

Part 1 – Agency Profile

Agency Overview:

Recognizing the importance of our natural heritage to the citizens of the State, the Idaho Museum of Natural History (IMNH) is charged with preserving and interpreting cultural and natural history for the citizens of Idaho. It is the mission of the Idaho Museum of Natural History to actively nurture an understanding of and delight in Idaho’s natural and cultural heritage. As the official state museum of natural history, it acquires, preserves, studies, interprets, and displays natural and cultural objects for Idaho residents, visitors, and the world’s community of students and scholars. The Museum also supports and encourages Idaho’s other natural history museums through mentoring and training in sound museological practices.

The Idaho Museum of Natural History is home to collections in anthropology, vertebrate paleontology, earth science, and the life sciences. It holds an archive of documents and ethnographic photographs. Researchers pursue scholarly study of the collections and publish their findings in outside and Museum-sponsored publications. The Stirton-Kelson Library of the IMNH specializes in archaeological and paleontological holdings and is a branch of the main ISU Eli M. Oboler Library. Exhibitions emphasize the collections and mission of the Museum, and include permanent and special offerings. Educational classes for children, families, and adults provide more in-depth exploration of the natural history of Idaho.

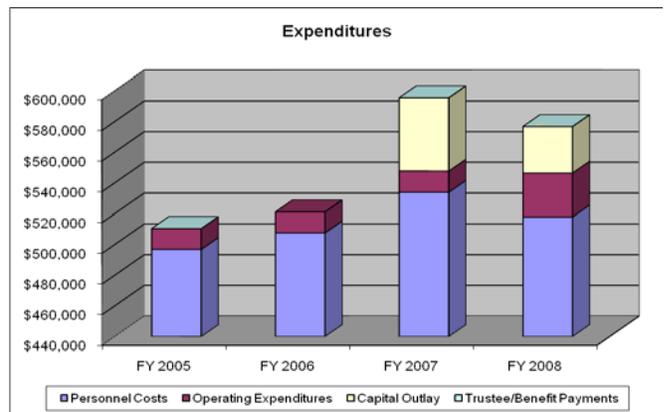
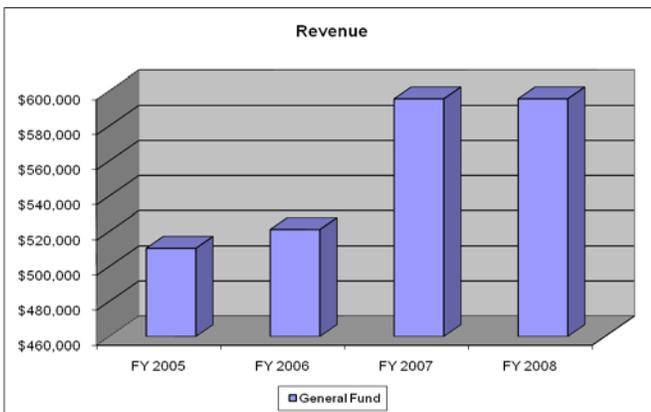
Core Functions/Idaho Code:

The Idaho Museum of Natural History has two core functions:

- 1) To collect, care for, research, interpret and present — through educational programs and exhibitions — Idaho’s cultural and natural heritage.
- 2) To support and encourage local and municipal natural history museums throughout the state of Idaho.

Revenue and Expenditures:

Revenue	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
General Fund	\$510,400	\$521,100	\$595,500	\$595,500
Total	\$510,400	\$521,100	\$595,500	\$595,500
Expenditure	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personnel Costs	\$496,900	\$507,600	\$533,900	\$517,900
Operating Expenditures	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,800	\$28,538
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$47,800	\$30,288
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Total	\$510,400	\$521,100	\$595,500	\$576,726



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided:

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided				
	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Number of General Public Visitors	4,341	8,829	9,064	7,954
Number of Educational Programs for Public Audiences	63	82	95	84
Number of K12 Students on Class Tours	3,931	2,737	3,705	5,025
Exhibitions Mounted	4	4	3	8
Loans from Collections	46	52	14	14
Public Served Through Programs	645	3,797	5,284	3,092

- 1) **Collections and Associated Research:** a) Secure space, care and storage of collections; b) access to collections records and other archived information; c) research and presentation of new knowledge. These services are provided to those repositing collections, scholars, other natural history organizations, and Idaho's and others' museums.
- 2) **Education and Training:** on-site, and web-based training via workshops, classes, outreach materials, internships, facilitated tours and exhibitions. These are provided to K-12 students, higher education students, instructors and teachers, residents and visitors.
- 3) **Resources, Expertise, and Consultation:** a) natural history object identification; b) specialty equipment for natural history object study; c) technical services supporting collections and research; d) expertise for compliance with Federal and State collections regulations; e) as a venue / space for exhibitions; f) as a source for natural history traveling exhibitions; g) expertise on natural history topics and museology. These are provided to residents, visitors, scholars, organizations and agencies required to reposit collections in an accredited repository, other natural history organization, Idaho's and others' museums.

Performance Highlights:

Current exhibits featured at the Idaho Museum of Natural History include the following. These exhibits are representative of the high quality programming that the Museum staff and constituencies are consistently offering the citizens of the State of Idaho.

“The Art of Paleontology” features the outstanding artwork of world-renowned Paleoartist Mark Hallett. Stunning bronze casts of saber-tooth cats attacking a *Bison latifrons* fill the center of the gallery. The exhibit also features elements from IMNH’s Tolo Lake Exhibit to teach visitors about one of the most significant paleontological sites in Idaho.

“A Century of Fish Hatcheries,” on loan from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) where it was created by Mick Hoover and Sharon Clark, celebrates the 100th anniversary of the legislative act that created the first state fish hatchery. Also featured in the Fish and Game exhibit is historical aquaculture equipment which was designed and built out of necessity at the fish hatcheries. This equipment and historical photographs chronicle the 100-year-old practices and techniques used for spawning and egg collection, egg care until hatching, transportation of fish eggs, fish feeding and diet development, and the eventual planting of mature fish via horseback, backpack, truck, boat, airplane, and helicopter with a collection of equipment and historical photographs.

“Dinosaur Times in Idaho” features dioramas with cast skeletons of dinosaurs that roamed Idaho are enlivened with mural art by noted dinosaur reconstruction artist Robert Walters. They highlight these dinosaurs and their surroundings in prehistoric Idaho. Topics include specific information on all the dinosaurs discussed and displayed, what Idaho's environment was like during the times of the dinosaurs, where we're likely to find more of this rare and interesting fauna, and why more hasn't been found to date.

“Raising The Tolo Lake Mammoth” features the remains of a huge bull Columbian Mammoth found in northern Idaho. Expeditions led by Idaho Museum of Natural History paleontologists during 1994 and 1995 recovered more than 400 bones (now in the Museum's research collections) including most of this mammoth and parts of other animals from Tolo Lake, west of Grangeville, Idaho. RAISING THE TOLO LAKE MAMMOTH tells the story of this

find from discovery to research using actual Tolo Lake Fossils. The center piece is the reconstructed dig with explanations of excavation methods and descriptions of what research has revealed about the lake and its fossils. Supporting exhibits explore mammoth anatomy, evolution, and the history of mammoths and their relatives in North America.

Focusing on Idaho's Native Peoples, "Living Off the Land" features sections on ancient tools and technologies as well as recent objects still used. The exhibit shows how they lived on an unforgiving landscape, making use of nature's resources for food, clothing, and shelter, and offers never-before exhibited artifacts and beautiful objects made by these creative people.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	Benchmark
Number of People Served by the General Public Museum Programs	4,341	8,829	9,064	11,022	Increase by 5%
Grant revenue received	\$244,261	\$487,356	\$181,150	\$14,823	Increase by 5%
Number of Exhibitions Developed/Presented at Outreach Locations	Data not collected prior to 2008	Data not collected prior to 2008	Data not collected prior to 2008	1	Add one each year for the next two years
Museum Store Revenue Received	\$14,281	\$18,649	\$23,249	\$22,912	Increase by 5%
Number of Educational Programs	63	82	95	84	90

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes:

Concerns exist in the museum about the upcoming year and numbers related to school and public visitors due to the economic situation with the cost of fuel for transportation. A guarded 5% increase is included as the benchmark due to extenuating economic pressures which dictate whether visitors attend museum programs.

The amount included for the Grant Revenue Received reflects on one grant from the Idaho Humanities Council.

For More Information Contact

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