

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

SCOPE OF COLLECTION STATEMENT



August 2025

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Great Basin National Park

SCOPE OF COLLECTION STATEMENT

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I. INTRODUCTION

Acquisition of museum objects is governed by the park's ability to manage and preserve materials according to NPS Management Policies, Chapter 5 (2006), the standards for managing museum objects in NPS-28: Cultural Resources Management Guideline (1998); Special Directive 80-1 Guidance for Meeting NPS Preservation and Protection Standards for Museum Collections (1990); and the NPS Museum Handbook I-III. See section IV Acquisitions for more information.

1. Executive Summary

Great Basin National Park (park or GRBA) currently manages a museum collection of 184,660 items (FY24 Collections Management Report or CMR). The park's museum collection includes cultural resource collections, natural history collections, and documentary archives. The cultural collections include archeological materials systematically excavated from within the park's boundaries and associated field reports; historic objects associated with the area's 19th and 20th century ranches, mines and homesteads; archival, manuscript, and photographic collections such as those associated with Absalom Lehman; and associated project documentation and reports and scientific and resource management records.

Cultural materials obtained from systematic archeological excavations, field collections, and historic preservation activities are housed at the park and at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC) in Tucson, Arizona.

The natural history collections include mammal collections; an herbarium of vascular plant species; geological specimens from caves, mostly Lehman Caves; paleontological collections including fossil and Pleistocene remains; and associated project documentation and reports. Other natural history collections include reptiles; fish; and insects. At present, a large portion of the natural history collection is on loan to university research facilities. The in-park natural history collection is relatively small, but the growing trend of park sponsored 'citizen science' projects has nearly doubled the in-park natural history collection over the last 14 years.

Archive collections include Lehman Caves National Monument administrative documents, U.S. Forest Service records for the area now encompassed within the park boundaries, and GRBA resource management records according to the records retention guidelines. Types of archival material are paper documents, maps, film and photographic prints.

Collections at the park are stored in a facility that does not meet NPS museum standards. Per the Pacific West Region (PWR) Storage Facility Plan (2022) and Value Analysis Study for the Mediterranean and Mojave Networks Museum Collection Storage Consolidated Location Siting (2023), the majority of collections should be relocated to an appropriate storage facility. A small storage area can remain to house frequently accessed collection items such as herbariums, tribal items restricted to regional locations, and small working space for new collection items during intake and accessioning.

For additional information on the museum collection, please contact: Elizabeth Cristobal, beth_cristobal@nps.gov.

2. Purpose of the Scope of Collection Statement

This [Scope of Collection Statement \(SOCS\)](#) defines the composition of present and future museum collection holdings of GRBA that contribute directly to the understanding and interpretation of the park's purpose, themes, and resources, as well as those objects that the National Park Service (NPS) is legally mandated to preserve. The SOCS is designed to ensure that the entirety of the museum collection is clearly relevant to the site and sets appropriate limits for acquisition. The SOCS is intended to be an evolving document which must be reviewed on a regular basis (minimum 5 years). Updates/changes should be made through interdisciplinary efforts of park and regional subject matter experts ([411.1 DM](#)).

[Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collection Management](#) states that NPS units with museum collections must:

- Approve and keep current a Scope of Collection Statement to identify the scope of collecting activities and define the purpose of the collection. (DO 24 4.3.6)
- Ensure that the statement is consistent with natural resource and archeological permit conditions. (4.3.6)
- Ensure acquisitions are consistent with the Scope of Collection Statement. (4.3.6)
- Deaccession objects inconsistent with the Scope of Collection Statement. (4.3.18)

Refer to the Use and Restrictions Appendix for other legislation and NPS legal authorities to acquire and preserve museum collections.

3. Context for GRBA Museum Collection

A. Park Purpose and Significance

From the Park's 2015 Foundation Document:

The purpose of GRBA (is to) is to preserve an outstanding segment of the Great Basin, including old-growth bristlecone pines, rich biodiversity, Lehman Caves and other distinctive geologic features, expansive scenic views, and 13,000 years of human history for the inspiration, enjoyment, and scientific understanding of current and future generations.

The following is a summary of significance statements for GRBA:

Great Basin National Park

1. Preserves an outstanding segment of the Great Basin geographic region and highlights its four defining characteristics: the Basin and Range topography; the hydrographic Great Basin, where no water flows to the sea; the Great Basin Desert, North America's largest; and the presence of numerous cultures over

many millennia.

2. Rises 8,000 vertical feet from the desert floor to alpine tundra, protecting exceptional biodiversity and providing an excellent example of island biogeography, where the surrounding desert has isolated plants and animals, forcing them to adapt and evolve.
3. Protects iconic bristlecone pines, the oldest living trees on the planet, a remnant strain of Bonneville cutthroat trout once thought to be locally extinct, and several plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world.
4. Showcases an exceptional combination of geologic features and processes, including historic Lehman Caves, classic Basin and Range topography, and glacially carved lakes, all crowned by 13,063-foot Wheeler Peak, the highest point in the central Great Basin.
5. Protects and preserves valuable archeological and historical sites, historic structures, and traditional places that remain important to people of diverse backgrounds today. These resources enrich our understanding of people living in and adapting to the challenging mountain desert environment of the Great Basin for more than 13,000 years.
6. Provides one of the best opportunities within the national park system for people to experience dark night skies, expansive views, peaceful natural sounds, solitude, and clean air.
7. The convergence of ecological factors, including climate, hydrology, pristine air quality, genetic isolation, relict communities, cave environs, and a steep elevation gradient, make Great Basin National Park a prime laboratory for studying global climate change. The park is uniquely positioned to contribute to the national and global understanding of climate change—one of the greatest challenges of our time.

These fundamental resources and values have been identified for GRBA:

- Caves, Karst, and Cave-Forming Processes, Including Lehman Caves
- Water Resources
- Evidence of Past and Current Climate Change
- Intact Great Basin Ecosystems
- Ancient Bristlecone Pines
- Solitude
- Scenic Views and Dark Night Skies
- Representative Resources of the Great Basin's 13,000 Years of Human History

There are currently no threatened/endangered listed species in the park, but there are several species of concern (potential for listing).

B. History of GRBA and GRBA Museum Collections

On February 10, 1909, President William Howard Taft established the Nevada National Forest, which included lands that are now part of Great Basin National Park. In October 1912, the area around the Lehman Caves were incorporated into the forest when the boundaries were enlarged and adjusted by presidential proclamation. On January 24, 1922, Lehman Caves National Monument was designated by presidential proclamation by President Warren D. Harding. (see Appendix A for the enabling legislation and other relevant legislation). The U.S. Forest Service continued to administer Lehman Caves until 1933 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6166, which provided for a major reorganization of the federal government; it stated that “All functions of administration of public buildings, reservations, national parks, national monuments, and national cemeteries are consolidated in an Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations in the Department of the Interior...”

After Lehman Caves was proclaimed a national monument, Clarence Rhodes was made the official custodian of the caves. Clarence and his wife Bea were permitted by the Forest Service to guide visitors through the cave. The Rhodes had purchased 50 acres of Absalom Lehman’s property which was adjacent to the caves in which they constructed cabins, a log lodge, and made improvements to the cave by replacing rope ladders with stairways. They held weddings, meetings, and played music on the cave stalactites and stalagmites. The Rhodes continued this until around 1930, when another couple moved in to manage the area. The 50-acre property was later purchased by the county and then donated to the federal government.

Great Basin National Park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on October 27, 1986. Administrative areas were added after 1986 including 80 acres in the town of Baker, NV with a National Register-listed Forest Service ranger station complex and recently constructed park residences, visitor center, and resource building.

See Appendix H for a brief history of the GRBA museum collection through 1999.

C. Collection Themes and Categories

Interpretive themes identified in the 2015 Foundation Document are:

- The park showcases the key features of the Great Basin, where rugged topography, inland drainage, and a high cold desert climate create a unique, but vulnerable, landscape.
- Over millions of years the forces of water, mountain building, and climatic change, shaped and then decorated the delicate formations in Lehman Caves; and yet, human activities can change this fragile environment in an instant.
- Abrupt elevation gain from the desert lowlands to the alpine peaks create distinct habitat zones, nurtures exceptional biodiversity, and isolates plant and animal communities—forcing them to adapt or die.
- As the oldest living trees on the planet, bristlecone pines teach us inspiring stories of survival and longevity under harsh conditions.

- Great Basin National Park offers an increasingly rare opportunity to view a natural dark night sky, provoking contemplation, inspiration, and wonder.
- Great Basin National Park's vast and remote natural setting offers exceptional opportunities for solitude, introspection, and contemplation.
- Capturing more than 13,000 years of human experience, Great Basin National Park presents a continuous tapestry of people living and thriving within this challenging high desert environment.
- Great Basin National Park is a living laboratory for the study of climate change, where that change has shaped the landscape and continues to impact all forms of life.

D. Special Designations

Six properties are listed in the National Register of Historic Places: Rhodes Cabin, Lehman Orchard and Aqueduct, Baker Ranger Station, Johnson Lake Mining District, the Osceola East Ditch, and Dunkahni Archeological District.

The Mission 66 developed area was constructed between 1962 and 1963 and consists of a visitor center, picnic area with comfort station, residential and maintenance areas which included five buildings - four residences and a utility building. Per the Determination of Eligibility (DOE) "the developed area retains integrity of location; however, some components have lost integrity of setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and there is not sufficient integrity among the components to convey integrity as a whole."

Eight cultural landscapes are listed in the Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS): Johnson Lake Mining District, Baker Ranger Station, Wheeler Peak Campground, Lehman Caves Developed Area, Grey Cliffs Campground, Baker Creek Campground, Lehman Orchard, and St. Lawrence Mine.

Seventy-four historic properties and/or cultural landscapes in the park have been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. These sites are in various stages of the documentation and nomination process, and more sites are being considered for NRHP eligibility every year.

The park lies in the middle of the Great Basin National Heritage Area (GBNHA), designated in 2006. GBNHA is nearly 16,000 square miles and includes White Pine Country in Nevada, Millard County in Utah, and the Duckwater Shoshone Reservation. Within the GBNHA boundaries are two natural historic landmarks - the Nevada Northern Railway and the Topaz World War II Japanese American Internment Camp, as well as culturally diverse and numerous historic sites.

In 2016, Great Basin National Park was recognized by the International Dark Sky Association as a Gold Tier International Dark Sky Park. The International Dark Sky Association works with communities, parks and protected areas to preserve and protect dark skies through public education and lightning policies. The designation as a Gold Tier International Dark Sky Park is granted to those areas with the darkest skies and very little light pollution and pristine skies.

Humans have inhabited the Great Basin for more than 13,000 years. The first people migrated throughout their homeland in search of food, with the seasons, and in response to long-term environmental change. Today, their descendants live on four small reservations - the Duckwater Shoshone, Ely Shoshone, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute, and the Kanosh Band of the Utah Paiute – continuing to adapt to a changing world while enriching the heritage of this region through their traditions of dance, music, and art. The park continues to partner and consult with these and other tribes.

II. TYPES OF COLLECTIONS

1. Cultural Collection

The purpose of this collection is to increase knowledge and inspiration among present and future generations through exhibits, research, and interpretive programs; support research, resource management, and education; provide baseline data of park cultural resources; document changes these resources are undergoing because of internal park conditions and external effects, and guarantee the protection of information about important objects and resources whose in-situ preservation cannot be assured.

The cultural collection is subdivided into five disciplines: archeology, ethnology, history, art, and archival and manuscript collections. All disciplines are represented in the GRBA museum collection, with the largest portion made up of the archives, followed by the history collection. The cultural collection is comprised of artifacts, artwork and associated records that foster our understanding of the human history of this area. In acquiring items for the cultural collection, items from the park lands or directly associated with the human history of the immediate area have a greater priority for acquisition than similar items without such primary associations. Exceptions may be made in the case of furnishing a historic structure, such as Rhodes Cabin, or for other special exhibit needs, but such exceptions should be carefully considered.

Future growth of the cultural resources collection will result from well-defined research projects based on needs identified in the GMP, the RMP and other approved planning documents. All researchers must comply with 36 CFR 2.5, Office Order 14 - Collection Permits and with all applicable state and federal laws regulating collecting, documenting collections and other associated activities. Any and all records associated with permitted cultural resources research projects will be obtained in the collection. Furthermore, research proposals and/or work plans that include collection of cultural material must provide funding for cataloging and initial preservation and storage of the specimens and records as a line-item budget and must identify the parties responsible for this curation. Uncontrolled casual collecting of cultural material by visitors or park staff is strongly discouraged (see Section IV, Acquisitions).

An object from the site or directly associated with person(s) or event(s) commemorated by the park is more desirable than a similar object without such association. Future growth of the collection should be restricted to items related to:

- Interpretive and/or research needs identified in GRBA approved planning documents and resource studies.
- Service-wide initiatives if applicable.
- Enhancing the understanding of, and promoting increased stewardship of, the park's cultural resources.
- Cultural resources baselines/inventory and monitoring activities.
- Regulatory and compliance activities such as those mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA).
- Refer to the Potentially Hazardous Material Appendix for more information.

A. Archeology Collection

Archeological resources are any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities which are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. They can reveal scientific or humanistic information through archeological research ([NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline](#)). Material remains are “artifacts, objects, specimens, and other physical evidence that are excavated or removed in connection with efforts to locate, evaluate, document, study, preserve, or recover a prehistoric or historic resource” ([36 CFR 79.4\(a\)\(1\)](#)). Note that archeologists increasingly use precontact instead of prehistoric.

Legal and ethical [standards](#) provide protection for archeological sites and materials. Artifacts found on the surface by NPS staff and visitors outside of an archeological investigation should be left in place; collecting them removes them from their archeological provenience, degrades sites, and can reduce our understanding of the artifacts and their contexts. If archeological materials are collected outside the parameters of an authorized archeological study and brought to park staff, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the visitor or staff member collects no more material, that precise provenience information is recorded, when possible, that park cultural resource staff are notified, and that the objects/data are promptly given to the curatorial staff upon receipt by staff members. Parks should develop appropriate standard operating procedure (SOPS), interpretive messages and staff training to prevent this unauthorized collection of materials. Violations under the [Archeological Resources Protection Act \(ARPA\), 1979](#), should be promptly reported to park law enforcement officers and the Regional Archeologist to complete the Archeological Resource Damage Assessment.

NPS *Management Policies* (2006, section 5.3.5.1) mandates that archeological resources are managed in situ, unless the removal of artifacts or physical disturbance is justified by research, consultation, preservation, protection, or interpretive requirements. “Data recovery actions will be taken only in the context of planning, consultation, and appropriate decision-making . . . conducted within the scope of an approved research design.” Refer to the Research Design Appendix for a more in-depth discussion of research design development within the context of the permitting process.

Project design should not incorporate more artifacts than is necessary to meet legitimate project goals. Costs for curation and documentation of these materials will be part of the approved project as specified in 36 CFR Part 79, Curation of Federally owned and Administered Archeological Collections. The research design should also consider 43 CFR 10.4 to determine if a NAGPRA Plan of Action (10.4(b)) is needed to ensure protection of human remains or cultural items subject to NAGPRA. Curatorial staff (should work together with park natural and cultural resources staff to review all research permits and projects and specific collecting limits and procedures should be agreed upon between the researcher, park resources staff, and park curatorial staff during the research permitting process.

Park staff, volunteers, and visitors shall be strongly discouraged from picking up surface artifacts.

At GRBA, monthly project meetings are held to discuss the status of proposed or funded on-going projects for current and out-years. Compliance meetings are held every other month to discuss the project proposal, answer questions, and determine the path for NEPA and Section 106 compliance. The project leader is required to enter project information into the Planning, Environment, Public Comment (PEPC) website. Research permit applications are forwarded to the resource management staff for comments. Projects not covered under the 2021-2025 Routine Scientific Research and Collection Permit Activities are to be entered into PEPC and discussed at the compliance meetings.

Surface artifacts shall be left in situ and their location documented. In the event of unauthorized collecting, or if the material is under immediate threat of loss or destruction, items may be collected. The accession for surface finds will contain, at the minimum, an inventory of the accession, a map showing the location of where the artifact was recovered, who recovered it, when it was recovered, why it was recovered, the artifact's current location and any other pertinent data regarding the material. The artifact will be placed in suitable storage with other surface artifacts. The container(s) in which these artifacts are stored shall be clearly marked with the accession number.

Artifacts recovered from persons involved in unauthorized or illegal activities (illegally excavated or surface collected within the park's boundaries) are considered confiscated archeological artifacts. They may also be classified as evidence pending legal actions as assigned by the investigating authority. Law Enforcement personnel should consult Park museum staff to ensure proper handling and transportation of this material.

In the case of unauthorized artifact collection, because the artifact was not scientifically excavated, its immediate value does not warrant cataloging. At such time as a professional archeologist determines that any of the unauthorized collections has archeological value, then the artifact will be cataloged. The museum catalog record will include all available data recorded about the artifact in the accession file.

Archeology Collection at GRBA: Per the FY 2024 CMR, the GRBA archeology collection contains 13,875 items and 1,411 backlogged items. The bulk of archeological material was recovered during six separate excavations—Lehman Caves in 1938 and 1963-64; Baker

Administrative Site in 1992 and 2003; Lehman Flat in 1992; and the Baker Creek Rockshelter in 2000. The remainder of the archeological material stems from smaller investigations and isolated finds.

The majority of GRBA archeology collections - 12,056 objects and 5,779 associated records - are stored at WACC

Specimens and samples

The collection has over 500 cataloged bone specimens, approximately half of these are human remains recovered from Lehman Caves. Human remains were repatriated in 1998 with the information being updated in ICMS. The collection also contains roughly 100 soil and charcoal samples; nearly all of which are stored at WACC.

Artifacts

The collection contains over 400 worked stone artifacts (debitage, bifaces, projectile points, etc.), 35 manos and metates, over 200 potsherds, and about 20 other prehistoric artifacts. Most of this material was recovered from the Baker Administrative Site in 1992. About 50 of the potsherds were donated to the NPS in 1961 and are from a site northeast of Baker. The collection also contains about 50 cataloged historic-period artifacts collected in an archeological context. Another 1,000 historic-period objects, which were collected at the Johnson Lake Historic Mining District in 1992, have been accessioned and cataloged into ICMS.

Associated Records

All records associated with archeological collections must be retained as part of the museum collection, as described above. The collection contains final reports, photographs and a limited amount of field data from the 1938 and 1963-64 excavations in and comprehensive records from archeological surveys completed by WACC. Nearly all of these records stored at WACC, were recently returned to the park and are housed in the curation area.

See Section II.1.E.b *Resource Management Records in the Archival Collections at GRBA* for additional guidance.

Mandated acquisitions: Archeological collections, except cultural items (see 43 CFR 10.2) as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), recovered from within park boundaries through systematic collection must be retained in the park's museum collection. 43 CFR 7.13, "Custody of Archeological Resources," requires that archeological resources excavated or removed from public lands remain the property of the United States. Archeological material must be of archeological value and interest, including scientific integrity and replicability. NPS Management Policies (2006, section 5.3.5.1) mandate that artifacts and specimens recovered from archeological resources, associated records, and reports will be maintained together in the park museum collection.

Collections (artifacts and/or associated records) may result from research or compliance projects, including because of historical research, surveys (phase I), test excavations (phase II), and

research or mitigative excavations (phase III). Every archeology project will result in materials for the museum collection; even if artifacts are not collected, project records (both physical and digital) must be accessioned and cataloged into the collection. Museum and archeological staff should work together to create an SOP for transferring archeological project records to the museum collection. These records may include field notes and catalogs; daily journals; drawings and maps; spatial data; photographic prints, negatives, and slides; photographic logs; sound recordings; raw data sheets; instrument charts; remote sensing data; collection inventories; analytical study data; conservation treatment records. The Museum Curator (or collateral duty museum staff) will work cooperatively with the Project Investigator (archeologist responsible for the project) to make certain that these records are complete and preserved. Always retain original documents rather than copies whenever possible.

Park archeological records are scattered in various locations (universities, individual archeologists, WACC, Western Regional office, etc.) and/or are missing. Emphasis needs to be placed on acquiring missing or incomplete records associated with the archeological projects conducted within the park.

Should be acquired: Confiscated archeological materials recovered from unauthorized and illegal activities in GRBA in violation of ARPA should be acquired. These materials commonly include archeological materials illegally excavated or obtained through uncontrolled surface collecting or excavation by unauthorized individuals within a NPS unit's boundaries. Such objects might be held temporarily by law enforcement following legal chain of custody protocols as evidence if legal action is to be taken but should be formally turned over to museum staff as soon as possible. Museum staff should also be consulted to ensure proper handling and transportation of these materials. Objects resulting from unauthorized and illegal activities in the park may be considered for acquisition, with all associated documentation once all legal questions are resolved. If an archeologist or related subject matter expert is not on the park CAC, museum staff should request an assessment of the significance of the materials and potential research value.

May be acquired: Surface or diagnostic finds not recovered from systematic excavations, but which have provenience data and are uncommon in the collection and/or suitable for exhibit may be acquired. Collections recovered from within the park before it was created should be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on legal title, provenience data, condition, objects present, size of collection, associated records, etc.

Not to be acquired: The Park should discourage visitors from collecting cultural resource materials from park property. Artifacts with no direct provenience within the park, artifacts which lack data, and artifacts with questionable provenance should not be accessioned into the museum collection. Objects excavated from non-NPS property, potentially hazardous material (see the Potentially Hazardous Material Appendix), Native American human remains and NAGPRA cultural items will not be accessioned into the museum collection (see Section III for information about inadvertent discoveries related to NAGPRA).

B. Ethnology Collection

According to NPS-28, [Cultural Resource Management Guidelines \(Chapter 10\)](#), the ethnology classification is used for resources associated with the cultural systems or ways of life, and the related technology, sites, structures, and natural resources of peoples associated with the park from before the park's establishment. The decision to call resources "ethnographic" depends on whether associated peoples perceive them as traditionally meaningful to their identity as a group and the survival of their lifeways.

There are four ethnographic resource types that have been assigned cultural significance by traditional users which include sites (archeological or historic places), structures (built features), objects (portable materials), and landscapes (areas containing diverse natural and cultural resources). When natural resources acquire meaning according to the different cultural constructs of a particular group, they become ethnographic and thus cultural resources as well. A major goal of ethnographic object collections is to facilitate collaborative relationships between the NPS and the peoples whose customary ways of life affect, and are affected by, park resource management.

The composition of the park's ethnology collection is subject to change as traditionally associated peoples are identified.

Ethnology Collection at GRBA: Per the FY 2024 CMR, the GRBA ethnology collection contains 43 backlogged items. Native American groups with ties to the Snake Range and GRBA include the Western Shoshone, Goshute, and Paiute tribes. Members of these tribes live on several reservation and non-reservation communities in eastern and western Nevada. Other communities traditionally associated with park resources include members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints who settled the Snake Valley in the late 1800's. The Basque culture was a dominant influence in Baker, Nevada, and the South Snake Range in the 1920s primarily associated with herding and ranching and continues as a presence in the region today. Peruvian or other South American shepherds who tended vast herds of sheep grazing on the South Snake Range also left a mark on the development of ranching in the 1950's continuing into the present.

Ethnographic studies of the park and its resources will generate records including oral histories, journals, photographs, field notes, reports, and other documents associated with ethnographic fieldwork. Because of their documentary nature, these materials shall be included in the museum collection as archives and are described in section II.1.E this SOCS.

Under Round 18 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) a Wild Caves project was approved and funded to survey wild caves on GRBA and Humboldt-Toiyable National Forests Lands. Included is an ethnographic assessment and context which, will be prepared for caves based on a landscape perspective preferred by the tribes. (Final R18_NPS-USFS Wildcaves Proposal, September 10, 2020). In addition, the park will consult with local tribes to develop and promote protection measures for the Upper and Lower Pictograph Caves. Rock art specialists will then assess the condition of the pictographs and clean dust from the images to protect them from further damage.

Mandated Acquisitions: None. There are no legal mandates for the Ethnology collection. Please refer to the Archives Resource Management Records section for guidance on records related to ethnographic studies.

Should be acquired: None.

May be acquired: Only ethnographic materials with a direct association with the park, such as from an eminent individual from an affiliated Native American tribe should be considered on a case-by-case basis. A park's ethnology collection may include archives and media associated with a study.

Not to be acquired: Ethnographic materials from peoples who do not have direct traditional associations to the park.

C. History Collection

History collections reflect the spectrum of materials made and/or used during recorded times by humans residing in what today is the United States and its Territories. They include cultural collections that are neither archeological nor ethnological. These collections document individual or community life; social, cultural, political, economic, and technological trends; and events associated with a park's mission, themes, and history. They also may include art, such as paintings and sculpture, and rare books.

Some history collections reflect activities of well-known individuals, others evidence everyday life and actions of working-class people. Documenting and interpreting historical objects to the public in the context of their original settings enhances the public's understanding. For more in-depth discussion of history collections, see [Museum Handbook II, Appendix G](#).

History Collection at GRBA: Per the 2024 CMR, there are 2,205 historic objects in the GRBA collection: 2,069 items are cataloged and 236 are uncatalogued.

Objects and records in the history collection document the following periods and themes:

Early Exploration and Homesteading (1776-1900)

There are few objects directly associated with the early exploration and homesteading of the park area in the museum collection. The park may obtain reports, diaries, genealogies, artifacts, antique books, and other material from this period to add to the collection. Archaeological inventory has documented homestead markers that remain in place. The early operation of cave touring and recreation up to the Monument period is represented by the Lehman Orchard and aqueduct. Documents represent the history of the orchard and Absalom Lehman's promotion of cave tours are of value to the collection.

Mining and Mineral Processing (1870-1950)

Items from the Johnson Lake Mine and Mill site and the Bonita Mine, Tilford Spring Cabin complex added to the collections represent the significance of mining and mineral processing within Park boundaries. This is also important in the larger context of the

importance of mineral extraction in the Great Basin. The Johnson Lake area was recently evaluated and listed (2009) as a National Register Cultural Landscape (the first in the park). The Park will continue to document the mining history of the region and will acquire artifacts, documents, and oral histories of value to the interpretation of mining and mineral processing for use in park education, and interpretive programs. Those will include development of interpretive trail signs, and visitor center exhibits.

Discovery and Early Use of Lehman Caves (1885-1922)

Much of the historical materials are from this period and include approximately 40 artifacts collected from Lehman Caves along with approximately 200 historic photographs. A project initiated in 2017 and continued through 2022 documented the early history of Lehman Caves tours prior to establishment of the Monument, the Lehman Orchard, and recreational tourism including Rhodes Cabin. Documents and artifacts generated from this project will be added to the collection. The park will take advantage of opportunities to acquire additional material from this period, which would be of value for exhibits interpreting the historic themes of the park.

Lehman Caves National Monument (1922-1986)

The collection contains few items documenting the period of U.S. Forest Service administration (1922-1933). In contrast, the collection contains a considerable number of items and records from the National Park Service administration period (1933-1986) to include more than 200 photos, 2 linear feet of administrative files, and numerous artifacts such as instruments used for monitoring the cave environment. Additional material might be found in the U. S. Forest Service Intermountain Region Office in Ogden, UT, in Forest and District offices in Ely and Elko, Nevada, and at Zion National Park and Lake Mead National Recreation Area (former administrative offices for Lehman Caves National Monument).

Establishment of Great Basin National Park (1920's-1986)

Documents, photographs and other items related to the decades-long effort to establish the park need to be added to the museum collection. The collection currently includes a manuscripts, letters and other records relating to this period. Important to this period are Darwin Lambert notes and archives. Lambert was an ardent supporter and promoter of the creation of Great Basin National Park.

Administration and Operations (1986-present)

The museum collection is the final repository for significant records that document day-to-day park operations, including official records, sub-official records, and non-record documentary materials, as defined by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For non-record materials, consideration should be given to collecting objects related to park operations, visitor use and daily life in this area that appear commonplace today, but which might be of historic interest in future decades (e.g. a ticket for a cave tour). Only the minimum required for documentation should be retained.

See Section II.1.E.b *Resource Management Records in the Archival Collections at GRBA* for additional guidance.

Mandated Acquisitions: None. There are no legal mandates for the History Collection.

Should be acquired: None.

May be acquired: Only historic material with a direct association to the park may be included in the museum collection. If a large quantity of an object type is available, priority should be given to acquiring the best-preserved examples. The history collection is based on the park's themes used to establish the following collecting categories listed above and its ability to properly store and manage such collections.

Future collections activity in this area may concentrate on the acquisition of outstanding examples of objects currently not represented in the collection, which meet the criteria referenced above and clearly address a resource management, interpretive, or research deficiency noted in park documents, thus ensuring that the history collection is relevant to the needs of the park.

The park will consult with park or regional CR Specialists and/or Facility Management staff to determine criteria for collecting samples of historic architectural fabric.

GRBA will not accession period pieces and reproductions in the museum collection. Period pieces and reproductions are managed as non-museum property.

Rare books retained for their physical properties or associative value may be acquired into the park's museum collection. Books should never be added to the museum collection simply because they are perceived as old, rare, or valuable. The Park CAC must consult with a special collections librarian/rare book specialist to determine criteria and justification for the acquisition of rare books.

Not to be acquired:

- Objects without a direct association to the park's resources.
- Objects that duplicate current holdings or objects in such poor condition that they are beyond conservation.
- Objects that are inherently unstable which causes the item to deteriorate or destroy itself.
- Potentially hazardous materials, except on a case-by-case basis. See the Hazards in the Collection Appendix for more information.
- Collections outside the SOCS including
 - Objects used for interpretive exhibits including reproductions, period pieces, living history items, and/or props. These items should be managed by Interpretive Division.
 - Objects used for outdoor exhibits, landscaping, and/or wayfinding. These items should be managed by the Facility Management Division and/or the Resource Management Division as monument, memorial or cultural landscape assets.

D. Art Collection

Art collections generally consist of paintings, drawings, prints, and sculptures admired and appreciated primarily or solely for aesthetic or intellectual content. Although created primarily for utilitarian or decorative purposes rather than aesthetics, the artistry and skill of many folk artists is now recognized, and folk art is sometimes considered within art collections. Although most artists in parks work independently, the NPS may commission artists to create works of art inspired by a specific park or resource.

Art Collection at GRBA: Per the 2024 CMR, there are 12 art objects in the GRBA collection. An additional 20 items from the Artist-in-Residence Program (AiR) are under consideration for accessioning. AiR was started in 2007 and includes a sculpted table and a stained-glass window installed in the GRBA Visitor Center; poetry, photographs, paintings, watercolors, and a textile neck scarf. Some items are framed and unframed.

A 2023 General Agreement between GRBA and the Great Basin National Park Foundation states AiR participants will donate their art to the Foundation. Art donated after 2022 to GRBA and the Great Basin National Park Foundation as part of AiR will no longer be accessioned or cataloged into the museum collection.

Mandated acquisitions: None. There are no legal mandates for the art collection.

Should be acquired: None.

May be acquired: Art that is directly associated with the park and/or significant people/events related to the park's enabling legislation may be acquired. Proposed acquisitions must be evaluated by the CAC on a case-by-case basis against existing collections and the park's mission and resources.

Works commissioned by the NPS for specific park purposes, such as exhibitions, illustrations, education, or interpretation may be acquired. Note that contracts commissioning works of art should include language transferring copyright to the NPS.

Art acquisitions should be guided by the following:

- Art history knowledge and trends
- Collecting goals
- Knowledge derived from in-person or on-line visits to art galleries, museums, and art fairs
- Information and advice from art advisors or experienced collectors
- Balance between different mediums, styles, or periods
- Story or narrative told by the art
- Available physical space for storing and/or displaying artwork
- Conservation and preservation needs of the artwork
- Potential for future growth and evolution of collection
- How new acquisitions will fit with existing pieces

- Research that
 - Helps make informed decisions about acquisitions
 - Provides context for understanding and appreciating artworks
 - Assists in identifying emerging trends and artists
 - Helps in authenticating artworks and verifying provenance
 - Allows for gauging the fair market value of artworks
 - Enhances ability to engage with art professionals and other collectors
 - Helps in planning the long-term direction of the collection.

Not to be acquired: Art with undocumented provenance and no clear title; “office art” or reproductions (posters, prints, and similar mass-produced copies); artwork with no direct association of past ownership, subject, or artist, to the park. NOTE: the NPS Commissioned Art Collection is not managed as a museum collection, but as Federal Property.

Objects in such poor condition that they are beyond conservation. Objects that are inherently unstable which causes them to deteriorate or destroy themselves.

E. Archives Collections

For the NPS, the term “archives” or “archival collections” refers to permanently valuable documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people. From the [Museum Handbook I, CH 1, pg. 11](#):

Other than resource management records, [Federal records](#) should not be included in the museum collection without specific authorization from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). These records are the original or “record copy” documents created or received in the course of performing the daily work of the NPS. Examples of records that do not belong in the museum collection include audit records, budget materials, central files, contracting files, financial records, law enforcement records, legal records, museum and project administrative records, permits, personnel records, and superintendent’s correspondence files.

Per the 2024 CMR, there are 162,157 items in the GRBA collection. The GRBA archive collection includes a diversity of manuscripts and records including field notes from past research projects, project development records, microfilmed records, photographic prints, slides, negatives, oral histories, blueprints and specifications documenting facility development, and materials related to resource management.

The park requires a professional archival assessment, i.e. an evaluation of the park’s total archival, manuscript, and records collection management needs incorporating collection surveys, the production of collection-level survey descriptions and/or finding aids, collections evaluations, and recommendations for action. Such assessments facilitate management, access, and care of physical and if appropriate, digital or electronic archival collections.

In FY2025, the Mohave & Mediterranean Network IRA-funded Archivist conducted a high level / box-level survey of the physical holdings at GRBA. The survey did not include the

identification of archives and records located at WACC or at non-federal facilities; reconciling and updating museum accession or catalog records is ongoing.

a. Manuscript Collections at GRBA: The term “manuscripts” commonly refers to single documents or collections of documents created by organizations (“organizational records”), businesses (“corporate archives”), and individuals or families (“personal papers”). In NPS museum collections, manuscript collections are primarily donated by individuals, organizations, or families and may include letters between family members, ledgers from family businesses, and photographs documenting the family’s history.

Manuscript collections, or donated collections, are not “park Federal records” and should always be maintained and cataloged separately from resource management record collections. They are not subject to the Federal Records Act (FRA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), or other laws governing federal records access. Donated collections may be protected by copyright or other restrictions, and the NPS may hold copyrights for donated materials.

Mandated Acquisitions: None. There are no legal mandates for manuscript collections.

Should be acquired: None.

May be acquired: Manuscript collections may be acquired but proposed acquisitions must be evaluated by the CAC on a case-by-case basis against existing collections and the park’s mission and resources, and the CAC must include or consult with archive staff to determine criteria and justification for the acquisition of manuscripts.

Not to be acquired: Photocopies or scans of diaries, letters, historic photos, etc. from personal collections or other repositories are more appropriately library “vertical files” or interpretive use collections and will not be acquired for the museum collection. General “family vacation” images from members of the public and employee personal photos unrelated to the park will not be acquired. Digital copies of analog photos or documents already in the collection created for access and use will not be added to the museum archives.

Peak log registers, trailhead log registers, news articles found in magazines, newspaper clippings, printed articles from the internet or social media, product advertisements, surveys, business cards, meeting, conference, or training promotions, forms should not be acquired.

b. Resource Management Records in the Archival Collections at GRBA: Resource Management Records (RMR) document the management of park natural and cultural resources, and lands which must be [preserved in perpetuity](#). Using professional discretion, knowledge of park resource management, and working with an NPS archivist (park, regional office, WASO), determine how the files support the management of the resources, and if they are active records.

Associated Records are Resource Management Records that document and provide context for museum objects, specimens, and samples. Some associated records are specifically mandated by laws and regulations that govern how we manage archeological, biological, and paleontological collections.

For archeology: [Archaeological Resources Protection Act](#) (ARPA), specific reference to retention of associated records found here: [US Code Title 16, 470cc](#). And [36 CFR 79](#) which are regulations associated with undertakings associated with the Antiquities Act, Reservoir Salvage Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and ARPA.

For biology: [Management Policies 2006 \(nps.gov\)](#) and [36 CFR 2.5](#)

For paleontology: [16 USC 470aaa-1: Management \(house.gov\)](#)

RMR are federal records subject to the Federal Records Act (FRA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), or other laws governing federal records management and access. Although records created by government employees are in the public domain, records within the park archives created by others may be subject to copyright or other legal restrictions. A compelling reason would be needed to accept copyrighted formats.

Mandated Collections: Records associated with museum collections made through permitted activities associated with ARPA, and Paleontology Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (PRPA) are mandated by these laws to be retained.

Should be Acquired: Following an archival assessment survey and extensive evaluation of collections and collection records including deaccession and acquisition priorities and based on the park's established interpretive or research themes, only archival material with a direct association to the park may be included in the museum collection.

Resource management and lands records should be acquired regardless of format. Deliverables such as data collection sheets, photos, logs, and reports related to research permits reflect known gaps in the museum collection. Other records include maps, fire incident records, cave surveys, and Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) project records.

May be Acquired: The [NPS Service-wide Record Schedule](#) (SRS) and the [NPS Records and Electronic Information Management Guide](#) (REIM Guide) identify additional records that have enduring value to both the NPS and NARA. These records are not RMR or archives, but a very small subset of active records including:

- Significant records such as
 - substantive policy or planning
 - “first of a kind” or precedent-setting
 - major contribution to science or history
 - wide media or Congressional scrutiny
 - high-level (superintendent and above)
 - overall management & preservation of resources
 - significant construction, repair, & rehab
 (see: [NPS Records Schedule, section 1A.1-2](#))
- Ongoing management, maintenance, preservation, modification, and rehabilitation of land and natural and cultural resources records? (see: [NPS Records Schedule, section 1B](#))

During development of or update to a SOCS or an archival assessment, the CAC should review these permanent records in the SRS and REIM Guide and determine if any will be acquired for the museum collection or if all materials will be sent to federal records centers (FRC).

Not to be Acquired:

- **GRBA Administrative Records (Non-Resources):** Non-resource related permanent park records should not be accessioned into the museum collection. Guidance on this subject has differed over the years, and a large number of non-resource park administrative records have already been accessioned into the collection. The Park will no longer accession permanent records from Park divisions other than Resource Management.
- **Active/Official Records:** These records are generated by the museum property system to manage museum property. They include but are not limited to accession, catalog, inventory and loan records, images/scans documenting objects/specimens, and object conservation condition and treatment reports. They are retained in association with museum collections but are not cataloged or managed as part of the park's museum collection.

2. Natural History Collection

The purpose of GRBA natural history collection is to support scientific research, resource management and education; provide baseline data of the park's natural resources; document changes these resources are undergoing because of internal park conditions and external effects; preserve important or locally significant species collected in response to specific research or interpretive needs; and guarantee the protection of important paleontological specimens.

Future growth of the collection is restricted to specimens and associated records generated through authorized, systematic scholarly research and selective acquisition based on:

- Needs identified in GRBA's enabling legislation or presidential declaration, approved planning documents and resource studies.
- Service-wide initiatives.
- Interpretive needs identified in planning documents.
- Enhancing the understanding of, and promoting increased stewardship of, the park's natural resources.
- Natural resource baselines, inventorying, and monitoring activities.
- Regulatory and compliance activities such as those mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970.

All collecting activities must be in compliance with [36 CFR 2.5](#), [the Research Permitting and Reporting System \(RPRS\)](#), NPS Management Policies (2006, section 4.2.3), *Director's Order #77: Natural Resource Protection* (under development), and *NPS Natural Resources Management Guideline* (1991). Please see Appendix G: Permits for more information.

Uncontrolled surface collecting by visitors or park staff is illegal according to the *Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Volume I* (36 CFR 2.1). Specimens found on the surface should not be removed from their original location by the finder; they should be reported to park staff delegated with museum collection responsibilities. If materials are turned into the park, standard NPS policies and procedures must be followed to ensure that the finder collects no more material, the precise provenience information is recorded, if possible, and the subject specimens and data are delivered promptly to the park. Unless the items are determined to be significant by a subject-matter expert in the respective discipline (biology, geology, or paleontology), they should not be cataloged into the park's museum collection.

Natural resource specimens collected outside park boundaries should not be managed as museum property unless mandated.

GRBA acquires natural history collections through internal NPS projects and outside permitted research projects conducted by researchers within park boundaries. Collections associated with research permits are accessioned and cataloged. NPS projects conducted without a research permit are subject to the same laws and policies as those with a permit.

Acquisitions and future growth of GRBA's natural history collection are initiated by park staff or outside researchers and will be restricted to specimens and associated records divided into three disciplines: biology, geology, and paleontology.

Mojave and Mediterranean Network (MOJN) parks, including GRBA, have Inventory & Monitory (I&M) specimen collecting protocols which primarily call for catch/release and visual observation only.

According to the MOJN Vital Signs Management Plan (2008), the following inventory and monitoring protocols are currently in place or planned for development.

- Air Quality-Visibility and particulate matter, ozone, wet and dry deposition.
- Climate-Basic Meteorology
- Integrated Upland-Soil erosion & deposition, disturbance, chemistry & nutrient cycling, hydrologic function, vegetation change, biological soil crusts.
- Riparian Vegetation-Vegetation change
- Riparian Birds-Riparian bird communities
- Invasive/Exotic Plants-Invasive/exotic plants
- Fire and Fuel Dynamics-Fire and fuel dynamics
- Groundwater and Springs-Groundwater dynamics, & chemistry, surface water dynamics, surface water chemistry
- Streams and Lakes-Surface water dynamics, surface water chemistry
- Landscape Dynamics-Landscape dynamics
- Small Mammals-Protocols planned for future development
- Reptile Communities-Protocols planned for future development
- At-Risk Populations-Protocols planned for future development

Consultation with relevant Native American tribes is necessary for protecting and maintaining GRBA's natural resources. Consultation with relevant stakeholders is already required for research permits issued through RPRS. Park Natural Resources staff will consult with the relevant stakeholders and Native American tribes when designing research that may result in specimen collection.

Associated records: All original records associated with natural history field collections for each collecting category must be retained as part of the museum collection. These records must include field notes, and may include catalogs, daily journals, drawings and maps, photographs and negatives, slides, sound recordings, raw data sheets, instrument charts, collection inventories, analytical study data, conservation treatment records, and computer documentation and data, as well as any other documents generated through collection and analysis activity. Such documents, subject to NPS-19 regulations, shall be certified to the Archivist of the United States as necessary for ongoing business.

Published journal articles and books are not associated records, unless they are included in the final report provided by RPRS permitted researchers. Except in this case, published materials should not be accessioned into the natural history associated records collection.

The GRBA natural history collection is divided into two categories: *life sciences*, including biological and paleobiological (paleontology) disciplines, and *earth sciences* including geology, climatology, soil sciences, and other related fields.

A. Biology Collection

Museum collections serve as the verifiable and reproducible evidence of a scientific study. Therefore, their collection and long-term preservation is a crucial aspect of ensuring scientific integrity.

Biological resources are plants and animals which live within, migrate through, or otherwise make use of a park. These include all species belonging to all five of the commonly recognized kingdoms of living things, such as flowering plants, ferns, mosses, lichens, algae, bacteria, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, insects, worms, crustaceans, and microscopic plants and animals. These biological resources can be either native or exotic.

Biological collections include specimens (or parts thereof) from plants and animals and their associated records. Copies of records created during biological research are retained, at the discretion of the park, as part of the museum collection, regardless of specimen collection. These collections document the non-human biology of the park at a given time and place. When researchers make observations about the park environment, they often collect voucher specimens to testify to their observations. If these specimens are not destroyed or consumed in analysis, they may become part of the park's museum collection as determined during the permitting process. The NPS has an ongoing program to inventory and monitor living resources in the park that generates many specimens for the museum collections. Over time, NPS biological collections can help document changes in the park environment and changes in species, thus

helping to inform park planning, natural resource management, cultural landscape management, and interpretive programs.

Examples of biological collections may include:

- Animal skins
- Skeletal material
- DNA samples and other viable samples (blood)
- Tissue samples
- Marine and freshwater shells
- Pinned insects
- Pressed plants
- Tree cores
- Casts of animal tracks
- Specimens or other collected material that results in derivatives that may be patentable or otherwise protected under the intellectual property (IP) laws.

Biological Resources at GRBA: Per the 2024 CMR, there are 5,939 biology items in the GRBA collection. The collection is diverse and much remains to be learned about lesser studied taxa and habitats within the park, as well as impacts of anthropogenic and natural processes. There are no Threatened or Endangered (T&E) species in the collection.

The natural history collection has grown significantly in the past 14 years as result of an active research program resulting from cooperation between university and park staff research. Future growth will result from well-defined research projects based on needs identified in the GMP, the RMP and other approved planning documents. All researchers must comply with “Resource Protection, Public Use and Recreation”, 36 CFR 2.5 and *Great Basin National Park Office Order 14 - Collection Permits* plus all applicable state and federal laws regulating collecting, documenting collections and other associated activities. Any and all records associated with permitted natural history research projects will be obtained in the collection. Furthermore, research proposals and/or work plans that include collection of natural history specimens must provide funding for cataloging and initial preservation and storage of the specimens and records as a line-item budget and must identify the parties responsible for this curation, in accordance with NPS Special Directive 91-4: *Museum Handbook*, Part I: Appendix Q, Curatorial Care of Natural History Collections. Uncontrolled casual collecting of natural specimens by visitors or park staff is strongly discouraged and restrictions on collecting threatened and endangered species are discussed in Section IV, Acquisition.

Flora

When possible, all species of vascular plant should be represented by an herbarium specimen, including fruit and flower. Additional specimens representing significant phenotypic variations may also be included. Other types of botanical specimens, such as tree cores, pollen samples, seeds, nuts, etc. may be acquired, if collected in conjunction with approved research projects. Similarly, each species of non-vascular plant and fungi also may be collected and preserved in an appropriate manner.

Collections of botanical specimens associated with Lehman Caves National Monument were made from the 1950s to the mid-1980s, totaling approximately 120 specimens. Research projects initiated since establishment of the park have added to the collection, including one group of 528 specimens, collected in conjunction with research supporting the Allotment Management Planning. Another group of over 200 specimens was collected as part of a riparian vegetation survey. The park has over 100 botanical specimens from several independent research projects that are on loan to museums including: the University of Michigan Herbarium; Colorado College; and Southern Nevada Community College.

Vertebrate Fauna

The park collection for park vertebrates may include one good study skin and skull of an adult male and female for mammals and birds, and adult specimen of each sex for reptiles, amphibians, and fishes. Immature individuals may be represented when found to show significant differences from the adult species. The collection may also include the minimum number of specimens needed to illustrate the range of dimorphic differences present in any given species, to show seasonal and transitional stages of pelage or plumage, and to record significant local varieties. In addition, post-cranial skeletal material, casts of tracks, scats, nests, eggs, and pellets may be collected. For these materials, collections should not exceed the minimum number of specimens required to represent distinct types, including significant varieties. Given that at least 300 vertebrate animals inhabit the park, a program to collect the specimens allowed within this scope of collection should NOT be undertaken until the park obtains sufficient museum storage space. The collection housed at the park currently includes small mammal specimens and bat species collected within the park boundary. Excluding vertebrate remains recovered in archeological contexts, the collection at the park contains 50 specimens of vertebrate remains comprised of isolated broken bones of bighorn sheep, jackrabbit, marmot, wood rat, deer mouse, and ringtail and mountain lion. Vertebrate specimens from species specific research projects are on loan to research repositories. Among these are Bonneville cutthroat trout, small mammal specimens, and reptiles on loan to Brigham Young University (BYU), Provo, Utah and to the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Invertebrate Fauna

Each family of park arthropod may be represented by at least one adult specimen. Larval forms and soft-bodied adults may be preserved in liquid. Species likely to arouse visitor interest because of their appearance, sound, bite, or sting may be represented by at least one properly mounted adult specimen. Conspicuous larvae may be included. Species of importance in park management (for example, parasites and potential pest species) may be similarly represented. The minimal number of specimens required for adequate documentation may represent other invertebrates. Research continues to expand the invertebrate collections. Recent finds identified three invertebrates “new to science” in 2009 with others in process of formal identification and documentation. Most of these specimens will be on loan to outside repositories.

The park’s museum storage area currently contains roughly 100 invertebrate specimens with thousands on loan to other universities and agencies such as: the Center of

Biodiversity, Illinois Natural History Survey; University of Texas at Austin; Colorado State University, Southern Utah University, and Nevada Department of Agriculture. Many of these loan specimens are still being identified and are not cataloged.

Mandated acquisitions: Specimens and samples obtained for preservation during inventory, monitoring, research, and study projects permitted by GRBA through the Research Permit and Reporting System (RPRS), together with associated records, must be acquired. Collecting of animal specimens will be associated with needs identified in the Resource Management Plan/Resource Stewardship Strategy or approved I&M plans, or as needed to voucher research projects. All approved study plans will limit collected specimens to what has been determined as a sufficient number of examples. Threatened and endangered (T&E) specimens should not be added unless (1) accidental death occurs or (2) if researchers comply with all legal restrictions regarding protected species, including all Federal, State, and other permitting requirements for all proposed collections.

Museum staff should communicate to permitted researchers and GRBA Natural Resources staff that specimen preparation is the responsibility of the researcher and must be completed prior to accessioning.

Remainder samples and specimens not wholly destroyed during analyses that retain scientific value and potential for further testing remain Federal property and must be returned to the park.

Should be acquired: The Park will identify gaps in the collection that are significant for baseline inventories and future research. These needs are identified in RPRS under the park research needs. Remainder samples and specimens not wholly destroyed during analyses that retain scientific value and potential for further testing remain Federal property and must be returned to the park.

May be acquired: Taxidermy "mounts" are not desirable for inclusion in the museum collection. Prepared study skins are preferred. Taxidermy specimens with strong provenance to the park (particularly extirpated species) may be acquired. Although taxidermy specimens are traditionally considered more for exhibit or public education purposes, new technologies are proving that these specimens can have scientific value. Therefore, such specimens should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis considering provenance, condition, rarity, and other relevant factors. Specimens prepared prior to the 1990s may be contaminated with arsenic or heavy metals. Never use taxidermy mounts or study skins in hands-on demonstrations, particularly with children. For future potential gifts of taxidermy specimens, the donor should bear the responsibility to test the specimen for harmful materials prior to NPS consideration. For more information on health hazards in collections, see Potential Hazards in Collections Appendix below.

The park may acquire whole biological specimens preserved in liquid. However, the researcher or Natural Resource staff member who prepared the specimen must provide a specimen maintenance plan as part of the associated records. Specimens preserved in liquids (i.e. alcohol, etc.) should be photographed in color in order to record important colors and patterns. Color charts (i.e. Munsell) may also be utilized. Metadata on preservation methods should also be

included in documentation for specimens preserved in liquid. This information should then be included in the museum records.

Reproductions, such as casts or molds of a specimen, may be acquired if they are the only remaining evidence of the original specimen. See [NPS Museum Handbook, Appendix N](#) for more information about evaluating the accession of reproductions.

Acquisition of specialty collections such as frozen or other types of tissue samples are discouraged as they are beyond the park's capabilities for preservation. GRBA will not store on-site any frozen, unpreserved soft tissue or genetic material. The park should utilize the National Park Service Special Collections located at the American Museum of Natural History in New York's Ambrose Monell Collection for Molecular and Microbial Research or another appropriate repository, if retention of these tissue samples is necessary. Researchers who wish to collect specimens of these types are responsible for contacting an appropriate repository and making arrangements for specimen storage prior to accessioning.

Not to be acquired: Biological specimens collected outside the park's boundaries will not be accessioned into the museum collection. Scientific specimens lacking provenience documentation, lacking scientific value, in poor condition or which were not prepared to professional standards, and species for which the GRBA museum collection already has a representative sample are not to be acquired. Specimens specifically collected as a type or reference collection, e.g., for fire management programs that are used in the field, heavily used, etc., are not to be collected. Living specimens are not to be acquired for the museum collection.

B. Geology Collections

NPS *Management Policies* (2006, section 4.8) describes geologic resources as both geologic features and processes. "Geologic processes" are the natural physical and chemical forces acting with natural systems and human developments across a broad spectrum of space and time. Examples include: exfoliation, erosion, sedimentation, glaciation, karst processes, shoreline processes, and seismic and volcanic activity. "Geologic features" are the products and physical components of geologic processes. NPS *Management Policies* ([2006, section 4.8](#)) requires the NPS to preserve and protect geologic resources and geologic features as integral components of park natural systems.

As described in the NPS [Museum Handbook, Part II \(2012\)](#), geological collections inform park planning and development, natural and cultural resources management, and interpretation.

Geological Resources at GRBA: Per the 2024 CMR, there are 75 geology items in the GRBA collection. Geologic processes are a major part of GRBA formation, development, and management and should be well represented in the museum collection by specimens and associated records.

Speleothems

There are over 120 specimens of stalactites, stalagmites and other speleothems from the Lehman Caves National Monument museum collection. Speleothems are unstable outside the cave environment and are irreplaceable. Specimens detached from their original formation are usually

retained within the cave as close to their original location as possible. Those are documented by natural resource specialists and not entered into the museum collection unless removal from the caves is necessary for their protection or for permitted scientific purposes.

No additional speleothems will be added to the museum collection, unless extremely unusual or necessary for scientific research.

Rocks, Minerals and Soil

The minimum number of rock, mineral and soil specimens needed to document geological formations of the South Snake Range should be collected. The collection currently includes approximately 40 petrological and mineralogical specimens (excluding speleothems described above). A soil profile study by USGS in 2008 collected and added approximately 9.5 cubic feet of samples to the collection.

Additional specimens if needed to illustrate variations in structure or composition may be collected. Soil samples collected in Lehman Caves during archeological excavation, are discussed under, Cultural Resources.

Hydrology, Meteorology and Climatology

An increased interest in climate research has brought several research projects to the park from 2008 to 2023. The park conducts monitoring of air and water quality and weather conditions. Normally, these programs entail the collection of specimens that are eventually consumed in research. Programs generate associated data, notes, reports, and other records that should become part of the museum collection. A Global Climatic Change Research Program, which is identified in the GMP, RMP and Statement of Management, might entail collections of pollen samples, tree cores, packrat middens, and other indicators of past climatic conditions. Such specimens might be included in either the Life Science or Earth Science collections, depending on the context in which they were collected. The collection currently includes several hundred (uncatalogued) barograph and hygrothermograph charts from a study of the Lehman Caves environment.

Mandated acquisitions: Specimens and samples obtained for preservation during inventory, monitoring, research, and study projects, together with associated records. Remainder samples and specimens not wholly destroyed during analyses that retain scientific value and potential for further testing remain Federal property and must be returned to the park.

Should be acquired: Park will identify gaps in the collections that are significant for baseline inventories and future research. These needs are identified in RPRS under the park research needs. Identified research needs can also come from or be included in other park resources documents (RSSs, Foundation Document, etc.)

May be acquired: Surface or isolated finds, specimens collected in the park illegally that are returned to the park, and specimens collected before the park was established should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis considering factors such as legal title, importance or rarity of the specimen, presence of existing specimens in the museum collection, condition, available provenience, and associated geologic data.

Not to be acquired: Specimens and samples from outside the park's boundaries. Specimens and samples lacking provenience documentation are not to be acquired. Rock hounding (amateur collecting of specimens) is prohibited in most national parks by 36 CFR 2.1(a); specimens collected without research permits after the park was established should be referred to appropriate law enforcement officials.

C. Paleontology Collections

The [Paleontological Resources Preservation Act \(Public Law 111-011\) \(PRPA\)](#) defines a paleontological resource as “any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth, except that the term does not include—

(A) any materials associated with an archaeological resource (as defined in section 3(1) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470bb(1)); or

(B) any cultural item (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)).” (NAGPRA). The law requires that both the paleontological resource and copies of associated records be preserved for the public in an approved repository, to be made available for scientific research and public education.

PRPA requires that paleontological resources collected on federal land remain the property of the United States and that the paleontological resource and copies of associated records will be preserved for the public and made available for scientific research and public education. The law requires curation of these resources, stating “Any paleontological resource, and any data and records associated with the resource, collected under a permit, shall be deposited in an approved repository.”

Uncontrolled surface collecting by visitors and park staff is prohibited. Fossils found on the surface by visitors should not be removed from their original location by the finder, but rather promptly reported to park staff. If visitors or staff collect a fossil illegally, the object and location data should be promptly given to the museum curator upon receipt by staff members.

Identify if molds, casts, and other reproductions such as 3D scans or prints, exist. See [NPS Museum Handbook, Appendix N](#) for more information about evaluating the accession of reproductions. These are made from fossils to share information with other researchers, preserve a specimen in situ before disarticulation, or make surface details clearer for black and white photography. Reproductions, such as casts or molds of a previously collected specimen, may be acquired if they are the only remaining evidence of the original specimen, a portion of a fossil that is now missing due to consumption by destructive analysis, or serve as a record of steps in the preparation process wherein they act to preserve taphonomic information or other important data which has been destroyed by the preparation process. 3D digital files should be preserved as you would digital photographs within an archive or other appropriate digital repository.

Paleontology Resources at GRBA: Per the 2024 CMR, there are 254 paleontology items in the GRBA collection.

Paleontological specimens required to document the stratigraphic range and the various environments in which each was preserved should represent each species found in the park. Ancient packrat middens, palynological samples, trace fossils, and other types of paleobiological material may be included in the collection. Paleobiological specimens are to be collected in conjunction with approved research projects. Uncontrolled collecting of fossils is discouraged (see Section IV, Acquisition). Exceptions may be made if specimens are in imminent danger of destruction.

Paleozoic sedimentary rocks abound in the park but very few of the rock units are fossiliferous. Consequently, the park does not expect tremendous growth in the Paleozoic fossil collection. On the other hand, park caves might contain Quaternary fossils (two such sites occur within a few miles of the park). If discovered and excavated, any one such site could add thousands of specimens to the collection. According to the 2021 CMR the collection currently has 254 cataloged paleontological specimens. Between 2012 and 2015 the park Paleontologist conducted research and collected fossil specimens. Bone was collected from test excavations in Pleistocene cave deposits. Some have been identified, and some are still in analysis and have not been cataloged. The Paleontology collection will not likely grow significantly unless the park Paleontologist position is refilled.

Mandated acquisitions: Fossil plant, vertebrate, invertebrate, or trace specimens and associated records generated through systematic surveys or excavations undertaken within the park boundaries; high fidelity casts made from the molds of trace or body fossils left in situ, and scientifically significant paleontological resources, together with their associated records. Remainder samples and specimens not wholly destroyed during analyses that retain scientific value and potential for further testing must be acquired into the museum collection.

Should be acquired: All NPS construction projects in areas with potential paleontological resources must be preceded by a preconstruction surface assessment prior to disturbance. For any occurrences noted, or when the site may yield paleontological resources, the site will be avoided or the resources will, if necessary, be collected and properly cared for before construction begins. NPS 2006 MP 4.8.2.1

May be acquired: Confiscated paleontological materials recovered from unauthorized and illegal activities in GRBA in violation of PRPA may be acquired. These materials commonly include paleontological materials illegally excavated or obtained through uncontrolled surface collecting by unauthorized individuals within an NPS unit's boundaries. When such collections are encountered, law enforcement and museum staff should be consulted as soon as possible to ensure proper accountability, handling, and transportation of these materials. Such objects might be held temporarily by law enforcement following legal chain of custody protocols as evidence if legal action is to be taken but should be formally turned over to the museum staff person as soon as possible. Once all legal questions are resolved, the objects and all associated documentation should be added to the park's collection after review by CAC and Superintendent Approval.

Parks should generally avoid purchasing fossils, or at least referencing this criterion may be found in the management policies:

A park may purchase fossil specimens for the park museum collection only after making a written determination that the specimens are scientifically significant and accompanied by detailed locality data and pertinent contextual data; the specimens were legally removed from their site of origin, and all transfers of ownership have been legal; the preparation of the specimens meets professional standards; the alternatives for making these specimens available to science and the public are unlikely; and acquisition is consistent with the park's enabling legislation and scope of collection statement, and acquisition will ensure the specimens' availability in perpetuity for public education and scientific research. NPS 2006 MP 4.8.2.1

Specimens collected before the park was established and specimens collected in the park illegally that are returned to the park should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, considering factors such as legal title, association with historical figures, importance, or rarity of the specimen, condition, available provenience and associated geologic data.

Presence of existing paleontology specimens of the same species in the museum collection should not disqualify a specimen from being added to the collection because of the probability of species variation between multiple fossils of the same species.

Reproductions, such as casts or molds of a previously collected specimen, may be acquired if they are the only remaining evidence of the original specimen. See [NPS Museum Handbook, Appendix N](#) for more information about evaluating the accession of reproductions.

Not to be acquired: Fossils from outside the park's boundaries; fossils lacking provenience documentation; and purchased specimens, unless they are originally from the park but acquired before it was a park, are not to be acquired.

III. PARK MUSEUM COLLECTIONS SUBJECT TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT OF 1990 (NAGPRA)

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 USC 3001-13) and implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 10), requires Federal agencies and institutions that receive Federal funding (including museums, universities, state agencies, and local governments) to protect and repatriate Native American human remains and cultural items to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. Items in the possession or control of the NPS identified as subject to NAGPRA must be addressed in accordance with 43 CFR 10. The regulations require:

- Consultation with deference given to the Native American traditional knowledge of lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations;
- Address disposition of any newly discovered Native American human remains or cultural items removed from federal lands and any Native American human remains and cultural items in NPS possession or control removed from federal lands after the enactment of NAGPRA on November 16, 1990 in accordance with 43 CFR 10.7;
- Identification of all Native American human remains and cultural items in NPS

- possession or control removed from federal lands prior to the enactment of NAGPRA;
- Development of NAGPRA inventories or summaries in compliance with 43 CFR 10.9 and 10.10 to facilitate consultation and eventual repatriation of Native American human remains and cultural items removed from federal lands prior to the enactment of NAGPRA.

NPS policy and guidance for NAGPRA compliance can be found on the NPS NAGPRA Guidance SharePoint where more detailed information is available to address the following:

- Duty of Care (43 CFR 10.1(d)) which requires the NPS to care for, safeguard, and preserve human remains and cultural items in its custody, possession, or control;
- Steps to complete disposition of human remains and cultural items removed from federal lands after the enactment of NAGPRA (43 CFR 10.4 through 10.7);
- Steps to complete summaries and repatriation of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony removed from federal lands prior to the enactment of NAGPRA (43 CFR 10.9);
- Steps to complete inventories and repatriation of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects removed from federal lands prior to the enactment of NAGPRA (43 CFR 10.10);
- Consultation with lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations;
- Determining cultural affiliation (43 CFR 10.3);
- Developing and publishing a Notice of Intended Disposition (NID) - 43 CFR 10.7(c)(2), a Notice of Intended Repatriation (NIR) - 43 CFR 10.9(f), and a Notice of Inventory Completion (NIC) - 43 CFR 10.10(e);
- Evaluating requests for repatriation (43 CFR 10.9(d) and 10.10(f)) or claims for disposition (43 CFR 10.7(c)(3)) of human remains and cultural item; and
- Developing and maintaining a record of consultation.

Any newly discovered human remains and/or NAGPRA cultural items removed from park lands should not be accessioned into the museum collection. Rather, disposition should be addressed through compliance with sections 10.4 through 10.7 of 43 CFR 10 in accordance with the mandated timelines found in 43 CFR 10.

Excavations occurred at the Lehman Caves Natural Entrance site in 1938 and 1963. In consultation with associated tribal members, known human remains and associated objects collected from these excavations were repatriated in the late 1990s and placed in a stone and mortar crypt built at the site.

Remains collected during archeological excavations from Lehman Caves in 1938 and 1963 were originally presumed to be fauna remains and were stored at the Museum of Northern Arizona. In March 2018, an osteologist determined the previously presumed fauna remains to be human remains, at which time the remains were moved to WACC. NAGPRA inventories are complete, and tribal consultation is currently being undertaken. Posting of the Notice of Inventory Completion in the Federal Register was completed on 05/21/2024.

IV. ACQUISITIONS

1. Acquisition Criteria

Acquisition of museum objects is governed by the park's ability to manage and preserve materials according to *NPS Management Policies, Chapter 5* (2006), the standards for managing museum objects in *NPS-28: Cultural Resources Management Guideline* (1998); *the NPS Checklist for Preservation and Protection of Museum Collections (Checklist)*; and the *NPS Museum Handbook I-III*.

GRBA continues to acquire objects that relate to the site through donation, purchase, exchange, transfer, field collection, and loan.

In accordance with NPS policy and general museum practice, only unrestricted gifts should be accepted. Only the regional director can allow an exception to this rule. Gifts or bequests must be free of restrictions as to their use and future disposition. However, museum collections are subject to legal restrictions, such as privacy laws and classified data. Refer to the MH-III, Chapter 2: Legal Issues, for information on use and access restrictions.

Museum collection acquisitions are accessioned and cataloged in accordance with the *NPS Museum Handbook, Part II* (2000).

Firearms and ammunition, acquired for museum exhibits and research purposes, are not intended for use as operational firearms. The NPS standards for managing, use, and disposal of museum objects are outlined in the *NPS Museum Handbook Parts I and II*, and *NPS-28, Cultural Resources Management Guideline*, as well as the *Draft Appendix X: Museum Firearms, Small Arms Ammunition, Artillery, And Munitions (still under review)*.

The NPS is committed to building its collections through professional, transparent, and ethically sound practices. Strategic acquisition decisions at GRBA are guided by the following guiding principles:

- Sustainable Collecting and Stewardship
The Park is committed to sustainable collecting. Sustainability within museum collections requires assessing the current and future environmental and fiscal impacts of acquiring, preserving, and providing research access to rare, unique, and fragile material in all physical formats. The energy consumption levels of digital preservation and storage also requires thoughtful care and planning. Climate change is a critical issue, and the Park seeks to be responsible in reducing its carbon footprint. The Park will incorporate sustainability metrics to thoughtfully assess acquisitions to not duplicate collecting efforts of other repositories. Sustainable stewardship extends to physical and digital management of collections, considering space needs, environmental controls, and mitigating processing backlogs. Timely accessions and strategic reappraisal of existing collections will also be key parts in moving toward a healthy and sustainable collecting ecosystem. Work should be guided by periodic reappraisals, deaccessioning, and loans. Sustainable stewardship also requires attention to the changing weather and natural disaster patterns so that Park disaster plans are effective in safeguarding collections to the extent possible.

- Community-Engaged Collecting
Community-engaged collecting is the process of working collaboratively with community partners, groups and institutions, as well as nationally and globally. Success requires building and sustaining mutually beneficial relationships. As part of the relationship, community members may advise and guide collecting policies, practices, and access principles to determine whether their historical material remains within their community or under what terms collaborative stewardship of donated materials would operate. Community relationships may also require the Park to rectify situations that caused past harm to a particular community, and this collecting model will serve as a catalyst for the park to reinvest in its community relationships.
- Local Contexts
The Park seeks to be an active member of the local and regional research community and to build collections that complement — but do not compete — with peer repositories.
- Institutional Collaboration
The Park recognizes the value of partnership with academic centers and partners. These partnerships can provide intellectual guidance for collection development as well as theoretical, cultural, and other valuable insights that will improve the reputation and relevance of the park and its collections.
- Native American and Indigenous Collections
The Park is located on lands that are within the ancestral homelands of associated American Indian tribes and recognizes the impact of settler colonialism and the ways collection materials may have been acquired or extracted through historically asymmetric power relationships. The park recognizes the importance of Tribal knowledge, protocols, and cultural traditions; is committed to working with Tribal nations to appropriately steward collections; and is committed to initiating new modes of reparative and reciprocal relationship building with Tribal nations.

2. Roles and Responsibilities for Accessioning and Deaccessioning

Accountable Officer

The Park's Superintendent, by delegation, represents the Director of the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior in accepting title to and responsibility for all museum objects. The Superintendent bears the ultimate responsibility for the acquisition, proper care, and management of the unit's museum collection. The Superintendent has delegated the day-to-day care of the collection to the custodial officer for museum collections. This designation must be made in writing.

All permanent acquisitions must receive formal approval from the Park's Superintendent before they can be accepted into the museum collection. Before physical receipt of the acquisition, all paperwork, including the Deed of Gift, must be signed by both the park and the donor. Upon receipt, all newly acquired objects, and related documentation must be turned over to the Receiving Officer. The Curator, or Custodial Officer, prepares, for the Superintendent's

signature, all instruments of conveyance, and letters of thanks, acceptance, or rejection, and transmits them as appropriate to the donor, lender, vendor, or other sources of acquisition.

The Superintendent, as the accountable officer, also must approve all incoming loans, which are considered temporary acquisitions, and is the final signatory for all loan documentation.

Custodial Officer

The custodial officer is directly accountable and responsible for the physical care and documentation of the museum collection. The custodial officer, usually the curator or other museum staff (including collateral duty), provides oversight of the museum collection, as delegated by the Accountable Officer. In the absence of those positions, it may be assigned as a collateral duty to an employee in a different job series. As of 2025, a Curator-of-Record acting as the Custodial Officer has not been designated.

Designated Receiving Officer

The Superintendent appoints, in writing, the Receiving Officer for the museum collection.

The Receiving Officer is responsible for documenting the receipt of museum collections. The Receiving Officer can be one of the museum staff or a staff member from another program/division.

The Receiving Officer signs the Accession Receiving Report (Form 10-95), the Receipt for Property (DI-105), and any other receipts for museum property. The Custodial Officer cannot serve as the Receiving Officer, nor can the Superintendent. As of 2025, GRBA has not designated a Designated Receiving Officer.

Collections Advisory Committee

The Collections Advisory Committee (CAC) reviews the appropriateness of the proposed accession or deaccession and its disposition.

Since 2017, all parks are required to establish a CAC. A CAC is required to review all proposed new accessions other than scientifically generated archeological and natural history field collections and their associated records from NPS-administered land. The CAC should also review any miscellaneous items “found in collection.” See *Museum Handbook*, Part II, Chapter 2 for types of accessions and their definitions.

Park-specific CACs shall be established based on the guidelines for deaccessioning committees in the [Museum Handbook, Part II, Chapter 6](#) and [Appendix B](#). The CAC must include at least one member at the GS-1015-11 grade or higher, must include at least three members, and must make recommendations in writing. As of 2025, GRBA’s CAC requires reestablishment with LAKE and should identify a Chair (such as Curator-of-Record) and other members.

V. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Acquisition and deaccession decisions are guided by the NPS *Museum Handbook*, strategic collecting directions outlined in this SOCS, and the following management actions:

- As stated in the [Museum Handbook I, chapter 2, section J: Writing the Management Actions section](#), SOCS will be reviewed and updated at least every five-years but can be updated more often whenever changed conditions clearly alter the mission of the park or when priorities in a specific collecting category have been met. Changes must be approved by the superintendent.
- CAC will be reviewed and updated to fill vacancies as needed
- Conduct an extensive evaluation of collections, archives, and records ASAP and prioritize the following collection types / emphasis areas for deaccessioning:
 - Missing or unaccounted objects and specimens including items not found during annual inventories and subsequent follow-ups.
 - Collections outside the SOCS including
 - Objects damaged to the point of no repair.
 - Records that were inadvertently added to the archival collections in the past rather than following the retention schedule for their disposition / transfer to the Federal Records Center and the National Archives.
 - Assemblages that have a significant number of redundant items and where sampling would reduce volume.
- Conduct an extensive self-study of its collections ASAP and define areas of thematic emphasis that will be used as strategic foci for future collecting.
- Conduct a professional archival assessment, i.e. an evaluation of the park's total archival, manuscript, and records collection management needs incorporating collection surveys, the production of collection-level survey descriptions and/or finding aids, collections evaluations, and recommendations for action. Such assessments facilitate management, access, and care of physical and if appropriate, digital or electronic archival collections.
- Establish procedures to work with park resource management staff, researchers, and research institutions to establish collecting practices and principles of natural collections and associated records.
- Per the Pacific West Region (PWR) Storage Facility Plan (2022) and Value Analysis Study for the Mediterranean and Mojave Networks Museum Collection Storage Consolidated Location Siting (2023), GRBA's museum storage facility is in poor condition, does not meet NPS museum standards, and is at high risk to wildland fire. In addition, there is no curatorial staff at park: collection oversight is handled by a collateral duty cultural resource employee. The majority of collections should be relocated to an appropriate storage facility. The park will retain a small storage area to house frequently accessed collection items such as herbariums, tribal items restricted to regional locations, and small working space for new collection items during intake and accessioning. Such storage will utilize secured cabinetry as much as possible and placed in interior spaces that have mechanical systems for environmental control.

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation

TITLE 16--CONSERVATION

CHAPTER 1--NATIONAL PARKS, MILITARY PARKS, MONUMENTS, AND SEASHORES

SUBCHAPTER LIX-K--GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

Sec. 410mm. Establishment

(a) Purpose; designation

In order to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people a representative segment of the Great Basin of the Western United States possessing outstanding resources and significant geological and scenic values, there is hereby established the Great Basin National Park (hereinafter in this subchapter referred to as the ``park").

(b) Composition; filing of map; public inspection

The park shall consist of approximately seventy-six thousand acres, as depicted on the map entitled ``Boundary Map, Great Basin National Park, Nevada," numbered NA-GB 20,017, and dated October 1986. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and the Office of the Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, Nevada.

(c) Filing of legal description; public inspection

Within 6 months after October 27, 1986, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter in this subchapter referred to as the ``Secretary") shall file a legal description of the park designated under this section with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate. Such legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subchapter, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in such legal description and in the map referred to in subsection (a) of this section. The legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

(d) Incorporation of Lehman Caves National Monument within park

(1) The Lehman Caves National Monument, designated on January 24, 1922, by Presidential proclamation under the authority contained in the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225) [16 U.S.C. 431-433] is hereby abolished and the lands incorporated within the Great Basin National Park. Any reference in any law, map, regulation, document, record, or other paper of the United States to such national monument shall be deemed to be a reference to Great Basin National Park.

(2) Any funds available for purposes of the national monument shall be available for purposes of the park.

(Pub. L. 99-565, Sec. 2, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3181.)

References in Text

Act of June 8, 1906, referred to in subsec. (d)(1), is act June 8, 1906, ch. 3060, 34 Stat. 225, known as the Antiquities Act of 1906, which is classified generally to sections 431, 432, and 433 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 431 of this title and Tables.

Change of Name

Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives changed to Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives on Jan. 5, 1993, by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Third Congress. Committee on Natural Resources of House of Representatives treated as referring to Committee on Resources of House of Representatives by section 1(a) of Pub. L. 104-14, set out as a note preceding section 21 of Title 2, The Congress.

Short Title

Section 1 of Pub. L. 99-565 provided that: ``This Act [enacting this subchapter] may be known as the `Great Basin National Park Act of 1986'."

Sec. 410mm-1. Administration

(a) Laws governing; conservation and protection of resources

The Secretary shall administer the park in accordance with this subchapter and with the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the national park system, including sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this title. The Secretary shall protect, manage, and administer the park in such manner as to conserve and protect the scenery, the natural, geologic, historic, and archaeological resources of the park, including fish and wildlife and to provide for the public use and enjoyment of the same in such a manner as to perpetuate these qualities for future generations.

(b) Fishing

The Secretary shall permit fishing on lands and waters under his jurisdiction within the park in accordance with the applicable laws of the United States and the State of Nevada, except that he may designate zones where, and periods when, no fishing may be permitted for reasons of public safety. Except in emergencies, any regulations prescribing such restrictions relating to fishing, shall be put into effect only after consultation with the appropriate State agency having jurisdiction overfishing activities.

(c) Preparation of management plan; submission to Congress; amendment of plan

After notice and opportunity for public hearing, the Secretary shall prepare a management plan for the park. The Secretary shall submit such plan to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate within three years after October 27, 1986. Such plan may be amended from time to time. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, provisions related to grazing within the park to the extent permitted under subsection (e) of this section and provisions providing for the appropriate management of fish and wildlife and fishing within the park in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. Such provisions shall be adopted only after consultation with the appropriate State agency having jurisdiction over fish and wildlife.

(d) Withdrawal of lands from mining and mineral leasing

Subject to valid existing rights, Federal lands and interests therein, within the park, are withdrawn from disposition under the public lands laws and from entry or appropriation under the mining laws of the United States, from the operation of the mineral leasing laws of the United States, and from operation of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended [30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.].

(e) Grazing

Subject to such limitations, conditions, or regulations as he may prescribe, the Secretary may permit grazing on lands within the park to the same extent as was permitted on such lands as of July 1, 1985. Grazing within the park shall be administered by the National Park Service.

(f) Exchange of park grazing allotment for grazing allotment outside park

(1) Exchanges at the request of the permittee, or at the initiative of the Secretary, negotiations may take place at any time with holders of valid existing grazing permits and grazing leases on land within the park, for an exchange of all or part of their grazing allotments for allotments outside the park. No such exchange shall take place if, in the opinion of the affected Federal land management agency, the exchange would result in overgrazing of Federal lands.

(2) Acquisition by donation

(A) In general, The Secretary may acquire by donation valid existing permits and grazing leases authorizing grazing on land in the park.

(B) Termination

The Secretary shall terminate a grazing permit or grazing lease acquired under subparagraph (A) so as to end grazing previously authorized by the permit or lease.

(g) Water-related range improvements

Existing water-related range improvements inside the park may be maintained by the Secretary or the persons benefitting from them, subject to reasonable regulation by the Secretary.

(h) Reservation to United States of new express or implied water or water-related right not established;

exception

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to establish a new express or implied reservation to the United States of any water or water-related right with respect to the land described in section 410mm of this title: Provided, That the United States shall be entitled to only that express or implied reserved water right which may have been associated with the initial establishment and withdrawal of Humboldt National Forest and the Lehman Caves National Monument from the public domain with respect to the land described in section 410mm of this title. No provision of this subchapter shall be construed as authorizing the appropriation of water, except in accordance with the substantive and procedural law of the State of Nevada.

- (i) Cooperative agreements with Federal and other agencies; interpretation of Great Basin physiographic region

In order to encourage unified and cost-effective interpretation of the Great Basin physiographic region, the Secretary is authorized and encouraged to enter into cooperative agreements with other Federal, State, and local public departments and agencies providing for the interpretation of the Great Basin physiographic region. Such agreements shall include, but not be limited to, authority for the Secretary to develop and operate interpretive facilities and programs on lands and waters outside of the boundaries of such park, with the concurrence of the owner or administrator thereof.

(Pub. L. 99-565, Sec. 3, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3182; Pub. L. 104-134, title I, Sec. 101(c) [title III, Sec. 319], Apr. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 1321-156, 1321-203; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 104-140, Sec. 1(a), May 2, 1996, 110 Stat. 1327.)

References in Text

The public lands laws, referred to in subsec. (d), are classified generally to Title 43, Public Lands. The mining laws and the mineral leasing laws of the United States, referred to in subsec. (d), are classified generally to Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining. The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended, referred to in subsec. (d), is Pub. L. 91-581, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1566, which is classified principally to chapter 23 (Sec. 1001 et seq.) of Title 30. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1001 of Title 30 and Tables.

Amendments

1996--Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-134, Sec. 101(c) [title III, Sec. 319(1)], substituted ``may permit" for ``shall permit" in first sentence.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 104-134, Sec. 101(c) [title III, Sec. 319(2)], designated existing provisions as par. (1), inserted heading, substituted ``grazing permits and grazing leases" for ``grazing permits", and added par. (2).

Change of Name

Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives changed to Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives on Jan. 5, 1993, by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Third Congress. Committee on Natural Resources of House of Representatives treated as referring to Committee on Resources of House of Representatives by section 1(a) of Pub. L. 104-14, set out as a note preceding section 21 of Title 2, The Congress. Sec. 410mm-2.

Acquisition of land

- (a) The Secretary may acquire land or interests in land within the boundaries of the park by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, but no such lands or interests therein may be acquired without the consent of the owner thereof. Lands owned by the State of Nevada or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation or exchange.
- (b) Lands and waters, and interests therein, within the boundaries of the park which were administered by the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture prior to October 27, 1986, are hereby transferred to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary to be administered in accordance with this subchapter. The boundaries of the Humboldt National Forest shall be adjusted accordingly. (Pub. L. 99-565, Sec. 4, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3183.)

Sec. 410mm-3. Authorization of appropriations

- (a) Not more than \$800,000 are authorized to be appropriated for development of the park.
 (b) Not more than \$200,000 are authorized to be appropriated for acquisition of lands and interests in land within the park. (Pub. L. 99-565, Sec. 5, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3183.)

Appendix B: NPS Museum Collections

The Department of Interior defines a museum collection as a subset of personal property that is retained for long-term preservation, study, and interpretation consistent with statutory requirements and its relationship to the mission of the respective bureau and park. The NPS affirmed its mandate to actively acquire and preserve objects, specimens, and archives in *NPS Management Policies* (2006, section 5.3.5.5), stating that “The Service will collect, protect, preserve, provide access to, and use objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections . . . in the disciplines of archeology, ethnography, history, biology, geology, and paleontology to aid understanding among park visitors, and to advance knowledge in the humanities and sciences.”

Parks acquire and manage museum collections because they are:

important park resources in their own right as well as being valuable for the information they provide about processes, events, and interactions among people and the environment. Natural and cultural objects and their associated records provide baseline data, serving as scientific and historical documentation of the park’s resources and purpose. All resource management records that are directly associated with museum objects are managed as museum property. These and other resource management records are preserved as part of the archival and manuscript collection because they document and provide an information base for the continuing management of the park’s resources (NPS-28 *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, 1998: 137).

Because of their significance, NPS *Management Policies* (2006, section 1.4.6) includes museum collections among the park resources and values which are subject to the no-impairment standard. Impairment (pg. 11)

[NPS Management Policies \(2006, section 1.4.6, pg. 11\)](#)

1.4.6 What Constitutes Park Resources and Values

- The “park resources and values” that are subject to the no-impairment standard include + the park’s scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife, and the processes and conditions that sustain them, including, to the extent present in the park: the ecological, biological, and physical processes that created the park and continue to act upon it; scenic features; natural visibility, both in daytime and at night; natural landscapes; natural soundscapes and smells; water and air resources; soils; geological resources; paleontological resources; archeological resources; cultural landscapes; ethnographic resources; historic and prehistoric sites, structures, and objects; museum collections; and native plants and animals;
- appropriate opportunities to experience enjoyment of the above resources, to the

- extent that can be done without impairing them;
- the park's role in contributing to the national dignity, the high public value and integrity, and the superlative environmental quality of the national park system, and the benefit and inspiration provided to the American people by the national park system; and
- any additional attributes encompassed by the specific values and purposes for which the park was established. (See introduction to chapter 4)

Appendix C: Legislation Related to NPS Museum Collection and Other Related Conventions, Laws, and Regulations

These laws provide the legal mandates for NPS management of museum collections:

- 16 USC
 - 469-469c: Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960, as amended
 - 470aa-mm: Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979
 - 470aaa: Paleontology Resources Preservation Act of 2009
 - 668a Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940, as amended
 - 703-711 Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918
 - 1361-1407 Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972
 - 1531-1543 Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
- 18 USC 43-44 Lacey Act of 1900 [The Black Bass Act of 1930 (16 USC 851) added fish to the list of wildlife under the Lacey Act]
- 25 USC 3001-3013 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
- 41 USC 102-41 Subpart C Voluntarily Abandoned Property
- 42 USC 1996 American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
- 54 USC
 - 100101: Promotion and Regulation
 - 100301-100302: Establishment (Organic Act of 1916)
 - 100701 et seq.: System Resource Inventory and Management (National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1988)
 - 102501-102504: Museums (Museum Properties Management Act of 1955)
 - 300101 et seq: Historic Preservation (National Historic Preservation Act of 1966)
 - 312501-312507: Preservation of Historical and Archeological Data (Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974)
 - 320301-320303: Monuments, Ruins, Site, and Objects of Antiquity (The Antiquities Act)
 - 321010-320106: American Antiquities [Policy and Administrative Provisions], (Historic Sites Act of 1935)

The following regulations include major requirements for NPS museum collections management.

- Copyright Act of 1976 (17 USC 101 et seq. [1988 & Supp. V 1993])

- Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Archeological Collections” (36 CFR Part 79) and in something about the update for deaccessioning
- Disposition of Federal Records (36 CFR 1228)
- Disposal of Records (44 USC 33)
- Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (50 CFR, Sections 17.11 and 17.12)
- Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 USC 483[b])
- Federal Records Act of 1950, as amended (44 USC 3101 et seq.)
- Freedom of Information Act of 1966, as amended (5 USC 552)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Regulations (43 CFR 10)
- Preservation, Arrangement, Duplication, Exhibition of Records (44 USC 2109)
- Preservation of American Antiquities (43 CFR Part 3)
- Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a)
- Protection of Archeological Resources (43 CFR Part 7)
- Research Specimens (36 CFR, Section 2.5)
- Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 (43 USC 2101 through 2106)
- Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (7 USC 2131 through 2159)
- Copies of records, documents, etc.: charges, disposition of receipts (43 USC 1460)
- Commercial filming activities on federal land (Public Law 106-206)
- Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Policy: State-Federal Relationships (43 CFR 24)
- Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies were published in the Federal Register as 67 FR 5365
- Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 (16 USC 63)
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 USC 35)
- Federal Technology Transfer Act of 2012 (15 USC 3710)
- Information Quality Act (passed in section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106–554; H.R. 5658)
- National Archives and Records Administration Act of 1984 (44 USC 21)
- Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997 (Public Law 104-208)
- Permits (36 CFR 1.6)
- Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and Archeological Resources (36 CFR 2.1)
- Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014 (Public Law 113-187; H.R. 1233)

Presidential memoranda pertinent to museum and archival collections include:

- Memorandum on Preserving Scientific Integrity in Government Decision-Making (2009) and the Presidential Memorandum on Managing Government Records (2011)
- “Technical Edits” for 36 CFR were published in the Federal Register as 80 FR 36474, effective as of on June 25, 2015

The following international conventions apply to NPS cultural collections:

- 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit

Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (implemented in the United States by P.L. 97-446 in 1983, 19 USC 2601)

- 1983 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

The following governmentwide and departmental policies and standards apply to NPS museum collections:

- 41 CFR 101 Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR)
- Departmental Manual Part 11, Museum Property Management, Chapters 1-3
- Departmental Manual Part 517, Chapter 1, Pesticide Use Policy
- Interior Property Management Regulations, Departmental Manual Part 410, Personal Property Management (Subpart 114-60)

Excerpts from NPS Management Policies (1988) that are specifically relevant to museum objects are as follows:

- Chapter 4 - Natural Resource Management
 - Natural Resource Collections (Page 4:4)
 - Integrated Pest Management Procedures (Page 4:13)
 - Palaeontologic Resource Management (Page 4:19)
- Chapter 5 - Cultural Resource Management
 - Inventories (Page 5:1)
 - Preservation of Data and Collections and Protection of Research Potential (Page 5:3)
 - Treatment of Museum Objects (Pages 5:9-10)
 - Acquisition, Management, and Disposition of Museum Objects (Page 5:10)
 - Historic Furnishings (Page 5:10)
 - Archives and Manuscripts (Pages 5:10-11)
 - Fire Detection and Suppression (Page 5:14)
 - Pest Management (Page 5:14)
- Chapter 7 - Interpretation and Education: Interpretation and Native Americans (Page 7:5)
- Chapter 8 - Use of the Parks: Research and Collection Activities (Pages 8:15-16)
- Chapter 9 - Park Facilities: Curatorial Facilities (Page 9:15)
- Chapter 10 - Concessions Management: Merchandise and Handcrafts (Pages 10:8-9)

Director's Orders (DO) supplement the NPS Management Policies. The following DO include guidance for museum collections

- Director's Order #11D: Records Management
- Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collections Management
- Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management
- Director's Order #44: Personal Property Management
- Director's Order #77: Natural Resource Protection
- Director's Order #77-10: NPS Benefits Sharing
- Director's Order #79: Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities

For a more detailed description of legislation and regulations as related to NPS museum collections, please see [Museum Handbook, Part I, Appendix A: Mandates and Standards for NPS Museum Collections](#).

Appendix D: Uses and Restrictions of Museum Collections

A. General Use

The site's museum collections may be used for exhibits, interpretive programs, research, and other interpretive media such as publications. The governing consideration on the use of museum objects is the conservation of each object in question and of the park's collection:

- All exhibits or displays containing museum objects must have proper security and appropriate environmental controls to ensure their long-term preservation.
- Social Media posts must follow the guidelines outlined in *Director's Order #70*.
- Objects and records will be available for research purposes consistent with the preservation of the collection, subject to the guidelines outlined in *Director's Order #28* (1998) and *Director's Order #24* (2008).
- No use of the museum collection will be permitted without a curatorial staff member present. Prior arrangements must be made to examine museum collection materials. Non-NPS researchers who wish to use the collection must complete an application form, which will be reviewed by GRBA curatorial staff.
- Museum objects are prohibited from being used in living history demonstrations. For more information regarding museum collection use in demonstrations, see [Museum Handbook, Part III, Chapter 6](#). Exhibits may be incorporated into programs through organized tours or other non-consumptive techniques.
- Requests for consumptive analysis or testing of museum materials will comply with restrictions and procedures outlined in *Director's Order #28* (1998) and the [Museum Handbook, Part II, Chapter 4](#). <include any park-specific data use procedures>
- Requests for monetary and/or non-monetary benefits sharing stemming from research results derived from NPS-permitted research including progeny and unmodified derivatives of collected specimens, museum specimens, living collections, and multiple generations thereof, i.e. *Material*, will comply with [Director's Order #77-10](#) (2013) and [NPS Benefits-Sharing Handbook](#) (2018).

With appropriate authorization, documentation, and tracking, collected specimens may be used in the laboratory to create *Material*. The Collected Specimen Transfer Agreement (CSTA) authorizes the movement of collected specimens when a determination has not

been made regarding final disposition. The Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) authorizes the movement of material that a researcher has created in a laboratory, and the loan agreement authorizes the movement of permanently retained museum specimens or living collection items.

Parks must use research permits, CSTAs, cataloging records, loan agreements, and MTAs, as applicable, to track collected specimens, museum specimens, and material. Tracking collected specimens, museum specimens, and material is critical to monitoring commercial use of research results and eventual benefits sharing.

- Objects may be loaned to qualified institutions for exhibition or research use in keeping with the conditions cited in “Conditions for Outgoing Loans (Form 10-137A)”. No loans are made to individuals. Institutions must be able to adequately care for the loan and the borrowing institution must complete a facility report to determine the risk of lending an object. A standard facility report can be purchased from the American Alliance of Museums. A condition report (Form 10-637) along with photographs of the loan shall be completed by collections staff before it leaves NPS custody. Sensitive materials may require additional conditions prior to a loan commitment. Expenses related to the loan of museum collection objects, including shipping and insurance, will be assumed by the borrower.

No exemption will be granted for use of museum objects where such use may lead to loss or destruction of human remains, associated or unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony as defined by NAGPRA, unless such use is approved by the culturally affiliated group(s) in addition to the regional director or director as described in NPS-28, Cultural Resource Management Guidelines. Exhibition of Native American skeletal or mummified human remains or photos or replicas of them are specifically prohibited.

An exhibit plan and design (EPD) serve as a guide for the development of exhibits that support the interpretive themes of a park. The final production-ready exhibit plan identifies the museum objects and graphics to be exhibited and provides label text. Detailed design drawings provide specifications on environmental and security needs for objects, special mounts needed to support objects, and techniques in exhibit case construction that facilitate access to museum objects. Park curatorial staff, conservators, and regional curators must be included in the development and review of EDPs. Indigenous groups associated with archeological and ethnographic objects will be consulted about their use in exhibits. (The NPS *Museum Handbook*, Part III provides guidance on the exhibit plan and design.)

Any and all uses of materials from the GRBA museum collection will be consistent with the preservation standards set out in *Director’s Order #28: Guideline for Cultural Resources Management* (1998). Any consumptive or destructive use of museum objects must be approved by the Regional Director.

B. Commercial Uses

1. Filming & Photography

Filming and photography that will subject collections to unacceptable light levels, heat buildup, deterioration or possible breakage or theft shall not be permitted. Items subject to copyright and privacy shall have all appropriate releases obtained before filming or photography is permitted. Traditionally affiliated groups shall be consulted to determine whether filming or photography would have an adverse impact on them before permitting use of museum collections.

On January 22, 2021, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia issued an order in *Price v. Barr*. The decision declared the provisions applying to commercial filming under 54 U.S.C. 100905, 43 C.F.R. Part 5, and 36 CFR 5. are unconstitutional under the First Amendment. The National Park Service is working with Department of Interior solicitors and the Department of Justice attorneys to determine the ramifications of the decision and how this decision will be implemented.

Until further instructions are provided, the implementation and enforcement of the commercial filming portions of 43 CFR part 5 including: 1) accepting applications and issuing permits for commercial filming; 2) enforcing the terms and conditions of permits or issuing citations and 3) collecting cost recovery and location fees for commercial filming activities will cease.

If filming activities in your park that would have previously been managed under a commercial filming permit could potentially impact park resources or the visitor experience, please reach out to the NPS Special Park Uses WASO program manager for further assistance. We anticipate issuing additional guidance about how parks can manage filming activities in a manner that complies with the court order. If you have questions, please contact the NPS Special Park Uses WASO program manager at 202-513-7092.

2. Reproduction of Museum Objects for Profit

Only the Superintendent can authorize reproduction of a museum object, archive, or specimens. A park can enter into agreements with a cooperating association to reproduce museum collections as sales items. Parks can also enter into a reproduction agreement with contractors or other organizations to reproduce a museum object for sale or distribution. All reproductions of NPS museum objects must carry a reproduction mark, NPS credit, and interpretive label.

For detailed information regarding factors to evaluate when considering a reproduction request, legal issues, information about reproduction agreements, and other issues, see the NPS [Museum Handbook, Part III: Museum Collections Use](#). Additional information is provided in DO-21: Donations and Fundraising, DO-32: Cooperating Associations, and DO-53: Special Park Uses.

Appendix E: Sensitive and Confidential Information Statement

In accordance with 54 USC 300101 et seq.: Historic Preservation, commonly called the National Historic Preservation Act; ARPA, NHPA, as amended (16 USC 470aa-mm); 54 USC 100701-100707: System Resource Inventory and Management, and NPS Management Policies (2006, sections 4.1.2. and 5.2.3), the Park may withhold from the public sensitive and confidential information, including the specific location, character, nature, ownership, or acquisition of cultural resources, and the nature and specific locations of rare, threatened, or endangered species, commercially valuable resources, caves, minerals, and paleontological resources.

Under some circumstances, the NPS may be required by law to disclose confidential information acquired during consultations, public meetings, and other research, planning, and stewardship activities, or in association with the acquisition of resources, including museum collections. Therefore, the park cannot guarantee confidentiality of all information received. To the extent permitted by law, the park will withhold from public disclosure information provided by individuals who wish the information to remain confidential and the identities of individuals who wish to remain anonymous and who are protected from release by exemption under FOIA. The park should refer inquiries to the regional FOIA and Privacy Act officer for consultation and possible review.

The park archives contain records of individuals who have perished while visiting or working in the park, cultural site information, caves, paleontological site information, and locations of rare and endemic species.

Appendix F: Hazards in Collections

Potential health and safety concerns may exist in NPS collections due to the nature of the object or specimen or to past management strategies. Some examples of inherent risks for natural science collections include: rocks and minerals may be radioactive or contain asbestos, mercury, arsenic or other toxic material; fossils from some formations may be radioactive and may emit high levels of radon; fluid-preserved specimens are sometimes fixed or stored in formalin; and taxidermy collections may contain arsenic.

Samples of materials from historic structures may contain asbestos, lead, arsenic, or other potential hazards. History, ethnology, and archeology collections may include objects with radioactive compounds; mercuric or arsenic compounds; chromium, cadmium, zinc, and lead; and pyrotechnic compound fillings, chemicals, or gas. Deteriorating cellulose nitrate film emits nitrogen oxide gases. Deteriorating cellulose acetate film emits acetic acid. Ammunition for historic firearms and unexploded ordnance (UXO) such as bombs, cannonballs, grenades, rockets, & other projectiles and explosives may be live. Spears, swords, and arrows have sharp edges and may be coated with poisons. Medical, dental, and veterinary equipment may contain viable pathogens, or toxic or controlled substances. Industrial equipment, machines, and vehicles may also contain many types of hazards such as broken glass, rust, and other contamination.

Suspected unexploded ordnance (UXO), live ammunition, and other explosives and energetic materials may be discovered in storage and on exhibit, during archeological excavation, construction, or other approved ground disturbing activities, and by park visitors. UXO is extremely dangerous and constitutes a major safety risk. Treat all ordnance with extreme caution and never assume it is disarmed upon discovery, secure the space where the UXO resides. Do not attempt to touch, handle, or move any suspected UXO. Contact your regional curator and park Law Enforcement Ranger or Safety Officer and provide them with the following information:

- The circumstances that the items were found, a detailed description of events, current storage conditions, and the information on instructions/labeling already completed.

- Provide a catalog number list of the UXO and any other ammunition (small arms and ordinance).
- Provide any photos that can be found and scan/include those in the correspondence. Do not go back and photograph.
- Include the number of cabinets in which these items are stored or if there are any on open shelving, in boxes, etc.
- The service-wide policy outlined in NPS DO-50B, Occupational Safety and Health, along with the Museum Handbook, outlines a framework for establishing and implementing a Risk Management process when managing hazardous collections including:
 - Recognize and identify the hazards
 - Evaluate the hazards
 - Reduce or eliminate the hazards to the extent possible

NPS DO-24 (section 4.3.11) requires that curatorial staff notify users that collections may have been treated with potentially toxic substances. All individuals seeking direct access to NPS museum collections must be provided with DI-3320 “Notice of Potential Hazards in Museum Collections.” The form must be completed before providing access to collections, including repatriations, traditional use, and loans of materials from the collection for management or research. Completed DI-3320s with original signatures must be retained by the park that is accountable for the collection being accessed for 120 years from the date the form is signed. If the recipient of the form declines to sign the form, document this in the notes section at the bottom of the form.

Known hazardous collections may be acquired or deaccessioned on a case-by-case basis and only when the hazards have been identified and can be appropriately and safely mitigated.

In meeting the responsibilities for safely managing hazardous or potentially hazardous collections in the museum the park will:

- Limit or reject the acquisition of hazardous collections
- Deaccession hazardous collections as necessary
- Mitigate exposure for those entering and handling of hazardous collections by wearing personal protective equipment such as latex gloves, and facemasks, and eye protection.

Appendix G: Research Collections and Permits

Per NPS Management Policies (2006), the Service encourages appropriately reviewed natural and cultural resource studies and research whenever such studies and research are consistent with applicable laws and policies. All studies and research in parks will employ nondestructive methods to the maximum extent feasible with respect to resource protection, research methodology, and the scientific and management value of the information and collections to be obtained. Although studies and research involving physical impacts to park resources or the removal of objects or specimens may be permitted, studies and collecting activities that will lead to the impairment of park resources and values are prohibited.

In implementing NPS policies and procedures to ensure scientific integrity and resource stewardship, NPS managers should consider that:

- The science is not complete until the specimens and associated data which voucher the study are appropriately documented and preserved.
- Field work and analysis are the most expensive components of scientific projects.
- The cost of field work means that each collected specimen has high financial value. Requiring that researchers deposit voucher specimens in permanent collections protects that financial investment.
- Failure to retain appropriate scientific collections to document the scientific validity of the research is not economical or ethical.
- Identifications of species in faunistic and ecological studies (versus taxonomic studies) are more often made by non-specialists using only published keys. This increases the likelihood that misidentifications may occur, resulting in lower levels of confidence in identifications which will need to be verified by specialists in the future to validate the research.
- Using scientific collections to answer research questions can reduce some costs for new field work.
- As scientific advances are made and new techniques are developed, existing well-documented scientific collections will become even more important to NPS resource management and science.
- A specimen available today may not be available in the future, just as many specimens collected decades ago can no longer be recollected due to habitat loss, population decline, and other issues. Environmental specimens collected in a time series can never be replicated.
- Each biological specimen is a “snapshot in time” which reflects the biology and ecology of the living animal and its environment. Collecting another specimen decades later does replicate the earlier specimen of the same species.
- The passage of time, technological challenges, and prohibitive costs make it impossible to replace specimens collected but not retained when they are needed later.
- Periodic (and in some cases, routine) collection of scientific specimens for permanent retention is vital to understanding the processes, rates, and impacts of climate change.

As noted above, museum collections serve as the verifiable and reproducible evidence of a scientific study. Therefore, their collection and long-term preservation is a crucial aspect of ensuring scientific integrity.

Per Directors Order #24, and the standard permit requirements, all resource projects in parks must include funding for curation of specimens collected to prevent an increase in the backlog of uncatalogued materials. The standard permit conditions require that associated project records including data, field notes, photographs, maps, etc. are submitted as part of the project’s deliverables and that they are cataloged according to NPS standards. A project is not considered completed until everything, including specimens, is cataloged and the data entered into the NPS official museum cataloging system.

Natural Resource Research Collections and Permits

Natural resource collections include non-living and living specimens. Research that includes taking plants, fish, wildlife, rocks, or minerals is governed by 36 CFR 2.5; additional guidance for research, collecting, and managing specimens and associated field records is found in the NPS Research Permit and Reporting System (RPRS), Director's Order #77, Director's Order #77-10, and the NPS 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 general management plan, the Animal Welfare Act, and other appropriate requirements.

RPRS is the online system used by the NPS to manage the research application and reporting process. Park museum staff with collection custodial duties can effectively use RPRS to collaborate with park research coordinators, resource management staff, research permittees, and repositories to help manage permanently retained collections including completion of specimen labels, submission of catalog data, and submission of copies of field notes.

RPRS is also used to help track agreements with non-NPS repositories. When a researcher applies for a permit and proposes that collected specimens be retained in a non-NPS repository, the applicant must obtain the signature of a repository official (on Appendix A of the application) agreeing to the proposal and the terms of the NPS loan agreement that would be required upon deposit of the collections. Park museum staff coordinate completion of catalog records and issue loans to document collections deposited at repositories.

Currently, NPS policy allows superintendents discretion to issue permits to park staff and other NPS staff (i.e., network Inventory and Monitoring staff), especially when specimens will be collected for retention in park collections.

Cultural Resource Research Collections and Permits

All archeological research must comply with ARPA, the Antiquities Act, and NAGPRA, as applicable. Guidance for collecting and managing field data, objects, specimens, and features of sites and structures retrieved during cultural resource research and treatment projects, together with associated records and reports, can be found in 36 CFR 79.4, Director's Order #28, and the NPS Museum Handbook. Archeological collections and their associated records are managed within the park museum collection, stored in NPS or non-NPS repositories, as appropriate, including repositories maintained by partners.

Permits that allow cultural resources to be physically disturbed or allow objects or specimens to be collected must require provisions for the long-term preservation and management of any recovered objects and specimens and for their cataloging, together with any associated records, in the NPS museum cataloging system. Independent researchers will be authorized to conduct archeological research on park lands only through the issuance of an ARPA or Antiquities Act permit by the appropriate regional director. This permitting authority cannot be further delegated. As appropriate, parks will also issue other necessary permits, such as a special use permit.

While RPRS is most used for natural resource-related research, all external research on NPS-managed lands must be documented in RPRS and may include archeological or other cultural resource research.

Reviewing Research Permits

Current guidance does not require park museum staff or the CAC to work collaboratively with park resource management staff or the research coordinator to control collecting through permit conditions or specific requirements for collections. It is recommended, however, that park museum staff work with park research and/or resource management staff to advise the superintendent on what objects and specimens should be (or must be, according to statute) collected and managed as museum property. In some parks, curatorial and natural resource staff work together to review collection permit requests and advise the superintendent to reject certain collecting requests that are duplicative of existing collections and re-direct the researcher to conduct research on existing collections at the park or in other repositories. This process is particularly valuable to support park goals in protecting rare species, limiting/preventing duplicative or repetitive collecting, and ensuring there is no impairment of park resources or values.

All Research and Collection Permit Applications are forwarded to all natural and cultural resource management staff for their input on the proposed research. Comments are provided to the research coordinator by email to communicate to the researcher. Ensure process / guidelines include:

- Up-to-date contact information for park curator listed in RPRS
- Clear and complete instructions for collections and data submission under “Park-specific Research Conditions” on Park Information page in RPRS; provide instructions for permittees to coordinate with park curator and prepare and submit labels, cataloging data, and specimens for collections to be retained, as well as resource management records and copies of field notes.
- Monitoring annual submission of IARs and remind delinquent investigators of their responsibilities
- Coordinating the authorization to permanently retain collections in a non-NPS repository ONLY after documenting in RPRS receipt of Appendix A is signed by the proposed non-NPS repository.

Helpful links:

[National Park Service Organic Act](#)

[National Park Service Omnibus Management Act of 1998](#)

National Park Service Management Policies 2001

Natural Resource Management Reference Manual #77

[Director's Order #77 \(Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring\)](#)

Director's Order #77-10: NPS Benefits Sharing

[Director's Order #24 \(National Park Service Museum Collection Management\)](#)

[Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 41 \(Wilderness Preservation and Management\)](#)

[Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act \(16 USC 470f\)](#)

[Endangered Species Act of 1973](#)

[Wilderness Act of 1964](#)

[Archeological Resources Protection Act](#)

[43 CFR 7](#)

[36 CFR 2.5](#)

[Research Permits - Everglades National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

[NPS Archeology Program: Federal Archeological Permits](#)

[Research Permits - Yellowstone National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

[Obtain a Research Permit - Bering Land Bridge National Preserve \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Appendix H: Brief History of the Great Basin Museum Collection

The following is taken from the Great Basin National Park Museum Management Plan (1999):

On October 27, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed into law a bill creating the nation's 49th national park. The mission of Great Basin National Park (GRBA), which includes 77,100 acres of land, is "to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people a representative sample of the Great Basin...." The new park incorporates the former Lehman Caves National Monument (LECA), created by an act of Congress on January 24, 1922, as well as adjoining land. This history of the Great Basin museum collection covers the period from 1933, when the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, conveyed the monument to the National Park Service, until the 1990s.

Materials uncovered in a 1938 archeological dig formed the basis for the original museum collection at LECA. Archeologists recovered over 300 items during a two- year period. Lehman Caves maintained a small collection of "geological materials and fossils" as early as 1937. Cave formations found in the Humboldt National Forest ranger station and turned over to the National Park Service were added to this exhibit. The custodian hinted at the use of these objects in exhibits when he reported that the "present collection of geological materials and fossils [was] being cleaned and improved" (Park Correspondence files). Later that year some archeological materials were discovered during excavations for a new entrance to the cave, and the first formal Lehman Caves archeological dig began.

Among the materials recovered from the cave were several human skulls, bones, and animal remains. The archeological dig continued into the fall but was closed down due to lack of funds. Archeologists left two skulls and some bones in situ so that they could be incorporated into interpretive programs.

Archeologists cleaned and catalogued all the materials at the site. They took many photographs of the dig and of the remains that were uncovered. The actual objects remained at Lehman Caves, but field notes and photographs were placed at Zion, the site's headquarters. In February of 1938 personnel sent the skulls to the National Museum (now the Smithsonian Institution) for identification. These objects remained at the Smithsonian until 1964, when they were returned to LECA at the monument's request.

In September 1938 the custodian noted: "Museum service is steadily becoming more important at the cave...a number of mineral and fossil specimens [sic] as well as plants and animals have been exhibited at the office." Live animals were evidently exhibited as the reports describe the capture of what would be termed pests -- skunks and kangaroo rats -- which the custodian diligently studied and described to headquarters. Monument records contain few references to the collections between 1938 and 1958.

Park Naturalist Keith Trexler writes "in 1941 the old lodge was fitted out as a contact station and wildflowers and cave materials were put on exhibit."

Lake Mead became the new supervisory park for LECA, and in 1943, its assistant archeologist wrote to the superintendent that "[he] looked over the archeological specimens that have been stored at Lehman Caves since 1938...[t]his material is poorly stored. All of the specimens need cleaning, repairing, renumbering, and proper storage." No documentation has been found that the park acted on any of these recommendations.

By 1948, the lodge contact station included "a laymen's herbarium." In 1952 Superintendent Arthur L. Brown and his wife further developed the herbarium. They collected specimens over the next six years, often enlisting help in plant identification from notable botanists, including Dr. Arthur H. Holgren and Dr. Russell McGuire, curators of the Intermountain Herbarium and the New York Botanical Gardens respectively, in 1954. They also added other natural history specimens to the collection during their tenure. Early in 1958 formal museum training was given by Franklin G. Smith, Southwest Regional Curator, who went "over the procedures to be used in maintaining museum records."

In late 1958 Lehman Caves received a request to send the "partial Indian skeleton, that was on display" to the Archeological Center at Globe, Arizona. Superintendent Paul M. Steel complied with the request and noted in January 1959 that the remains had been transferred to Globe and that "... all skeletal remains removed from Lehman Caves, in 1939 [sic] are now located in Globe, Arizona." An earlier May 1958 memo to the regional headquarters explains that "[w]hile clearing out the old storage buildings here at Lehman Caves we discovered two wooden boxes of skeletal remains." Evidently others were looking for these remains for research purposes. The regional interpreter, Eric Reed, wrote to the National Museum in 1959 that "[h]itherto, I believe, I have failed to notify you that the collection of skeletal material from Lehman Caves finally was located, at the monument in very dead storage."

Two museum storage cases arrived at LECA in September 1961, anticipating the planned construction of a new visitor center. The Western Museum Laboratory in Berkeley, California, started a museum exhibit plan in 1961, collecting and cataloguing 33 cave formation specimens for the exhibits. According to their report, "[o]nly pieces that were already broken were chosen, limiting the choices, but preserving the cave." Many of these formations were de-accessioned and returned to the cave in 1964.

During the period between 1962 and 1965, the museum collection grew rapidly due to the efforts of collateral duty personnel and the Chief Park Naturalist Keith Trexler. Seasonal interpreters

actively collected and prepared natural history objects. Trexler began to locate all the materials from the 1938 excavation and have them returned to the park. He also sought the return of artifacts and specimens collected during a 1963 excavation in Lehman Caves, conducted by the Nevada State Museum under the direction of Charles Rozaire. These archeological specimens were stored at the Smithsonian and also at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City. Some artifacts had even found their way to Boulder, Colorado. By late 1966, Trexler had managed to have all known materials returned to LECA.

Trexler also began research for his book, *Lehman Caves: The Human Story*, by conducting oral interviews with long-time Snake Valley residents and soliciting correspondence from numerous sources. He provided a wealth of information about the cave and the surrounding area to the archives and added numerous photographs to the museum collection.

Documentation of GRBA museum activities during the 1970s and early 1980s is incomplete, but the accession book indicates that items continued to be acquired, including historic-period artifacts and mammal bones found in the cave and botanical specimens collected in and near the monument. During this period, archeological materials from the excavations in Lehman Caves were shipped to the Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC) in Tucson, Arizona, for storage.

Collecting and museum management activities increased in the late 1980s after the establishment of GRBA. Research conducted in support of the park's Allotment Management Plan for cattle grazing resulted in the addition of more than 500 plant specimens to the herbarium.

Archeological investigations in support of park planning resulted in the acquisition of hundreds of artifacts (stored at WACC). Park archives increased considerably with the addition of many documents related to the establishment of the park and the development of the park General Management Plan and Historic Resource Study. From 1989 to 1991, Interpretation Specialist Paul Henderson and seasonal Park Ranger Gail Arundell inventoried museum property, catalogued over 600 newly acquired objects, re-catalogued hundreds of existing objects, gathered additional on-hand objects and archival materials that were suitable for the collection, improved storage conditions, and updated the Scope of Collections Statement.

In 1992 responsibility for the GRBA museum collection was transferred from the Interpretation Branch to the Resource Management Branch. Resource Management Specialist Vidal Davila was designated as the park Museum Curator. The park divided operational duties between Physical Science Technician Kurt Pfaff and seasonal Museum Technician Jud Tuttle. On average, they spent a combined total of approximately 0.2 FTE per year on museum management activities.

The park stored its museum collections in different locations. It maintained the Herbarium at the Baker Guard Station in the office of the Range Management Specialist and stored most of the remaining collections in cabinets in the open lobby. A 1992 visit from Regional Curator Jonathan Bayless resulted in the consolidation of the collections in the former audio/visual storage room of the Resource Management trailer, where they remain today. The park obtained upgraded museum cabinets and supplies for its previously scattered collections. It blocked the window to this room with insulation and plywood and placed a lock on the door to establish a

modicum of physical protection. The park also entered much of the catalog into the Automated National Catalog System (ANCS) and catalogued much of the existing backlog. Staff wrote museum storage and exhibit space access procedures, updated the Scope of Collections Statement, identified and accessioned appropriate objects and archives, conducted annual inventories, updated the Collections Management Report and the Checklist for Preservation, and assisted other park branches with archival searches and loans of photographs and objects.

During this period, the park discouraged research and inventory projects that would result in large new collections because the time and space needed to catalogue and conserve new collections was not available. Several archeological projects added thousands of items to the park collection, but they were catalogued and stored at WACC.

Beginning in the early 1990s, park staff assisted WACC personnel in conducting an inventory of artifacts and remains in compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) requirements. Human remains (110 skeletal elements) from the collection were returned to the park in 1997 and repatriated to representatives of culturally affiliated tribes in 1998.

The park catalogued over 4,000 items from the backlog of archival material and converted its catalog database to ANCS+ in 1998. Much work remains in cataloguing and otherwise documenting the collection. Most catalog records for objects in park storage are complete only to registration level. Most natural resource specimens are incorrectly catalogued. A significant proportion of natural history specimens recorded on catalog forms is not yet entered into the electronic database. The park has not completed the process of de-accessioning the human remains repatriated under NAGPRA and has not begun the process of accessioning, surveying, and cataloguing more than 200 linear feet of archives. This workload is in addition to routine duties, such as the annual inventory, and much-needed new projects, such as the development of finding aids.

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