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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND OPENING OF POCATELLO ZOO'S CHILDREN'S WILDLIFE THEATER

The Pocatello Zoo will open its new Children's Wildlife Theater at 11:00 a.m. this Saturday, July 23, 2011 inside the Zoo Entrance and near the Bird of Prey Exhibits. Zoo staff and trained volunteers will be offering live animal programs for Zoo visitors through Labor Day weekend at this new facility.

The theater was constructed with grant funding from The Fred Meyer Fund (\$11,000) and U.S. Bancorp Foundation (\$2,000). Lowe's of Pocatello also assisted with discounts on the building materials. The two grants, which were obtained by the Pocatello Zoological Society, also funded the Zoo's new "Wild Wings" Outreach programs to all 3rd and 4th grade classrooms in School District 25 this past school year. The "Wild Wings" programs, along with themes involving other animals at the Pocatello Zoo, will provide additional opportunities for wildlife education and entertainment for all Zoo visitors, included in the price of admission. The first program will start at 11:15 a.m. Saturday, with additional programs every 40 minutes until the last one at 1:15 p.m. Programs will be held on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The regular show schedule will be announced next week, or individuals can call the Zoo Entrance (208-234-6196) for updates. Schedules will also be posted at the theater.

Two new hawk exhibits are currently under construction adjacent to the theater, and they are also being funded through the grants. They will be completed over the next two weeks by Zoo staff and volunteers from the Idaho Fish and Game Department. They will provide permanent displays for two of the program birds of prey.

The Pocatello Zoo and Pocatello Zoological Society wish to sincerely thank The Fred Meyer Fund and U.S. Bancorp Foundation for their wonderful support. This project would not have been possible without them.

Officials attending the media opening will include Kate O'Connor, Pocatello Zoo Curator of Education; Daniel Varas, Zoo Education Assistant; Ronda Finuf, Fred Meyer Human Resources Coordinator and member of The Fred Meyer Fund Advisory Committee; Liz Johnson, Retail Vice President for U.S. Bancorp; and Jim Campbell, U S Bank Pocatello Branch Manager.

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