

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 peer reviewed 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.

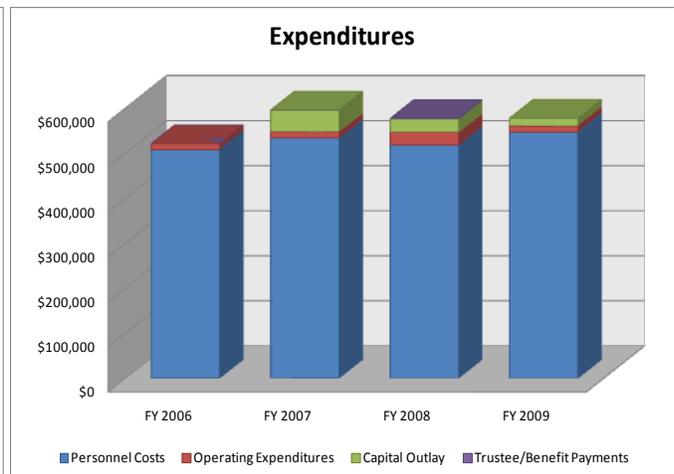
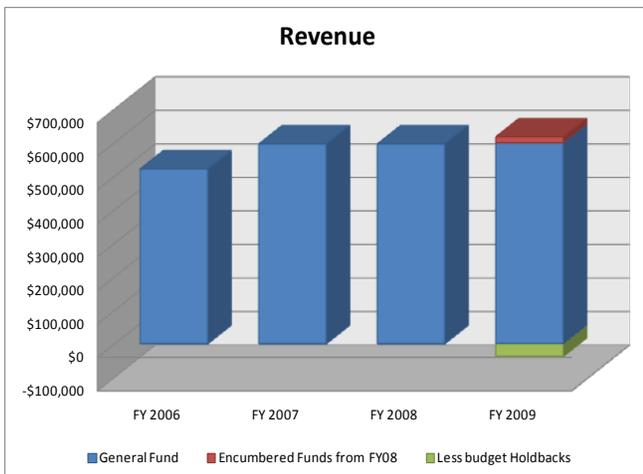
Core Functions/Idaho Code:

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 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Fund	\$521,100	\$595,500	\$595,500	\$599,300.00
Encumbered Funds from FY08				17,512.00
Less budget Holdbacks				(37,838.03)
Total	\$521,100	\$595,500	\$595,500	\$578,973.97
Expenditure	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personnel Costs	\$507,600	\$533,900	\$517,900	\$546,100.00
Operating Expenditures	\$13,500	\$13,800	\$28,538	\$13,804.62
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$47,800	\$30,288	\$17,812.00
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$521,100	\$595,500	\$576,726	\$577,716.62



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided:

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Number of General Public Visitors	8,829	9,064	7,954	4,378
Number of Educational Programs for Public Audiences	82	95	84	64
Number of K12 Students on Class Tours	2,737	3,705	5,025	2,481
Outreach Visits to Idaho Schools (51 Trips)				2,611
Number of K12 Tours				104
Exhibitions Mounted	4	3	8	5
New Online / DVD Learning Modules				2
Loans from Collections	52	14	14	273*
Visiting Scientists				41
Public Served Through Programs	3,797	5,284	3,092	1,584
Volunteer Hours				1,210

*This number reflects: 247 loans from Education Resources Center, 24 loans of IMNH specimens to other institutions, 2 loans of visual media.

- 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 repository collections in an accredited repository, other natural history organization, Idaho's and others' museums.

Performance Highlights:

Exhibits featured at the Idaho Museum of Natural History during 2008 – 2009 included 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” featured 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 featured 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, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the legislative act that created the first state fish hatchery. Notably, the exhibit documents not only the history of Idaho's fish hatcheries, but the scientific research that formed the foundation for the success of the hatcheries into the present day.

“Dinosaur Times in Idaho” featured dioramas with cast skeletons of dinosaurs that roamed Idaho enlivened with mural art by noted dinosaur reconstruction artist Robert Walters. Topics included 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” featured 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 was the reconstructed dig with explanations of excavation methods and descriptions of what research has revealed about the lake and its fossils. Supporting exhibits explored mammoth anatomy, evolution, and the history of mammoths and their relatives in North America.

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

Newly mounted exhibits during the 2008 – 2009 year included:

The *Fossil Fish* exhibit was mounted in partnership with the Idaho State University Gallery Walk program with assistance from the Fossil Butte National Monument. This exhibit featured fossil fish excavated from the Green River Formation in Wyoming.

A 16,000-Year-Old-Beach Party in Idaho featured current research on a site in one of Idaho's newest state parks, Castle Rock, in south-central Idaho. Research conducted by Dr. Skip Lohse, archaeologist and Interim Director, found artifacts used by human being 16,000 years ago in pre-Clovis times. These pre-Clovis tools make the site the oldest archaeological site in Idaho, and one of the oldest in the United States.

Ant Farms, Clams & Escargot exhibit featured research conducted by Dr. Lief Tapanila, newly designated Curator of Earth Sciences, and Geology professor at ISU. This exhibit displayed invertebrate and vertebrate fossils from the Escalante/Grand Staircase National Monument in Southern Utah from 75 million years ago. The research illustrated a remarkably whole riverine ecosystem from the late-Cretaceous Period.

Darwin's Green Side: Discoveries in Evolutionary Botany celebrated Darwin's Birthday in February 2009. This exhibit featured extensive research conducted by Charles Darwin, not on finches, but on plants illustrating that much of Darwin's evolutionary theory was developed in research conducted in botany. Dr. Rick Williams, newly designated Curator of Life Sciences, used graphics, plants, and Darwin's original writings to assist museum visitors in understanding this important and unknown topic.

The Hagerman Horse: Idaho's State Fossil featured a newly acquired fossil replica of the *Equus simplicidens* galloping across Idaho 3 – 4 million years ago. The Idaho Museum of Natural History has exhibited in situ "real" fossils of the Hagerman horse for visitors, however, with the addition of this outstanding fossil replica visitors can now visualize the horse as it was in life, further broadening visitor learning and understanding of Idaho's prehistory.

K12 Programs offered throughout the year included:

Science Trek, a program offered to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade children from throughout southeastern Idaho, celebrated its 20th anniversary in April 2009. This program, a partnership with Idaho Public Television, has over the course of 20 years introduced many STEM/scientific disciplines to 2,747 of Idaho's youth by placing them with practicing scientists at Idaho State University.

Forays into the Field is a program offered to teen-aged young women to work with practicing female scientists from ISU and other universities. The program seeks to acquaint young women with female scientists as mentors and role models, providing the young women with real experiences in science as well as increasing their self-esteem and understanding of science as an attainable goal of their educational and career plans.

Natural Science Inquiries Series is a program to bring homeschooled children into the museum environment to learn about science. This past year's program featured dissection and anatomy for homeschooled students to learn about the life sciences.

Science in Depth is a series of classes for gifted and talented children to provide them with a more rigorous learning interaction in the sciences than is offered in other museum classes for children. This past year students investigated kinematics and motion, learning about the science of physics through the use of experimentation and mathematics.

Website and DVD Learning Modules included:

Earth's Foundations: The Rock Cycle ~ <http://imnh.isu.edu/Exhibits/Online/RLO/INDEX.PHP>

Don Crabtree: A Reader in Stone ~

<https://imnh.isu.edu/estore/cgi-bin/shopper.exe?search=action&category=PUBV&keywords=all>

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	Benchmark
Number of People Served by the General Public Museum Programs	8,829	9,064	11,022	11,054	Increase by 3%
Grant/Contract Revenue Received	\$487,356	\$181,150	\$14,823	\$10,097.80	Increase by 5%
Number of Exhibitions Developed	Data not collected prior to 2008	Data not collected prior to 2008	1	5	
Museum Store Revenue Received	\$18,649	\$23,249	\$22,912	\$24,588.20	Increase by 5%
Number of Educational Programs	82	95	84	64	70

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes:

The Idaho Museum of Natural History has undergone significant changes during 2008 – 2009. These changes have included the loss of staff due to retirement, reduction in force driven by deep cuts in funding, restructuring of core museum programs, and finding other employment. Staff numbers were decreased from 12 to 6 in number. These reductions in an already small staff impacted the number of programs offered.

Museum activity for the next one - two years will be focused on the development of strong collections areas, the development of rigorous research performed by IMNH curators, and the delivery of the research product to Idaho's learning communities in the form of new exhibits. It is planned that the museum will be closed from December 2009 – June 2010 for the redistribution of collections ranges into what were formally exhibition ranges caused by the reallocation of space in the building affecting the museum and the restructuring of the facility.

The staff restructuring of the museum has led to new vitality in three new curators and an opportunity in the next year to hire three collections managers in the curatorial/collections divisions: Earth Sciences, Life Sciences, and Anthropological/Archaeological Sciences.

The challenging economic climate affected the numbers of K12 school groups visiting the museum and numbers of children registered in K12 programs offered through the museum. Scheduled programs such as the *Art on the Road* were scheduled, but failed to attract enough students to be held. Other programs were cancelled due to the loss of the staff member who managed them in the case of the *Armchair Traveler* and *River Walk* series.

For More Information Contact

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