

Specimen Collection Guidance Takes Time

The NPS Natural History Collections Committee is responsible for writing guidance to the field on interpretation of 36 CFR 2.5 (see NHCC Action Plan, 9/20/85). This is a complex issue at this time, and guidance won't be completed for about a year. In the interim, however, we can do work with park superintendents on a case-by-case basis. This can be brought about by inserting the following paragraph in all work assignments requiring the collection of biological specimens:

"Any collections of biological material from a national park unit resulting from this work assignment shall be subject to the current rules governing collections promulgated by the NPS in conformity with 36 CFR 2.5 and found in the NPS Museum Handbook, Part II, pages 4-12 to 4-14. At the time of this writing, such rules are being interpreted on a case-by-case basis by the park superintendent and will be applied as conditions to granting the park collecting permit. The NPS Natural History Collections Committee is currently preparing guidance on interpreting these rules. The chairman of this committee and the NPS Chief Curator may be consulted in the interim if necessary."

James P. Bennett, Chairman
NPS Natural History Specimens