

# CURATORIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCHERS INTENDING TO COLLECT

## Denali National Park and Preserve

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### Introduction

A museum collection is generated and maintained to document and support a park's resource management, research, and interpretive programs. The National Park Service (NPS) museum program objectives include the commitment to collect, document and preserve objects, specimens, samples and associated records as defined within a park's approved scope of collection statement (SOCS). The collection is a nonrenewable resource.

In the NPS, the Superintendent is responsible for the accountability, preservation, protection and use of the site's museum collections. The Superintendent ensures that all research projects generating museum specimens include funding to ensure that cataloging and the initial preservation and storage requirements are accomplished. The Superintendent recommends or approves all planning documents that are related to the proper management of the museum collections. The day-to-day care for a park's collection is delegated by the Superintendent to the park curatorial staff. Park curatorial staff may also undertake the responsibility of researching and interpreting the collection. The curatorial staff must be involved in reviewing specimen collecting activities, including permit requests, to insure that NPS curatorial requirements are met.

### Scope of Requirements

**The curatorial requirements outlined in this document apply to both NPS and non-NPS researchers.** Park-generated research projects and specimens collected by park staff are not exempt from these requirements.

### Authority

The policies and procedures stated in this document are authorized by the following NPS policies and guidelines: NPS *Management Policies 2006*, Director's Order #24 (NPS Museum Collection Management), Director's Order #77 (Natural Resource Protection and NPS-75 [Inventory and Monitoring Program]), NPS Museum Handbook, Parts I-III and Automated National Catalog System (ANCS+) User's Manual.

Complete text of NPS policies is available at [www.nps.gov/policy](http://www.nps.gov/policy). Relevant excerpts for natural history collections are presented below.

The NPS *Management Policies* states:

Natural resource collections include non-living and living specimens. Guidance for collecting and managing specimens and associated field records can be found in the Code

of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 2.5) and NPS guidance documents, including the museum handbook. Non-living specimens and their associated field records are managed as museum collections. Living collections will be managed in accordance with the provisions of a park's management plan, the Animal Welfare Act, and other appropriate requirements. Field data, objects, specimens, and features obtained for preservation during inventory, monitoring, research, and study projects, together with associated records and reports, will be managed over the long term within the museum collection. Specimens that are not authorized for consumptive analysis will be labeled and cataloged into an appropriate cataloging system in accordance with applicable regulations (36 CFR 2.5). (4:4.2.3).

Natural resource collections are managed according to NPS *Management Policies*, Museum Objects and Library Materials (5:9-11); Security and Protective Measures (5:13-14); and Preservation of Data and Collections and Protection of Research Potential (5:3-4).

Director's Order #24 (NPS Museum Collection Management) requires that the park Superintendent ensures that all projects undertaken with the park budget for curation of generated museum specimens. *Section 4.3.16 Project-generated Collections* states that Superintendent's must:

Require project budgets to include funding for the basic management of collections that are project-generated. Collections management includes cataloging; labeling; conservation examination and treatment (including specimen preparation); initial storage of objects and specimens; and organization and storage of project documentation, including appraisal, arrangement, description, finding aid production and appropriate archival housing.

- Before starting, permitting or contracting a project, specify in writing in the task directive, proposal, agreement, permit or contract, the parties responsible, the designated NPS or non-NPS repository, the collections management tasks and a time schedule for completion.
- Fund subsequent ongoing maintenance costs of collections management from the operating base of the responsible park, center or other repository.
- If project-generated collections cannot be accommodated in available storage space, and new storage space construction is necessary, program to construct new space to accommodate the expanded collection. If interim storage is needed, specify in the project task directive the location of that storage, and state that it must meet NPS standards. Identify the funding source for interim storage.

Director's Order #77 (Natural Resource Management Guideline) states:

A critical element in the preservation of permanently retained natural resource collections is ensuring that early and continuing consideration of curatorial concerns is an integral part of the park's scientific research planning process. Many park research projects produce specimens that may have inherent long-term preservation value. The responsibility for the curation of such specimens and associated data must be determined by a park's scientific and curatorial staff prior to starting a research project and be written

into the conditions of each research proposal, cooperative agreement, contract or collecting permit. Planning includes determining provisions for field documentation and preparation of specimens, identifying the recipient NPS or non-NPS repository for the specimens and ensuring that each project funds the cataloging and initial preservation and storage costs.

### Definitions

**Natural resource museum collection:** A collection comprised of permanently retained specimens and samples taken from the living and nonliving components of the natural world and project documentation generated by the collecting and research activities. A specimen without its associated documentation has limited or no scientific value. The decision to permanently retain a specimen in a park's museum collection depends on the purpose of the collecting activity or the recommendations of the researcher/collector in consultation with park curatorial staff. General reference collections, voucher specimens, exhibit specimens and most research specimens are managed as part of a park's museum collection. Natural resource museum collections can include biological specimens, geological specimens, paleontological specimens and environmental samples.

**Project Documentation:** Data, records, reports and other related information generated as a result of research activities conducted within a park or on museum specimens collected in a park. Natural resource archives may contain field notes, daily journals, maps, drawings, photos and negatives, slides, videotapes, raw data sheets, remote sensing data, copies of contracts, correspondence, repository agreements, specialists' reports and analyses, reports and manuscripts, collection inventories, field catalogs, analytical study data, sound recordings, computer documentation and data, tabulations and lists, specimen preparation records, conservation treatment records and reports on all scientific samples lost through destructive analysis.

### Ownership of Collections

**All specimens collected for permanent retention, as well as their derivatives and byproducts, remain the property of the National Park Service.** If you collect specimens that are to be permanently retained—regardless of where they are kept—those specimens must be accessioned and cataloged into the NPS Automated National Catalog System (ANCS+), and must bear NPS labels containing NPS accession and catalog numbers.

### Designated Repositories

The museum collections from Denali National Park and Preserve (DNA) are located at the park in the basement of the resources building. The use of other repositories, however, is appropriate in furtherance of the NPS mission to ensure access and preservation of museum collections. All such repositories must meet NPS standards for the preservation and protection of museum collections. **The proposed repository for specimens collected must be discussed with the park Curator as part of the permit application process.** The NPS reserves the right to mandate specific repositories for collections from park property.

Please note that the NPS does not loan specimens to individuals—institutional sponsorship is required. All loans of specimens to institutions (for cataloging, research, conservation, exhibit or storage purposes) must be accompanied by the required loan paperwork, approved by the appropriate park Superintendent. The maximum time period for any loan is 10 years; extensions or renewals of loans can be granted.

BEFORE arriving in the park to collect:

Call the park Curator at (907) 683-9536 to obtain an accession number for the collection.

- **Accession numbers are assigned as a condition of receiving a permit.**
- Please have your study number available when you call.
- Be prepared to discuss your project briefly (specimen collection, destructive analysis, associated records, proposed repositories, etc.).
- The accession number will be emailed to you and the Research Coordinator as well as appropriate cataloging instructions.
- The park accession number must appear on all reports, field notes and correspondence relating to the collection, and on the label of each specimen collected.

DURING Collecting:

During collection it is essential to gather complete information required for cataloging specimens. **It is highly recommended that you review the fields in the cataloging instructions prior to collection.** The Museum Catalog Worksheet-NH (Form 10-254D) may be used during field work for documenting pertinent data on-site, thus assuring that the collector has recorded all pertinent ANCS+-related data. Copies of Form 10-254D may be obtained from the park Curator.

**Per Director's Order #77, the use of longitude/latitude or Universal Transverse Mercator Grid (UTM) coordinates is required** in the natural resource specimen catalog record to integrate information into the Geographic Information System (GIS). These databases allow for efficient and effective use of the collection information for park-related management programs, for determining gaps in research needs, and for helping resource managers make decisions and set priorities, for the following programs:

- Inventory and monitoring
- Environmental compliance
- Fire planning
- Development planning
- Wildlife management
- Vegetation management
- Environmental impact plans
- Resource management plans

AFTER collecting:

Call the park Curator to obtain a block of catalog numbers for the specimens that will be permanently retained. When you call, please have the following information ready:

- Your accession number.

- Dates collecting began and ended.
- Number of specimens collected (estimates are acceptable for large collections).
- The name of the institution and point of contact where specimens will be cataloged.

The Curator will send you (or the individual responsible for cataloging the collection):

- Additional copies of the cataloging instructions, if needed.
- Sample catalog records, if needed.
- At the request of the cataloger, a copy of the ANCS+ software to allow direct entry of data, can be sent instead of the export file. ANCS+ is a Windows-based, user-friendly program based on a commercial product called Re:discovery. A contractor's license is available through the software company.
- NPS specimen labels and instructions for their completion, if needed. If you are using ANCS+, NPS labels can be generated electronically.
- An NPS Outgoing Loan Agreement form, to be signed by the institutional representative responsible for the loan. (All specimens, as well as their derivatives and byproducts, remain the property of the United States).

### Integrated Pest Management

The NPS does not fumigate museum specimens as a preventive measure. Pests are managed through isolation, monitoring, good housekeeping, eliminating food and beverages, excluding pests and other Integrated Pest Management practices. Do not use fumigants with NPS collections. If you have concerns or questions about individual specimens, please contact the park Curator.

### Cataloging

Cataloging of NPS specimens must be done in ANCS+, or, by using an export template to catalog in MS Excel. **Refer to the cataloging instructions for additional information on required fields and formats for cataloging NPS specimens.**

**Cataloging of specimens to NPS standards is the responsibility of the collector.** The cataloging process records the documentary information of the specimen and can serve as an index to additional sources of information. It is the primary property and location record of a natural resource specimen. This information is entered into the ANCS+, making the information available for future accountability, inventory, and research purposes.

**NOTE: SPECIMENS THAT ARE TO BE CONSUMED IN THE COURSE OF RESEARCH SHOULD NOT BE CATALOGED.**

For standard cataloging procedures, refer to the NPS Museum Handbook, Part II, Chapters 3 and 4, Appendix H, and the ANCS+ User Manual. Electronic copies of these documents are available at [www.cr.nps.gov/museum/publications/index.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/publications/index.htm)

### Specimen Labels

As stated in Director's Order #77 (Natural Resources Management Guideline), NPS specimen labels:

- Become a permanent record and identify the specimen as belonging to the NPS irrespective of where it is being stored or used;
- Provide data that are essential to the identification of the specimen and are required for the proper cataloging of the specimen; and
- Must be completed by the collector before cataloging.

Specimen labels are available to NPS and non-NPS researchers who collect specimens as part of an approved research project. For guidance on standard labeling procedures refer to the NPS Museum Handbook, Part II, Appendix H.

Labels must be printed on archival quality (acid-free) paper or Tyvek using permanent ink. All labels **MUST** contain the appropriate park accession and catalog numbers in permanent ink, in this format:

Accession Number:  
**DENA-12345**

Catalog Number:  
**DENA 999999**

**Note that the hyphen is necessary to distinguish the accession number from the catalog number.** Do not use hyphens in the catalog number.

- The accession number **MUST** appear on all reports, correspondence and original field records pertaining to the collection.
- Catalog numbers should be cited in your final report when referencing individual specimens.

#### AFTER Cataloging

Within one year of the final date of collecting, you must submit:

- Any specimens that are to be permanently retained, along with your labels and project documentation, to the repository in which they are to be curated. An electronic copy of your catalog records (either in ANCS+ or the appropriate export file) to the park Curator.
- Copies of all of your field records (notes, maps, recordings, etc.) to the park Curator. Please copy notes, maps and other written or printed matter onto acid-free paper. This requirement is a safeguard, in case original materials are accidentally destroyed or lost in the future. **Original field records must be retained permanently in association with the collection.**

If you find that you will have trouble meeting this deadline, call or write the park Curator at the address below to make other arrangements.

#### Material Transfer Agreements

All specimens (including anything derived from such material) removed from DENA remain federal property. If you wish to send specimens (or their progeny or derivatives) to a colleague outside your own laboratory or institution for further analysis, your colleague must complete a Material Transfer Agreement with the appropriate park and may also be required to apply for a Scientific Research and Collecting Permit. **No materials can be transferred until the appropriate paperwork has been completed.** For assistance with specimen transfers, please contact the park Curator.

Contact Information

Please contact the park Curator at any time during this process with any questions that may arise. We are here to help you comply with the terms of your permit and to make compliance as easy as possible, under current regulations.

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The Curator's office is located in the basement of the Resources building, Denali National Park and Preserve Headquarters Area.