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Tour of Enchantment: Mobile Rainforest Rolls to New Mexico

Santa Fe, New Mexico, February 1, 2006... The desert meets a lush rainforest when Discovery Creek Children's Museum's *Rolling Rainforest* exhibit arrives in Santa Fe to kick off its two-week Tour of Enchantment. For the first time ever, elementary school children of New Mexico will experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the rainforest in their very own schoolyard.

"I am proud to welcome the *Rolling Rainforest* to New Mexico," said Governor Bill Richardson. **"The Tour of Enchantment is such a wonderful gift to the people of our great state. Not only does this innovative mobile exhibit educate children about the biodiversity and value of an exotic, vital ecosystem, it also encourages all New Mexicans to become stewards of our local environment."**

The Washington, DC Museum's 53-foot trailer will be providing hands-on environmental science education to students at Laguna Elementary School in Laguna, Jemez Day School in Jemez Pueblo, Emerson Elementary School in Albuquerque, and Pojoaque Intermediate and Pablo Roybal Elementary Schools in Pojoaque Valley.

State Senator Shannon Robinson stated, **"Bringing the *Rolling Rainforest* to New Mexico is a true miracle. The Pueblo people have so much to teach us about our mother Earth and now we get to return the favor with a gift of the *Rolling Rainforest*! My Senate District is the most international in the state so we are really excited. Our school kids are starting to study the rainforest to get ready. This is the event of the year for us."**

"I am extremely pleased to welcome the *Rolling Rainforest* into New Mexico," shared Congressman Tom Udall (NM-3). **"The children who take part in the tour will gain a greater appreciation for the complex ecosystem we live in. This first hand experience with the rainforest will also provide them with a view of a unique environment outside of the southwest at a very impressionable age, and that will translate directly into how they view the world for years to come."**

What: 11 am Press Conference and Reception
Exhibit Tours until 3 pm

Who: Governor Bill Richardson
Senator Shannon Robinson, D-17
Secretary Stuart Ashman, New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs

When: Wednesday, February 1

Where: Rotunda, State Capitol, Santa Fe

The *Rolling Rainforest*'s Tour of Enchantment is made possible thanks to the generous support of Governor Bill Richardson, the New Mexico State Legislature, Senator Shannon Robinson, the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, the New Mexico Department of Tourism, and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science.

Since 1994, Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington, DC has served hundreds of thousands of children as a pioneer in providing comprehensive environmental education. The Museum's mission is to inspire all children to experience, appreciate, and become stewards of the natural environment. For more information, please call 202-337-5111 or visit the Museum's website at discoverycreek.org.

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