



**MINNESOTA ZOO™**

Changing how you see the world

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE  
LEGACY AMENDMENT FUNDS  
REPORTING PERIOD JANUARY 15, 2011 – JANUARY 15, 2012**



## **BACKGROUND**

Laws 2009, Chapter 172, Article 4, Section 2, Subdivision 5(f) states that:

All recipients of funds under this subdivision shall report to the legislature by January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year on uses of those funds.

The Minnesota Zoo entered into an interagency agreement with the Department of Administration on October 22, 2009 based on the following language in the bill:

Zoos. \$450,000 in 2010 and \$450,000 in 2011 are appropriated for the programmatic development of Minnesota's zoos. Three-quarters of this fund in any year shall be reserved in equal portions each for the Minnesota Zoo, the Como Zoo, and the Lake Superior Zoo. The remainder may be apportioned through a competitive grants process or may be allocated by the commissioner to zoos that are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums or that demonstrate to the commissioner a plan for working toward that accreditation during the biennium ending June 30, 2011.

The interagency agreement provides \$111,375 in Fiscal Year 2010 to design a Black Bear exhibit on the Medtronic Minnesota Trail with an emphasis on interpreting the history and place of black bears in the state. Funding of \$111,375 in Fiscal Year 2011 is to be used to pilot a Distance Learning program with an emphasis on Minnesota animals.

An interagency agreement between The Minnesota Zoo and the Department of Administration was entered into on June 22, 2010 to develop, design and produce a live theatrical performance that will help Minnesota Zoo visitors have a stronger understanding of the concept of biodiversity and its importance to wildlife and the natural world. The agreement provided \$41,266 as a discretionary grant for this purpose.

## **PROJECTS FUNDED IN CALENDAR YEAR 2011**

Laws XXX provided \$1,500,000 to the Minnesota Zoological Garden in Fiscal Year 2012 for "programmatic development of the Minnesota Zoo." The Zoo has developed programming in four areas: *Conservation in Minnesota*, *Conservation Education in Minnesota*, *Zoo Site Habitat and Landscape*, and *Minnesota's Farming Heritage*.

### ***Conservation in Minnesota:***

Funding has allowed us to expand our partnerships with the University of Minnesota, the Department of Natural Resources, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and non-profit organizations focusing on conservation of Moose and Prairie butterflies.

### ***Conservation Education in Minnesota:***

With over 1.2 million guests a year, state-wide outreach programs and a website visited by millions, the Zoo is in a unique position to strengthen Minnesotans' awareness and

understanding of wildlife, science and conservation. Programming has included on-site for guests, web-based learning, and expansion of Zoomobile outreach. Methods have included innovative use of the arts and additional human interaction.

***Zoo Site Habitat and Landscape:***

With 485 acres – including nearly 100 acres of original oak woodland and 14 water bodies-the Zoo is using its stewardship of these resources to educate our guests on the heritage of conserving and caring for these resources.

***Minnesota's Farming Heritage:***

The Wells Fargo Family Farm provides an opportunity for the Zoo's 1.2 million guests to experience a working farm. Many of these guests are children who have not had the opportunity to spend time on a farm or appreciate agricultural food production. The Zoo was able to expand the farm season and increase special events at the farm.