

## RUSSIA'S GRIZZLY COAST EXHIBIT FACT SHEET



### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Russian Far East is one of the last great wilderness areas on earth, home to an amazing diversity of animals, including some of the world's largest predators. But the environment and animals of this area are in danger. The Minnesota Zoo—and the new *Russia's Grizzly Coast* exhibit—will play an important role in educating and promoting conservation of this little-known but extraordinary place.

This part of the world is a great fit for Minnesota because of similar climates—both are located along the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel. The Minnesota Zoo has a history of success in exhibiting and conserving cold-climate animals. This will be the first exhibit of its kind featuring the region, landscapes, and animal combinations of the Russian Far East.

### **PLANNING GOAL:**

The Zoo will create an immersive, multi-sensory exhibition<sup>1</sup> that evokes the Russian Far East wilderness. It will feature iconic animals in naturalistic habitats, demonstrating that conserving animals and conserving natural environments are inextricably linked.

### **DESCRIPTION:**

*Russia's Grizzly Coast* will take guests on an exploration of three main areas of Russia's Far East: the Pacific coast, the volcanic north, and the forested south. Starting along the coast, guests will experience sea otters playing in the water among dramatic rock formations. Next is the volcanic land of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula where geysers, mud pots, and lava tubes provide a dramatic backdrop for massive brown bears. The journey continues to a place that is reminiscent of the forests of Minnesota. Heavily wooded, the southern tip of Russia is home to wild boar and two of the world's largest and most endangered cats: the Amur leopard and the Amur tiger. The exhibition then connects with the Zoo's Northern Trail featuring additional animals from northern biomes like the Asian steppe, tundra, and taiga.

### **HABITAT:**

This exhibit will cover three main habitats: the Pacific coast, the volcanic Kamchatka Peninsula, and the taiga forests of Primorsky Krai.

- Russia's Pacific coast supports some of the world's richest marine life, fisheries, and seabird diversity. Streams, rivers, and estuaries mix with the rich waters of the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Okhotsk creating a diverse ecosystem including some of the world's largest marine life.
- The Kamchatka Peninsula has perhaps the highest density of volcanoes in the world. Its climate ranges from temperate to subarctic with a variety of trees, mountains, and free-flowing rivers. The influence of the ocean keeps the temperature milder than other subarctic locations. Kamchatka is best known for the abundance and size of its brown bear populations.
- The southern tip of the Russian Far East is mountainous and almost 80% is forested. A mix of deciduous and coniferous trees make it look similar to the woods of Minnesota. One of the few places where the forests are still pristine, this is home to the very rare Amur leopard and Amur tiger.

### **SPECIES:**

Species included in *Russia's Grizzly Coast* are northern sea otters, brown bears, wild boars, and Amur leopards.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibition refers to the complete package of animals, landscapes, interpretive elements, staff, and programs.

**EXHIBIT DIMENSIONS:**

Total Exhibit Size: 3.5 acres

Otter Exhibit: 1,368 sq. ft.  
Pool: 34,000 gallons

Bear Exhibit: 13,603 sq. ft.  
Stream: 1,800 gallons  
Pool: 16,500 gallons  
Trout Pond: 2,600 gallons

Boar Exhibit: 1,932 sq. ft.

Leopard Exhibit: 2,785 sq. ft.

**EXHIBIT DESIGN:**

The Portico Group, Seattle, WA

Architects:	Architectural Alliance, Minneapolis, MN
Structural Engineers:	MLA Engineering, Seattle, WA
Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing:	Sebesta-Blomberg, Roseville, MN
Green Roofs:	Kestrel Design Group, Edina, MN
Horticulture:	Zoo Horticulture Consulting and Design, Ossining, NY
Life Support Systems:	PBS&J, San Diego, CA

Interpretive Fabrication: Split Rock Studios, Arden Hills, MN

Owner's Representative: Sterns & Associates, LLC

**CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT/GENERAL CONTRACTOR:**

Mortenson Construction, Minneapolis, MN

Rockwork:	Cemrock, Tucson, AZ
Earthwork:	Carl Bolander and Sons, St. Paul, MN
Mechanical:	MMC, Minneapolis, MN
Electrical:	Gephart Electric, St. Paul, MN
Landscaping:	Aloha Landscape, MN

**EXHIBIT COST:**

\$23.6 million

**EXHIBIT FUNDING:**

State of Minnesota