

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.

Pursuant to **§33-3012**, Idaho Code, the State Board of Education establishes the Idaho State Museum of Natural History.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
General Fund	\$435,200	\$452,500	\$476,600	\$503,900
Total	\$435,200	\$452,500	\$476,000	\$503,900
Expenditure	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Personnel Costs	\$420,945	\$438,700	\$441,600	\$440,600
Operating Expenditures	\$12,855	\$13,800	\$14,900	\$13,800
Capital Outlay	\$1,400	\$0	\$20,100	\$49,500
Total	\$435,200	\$452,500	\$476,600	\$503,900

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided:

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2012	FY 2013*	FY 2014*	FY 2015
Number of General Public Visitors	7,469	6,030	9,147	6,448
Number of Educational Programs for Public Audiences	45	64	45	47
Number of K12 Students on Class Tours	2,836	581*	770*	1,765
Number of Outreach Visits to Idaho Schools	**	86	11*	69
Number of K12 Students Visited for Outreach Visits to Idaho Schools	3,060	3,523	606*	2,336
Number of K12 and Adult Tours	97	19	35*	65
Number of Community Events	**	**	**	6
Number of General Public Visitors at Community Events	**	**	**	12,323
Digital Outreach Audience (Social Media and Web Resources)	**	**	**	179,058
Exhibitions Mounted	9	16	3	3
Loans from Collections	28	32	16	18
Visiting Scientists	34	16	38	24
Volunteer Hours	2045.75	1926	1737.75	906.5

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

** No data to record.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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:

Our traveling exhibit, “Whorl Tooth Sharks of Idaho,” was rented by the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Tacoma (June 2014-Dec 2014) and Seward’s Alaska Sea Life Center (April 2015-September 2015), generating \$35,000 in revenue, which helped support IMNH education and exhibit programs in 2015. This shark exhibit and the natural history of Idaho reached more than 550,000 people this year.

Three major external grants continued this year.

- The Virtual Museum of Idaho project, sponsored by the Murdock Fund, is generating virtual 3D files of important IMNH collections in archeology, paleontology, and biology to be developed in an online accessible format.

- Two archeology projects based in Alaska are funded to develop prototypes for putting entire archaeological collections online in 3D images.

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 people of Idaho. The IMNH Virtual Museum of Idaho will be the foundation for presenting our Natural History to the world.

Accomplishments

- Booked traveling exhibit on the Whorl-tooth sharks for part of 2016, 2017.
- Created and installed the “When Giants Roamed Idaho,” and “Evolving Idaho” exhibits (4,000 sq ft).
- Biology Division co-published “Idaho Wildflowers” phone app
- Expanded access to collections.
- Completed cataloging projects.

Awards and Honors

- IMNH research on fossil sharks featured in Nature magazine; featured in “River Monsters” tv show.

Education

- IMNH staff taught courses in Museum Studies.
- IMNH staff mentored 36 student interns and 12 volunteers.

K12 Programs offered throughout the year:

Museum Magic was a single day education event open to all members of the community that focused on STEM education. Museum guests were able to visit different activity stations throughout the museum, and learn about how organisms are adapted to cold environments. Dr. Steve Shropshire of the ISU physics department hosted a cold physics show in the ballroom. 392 community members attended this event.

Science Trek is an overnight program offered to 3rd - 4th grade Idaho students. This program, a partnership with Idaho Public Television, has brought STEM to 3,553 students over the past 27 years. Science Trek is unique because K-12 students get more than a science lesson; they get to interact with real scientists and ISU students studying to be scientists. 143 students attended Science Trek this year.

After School Program: The IMNH visited 8 schools in Pocatello and 3 class groups in American Falls once a month over the school year. Students participated in activities related to pollinators, ecology, and biology. At the end of the year, the after school students planted Milkweed seeds that were raised at ISU and planted around Southeast Idaho and in Boise.

Museums for Monarchs: The IMNH has been working with the After School Program, the Pocatello Community Charter School, Idaho Fish and Game, Idaho State University, and University of Idaho to establish butterfly gardens and map out Milkweed habitat. Students from K-12 schools and volunteers identified Milkweed patches at Market Lake WMA and recorded Monarch breeding activity on those patches. We will continue to expand this project and use Citizen Science as an education tool.

On Site Public Classes: The museum offers on-site programming for Pre-k through 6th Grade students with the intention of getting them excited about STEM fields. These classes are offered throughout the year and make use of the museum’s collections and gallery space to give children a truly unique experience. This year, students participated in programs related to entomology, archaeology, paleontology, and biology.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014*	FY 2015	Benchmark
Number of People Served by the General Public Museum Programs <i>Goal 6, Objective 6.1</i>	13,365	10,134	10,523*	10,549	Increase by 15%
Grants/Contracts, Donations, Revenue Received (includes admission, education, IVL) <i>Goal 4, Objective 4.2</i>	\$619,348	\$939,627	\$756,381	\$694,137	Increase by 10%
Number of Exhibitions Developed <i>Goal 6, Objective 6.2</i>	7	14	2**	3	3
Museum Store Revenue Received <i>Goal 5, Objective 5.5</i>	\$10,179	\$11,297	\$15,304	\$13,615	Increase by 10%
Number of Educational Programs <i>Goal 5, Objective 5.1</i>	184	215	61***	181	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 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:

Leif Tapanila, Director
 Idaho Museum of Natural History
 921 S 8th Ave, Stop 8096
 Pocatello, ID 83209
 Phone: (208) 282-5417
 E-mail: tapaleif@isu.edu