ANIAKCHAK NATIONAL MONUMENT AND NATIONAL PRESERVE

SCOPE OF COLLECTION STATEMENT AND

COLLECTING GUIDELINES

Introduction

The purpose of this Scope of Collection Statement is to define the types of objects which may be appropriately acquired and preserved for the museum collection at Aniakchak National Monument and National Preserve and outline basic collection management requirements. This statement is a guideline for those people who have legitimate reasons for collecting and for those people who have the authority to accept or decline donations, transfers, exchanges, and loans of museum objects as well as make decisions regarding deaccessioning.

A museum collection is an assemblage of objects, works of art, historic documents and natural history specimens collected according to some rational scheme and maintained so they can be preserved, studied, and interpreted for public benefit. Objects in the collection should be either related to one or more of the park's themes or site-related materials that the NPS is legally mandated to preserve. Objects will be collected and preserved that contribute directly to the understanding and interpretation of the park, particularly those objects that cannot do so if left in place.
The collection serves as documentation for resource inventories, environmental monitoring, and impact studies, as well as having value for interpretation, research, and reference by park employees, researchers, and visitors. The successful application of this Scope of Collection Statement requires wise and well-planned decisions about which objects will be acquired.

Aniakchak was authorized by Congress on December 2, 1980, through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Public Law 96-487. The monument and preserve are to be managed "to maintain the caldera and its associated volcanic features and landscape, including the Aniakchak River and other lakes and streams, in their natural state; to study, interpret, and assure continuation of the natural process of biological succession; to protect habitat for, and populations of, fish and wildlife, including, but not limited to, brown/grizzly bears, moose, caribou, sea lions, seals, and other marine mammals, geese, swans, and other water fowl and in a manner consistent with the foregoing, to interpret geological and biological processes for visitors." (Sec. 201.1.a)

The general purposes of all of the conservation system units established under the ANILCA are defined in Section 101.a,b,and c of the act:

to preserve for the benefit, use, education, and inspiration of present and future generations certain lands and waters in the state of Alaska that contain nationally significant natural, scenic, historic, archeological, geological, scientific, wilderness cultural, recreational, and wildlife values
to preserve unrivaled scenic and geological values associated with natural landscapes; to provide for the maintenance of sound populations of, and habitat for, wildlife species... including those species dependent on vast relatively undeveloped areas; to preserve in their natural state extensive unaltered arctic tundra, boreal forest, and coastal rainforest ecosystems; to protect the resources related to subsistence needs; to protect and preserve historic and archeological sites, rivers, and lands, and to preserve wilderness resource values and related recreational opportunities including but not limited to hiking, canoeing, fishing, and sport hunting, within large arctic and subarctic wildlands and on freeflowing rivers; and to maintain opportunities for scientific research and undisturbed ecosystems.

There are other legislative requirements of this Act too numerous to mention here.

The park has an approved Statement For Management and Resources Management Plan. The management objectives relating to resource preservation in the Statement For Management include the following:

- Place particular management emphasis on the caldera and its associated volcanic features and on plant communities typifying natural succession so that these outstanding resources may be adequately protected and preserved.

- Develop and implement plans for providing for the adequate protection and perpetuation of wildlife and their habitat.
- Collect information and data about the fluctuating population cycles of select species of wildlife and their impacts so that management has a basis for making decisions that will allow natural forces to interact as freely as possible.

- Identify and evaluate Aniakchak's historical, archeological and cultural resources in a manner consistent with National Park Service policies and legislative and executive requirements.

- Assemble cultural resource information—incorporating oral and written information from "old timers" of the area—to be used in interpretive programs for the enjoyment and education of visitors.

Interpretive themes have not been defined for this park. The following themes are based on the ANILCA, information from the Statement for Management and the resources mentioned in the park's Resource Management Plan. These suggested themes should provide guidance in developing a museum collection:

- Outstanding natural features such as the Aniakchak caldera with its variety of volcanic features (lava flows, cinder cones, explosion pits, etc.) and Surprise Lake with its warm springs and abundant minerals.

- Evidence of plant and animal communities typifying natural succession through the four physiographic zones:
  -- ocean/coastal
  -- volcanic
  -- upland
  -- river/valley
- Unusual climate, apparently generated by the caldera

- Interrelationships and the resulting balance among the diverse wildlife species and their habitats.

- Relationship of humans with the subarctic environment; the introduction of various cultures, exploration and settlement, their interactions, and the evolution of their lifestyles as these groups discover ways to adapt to the foreign natural environment.
  -- Prehistoric cultures
  -- Euro-American cultures
  -- Eskimo and Indian cultures

- The evolution of the lifestyle of the subsistence hunters/fishermans/trappers/gatherers as the most historic and pervasive users of the resources; their resourcefulness in making a living in the subarctic environment.

Museum objects are not actively being collected at the present time, but some may be acquired in the near future on a limited and selective basis, particularly those objects that are not being preserved by other groups or in situ. Since this park is now administratively under the Superintendent of Katmai National Park and Preserve, the museum collection will probably be stored in the park headquarters at King Salmon or in an approved central repository. A NPS repository in Anchorage operated by the Regional Curator and adequately staffed and funded would be ideal and would ensure that NPS standards for museum collections would be maintained.
Types of Collections:

Types of materials to be collected have been determined by ANILCA and the types of resources mentioned in the park's Resource Management Plan. The interpretive themes, when established, should also serve as guidelines for collecting, as well as an approved General Management Plan. Other studies and surveys documenting the natural and cultural resources are needed and, when completed, will provide a better information base from which this Scope of Collection Statement can and should be revised and updated. The scope of this museum collection will include objects for interpretation, exhibition and study.

The natural history collection should include a research study collection including documentation (in the form of voucher specimens) for an inventory of natural resources and environmental monitoring projects as well as basic and applied research conducted in the park. A voucher specimen physically and permanently documents data from a written scientific report by verifying the identity and characteristics of an organism used in the study and by doing so, ensures that the study, which otherwise could not be repeated, can be accurately reviewed or reassessed (much like an archeological collection). The specimen could be the actual organism, a sample from a population or a part or representative of an organism (e.g., a fossil) that has been studied, observed or treated. The collection may also contain representative specimens of each species found in the park (a synoptic series).
Cultural objects that pertain to the cultural history of the area, including historical, ethnographic and archeological objects, will also be included in the museum collection. When deciding what cultural objects should be collected within the interpretive themes mentioned in the Introduction, certain priorities can be used. Top priority should be given to the more fully documented site-related objects. When a large quantity of a type of object is available, the best preserved examples should be collected first. A good, representative mix of objects should be acquired for the collection.

A. Natural History Collections

Natural history collections may include specimens in the following categories: Biology (Plants, Lichens, and Fungi; Animals, including single cell organisms), Paleontology, and Geology.

The need for an inventory of the natural resources now present in the park is documented in the Resource Management Plan. This inventory can serve as an information base regarding the composition and condition of the natural resources of the park at this point in time in contrast to future development of the area. This collection does not need to be stored on site but could be stored in acceptable institutions or a NPS regional repository in Anchorage if one is established. Field notes accompanying the specimens must go into the collection with the specimens. Information on when and where the specimen was collected contributes to its value.

Recent revisions to 36 CFR, Section 2.5 will affect future issuance of permits for collecting natural history specimens within park boundaries and the curation of these specimens. As of April 30, 1984, natural
history specimens collected in parks and placed in universities, museums or other repositories, as well as in park repositories, are required to be cataloged in the NPS cataloging system. The responsibility to complete the catalog records may be assigned to the permittee, but the park staff will need to furnish the necessary catalog numbers, instructions, and supplies, as well as review the submitted records for accuracy. The park must also maintain loan records on the collected specimens as long as they are stored in a repository outside the park.

Materials for the collections should be selectively chosen so that only appropriate objects are retained and unnecessary collecting kept to a minimum. This means that the development of the collection will proceed in close coordination with the park resources management and science personnel, as well as the curatorial and science personnel of the region. Collecting will complement the Resources Management Plan and other documents addressing important problems with the preservation of park resources. Guidance will be sought from both within and outside the National Park Service for selecting the appropriate type and number of indicator species to be entered into the collection and the most efficient sampling programs and procedures to use in collecting environmental samples.

If fiscal obstacles occur to this planned development of the natural history portion of the park's collection, priority should be given to the establishment of the synoptic collection (representative specimens of each species found in the park) and to voucher specimens from inventory and research series collections of indicator species.
The following collection guidelines are designed to prevent arbitrary expansion and insure a representative collection of natural history specimens related to significant aspects of the park.

1. Biology

(A) Plants, Lichens, and Fungi: A variety of specimens should be collected from each of the four physiographic zones including specimens representing wet tundra, moist tundra, alpine tundra, treeless bogs and shrub thickets.

Each species of annual and perennial vascular plants growing in the park should be represented by a herbarium specimen, including fruit and flowers wherever possible, with additional specimens illustrating the regional differences within the park as well as otherwise important variations in form, color and hybrids. Representative specimens of nonvascular plants may also be collected for reference purposes. Aerial, terrestrial, aquatic, estuarine and marine plants should all be included.

The park will endeavor to keep as complete a synoptic collection (a representative specimen of each non-endangered species found in the park) as feasible, but will emphasize 1) series representations of species that may be indicators for current or anticipated changes in the park environment (relative to impacts from both natural and human sources), and 2) voucher specimens for studies conducted in the park or in neighboring areas that relate to the park's flora.
(B) Animals, including single cell organisms: Each species of non-endangered vertebrates and invertebrates found within the park should be represented by a limited number of specimens. These specimens should include examples of land and marine mammals, birds, fish, and invertebrates. Specimens should be from each of the four physiographic zones including terrestrial, aquatic, estuarine, and marine environments. A complete synoptic collection of vertebrates should include at least one male and one female of all species commonly found within the park as well as representative juvenile, larval, or embryonic forms if these are morphologically distinct and commonly observed in the park. As complete a synoptic collection as possible of invertebrate species should also be maintained with at least one specimen of each commonly observed species. In addition to the synoptic collection, emphasis should be placed on temporally and geographically representative series of indicator species for current and anticipated changes in the park environment (relative to impacts from both natural and human sources) and voucher specimens generated from studies conducted in the park or in neighboring areas that relate to the park's fauna.

Mammal specimens may include study skin, skull, complete skeleton, fluid specimens, scats, and a set of casts (tracks of fore and hind feet).

Bird specimens may include study skin, skull, complete skeleton, fluid specimens, and eggs and nests.
Fish specimens should be preserved in alcohol.

Insect specimens should be either mounted on the smallest appropriate size pinning tray or, if arachnid, crustacea, mollusc, annelid, or other soft bodied invertebrate specimens, stored in liquid preservative or specimen trays as appropriate.

All endangered, threatened, or rare vertebrate and invertebrate animals will be collected only when accidentally killed or when dead from natural causes.

2. **Paleontology:** One or two representative specimens (hand specimen size if possible) of each species or track found in the park should be retained in the collection. All collecting should be closely coordinated with those institutions who currently possess fossil collections from the formations represented in the park.

3. **Geology:** A synoptic collection of rocks, minerals, mixed minerals, and soils from each major geologic formation within the park may be collected. The geological reference collection should contain one characteristic hand specimen of each rock type and formation with additional specimens to illustrate variations in composition or structure within a formation. A minimal number of hand specimens illustrating representative structure and mineralogy should be collected. A representative soil collection, containing core samples showing horizontal formations, may be collected in a systematic manner.
Specimens obtained through confiscation from illegal field collectors will be returned to the site of collection or, if return is not feasible, retained for interpretive demonstrations or museum storage. Such specimens, especially if they are unique geology specimens or fossil species not represented in the collection, will be accessioned and cataloged.

4. Environmental Monitoring Samples: Specimens derived from long-term park research programs in which periodic environmental monitoring samples are taken from permanently established sampling-stations should be included in the park collection. Sampling sites and schedules should be designated to most efficiently document geographical, seasonal, and long term changes in the park's ecosystem.

Environmental research projects may result in composite samples such as water, precipitation, air, and sediment. These environmental samples are classified by determining the primary purpose for taking the sample. An example is water samples taken to study biota are considered part of the Biology collection. If the water samples are taken to study sediments, they would be part of the Geology collection.
5. Field Generated Records: Field generated records are the documentary products of park research programs that are produced by scientists and other specialists in the course of official activities or produced on contract with the National Park Service. Negatives, photographs, drawings, maps, reports, raw data sheets, instrument charts, computer tapes, cards, printouts, coding lists and format statements, field notebooks, remote sensing materials, maps with study plots or thematic overlays, and books associated with these scientific research projects should all be documented in the park's museum records system.
B. Cultural Collections

The purpose of cultural collections is to provide authentic objects for present and future interpretation and research. This type of collection preserves the original objects, primarily collected in the park, which accurately illustrate the patterns of development in this area. These original objects can also illustrate individual personalities of the residents (past and present) within the park boundaries, conveying information about these inhabitants not always available through written documents.

Archival material, photographs and works of art are also useful, documenting activities, locations of sites and structures, changes in structures, furnishings, and landscapes, as well as providing additional insights into the personalities of various inhabitants.

Cultural collections contain different types of material. They can include History (including architectural and archival material), Archeology, and Ethnology collections. Archeology and architectural collections should be collected systematically and be site-related.

The following guidelines are intended to provide assistance in developing a representative collection of cultural materials relating specifically to the park's resources. Any collecting should take into consideration the park's ability to store and care for the objects according to NPS standards.
1. **History:** The collection can include objects and archival materials representing the periods of exploration and settlement of the Euro-American groups, primarily the people from Russia and the United States. These materials should relate to the following activities:
   - domestic life (cabin contents and objects outside in surrounding area)
   - subsistence activities (fishing, trapping, hunting, agriculture, gathering)
   - mining
   - commercial activities (trading posts, canneries, stores, shipping)
   - transportation (water, air, and land)
   - religious and ceremonial activities
   - recreational activities

Representative architectural materials from structures and any associated field notes, drawings, photographs, studies, and blueprints should be included in the museum collection. Any collecting should be done under the guidance and direction of the Regional Architect. This representative collecting serves a two-fold purpose: first, to preserve original materials as reference sources for future repair work and second, to serve as research and/or exhibit materials in illustrating the architectural history of this area in particular and Alaskan architecture in general.
2. Archeology: To date, no archeological excavations have been done, but surveys may be done in the future. The park staff and visitors should be discouraged from picking up surface finds.

Archeological materials may be removed by NPS archeologists for a specific project or survey or by qualified archeologists affiliated with approved institutions and only under permits issued pursuant to the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (PL96-95). Excavated objects are the property of the National Park Service and must go in the park's museum collection. This includes objects from archeological salvage projects.

3. Ethnology: The collection should include objects representing the historic settlement of the Koniag Eskimos, the Aleuts, and any Native Alaskan groups. Types of objects collected should fall in the themes listed under History.
Acquisition:

Acquisitions for this collection may be made through gift, purchase, loan, exchange, transfer from another park collection or through a field collection within the park. The following documents (or information) are necessary to all types of acquisition to provide legal NPS ownership:

Gift - Deed of Gift (Form 10-830), Last Will and Testament
Purchase - Receiving Report copy of Purchase Order (SF-147), Requisition (DI-1) and sales slip, Receiving Report copy of Field Purchase Order (SF-44), copy of purchase contract (if over $25,000)
Exchange - Exchange Agreement signed by both parties
Transfer - Transfer of Property (DI-104)
Field collection - Field notes, Receipt for Property (Form DI-105)
Loan - Incoming Loan Agreement (Form 10-98)

These documents should include an adequate description of the object(s) involved and the precise conditions of the acquisition. These documents belong in accession folders (10-255) with other museum records (accession book, catalog records, etc.) in a fire resistant filing cabinet, safe, or vault.

Most objects in the collection are likely to be field collections. Field collecting may be done by employees of the National Park Service or outside permittees engaged in monitoring, inventory or other field research approved by the National Park Service. No objects should be accepted
unless all of the necessary data (name of collector, provenience of object, date of collection and other pertinent and supporting data) is recorded and submitted to the park. The appropriate specialists in the Regional office should be consulted as to the types of data they consider pertinent and necessary to obtain with a field collection whether the collection be historic, archeological, architectural or natural history.

In general, objects excavated or found abandoned on land belonging to the National Park Service are property of the National Park Service. In the Alaska parks land ownership is not always clear-cut and many inholdings exist. Subsistence activities on park property can also create confusion as to what objects belong to the NPS or belong to subsistence users. Objects found on unpatented mining claims belong to the NPS; objects on patented mining claims do not. Therefore, when working with field collections, documentation of where the objects were collected, when, and by whom is very important.

Loan objects should be acquired for a specific time period only. Upon termination, the loan must either be renewed or returned to the owner. Short term loans are those loans made for less than six months; long term loans are those loans made for one to five years. No loans should be made for any purpose or period of time which is not specifically defined.

The Superintendent carries the responsibility for the preservation, maintenance and protection of the museum collection, as well as the responsibility for limiting the size of the collection to that which can be
cared for adequately by the park. The Superintendent can delegate the care of the collection to a staff person but the Superintendent bears the ultimate responsibility for the collection.

Deaccession:

Any objects in the collection that are found to be non-essential, do not reflect or support the stated interpretive themes, or are surplus to the needs of the park will be deaccessioned from the collection. These inappropriate or excess objects will be disposed of according to the procedures in the Deaccessioning Manual when issued in final form. Scientifically excavated site-related archeological material cannot be deaccessioned. No objects in the collection will be deaccessioned or disposed of without clearance through the Regional Curator.

Use of Collection:

Any and all uses of objects in the museum collection will be consistent with the long term preservation of the material as described in NPS-28, Cultural Resources Management Guideline. Any use that may be defined as consumptive (destroying the object) must be authorized in advance by following the requirements placed on consumptive use in NPS-6 Guideline for Interpretation and Visitor Services (Chapter 7, pages 14-15; Release No.2, March 1980). The governing consideration in all uses of museum objects will be the preservation of the material in question and the museum collection as a whole.
To fulfill the principal purposes of the park as described in the introduction, the objects in the museum collection will be used for exhibits, research and interpretive programs under the following conditions:

1. All exhibits or displays using museum objects must have security and environmental controls that will ensure the long-term preservation of the objects.

2. Objects will be available for research purposes consistent with the preservation of the collection, under the supervision of an appropriate museum staff person and only upon written request outlining the research purpose. Written policies concerning the use of the collection should be produced by the park with the assistance of the Regional Curator and should be given to researchers. These policies should be strictly followed.

3. Consumptive use of the collections is to be avoided when possible. When items are needed for authentic cultural demonstration and in other situations where consumptive use is justified, the use of replicas of original items or contemporary items made for demonstration purposes is strongly encouraged. These replicas or contemporary items intended for demonstration purposes should be kept separate from the regular collections and control maintained through a separate inventory system.
An exception is the use of environmental monitoring samples. These samples will be consumptively used to extract the information for which they were collected. When these samples are used up, they should be deaccessioned.

4. Some of the museum items, such as paper material and photographs, can be duplicated and the duplicate copies used rather than the originals as a precaution against excess handling of the originals. The duplicate copies when not in use can go in the park library, interpretive files or regular park administration files, not in the museum collection.

In addition to the above uses, objects in the museum collection may be loaned under documented circumstances to other institutions to provide assistance and to increase public benefit through special exhibition or study. Objects will be loaned only to responsible public or private museums, institutions, organizations or agencies. Loans to individuals for private use are not permitted. The following criteria should be used when determining whether or not an object should be loaned to another institution:

1. The nature and physical condition of the object. Objects that are likely to be damaged should not be loaned.

2. Physical environment and security of the planned exhibit area or storage area.
A detailed loan guideline should be written by the park with help from the Regional Curator and be available for distribution to interested institutions. Loans will be made only for a specific time period and purpose. Either return of the object or renewal of the loan must be completed no later than the terminal date of the loan.

Restrictions:

The park should only accept objects for which it can provide accountability, storage, preservation, and protection under conditions that meet the NPS museum standards as described in the NPS Museum Handbook, NPS Management Policies, NPS-28 Cultural Resource Management Guidelines, and NPS-6 Interpretation and Visitor Services Guideline.

Access to the collection storage area and to the park collection will be controlled and regulated through the Superintendent. Anyone using the storage area should be accompanied by the staff person in charge of the museum collection.

No religious or ceremonial objects should be exhibited if they are considered to be sensitive by their cultural group.

Collections from within park boundaries but held by other institutions (e.g., archeological and natural history collections) must be accessioned and cataloged in the NPS system and placed on loan to that institution. For natural history collections this regulation applies only to those specimens collected after April 30, 1984.
Conclusion:

This Scope of Collection Statement should be periodically reviewed and revised to stay supportive of and consistent with the park's mission. Such changes require submission of a revised Scope of Collection Statement for approval by the Regional Director.

The next document needed to provide guidance for the park's curatorial program is a Collection Management Plan. This need should be documented with a project statement in the park's Resource Management Plan.