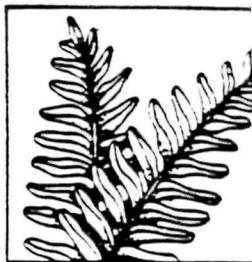


Entomology

National Park Service
NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE



Herpetology

Purpose: Most NPS curators are trained in culturally-oriented disciplines rather than the natural science disciplines. Consequently, the Chief Curator, in the Washington Office, receives limited input from NPS curators on policy and procedures for management of natural history collections. Therefore, the Natural History Collections Committee (NHCC), a standing committee of Service-wide natural science specialists, was established by the Director in September 1985, to advise the Curatorial Services Division on policy issues and state-of-the-art information pertaining to the planning for and the management of NPS natural history collections.

Background: Currently, the National Park Service has approximately 25 million museum objects in park collections, of which 1% (250,000) are estimated to be natural history materials. This percentage is probably underestimated because of lack of documentation. Natural history specimens are preserved in perpetuity for two primary reasons: (1) They constitute part of the resources that an NPS park was created to preserve and protect, and (2) They provide high quality information about the resources that is irretrievable if not preserved. NPS natural history collections are subdivided into the following three disciplines: biology, geology and paleontology.

Long-Range Goals: Through long-term preservation and improved management of natural history collections, the goals for the NPS Natural History Collections Committee are as follows:

1. Support the NPS mission of conserving and preserving park resources.
2. Further knowledge of diversity, conditions, and trends in the environment.
3. Contribute to scientific research.
4. Contribute to improved standards and techniques in the museum profession.
5. Provide opportunities for public education.

Action Plan: Working with the Curatorial Services Division, the Natural History Collections Committee has established an Action Plan that includes tasks under each of the following program elements: technology, advocacy, laws and regulations, policy and planning, and training. Some of the Committee's current tasks include: assisting with the development of a model Man and Biosphere Reserve Collections Management Plan for Great Smoky Mountains National Park; assisting with the preparation of guidance for parks on implementing the curatorial requirements for natural history specimens specified in the Federal Code of Regulations, 36 CFR 2.5g (Revised 1984); assisting with the preparation of a brochure on the value and purpose of NPS natural history collections; developing and implementing a procedure for accessing the condition of NPS natural history collections in each park.

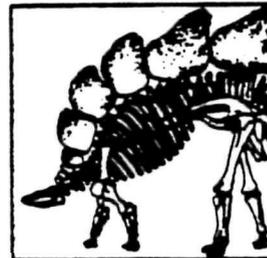


Ornithology

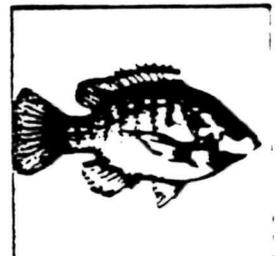


Geoscience

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Paleontology



Ichthyology