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

**Yosemite National Park**

# Scope of Collection Statement

**September 7, 2023**

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

# 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

Yosemite National Park (YOSE) is one of the oldest parks and is often cited as the beginning of the national park idea. The Yosemite Museum was the first purpose-built museum in the National Park Service, opening to the public in 1926 following a multi-year campaign to build a museum to serve as a model for other parks. With approximately 1,200,000 cultural artifacts, 4,300,000 archives, and 130,000 natural history specimens, the current collection is one of the largest, most valuable and diverse in the National Park Service. The museum and archives programs collect, document and preserve these resources for future generations and makes these collections available for research, public enjoyment, and education.

The museum holdings include a large number of ethnographic materials from the Yosemite region, which are featured in the Indian Cultural Exhibit, art (including paintings, drawings and photographic works), historic artifacts, archeology, architectural elements, furnishings of historic structures, memorabilia, and souvenirs. Natural history collections include zoology, botany, entomology and geology specimens, some resulting from the activities of the Yosemite Field School and others collected under permits.

The archives contain an extensive collection of park resource management records, concessioner records, personal papers, and manuscript collections. These collections include paper and electronic records, historic maps, audio recordings, film and other photographic materials, and oral history interviews.

The museum and archive collections are acquired as field collections, donations, purchases, transfers and exchanges. Emphasis is place on acquiring material that are mandated by law, are not currently represented in the collection, or have significant interpretive value.

The collection is currently stored in two locations, in the Collection Storage room in the Valley District building, and in the Bally building at the El Portal NPS Maintenance Facility.

For additional information on the museum collection, please contact: Laura Bender, Curator of Collections.

## 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 Yosemite National Park that contribute directly to the understanding and interpretation of the park's purpose, themes, and resources, as well as those

objects that the National Park Service (NPS) is legally mandated to preserve. The SOCS is designed to ensure that the entirety of the museum collection is clearly relevant to the site and sets appropriate limits for acquisition. The SOCS is intended to be an evolving document which must be reviewed on a regular basis (minimum 5 years). Updates/changes should be made through interdisciplinary efforts of park and regional subject matter experts (411.1 DM)

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

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

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

## 3. Context for Yosemite 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.

A. Park Purpose and Significance

Park Purpose:

The park Foundation Document (2016) was developed to create an understanding of the park resources, values, and history necessary for planning and management. That document describes the purpose of the park as "to preserve the dynamic natural setting within the park's boundaries, including soaring granite domes, dramatic cliffs, towering waterfalls, ancient sequoia groves, expansive wilderness terrain, and free-flowing wild and scenic rivers; to celebrate the cultural and historic tradition of the Central Sierra Nevada, including thousands of years of human history; to perpetuate the American conservation ethic; and to provide opportunities for scientific exploration, recreation, education, and inspiration for generations to come."Congressional designation information. If the unit's enabling legislation specifically mandates a museum collection, note that here.

Legislative History:

Yosemite was first protected by an Act of Congress on June 30, 1864 (13 Stat. 325). The Act granted the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California, stipulating

that the lands "be held for public use, resort, and recreation" and "be inalienable for all time." On October 1, 1890 Congress established Yosemite National Park (26 Stat. 650) to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, who was required to "provide for the preservation from injury of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders" and to retain them "in their natural condition." This Act specifically excluded Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove, leaving them under the jurisdiction of the State of California as provided in the Act of 1864. An Act of the Legislature of California on March 3, 1905 receded to the United States of America both Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove, "to be held for all time by the United States of America for public use, resort and recreation." A Joint Resolution of Congress on June 11, 1906 (34 Stat, 831) accepted the 1905 Act of the California Legislature and designated Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees as part of Yosemite National Park, subject to the provisions stipulated in the Act of 1890. An Act of Congress known as the California Wilderness Act was passed on Sept. 28, 1984 (98 Stat. 1627), designating 704,624 acres (94.5%) of Yosemite National Park as wilderness and another 927 acres as potential wilderness additions. It also designated both the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Park Mission Statement

The *Foundation Document* defines significance as “why Yosemite National Park resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation.” The document lays out 15 particular significance statements. They are:

- The park is noted for its outstanding scenery—including peaks, canyons, cliffs, domes, rivers, lakes, immense waterfalls, lush green meadows, wildlife, and forests.
- Yosemite National Park contains a unique assemblage of massive granite domes and glacial features, which resulted from a rich geologic history. Several of the largest exposed granite monoliths on earth are in Yosemite Valley.
- In connection with its neighboring national parks and forests, Yosemite National Park is at the heart of the second largest contiguous area of designated wilderness in the lower 48 states, protecting nearly 2.5 million acres.
- Within the park boundary, Yosemite possesses extensive blocks of intact old growth forests, including three groves of giant sequoia trees—the first to be protected by law—as well as some of the largest known specimens of several tree species.
- Yosemite National Park contains extensive reaches of two designated wild and scenic rivers —the Tuolumne and the Merced—which are preserved within the park. In addition to their free-flowing condition and exceptionally high water quality, both rivers have a suite of outstandingly remarkable values that are of geological, cultural, scenic, and recreational importance.
- Yosemite National Park includes the headwaters of two of California’s major watersheds, which provide clean drinking water to millions of people in the San Francisco Bay Area, and a valuable source of water to

the robust agricultural industry in California's Central Valley. The forests and meadows of these watersheds enhance ecological resilience to help offset the impacts of climate change.

- Alpine and sub-alpine lakes and meadows abound in Yosemite National Park, including Tuolumne Meadows— one of the most accessible and largest intact subalpine meadow complexes in the Sierra Nevada.
- Yosemite National Park is a vital living research laboratory, a sanctuary, and an example of a relatively pristine natural environment. This is of special significance in California, a state with a rapidly growing population of more than 35 million people.
- The vast landscape of Yosemite National Park provides refuge for the survival and recovery of many rare, endemic, and threatened or endangered species. The park is home to an exceptional diversity of living things, fostered by a broad elevation range and the sequence of climatic zones contained within its boundaries.
- Land preserved within Yosemite National Park is part of the ancestral homeland of several contemporary American Indian tribes and groups. Oral tradition and archeological evidence suggest humans have been living continuously in the Yosemite region for at least 8,000 years.
- Yosemite National Park has the distinction of being the first scenic natural area to be set aside by the United States for public benefit and appreciation of landscape beauty. Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were the 1864 birthplace of the national park idea, which has spread throughout the world.
- Yosemite National Park has international recognition for its past and present role as a leader in park preservation, management, and partnerships. Important elements include the role of the U.S. Army (including Buffalo Soldiers), the first female ranger (1917), the formal institution of interpretation (1920), participation in the evolution of 150 years of public-use management, the first wildlife management program in the National Park Service as inspired by George Wright (late 1920s), and the establishment of the first nonprofit stewardship partners in the National Park Service (1923).
- Yosemite National Park was the home of the first NPS landscape design office providing design services for all parks in the West. As such, the park represents the birthplace of the National Park Service Rustic Style of architecture and numerous important historic structures. Within the park, 5 structures are national historic landmarks, and more than 600 are considered eligible for listing or are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including 7 historic and 12 prehistoric archeological districts.
- The decision-making and stewardship actions taken at Yosemite National Park inspire an international audience and influence stakeholders, policy makers, and communities worldwide. The park has a distinction as a

UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site, which demonstrates its outstanding universal value.
- Within Yosemite National Park both the Yosemite Valley and Camp 4 have played a significant role in the history of big wall climbing and the development of climbing techniques and equipment, which have since gained worldwide acceptance.

B. History of Yosemite National Park and YOSE Museum Collections

People have lived in Yosemite Valley for thousands of years. In 1851 the Mariposa Battalion, a state sponsored militia, entered the valley and unsuccessfully attempted removal of the Ahwahneechee Indians. In 1864, Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant, protecting Yosemite Valley and the Mariosa Grove of Gian Sequoias for "public use, resort and recreation." Between 1891 and 1913, the U.S. Army served as the official administrator of the park. And in 1916, the National Park Service was established to protect and preserve the resources of the National Parks.

The Yosemite Museum collection began operation in 1915 in the Ranger Headquarters in Yosemite Valley and in 1916, the newly created National Park Service took over management of the program. Displays consisted of natural history specimens, watercolor sketches, and ethnographic materials. In 1922, the collection was moved into the Jorgensen cabin near Sentinel Bridge where six rooms were devoted to various facets of Yosemite's human and natural history. The collection grew so rapidly that Chief Naturalist Ansel Hall began plans to build a proper facility. The Yosemite Museum Association was established in 1923, aided by a generous contribution from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Foundation. On November 16, 1924, the cornerstone was laid for the Yosemite Museum.

C. Collection Themes and Categories

The interpretive themes can be found in the *Foundation Document*, but more depth is given in the *Long Range Interpretive Plan* (2012), and that plan explains that "interpretive themes translate the park's significance statements into a variety of compelling storylines." The thirteen themes are:

- Yosemite's beauty draws people from all over the world and from all walks of life and can bring a sense of peace, serenity, and tranquility—a welcome respite from the pressure and stresses of everyday life.
- The complex and dynamic geologic processes in Yosemite create an unusually diverse and changing landscape, which yields world-class scenery and opportunities for significant scientific research.
- Giant sequoias offer opportunities for sharing Yosemite-related stories, including the inspiration to create the Yosemite Grant, the preservation of unique places, survival, and the wonder of living things so old and so large.
- The concept of wilderness originated in the United States with the conviction that some wildland resources are most valuable to Americans when natural process are allowed to prevail. Yosemite Wilderness is

managed to retain its primitive character so that it can remain a special place for people to examine their relationships to the natural world.

- Just as national parks tell the stories of the nation, wild and scenic rivers include the country's natural and cultural heritage along their banks and within their flowing waters. For at least 8,000 years, people have engaged directly with the Tuolumne River, its meadows, and surrounding granite domes.
- Layers of human history communicate stories of Tuolumne as a place of inspiration, debate, and spiritual renewal. Yosemite's pristine natural environments provide for an exceptional diversity of living things and serve as a vital living research laboratory.
- While living in or traveling through the region now called Yosemite National Park, numerous American Indian groups traded resources, exchanged knowledge, and sometimes intermarried—traditions that continue to this day.
- Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were the first globally recognized scenic natural areas to be set aside by any government for public benefit and appreciation of landscape beauty, making Yosemite the birthplace of the national park idea, which has spread throughout the world.
- The post-1850 cultural story in Yosemite provides abundant opportunities to reflect on the history of tourism, preservation, management, and the development of a National Park Service ethic.
- It was in Yosemite that the first NPS designers developed a unique architectural style for park structures. The Yosemite Museum, The Ahwahnee Hotel, and the Rangers' Club are all early examples of the Rustic Style of architecture that later became synonymous with NPS architecture. The rustic architecture style can be seen across the country due to the NPS oversight of the Civilian Conservation Corps and development of parks nationwide.
- Designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site globally recognizes Yosemite as a place of outstanding value to humanity and provides an opportunity for international collaboration and exchange.
- The connection between climbers and Yosemite is historical, physical, and spiritual. Rock climbing immerses people in this place, which can promote appropriate, sustainable, and direct connections to Yosemite.

D. Special Designations

Historic resources within the park or administrative areas listed on the National Register of Historic Places include: Acting Superintendent's Headquarters; Ahwahnee Hotel; Bagby Stationhouse, Water Tanks, and Turntable; Camp 4; Camp Curry Historic District; Crane Flat Fire Lookout; El Portal Archeology District; Glacier Point Trailside Museum; Great Sierra Mine Historic Site; Great Sierra Wagon Road; Hetch Hetchy Railroad Engine No. 6; Hodgdon

Homestead Cabin; Chris Jorgenson Studio; Le Conte Memorial Lodge; Mariposa Grove Museum; McCauley and Meyer Barns; McCauley Cabin; McGurk Cabin; Merced Grove Ranger Station; Parsons Memorial Lodge; Rangers' Club; Soda Springs Cabin; Tioga Pass Entrance Station; Track Bus No. 19; Tuolumne Meadows; Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Stations and Comfort Stations; Wawona Covered Bridge; Wawona Hotel and Pavilion; Yosemite Transportation Company Office; Yosemite Valley; Yosemite Valley Archeology District;Yosemite Valley Bridges; Yosemite Valley Chapel; Yosemite Valley Railroad Caboose No. 15; and Yosemite Village Historic District.

Yosemite National Park was recognized for its uniqueness and importance by UNESCO in 1984 when the area was designated a World Heritage Site.

## 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 subdivided into five disciplines: archeology, ethnology, history, art, and archival and manuscript collections. All disciplines are represented in the Yosemite National Park museum collection, with the largest portion made up of the archival and manuscript collection, followed by the Archeology collection. These collections include <provide a brief description of the types of objects in the park's collection>

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 Yosemite approved planning documents and resource studies.
- Service-wide initiatives if applicable <CAC review>.
- Enhancing the understanding of, and promoting increased stewardship of, the park's cultural resources.
- Cultural resources baselines/inventory and monitoring activities.
- Regulatory and compliance activities such as those mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA).

- Refer to the Potentially Hazardous Material Appendix for more information.

A. Archeology Collection

Archeological resources are any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities which are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. They can reveal scientific or humanistic information through archeological research (NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline). Material remains are "artifacts, objects, specimens, and other physical evidence that are excavated or removed in connection with efforts to locate, evaluate, document, study, preserve, or recover a 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 <If your park already has an SOP in place for managing unauthorize collecting, mention that here>. Violations under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), 1979, should be promptly reported to park law enforcement officers and the Regional Archeologist. <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.

<Briefly describe how the park unit manages compliance work, and any ongoing or upcoming archeology field/cataloging projects.>

Archeology Collection at YOSE

The park collection consists predominantly of artifacts and related samples from various archeological projects. The collection contains a total of 1,092,706 Archeology objects, of which 803,536 are catalogued, leaving a catalog backlog of 289,170 objects.

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

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

Confiscated Archaeological Objects. These are objects recovered from unauthorized and illegal activities. They might include unearthed artifacts, ecofacts, and human remains illegally excavated or uncontrolled surface collecting by unauthorized individuals within the park boundaries. Such materials might be held temporarily as evidence if legal action is to be taken but should be formally turned over to the museum curator as soon as possible. Once all legal questions are resolved, the objects and all associated documentation should be added to the museum collection.

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. Artifacts produced by Traditionally Associated Tribes: The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, Bishop Paiute Tribe, Bridgeport Indian Colony, Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a, North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California, Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, and the Tuolumne Band of Me-wuk Indians; the historic residents of the Yosemite region, as well as materials produced by neighboring groups such as the Western Mono, Yokuts, Washoe, and Maidu peoples are in the park collection. The inclusion of artifacts from neighboring groups is justified by the widespread trade in basket forms among these groups and by seasonal population shifts which facilitated cultural exchanges. Additionally, from the 1870s on, native people from areas adjacent to Yosemite moved to the park to work, at least

seasonally, and since the 1920s there has been an influx of other native people, including Pomo, Apache and Navajo, some of whom made "Indian" items to sell to visitors.

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.

Ethnology Collection at YOSE

The park ethnographic collection now numbers approximately 2,700 pieces, dating from about 1870 to the present. The bulk of the collection, however, dates from after 1900, as little pre-1900 material has been preserved. The largest part of the collection, and its major strength, is the basket collection. It includes both utilitarian and made-for-sale baskets dating from about 1870 to the present and is one of the only existing collections encompassing this depth and time span for any group in California. Specific groups of baskets in the collection are important, as they document different periods and basket types. The Schwabacher Collection contains an outstanding selection of Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a and Miwok baskets made for sale in Yosemite between 1920 and 1950, the Atkinson Collection (acquired on loan in 1986) illustrates the types of baskets collected by non-Indian Yosemite residents prior to 1904, and the Steiner Collection (acquired in 1987) comprises primarily Washoe utilitarian baskets. The Nishkian collection includes works by Julia Parker, who worked as a Cultural Demonstrator from 1960 to 2015 (acquired in 2016). The Miwok dance regalia dating from 1900 to 1980 is another strength of the collection.

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: Utilitarian and made-for-sale artifacts are needed. Documented Yosemite baskets made before 1900, particularly of the type collected by 19$^{th}$ century residents of the park, would be valuable additions to the park collections. Tribal consulation also indicates a need to focus on collecting materials where the maker is known. Items produced by Native demonstrators, including Maggie Howard, Chris Brown, Lucy Telles, and Alice Wilson, who worked in the Indian Garden behind the museum between 1930 and 1958, on forward to items produced by contemporary cultural demonstrators working in the park should be considered. Contemporary utilitarian and regalia items, and those made from unique materials should be considered to fill collection gaps and further document cultural change.

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 YOSE

The history collections of the park support interpretive themes that cover a broad range of topics. These topics include the history of tourism, conservation, the development and history of management practices, philanthropy, architecture, and even rock climbing.

The park collection currently contains more than 95,000 historic objects related to all facets of park history. Included are personal effects of individuals important to Yosemite's history; artifacts which illustrate historic occupation and activities (such as logging, farming, ranching, sheepherding, shopkeeping, military activities, C.C.C.); objects related to visitor use and appreciation of the park. Some small groups of objects with excellent documentation include clothing from the Best family (1900-1920); photos, the uniform, badges, and tags that belonged to Fredrick Coldwell, an army officer in Yosemite in 1909; items from the Degnan's Bakery in Yosemite Valley (1900-1920); Ranger Jack Moody's packing gear (1920s); and Lawrence C. Merriam's NPS Superintendent's uniform from the 1930s. Individual objects significant to the park history are also included in the collection, along with memorabilia and objects from important current or commemorative events are included in the museum collection. Materials related to the park centennial celebration (1990), 125th anniversary (2015) and the National Park Service centennial (2016).

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.

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. Acquiring samples of historic fabric is a separate, optional section (see guidance document)

May be acquired: Yosemite will not accession period pieces and reproduction in the museum collection. Period pieces and reproductions are managed as non-museum property. Historic furniture may be acquired if there is a significant association.

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.

Architectural materials removed from historic structures in the park will need to be carefully evaluated and considered for preservation, reuse, or destruction. If very little of the removed material remains in situ, a representative sample or portion of the character defining elements of the fabric or building hardware will be preserved and accessioned into the museum collection, along with any associated documentation.

Not to be acquired: Objects without a direct association to the park's resources.
Objects that duplicate current holdings or objects in such poor condition that they are beyond conservation. Objects that are inherently unstable which causes the item to deteriorate or destroy itself.
Potentially hazardous materials, except on a case-by-case basis. See the Hazards in the Collection Appendix for more information.

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 YOSE

The park has an extensive art collection that includes photographic prints, sculptures, paintings and drawings. Art played an important role in the history and preservation of Yosemite, and not only for its aesthetic appeal. The works of Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Moran, Charles Weed, Carleton Watkins and Eadweard Muybridge for instance, were particularly important in popularizing Yosemite; their images were exhibited and reproduced and made available to a mass market. A number of artists visited the park seasonally or took up residence in Yosemite to produce views which were then offered for sale.

The collection includes an important group of drawings and one oil by Thomas Ayres, who in 1855 was the first known European American artist to visit Yosemite. A few pieces by nationally known artists, such as Thomas Moran, are included. Best represented are local residents Thomas

Hill and Chris Jorgensen. The collection contains few chromolithographs or similar popular representations of the park.

The photographic collection has limited representation of such well known historic photographers as Brigman, Dassonville, Jackson, Weston, and Wright, as well as examples of the work of historic concessioner photographers such as Fiske, Pilsbury, Reilly, and Fagersteen. The collection is weak in photographs taken between the 1920s and the present, but has a substantial collection of commercial work of Ansel Adams, along with some of his better-known Yosemite views. The collection has photographs made by Adams' students, but none that were created during his Yosemite photography workshops; these would be desirable.

The Yosemite Artist-in-Residence program, implemented in 1986, has thus far resulted in the addition of the work of several significant photographers and painters to the museum collection. The collection also has limited representation of art from the Yosemite Renaissance.

Yosemite has a total of 1,384 art objects, of which 327 are backlogged.

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: Evaluation criteria for this material may include notoriety of the artist, the extent of the artists' connection with the park, quality, monetary value, and the ability of the work to support park programs and goals, as well as the park's ability to care for the artwork. Works of art by well-known and accomplished artists, with subject matter depicting the cultural and natural world of Yosemite National Park, are of priority. The park should also seek to acquire one item from the Artist-in-Residence program which is currently on hiatus. The Yosemite Museum is currently out of storage space which will limit the work that we can acquire. There is no funding for the purchase of artwork.

Not to be acquired: Art with undocumented provenance and no clear title; "office art" or reproductions (posters, prints, and similar mass-produced copies, with the exception of limited-edition numbered prints); 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.

Archival collections are groups of documents created by an individual or organization that are filed together as a unit. In the NPS, the archival collections included three distinct groups of records: agency records, also called park records, associated records, and manuscript or personal paper collections received through donation or purchase. All three of these archival collections are retained permanently in the museum collections for their historical interest and to advance the NPS mission of education, management, preservation and research.

The term “park records” refers to documents created or received by federal government employees in the course of conducting business. Park records are preserverd and managed according to the Federal Records Act and follow NPS Records Disposition Schedule. The archives program is responsible for preserving the subset of these records considered to be Resource Management Records in the archival collection. See the section title Resource Management Records below for further guidance on distinguishing these records.

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.

The park archival collection totals 3,214,442 cataloged items and a backlog of 1,092,324. The collection consists primarily of materials associated with the resource management activities of the park, including digital files, books, field notes, reports, manuscripts, ephemera and photographs. Examples include the Concession Management Records, Craig Bates Collection, Environmental Planning and Compliance Records, Fire Management Records, Glacier Studies Collection, Jan van Wagtendonk Collection, Natural Resource Management Records, Records of the Office of the Superintendent, Yosemite Museum Program Records, Yosemite Nature Notes Collection, Yosemite Newspaper Collection, Yosemite Old Central Files Collection, and Yosemite Resource Management Records.

**Archives Collections Growth**

Must Be Acquired: The Service-wide Records Schedule (SRS) identifies permanent records which must be retained under the FRA. Per Director’s Order #11D, only Resource Management Records (RMR), and particularly associated records, fall within the scope of the museum collection and should be accessioned, cataloged, and preserved in the park’s collection. NPS Management Policies (2006, section 5.3.5.5.6) requires that “all documentation associated with natural and cultural resource studies and other resource management actions will be retained in the park’s museum collection for use in managing park resources over time.”

Additionally, “records and data that are collected, created, or generated by other organizations working for the NPS under contracts, interagency agreements, cooperative agreements, or other agreement instruments with the NPS, are considered NPS records unless the contract or agreement specifically states otherwise. Originals or copies of all project documents and data generated under these agreements should be obtained and retained by the NPS office managing the project” (DO #11D, section 4.1). The records of projects addressing cultural or natural resources issues are resource management records and will be retained in the park’s museum collection.

The types of archives described below must be acquired.

- Associated records for archeological collections and projects
- Associated records for ethnology collections and projects
- Historic structure documentation
- Associated records for biological collections and projects
- Associated records for geology collections and projects
- Associated records for paleontology collections and projects

May Be Acquired: In some cases, materials that are not RMR and that are listed on the temporary retention schedule may have permanent importance in terms of the information they provide about the history, development, and administration of Yosemite National Park. Such materials should be considered for permanent retention on a case-by-case basis.

Material related to history of the area and of the park, of important business and personalities, and of historic events that can be acquired. Oral histories are a valuable resource, especially when documenting the stories of associated indigenous communities. Weight should be given for materials with known provenance, intellectual rights and other available metadata.

Acquisition of donated photographic materials should be analyzed individually, considering available documentation, duplication of images or themes already in the historic photo collections, condition, and legal issues such as copyright. Any images documenting or depicting structures, landscapes, historic furnishings, or non-extant resources that have been lost are high priorities for research. Other appropriate themes include recreational use of the park, visiting dignitaries and traditionally associated people, and images that document park wildlife and natural conditions.

Not To Be Acquired: Published library materials should not be acquired unless they are historic furnishings reports. Photocopies or microfilm of manuscript material in private collections or at other museum and archives is more appropriate as “vertical files” for research rather than for permanent preservation in the park’s museum collection, unless it is part of a larger documentation project.

a. Manuscript Collections at YOSE

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. The manuscript collection contains a wealth of unpublished materials related to the park history, ranging from diaries and letters of early residents to records generated by the many hotels and concessions which have done business in Yosemite over the past 150 years. Currently within the collections are the papers of such locally important figures as James Hutchings and Galen Clark, as well as hotel registers and account books, early literature produced by the many concessioners of Yosemite, and tourist accounts of early travels to the park. These include the Frank Latta Papers, Joseph R. Paquette Poetry Collection, Joseph S. Dixon Collection, King Huber Collection, Yosemite Conversation Club Collection, Yosemite Park and Curry Company Collection, and Yosemite West Property and Homeowners Incorporated Records.

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.

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

**Gaps in our collections that we are looking to fill (priority for acquisition):**

Tribal history (pertaining to the park) to include genealogy
Employees: need metadata to ID people in photos. Currently difficult to locate photos of previous employees/concession staff/volunteers/etc.
Project Management files are the last group of analog files in the warehouse that need to be appraised and reviewed by CAC.
Oral histories: to document jobs/people that are not well documented by other sources.

Legal files: continue to accrete original solicitor files on YOSE litigation. We are seeing an increase in these files being sent to us.
There has been a decrease in correspondence making it to the archives – much of the official, sanitized press releases and letters/emails are devoid of real substance. We need more documentation of what folks are really thinking, even if it is after the fact. It is a missing element that is becoming more acute, the archives are asked why decisions were made and there's no record/documentation.

b. Resource Management Records in the Archival Collections at YOSE

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.

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, park facilities management.

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

Not to be Acquired: 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.

**2. Natural History Collection**

The purpose of Yosemite Museum's 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 Yosemite'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.

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

Scholarly research may be conducted by park or non-park scientists. All collecting activities must be done in compliance with 36 CFR 2.5, the Research Permit and Reporting System, DO-77, Natural Resource Protection (under development), and NPS Natural Resource Management Guideline (1991). As required by this regulation, natural history collections made in Yosemite National Park, but stored at other repositories, will be included in the park accession and catalog records and remain the property of the National Park Service. Any collection of rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species will comply with NPS Management Policies (2006) and also be in accordance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended) and will be strictly limited according to the applicable rules of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service. Questions related to collecting within the park should be addressed to the park research coordinator.

Acquisitions and future growth of Yosemite Museum'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.

## 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 YOSE

Yosemite National Park 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. Yosemite National Park has experienced increases in biological research as evidenced by the number of collecting permits, the diversity of fields being studied, and the breadth of project design. Inventory and monitoring projects are ongoing and have been expanding in scope. Research activities are generating natural resource specimens and data that are, for the most part, deposited outside the park collection.

Biological specimens represent the largest category of the park natural history collection and will continue to be the majority of future field collections. Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species in collection are detailed in their respective sub-categories below.

The biology collection currently has 112,001 objects cataloged and a backlog of 20,219 objects.

Mammals

The mammal collection currently contains about 2,200 specimens. If significant morphological change has occurred in the park population of a species during this time period, additional specimens may be collected and added to the museum collection to document such change.

Yosemite's wildlife includes three federally endangered species: Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis sierrae), Sierra Nevada red fox (Vulpes vulpes necator), and fisher (Martes pennanti). The wolverine (Gulo gulo luteus) is proposed for federally threatened status. Bighorn sheep, formerly extinct in the park, were reintroduced from the Mt. Baxter herd in the southern Sierra Nevada to the Yosemite area starting in 1986. The collection includes seven skull sections and/or horn cores, all collected in the 1920s. Sierra Nevada red fox is not included in the park collection. There is one study skin of a fisher that was collected in 1916. The Sierra Nevada mountain beaver (Aplodontia rufa californica) is considered rare in the park and vicinity by the NPS; the park collection includes six mountain beaver specimens (collected in the 1930s and 1940s). Several other rare species occur in Yosemite National Park, including the pallid bat (Antrozous pallidus), greater western mastiff bat (Eumops perotis californicus), Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare (Lepus americanus tahoensis), Mount Lyell shrew (Sorex lyelli), and white-footed vole (Arborimus albipes). There are seven pallid bats and five greater western mastiff bats (collected between 1924 and 1940) in the park collection.

The grizzly bear (Ursus arctos horribilis) and grey wolf (Canis lupus) are now extinct in Yosemite; neither is represented in the collection.

Birds

The park bird collection currently contains about 650 specimens, the majority of which were obtained over 40 years ago.

Yosemite's wildlife includes the state endangered bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), great gray owl (Strix nebulosa), and willow flycatcher (Empidonax traillii). The park contains no collections of bald eagles, five great gray owl specimens, and one willow flycatcher study skin. The Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) has been delisted from state and federal endangered species lists and is not currently represented in the park collection. Yosemite's California spotted owl (Strix occidentalis) population is proposed for federal threatened status and is significant as an indicator species for old-growth forest; one spotted owl study skin is currently in the park collection.

Reptiles and amphibians

Yosemite’s reptile and amphibians include the federally threatened Yosemite toad (Anaxyrus canorus), the federally threatened California red-legged frog (Rana draytonii), Mt. Lyell salamander (Hydromantes platycephalus), and the federally endangered Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (Rana sierrae). The northwestern pond turtle (Actinemys marmorata) is proposed for federal listing. It is not represented in the collection.

The park collection currently contains about 300 amphibian and 200 reptile specimens, most of which were collected between 1930 and the 1950s. The park collection is an important source of information on these species: 59 Yosemite toad specimens (collected primarily in the 1930s), 21 red-legged frog specimens (most collected in 1940), 59 Mt. Lyell salamander specimens (collected mostly in the 1930s), and 51 Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog specimens are currently in the park collection.

Fishes
The park collection currently contains about 40 fish, all preserved in liquid. The exotic Paiute cutthroat trout (Oncorhynchus clarkii seleniris) is the only threatened species in the park, and two specimens, both collected in 1951, are in the park collection.

Insects and arachnids
The park collection currently contains about 4,500 insect specimens, most of which were obtained between the 1920s and 1940s. Not all species found in the park are represented. If significant morphological change has occurred in the park population of a species during this period, additional specimens may be collected to document such change. Two candidate species for rare, threatened, and endangered status occur in the park: Bohart's blue butterfly (Philotiella speciosa bohartorum) and the Sierra pygmy grasshopper (Tetrix sierrana). Neither is represented in the park collection.

Permitting activities in the early 2000s led to large collections of insects for study. The park should avoid granting permits for collecting large numbers of specimens in any given year that will be kept in perpetuity.

Other invertebrates
Invertebrates are not well represented in the collection and some lack adequate data. Insects, soil arthropods, and freshwater invertebrates in YOSE are incompletely known. The collection contains miscellaneous specimens representing random collecting events. Species representation is seriously deficient.

Plants
The park collection contains about 12,000 herbarium specimens, but not all species found in the park are represented. Based on estimates from Calflora, an assimilation of plant observations which provides centralized access to plant data in California, there are reports of over 1,500 different plant taxa occurring in the park. Obtaining herbarium records for any missing taxa in the park is important to documenting the flora of Yosemite in perpetuity

Yosemite National Park staff manage a Special Status Plant database and list. Rational for includion on the list range from federal listing as endangered to poor documentation in the Park. The park supporst one fedrally endangered plant, Whitebark Pine (Pinus albicaulis). Four state listed rare species occur in the park: Allium yosemitense, Carex tompkinsii, Eriophyllum congdonii, and Lewisia congdonii. Twenty-five taxa are included on the liste due to endemism to to the Sierra Nevada. Thirty-three included taxa are California rare, threatened, or endangered taxa, as identified by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). The CNPS is widely-recorgnized as the primary resource for determining California plant conservation statuses.

The herbarium is the largest category of the natural collections stored within the park. The research quality vascular plant collection contains all but a few of the species of vascular plant taxa found within Yosemite. Most species are represented by more than one specimen providing valuable data on distribution and morphological variation. Species previously unknown from the park have recently been collected and identified.

Biology Collections Growth

Must Be Acquired
Specimens and samples obtained for preservation during inventory, monitoring, research, and study projects, together with associated records. Collecting of animal specimens will be associated with needs identified in the Resource Management Plan/Resource Stewardship Strategy, approved I&M plans, or as needed to voucher research projects. Threatened and endangered (T&E) specimens should only be added if accidental death occurs or if researchers are in compliance with all legal restrictions regarding protected species. This includes all Federal, State, and other permitting requirements for all proposed collections. Photographic documentation is a priority for T&E specimens, under strict control of the park to keep locations confidential.

May be acquired: Taxidermy specimens with strong provenance to the park (particularly extirpated species). 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 considered on a case-by-case basis considering provenance, condition, rarity, and other relevant factors.

Not to be acquired: Plants and animals collected outside the park's boundaries will not be accessioned into the museum collection unless the specimens are part of a larger research project within the park or demonstrate effects on park resources, and legal title can be acquired; scientific specimens lacking provenience documentation, and specimens in poor condition or which were not prepared to professional standards; species for which the museum collection already has a sufficient amount of examples. Taxidermy or freeze-dried specimens of native or exotic animals needed for exhibit purposes should not be accessioned into the museum collection.

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. 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.

Yosemite is a part of the Sierra Nevada Inventory and Monitoring Network.

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 [PARK] museum collection already has a representative sample are not to be acquired. Specimens specifically collected as a type or reference collection, e.g., for fire management programs that are used in the field, heavily used, etc., are not to be collected. Living specimens are not to be acquired for the museum collection. Nor is ICMS or it's 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 Yosemite

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 and sedimentation, glaciations, karst processes, shoreline processes, and seismic and volcanic activity. "Geologic features" are the products and physical components of geologic processes. Examples include rocks, soils, and minerals; geysers and hot

springs in geothermal systems; cave and karst systems; canyons and arches in erosional landscapes; sand dunes, moraines, and terraces in depositional landscapes; dramatic or unusual outcrops and formations; and paleontological resources. 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.

The park geological collection currently contains 1,125 specimens, the majority of which were collected in the 1950s and 1960s or before, but with some recent studies occurring in the last 10 years.

Geology Collections Growth

Must Be Acquired: Specimens and samples obtained for preservation during inventory, monitoring, research, and study projects, together with associated records.

May be acquired: Rocks, minerals, surface process samples, organic materials, soils, and extraterrestrial materials, and their associated records which document the geology and geological processes of the park. Samples not wholly destroyed during analyses and that retain scientific value and potential for further testing should be acquired into the museum collection.

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

Not to be acquired: Specimens and samples from outside the park's boundaries (unless they are part of a larger research project within the park and legal title can be acquired) and specimens and samples lacking provenience documentation.

The collection may contain one characteristic hand specimen of each rock type and formation exposed in the park, with additional specimens to illustrate variations in composition or structure within a formation. A minimal number of hand specimens from the park illustrating structure and mineralogy should be collected.

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 YOSE

The Paleontology Resources Protection 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[…]" 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.

Paleontology collections are generally described as "body fossils" or "trace fossils." Examples of body fossils include fossil bones, shells, and plants; petrified wood; fossil tissue; and fossil pollen. Examples of trace fossils include tracks and trails; burrows and borings; gnaw or bite marks; and coprolites (fossilized feces).

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. They should be reported to park staff and the object and all related data are promptly given to the museum curator upon a receipt by staff members.

Fossil Specimens

The park currently has a limited number of paleontological specimens that were acquired before the 1950s and 1960s. Many of the artifacts in the past have been listed in the museum databases as geology specimens. These specimens are predominantly of origins outside of the park that should be reviewed for possible deaccessioning as they may be deemed outside the museum's scope of collections. Unfortunately, the records of how Yosemite acquired these are somewhat confusing and suggest that they may have been on loan to Yosemite. There are also examples of specimens from other national parks. Some of these have been deaccessioned through NPS transfer, but some remain, such as from Yellowstone.

In addition to paleontological demonstration pieces, there are legitimate specimens from either within the park or just outside the park boundary. They include examples of petrified wood and marine invertebrates. Some of this material came from a Miocene mudflow deposit within the park. Further collecting from this formation may be appropriate. Other material came from Triassic/Jurassic/Paleozoic aged rocks at the border of the park, outside park boundaries. Similar aged outcrops occur around some boundaries of the park as well as pockets within the park. If equivalent rocks within the park are found to be fossil-baring, collections from these areas would be appropriate.

Yosemite has a total of 19 paleontology objets in the collection with no catalog backlog.

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: For example, if a park's enabling legislation states that it will interpret the paleontology of a larger geographic area partially outside park boundaries, collecting fossils from these areas outside the park may be appropriate, if legal title to these specimens can be obtained.

Confiscated paleontological materials recovered from unauthorized and illegal activities in Yosemite 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 scientifi cally signifi cant 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.

## 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*. <List any park-specific acquisition procedures that supplement these policies>

Yosemite continues to acquire objects that relate to the site through donation, 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* A*ppendix X: Museum Firearms, Small Arms Ammunition, Artillery, And Munitions (still under review).*

### 2. Roles and Responsibilities for Accessioning and Deaccessioning

<u>Accountable Officer</u>

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. <If your region has additional requirements regarding the composition of the CAC, state that here>

## V. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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

Required topics:

- 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

  The park has an approved Museum Management Plan (2006). Funding has been requested to complete a new Collection Management Plan in 2023.

Collections stored outside Yosemite National Park which have been identified to date include field notes and photographs from various archeological projects in the park and five Navajo blankets (possibly collected by Stephen Mather and part of the original furnishings of the Ranger Club in Yosemite Valley) presently stored at the Western Archeological Conservation Center in Tucson, Arizona. A limited collection of archeological material from the park made between 1952 and 1954 by James Bennyhoff is maintained by the Lowie Museum of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley.

The present geology, paleontology, and historic artifact collection contains numerous items without Yosemite provenience which do not fall within the bounds established by this Scope of Collection Statement. An effort is being made to transfer these pieces to appropriate National Park Service units or dispose of them according to guidelines found in NPS Museum Handbook, Part II, Chapter 6: Deaccessioning. Accessions for review include YOSE-00938, YOSE-01062, YOSE-01063, YOSE-03023, YOSE-03406, YOSE-03465, YOSE-03470, YOSE-03474, YOSE-03475, YOSE-03484, YOSE-03645, YOSE-04132, YOSE-04819, and YOSE-06856.

### Appendix A: Enabling Legislation

The National Park Service's legal mandate for acquiring and preserving museum collections is contained in the following acts commonly referred to as the Antiquities Act of 1906 (54 USC 320301-320303); the Organic Act of 1916 (54 USC 100101(a) et seq.); the Management of Museum Properties Act of 1955, as amended (54 USC 102501-102504); the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960, as amended (16 USC 469-469C); the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq); the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, as amended (54 USC 312501-312508); the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as

amended (16 USC 470aa-mm); the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (54 USC 100701 et seq.), the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (16 USC 470aaa).

**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 specifi c 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 [PARK] curatorial staff.

- Museum objects are prohibited from being used in living history demonstrations. For more information regarding museum collection use in demonstrations, see Museum Handbook, Part III, Chapter 6. Exhibits may be incorporated into programs through organized tours or other non-consumptive techniques.

- Requests for consumptive analysis or testing of museum materials will comply with restrictions and procedures outlined in *Director's Order #28* (1998) and the *Museum Handbook*, Part II, Chapter 4. <include any park-specific data use procedures>

- Requests for monetary and/or non-monetary benefits sharing stemming from research results derived from NPS-permitted research including progeny and unmodified derivatives of collected specimens, museum specimens, living collections, and multiple generations thereof, i.e. *Material*, will comply with *Director's Order #77-10* (2013) and NPS *Benefits-Sharing Handbook* (2018).

With appropriate authorization, documentation, and tracking, collected specimens may be used in the laboratory to create *Material*. The Collected Specimen Transfer Agreement (CSTA) authorizes the movement of collected specimens when a determination has not been made regarding final disposition. The Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) authorizes the movement of material that a researcher has created in a laboratory, and the loan agreement authorizes the movement of permanently retained museum specimens or living collection items.

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

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

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

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

Any and all uses of materials from the [PARK] 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.

Yosemite withholds from the public records related to archeological sites, utilities, and the locations of threatened or endangered species.

**Appendix F: Hazards in Collections**

Potential health and safety concerns may exist in NPS collections due to the nature of the object or specimen or to past management strategies. Some examples of inherent risks for natural science collections include: rocks and minerals may be radioactive or contain asbestos, mercury, 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.

Yosemite has identified and reported all potentially hazardous materials in collections which includes only small arms munitions.

## 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 uncataloged materials. The standard permit conditions require that associated project records including data, field notes, photographs, maps, etc. are submitted as part of the project’s deliverables and that they are cataloged according to NPS standards. A project is not considered

completed until everything, including specimens, is cataloged and the data entered into the NPS official museum cataloging system.

Natural Resource Research Collections and Permits

Natural resource collections include non-living and living specimens. Research that includes taking plants, fish, wildlife, rocks, or minerals is governed by 36 CFR 2.5; additional guidance for research, collecting, and managing specimens and associated field records is found in the NPS Research Permit and Reporting System (RPRS), Director's Order #77, Director's Order #77-10, and the NPS Museum Handbook. Non-living specimens and their associated field records are managed as museum collections. Living collections will be managed in accordance with the provisions of a park's general management plan, the Animal Welfare Act, and other appropriate requirements.

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

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

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

Cultural Resource Research Collections and Permits

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

Permits that allow cultural resources to be physically disturbed or allow objects or specimens to be collected must require provisions for the long-term preservation and management of any recovered objects and specimens and for their cataloging, together with any associated records, in the NPS museum cataloging system. Independent researchers will be authorized to conduct archeological research on park lands only through the issuance of an ARPA or Antiquities Act

permit by the appropriate regional director. This permitting authority cannot be further delegated. As appropriate, parks will also issue other necessary permits, such as a special use permit.

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

Reviewing Research Permits

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

The park maintains specific processes / guidelines for museum staff to review permitted research requests that may generate specimens, objects and associated records and reports. Ensure process / guidelines include:

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

Helpful links:
National Park Service Organic Act
National Park Service Omnibus Management Act of 1998
National Park Service Management Policies 2001
Natural Resource Management Reference Manual #77
Director's Order #77 (Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring)
Director's Order #77-10: NPS Benefits Sharing

Director's Order #24 (National Park Service Museum Collection Management)
Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 41 (Wilderness Preservation and Management)
Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470f)
Endangered Species Act of 1973
Wilderness Act of 1964
Archeological Resources Protection Act
43 CFR 7
36 CFR 2.5
Research Permits - Everglades National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)
NPS Archeology Program: Federal Archeological Permits
Research Permits - Yellowstone National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)
Obtain a Research Permit - Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)

**Appendix H: Selected Bibliography**

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