

Part I – 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 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
General Fund	\$454,100	\$435,200	\$452,500	\$476,600
Encumbered Funds from FY08	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Less budget Holdbacks	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$454,100	\$435,200	\$452,500	\$476,000
Expenditure	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Personnel Costs	\$440,300	\$420,945	\$438,700	\$441,600
Operating Expenditures	\$13,800	\$12,855	\$13,800	\$14,900
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$1,400	\$0	\$20,100
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$454,100	\$435,200	\$452,500	\$476,600

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided:

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013*	FY 2014*
Number of General Public Visitors	4,212	7,469	6,030	9,147
Number of Educational Programs for Public Audiences	27	45	64	45
Number of K12 Students on Class Tours	3,660	2,836	581*	770*
Outreach Visits to Idaho Schools (11 Trips)	1,949	3,060	3,523	606*
Number of K12 and Adult Tours	75	97	19	35*
Exhibitions Mounted	20	9	16	3
Loans from Collections	37	28	32	16
Visiting Scientists	56	34	16	38
Volunteer Hours	1850.5	2045.75	1926	1737.75

*Some Performance Measures were impacted by the long-term emergency medical leave of the museum education coordinator.

- 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 "Whorl Tooth Sharks of Idaho" exhibit generated the largest number of visitors in the history of the IMNH. Highlighted world-wide in notable blogs from Science, Scientific American, and other sources, this exhibit set a new standard for the IMNH. It is now on tour as a traveling exhibit.

Three major on-going National Science Foundation awards totaling over 1.6 million were continued.

- The Virtual Zooarchaeology of the Arctic Project is a 3D virtual museum of animal bones. This year we added the complete scans of two orca skeletons, the world's first complete scan of an orca.
- The Alamo Impact Project focuses on describing the crater geometry and ecosystem response to a Devonian bolide impact in southeast Nevada. This year, two MS Geology students completed field mapping and paleontological collecting efforts, and another coauthored the first article submission for the Project, describing size and volume estimates of the Alamo impact. Our two-week educational outreach in June trained K-12 educators and high school female students with field- and classroom-based research activities.
- The Development of Virtual Repositories for museum education is a funded project to develop prototypes for putting entire archaeological collections online in 3D images.

The Murdock Trust awarded the IMNH \$266,000 to continue the Virtual Museum of Idaho project.

The continuing \$600,000 grant from the Hitz Foundation is critically important to our service mission as The Idaho Museum of Natural History. The Museum continued 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.

We hosted 38 researchers from outside the museum throughout the Divisions. In addition, workshops and training seminars were regularly held throughout the museum units. We gave over 35 tours of the collections and facilities to the public and professional communities. We mentored over 40 student interns 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.

The Idaho Virtualization Laboratory, funded by the National Science Foundation, is 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.

Accomplishments

- Created a traveling exhibit on the Whorl-tooth sharks.
- Created and installed the “When Giants Roamed Idaho” exhibit.
- Expansion of the Idaho Virtualization Laboratory for 3D modeling and visualization.
- Expanded access to collections.
- Completed cataloging projects.

Awards and Honors

- IMNH was highlighted in National Geographic magazine for its work on 3D technologies in museums.
- IMNH and the Virtualization Lab were highlighted in Scientific American and other science blog sites.

Education

- IMNH staff taught courses in Museum Studies.
- IMNH staff mentored 38 interns and 18 volunteers.
- Director Maschner gave keynote presentations at four conferences.

K12 Programs offered throughout the year included:

Muggle Magic is a single day event open to children and family members of all ages that combines popular fiction, such as Harry Potter, with non-fictional scientific subjects like zoology, botany, chemistry, technology, and paleontology. 453 visitors attended Muggle Magic in October 2013.

Science Trek, a program offered to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade children from throughout southeastern Idaho, celebrated its 26th anniversary in April 2014. This program, a partnership with Idaho Public Television, over the course of 26 years, has introduced many STEM/scientific disciplines to 3,410 of Idaho’s youth by placing them with practicing scientists at Idaho State University.

The Alamo Impact Project has developed from the IGO project and continues the process of designing and developing the information and products pertinent to the diverse geology of participants’ local areas. The Alamo Impact Project worked with eight educators in Nevada and six teen-aged young women to deliver information and experience in the geosciences. Four girls were able to obtain a college credit through the Early College Program through the Alamo Impact Project. The Alamo Impact Project incorporates customizing the format of a professional development component to deliver information on the geosciences directly into rural classrooms.

Elementary Classes (K-6th Grade) are offered every semester for students interested in learning about Natural History at the Museum, with special emphasis on getting children excited about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (S.T.E.M.). Class topics include plants, animals, astronomy, history, and engineering.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014*	Benchmark
Number of People Served by the General Public Museum Programs	9,821	13,365	10,134 24% decrease	10,523*	Equal 2012
Grant/Contract and Donation Revenue Received	\$675,128	\$619,348	\$939,627 34% increase	\$756,381 20% decrease	Equal 2013
Number of Exhibitions Developed	20	7	14 100% increase	2**	5**
Number of Educational Programs	103	184	215 14% increase	61*** 71% decrease	Increase by 5%

* Outreach Performance Measures were impacted by the long-term emergency medical leave of the museum education coordinator. Education attendance data from July 2013 – February 2014 are not available.

** Transition to fewer but larger and more spectacular exhibits.

*** Decrease in number due to data not available for educational programs from July 2013 – January 2014.

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 in all years since that time. The IMNH has been without a full-time education coordinator for 16 month, which impacted all numbers for tours, outreach, and education.

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. 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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