



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

For Immediate Release  
February 1, 2006

Contact: Jon Goldstein  
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2248

### **Governor Richardson Welcomes Mobile Rainforest to New Mexico**

(Santa Fe, NM) – Governor Bill Richardson today welcomed a lush rainforest to New Mexico as Discovery Creek Children’s Museum’s *Rolling Rainforest* kicked off its two-week Tour of Enchantment at the State Capitol. Elementary school children across New Mexico will experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the rainforest in their very own schoolyard from the inside of an exhibit housed in a 53-foot trailer.

“In this Year of the Child, I have made education a top priority,” said Governor Richardson. “I am pleased that this exhibit will visit five New Mexico schools in the next month and help educate thousands of New Mexico students, teachers and families about the biodiversity and value of a vital ecosystem. It will also encourage all New Mexicans to become stewards of our local environment.”

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. The *Rolling Rainforest* will provide hands-on environmental science education to students across the state as follows:

#### **Tour Schedule**

Thu, Feb. 2 – Fri, Feb. 3	Laguna Elementary School, Laguna
Mon, Feb. 6 – Tue, Feb. 7	Jemez Day School, Jemez Pueblo
Wed, Feb. 8 – Thu, Feb. 9	Emerson Elementary School, Albuquerque
Fri, Feb. 10	Pojoaque Intermediate School, Pojoaque Valley
Mon, Feb. 13 – Tue, Feb. 14	Pablo Roybal Elementary School, Pojoaque Valley

The *Rolling Rainforest*’s Tour of Enchantment is made possible thanks to the 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.

In honor of the tour, the Governor also declared February Rolling Rainforest Month in New Mexico.

**WHEREAS**, the Rolling Rainforest of Discovery Creek Children’s Museum in Washington, DC, is making its maiden journey to the State of New Mexico for the Tour of Enchantment; and

**WHEREAS**, this one-of-a-kind, innovative mobile exhibit, housed in a 53-foot trailer, recreates a rich environment that brings the sights, sounds and smells of a far-away ecosystem to the schoolyard for students to experience firsthand; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rolling Rainforest educates children about the biodiversity and value of an exotic, vital ecosystem, while encouraging them to appreciate and become stewards of their own local environment; and

**WHEREAS**, this state-of-the-art exhibit allows educators from the Discovery Creek Children’s Museum to lead our elementary school students in learning experiences that bring science to life; and

**WHEREAS**, by virtue of its mobility, the Rolling Rainforest serves thousands of New Mexico’s students, teachers and families directly in their schools and communities;

***NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim February 2006 as:***

**“Rolling Rainforest Month”**

*throughout the State of New Mexico.*

***Attest:***

***Done at the Executive Office this***  
***30<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2006.***

Rebecca Vigil-Giron

Witness my hand and the Great Seal

***Secretary of State***

***of the Great State of New Mexico***

Bill Richardson  
Governor