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Boeing biodiversity efforts are virtual with real impact

Boeing encouraged virtual volunteering for employees during the pandemic, including, Zooniverse — the largest platform for **people-powered research** where over a million volunteers assist professional researchers to amplify their biodiversity, and other work, to advance science and the humanities.

Why it matters: Organizations like Zooniverse accelerate important research by volunteers and professionals making real discoveries together. Boeing volunteers access photos captured in various habitats to identify species and their activities. The goal is to enable

research that would not be possible, or practical, otherwise. 2021 Environment Champion, Kristin Marshall, has organized monthly online Zooniverse events with employees.

Engagement in 2022: In 2022, 186 employees volunteered 420 hours through Zooniverse, spotting and identifying animals, and generating thousands of dollars in gift-matching by Boeing’s gift-match program.

It comes down to this: A wide range of animals, plants and microorganisms create the healthy ecosystems that all living beings depend on for clean air, land and water. This research results in new discoveries, data sets useful to the wider research community and many publications.

“Boeing’s work with Zooniverse underscores two important lessons. Many hands make light work and biodiversity reminds us that we’re part of something bigger than ourselves.”

Chris Raymond, Chief Sustainability Officer



Wildwatch Kenya tracks giraffes in Northern Kenya conservation areas, along with the other animals that share the habitat, like the plains zebra, to better understand the behavior, movements and population numbers of the wildlife found there. (Adobe photo)

Environmental Compliance is Good for Business, People and the Planet

A fundamental element of Boeing’s environmental policy is to maintain **regulatory compliance**. When noncompliance is identified in our environmental management systems, Boeing evaluates and analyzes the incident, implements corrective actions and shares process improvements to build the learning into the organization.

Boeing paid one significant environmental penalty in 2022, where “significant” is determined by a fine greater than \$10,000. At the end of 2021, stormwater samples collected at the Santa Susana Field Lab exceeded the site-specific permit limits for copper, chronic toxicity, iron, manganese, dioxin (TCDD), and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) at one or more outfalls. The penalty incurred was \$22,000. The site experienced high-intensity rain events in the fourth quarter of 2021 that resulted in higher-than-normal rates of erosion from the site; the excess levels are believed to be attributable to natural sources — such as increased erosion of natural soils, decaying vegetation or waterfowl waste — and nonindustrial sources — such as road runoff and soils adjacent to telephone/utility poles. Excess copper and chronic toxicity were not attributed to an identifiable source and were episodic in nature where laboratory error was suspected.

On July 26, 2022, a significant rainfall event in the St. Louis region caused flooding that impacted the St. Louis site Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP). Floodwaters overtopped the IWTP, resulting in a release of untreated wastewater and associated sludges, as well as approximately 100 gallons of diesel fuel from a ruptured above-ground storage tank. The release was reported to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the National Response Center, and the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District, and appropriate response actions were completed after the flooding subsided.