

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.

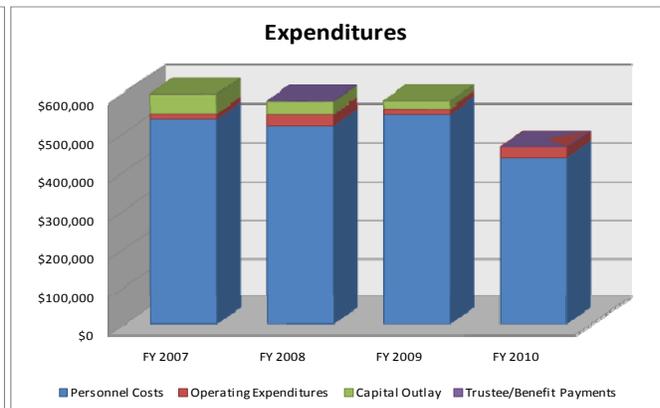
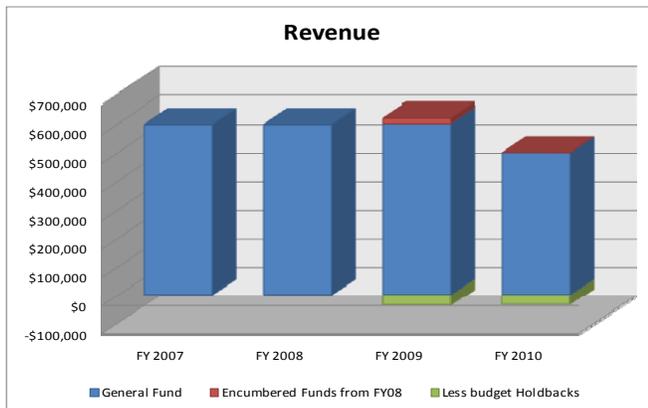
Core Functions/Idaho Code:

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 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
General Fund	\$595,500	\$595,500	\$599,300	\$497,500
Encumbered Funds from FY08			\$17,512	\$0
Less budget Holdbacks			\$(37,838)	\$(34,800)
Total	\$595,500	\$595,500	\$578,974	\$462,700
Expenditure	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personnel Costs	\$533,900	\$517,900	\$546,100	\$434,877
Operating Expenditures	\$13,800	\$28,538	\$13,805	\$27,847
Capital Outlay	\$47,800	\$30,288	\$17,812	\$0
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$595,500	\$576,726	\$577,717	\$462,724



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided:

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	* FY 2010
Number of General Public Visitors	9,064	7,954	4,378	2,052
Number of Educational Programs for Public Audiences	95	84	64	18
Number of K12 Students on Class Tours	3,705	5,025	2,481	2,197
Outreach Visits to Idaho Schools (51 Trips)			2,611	1,523
Number of K12 Tours			104	82
Exhibitions Mounted	3	8	5	0
Loans from Collections	14	14	273**	174**
Visiting Scientists			41	3
Public Served Through Programs	5,284	3,092	1,584	116***
Volunteer Hours			1,210	869.5

* Cases managed and key services provided were severely reduced in FY 2010 because the Museum Gallery was closed due to ADA required construction.

**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 2010

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

Performance Highlights:

The Idaho Museum of Natural History has undergone 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. In February 2010 all exhibits were taken down and returned to their respective collection ranges or agencies. Currently, work progresses on new exhibits to be opened Nov. 5, 2010, which are representative of museum collections.

The Idaho Museum of Natural History also made great strides toward renewing its accreditation with the American Association of Museums, which was awarded in August 2010. This included the hiring of three new Research Curators / Division Heads and the hiring of Collection's Managers for each of the divisions in the Museum. Division highlights were substantive and contributed to our ongoing research, collections management, and outreach efforts. We cataloged over 62,000 archaeological, paleontological, and biological specimens. We hosted

30 researchers from outside the museum throughout the Divisions. In addition, the Herbarium hosted a 2-day Native Flora Workshop that brought 100 botanists from Idaho and surrounding states. We gave over 80 tours of the collections and facilities to the public and professional communities. We mentored over a dozen student employees and volunteers. We participated in a number of K-12 educational programs both in the museum and through visiting local schools. DOI Facilities Condition Assessment (BOR) of the Earth Sciences Division of the IMNH passed with a score of 91% (70% is the passing score).

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.

Exhibits featured at the Idaho Museum of Natural History during Fall 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, although an entirely new set of exhibits will be presented in the Fall 2010 reopening of the gallery.

“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.

“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.

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.

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.

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 21st anniversary in April 2010. This program, a partnership with Idaho Public Television, has over the course of 21 years introduced many STEM/scientific disciplines to 2,831 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 2009 to March 2010.

Forays into the Field is a program offered to teen-aged young women to work with practicing female scientists from ISU and other universities.

Idaho Geology Outreach Grant (IGO) project has applied its energies during 2009 – 2010 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	Benchmark
Number of People Served by the General Public Museum Programs	9,064	11,022	11,054	8,937	11,054
Grant/Contract Revenue Received	\$181,150	\$14,823	\$10,098	\$208,736	Increase by 5%
Number of Exhibitions Developed	Data not collected prior to 2008	1	5	0	5
Museum Store Revenue Received	\$23,249	\$22,912	\$24,588	\$12,707	\$24,588
Number of Educational Programs	95	84	64	70	64

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

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes:

The Idaho Museum of Natural History has undergone significant changes during 2009 – 2010. 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 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. Even so, through volunteer participation, we plan for the museum gallery to reopen in Fall 2010 with a suite of new exhibits.

For More Information Contact

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