



U.S. Department of the Interior

Museum Property Management Summary Report



Fiscal Year
2017

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Museum Property Management Summary Report—Fiscal Year 2017

Executive Summary

A child's sandal, lost in the desert 700 years ago,

George Washington's tent, Helen Douglass's diary, Rachel Carson's magnifying glass, notes that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., compiled when working on his sermons—these and over 206 million other museum objects are cared for by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and 10 of its bureaus and offices (bureaus) on behalf of all Americans.

The DOI museum collection epitomizes the national narrative. It includes artifacts associated with all of the Nation's peoples, from America's original inhabitants to the present. The collection contains fossil, plant, animal, and geology specimens that help illuminate the mysteries of nature and works of art and archival materials that document the history of the United States.

The collection supports DOI's mission to:

- **Conserve and manage** the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage
- **Provide** scientific and other information about those resources
- **Honor** trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities

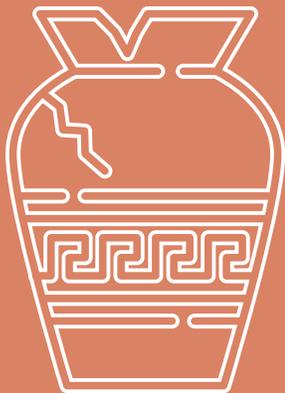
In fiscal year 2017 (FY17), DOI and the bureaus continued to use best practices and collaborative and innovative approaches to managing the public's museum collection. The nearly 600 museum professionals working in DOI and the bureaus realized many significant accomplishments in FY17. Three of the most impressive are cataloging over 3 million museum objects; hosting more than 3,000 museum exhibits; and responding to over 108,000 public research requests for collections access. Additional bureau accomplishments for FY17 are noted throughout this report, and data on museum collections are summarized in the appendix.

Stewardship of this important collection is an immense responsibility. In honoring this obligation, DOI and the bureaus make the museum collection available to promote enhanced opportunities for recreation; the appreciation of history, art, and culture; life-long learning; and unlocking the secrets of science. To do so, the staffs of the Department, its bureaus, and its non-Federal partners work tirelessly to offer innovative educational programs for students of all ages and support pioneering scientific and historical research. They also develop traditional and online exhibits that encourage the imagination; cultivate a better understanding and appreciation of the Nation's history, cultures, and natural heritage; and encourage the next generation of inventors, scientists, explorers, teachers, and, most importantly, good citizens. These are just some of the ways that the Department of the Interior, its bureaus, and their partners connect the American people with *their* museum collection, which DOI manages for *them*.



Figure 1. A child's yucca sandal, lost 700 years ago and found in the Upper Cliff Dwelling, Tonto National Monument, Arizona, catalog number TONT 688.

Photograph courtesy of The American Southwest Museum (Museum of Northern Arizona-National Park Service-Northern Arizona University). For more information, see <http://swvirtualmuseum.nau.edu>.



>206 million

DOI-wide museum objects, FY17



The FY17 collection by discipline

- 65% Archives
- 30% Archeology
- 2% Biology
- 2% History
- 1% Paleontology
- <1% Art
- <1% Ethnography
- <1% Geology

Conserving and Managing the Nation's Heritage

Promoting recreation, history, culture, and science by offering educational programs for students of all ages, supporting cutting-edge scientific research, and presenting exhibits that encourage our imaginations and an appreciation of the Nation's history, cultures, and natural heritage—this is the charge of the museum program of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI).

The DOI museum collection is one of the world's largest, **at over 206 million objects and archives**. The collection includes fossil, plant, animal, and geology specimens; archeology artifacts; artworks; papers; photographs; and other objects that illustrate the Nation's story. Examples include remnants from Jamestown, the bible presented by the Mendi people to John Quincy Adams following the acquittal of the *Amistad* defendants, a coat worn by one of the marchers on Bloody Sunday at Selma's Edmund Pettis Bridge, a lunar training vehicle from NASA's Apollo Program, and millions of other treasures that inspire, inform, and educate.

The collection supports DOI's mission to:

- **Conserve and manage** the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage
- **Provide** scientific and other information about those resources
- **Honor** trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities

Collections Stewardship

The Department has been the steward of the Nation's collections of archeological and paleontological objects recovered from the public lands it administers since the enactment of the Antiquities Act in 1906. During the intervening 11 decades, these collections and those from six additional disciplines (archives, art, biology, ethnography, geology, and history) have grown significantly through research, compliance, construction, and other management activities on the land; donations of objects associated with significant events in U.S. history; and the creation of archives and art that illustrate the history of the Department, the bureaus, and the special places that DOI and the bureaus protect.

The Department holds its collection in trust for the public and is committed to preserving it in perpetuity. The museum collection is a key component of DOI's mission, specifically its responsibilities to preserve cultural, historical, and natural resources and to provide the public with access to these resources, including museum collections, for research, recreation, and education.



≈1,000

Non-DOI partners providing assistance in FY17



>26 million

DOI museum objects cared for by non-DOI partners in FY17

Collections Collaboration

“Collaboration” is not just a slogan—it is a critical imperative. To successfully care for the DOI museum collection requires a collaborative approach amongst a number of principals, as well as hundreds of partners and stakeholders. Primary responsibility is shared between the DOI Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM) and the 10 DOI bureaus and offices that manage portions of the collection:

Bureaus	Offices
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)	Indian Arts and Crafts Board (IACB)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Interior Museum (IM)
Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)	Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST)
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)	
National Park Service (NPS)	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)	

The bureaus and PAM work with nearly 1,000 non-DOI partners, which include museums, universities, Indian Tribes, other agencies, and nongovernmental organizations. Most of these partners are museums and universities that manage repositories which provide crucial support to DOI by housing over 26 million DOI museum objects within their facilities. The Department’s non-Federal repository partners are located in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and each of the U.S. territories. This geographic dispersion, combined with the nationwide distribution of DOI’s own nearly 1,700 museum facilities, provides for enhanced recreation, access, and public benefits. The many partner repositories and bureau units are responsible for the day-to-day care and preservation of DOI’s collection. PAM, in coordination with bureau management, works to ensure that bureaus have the support, coordination, and policy necessary to continue and improve this care over the long term.



Collections Management

Collections management policies and procedures are critical when caring for any collection, especially one as large as DOI's. Proper management of this collection involves both documentation and preservation. Proper documentation at a minimum must include a current approved Scope of Collection Statement (see below); an up-to-date accession book and accession files; a complete, detailed catalog record for each museum object; annual or biennial inventories; and accurate loan records.

Complete, accurate records ensure that every object in a bureau unit's museum collection is appropriately documented as to its ownership, significance, identification, current location, and origin. Some noteworthy examples of the bureaus' documentation efforts in FY17 are summarized below:

- The BIA funded a contract with Oklahoma's Museum of the Great Plains to photograph, catalog, and rehouse 116 cubic feet (CF) of archeological collections. BIA staff also added 136,000 previously cataloged objects into the Interior Collection Management System (ICMS).
- The Canyons of the Ancients Visitors Center and Museum, a BLM facility in Colorado, accessioned 12 collections (7 linear feet [LF] of archives and 454 CF of artifacts). BLM also collaborated with Florida Atlantic University to catalog and rehouse a collection of 27 boxes of archeological material recovered from the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area. This project was supported by the DOI Cultural and Scientific Collections (CSC) Fund (see below).
- The FWS improved control over 45 CF of Tillamont site collections housed at the University of Wisconsin's Anthropology Department. The project, which received CSC funds, included inventorying and cataloging collections, provenience research on Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) materials, rehousing associated documents, and creating a finding aid.
- The NPS cataloged 1.5 million artifacts and specimens and over 800 LF of archives. This effort included NPS staff at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center in Arizona who worked with Student Conservation Association interns and students from the University of Arizona to process materials from an archeological project at Gran Quivera in 1984–1986. More than 8,200 catalog records were entered into ICMS for nearly 300,000 objects.
- Reclamation's Nebraska-Kansas Area Office initiated a CSC-funded project to accession, process, and curate 43,000 artifacts and 12 LF of archives held at History Nebraska, while the Dakotas Area Office staff cataloged 37,000 archives, archeology artifacts, and paleontology specimens.
- The USGS worked with the University of New Mexico's Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB) to georeference more than 25,000 biology specimens cataloged in FY16, completing documentation of the specimens' geographic origins. In addition, the USGS implemented a Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit agreement with the MSB to barcode 10,000 vials of frozen tissue specimens that will be preserved for use in future research. Both projects were CSC funded.



\$260 million

Needed by BIA, IM, and NPS for museum deferred maintenance



96%

BIA's and its partners' facilities assessed for compliance with DOI standards

Preservation is another essential component of an effective collections management program. *Museum collections are nonrenewable resources, so preservation is paramount.* Museum objects lose their value if they, or their associated data, are damaged or lost. The DOI, the bureaus, and our non-DOI facility partners work collaboratively to ensure the collection's long-term preservation and protection. This enables the collection to be available for educational and research uses, both today and in the future.

No matter where the bureaus' museum objects are located, whether in bureau or non-DOI facilities, they have the same general preservation requirements. These include adequately sized and secure spaces; proper environmental conditions; storage in suitable containers (such as cases, cabinets, or acid-free boxes); adequate numbers of trained staff to provide care; and protection from fire, disasters, criminals, pests, and other threats. Every facility that houses DOI museum objects must be assessed to determine its suitability from a preservation perspective; results are recorded on the "Facility Checklist for Spaces Housing DOI Museum Property" (Museum Checklist). At least once every 5 years, each space must be assessed by using the Museum Checklist to assign a condition rating of good, fair, or poor.¹ If a facility does not fully meet all Museum Checklist standards, the unit's museum staff, working with facility management and other unit staff, should develop a plan (including cost estimates) to correct the deficiencies (deferred maintenance). Such a plan might be to move a collection housed in a facility rated as poor to a facility rated as good on the Museum Checklist. Consolidating collections in this way improves their preservation and increases efficiencies in staffing and facility operations. Collections consolidation, facility evaluation, and the assessment of deferred maintenance costs contribute to improved collection facilities across DOI in addition to better preservation of museum objects.

Preservation efforts in FY17 included activities listed below:

- BIA staff completed site visits to 24 bureau and non-DOI facilities to examine objects and facilities and to document findings. Sixteen were determined to be in good condition, three were in fair condition, three were in poor condition, and two were not assessed by using the Museum Checklist. In total, 147 bureau and non-DOI facilities housing BIA collections were evaluated for compliance with DOI standards in the last 5 years.
- NPS staff from Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (BISO) in Kentucky and Tennessee and the Southeast Archeological Center in Florida completed moving the archeological collections of BISO and Obed Wild and Scenic River in Tennessee to a joint curatorial facility. Other FY17 NPS preservation initiatives included the following:
 - Nearly all objects not on exhibit at Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in New York were relocated to the multipark storage facility at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, also in New York.
 - Women's Rights National Historical Park and Fort Stanwix National Monument, both in New York, established a resource-sharing agreement to collaboratively manage the two parks' cultural resources and museum collections.

¹A facility rated "good" meets at least 70% of DOI Museum Checklist standards. A facility with a "fair" rating meets 50%–69% of the standards, and a facility with a "poor" rating meets fewer than 50% of the standards.



>12,000
hours

Provided by
interns to DOI in
FY17



\$137,000

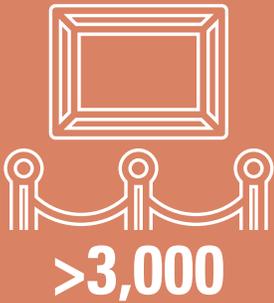
Saved because
DOI staff attended
online courses
in FY17

Figure 2. An intern from the University of California, Los Angeles, fabricating a conservation mount for a basket from the Yosemite National Park collection. Photograph courtesy of the National Park Service.

The bureaus' museum programs are aided by PAM in a number of ways; the four initiatives below provide the most critical ongoing support:

- **DOI Cultural and Scientific Collections (CSC) Fund:** Each year since 2014, the Department has received \$1 million in appropriated funds from Congress for the CSC Fund. The DOI Museum Property Executive Program Committee and PAM used the funds in FY17 to support 23 high-priority bureau museum projects, several of which are highlighted above. Over the past 4 years, 84 bureau projects have been funded by the CSC Fund.
- **Internships:** The Department also uses the CSC Fund to provide National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE) museum internship opportunities at both DOI and non-DOI facilities that house bureau collections (*fig. 2*). The nearly 70 NCPE internships funded since 2014 have provided critical program support to the bureaus while helping to train the next generation of museum curators—a win-win situation.
- **Site visits:** Every year, PAM staff conduct site visits to at least three bureau museum facilities and three non-DOI facilities that house DOI collections. The site visits enhance oversight of DOI collections and evaluate progress in meeting DOI museum policy. Site visits also provide an opportunity for PAM to provide any guidance or technical support that may be requested.
- **Training:** Hundreds of bureau museum management staff, as well as staff from non-DOI partner facilities, participate in one or more of the many developmental opportunities provided annually by PAM. These include both traditional classroom-based courses and independent learning activities available through DOI's online learning portal. Three classroom courses were held for almost 60 participants in FY17. One online course on the Museum Checklist was launched, bringing the total number of online courses offered by PAM to 15. More than 400 bureau staff completed a DOI online museum course in FY17.





>3,000

DOI-wide museum exhibits in FY17



>130,000

Public and in-house museum research requests in FY17

Figure 3. “People, Land & Water,” the new permanent exhibition at the U.S. Department of the Interior Museum in Washington, D.C. Photograph courtesy of the Interior Museum.

Collections Use

The bureaus’ diverse museum collections are used in a variety of ways:

- **Traditional cultural practices** by American Indian tribal members and other individuals from descendent communities associated with specific objects
- **Museum exhibits** at bureau units (*fig. 3*) as well as at museums managed by DOI’s many partners, such as the popular exhibits featuring BLM collections at the Natural History Museum of Utah (*fig. 4*)
- **Online exhibits** including those presented by several bureaus on Google Arts and Culture
- **Interpretive programs** (“ranger talks”)
- **Research** carried out by historians, scientists, students, and the general public, as well as that carried out by DOI staff
- **Curriculum-based educational initiatives** for elementary, middle, and high school students (*fig. 5*)
- **Publications**

Some recent noteworthy examples of how DOI collections are used follow:

- BIA, IM, FWS (*fig. 6*), NPS, and PAM have mounted a number of museum exhibits on Google Arts and Culture, which provides a venue for virtual visitors—both national and international—to interact with DOI’s museum collections (see <https://artsandculture.google.com/>).
- BIA and IACB have developed several exhibits (both traveling and on site) and special events that focus on tribal youth. Such initiatives help to encourage positive possibilities, self-esteem, and community pride, as well as an appreciation of the arts and tribal culture.
- Staff from Reclamation’s Lower Colorado Dams Office photographed many of its museum objects; the photographs are available at <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam/collection.html>.



Figure 4. U.S. Department of the Interior collections on exhibit at the Natural History Museum of Utah. Photograph courtesy of the Natural History Museum of Utah.



Figure 5. A grade school program on paleontology. Photograph courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management.



Figure 6. A Google Arts and Culture exhibit featuring paintings by American artist and ornithologist Louis Agassiz Fuertes from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service collection. An osprey is shown.





91%

Bureau units that
have a Scope
of Collection
Statement

Collections Growth

Since FY 2000, the DOI museum collection has nearly doubled in size, and the most important reasons are listed below:

- **Infrastructure projects and energy development** on DOI-managed public lands that must comply with Federal law and DOI policy. For example, provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act ensure that critical, needed infrastructure projects and energy development on DOI-managed public lands can proceed without negatively impacting the Nation’s cultural heritage. These projects often yield collections. (See “Supporting Infrastructure Projects and Domestic Energy Production,” below).
- **Archive backlog cataloging efforts** by the NPS that increased the number of known archival documents in the collection by over 25%, from nearly 107 million in FY11 to more than 134 million in FY17.
- **Identification** of previously unknown collections. These collections include artifacts and specimens removed from DOI-managed public lands since the Antiquities Act of 1906 that are often discovered in non-DOI facilities.
- **Establishment** of new DOI bureau units, such as refuges, monuments, and parks, which have collections related to their land-managing responsibilities.
- **Important scientific research** carried out by DOI and bureau staff, university-associated researchers, the private sector, and others on DOI-managed public lands, which yield new collections.

During nearly two decades of continued expansion of the museum collections, DOI and its bureau managers have kept in mind the need to be accountable to U.S. taxpayers and have instituted strategies to ensure that future growth is sustainable, measured, and consistent with Federal law and DOI policy. For example, each bureau unit’s collection must be consistent with its Scope of Collection Statement. This required museum foundational document defines the purpose of the collection: the *what*, *why*, and *how*. The Scope of Collection Statement:

- **Identifies the types of objects** that will be collected
- **Establishes limits** on collecting
- **Describes the acceptable uses and restrictions**

An up-to-date Scope of Collection Statement is essential for an effective museum management program. It must be consistent with the unit’s establishing legislation; planning documents specific to the unit; all other pertinent laws, regulations, and policies; and accepted U.S. museum standards. *If an object does not meet the requirements of the unit’s Scope of Collection Statement, it cannot be accepted into the museum collection.*

The bureaus have demonstrated a strong commitment to ensure that all units possess an up-to-date Scope of Collection Statement. Ultimate success is within reach, as nearly all 646 bureau units managing museum collections had one in FY17. Many of the units lacking a Scope of Collection Statement were recently established, and implementation of the document is either currently underway or planned for the next 1 or 2 years at the majority of those units.



\$26 million

DOI-wide museum
expenditures,
FY17



582 jobs

DOI-wide museum
staff, FY17

Public Benefits

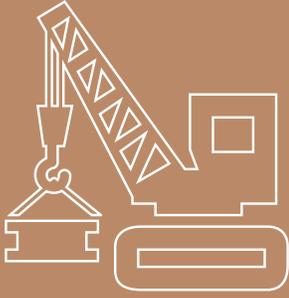
The Department of the Interior’s museum program and the museum objects upon which it is built provide innumerable benefits to the Nation, including economic development, support of infrastructure and energy production projects on DOI-managed public lands, recreation, education, and stewardship of the taxpayers’ resources.

Powering the Economy—Museums as Economic Engines

The Department’s museums, like all other museums nationwide, are economic engines that help to power the economy at all levels: local, regional, and national. They support local and regional tourism initiatives, especially in the gateway communities adjacent to DOI units. Hotels, restaurants, and other local businesses provide vital services to DOI’s visitors and use the proceeds for reinvestments communitywide. Sales, hotel occupancy, and excise taxes collected from visitor transactions also help underwrite critical State and local services.

DOI’s museums provide direct employment to nearly 600 people, whose wages are then reinvested locally whenever the mortgage or rent is paid, groceries are purchased, a plumber is hired, or the car’s gas tank is filled. Likewise, payroll, sales, and other taxes paid by DOI museum staff help to fund the local government services that residents depend upon. In addition to direct employment, DOI museums purchase supplies, equipment, and services from local businesses big and small—be it a one-woman electrician or carpenter, the “mom and pop” hardware store downtown, the multigeneration, family-owned construction company, or literally hundreds of other businesses owned by DOI’s neighbors.

One other way that DOI’s museum programs make a positive economic benefit is in the research sector, be it commercial or otherwise. Some of the bureaus’ natural history collections, such as plant and animal specimens, were collected in the early 1900s. As such, they may possess huge research potential for scientists studying disease vectors, chemical contaminants, pollution, or—in the case of botanical specimens—the promise of new medicines or other products benefiting humanity. DOI’s museums are in the perpetuity business, and no one knows what exciting discoveries are yet to be made through the future study of these, *the public’s*, collections.



Supporting Infrastructure Projects and Domestic Energy Production

The Department of the Interior’s museum program provides support to many important economic activities that occur on DOI-managed public lands such as the following:

- **Land use and development** in partnership with the Department’s neighboring municipalities and private property owners to encourage healthy, vibrant, growing communities, job creation and retention, and the preservation of traditional livelihoods based on the land
- **Construction** of dams, highways, bridges, pipelines, electrical transmission lines, and other infrastructure
- **Domestic energy production** to ensure energy and economic security for all Americans

These support activities primarily involve statutory and regulatory compliance requirements that must be carried out before construction (or other land disturbance) begins for projects. Such compliance activities always generate museum archives that document the project and sometimes result in collections as well. For example, a project to replace a deficient highway bridge that traverses a national wildlife refuge might uncover artifacts that if left in place might be vulnerable to theft, loss, or damage.

These compliance measures carried out by bureau resources management staff, including museum curators, ensure that critical infrastructure and development projects may proceed in a timely manner—but *without damaging or destroying the area’s paleontological, archeological, or other publicly owned natural and cultural resources*. As noted above, many of these vital development projects generate museum collections, which then become the foci of public exhibits and educational programming. At the same time, such DOI infrastructure projects facilitate enhanced public recreation, access, and use of museum collections, as noted below.

Providing Recreational Opportunities

The bureaus’ museums support a variety of recreational activities for visitors of all ages and abilities, both in person and at home. A visitor to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland might first stop in the visitor center to view the exhibits, then attend an interpretive program, and finally set out in her canoe (*fig. 7*). A family might attend the annual Indian Expo at the Southern Plains Indian Museum in Oklahoma (*fig. 8*) or participate in a Bioblitz citizen science event that generates natural history collections. Visitors of all ages enjoy sailing in San Francisco Bay on the *Alma* (*fig. 9*), which is a museum object itself. These are just some of the many exciting recreational opportunities available to DOI’s museum visitors.

For those unable to visit in person, or for those wanting to plan an upcoming visit, bureau museum collections are available in various online exhibits and publications.

Figure 7. A visitor viewing the bald eagle exhibit at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland. Photograph courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Figure 8. Visitors practicing archery at the annual Indian Expo held at the Southern Plains Indian Museum in Oklahoma. Photograph courtesy of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board.



Figure 9. The *Alma*, a museum object on which visitors can sail for a unique recreational experience at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park in California. Photograph courtesy of the National Park Service.





Supporting Education

For over a century, DOI's museum collections have played a pivotal role in the education of the American public. They continue to inspire and engage students of all ages. Beginning in 1906, college professors and students have conducted research on DOI-managed public lands, and such work continues today. Currently, almost every bureau unit offers educational programs that are aligned with the elementary, middle, and high school curricula of the various States. In recent years, DOI collections have been brought out of the cases to be used in innovative student programs on the subjects of science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM). A sampling of the many pioneering and popular youth programs featuring DOI collections follows:

- IACB's Sioux Indian Museum in South Dakota held classes on parfleche making and Indian ledger book art at its Summer Art Camp.
- The Paleo Camp at NPS's Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Idaho allowed young visitors to become "Junior Paleontologists" through participation in the week-long program.
- BLM's Royal Gorge Field Office in Colorado hosted the Preserve America Youth Summit, where over 60 children learned the importance of preserving fossils.
- BIA's Haskell Cultural Center and Museum in Kansas provided family-oriented workshops and tribal storytelling at the Annual Indigenous Dance and Cultural Art Festival.
- Reclamation's Snake River Area Office completed three-dimensional (3D) scanning of *Bison latifrons* paleontological specimens (see <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/snakeriver/landuse/culturalresources/paleo.html>). Members of the office worked with its partners at the Idaho Museum of Natural History and the Idaho Virtualization Lab, and the scans are now available online and can be printed by a 3D printer.

Museum education offerings directed toward older learners include internships through the National Council for Preservation Education and the Student Conservation Association; educational travel programs sponsored by universities or nonprofit organizations; and a multitude of work-study and volunteer opportunities that involve collections. DOI museums support life-long learning for all!

Providing Stewardship

Proper and effective stewardship of the publicly owned natural resources and cultural heritage that DOI manages for the Nation requires:

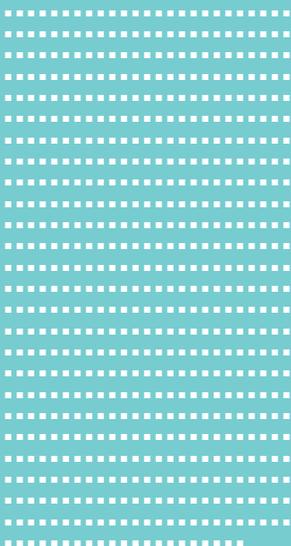
- **Accountability:** DOI must always be accountable to the Nation's citizens, taxpayers, and visitors through the following actions:
 - Compiling and maintaining inventories of its museum objects
 - Being fiscally responsible in all areas of collections management and use
 - Managing operations effectively and efficiently
- **Ethics:** All applicable ethical standards, both Federal and professional, must be held in the highest regard and must always be followed
- **Documentation:** Every museum object entrusted to DOI must be properly documented in order to facilitate its public benefit—*what is it, where is it, and why is it important?*
- **Long-term preservation:** DOI holds its collections in trust, preserving them in perpetuity for all Americans

As long as the Department, its bureaus, and its partners uphold these responsibilities, the public interest will continue to be served.



1

Bureau museum
in 1915



646

Bureau units
having
museum
collections in
FY17

Conclusion

The U.S. Department of the Interior’s museum collection is an invaluable treasure. Nearly 3,000 bureau and non-DOI facilities nationwide house DOI’s more than 206 million museum objects. The collection illustrates the story of America and includes artifacts associated with all of its inhabitants—from thousands of years ago to the present. It contains objects associated with the Nation’s founders, abolitionists, suffragettes, presidents, generals, civil rights heroes, and people from all walks of life who contributed to our history, science, and art. Besides its priceless historical and scientific significance, the collection, along with the DOI museum program, provides innumerable other benefits:

- **Economic opportunities:** DOI’s museums and related facilities, like all other museums nationwide, are economic engines that help to power the market at all levels: local, regional, and national. They support local and regional tourism initiatives and businesses of all sizes, especially in the gateway communities adjacent to DOI units. At the same time, sales, occupancy, and excise taxes associated with visitor transactions help to underwrite critical State and local services. The museum programs also support infrastructure projects and domestic energy production.
- **Recreation:** Each year, millions of people pursue a variety of recreational activities on public lands managed by DOI bureaus. Many of these visits include a stop at a unit’s visitor center to experience museum collections and programs that illustrate the site’s story, its significance, and its connection to the larger American narrative.
- **Research and education:** DOI museum collections are available for study by students of all ages, teachers, scientists, and the general public. From “traveling trunks” of replica museum objects that make the past come alive for schoolchildren to cutting-edge research by world-renowned scientists, such access to DOI collections facilitates the ongoing pursuit of knowledge, new discoveries, and a multitude of other opportunities for understanding the world. Benefits include cultural uses of the collection by tribal members and other descendant communities. The collections enable a well-informed citizenry to gain an enhanced understanding and appreciation of the Nation’s cultural, geologic, and environmental heritage.

For 11 decades, DOI has provided stewardship for much of the Nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage. This role began modestly, as artifacts and specimens were collected by various scientific surveys in the West. The first bureau museum was established at Yosemite National Park in 1915. During the next six decades, as new bureau units were created—the majority of which acquired museum collections—a professional museum program was established. In FY17, nearly 600 men and women within DOI cared for the DOI museum collection. These dedicated public servants and the equally dedicated staff at repositories managed by DOI’s nearly 1,000 non-DOI partners take great pride in their public charge—preserving, protecting, and making the public’s collections available for research, educational, and recreational use for today and the future.

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For Additional Information

To learn more about the museum collection managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus, visit the Interior Museum Program website at:
www.doi.gov/museum

U.S. Department of the Interior

Interior Museum Program

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The Department of the Interior (DOI) rivals the Smithsonian Institution in holding one of the largest collections of natural and cultural objects in trust for the American public. Ten DOI bureaus and offices manage over 205 million museum objects and archives that run the gamut from art to zoology. The exhibit "The American Bison: A National Symbol" on Google Arts and Culture exemplifies the impressive breadth of DOI's collections.

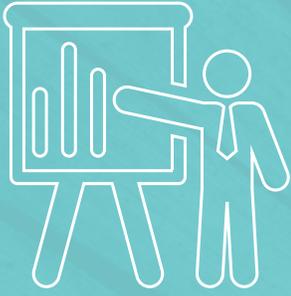
The Department recognizes the importance of museum collections to its missions and is committed to proper stewardship of these resources. DOI stewardship responsibilities include establishing policies and procedures for managing museum collections that meet the highest standards of the museum profession.

The Interior Museum Program (IMP) provides oversight, advocacy, training, and assistance to bureaus and offices in managing museum collections and their associated documentation within the framework of the DOI's policies and standards. It is located in the *Office of Acquisition and Property Management (PAM)* because museum property is a subset of Federal personal property. The *Interior Museum Property Committee* and the Executive Program Committee, made up of representatives from the ten DOI bureaus and offices, provide oversight assistance to the IMP.

In December 2009, the DOI Office of the Inspector General issued the report *Department of the Interior Museum Collections: Accountability and Preservation*. The IMP staff, in collaboration with DOI bureau curators, are working hard to address the Inspector General's recommendations. Activities include revising policy, ensuring inventories of museum objects are conducted regularly, finding DOI collections in non-DOI facilities, and providing technical assistance to both DOI and non-DOI facilities through site visits.

The IMP supports cooperative efforts among DOI bureaus, other Federal agencies, and non-Federal partners to manage museum collections for maximum benefit to the public and the Department. From 1992 to 2003, IMP staff led the *Interagency Federal Collections Alliance (IFCA)* to promote "best practices" in the management of Federal museum collections housed in Federal units and non-Federal institutions. IMP is also a member of the *Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections (IWGSC)*.

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Appendix. Charts Summarizing Data for U.S. Department of the Interior Museum Collections in Fiscal Year 2017

Chart A. Funding, staffing, DOI bureau units, and numbers of museum objects by discipline in fiscal year 2017

Fiscal resources—Total funds expended by DOI to manage museum property in DOI facilities in FY 2017 = \$26,396,695

Human resources—Total number of DOI employees who managed museum property in FY 2017, expressed as full-time equivalent (FTE) employees = 582 FTE

Number of DOI bureau and office units managing museum property = 646

Discipline	Number of objects in bureau facilities			Number of objects in non-bureau facilities			Total number of objects in bureau and non-bureau facilities		
	# Objects	# Cubic ft	# Linear ft	# Objects	# Cubic ft	# Linear ft	# Objects	# Cubic ft	# Linear ft
Archeology	43,406,841	80	0	19,291,679	17,029	0	62,698,520	17,109	0
Archives	130,079,681	0	2,553	4,187,643	0	607	134,267,324	0	3,160
Art	101,683	0	0	1,726	0	0	103,409	0	0
Biology	2,129,280	0	0	1,344,861	0	0	3,474,141	0	0
Ethnography	31,683	0	0	3,092	0	0	34,775	0	0
Geology	67,400	0	0	13,148	0	0	80,548	0	0
History	3,444,109	0	0	20,953	360	0	3,465,062	360	0
Paleontology	369,373	0	0	1,156,465	105	0	1,525,838	105	0
Total number of objects	179,630,050	80	2,553	26,019,567	17,494	607	205,649,617	17,574	3,160

Terms: #, number of; ft, feet.

Chart B. Status of cataloging and condition of cataloged objects by bureau and office in fiscal year 2017

DOI bureaus and offices	Estimated total collection size in FY 2016			Estimated total collection size in FY 2017			Total number of objects from bureau and office collections cataloged in the Interior Collection Management System (ICMS) in FY 2017		Number of cataloged objects with object-level condition data	Percentage of cataloged objects in good, fair, and poor condition ^{1,2}		
	# Objects	# Cubic ft	# Linear ft	# Objects	# Cubic ft	# Linear ft	In ICMS	Not in ICMS		Good	Fair	Poor
DOI bureaus												
Bureau of Indian Affairs	3,735,988	6,585	450	3,904,713	6,295	607	580,848	1,849,685	587,289	86%	13%	1%
Bureau of Land Management	11,824,242	5,868	2,542	11,872,828	5,240	2,553	1,867,121	4,708,398	3,100,565	94%	6%	1%
Bureau of Reclamation	8,741,688	6,086	0	8,896,672	6,039	0	3,312,338	5,584,183	2,951,298	75%	24%	1%
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	53	0	0	61	0	0	61	0	61	100%	0%	0%
National Park Service	175,059,641	0	0	176,426,760	0	0	126,150,571	0	124,338,490	73%	24%	3%
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	4,473,336	0	0	4,473,336	0	0	356,000	546,599	356,000	NR	NR	NR
U.S. Geological Survey	55,655	0	0	55,721	0	0	43,902	11,819	3,781	98%	2%	0%
DOI offices												
Indian Arts and Crafts Board	11,085	0	0	11,085	0	0	11,000	85	11,000	85%	15%	0%
Interior Museum	8,127	0	0	8,321	0	0	8,321	0	8,321	69%	27%	4%
Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians	120	0	0	120	0	0	0	120	120	98%	0%	2%
Departmental totals³	203,909,935	18,539	2,992	205,649,617	17,574	3,160	132,330,162	12,700,889	131,356,925	86%	12%	1%

Terms: #, number of; ft, feet; NR, not reported.

¹Condition definitions: "good" means in stable condition; "fair" means in need of minor repair or cleaning to bring to usable condition; "poor" means in need of major conservation treatment to stabilize.

²Because of rounding, percentages may not sum to 100%.

³Values in this row for the last three columns are averages.

Chart C. Additions to and withdrawals from bureau collections by discipline in fiscal year 2017

Discipline	FY16 totals ¹			FY17 additions			FY17 withdrawals			FY17 totals		
	# Objects	# Cubic ft	# Linear ft	# Objects	# Cubic ft	# Linear ft	# Objects	# Cubic ft	# Linear ft	# Objects	# Cubic ft	# Linear ft
Archeology	62,452,302	18,074	0	428,838	0	0	249,942	965	0	62,698,520	17,109	0
Archives	132,855,244	0	2,992	2,296,348	0	168	50,885	0	0	134,267,324	0	3,160
Art	103,785	0	0	824	0	0	47	0	0	103,409	0	0
Biology	3,444,906	0	0	30,291	0	0	1,056	0	0	3,474,141	0	0
Ethnography	34,303	0	0	163	0	0	61	0	0	34,775	0	0
Geology	81,097	0	0	116	0	0	40	0	0	80,548	0	0
History	3,471,953	360	0	16,190	0	0	1,783	0	0	3,465,062	360	0
Paleontology	1,515,410	105	0	7,079	0	0	130	0	0	1,525,838	105	0
Totals	203,909,935	18,539	2,992	2,779,849	0	168	303,944	965	0	205,649,617	17,574	3,160

Terms: #, number of; ft, feet.

¹FY16 totals were derived from the bureaus' FY16 reports. FY17 additions and withdrawals were reported in FY17, causing discrepancies in FY17 totals.

Chart D. Conditions at bureau and non-bureau museum facilities by bureau and office in fiscal year 2017

DOI bureaus and offices	Facilities housing bureau museum collections	Total number of facilities	Total number of facilities evaluated	Condition of collections based on the percentage (%) of DOI standards met by the facilities evaluated			Total number of facilities evaluated >5 years ago	Total number of facilities not evaluated	Funds needed to perform deferred maintenance ¹	
				# Good (meet >70%)	# Fair (meet 50%–69%)	# Poor (meet <50%)			Facilities housing collections	Collections
DOI bureaus										
Bureau of Indian Affairs	BIA facilities	83	82	62	17	3	23	1	\$1,074,162²	(²)
	Non-bureau facilities	70	66	60	3	3	NA	4	NR	NR
Bureau of Land Management	BLM facilities	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	NR	NR
	Non-bureau facilities	158	137	130	4	3	58	21	NR	NR
Bureau of Reclamation	Reclamation facilities	12	11	9	2	0	0	1	NR	NR
	Non-bureau facilities	63	57	54	1	2	1	6	NR	NR
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	BSEE facilities	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	NR	NR
	Non-bureau facilities	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NR	NR
National Park Service	NPS facilities	1,429	1,429	990	284	155	279	0	\$260,229,116	\$2,498,591
	Non-bureau facilities	764	94	89	5	0	0	670	NR	NR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	FWS facilities	136	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Non-bureau facilities	132	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
U.S. Geological Survey	USGS facilities³	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	NR	NR
	Non-bureau facilities	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	NR	NR
DOI offices										
Indian Arts and Crafts Board	IACB facilities	3	3	2	0	1	0	0	NR	NR
	Non-bureau facilities	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NR	NR
Interior Museum	IM facilities	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	\$0	\$12,500
	Non-bureau facilities	3	2	2	0	0	0	1	\$0	\$55,000
Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians	OST facilities	6	6	6	0	0	0	0	NR	NR
	Non-bureau facilities	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NR	NR
Departmental totals	Bureau facilities	1,678	1,540	1,077	304	159	303	2	\$261,303,278	\$2,511,091
	Non-bureau facilities	1,192 ⁴	357	336	13	8	60	703	\$0	\$55,000

Terms: #, number of; NA, not applicable; NR, not reported.

¹Only BIA, NPS, and IM reported deferred maintenance costs in FY17.

²BIA's deferred maintenance costs include both facilities and collections.

³Several USGS facilities were reported to house museum specimens of other DOI bureaus, but data are not included here until more information about the relationships is known.

⁴The number of "unique" non-bureau facilities DOI-wide is 971. The total of 1,192 is the number of discrete relationships by bureau unit with the 971 non-bureau facilities, such that two or more bureaus or bureau units often report collections housed at the same non-bureau facility.





As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.