

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 and is building educational and research collaborations across the state.

The Idaho Museum of Natural History is home to collections in anthropology, archaeology, paleontology, earth science, and the life sciences. It holds an archive of collection related documentation, and field notes, historic and research documents, ethnographic photographs, and audio recordings. It also houses the eastern branch of the Archaeological Survey of Idaho. Researchers pursue scholarly study of the collections and publish their findings in peer reviewed and Museum-sponsored publications. 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.

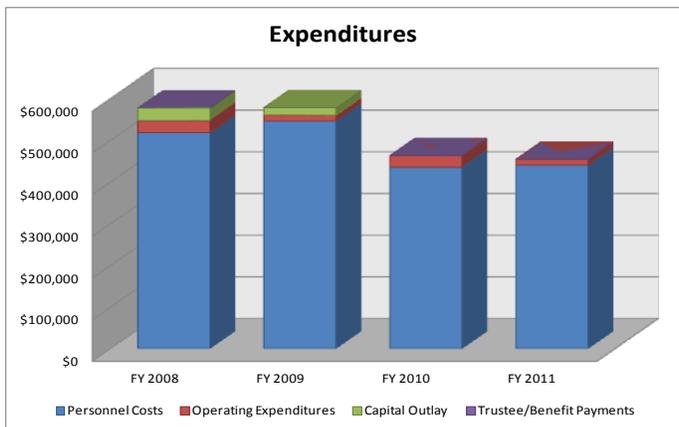
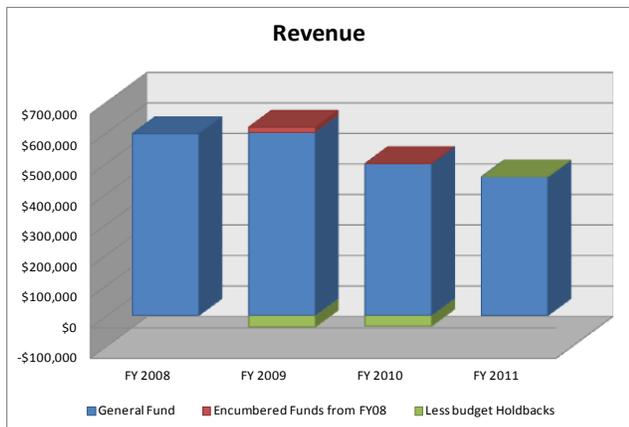
Core Functions/Idaho Code:

The Idaho Museum of Natural History has two core functions:

- 1) To collect, care for, preserve, 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 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
General Fund	\$595,500	\$599,300	\$497,500	\$454,100
Encumbered Funds from FY08		\$17,512	\$0	\$0
Less budget Holdbacks		\$(37,838)	\$(34,800)	\$0
Total	\$595,500	\$578,974	\$462,700	\$454,100
Expenditure	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personnel Costs	\$517,900	\$546,100	\$434,877	\$440,300
Operating Expenditures	\$28,538	\$13,805	\$27,847	\$13,800
Capital Outlay	\$30,288	\$17,812	\$0	\$0
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$576,726	\$577,717	\$462,724	\$454,100



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided:

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	* FY 2011
Number of General Public Visitors	7,954	4,378	2,052	4,212
Number of Educational Programs for Public Audiences	84	64	18	27
Number of K12 Students on Class Tours	5,025	2,481	2,197	3,660
Outreach Visits to Idaho Schools (47 Trips)		2,611	1,523	1,949
Number of K12 Tours		104	82	75
Exhibitions Mounted	8	5	0	20
Loans from Collections	14	273	174	37
Visiting Scientists		41	3	56
Volunteer Hours		1,210	869.5	1850.5

* Cases managed and key services provided were severely reduced in FY 2011 because the Museum Gallery was closed due to ADA required construction. The museum gallery was reopened in Dec, 2010. These numbers represent approximately 7 months of activity.

**This number reflects: 148 loans from Education Resources Center, 24 loans of IMNH specimens to other institutions, 2 loans of visual media.

***Number reflects children who participated in the Saturday Science classes and Science Trek 2011

- 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 depositing 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 36 CFR Part 79 compliant repository, other natural history organization, Idaho's and others' museums.

Performance Highlights:

The Idaho Museum of Natural History went through significant changes during 2009 – 2010. These changes include the reorganization of the museum staff, a rejuvenated emphasis on research, education, and outreach, and the creation of new exhibits. The vibrant but small staff of the IMNH, severely reduced from numbers of a few years ago, is dedicated to the delivery of research products to Idaho's learning communities in the form of new knowledge and new exhibits (with the help of volunteers). The staff restructuring of the museum has led to new vitality with three new curators and three new collections managers in the collections divisions: Earth Sciences, Life Sciences, and Anthropological/Archaeological Sciences.

In December 2009, the exhibit gallery of the Idaho Museum of Natural History was closed in order to complete major ADA required renovations to the museum building. A remodeled gallery and the creation of entirely new exhibits were completed in the fall, 2010. The gallery was reopened to the public on December 4, 2010 with 20 new exhibits created by the museum staff.

The Idaho Museum of Natural History was awarded accreditation by the American Association of Museums in August 2010.

Two major National Science Foundation awards were made to the IMNH totaling over 1.25 million over the next three years.

We hosted 56 researchers from outside the museum throughout the Divisions. In addition, Workshops and training seminars were regularly held throughout the museum units. We gave over 75 tours of the collections and facilities to the public and professional communities. We mentored over 20 student employees and volunteers. We participated in a number of K-12 educational programs both in the museum and through visiting local schools. Annual visits from all Federal agencies identified the IMNH as the premier collections facility for federal collections in the region.

Critically important to our service mission as The Idaho Museum of Natural History, the Museum has now begun an effort to put all of our collections on-line in a format readily accessible to the peoples of Idaho. The IMNH Virtual Museum of Idaho will be the foundation for presenting our Natural History to the World. The first stages of this project are now funded by a Technology Incentive Grant from the State of Idaho, and proposals have been submitted to the National Science Foundation.

The Idaho Virtualization Laboratory, funded by the National Science Foundation, became a key part of the museum. We now house one of the INL / CAES 3D Virtual Environment units for 3D visualization and simulation as a long-term loan.

Exhibits featured at the Idaho Museum of Natural History December 4, 2010 to June 30th, 2011 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

- 12,000 years of human activity at the Wasden Site
- What Can Owl Pellets Tell Us About Climate Change?
- Growing up on the Snake River Plain
- Tribes in Idaho used different storage techniques
- Travelers of the Snake River Plain
- Idaho climate changes during the Pleistocene
- Important dating techniques for archaeologists is a chronology of diagnostic tools
- Obsidian sources along the Snake River Plain have unique chemical compositions
- Archaeology of the Arco desert is one of many surface scatter examples
- Ground stone is an integral part to prehistoric food preparation
- Clothing in the past was made from plants that were immediately accessible
- Ceramics of Southern Idaho
- Crescent tools
- Idaho Trackways and Dinosaurs from the Cretaceous
- Gemstones
- Live exhibit - Paleo Lab
- Raising the Tolo Lake Mammoth
- Ice Age Mammals of Idaho – featured full mount replicas
- Vegetation Zones on the Snake River Plain
- Rodents, Amphibians, Reptiles and Birds of the Snake River Plain
- Sagebrush Ecology

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 22nd anniversary in April 2011. This program, a partnership with Idaho Public Television, has over the course of 22 years introduced many STEM/scientific disciplines to 2,941 of Idaho's youth by placing them with practicing scientists at Idaho State University.

Saturday Science partnered with the ISU Physics Department to offer a series of five classes to 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade children. Thirty-two children attended the classes from October 2010 to March 2011.

Idaho Geology Outreach Grant (IGO) project has applied its energies during 2010 – 2011 to building the capacity to deliver programs and products to rural educators and their students. IGO staff continues the process of designing and developing the information and products pertinent to the diverse geology of participants' local

areas. This effort incorporates customizing the format of a professional development component and online learning modules to the localities of rural educators.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	*FY 2010	2011 Benchmark	**Actual 2011	2012 Benchmark
Number of People Served by the General Public Museum Programs	9,064	11,022	11,054	8,937	11,054	9,821 (+11%)	Increase by 5%
Grant/Contract Revenue Received	\$181,150	\$14,823	\$10,098	\$208,736	Increase by 5%	\$675,128 (+323%)	Increase by 5%
Number of Exhibitions Developed	Data not collected prior to 2008	1	5	0	5	***20	20
Museum Store Revenue Received	\$23,249	\$22,912	\$24,588	\$12,707	\$24,588	\$5,314.85	Increase by 10%
Number of Educational Programs	95	84	168	100	64	103	Increase by 5%

***All of the Performance Measures were impacted by the Museum gallery and store closing in December 2009 for ADA required construction. We created new exhibits and displays for Fall 2010. Benchmarks related to the Museum gallery and store were based on a return to FY 2009 levels.**

****The museum gallery and store were reopened December 4, 2010. This number represents 7 months. The store was reduced in operations and materials by more than 50%.**

*****Represents the new gallery exhibition reopened December 4, 2010.**

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes:

The Idaho Museum of Natural History went through significant changes during 2009 – 2010. These changes 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 13 to 9 (six with full time appointments, three ranging from .15 to .6 appointments). These reductions in an already small staff impacted the number of programs offered.

The challenging economic climate and gallery remodeling affected the numbers of K12 school groups visiting the museum and numbers of children registered in K12 programs offered through the museum. It is planned that continuing and new programs will be designed to attract Museum audiences back to the Museum during the Fall and Winter of 2010 -2011. One continuing program will be offering Museum learning experiences; both outreach and in gallery, to the 21st Century Afterschool program children through School District #25. This project works with 250 children at six different schools every month throughout the school year

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 knowledge to Idaho’s learning communities in the form of new exhibits, although because of budget reductions, we no longer have any staff dedicated to exhibits. Critical to our future is the creation of the Virtual Museum of Idaho, so that students, public, and researchers may use our collections from anywhere in the world.

For More Information Contact

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