



Media Contact:  
Katie Sullivan  
801-495-4448 ext. 203  
[Katie.s@thelivingplanet.com](mailto:Katie.s@thelivingplanet.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 20, 2007**

### **Wells Fargo Gives The Living Planet Aquarium Bullfrogs an Early Christmas Present**

A gift from Wells Fargo is providing a new home for two bullfrogs on display at The Living Planet Aquarium. The exhibit, scheduled to be unveiled on Saturday, Dec. 22, gives the bullfrogs a new habitat meant to mimic a natural Utah environment – much like the marshes near the Great Salt Lake. In their current home at The Living Planet Aquarium, the bullfrogs spend most of their time in water. Brandon Eyre, Curator of Animals at the aquarium, said that the new exhibit will be 80 percent water to fit the bullfrogs' lifestyle and needs. The exhibit – which was designed and created by a local company, Eaton's Eden – will be updated to highlight the natural beauty of Utah marshes.

Wells Fargo has contributed to The Living Planet Aquarium annually since 2002. This year Wells Fargo gave the aquarium \$5,000 to create a new habitat for its bullfrog exhibit. When asked about Wells Fargo's donation, Stephanie Harpst, vice president for Wells Fargo Community Relations in Utah said, "We are proud to support The Living Planet Aquarium and are excited about helping to improve its exhibits – especially now that the aquarium is serving more than 235,000 visitors each year." Wells Fargo has been recognized by many Utah organizations for its commitment to the community, arts and education. In 2006, Wells Fargo donated more than \$1.7 million to more than 350 nonprofit agencies and schools in Utah. One area of focus for Wells Fargo's charitable giving is public education – particularly Utah's K-12 schools. The new bullfrog exhibit at the aquarium will help achieve this focus by providing enrichment and outreach opportunities to many Utah school children and their families. Wells Fargo is one of Utah's largest private employers – with more than 4,200 team members. Wells Fargo also is the state's largest financial institution – with 190 locations in Utah, including 137 banking stores, in more than 70 communities.

Bullfrogs can grow up to eight inches in length and they can often be found near quiet, slow moving water surrounded by dense vegetation. Bullfrogs subsist on a diet of worms, insects, other amphibians and small animals. Although the bullfrog is native to parts of the Eastern United States, they have been widely introduced in the Western United States and Hawaii. Bullfrogs pose considerable ecological threats as they negatively affect biodiversity. They are also considered voracious predators because they will eat anything smaller than

**--More--**

themselves. In the U.S. and Canada, bullfrogs are driving native frog populations to extinction. The bullfrogs are on display at the aquarium with special permission from the state Division of Wildlife Resources and will help to educate the public about preserving Utah's natural habitats.

### **About The Living Planet Aquarium:**

The Living Planet Aquarium is dedicated to celebrating life on Earth by fostering a greater awareness and knowledge of Earth's diverse ecosystems and creating a deeper understanding of our place in the global system of life.

The Living Planet Aquarium Preview Exhibit presents a peek at Utah's lake and stream ecosystems and tropical coral reef habitats with two exhibit galleries. In the Utah Waters Gallery Visitors can take a virtual boat ride and learn about the Great Salt Lake ecosystem, see fish that are native to Utah and some that are endangered and labeled sensitive species. In the Marine Gallery visitors can come face-to-face with sharks, razor-toothed eels and delicate corals or imagine themselves at the bottom of the sea amidst colorful giant coral, sponges and the ship-wrecked 1830s Albatross. This preview exhibit, a glimpse of what's to come in the future with plans for a world-class aquarium, brings more than 500 animals and 120 species of animals to people who might not have the chance to see them or their ecosystem in a natural setting.

The Living Planet's facilities and programs benefit a wide spectrum of constituents: families, students, educators, scientists, researchers, the environment, and the thousands of our living planet's animal species whose preservation is intrinsic to the aquarium's mission.

To date, more than 625,000 guests have visited the preview exhibit since it opened in June, 2004 and our education programs reach thousands of students of all ages each year. We are particularly proud of our ability to educate Utah school children. Our in-house and outreach educational programs have reached a total of over 300,000 students. Due to tremendous growth, our educational programs now reach over 50,000 school children annually.

Individuals and organizations can support the aquarium in many ways including: becoming aquarium members, shopping in the gift shop, having lunch at Calypso's Café, adopting an animal, making a tax-deductible charitable donation, having a birthday party or event at the aquarium, and visiting the aquarium often.

The Living Planet Aquarium, located at 725 E 106000 S in Sandy, is open for regular hours Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, students and military personnel, \$6 for children ages 3-17 and free for children under 2 years of age. The first Monday of every month The Living Planet Aquarium offers half-priced Family night from 4-6 p.m. Visitors can purchase annual memberships for \$15 for each adult and \$9 for each child. Memberships entitle visitors a full year of admissions plus 10% discounts in the gift shop and for birthday parties in the sunken ship.

**--End--**