



May 29, 2013

Gregory Beach, Chair
Friends of Washoe
105 W. 3rd Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 607-6772

James L. Gaudino, President
Central Washington University
400 E University Way
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 607-4103

To the community,

After careful review of fiscal realities, a lengthy timeline for capital improvements, and, most of all, the needs of the chimpanzees Loulis and Tatu, the Friends of Washoe, owner of Loulis and Tatu, has concluded that the chimpanzees should be moved to a new location. Central Washington University has accepted and agrees with this conclusion and will work with Friends of Washoe to expedite a humane and safe transition for the chimpanzees.

A review of the needs of the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute (CHCI) began in February after the passing of Dar and has since included input from students, faculty, community volunteers and businesses, primate sanctuaries and research groups, and many others. Throughout this complex process, one conclusion has been shared among all groups: a healthful living environment for chimpanzees requires numerous individuals.

Introducing additional chimpanzees to CHCI facilities would require capital improvements of more than \$2 million. These funds have been requested from the state legislature, which is now in special session. Even if the funding were approved today, the expansion of the facility could not be realized for months and, perhaps, for a year or more, resulting in the continued and unacceptable isolation of the elderly chimpanzees. Steady erosion of state support for university operations has added to the long-term uncertainty about the ability of the university to meet steadily increasing requirements for chimpanzee research and care.

Friends of Washoe and CWU agree that moving the chimpanzees to a sanctuary as soon as possible is the most certain strategy to ensure a stable future for Tatu and Loulis. That future includes robust companionship and compassionate care as they transition to the next phase of their life. The Fauna Foundation Sanctuary in Quebec, Canada, has applied to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for a permit that would allow the foundation to receive the chimpanzees from the Friends of Washoe. Friends of Washoe was established to ensure the care of Washoe and her family and will continue to do so until the passing of Tatu and Loulis.

This move ends a remarkable project that included landmark research in communication and language, and starts a new approach to this field at CWU. We celebrate the privilege we have had to know Washoe, Moja, Dar, Tatu, and Loulis. They have changed the lives of thousands of people who met them in Chimposiums, as CHCI volunteers, student interns, in classes, and in their private lives.