

Zion Resource Brief

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Resource Management and Research Division: Museum and Curatorial Program, 2014

Introduction

The Resource Management and Research Division oversees both natural and cultural resources in Zion National Park, Cedar Breaks National Monument, and Pipe Spring National Monument. The division includes seven programs: Wildlife Management, Vegetation Management, Physical Sciences, Cultural Resource Management, Environmental Planning, Geographic Information Systems, and the Museum program. The resource programs administer numerous research activities that are conducted by outside universities and other agencies. Additionally, we receive support for long-term monitoring by the Northern Colorado Plateau Network. (Visit <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ncpn/> for more information about what this program is doing in each park.) The resource programs are involved with various outreach projects, including Zion Canyon Field Institute courses. This handout describes the Museum and Curatorial Program and many of the projects on-going this year.

Museum Program Overview

The museum collections at Zion National Park include both cultural and natural history objects as well as archives. The 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 the greatest benefit and enjoyment by the public. Natural and cultural materials provide baseline data, serving as scientific and historic documentation of the park's resources, and of the purpose for which Zion was established.

The cultural collections document both prehistoric and historic human activity and contains approximately 31,400 cataloged objects. The cultural resource collection includes archeological materials collected from within the park's boundary and associated field records; an ethnology collection of Paiute material; historic objects associated with



the pioneer era, early park development and operations, Utah Parks Company's concessions operations, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. A large archival collection contains oral histories, historic photographs, and administrative records as well as associated records (original field notes, photographs, maps, logs, reports, etc.) from park research projects.

The park's natural history collection contains over 22,000 cataloged objects and specimens, including: mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, insect and fish collections; an herbarium which includes nearly all species of plants that occur in the park; paleontological collections; geological specimens; and project documentation and reports.

In addition to maintaining Zion's collections, the museum program provides storage facilities and curatorial support to Bryce Canyon National Park (BRCA) and Cedar Breaks National Monument (CEBR).





Zion Human History
Museum Hours:
10 AM - 5 PM Daily,
with extended summer
hours
Closed Nov-Feb

[http://www.nps.gov/
zion/historyculture/
zion-human-history-
museum.htm](http://www.nps.gov/zion/historyculture/zion-human-history-museum.htm)



Moving equipment, Cable Mountain-1925

Recent Activities

Over the past year the museum program has continued to support park operations through facilitating park interpretive and educational programs, research and resource management projects, and improvements to facilities, roads and trails. Additionally, the museum program completed the following projects:

- Conservation work was completed on the park's historic relief map, which was moved from the Visitor Center to the Museum. Built by workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps in the early 1930s, the 1,000 pound map was rehoused in a newly constructed oak casing, thoroughly vacuumed and cleaned with a saline solution, worn or broken places repaired, and many areas repainted. Interpretive text and additional preventative conservation measures are expected to be installed in the 2014-15 off-season.

- Nearly 1,000 images from the historic photo collection were scanned and loaded into a template in preparation for future accessibility through

the park's Sharepoint site. Digitization work on the roughly 3,000 remaining images will continue into next year and, when complete, photographic negatives will be packaged and placed in cold storage for improved preservation.

- Approximately 100 linear feet of ZION and BRCA archives were transferred to the Western Archeological Conservation Center for processing and cataloging, which will result in increased accessibility.

- Museum interns began inventorying the large backlog of park administrative records in preparation for upcoming processing and cataloging activities.

- In addition to ongoing projects currently underway, projects in FY15 and beyond will be focused on producing digital images of park collections and archives for increased accessibility, as well as generating a framework for information management and record retention throughout the park.

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