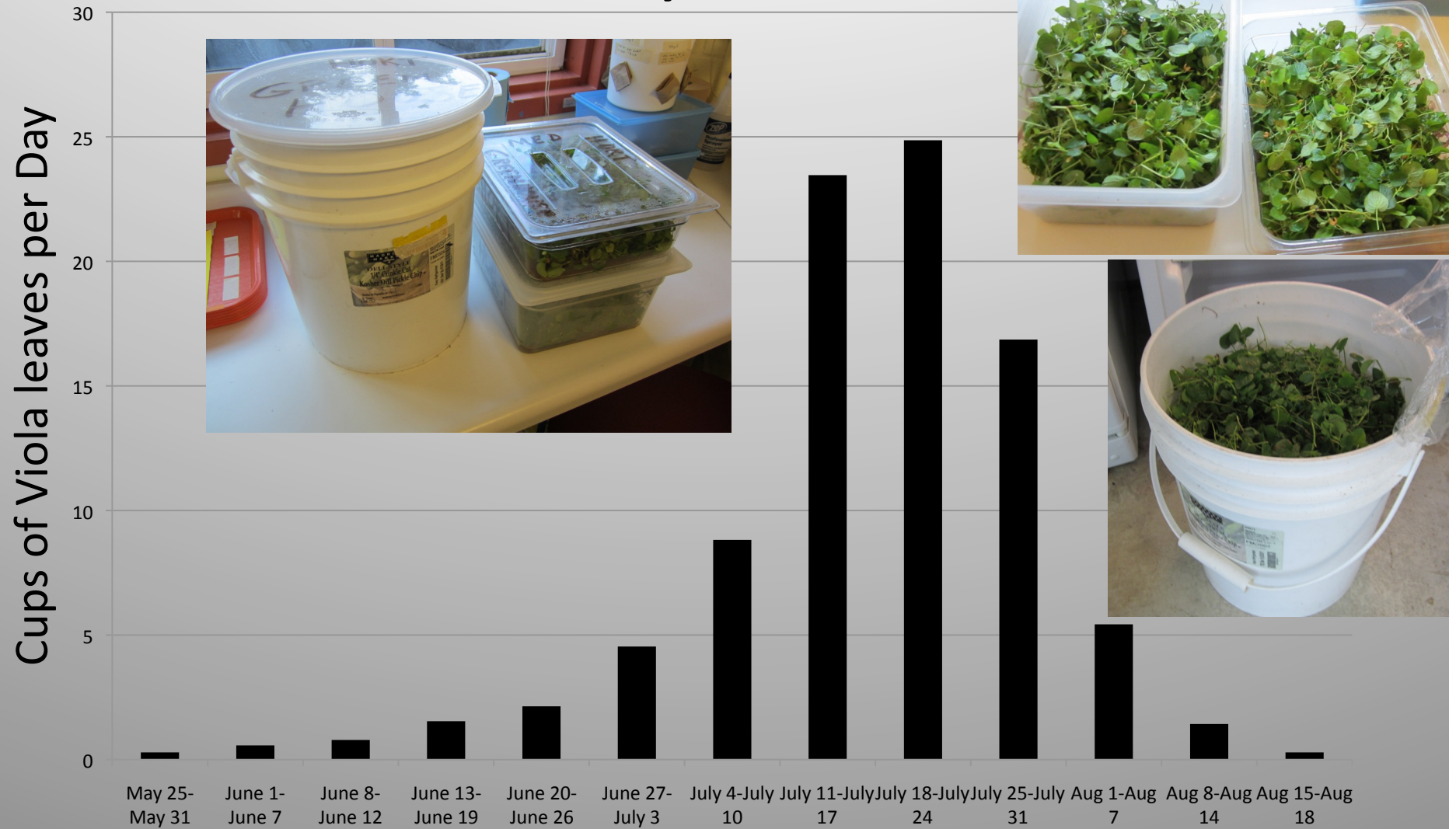
Oregon Silverspot
(*Speryeria zerene hippolyta*)



They may start out small...
but they end up ravenous



Thank You Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and IAE



Next up a Partnership to feed the checkerspots?



Acknowledgments





Sustainable Prisons Project



Heart Butterfly Program