



Media Release

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WONDERS OF WILDLIFE RENOVATION/EXPANSION TO BE BIGGER AND BETTER

New Date For Reopening Spring 2009

Springfield, MO---February 19, 2008---Wonders of Wildlife, the National Fish and Wildlife Museum, continues to move forward with major renovation and expansion of their facilities. Demolition work is well under way and on track to allow for new attractions and exhibits.

In this process, several major mechanical pump and air-handling systems behind the scenes were found to be in a state of deterioration and disrepair, making it necessary to replace these units now rather than wait for further problems to show themselves, facing these costs later. The new systems will be more efficient, state of the art units that should carry the facility well into the future. While it was thought that reopening could occur as early as this summer, it is now anticipated that completing these improvements will extend into the winter months and that reopening will be early Spring 2009.

Due to this extended time to get the facility completed, 8 salary and 11 hourly full and part-time employees will be affected. WOW will work with these individuals to help them find other suitable employment.

All of the fish and animals on exhibit have been moved to other, temporary locations and are being well taken care of. Most of the current conservation and education programs will continue throughout the year while the attraction is being upgraded.

The overall additions and improvements to WOW's new facility will more than double its size to over 200,000 sq ft. It will include a new entry, as well as expand

its footprint into the existing Bass Pro Shops building, including a second story that will house several new hunting and wildlife attractions.

Some of the other new additions in the works include a walk-through shark tank and a 40-foot stingray dome, as well as many other aquarium additions that will be both entertaining and educational.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to make WOW the absolutely best it can be for the city of Springfield, the state of Missouri and all its citizens”, stated Peggy Smith, acting Executive Director. “When finished, Wonders of Wildlife will be one of the premier wildlife and aquarium destination attractions in all of the United States.”

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