

## Orangutan SSP Spotlight



**Name:** Erin Jones

**SSP Job Title:** Treasurer and Steering Committee member

**Brief info about yourself:** I was tired of dressing in ten layers with my eyes frozen open in ND so I made the move to continue my career in SLC and go skiing on the weekends. I currently work with 2.2 gorillas, 1.2 Bornean Orangutans all housed in the same building, and every now and then I get to work with our elephants and rhinos.

**Your job title (not SSP, but the zoo you currently work at):** Director of Animal Care, Utah's Hogle Zoo

**Your history with orangutans:** I have worked with orangutans since 1999 at Utah's Hogle Zoo.

**Why orangutans?** Within a few months of starting at the zoo they needed people to train in Apes, so I volunteered. They are so challenging yet so rewarding to work with that I decided to stay with the naughty red heads.





**Best experience with orangutans:** Working with the orangutans and guests artists to create collaborative paintings for the ORANGE-UTAHN Art Show with proceeds going to orangutan conservation.

**Worst experience with orangutans:** While in the middle of shifting animals I had one orangutan who wanted my attention and spit in my ear in order to try and get it. Of course I

did not respond to her request much to her dismay.

**Biggest career accomplishment involving orangutans:** Building enough trust with our orangutans to train blood draws, ultrasound, x-ray, maternal behaviors, etc.

**The most unique form of orangutan memorabilia you own:** An orangutan painting and a cheek pad print bookmark.



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SPECIES SURVIVAL PLAN