

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release | January 31, 2022
Media contact: Gigi Allianic, Craig Newberry
woodlandparkzoopr@zoo.org

Media download link for video and photos:

<https://zoo.resourcespace.com/?c=3783&k=131580d7bd>

Credit: Jeremy Dwyer-Lindgren/Woodland Park Zoo

New brown bear cubs turn 1!

SEATTLE—*Happy fabulous 1st birthday, Fern and Juniper!* That's right—Woodland Park Zoo's rambunctious, charismatic brown bear cubs, known fondly as *Ferniper*, turn 1 year old today.

The zoo celebrated their milestone birthday by treating the cubs to ice cakes concocted with fruit and veggie juice made with the cubs' faves: apple, cantaloupe, carrot, honeydew, pear, oranges, romaine, watermelon, yam, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, corn, and even a couple of tropicals—papaya and mango—nom nom!

It is estimated the cubs were born in January 2022. Both cubs were rescued from their native habitats. Juniper is a coastal brown bear from Anchorage, Alaska; Fern is a grizzly bear from Montana. They were too young to survive on their own. Bear cubs learn everything about being a bear directly from their mother including hunting, foraging and other skills to survive.

The cubs are getting bigger every day. Juniper, who is markedly larger than Fern, currently weighs in at 280 pounds and Fern at 218 pounds.

The cubs were introduced to each other last November. "Juniper and Fern have been best buds since. They spend the majority of their time wrestling and playing together or napping next to each other. The cubs are each other's enrichment," said Tina Mullett, an animal care manager at Woodland Park Zoo.

According to the zoo's bear keepers, Juniper is known to have a goofy personality and is the resident comedian. She is commonly seen with a stick or root ball in her mouth; she has a big presence and is boisterous. Fern is considered to be more of a thinker and is quite more confident.

The 1-year-old cubs can be seen daily in the zoo's Living Northwest Trail, along with [three new Canada lynx](#)—Marty, Monty and Yukon—and the new Cathy Herzig Basecamp Northwest featuring western pond turtles and the Turtle Head Start Center.

Brown bears are an iconic species, and Juniper and Fern are symbols of hope to restore grizzlies in the North Cascades. To learn more about the cubs and grizzly bear recovery, visit www.zoo.org/brownbear.

Woodland Park Zoo is currently open 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. For more information about Woodland Park Zoo, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500. Follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

###

