

**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**



Grand Canyon - Parashant National Monument

Scope of Collection Statement



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

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

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument was formally established on January 11, 2000 by Presidential Proclamation 7265. In addition to protecting the undeveloped scenery, as well as cultural and scientific resources of the new monument, the proclamation declared that the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management would manage the monument cooperatively.

The museum collections of Parashant are divided in management similar to that of the park, the BLM cultural collections are maintained by the BLM archeologist for the park, while the rest of the museum collections are managed by the museum curator of Lake Mead NRA through a cooperative agreement between the two parks. The park collections highlight the history of human occupation in the area as well as the diversity of natural resources preserved by the large swath of unobstructed wilderness that Parashant protects. PARA NPS cultural resource collections include 1,330 catalog records, the majority of which encompass archeological artifacts collected from the Shivwits Plateau. The natural history collections include a total of 4,062 catalog records, including 3,711 biological and 351 paleontological specimens. The BLM cultural resource collections from Parashant include less than 200 un-accessioned, un-cataloged objects maintained at the Parashant offices, as well as objects curated at Southern Utah University's Archaeological Repository and Brigham Young University's Museum of Culture and People. Additional smaller and/or older collections are housed at the Museum of Northern Arizona and the NPS Western Archeological and Conservation Center (WACC). The majority of Parashant's NPS collections are stored at the Lake Mead NRA repository in Boulder City, with some collections on loan to other institutions such as the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) Herbarium. New NPS collections are primarily generated through research permits. New BLM collections are primarily generated through archeological field schools.

For additional information on the NPS museum collection, please contact: Jessica Bitter, LAKE Museum Curator, jessica_bitter@nps.gov. For the BLM collections please contact David Van Alfen, PARA BLM Archeologist, dvanalfe@blm.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 Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument 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. (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 (Appendix D) for other legislation and NPS legal authorities to acquire and preserve museum collections.

3. Context for PARA Museum Collection

This section is compiled from NPS and non-NPS histories, reports, and plans, and provides context for museum collection acquisition. It is not intended to be comprehensive. For additional information about sources used, refer to the Selected Bibliography (Appendix H).

A. Park Purpose and Significance

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument was formally established on January 11, 2000 by Presidential Proclamation 7265. Although a museum collection is not mandated in the initial proclamation, the protection of those resources which are represented by museum collections are highlighted as being the pre-emptive reasons for the establishment of the monument. These include outstanding and exquisitely preserved, paleontological, geological, and archeological resources as well as a diverse ecology in which a variety of unique species thrive due to the unspoiled and wild nature of the monument.

The purpose statement outlined in the monument's Foundation Document identified the specific reasons for the establishment of the monument: "At Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service cooperatively protect undeveloped, wild, and remote northwestern Arizona landscapes and their resources, while providing opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, scientific research, and historic and traditional uses."

The Foundation Document and monument General Management Plan more clearly outlines the connection of these unique resources to the need for museum collections.

- Foundation Document pg. 6: "the extensive natural history...preserves museum-quality marine and ice age fossils".
- General Management Plan: "Archives and museum collections will be located, inventoried, and managed to ensure accessibility and use for research, documentation, and public interpretation".

Finally, the fundamental values outlined in the Foundation underpin the valuable resources which may also be represented in the museum collections.

- Geological record
- Continuum of human use of the monument
- Ecological diversity
- Scientific research

The last fundamental value highlights the unique management of the monument, which in turn extends to the unique management of their museum collections.

- Cooperative management of the monument

B. History of PARA and PARA Museum Collections

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument was carved-out of lands previously managed by Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NPS) and the Arizona Strip District (BLM). Collections were generated from these lands prior to the creation of the monument. BLM cultural collections inherited by the monument come from two primary sources: agency personnel collecting representative samples or special objects, and from external researchers collecting representative surface samples. Most of the objects collected by agency personnel prior to 1996 were inadvertently discarded during an office building move, and many of the remaining objects often have little information associated with them regarding provenience. The most notable research collection was taken by crews from the Museum of Northern Arizona during the first Mount Trumbull inventory in 1975. Other small surface collections reside at the Southern Utah University Archaeological Repository.

Thirteen American Indian groups have claimed affiliation with the cultural resources of PARA. The Tribes regularly consulted include The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (includes the Shivwits Band of Paiute Indians, Indian Peak Band, Cedar Band, Kanosh Band, and the Koosharem Band), The Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, the Pahrump Band of Paiutes, the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, the Hualapai Indian Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, the Havasupai Indian Tribe, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, the Navajo Nation, and the Pueblo of Zuni.

A number of the original and current ranchers and families associated with the monument have assisted in providing context for historic locations and artifacts, notably the Mathis family and Jim and Dennis Whitmore. Numerous oral histories have been conducted to capture and preserve a range of different peoples' experiences working and living on the monument lands.

The Bureau of Land Management has never had a museum or collections policy but does require an official curation agreement with an approved federal repository prior to issuance of an ARPA permit. Despite this lack of official guidance, relatively few artifacts have been collected from the BLM lands of Parashant. Most of the objects collected by agency personnel were either representative surface "grab" samples of pottery sherds and stone tools or complete objects that could not be responsibly left after discovery, i.e., baskets, ceramic vessels, and wooden tools. Previous BLM archaeologists had an explicit policy of collecting intact projectile points during

site documentation using the same rationale. There are also some material samples from historic structures collected for preservation purposes.

The bulk of the BLM collections have been generated from three archaeological field schools beginning shortly after monument creation. Dr. Paul Buck from Nevada State College and Desert Research Institute began field school operations in the Mt. Trumbull region beginning in 2000 and continuing until 2007. Artifacts collected were from a limited number of test pits, auger holes, and surface collections. The collections from this field school are curated by Lake Mead NRA. In 2006, Brigham Young University, under Dr. James Allison, tested several sites in the Hidden Hills area of the monument. Artifacts were collected from test pits and site surfaces and are curated at the BYU Museum of Peoples and Cultures. Beginning in 2009 and continuing to the present, Dr. Sachiko Sakai of California State University at Long Beach has conducted field schools in the Mt Trumbull region of the monument. The collections are generated from both surface collections and excavations and are accessioned with the Southern Utah University Archaeological Repository.

The National Park Service collections for PARA have similarly been generated through ARPA-permitted field schools and research permits, as well as the Artist in Residence Program. The bulk of the archeological collections taken from PARA lands were from University of Nevada-Las Vegas archaeological field school excavations run by Dr. Karen Harry. The field school has run intermittently starting in 2006 and continuing to the present. Primary botanical collections since monument designation have been made by a series of targeted projects including Surprise Canyon vascular plant documentation by G. Rink and deliberate attempts to close gaps in botanical knowledge by W. Fertig, D. Atwood and others. Collection of mammals, fish, reptiles and fish are unknown to have occurred since monument designation.

C. Collection Themes and Categories

Themes:

- Geological record: Volcanic rocks, cinder cones, and basalt flows ranging in age from 9 million to only about 1,000 years old tell of ancient volcanic activity throughout the monument. Geologic faults range from more than 6 million years to more recent faults of only 30,000 years ago.
- Paleontological Record: The vast acreage of clearly defined geological formations provides an unsurpassed classroom for geological and paleontological research. A robust fossil record, spanning early sea life to present-day plants and animals, contributes to our understanding of global forces and climate change.
- Indigenous Cultures: Evidence of Native American occupation, adaptation, and movement through the landscape, especially Archaic, Southern Paiute and Ancestral Puebloan. Historic and current traditional practices of Native American peoples.
- Exploration and settling of the American West – Includes evidence of J. W. Powell's exploration of the Colorado River region, as well as Mormon settlements, homesteads, dairy farms, ranches, sawmills, and logging and mining operations.
- Ecological diversity – The monument values remote and untouched landscaped and wilderness; preserving the robust ecological diversity that comes from many factors including a dramatic elevation change (1,200-8,000 feet) in relatively compact areas

where the Colorado Plateau and Mojave Desert Merge. Other significant ecology includes the ponderosa pine ecosystem of the Mt. Trumbull Wilderness.

- Scientific research – It is the scientific mission of Parashant to allow and encourage scientific research across diverse disciplines which informs management, improves and maintains ecosystems, maintains biotic and non-biotic resources, involves Indigenous Knowledge, preserves historic resources, and serves as a model system surrounding areas.

D. Special Designations

Waring Ranch, an historic cattle ranch located on NPS lands near Mt Dellenbaugh, is the only cultural site officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, an Archaeological District was created along Grand Wash in the Mojave Desert NPS lands in 1979. No other cultural Special Designations currently exist on the monument.

II. TYPES OF COLLECTIONS

This section describes the contents, present and future, of the park's cultural collection and natural history collection.

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 divided between the NPS and the BLM. The NPS manages all collections whose origin is the NPS portion of the park, whereas BLM separately manages the collections whose origin is the BLM portion of the park. These collections may be merged and all managed by the NPS at a later date, depending on staffing limits of LAKE and the results of the 2023 legacy Pacific West Regional Facility Consolidation Plan.

The NPS cultural collection is subdivided into five disciplines: archeology, ethnology, history, art, and archival and manuscript collections. The disciplines of archeology, history, art, and archives are represented in the PARA museum collection, with the largest portion made up of the archeology collection, followed by the art collection. These collections include archeological artifacts, whose origins are primarily UNLV field schools conducted on the Shivwits Plateau, as well as art collections which originated from the PARA Artists-in-Residence program. Although PARA has Resource Management Records these have yet to be accessioned and cataloged; most are co-mingled with LAKE archives and are being separated for future processing by LAKE curatorial staff as they work through their respective backlog.

The BLM cultural collection is roughly subdivided into three of the same five disciplines as the NPS collections. The disciplines of archeology, history, and archives are represented in the PARA museum collection with the largest portion made up of the archeology collection, with only very limited historic and archival collections. The archaeology collection is mainly

comprised of projectile points, pottery sherds, and several intact ceramic pots, baskets, and wooden objects that were collected over the years as they were encountered. The historic collection is primarily objects collected during the stabilization of the Pine Ranch ranch house. Archives include primarily oral history transcripts and related digital recordings, photographs and slides of archaeological sites, and acetates from HABS/HALS/HAER documentation of Grand Gulch Mine and Pine Ranch.

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 PARA approved planning documents and resource studies.
- Unpermitted collections which have passed CAC review and Superintendent approval processes.
- 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 Hazards in Collections Appendix (Appendix F) 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 precontact or historic resource” ([36 CFR 79.4\(a\)\(1\)](#)).

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 (see [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 compliance work has not generated archaeological collections on the monument since both NPS and BLM sides avoid impacting cultural resources by management decision. Though future activities may require some collection as a mitigation strategy due to site impacts, it is expected that the amount of material would be small.

Archeology Collection at PARA

The PARA NPS archeological collections total 1320 catalog records. Objects include projectile points and pottery sherds which serve as type specimens for the area. These collections are all housed either in the curatorial facility at LAKE, or at the Western Archeological Conservation Center (WACC). Backlog collections are known to exist at the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) and the Desert Research Institute (DRI).

The BLM archaeology collections number less than 300 un-accessioned individual objects. The bulk of the collection is pottery sherds and projectile points, though there are also several complete baskets and basket fragments, intact ceramic pots, and wooden objects. Other BLM collections from the monument are housed at the Southern Utah University Archaeological Repository, the Museum of Peoples and Cultures at Brigham Young University, and the Western Archeology and Conservation Center (WACC).

Mandated acquisitions: Archeological collections, except inalienable and communal property (as defined by 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. 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.

Should be acquired: Archeological materials collected through ARPA permits should be acquired. Archeological materials collected by park staff as part of a project with a pre-approved collecting plan should be acquired. Collection plans for compliance and monitoring projects should be planned in conjunction with the LAKE Curator, PARA Ecologist, and PARA Archeologist, and entered into PEPC prior to collection. Confiscated archeological materials recovered from unauthorized and illegal activities in PARA in violation of ARPA which have well documented provenience and are in line with park collecting priorities and themes 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. Collections which are the result of ARPA violations may be considered if they come with clear provenience.

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 inalienable and communal property subject to NAGPRA 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. Though various Tribal groups claim affiliation with the lands encompassed by the monument, the Southern Paiute Bands, notably the Kaibab, Shivwits, and Moapa Bands, are the groups most closely associated within the ethnographic timeframe. Any ethnology collections in the future should focus on the material culture of the various "pai" groups (Southern Paiute, Havasupai, Hualapai) and the closely related Chemehuevi.

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.

No ethnology collections are usually generated during Section 106 compliance work. All Tribal Consultation records related to compliance are generally filed with the specific project administrative records with copies maintained in the cultural files.

Ethnology Collection at PARA

At present PARA does not have any ethnology collections. This is subject to change based on tribal input and consultation.

Mandated Acquisitions: 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: 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. All ethnographic studies and the ownership of produced materials should be developed in consultation with park affiliated tribes.

May be acquired: Ethnographic objects owned or used by an individual or cultural group traditionally associated with, and significant to, the park mandate. The park should carefully consider collections of non-original ethnographic resources which may be related to the existing museum collection or attributed to traditionally associated people of the park/park area.

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 PARA

The PARA history collection amounts to 10 paintings, all of which were generated through the PARA Artists-in-Residence program. These collections are all on display at the PARA offices in St. George, UT.

Mandated Acquisitions: There are no legal mandates for the History Collection.

Should be acquired: Only historic material with a direct association to the park is to be included in the museum collection. When 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:

- **Indigenous Cultures:** Evidence of Native American occupation, adaptation, and movement through the landscape, especially Archaic, Southern Paiute and Ancestral Puebloan. Historic and current traditional practices of Native American peoples.
- **Exploration and settling of the American West:** includes evidence of J. W. Powell's exploration of the Colorado River region, as well as Mormon settlements, homesteads, dairy farms, ranches, sawmills, and logging and mining operations.

Future collections activity in this area will 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.

May be acquired:

Rare Books: 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. Only books which are both rare and whose subject matter directly correlates to park specific resources and history may be acquired. A rare book should be determined with multiple factors in mind, including the importance of the text, the condition of the book, the demand for the book, the scarcity of the

book, and whether the book is directly correlated to Parashant and its history. For more information on determining if a book is rare reference Conserve O Gram 19/1.

Artifacts which fill gaps in current collections: The park has a dearth of history collections, and collections which fill this void, especially collections that match with the themes outlined above, should be considered. PARA does not currently have any known historic objects or archives which represent minority voices within its themes. Collections which reflect these stories should be highly considered.

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.

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

Potentially hazardous materials, except on a case-by-case basis. See the Hazards in the Collection Appendix for more information.

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 PARA

The PARA art collection amounts to 10 paintings, all of which were generated through the PARA Artists-in-Residence program. These collections are all on display at the PARA offices in St. George, UT.

Mandated acquisitions: There are no legal mandates for the art collection.

Should be acquired: Art that is directly associated with the park and/or significant people/events related to the park's enabling legislation should 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.

May be acquired: 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.

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.

At the time of this report PARA Resource Management Records backlog were mostly comingled with LAKE archives backlog. As LAKE records are processed, PARA records are separated for future processing. At this time the PARA archives backlog accounts for approximately 30 linear feet of archival records.

a. Manuscript Collections at PARA

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: There are no legal mandates for manuscript collections.

Should be acquired: Manuscript collections should 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. Manuscript collections which pertain to the park’s themes used to establish the following collecting categories will be most seriously considered by the CAC:

- **Indigenous Cultures:** Evidence of Native American occupation, adaptation, and movement through the landscape, especially Archaic, Southern Paiute and Ancestral Puebloan. Historic and current traditional practices of Native American peoples.
- **Exploration and settling of the American West:** includes evidence of J. W. Powell's exploration of the Colorado River region, as well as Mormon settlements, homesteads, dairy farms, ranches, sawmills, and logging and mining operations.

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.

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.

b. Resource Management Records in the Archival Collections at PARA

Resource Management Records (RMR) document the management of natural and cultural resources, and park 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 they 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 \(house.gov\)](#)

Resource Management Records (RMR) are federal records subject to the Federal Records Act (FRA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), or other laws governing federal records 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.

At this time PARA has no archives accessioned into their collection. A Resource Management Records survey has never been conducted for PARA.

Mandated Collections: Records associated with 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: Resource management and lands records should be acquired regardless of format.

May be Acquired: The *NPS Service-wide Record Schedule* (SRS) and the NPS *Records and Electronic Information Management (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 set of park records related to protection and safety, wildfire management, and park facilities management. PARA will retain records that fall under this scope which are essential to the ongoing management of the park and interpretation of the parks history.

Not to be Acquired: Museum records including but not limited to accession book, accession files, catalog records and databases, catalog folders, annual inventories, images/scans documenting objects/specimens, and object conservation condition and treatment reports must be permanently retained but are not accessioned into the collection. Federal records that are not Resource Management Records, including federal records whose management scope is broader than the park (regional, national, or partnerships which cross agencies such as SNAP/SNPLMA or SHPO partnership records), as well as those records narrower in scope which are not essential for management of ongoing PARA programs and projects.

2. Natural History Collection

The purpose of PARA 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 PARA'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 in to 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.

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

Acquisitions and future growth of PARA'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.

PARA's diverse natural resources are largely dictated by its location on the transition between the Mojave Desert and Colorado Plateau. The underlying exposed geology spans 320 million years, allowing for study not only of the Colorado Plateau and Basin and Range geologic provinces, but also recent volcanic activity and marine fossils. The natural history record of PARA includes Pleistocene era fossils as well. Extant species on PARA reflect the intersection of the Mojave Desert, Great Basin, Colorado Plateau and Sonoran Desert floristic provinces. Limited inventories have found 62 species of mammals, including desert bighorn sheep, 178 species of birds, including California condor, 26 species of reptiles, including the threatened Mojave desert tortoise, 8 species of amphibians, including the rare relict leopard frog, 3 species of fish, including the only native fish on PARA which is confined to a single stream, 1059 species of vascular plants, including the type for Arizona rose, and 1 species of snail, endemic to PARA.

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 PARA

PARA has diverse biological resources and much remains to be learned about lesser studied taxa and habitats within the park, as well as impacts of anthropogenic and natural processes.

The PARA biology collection totals 3,781 catalog records. Most biological collections are herbarium specimens generated through research permitted activity. As such, much of the collections are managed through loans with research institutions. Prominent loans include those with the Arizona State University (ASU) herbarium, the Northern Arizona University (NAU) Deaver Herbarium, Southern Utah University (SUU), and Utah State University (USU). None of the collections represent endangered species.

Mandated acquisitions: Specimens and samples obtained for preservation during inventory, monitoring, research, and study projects, 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.

Should be acquired: 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, as well as in the Grand Canyon-Parashant Science Plan (2023). 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 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.

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.

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 PARA museum collection already has a representative sample are not to be acquired. Specimens specifically collected as a 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. Nor is ICMS or its successor to be used to inventory or document living collections.

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 PARA

Geologic processes are a major part of PARA formation, development, and management and should be well represented in the museum collection by specimens and associated records.

At present PARA does not have any geology collections. Given that geological significance is outlined as a primary park theme, it should be prioritized that this gap in the collection record be repaired through targeted research and collection efforts.

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: PARA will identify gaps in the collections that are significant for baseline inventories and future research. These needs will be identified in RPRS under the park research needs. Identified research needs are also highlighted in the themes of other park resource documents, including the park Science Plan (2023), the Foundation Document (2016), and the combined General Management Plan and Resource Management Plan (2008).

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 PARA

The PARA paleontology collection encompasses 437 catalog records. All collections are located in the Lake Mead NRA curatorial facility.

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 PARA 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 (NAGPRA) of 1990, 25 USC 3001-13, requires, in addition to other actions, a written summary of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony be completed not later than November 16, 1993. Additionally, NAGPRA requires a written, item-level inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects to be completed no later than November 16, 1995.

Items identified as subject to NAGPRA in the collection, including human remains found in faunal bone or soil samples, newly identified associated and unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony must be addressed within the parameters of the NAGPRA law.

PARA was established after the passage of NAGPRA. No NAGPRA collections have been generated or accessioned or cataloged into the museum collections.

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*.

PARA 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 objects must be acquired, 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)*.

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.

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.

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.

V. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Acquisition and deaccession decisions are guided by NPS *Museum Handbook* mandates, 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. Updates are approved by the Superintendent (Accountable Officer).

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation

[Proclamation 7265 of January 11, 2000](#)

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: 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)
 - Paleontologic 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 PARA 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](#).
- 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 PARA 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.

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, or arsenic; 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.

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.

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

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. The park Ecologist serves as the RPRS coordinator, and the Curator of Record, also the Museum Curator for Lake Mead NRA, has coordinator privileges so that they can view and advise on permit applications. 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. The following park guidelines exist to ensure the effective review of research permits:

- Up-to-date contact information for park curator is listed in RPRS
- Clear and complete instructions for collections and data submission are kept under “Park-specific Research Conditions” on Park Information page in RPRS; provides 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.
- Park RPRS coordinator monitors the annual submission of IARs and reminds delinquent investigators of their responsibilities
- Coordinating the authorization to permanently retain collections in a non-NPS repository is done ONLY after documenting in RPRS the receipt of an Appendix A is signed by the proposed non-NPS repository. Permits requiring an Appendix A are approved only after the Appendix A is fully executed.

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: Selected Bibliography

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