

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 26, 2013

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### **A new era for chimpanzees**

At a momentous crossroads for chimpanzees, the sanctuary members of the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) applaud two recent federal announcements affecting captive chimpanzees. NAPSA stands ready to partner with the National Institutes of Health to secure permanent homes for each federally owned chimpanzee.

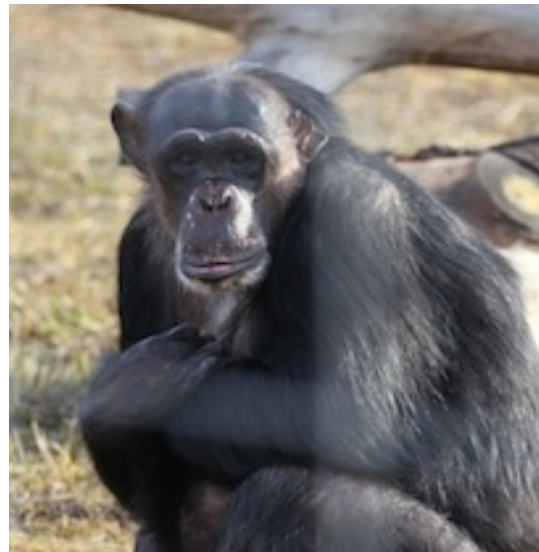
Today the National Institutes of Health announced a significant reduction in the chimpanzee research it funds. It will be designating a majority of the federally owned chimpanzees for retirement. This decision comes on the heels of the Fish and Wildlife Service's announcement earlier this month proposing that all chimpanzees be listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

NAPSA submitted a proposal to the NIH on May 24, 2013 outlining placement options and solutions for the entire federal chimpanzee population. No other group of organizations has precisely the type of expertise that is needed now to transition NIH's chimpanzees to retirement, and we look forward to working with the NIH on this important shift.

Even after decades of laboratory life, chimpanzees literally transform in sanctuaries:



**Figure 1. Negra on her first day at Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest, after 30+ years in research.**



**Figure 2 Negra after several years of sanctuary.**

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About NAPSA: NAPSA member sanctuaries are professionally operated and abide by the highest standards, including accreditation by a global accrediting body. The chimpanzee sanctuaries have extensive experience in retiring research chimpanzees, including construction of housing, evaluation of individual needs, transportation, social group introductions and medical/mental health evaluation and treatment.

Member sanctuaries represent 500 current chimpanzee residents (nearly double the federal population) housed on almost 2,000 acres of collective sanctuary space. Over 85% of those residents spent time in research facilities earlier in their lives.

NAPSA members: Black Beauty Ranch, Center for Great Apes, Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest, Chimps Inc., Chimp Haven, Fauna Foundation, Primate Rescue Center, Save the Chimps.

[www.primatesanctuaries.org](http://www.primatesanctuaries.org)