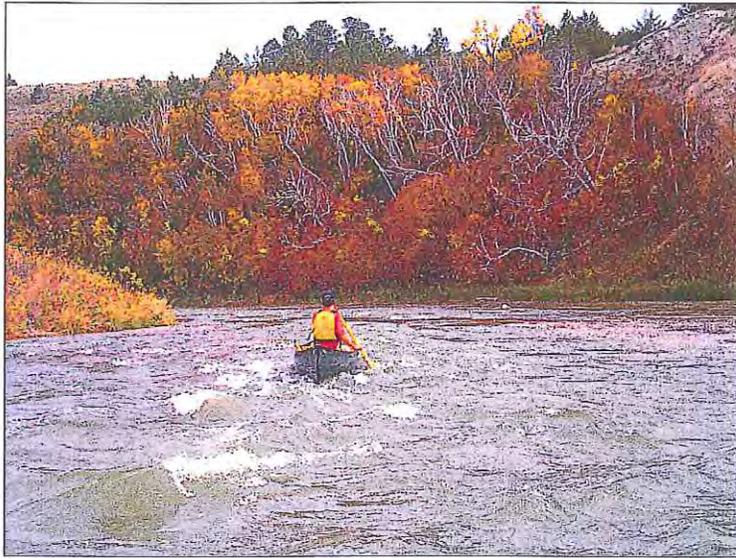


DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**Niobrara National Scenic River
Valentine, Nebraska**

SCOPE OF COLLECTION STATEMENT



Prepared By: Ramela Sprengle 1/27/11
Chief of Resource Management Date

Approved By: Dan C. Folt 1/27/11
Superintendent Date

Concurred By: Carolyne Wallingford 5/3/11
Chief, Museum Collections and Records Management MWR Date

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Executive Summary

Niobrara National Scenic River (NNSR) does not maintain museum collections at the present time, in part because it is a relatively new park (1991) where the land is almost entirely in private hands. The need for an evaluation of collection needs and a management strategy was identified in the park's recent Draft Resource Management Review/Resource Stewardship Strategy (November, 2010), and conversations with regional archaeology and paleontology staff are beginning to be held toward that end. Future museum collections for NNSR may include both cultural and natural history objects as well as archives. A collection is inherently valuable for the information it provides about processes, events, and interactions among cultures, individuals, and the environment. Placing objects and specimens within a broader context, through research, analysis, and documentary records, provides for greatest benefit and enjoyment by the public. Natural and cultural materials would provide baseline data, serving as scientific and historical documentation of the park's resources, and of the purpose for which NNSR was established. Cultural collections, objects, and archival materials may document important events or people in the park's history, technological processes, or artistic endeavors.

B. Purpose of the Scope of Collection Statement

This Scope of Collection Statement (SOCS) is the basic curatorial planning document that serves to guide the present and future acquisition and preservation of museum objects, specimens, associated records, and archival and manuscript collections. Collections should contribute directly to the understanding and interpretation of the park's purpose, themes and resources. Another purpose of this SOCS is to prevent arbitrary, unnecessary, and excessive growth of the museum collection. The development of the museum collection should proceed in close coordination with the park's curatorial, resource management, and interpretive staff, and with the specialists in central offices, using the guidance of this and other planning documents.

The museum collection is an important resource in its own right, as well as being valuable for the information it provides about processes, events, and interactions among people and the environment (NPS-28, Chapter 9). National Park Service (NPS) policies state the purposes of museum collections are to ensure the long-term preservation and protection of significant resources and to increase knowledge and inspiration among present and future generations through exhibits, research, and interpretive programs. Collections of natural and cultural objects and their associated records provide baseline data and serve as scientific and historical documentation of the park's resources and purpose. Archival and manuscript collections serve to document and provide information for the continuing management of the park's resources. Museum objects used in exhibits and other interpretive programs help visitors gain better understanding of events, activities, and people commemorated by the parks. Portions of the museum collection include objects the Service is legally mandated to preserve.

C. Legislation Related to National Park Service Museum Collections

NPS's legal mandate for acquiring and preserving museum collections is found in the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 USC 431-433); the Organic Act of 1916 (16 USC 1 et seq.); the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 USC 461-467); the Management of Museum Properties Act of 1955 as amended (16 USC 18f); the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 as amended (16 USC 469-469c); the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (16 USC 470-470t Sec. 110); the Archeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974 (16 USC 469-469C); the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 USC 470aa-mm); and the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (16 USC 5901).

D. Park History, Significance, Purpose, Themes and Goals

Niobrara National Scenic River (NNSR) is located in north-central Nebraska near the towns of Valentine, Ainsworth, Bassett and Newport, and includes 23,074 acres of mostly private land. The park is utilized by about 40,000 boaters and many more visitors each year for their experience, understanding, and appreciation.

1. Park History

For a long time, the middle Niobrara valley was a proposed location for a reservoir to supply irrigation water to north-central Nebraska farmlands. The Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) proposed Norden Dam (O'Neill Irrigation Project) would have flooded out many surrounding ranches. Several local landowners and many outstate recreationists opposed to the project joined forces and turned to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as a means of defeating the project. NNSR was established by Public Law 102-50 on May 24, 1991, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to administer 76 miles of the Niobrara as a "scenic" component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The legislation explicitly named the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as the manager of the nine river miles that run through the Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge; NPS was subsequently designated as the manager of the remaining lands. Because those lands were to be kept under private ownership, the enabling legislation called for the formation of a predominately local advisory council to assist the NPS in the preparation of a general management plan (GMP). NPS completed a GMP in 1996, but it was challenged on the basis of boundary designations and the belief that NPS had delegated too much management authority to local control. A new GMP was completed in 2007, with redrawn boundaries, and a realignment of NPS-partner responsibilities. NNSR shared a superintendent and off-site park headquarters with the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) until 2008. The park headquarters is now located in Valentine, Nebraska, and is manned by a Superintendent and Visitor and Resource Protection; Interpretation and Education; and Resource Management staffs. Administrative functions are still shared with MNRR, located in Yankton, South Dakota.

2. Park Significance

Seven attributes contribute to the significance of NNSR: 1) the free-flowing Niobrara River; 2) high water quality of the Niobrara River; 3) a scenic landscape with views of waterfalls, cliffs, forests and open spaces with few developments; 4) unusually diverse natural ecosystems with many plant and animal species found at the edge of their range or beyond their normal range; 5) the rural agricultural landscape of ranches and limited development; 6) a geological base providing the basin

for the Niobrara River, outstanding scenery, and ecosystems found therein; and 7) deposits of scientifically important fossils of mid--Tertiary and Pleistocene geological periods.

3. Park Purpose/Mission Statement

The mission of NNSR is to preserve the river in its free-flowing condition; preserve the river's outstandingly remarkable values; work cooperatively with landowners, agencies and others to respectfully manage the private and public lands of the scenic river; and to safely provide for a variety of recreational and educational opportunities and public access that does not adversely impact the river's resources.

4. Park Interpretive Themes

NNSR's interpretive themes are focused on the park's outstandingly remarkable values (2010 NNSR Long-Range Interpretive Plan):

- 1) Biological ("Ecological Crossroads"). Six distinct ecosystems converge along the Niobrara River valley, creating exceptional biological diversity of over 160 plants and many animals that survive at the extreme edge of their normal range and respond easily to disruptions, including threatened and endangered species.
- 2) Landscapes ("Timeless Vistas"). The unique geography of the Niobrara River Valley, along with its pattern of settlement and use, provides for exceptionally serene and beautiful vistas and a relatively undeveloped view from the river.
- 3) Geological ("Rock of Ages"). The Niobrara River and its spring branch canyon creeks carve through layers of geologic time, exposing the primeval history of the area, illuminating its influence on the diversity of life in the valley and creating over 200 waterfalls.
- 4) Paleontological ("Stones and Bones"). Hills, cliffs, and stream banks within the Niobrara River valley reveal abundant fossil evidence of an ancient world vastly different from today, with ancestors of species familiar and exotic, living and extinct preserved over time in the rock.
- 5) Recreational ("Outdoor Fun"). A variety of high-quality recreational experiences in the Niobrara corridor can offer relaxation, discovery, challenge, and fun in the escape from the everyday routine of today's life.
- 6) Water Quality ("Essential Fluid"). The free-flowing high water quality character of the Niobrara River is extremely rare for a Great Plains river and in jeopardy from many threats including non-point pollution, and subsurface and river channel water withdrawal.
- 7) National Parks ("America's Best Idea"). The Niobrara is protected by the National Park Service for all Americans so that all may enjoy this scenic river heritage.

The park has not established a framework of interpretive periods.

5. History of the Collection

NNSR does not currently own or maintain any collections with the exception of one archaeological object and associated records stored at the NPS Midwest Archaeological Center (MWAC) in Lincoln, Nebraska. These materials arose from archaeological compliance activities undertaken at NNSR around 2003-2005. NNSR also owns a culturally peeled tree, harvested in 2009 from private lands, to preserve it from further decay.

Prior to the park's designation in 1991, extensive historical, cultural, archaeological, and paleontological surveys were conducted in association with reconnaissance work for the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) Norden Dam project. Staff from the University of Nebraska and MWAC performed much of the work. Materials collected from the studies are, to our knowledge, currently housed at the Nebraska State Historical Society (archaeology) or the University of Nebraska (paleontology). The set of archaeological objects is owned by BOR. BOR would like to transfer ownership rights of the Norden Dam archaeology collections to the NPS, as they provide an important link to the history of the area. NPS, however, is reluctant to assume ownership and management of the collection because rights to ownership of the individual items have not been established; i.e. it is not certain that BOR itself has had the right to retain the objects over the years. For this reason, NPS is cautious about the disposition of the collection, and it is likely to remain in the hands of BOR for at least the near future.

6. Planning Documents Relevant to Collections

NNSR collections are briefly addressed in the 2007 Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and the recent Draft Resource Management Review/Resource Stewardship Strategy (November, 2010). They are not explicitly noted in the 2010 Long-Range Interpretive Plan.

7. Management Goals for Museum Collection

Two of the desired future conditions described for NNSR in its 2007 Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement relate to potential future collections at NNSR: 1) "Significant historic sites, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes will be preserved;" and 2) "The significant fossil resources inside the Scenic River boundaries will be preserved and made available for scientific research. Opportunities for interpretation will be made available."

The Draft Resource Management Review/Resource Stewardship Strategy identifies as a management goal: "fill in fundamental information gaps on vital park resources." Among the objectives listed for that goal is "review park-related archaeological and paleontological collections, and assess best management strategies."

E. Laws, Regulations, and Conventions Related to Museum Collections

Archeological collections, except inalienable and communal property (as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 [25 USC 3001-13]), recovered from federal lands within park boundaries through systematic collection are Federal property and must be retained in the park's museum collection in accordance with 43 CFR 7.13 and NPS Management Policies (2006).

In accordance with the NPS Research Permit and Reporting System, permits to collect natural resource specimens from federal lands state that retained specimens remain Federal property, are incorporated into the park museum collection, and, as required by 36 CFR 2.5g, must bear official NPS museum labels with catalog numbers that are registered in the NPS National Catalog.

Other laws, regulations, directives, and conventions pertinent to the acquisition of museum collections at the park include: the Lacey Act of 1900 (18 USC 43-44); the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 USC 703-711); the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 as amended (16 USC 668-668d); the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as amended (40 USC 483[b]); the Federal Records Act of 1950 as amended (“Records Management by Federal Agencies” [44 USC 3101 et. seq.]); the Freedom of Information Act of 1966 as amended (5 USC 552); the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 USC 1361-1407); the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531-1543); the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a); the Copyright Act of 1976 (17 USC 101 et seq. [1988 & Supp. V 1993]); the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1996); the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) (25 USC 3001-3013); Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR), 41 CFR 101; 410 Departmental Manual, Interior Property Management Regulations (IPMR); 411 Departmental Manual, “Managing Museum Property,” Chapters 1-3; “Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections,” 36 CFR 79; NAGPRA Final Regulations, 43 CFR 10; “Disposition of Federal Records,” 36 CFR 1228; “Protection of Archeological Resources,” 43 CFR 7; “Preservation of American Antiquities,” 43 CFR 3; “Preservation, Arrangement, Duplication, Exhibition of Records” (44 USC 2109); “Disposal of Records” (44 USC 3301 et seq.); NPS Director’s Order #19: Records Management; NPS Director’s Order #24: NPS Museum Collections Management; NPS Director’s Order #28: Cultural Resource Management; Cultural Resource Management Guideline (NPS-28); NPS Director’s Order #44: Personal Property Management; under Director’s Order-in-development #77: NPS Reference Manual 77: Natural Resource Management and the Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring Guideline (NPS-75); the 1983 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (implemented in the United States by P.L. 97-446 in 1983, 19 USC 2601).

F. Structures, Landmarks, and Other Park Resources Listed on National or International Registries

There are few extant historic structures within NNSR lands. At the Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, a hay shed constructed when the grounds were an army post remains standing. Eight iron truss bridges dating from the first quarter of the 20th century cross the Niobrara within the NNSR boundary; five of these (Borman, Berry, Allen (Bell), Brewer, Carns) were placed on the National Historic Register in 1992. Cornell Dam was built by a prominent Valentine businessman in 1916 and remained operational until 1985, but does not appear on the Register.

II. TYPES OF COLLECTIONS

There are no formal collections at NNSR at this time. The interpretive themes and resource management goals and objectives stated in the introduction provide direction for the future

acquisition of museum objects. The following guidelines will prevent arbitrary and excessive growth of the collection, while ensuring that it remains relevant to the park's mission.

A. Cultural Collection

There are no cultural collections at NNSR at this time.

A future collection at NNSR would preserve a portion of our nation's cultural heritage to increase knowledge through research, and to provide for exhibits and interpretive programs. A future cultural collection likely would be divided into four disciplines: archeology, ethnology, history and archives.

Cultural collections are desirable only if they have a primary association with the park, either by coming from within park boundaries or by being associated with a person or persons significant in park history. Future growth of the collection should be restricted to items related to:

- Interpretive and/or research needs identified in the park's planning documents.
- Enhancing understanding of and promoting increased stewardship of the park's cultural resources.
- Cultural resources baselines, inventorying, and monitoring activities.
- Regulatory and compliance activities such as those mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended and by the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA).]

1. Archeology Collection

There are no formal archeological collections at NNSR at this time. The NPS Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) currently stores one object and 15 records associated with compliance work at canoe landing sites during 2003-2005.

Formal, expanded archeological collections could be generated in response to cultural resource management requirements related to legal mandates, to development of park facilities, to preservation-related activities, to research requirements, and to interpretive needs. The archeological collection would include artifacts and other materials obtained using archeological methods, and cooperative agreements if obtained from non-federal lands.

a. Artifacts and Specimens. There are no formal collections at NNSR at this time.

Objects representing the human occupation and use of the park during prehistoric and/or historic time periods could be represented in a future collection. Such objects could include samples of soil, pollen, charcoal, feces, chipped rock debris, and artifacts giving evidence of food gathering and hunting technology, food processing, diet, and any other facets of subsistence activity. All materials excavated from archeological sites within NNSR would be retained in their entirety unless destroyed due to analysis.

Park staff and visitors are discouraged from picking up surface artifacts. It is preferred that surface artifacts be left in-situ and their location documented. If materials are collected and brought to park

staff, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the visitor collects no more material, that precise provenience information is recorded, if possible, ownership is verified and agreements are in place, and that the objects/data are promptly given to the curatorial staff upon receipt by staff members.

b. Associated Records. There are no formal collections at NNSR at this time.

Any records associated with archeological collections would be retained as part of a future museum collection. These records would include field notes and field specimen lists, catalogs, or inventories; drawings and maps; photographs, negatives, films, or slides and photograph logs; sound or video recordings; raw data sheets; instrument charts; remote sensing records; analytical study data; conservation treatment records; and computer documentation and analytical data; as well as any other records or documents generated through archeological data recovery, preservation, or stabilization work, or analysis.

2. Ethnology Collection

There are no formal ethnology collections at NNSR at this time. The park does own a culturally peeled tree harvested with permission from the property of a riverside landowner in 2009.

a. Objects. There are no formal collections at NNSR at this time.

b. Associated Records. There are no formal collections at NNSR at this time. Records associated with the tree include photographs, site maps, and the results of core analysis.

Any records associated with ethnology collections would be retained as part of a future museum collection. These records would include field notes and field specimen lists, catalogs, or inventories; drawings and maps; photographs, negatives, films, or slides and photograph logs; sound or video recordings; raw data sheets; instrument charts; remote sensing records; analytical study data; conservation treatment records; and computer documentation and analytical data; as well as any other records or documents generated through archeological data recovery, preservation, or stabilization work, or analysis.

3. History Collection

There are no historical collections at the NNSR at this time.

a. Historic Objects. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

The history collection could include items from human occupation and use of the park during yet indeterminate time periods. These periods of occupation could be used in the park's interpretive program. Only historic material that has a direct association with the park would be included in the museum collection. If duplicates would become available, priority would be given to acquiring the best-preserved examples.

b. Architectural Elements. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

c. Current and Commemorative Events. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

Memorabilia from important current or commemorative events directly related to NNSR could be included in a future museum collection.

4. Archival and Manuscript Collection

There are no formal archival or manuscript collections at the NNSR at this time.

Policy and procedures for archival collections and records management are outlined in NPS Management Policies (2001), Director's Order #19: Records Management (2001), the Museum Handbook, Part II, Appendix D: Archives and Manuscript Collections (2008), and the NPS Records Disposition Schedule (1986).

The park's future archival collection would include organizational (administrative) records, resource management records and records associated with the other types of collections mentioned above. Specific guidelines for archives associated with archeology, ethnology, history and natural history collections are yet to be determined.

NPS authorizes and encourages each park to create and maintain archives to preserve its history. The archives of NNSR shall include archival materials of whatever nature that document the activities of NPS and its employees in the establishment and administration of the park. The archives may not, by law, include any official records that are to be retired to a GSA records holding center or to the National Archives. The park archives may contain copies of such official records, however, and any other materials considered by law to be unofficial. At minimum, the archives should include the following:

a. Administrative Archives. Administrative archives are defined by NPS-28 (Chapter 9) as collections created by an organization as a routine part of doing business, such as correspondence and fiscal and personnel records. The park may acquire organizational records that are related to or associated with its mission or history before its establishment.

b. Resource Management Records. Resource management records would include documentation made or acquired by a park to record information on cultural and natural resources. Resource management records are the documentary products of archeological surveys and excavations, natural resource surveys, historic structure and cultural landscape research, scientific projects, and various natural and cultural resource maintenance projects. These records document key park resources and serve as information bases for their continuing management. Papers, records and documents relating to specific park issues or important resources should be maintained in the museum collection. Resource management records could include but are not limited to artifact and specimen inventories; computer disks, audiotapes, videotapes, and other electronic and magnetic media; drawings; field notes; films; laboratory reports; maps; manuscripts; oral histories; printouts of computerized data; photographic negatives, prints, and slides; and reports.

c. Personal Papers. There are no formal collections at NNSR at this time.

These may be acquired for the museum collection if they are associated with important individuals or families directly associated with the history of NNSR. Personal papers include records such as personal archives, records, photographs, or possessions of significant individuals or families. The personal papers may be from park founders, formative staff, or eminent associated individuals. The decision on whose personal papers should be included in the archives rests with the cultural resources professional, museum curatorial staff, or superintendent.

d. Library Materials. The park maintains a small library primarily for staff use.

This category of museum property includes rare books, original manuscripts, out-of-print books, out-of-print technical references, and vertical files that are directly related to the park's resources, issues, organizations, or personnel.

If necessary to define the difference between museum collections and library holdings, the library will include the following:

- Books; journals, magazines, newsletters, newspapers, and other periodicals; pamphlets; reprints and off prints; and other such published materials.
- Park service publications, other than those about NNSR, which should be in the park archives (though second and subsequent copies may be in the park library).
- State, federal, local, and community reports and studies of relevance.
- Films, filmstrips; videotapes; and other similar media.
- Duplicate oral history tapes.
- Originals and duplicates of edited oral history tapes.
- Histories, published or unpublished, of local families.
- Published and unpublished manuscripts of reference value but which are not appropriate in the park archives.
- Duplicates/reprints of photographs; copy negatives; and color slides or (transparencies).
- Miscellaneous historic research files created and kept primarily for their reference value.

e. Art. There are no formal collections at NNSR at this time.

Drawings, paintings, photographs, and sculptures could be acquired if they are appropriate to the park's interpretive themes or are required for a specific interpretive goal, e.g., exhibits, historic furnishings.

f. Future Collections Activity. In accordance with Director's Order #19: Records Management (2001) and the NPS Records Disposition Schedule (1986), the park Records Management Committee examines all current park files before they are transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration or disposed of, to ensure the retention of copies of important official records in the park. Other materials to be retained include materials related to scientific studies and resource management activities; oral histories, historic resource studies, and similar reports; photographs, blueprints, specifications and other items documenting facility development. Retained materials are managed as part of the museum collection.

B. Natural History Collection

There are no natural history collections at NNSR at this time.

A future natural history collection could include biology, geology and/or paleontology specimens. Such a collection could support scientific research, resource management and education; provide baseline data of park natural resources; document changes these resources are undergoing because of internal park conditions and external effects; provide a database for researchers concerned with resources use by the park's prehistoric occupants; preserve important or locally significant species collected in response to specific research or interpretive needs; guarantee the protection of important specimens whose in-situ preservation cannot be assured.

The collection would not include natural resource specimens collected outside the park unless the specimens are required for interpretive exhibits, to augment specific park-related research, or to demonstrate the effects of change on park resources.

A future natural history collection must support these goals. This will ensure that only well-documented and appropriate specimens are retained. Future growth of the collection should be restricted to specimens and associated records generated through:

- Authorized scholarly research and selective acquisition based on:
 - Needs identified in the park's 2007 General Management Plan, Draft Resource Management Review/Resource Stewardship Strategy (November, 2010), and other applicable park planning documents and resource studies.
 - Servicewide initiatives such as the Natural Resource Challenge.
 - Enhancing understanding of and promoting increased stewardship of the park's ecosystem.
- Inventorying and monitoring activities.
- Regulatory and compliance activities such as those mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended.

Scholarly research may be conducted by park or non-park scientists. All collecting activities must be in compliance with 36 CFR 2.5, the Research Permit and Reporting System, Director's Order #77: Natural Resource Protection (under development), and NPS Natural Resources Management Guideline (1991). All researchers must comply with applicable state and Federal laws regulating collecting, documenting collections, and other associated activities. No collector, including park staff, can work federally managed lands in the park without first obtaining a signed permit. The collection section of the permit application must be completed, documenting where collections of specimens and associated records will be housed. Questions related to collecting within the park should be addressed to the park's research coordinator.

Any specimens collected on federally managed lands within the park under permit but maintained outside the park belong to the National Park Service and must be cataloged into the park's museum catalog system (Revised 36 CFR 2.5, 1983). According to 36 CFR Part 2.5(b):

A specimen collection permit may be issued only to an official representative of a reputable scientific or educational institution or a State or Federal agency for the purpose of research, baseline inventories, monitoring, impact analysis, group study, or museum display when the superintendent determines that the collection is necessary to the stated scientific or resource management goals of the institution or agency and that all applicable Federal and State permits have been acquired, and that the intended use of the specimens and their final disposal is in accordance with applicable law and Federal administrative policies. A permit shall not be issued if removal of the specimen would result in damage to other natural or cultural resources, affect adversely environmental or scenic values, or if the specimen is readily available outside of the park area.

It should be noted that 36 CFR 2.5(a) states that "Taking plants, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals except in accordance with other regulations of this chapter [36 CFR 2.5] or pursuant to the terms and conditions of a specimen collection permit, is prohibited."

Wherever possible, specimens should remain in situ, in the field. Permits should only be issued to meet the needs of specific research or specific interpretive purposes as outlined in this document. Once the decision has been made to collect certain specimens for a specific reason, those specimens should be collected selectively so that only well-documented, well-provenienced, and appropriate specimens are retained.

1. Biology Collection

There are no biological collections at NNSR at this time.

a. Flora. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

Responsibility for curation of any collection resulting from a research project is determined prior to issuance of the permit. Researchers must comply with all regulations governing endangered species in the park.

The following guidelines could be considered for acquisition of additions to a future NNSR plant collection:

- Each species of vascular plant growing within the park may be represented by a herbarium specimen, including root, stem, flower and fruit whenever possible.
- Multiple samples of any species may be appropriate to show variation in size, form, or color.
- Cross sections of trees taken from windblown, fallen or felled specimens should be included.
- Threatened and endangered plant specimens will only be collected and curated in compliance with the Threatened and Endangered Species Act.

- Collection of additional samples for approved scientific investigations (that is, projects conducted under permit) may be allowed if it is determined that this will be beneficial to the park.

b. Fungi. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

c. Mammals. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

Researchers must comply with all regulations governing endangered species.

- Each species of non-endangered mammal occurring at NNSR could be represented by a limited series of specimens: one good study skin and skull of an adult male, adult female, and immature individual if the young show significant differences from the adults, and a minimum number of forms needed to show seasonal and transitional stages of pelage.
- When storage is available, this collection should also include one complete skeleton (smaller mammals only), obtained as a result of accidental death.
- One set of casts showing tracks of fore and hind feet.
- Important local varieties within NNSR may be represented by a similar series.
- Supplementary specimens illustrating the impact of mammals on their environment, e.g., stomach contents and examples of damage to plants, should be included in the collection when called for by an approved research project.
- All endangered, threatened, or rare mammals accidentally killed may also be added to the collection.
- Collection of additional samples for approved scientific investigations (that is, projects conducted under permit) may be allowed if it is determined that this will be beneficial to the park. Responsibility for curation of any collection resulting from a research project is determined prior to issuance of the permit.

d. Birds. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

Researchers must comply with all regulations governing endangered species.

- Each species of non-endangered bird, resident or migrating through the area, could be represented by: one good study skin and skull of an adult male, adult female, and immature bird if it differs significantly from the adult in appearance and is known to be found in the park during these stages.
- The collection may include the minimum number of specimens needed to illustrate the range of morphological differences present in the species to show seasonal and transitional stages of plumage observed in the park and to record local varieties.
- Skeletal remains, one nest of each species, the minimum number of eggs required to show variation, and pellets may be collected.
- Birds which are endangered, threatened, rare, or only accidental in the park will be collected only as road kills or specimens dead of natural causes.

- Collection of additional samples for approved scientific investigations (that is, projects conducted under permit) may be allowed if it is determined that this will be beneficial to the park.

e. Reptiles and Amphibians. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

Researchers must comply with all regulations governing endangered species.

- Each species of non-endangered reptile and amphibian found in the park could be represented in the collection by one adult specimen of each sex either mounted or preserved in alcohol as well as a specimen of each distinctive developmental form.
- Amphibian collection shall include one specimen of each distinctive larval stage or development form.
- Specimens will be collected from as many different areas of the park as support different sub-species or varieties.
- Endangered, threatened, rare, or those found accidentally in the park will be collected only as road kills or specimens dead of natural causes.
- Collection of additional samples for approved scientific investigations (that is, projects conducted under permit) may be allowed if it is determined that this will be beneficial to the park. Responsibility for curation of any collection resulting from a research project is determined prior to issuance of the permit.

f. Fish. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

Researchers must comply with all regulations governing endangered species.

- Each species of non-endangered fish found in the park shall be represented by one adult specimen of each sex and the limited number of specimens required to document morphological differences within the species preserved in an acceptable manner.
- Collection of additional samples for approved scientific investigations (that is, projects conducted under permit) may be allowed if it is determined that this will be beneficial to the park. Responsibility for curation of any collection resulting from a research project is determined prior to issuance of the permit.

g. Insects and Arachnids. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

Researchers must comply with all regulations governing endangered species.

- Each conspicuous species and form of insect and arachnid, including conspicuous larvae, likely to arouse visitor interest because of its appearance, sound, bite, and sting should be represented by at least one properly mounted adult specimen but no more than will fill the smallest appropriate size of pinning tray.
- Insect larvae and soft bodied arachnids may be preserved in liquid. .
- Each species of importance to park management shall be similarly represented.
- Collection of additional samples for approved scientific investigations (that is, projects

conducted under permit) may be allowed if it is determined that this will be beneficial to the park.

h. Other Invertebrates. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

Only the minimal number of specimens required to adequately document them may represent these species in the collection. Additional collections, strictly for approved scientific investigations (that is, projects conducted under permit) may be allowed if it is determined that this will be beneficial to the park. Responsibility for curation of any collection resulting from a research project is determined prior to issuance of the permit.

i. Associated Records. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

All records associated with specimens collected in conjunction with biological research would be retained in addition to the specimens as part of the museum collection. Archival collections would supplement future researchers' understanding of these collected specimens. These records could include field notes; daily journals; maps and drawings; photographic negatives, prints and slides; videotapes; sound recordings; raw data sheets; remote sensing data; copies of contracts; correspondence; repository agreements; specialists reports and analyses; reports and manuscripts; specimen inventories and field catalogs; analytical study data; computer documentation and data; tabulations and lists; reports on all scientific samples lost through destructive analyses.

2. Geology Collection

There are no geological collections at NNSR at this time.

a. Rocks and Minerals. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

b. Associated Records. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

All records associated with specimens collected in conjunction with geological research would be retained in addition to the specimens as part of the museum collection. Archival collections supplement future researchers' understanding of these collected specimens. These records include field notes; daily journals; maps and drawings; photographic negatives, prints and slides; videotapes; sound recordings; raw data sheets; remote sensing data; copies of contracts; correspondence; repository agreements; specialists reports and analyses; reports and manuscripts; specimen inventories and field catalogs; analytical study data; computer documentation and data; tabulations and lists; reports on all scientific samples lost through destructive analyses.

3. Paleontology Collection

There are no paleontological collections at NNSR at this time.

a. Specimens. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

Uncontrolled surface collecting by visitors and park staff is prohibited. Fossils found on the surface by visitors should not be removed from their original location by the finder. They should be reported to park staff. If materials are turned in to park staff, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the visitor collects no more material, that precise provenience information is recorded, if possible, ownership is verified and agreements are in place, and that the objects/data are promptly given to the museum curator upon receipt by staff members.

b. Associated Records. There are no collections at NNSR at this time.

All records associated with specimens collected in conjunction with paleontological research would be retained in addition to the specimens as part of the museum collection. Archival collections supplement future researchers' understanding of these collected specimens. These records include field notes; daily journals; maps and drawings; photographic negatives, prints and slides; videotapes; sound recordings; raw data sheets; remote sensing data; copies of contracts; correspondence; repository agreements; specialists reports and analyses; reports and manuscripts; specimen inventories and field catalogs; analytical study data; computer documentation and data; tabulations and lists; reports on all scientific samples lost through destructive analyses.

III. MUSEUM COLLECTIONS SUBJECT TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT OF 1990

There are no applicable collections at NNSR at this time.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA), 25 USC 3001-13, requires, in addition to other actions, a written summary of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. NNSR maintains no unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990.

NAGPRA requires a written, item-by-item inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects to be complete no later than November 16, 1995. NNSR maintains no human remains or associated funerary objects, as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990.

Acquisition of Native American human remains, associated or unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony is subject to the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 USC 3001-13) and its guidelines on inadvertent discoveries. Future acquisition of such objects by the park is not anticipated. Donations of such items will not be accepted.

IV. ACQUISITION

NPS policy permits the acquisition of museum objects by gift, purchase, exchange, transfer, field collection, and loan under the authorities of the Antiquities Act of 1906, the National Park Service Act of 1916, the Historic Sites Act of 1935, the Management of Museum Properties Act of 1955,

and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended. As specified in these policies and laws, acquisition of museum objects must be governed by the park's ability to manage them according to the acquisition and preservation policies outlined in Chapter 5 of the NPS Management Policies (2006); the standards for managing museum collections in Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998), Cultural Resource Management Guideline (1998), Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collections Management and NPS Museum Handbook.

NPS policy (NPS-28, Chapter 9) is to accept only unrestricted gifts and bequests. The park will not accept gifts with restrictions or limiting conditions. Such restrictions include copyrights; the park will acquire copyrights to all incoming accessions. Museum objects must be acquired, accessioned, and catalogued in accordance with the NPS Museum Handbook, Part II, Museum Records. Incoming loans will be acquired only for a particular purpose such as research or exhibition, and for a specified period of time.

The park must ensure that owners of potential museum objects had valid title before transfer of ownership. The park will not be a party to, or encourage in any way, the trafficking in illicitly collected materials. All acquisitions must be collected, exported, imported, transported, or otherwise obtained and possessed in full compliance with the laws and regulations of the country of origin, the United States federal government (including NAGPRA), and the individual states of the United States.

In accordance with NPS-44, Personal Property Management Guideline, Chapter 10, all proposals for the acquisition of firearms and ammunition, except archeological field collections, must be reviewed and approved by designated central office curatorial personnel. Acquisition of firearms included on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) list of prohibited/restricted weapons requires concurrent review by designated central office curatorial personnel and Regional Law Enforcement Specialist.

The park superintendent, by delegation, represents the Director of the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior in accepting title to and responsibility for museum collections. The superintendent bears the ultimate responsibility for the acquisition and proper care and management of the museum collection. The superintendent may delegate the day-to-day care of the collection to the Chief of Resource Management. All acquisitions made by the superintendent (or designated receiving officer) must be in accord with the approved Scope of Collection Statement.

All permanent acquisitions must receive formal approval from the superintendent (or designated individual) before they can be collected and accessioned into the museum collection. Upon receipt, all newly acquired objects and related documentation must be turned over to the curatorial staff. The museum curator prepares, for the superintendent's signature, all instruments of conveyance, letters of thanks, acceptance, or rejection, and transmits these, as appropriate, to the donor, lender, vendor, or other source of acquisition.

V. USES OF THE COLLECTION

There are no applicable collections at NNSR at this time.

A. Exhibits, Interpretation, and Research

If the park has a museum collection it may be used for exhibits, interpretive programs, research publications, or other interpretive media. The primary consideration in all uses of museum objects is the preservation and conservation of each object and the collection as a whole and accurate interpretation. Use that may damage or hasten the deterioration of objects should be undertaken only after careful review and approval. Guidelines for use found in the NPS Museum Handbook, Part III will be followed.

In accordance with NPS Management Policies (2006), Chapters 5 and 7, the park will not exhibit Native American human remains or photographs of those remains. Drawings, renderings, or casts of such remains will not be displayed without the consent of culturally affiliated Indian Tribes, Alaska Native villages, and/or Native Hawaiian organizations. The park will consult with culturally affiliated or traditionally associated peoples to determine the religious status of any object whose sacred nature is suspected but not confirmed. These consultations will occur before such an object is exhibited or any action is taken that may have an adverse effect on its religious qualities.

Researchers and other specialists may examine objects and archival materials under the conditions and procedures outlined in Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collections Management, Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998), Cultural Resource Management Guideline (1998), and in the Park's written collections access policy and rules governing use. Outside researchers must submit a research proposal to the superintendent for review by the park's Research Coordinator and other staff as appropriate. If applicable, the research proposal may be presented for review during consultation with Indian Tribes, Alaska Native villages, and/or Native Hawaiian organization before access to certain items in the collections is granted.

Objects may be loaned out to qualified institutions for approved purposes in accordance with NPS Museum Handbook, Part II, Chapter 5: Outgoing Loans. Institutions must meet accepted museum standards for security, handling, and exhibition of NPS museum objects. Sensitive materials may require additional conditions prior to a loan commitment. Expenses related to loans of museum objects, including shipping and insurance, will normally be assumed by the borrower.

Photographs of museum objects can be made available to the public to provide an indirect use of the museum collection through publications and exhibits including exhibits on park websites.

All exhibits with museum objects must have proper security, appropriate environmental controls, and proper mounts to ensure the long-term preservation and protection of the objects.

B. Consumptive or Destructive Use

Any interpretive use defined as consumptive must be authorized in advance, as outlined in Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collections Management, Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998), Cultural Resource Management Guideline (1998), and Director's Order #6: Interpretation and Education (2005). The use of reproductions is preferred to the consumptive use of original objects. Reproductions used in place of original museum objects must

be indelibly marked as such if retained in the museum. They are controlled and accounted for as required in the Museum Handbook, Part II, Chapter 4.

Requests for consumptive use or destructive analysis of all or a portion of a curated museum object must be based on a formal, written request. The request will be reviewed by the museum curator or designated museum receiving officer, and their recommendations will be submitted to the superintendent. When the impacts are minor (e.g., removing a strand of hair from a mammal specimen for determining the presence of arsenic, nipping potsherds to determine type and temper) or when the object is common (e.g. a common plant specimen or a potsherd used in a petrographic analysis), approval at the park level is sufficient. Park level approval for destructive analysis must be in writing from the designated museum curator or park cultural resource program manager and the superintendent.

When the impacts are severe or total destruction is proposed, or if the object is rare, then the request for destructive analysis or consumptive use must be justified in writing for review at the park level, followed by review at the regional level. The request must first be approved at the park level by the museum curator, park cultural resource program manager, and superintendent. Then the written request and park-level approval will be submitted for regional office review to the regional curator and must be signed by the regional director, as outlined in Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collections Management, Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998) and Cultural Resource Management Guideline (1998).

VI. RESTRICTIONS

There are no applicable collections at the NNSR at this time.

Restrictions in addition to those applying to the use of the museum collection outlined in Section III of this statement are as follows:

- In accordance with NPS Management Policies (2006) 5.2.1. "Consultation" and 5.3.5.5 "Museum Collections," and DO #24: NPS Museum Collections Management, curatorial staff should consult with traditionally associated peoples and other cultural and community groups for whom the collection has significance. Archeological objects in the museum collection shall be made available to persons for use in religious rituals or spiritual activities in accordance with 36 CFR 79, Section 79.10(c), "Curation of Federally-owned and Administered Archeological Collections." Requests to borrow non-archeological material for religious ritual or spiritual activities will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- The park will not approve research on human remains and associated funerary objects without the consent of the affected group(s).
- In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (16 USC 470 et seq.); the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended (16 USC 470aa-mm); the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (16 USC 5937); and NPS Management Policies (2006) 4.1.2. "Natural Resource Information" and 5.2.3

“Confidentiality;” the park may withhold from the public sensitive information concerning: rare, threatened, or endangered species; commercially valuable resources; minerals; paleontological resources; archeological and other cultural resources; objects of cultural patrimony and sensitive ethnographic information; information provided by individuals who wish the information to remain confidential; the identities of individuals who wish to remain anonymous. Inquiries of this nature will be referred to the regional Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Officer for consultation and possible review.

- NPS Management Policies 2006, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (16 USC 470-470t Sec. 110), and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 USC 470aa-mm) mandate that information regarding the location and character of archeological, historic, and ethnographic resources may be exempted from public disclosure.
- Restrictions may be placed on the publication of images or manuscripts in the museum collection if: (1) these materials are subject to copyright, and NPS does not hold the copyright, (2) contemporary, traditionally associated communities express concern during consultation, or (3) archival materials are of a fragile nature.
- All endangered, threatened, or rare plants and vertebrate and invertebrate animals will be collected only when accidentally killed or when dead from natural causes. The collection of threatened, endangered, or rare plant and animal species will comply with NPS Management Policies (2006), be in accordance with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended, and will be strictly limited according to the applicable rules of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Final disposition of type specimens will be determined at the Servicewide level and will adhere to recognized conventions established for specific disciplines.
- The park will not knowingly be a partner to or encourage in any way the trafficking in illicitly collected materials.

VII. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

This Scope of Collection Statement must be reviewed and updated every five years, and be revised when necessary, to remain supportive of and consistent with any changes in the park’s mission. Any revision to this document requires the approval of the superintendent.

NNSR does not have a collections management plan at this time, but is likely to benefit from one in the near future. Off-site collections relevant to the park area are located at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln), the Nebraska State Historical Society, and the Midwest Archaeological Center (MWAC). The MWAC collection consists of a single object and 15 archives relating to archaeological compliance activities undertaken at NNSR during 2003-2005; the other two collections are largely unexplored. Among the objectives listed under the goal of “fill in fundamental information gaps on vital park resources” in NNSR’s current Draft Resource

management Review/Resource Stewardship Strategy (November, 2010) is “review park-related archaeological and paleontological collections, and assess best management strategies.” This would appear to be an important first-step in the development of a collections management plan for this park.

For additional information on the state of museum collection activities at NNSR, contact:

Chief of Resource Management
Niobrara National Scenic River
146 South Hall Street
PO Box 319
Valentine, NE 69201
(402) 376-1901