

News Release
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Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge Plans for Expansion
Local Wildlife Refuge asks for Public's Help Funding Water System

Eureka Springs, Ark. (June 14, 2019) – Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge (TCWR) is taking the first step in their plans for expansion as they fundraise for a new well and water system for their property.

The project will cost an estimated \$150,000. A generous donor, C. Martin, has already offered a matching donation for the first \$40,000 raised!

TCWR has been fighting against the Exotic Pet Trade and providing a home for its survivors for 27 years. With increased efforts being made to end the Trade, including federal legislation and a strong push on ethical tourism, the organization says the need for growth becomes more evident every day.

According to TCWR's website, they have "hit a roadblock to expansion of our facility to its full potential" because of the current well and water system that supplies water to both humans and animals throughout the property.

The website explains that their lodging guests and staff members, who live on-site, experience water pressure plummets when animal pools are being filled; while this is a notable annoyance, the bigger issue is that TCWR has reached the legal limit of how many individuals can use their water supply.

For TCWR to continue to secure their future, continue to expand, rescue animals, and educate the public, they need to take this first step towards their future. This well is not only the first step in the creation of their new Visitor Education Center, but is also a vital public safety feature for the visitors, staff, and interns. This new well will open opportunities to TCWR so that they can continue to grow and expand for years to come.

TCWR's upcoming Visitor Education Center project will offer them the opportunity to expand their mission and help educate the public about the plight of big cats in captivity. The Center will include guest-requested features, such as a café and large-scale gift shop, while serving as an educational hub that serves their mission of ending the Exotic Pet Trade.

TCWR's future plans will require a system that can keep up with larger visitor groups, more staff, and more animals. At this moment they are in compliance with current laws, but they have

reached the maximum capacity. To move forward TCWR has to comply with different, more comprehensive water treatment regulations. The new well is the best way to not only meet those regulations but also deliver safe water to everyone at the Refuge.

The \$150,000 figure includes the cost to drill the well, install the chlorination system, and construct a small building to house the system and water reservoir.

“The only way that we can continue to grow the mission of TCWR is with this new well,” said TCWR president Tanya Smith. “I appreciate Mrs. Martin for putting up the \$40,000 match to stretch your donated dollars. This is a great time to double your contribution. For every dollar you give another is donated.”

Those interested in supporting the future of Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and the many animals who still need their help can make a donation online at tcwr.org/well, over the phone by calling 479-253-5992, or by mail to 239 Turpentine Creek Lane, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, 72632.

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About Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge

Founded in 1992, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization operating one of America's largest big cat sanctuaries. The 450-acre refuge, located 7 miles south of Eureka Springs, is America's premier big cat wildlife refuge. Turpentine Creek does not buy, sell, trade, or breed our animals. We are a hands-off facility and do not allow contact with the animals in our care. We are accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, a member of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, a member of Tigers in America, USDA Licensed and Arkansas Game and Fish Licensed. Our Mission is to provide lifetime refuge for abandoned, abused, and neglected "Big Cats" with emphasis on Tigers, Lions, Leopards, and Cougars.

Additional Information Sources & Photos

<http://www.TurpentineCreek.org>

https://www.facebook.com/TurpentineCreekWildlifeRefuge/photos_stream

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1suwowzmr3fwqOeZjvzvjXN99UrBNJMQJ>

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