

California Fish and Game Commission April 2023 Field Trip Details

Who: Commissioners, staff, California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff, and members of the public

What: Conservation, zoo-style!

When: Wednesday, April 19, 2023; meet at 3:50 p.m.

Where: Fresno Chaffee Zoo, 894 West Belmont Avenue, Fresno, CA 93728 in Roeding Park

The Commission invites members of the public to join commissioners, staff, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff for a field trip Wednesday afternoon. Members of the public are welcome to attend but must provide their own transportation.

Most of this field trip takes place outdoors, though the terrain is mostly flat. Consider layering clothing and bringing sun protection and drinking water.

Meeting Location

Meet just outside Fresno Chaffee Zoo's main entrance on West Belmont Avenue and let staff know you are with the California Fish and Game Commission field trip.

Field Trip Overview

Join Fresno Chaffee Zoo's Jon Forrest Dohlin, CEO and Zoo Director, and Dr. Rory Telemeco, Director of Conservation Science, who will lead us on a tour that highlights the home of nearly 40 species that are either endangered or extinct in the wild. Following a brief overview of the zoo's conservation work and mission, we will see:

- Native species found in Wolf Woods and the Reptile House, including Endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard, a species endemic to California's San Joaquin Valley. The zoo is working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Bureau of Land Management to recover one of the last populations remaining on federally-protected land.
- A sneak peek of the soon-to-open "Kingdoms of Asia," a major new exhibit featuring malayan tiger, sloth bear, orangutan, and more. The exhibit is scheduled to open at the end of May.
- The site for the zoo's Conservation Action Center, a new facility dedicated to conservation projects for local endangered species, which broke ground in February. The center will be the new home of the blunt nose leopard lizard project that Dr. Telemeco and his team manage.
- Other exhibits, such as Sea Lion Cove and African Adventure, and learn about the zoo's master plan and its first project, California from the Sea to the Sierras.

The Fresno Chaffee Zoo is one of over 220 zoos and aquariums accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). In 2017, AZA announced the [Saving Animals From Extinction \(SAFE\) program](#), which is harnessing the collective resources of zoos, focusing on specific endangered species, and working to restore healthy populations in the wild. As an example, Fresno Chaffee Zoo has a biosecure space where it is currently rearing endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizards, some of which will be released to the wild for the first time next month.

The zoo's mission: Fresno Chaffee Zoo inspires people to care for animals, create connections, build community, and save wildlife.

Parking

The City of Fresno has 11 pay stations throughout Roeding Park to pay for parking. The kiosks accept exact cash (parking is \$5) or card (with a \$0.40 convenience fee). You can also pay via the ParkMobile App which is available on the App Store and Google Play. Roeding Park annual parking pass holders have been grandfathered into the City's parking system. For helpful information on how to use the kiosks and where to find them, please [refer to this guide](#).

Health and Safety Reminders

All guests are encouraged to wear masks in indoor spaces, such as Reptile House and Kopje Lodge, and where social distancing isn't possible. Unvaccinated guests should continue to wear masks. The zoo asks guests to take on the responsibility to have any unvaccinated people in their party wear masks.

More about Dr. Telemeco

Rory received his PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Iowa State University and his MS and BS degrees in Biology from the University of Central Oklahoma. He was a post-doc at the University of Washington and Auburn University before joining the CSUF faculty in 2017. Rory is broadly interested in ecological and evolutionary responses of organisms (especially reptiles) to changing environments and using this information to improve conservation management.

General Location Map

