

**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**



John Muir National Historic Site

Scope of Collection Statement

May 2025

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SCOPE OF COLLECTION STATEMENT

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I. INTRODUCTION

Acquisition of museum objects is governed by the park's ability to manage and preserve materials according to NPS Management Policies, Chapter 5 (2006), the standards for managing museum objects in NPS-28: Cultural Resources Management Guideline (1998); Special Directive 80-1 Guidance for Meeting NPS Preservation and Protection Standards for Museum Collections (1990); and the NPS Museum Handbook I-III. See section IV Acquisitions for more information.

1. Executive Summary

John Muir National Historic Site is comprised of portions of the 2600-acre ranch where John Muir lived, raised a family, farmed, wrote, advocated for environmental conservation, and was buried. Established in 1964 and expanded through subsequent legislation, the park today consists of the 9-acre Strentzel-Muir house estate, the 370-acre open space lands of Mount Wanda, and the Strentzel-Muir family grave site where Muir was buried. *Public Law 88-547* designated the site as "...a public national memorial to John Muir in recognition of his efforts as a conservationist and a crusader of national parks and reservations...".

Highlight notable aspects of the park, collection, or individual items.

Significant portions of the collections include a selection of Muir's family letters, original photographs, Muir-owned ethnographic artifacts, miscellaneous family artifacts, furniture, and either first edition books or books owned by John Muir. In addition to cultural materials, the collection contains natural history specimens. This includes John Muir's historic herbarium collection as well as specimens generated from on-site research projects documenting representative species found in the park.

Where is the collection stored?

The collection is stored onsite. Adjacent to collection storage rooms is the collection office which contains workspace, supply storage, and further collection storage. Thirteen rooms in the historic home are furnished with collection items. Finally, a restored historic carriage and various farming implements are on display in the Carriage Barn.

Through what means does the collection grow?

The museum collection primarily grows through donations of manuscripts and objects to the park by the general public and Muir family relatives. Field collections generated through compliance activities and permitted study have been acquired in the last decade. Park resource management records have also been accessioned into the museum collection in the last fifteen years.

For additional information on the museum collection, please contact: Isabel Ziegler, Supervisory Museum Curator (Custodial Officer) at isabel_ziegler@nps.gov or K. Lynn Berry, Superintendent (Accountable Officer) at k_lynn_berry@nps.gov.

2. Purpose of the Scope of Collection Statement

This [Scope of Collection Statement \(SOCS\)](#) defines the composition of present and future museum collection holdings of John Muir National Historic Site that contribute directly to the understanding and interpretation of the park's purpose, themes, and resources, as well as those objects that the National Park Service (NPS) is legally mandated to preserve. The SOCS is designed to ensure that the entirety of the museum collection is clearly relevant to the site and sets appropriate limits for acquisition. The SOCS is intended to be an evolving document which must be reviewed on a regular basis (minimum 5 years). Updates/changes should be made through interdisciplinary efforts of park and regional subject matter experts ([411.1 DM](#))

[Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collection Management](#) states that NPS units with museum collections must:

- Approve and keep current a Scope of Collection Statement to identify the scope of collecting activities and define the purpose of the collection. (DO 24 4.3.6)
- Ensure that the statement is consistent with natural resource and archeological permit conditions. (4.3.6)
- Ensure acquisitions are consistent with the Scope of Collection Statement. (4.3.6)
- Deaccession objects inconsistent with the Scope of Collection Statement. (4.3.18)

Refer to Appendix D: Uses and Restrictions of Museum Collections for other legislation and NPS legal authorities to acquire and preserve museum collections.

3. Context for John Muir National Historic Site Museum Collection

This section is compiled from NPS and non-NPS histories, reports, and plans, and provides context for museum collection acquisition. It is not intended to be comprehensive. For additional information about sources used, refer to Appendix H: Selected Bibliography.

A. Park Purpose and Significance

Legislative History

(JOMU Foundation Document, 2015)

The John Muir National Historic Site was established under *Public Law 88-547* as an historic site by the John Muir National Historic Site Act of August 31, 1964. Authorized by Congress and signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the law designated the site as "...a public national memorial to John Muir in recognition of his efforts as a conservationist and a crusader of national parks and reservations...". *Public Law 95-625, 92 Stat. 3472*, (17) (Nov. 10, 1978) amended the original legislation to increase the amount of money that could be appropriated for land acquisition and development.

Public Law 100-563, 102 Stat. 2826 (Oct. 31, 1988) expanded John Muir NHS to include the Mt. Wanda and the Muir/Strentzel Gravesite portions of the park within the park boundary. Mount Wanda was officially added on October 30, 2004 by *Public Law 108-385*. In 1991, an

additional area now known as the Strentzel Creek Area (formerly known as Strain Ranch) was purchased, which included a 25-year reservation for 3.8 acres with two residences – this transferred to the NPS in 2016 following the conclusion of the reservation. In 2000, the National Park Service acquired the Gravesite portion of the park from the American Land Conservancy.

On June 22, 2018, *Public Law 115-191* entitled the John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act passed allowing the site to acquire, by donation, 44 acres adjacent to the south boundary of the park. The John Muir Land Trust completed the property transfer in June 2022.

Park Vision Statement

The following statement was developed by the executive management team and staff of John Muir National Historic Site in 2021:

The park is recognized locally, nationally, and internationally as a hub for connections to all aspects of John Muir’s legacy and the conservation movement. The relevance and meaning of John Muir’s life and contributions are shared in new and dynamic ways through key partnerships and innovative programming. The buildings, historic landscape, natural resources, and collections are researched, maintained, restored, and preserved in a sustainable way, enhancing the quality of visitor service and experiences. The museum collection is properly stored, preserved, available for research, and is used to help tell the story of John Muir and the Strentzel-Muir ranch. Youth and volunteer programs promote stewardship while providing support for preservation. Visitation to all parts of the park is encouraged (Home Site, Mt. Wanda, Strentzel Creek, West Hills, and Gravesite), and visitor experience and resource management strategies are in place.

Park Purpose Statement

(JOMU Foundation Document, 2015)

John Muir National Historic Site preserves and protects the home and portions of the Alhambra Valley agricultural estate where John Muir lived, worked, and is buried, to memorialize and connect people with Muir’s global legacy as an influential naturalist, writer, and champion for protecting national parks and wild lands.

Park Significance

(JOMU Foundation Document, 2015)

The following significance statements have been identified for John Muir National Historic Site. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

- The park is the best place to learn about John Muir as a multifaceted individual, family man, and businessman. The support of family and friends, along with the income generated by fruit ranching, allowed him to pursue his passions of research, travel, and advocacy.
- Through his role in founding the Sierra Club, his political leadership, and his influential writings, John Muir’s inspirational vision and advocacy launched an era of environmental activism at home and abroad which continues today.

- John Muir is considered a key founder of the National Park system for his role in establishing and protecting several early national parks and his influential publication, *Our National Parks*.
- Given John Muir's pivotal role in the founding of the National Park system, John Muir National Historic Site is uniquely positioned to explore how societal biases were woven into the system from its very origins in Muir's time and why they continue today.
- John Muir composed many of his most persuasive and important literary works in the "scribble den" of his home.
- John Muir National Historic Site includes the final resting place of John Muir in the Strentzel-Muir family grave site, which as a pilgrimage site served as a catalyst for the designation of the park.

Fundamental Resources and Values
(JOMU Foundation Document, 2015)

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for John Muir National Historic Site:

- *Muir House*. The house, a three-story Italianate Victorian structure built in 1882 by Muir's father-in-law, Dr. John Strentzel, was occupied by John Muir for the last 24 years of his life. Elements of the house illustrate many of his roles, including family man, businessman, conservationist, activist, and individual. The "scribble den" on the second floor, where Muir produced many of his most important writings, contains many original artifacts and is furnished as it was during his time there. The house is the most conspicuous symbol of the elevated social standing that assisted Muir in his efforts to connect with prominent figures.
- *Cultural Landscape*. The cultural landscape at John Muir National Historic Site retains many of the historic and agricultural elements that were present during Muir's time (some preserved, some restored), helping to depict Muir as a multifaceted individual. Human-made and cultivated features such as the Strentzel-Muir house, the family gravesite, orchards and historic roads and trails, together with historic views of the Alhambra Valley and natural features such as the grasslands and woodlands of Mount Wanda, convey a sense of the historic setting and feeling of Alhambra Valley during the late 19th and early 20th century.
- *Mount Wanda*. John Muir deliberately kept Mount Wanda undeveloped to enjoy as a natural sanctuary in an otherwise altered landscape. Today, this protected land allows people to walk in Muir's footsteps as they explore, research, and appreciate the wildness of this area.

- *Strentzel-Muir Gravesite.* The gravesite serves as the final resting place for John Muir, his wife, daughter, and in-laws. The surrounding pear orchards and other historic trees bore witness to the years of pilgrimage by members of the Muir family, the Sierra Club, local historians, and the John Muir Memorial Association, who all fought for and achieved recognition of Muir's legacy through designation of John Muir National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park system.
- *Museum Collections.* John Muir National Historic Site has one of the world's largest museum collections of artifacts, archives, and natural history specimens related to John Muir. The collection is critical in providing a tangible link to Muir's life and work through educational programs, research opportunities, and virtual and onsite/offsite exhibition. The park plays a role in increasing the understanding of Muir's historical and cultural significance, and perpetuating his legacy through cooperation with institutions holding related collections, and others vested in John Muir's legacy.
- *John Muir's Legacy.* John Muir National Historic Site provides many opportunities for the public to connect with and critically examine Muir's life, stories and evolving legacy firsthand. John Muir played a pivotal role in the establishment of the national park system, and as a historic conservationist continues to inspire environmental stewardship and civic engagement today. Along with other founding figures of the National Park Service, Muir belonged to an exclusive echelon of society that benefited from the same social divisions and inequities that have historically shaped the development of the National Park Service. The site's resources and stories enrich our understanding of this multifaceted legacy.

B. History of John Muir National Historic Site and the Museum Collections

John Muir National Historic Site is within the traditional lands of the Karkin Ohlone people.

The property was originally part of the Martinez land grant under the Spanish and Mexican land grant systems. The Martinez ranch encompassed over 17,000 acres and in 1849, Don Vicente Martinez built the Martinez Adobe, which still stands today. Between 1853 and 1874, the ranch was divided into many parcels and the ownership of the Adobe changed hands several times. In 1874, Dr. John Strentzel purchased the Adobe and accompanying property.

John Muir married John Strentzel's daughter, Louie, in 1880. In 1882, construction was completed on the Italianate Victorian house where John Muir lived during the last 24 years of his life, following his father-in-law's death in 1890. Today, the house is surrounded by orchards, vineyards, and the carriage barn, all of which add to the character of the cultural landscape, reflecting the way it looked in Muir's time.

John Muir passed away on December 24, 1914. His daughters sold the property shortly after, having already established their families elsewhere. Between in 1915 and 1955, the house was sold to a series of owners and was primarily left vacant. In the mid-1950s Henry and Faire Saxe purchased the property, concerned that the historic house would be demolished by the planned extension of Alhambra Avenue and State Route 4. The Saxes worked to restore the home and Faire, a trained teacher, conducted outreach and tours of the property.

Also in the 1950s, the John Muir Memorial Association (JMA) was founded to protect the Muir-Strentzel gravesite. Muir family descendants and members of the Sierra Club had begun making pilgrimages and visits to the Muir burial site to pay tribute to Muir as early as the 1930s. Through the work of these groups, and the National Park Service, the Strentzel-Muir house was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1962, was made a National Historic Site in 1964, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. The initial designation of the National Historic Site only included the home site; the gravesite was added in 1988, Mt. Wanda was added in 1991 and West Hills Farm was added in 2023. The boundaries of the National Historic Landmark were expanded in 2023 to include Mt. Wanda and the gravesite, in addition to the house site.

The Martinez Adobe offers a chance to examine the way of life in the valley prior to the Strentzel's settlement. John Muir National Historic Site is a certified site of the Anza National Historic Trail, due to the proximity of the trail and the relative history of the Martinez Adobe. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail commemorates the first successful overland route facilitating the colonization of Alta California with the founding of the Presidio and community of San Francisco in 1776.

The 370-acre Mount Wanda portion of the site provides open space areas for park visitors and preserves a portion of the original Strentzel-Muir ranch. The Mount Wanda lands include historic orchards and are monitored and managed by the park to help maintain and restore natural processes and conditions. The 44-acre West Hills Farm property was originally part of the Swett Ranch, owned by Muir's good friend and neighbor, John Swett, who served as California's first Superintendent of Public Education.

The Strentzel-Muir grave site is located two miles south of the main site and is the resting place of John Muir, his wife Louie, her parents Dr. John Strentzel and Louisiana Strentzel, and Muir's daughter and son-in-law, Wanda and Tom Hanna. The grave site also contains some original orchards and other trees that date back to Muir's time.

Administrative History of the Museum Collection

The museum collection originated in 1966 with nearly 1000 Victorian era household furnishings and belongings donated to the park by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Saxe, the couple who had previously owned and sold the Muir House to the National Park Service in 1964. The Saxes had actively pursued acquiring historic objects following the park's establishment in 1964 with the intent to furnish the home for the public. During the 1960s and 70s the park collected additional Victorian era furnishings from the local community, many of which had no connection to Muir.

Furnishings originally used in the Strentzel-Muir house have survived, but most are owned by Muir's descendants. Most of these original pieces were documented in the initial Strentzel-Muir House Historic Furnishing Report completed in 1971 and revised in 1982. Photographs of existing furnishings are included in this edition of the furnishing report, along with the locations of family pieces, if known. Over the years, Muir's immediate family, descendants, unrelated individuals, and close friends have donated objects directly connected to Muir. A significant early acquisition included John Muir's desk, transferred from Yosemite National Park.

An updated Strentzel-Muir House Historic Furnishing Report was completed in 2005, expanding research related to the historic interior of the house. Recommended updates in the 2005 HFR had not yet been implemented when, beginning in the Spring of 2010, a joint committee composed of members from the Interpretation and Cultural Resources Management divisions initiated a significant update to the interpretation and furnishings of the Strentzel-Muir home.

One of the goals of the house redesign was to make the historic furnishings more accurate to the period of Muir's residence. All furnishings in the park's collection, including pieces that were on display for many years and items in storage, were carefully assessed as to their resemblance to original Muir-owned objects. Furnishings which did not resemble any pieces owned by the Muirs were removed from display and replaced with more accurate pieces. The evaluation for possible deaccession of excess period furniture in storage holding no connection to Muir, was initiated. Deaccessions of period furnishings from outstanding long-term loans with local historic sites were completed. For further information on the 2010 furnishings update, see the 2014 Strentzel-Muir House Update to the 2005 Historic Furnishings Report.

Additionally, the park has a history of theft. John Muir's pocket watch has been stolen twice, along with several period pieces including eyeglasses. There is an ongoing investigation into the culprit and the watch's whereabouts. The 2010 furnishings project also integrated exhibit cases into the rooms to allow for more security for the exhibition of original Muir artifacts.

In addition to cultural materials, the collection contains natural history specimens. This includes John Muir's historic herbarium collection as well as specimens generated from on-site National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring projects documenting representative species found in the park, including plant inventory specimens collected in 2002 and lepidoptera specimens collected in 2003 and 2004.

From the park's establishment in 1964 until 2010, museum collection care and program duties were assigned to a variety of staff positions as collateral duty. The first permanent museum position, Supervisory Museum Curator, was established in 2010. The park now has four full-time museum staff positions (a GS-12 Supervisory Museum Curator, a GS-11 Museum Curator shared with Point Reyes NS, a GS-9 Museum Curator (career seasonal), and a GS-5/7 Museum Technician (career seasonal)) who collectively manage the museum collections at John Muir National Historic Site and three other NPS units in Contra Costa County. As of May 2025, the GS-9 Curator and GS-5/7 Technician position are vacant.

Due to lack of staff time and training prior to the onboarding of the Supervisory Museum Curator in 2010, there are a significant number of legacy issues including missing items, missing paperwork, incomplete records, and long expired loan agreements. Each year during the annual inventory, staff work to correct some of these issues by conducting 100% inventories of accessions, reaching out to loanees, and correcting outdated catalog records.

A Collection Advisory Committee was formed in 2017 and a formal process for evaluation of incoming museum accessions and deaccessions was established. The Scope of Collections Statement was revised in 2015 and again in 2020 to reflect the focus on acquisition of items with

a direct connection to Muir and the Strentzel-Muir House. Recent significant acquisitions to the collection include a large table presented to Muir in Manila during his 1903-1904 world tour.

C. Collection Themes and Categories

Relevant Time Periods

The park has established that the period of significance is the era of Muir's residency in the Muir-Strentzel House (1890 – 1914). This is the primarily period of significance; the Martinez Adobe and gravesite were established prior to Muir's residence, but were not managed by Muir until his father-in-law's death in September 1890.

Interpretive Themes

(JOMU Foundation Document, 2015)

The following interpretive themes have been identified for John Muir National Historic Site:

- *Accomplishments of Early Conservation Movement.* John Muir, a self-educated immigrant from Scotland, became an eloquent, persuasive writer, scientist, and advocate who played a pivotal role in launching the conservation movement in late 19th and early 20th century America.
- *Home and Family Life.* Examining the family and professional aspects of John Muir's home life provides a better understanding of the multifaceted individual behind the legend.
- *Layers of History.* The Strentzel-Muir family's management of the land reflects a brief period of time among the complex layers of human history contained within the continuum of land use in the Alhambra Valley.
- *Muir's Conservation Legacy.* John Muir's life and conservation legacy continue to inspire a diversity of environmental stewardship efforts.
- *National Park System Inclusion.* Inequities of race, class, gender, and ethnicity from Muir's time influenced the composition of the modern conservation movement as well as the development of the national park system; understanding this history and its ramifications is critical in helping the National Park Service to chart a just and egalitarian direction for the future.

D. Special Designations

Site Areas with Special Designations

- John Muir National Historic Site is listed as a California Historical Landmark (Muir House: 312; Martinez Adobe: 511) and is on the National Register of Historic Places (66000083).
- The Muir-Strentzel House was listed as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1962.

The park is currently undertaking work to examine and establish a potential expansion of the boundaries of the NHL. The Martinez Adobe, while not individually listed on the National Register, contributes to the NHL.

- The olive orchard in the West Hills Farm portion of the park was determined eligible for listing in June 2023 and the State Historic Preservation Office concurred.

The park recently conducted a project with contractors PaleoWest to examine the archeological resources of the home site, Mt. Wanda, and West Hills Farm to determine if these resources contribute to National Register eligibility.

II. TYPES OF COLLECTIONS

This section describes the contents, present and future, of the park's cultural collection and natural history collection.

1. Cultural Collection

The purpose of this collection is to increase knowledge and inspiration among present and future generations through exhibits, research, and interpretive programs; support research, resource management, and education; provide baseline data of park cultural resources; document changes these resources are undergoing because of internal park conditions and external effects, and guarantee the protection of information about important objects and resources whose in-situ preservation cannot be assured.

The cultural collection is subdivided into five disciplines: archeology, ethnology, history, art, and archival and manuscript collections. All five cultural collection disciplines are represented in the John Muir National Historic Site museum collection, with the largest portion made up of the archival collections (manuscripts and records), followed by the history collection.

An object from the site or directly associated with person(s) or event(s) commemorated by the park is more desirable than a similar object without such association. Future growth of the collection should be restricted to items related to:

- Interpretive and/or research needs identified in John Muir National Historic Site approved planning documents and resource studies.
- Service-wide initiatives, if applicable.
- Enhancing the understanding of, and promoting increased stewardship of, the park's cultural resources.
- Cultural resources baselines/inventory and monitoring activities.
- Regulatory and compliance activities such as those mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA).

A. Archeology Collection

Archeological resources are any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities which are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. They can reveal scientific or humanistic information through archeological research ([NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline](#)). Material remains are “artifacts, objects, specimens, and other physical evidence that are excavated or removed in connection with efforts to locate, evaluate, document, study, preserve, or recover a prehistoric or historic resource” ([36 CFR 79.4\(a\)\(1\)](#)). Archeologists increasingly use ‘precontact’ instead of ‘prehistoric’.

Legal and ethical [standards](#) provide protection for archeological sites and materials. Artifacts found on the surface by NPS staff and visitors outside of an archeological investigation should be left in place. If archeological materials are collected outside the parameters of an authorized archeological study and brought to park staff, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the visitor or staff member collects no more material, that precise provenience information is recorded, when possible, that park cultural resource staff are notified, and that the objects/data are promptly given to the curatorial staff upon receipt by staff members. The park has developed a standard operating procedure (SOPS), interpretive messages and staff training to prevent unauthorized collection of materials. Violations under the [Archaeological Resources Protection Act \(ARPA\), 1979](#), should be promptly reported to park law enforcement officers and the Regional Archeologist. <[Archeological Resource Damage Assessment](#)>

NPS *Management Policies* (2006, section 5.3.5.1) mandates that archeological resources are managed in situ, unless the removal of artifacts or physical disturbance is justified by research, consultation, preservation, protection, or interpretive requirements. “Data recovery actions will be taken only in the context of planning, consultation, and appropriate decision-making . . . conducted within the scope of an approved research design.” Refer to the Research Design Appendix for a more in-depth discussion of research design development within the context of the permitting process.

The park has a Section 106 working group which conducts all compliance on undertakings. When work will be conducted in an area of known or potential archeological resources, the park assigns a monitor to be present. In fall 2023, geotechnical boring associated with the Adobe Seismic Stabilization project was conducted.

Archeology Collection at John Muir National Historic Site

There are 976 archeological objects in the John Muir National Historic Site museum collection as of FY24. Although situated within the traditional lands of the Karkin Ohlone, no pre-contact archaeological resources have been identified at the site as of 2024. Historical archaeological resources related to the Martinez Adobe and Muir-Strentzel families have been identified and artifacts from these resources are within the museum collection. There are several hundred objects and associated records from two archeological research projects which have yet to be

accessioned into the collection, including materials from the 1993 Adobe Seismic Retrofit project and the 2018-2019 Garden Beds Restoration project.

1. Mandated acquisitions: Archeological collections, except inalienable and communal property (as defined by NAGPRA), recovered from within park boundaries through systematic collection must be retained in the park's museum collection per [NPS Management Policies](#) (2006, section 5.3.5.1). [43 CFR 7.13](#), "Custody of Archeological Resources," requires that archeological resources excavated or removed from public lands remain the property of the United States. Archeological material must be of archeological value and interest, including scientific integrity and replicability.

Collections (artifacts and/or associated records) may result from research or compliance projects, including because of historical research, surveys (phase I), test excavations (phase II), and research or mitigative excavations (phase III). Every archeology project will result in materials for the museum collection; even if artifacts are not collected, project records (both physical and digital) must be accessioned and cataloged into the collection. These records may include field notes and catalogs; daily journals; drawings and maps; spatial data; photographic prints, negatives, and slides; photographic logs; sound recordings; raw data sheets; instrument charts; remote sensing data; collection inventories; analytical study data; conservation treatment records. The supervisory museum curator will work cooperatively with the Project Investigator (archeologist responsible for the project) to make certain that these records are complete and preserved.

2. Should be acquired: The following objects should be acquired:

- a. Confiscated archeological materials and any associated documentation recovered from unauthorized and illegal activities in John Muir National Historic Site in violation of ARPA should be acquired. These materials commonly include archeological materials illegally excavated or obtained through uncontrolled surface collecting or excavation by unauthorized individuals within a NPS unit's boundaries. Such objects might be held temporarily by law enforcement following legal chain of custody protocols as evidence if legal action is to be taken but should be formally turned over to museum staff as soon as possible.

3. May be acquired: Multiple unauthorized field collections have been added to the collection as a result of increased maintenance and ground disturbance around the site. Museum staff continue to educate staff and visitors to leave items in situ. The following objects may be acquired:

- a. Diagnostic or otherwise significant finds (surface or otherwise) not recovered from systematic excavations, but which have provenience data and are uncommon in the collection may be acquired. Diagnostic finds are securely datable based on identification, manufacture, decoration, and/or form. Significant finds must contribute a new or support a nuanced understanding of the usage of the site by its inhabitants.
- b. Collections recovered from within the park before it was created may be considered

on a limited basis depending on legal title, provenience data, condition, objects present, size of collection, associated records, diagnostic status and/or significance.

4. Not to be acquired: The following objects may not be acquired:

- a. Artifacts with no direct provenience within the park
- b. Artifacts which lack associated scientific data and/or of questionable provenance
- c. Potentially hazardous material (see Appendix F: Hazards in Collections)
- d. Native American human remains and inalienable and communal property subject to NAGPRA

B. Ethnology Collection

According to NPS-28, [Cultural Resource Management Guidelines \(Chapter 10\)](#), the ethnology classification is used for resources associated with the cultural systems or ways of life, and the related technology, sites, structures, and natural resources of peoples associated with the park from before the park's establishment. The decision to call resources "ethnographic" depends on whether associated peoples perceive them as traditionally meaningful to their identity as a group and the survival of their lifeways.

There are four ethnographic resource types that have been assigned cultural significance by traditional users which include sites (archeological or historic places), structures (built features), objects (portable materials), and landscapes (areas containing diverse natural and cultural resources). When natural resources acquire meaning according to the different cultural constructs of a particular group, they become ethnographic and thus cultural resources as well. A major goal of ethnographic object collections is to facilitate collaborative relationships between the NPS and the peoples whose customary ways of life affect, and are affected by, park resource management.

The composition of the park's ethnology collection is subject to change as traditionally associated peoples are identified. The Karkin Ohlone are the traditionally associated people of the land the park now inhabits. No site-specific ethnographic resources have been identified, but the park is working to strengthen relationships with associated groups.

The park has never conducted any projects which require ethnographic compliance work. Should any be undertaken, the park will work with the Regional Anthropologist to conduct the appropriate consultation and compliance reviews. There are no ethnology projects planned within the next five years at the park. The park is working to strengthen relationships with traditionally associated peoples beyond legal and policy requirements.

Ethnology Collection at John Muir National Historic Site

There are sixteen (16) ethnology items reported on the FY24 Collections Management Report (CMR) and thirteen (14) items cataloged in the ethnology discipline in the John Muir National Historic Site museum collection. Included are baskets, ceramics, a harpoon, and an atl-atl

collected by Muir during his visits to Arizona and Alaska. The ethnology quantity listed on the FY24 CMR is incorrect. The park also has carved ivory figurines which are cataloged as art objects because the park acquired them due to their Muir connection, not their ethnographic heritage. None of the ethnology materials in the collection are related to the associated tribes of the park.

1. Mandated Acquisitions: There are no legal mandates for the Ethnology collection.

2. Should be acquired: The following materials should be acquired:

- a. Archives and media associated with a site-specific ethnographic study.
- b. Non-original ethnographic resources if they are directly related to John Muir.

3. May be acquired: The following materials may be acquired:

- a. Ethnographic materials with a direct association with the park, such as from an eminent individual from an affiliated Native American tribe, which meet the park's legislative purpose and stated mission may be acquired on a limited basis.
- b. Ethnographic objects owned or used by an individual or cultural group traditionally associated with, and significant to, the park mandate.
- c. Non-original ethnographic resources which may be related to the existing museum collection or attributed to traditionally associated people of the park may be acquired on a very limited basis.

4. Not to be acquired: Ethnographic materials from peoples who do not have direct traditional associations to the park or its mandate.

C. History Collection

History collections reflect the spectrum of materials made and/or used during recorded times by humans residing in what today is the United States and its Territories. They include cultural collections that are neither archeological nor ethnological. These collections document individual or community life; social, cultural, political, economic, and technological trends; and events associated with a park's mission, themes, and history. They also may include art, such as paintings and sculpture, and rare books.

Some history collections reflect activities of well-known individuals, others evidence everyday life and actions of working-class people. Documenting and interpreting historical objects to the public in the context of their original settings enhances the public's understanding. For more in-depth discussion of history collections, see [Museum Handbook II, Appendix G](#).

History Collection at John Muir National Historic Site

As of FY24, there are 5,214 objects in the history collection. The most significant of these items are objects originally owned by John Muir and his family including books, clothing, artwork, furniture, and personal belongings such as binoculars, saddle bells, petrified wood pieces, and homemade gifts. A large portion of the history collection consists of period pieces originally acquired by the Saxes and early park managers to furnish the house. Many of these items were taken off display in the 2010 re-envisioning of the house furnishings. Numerous repairs and the installation of fire detection and suppression systems generated historic fabric samples which were retained in the museum collection.

1. Mandated Acquisitions: There are no legal mandates for the History Collection.

2. Should be acquired: Only historic material with a direct association to the park is to be included in the museum collection. When a large quantity of an object type is available, priority should be given to acquiring the best-preserved examples. The history collection is based on the park's themes used to establish the following collecting categories:

- a. *Objects owned by Muir:* Acquisition of objects owned by John Muir are the top priority of the collection. Objects with a known interaction with Muir, but that might not have been owned by Muir are also included in this section (for example, autographed books).
- b. *Objects owned by the immediate Muir family, Strentzel family, Martinez family or Swett family:* Acquisition of objects owned by John Muir's immediate family and the Strentzel relatives should be collected. Immediate family is defined as one generation above and one generation below John Muir including his siblings. Immediate Strentzel family members include Dr. and Louisiana Strentzel and Louie Muir. If belonging to family members, the materials should demonstrate a strong connection to Muir or be illustrative of familial relationships. Objects relating to the Martinez and Swett families should demonstrate a direct connection to the site.
- c. *Historic building material samples generated from restoration projects:* The National Park Service has retrieved samples of the original Muir-Strentzel House building materials during past restoration projects for use in research. Additional representative samples should be retained from future restoration projects only if they are not duplicative. A copy of documentation from related project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act should be included in the accession files.

Future collections activity in this area will concentrate on the acquisition of outstanding examples of objects currently not represented in the collection, which meet the criteria referenced above and clearly address a resource management or research deficiency noted in park documents.

3. May be acquired: John Muir National Historic Site does not accession period pieces and reproductions into the museum collection. Period pieces and reproductions are managed as non-museum property with the exception of those items that meet the criteria for the Controlled Property List. Period pieces and reproductions that are firearms, incoming loan objects, and objects which meet the monetary value threshold (including park commissioned artwork) will be accessioned into the museum collection. Additionally, the following categories of items may be acquired:

- a. *Ethnographic objects owned by Muir:* John Muir acquired ethnographic materials on his travels and these items are of interest to the park solely for their Muir connection. Ethnographic materials may be acquired by the park only if they were owned by John Muir, have clear provenance, and the materials are not subject to NAGPRA. This section will be amended following formal consultation with relevant Arizona tribes and Alaskan groups.
- b. *Objects owned by extended Muir family or Strentzel family members:* Acquisition of objects owned by John Muir's extended family may be acquired on a limited basis if they demonstrate a strong connect to Muir or are illustrative of familial relationships. Extended family include Muir's grandparents and grandchildren. Extended Strentzel relatives include those buried at the gravesite including Louie's uncle and her deceased siblings. Objects from extended Strentzel relatives who are not buried at the gravesite will not be acquired.
- c. *Building Materials/Architectural Elements:* Field collections of materials which are separated from the historic structure through nature, accidental, or violent action may be collected. No more than three examples of any one material or element may be acquired. Copies of relevant documentation (e.g. Incident Reports) should be included in the accession files.
- d. *Associated Materials:* Associated materials are defined as objects with a strong relation to Muir which were not owned by Muir or his family. Example of objects of this nature include but are not limited to: books signed by Muir, gifts given by Muir to others, Sierra Club publications during Muir's tenure as president, Sierra Club photographs and material featuring Muir, copies of Picturesque California, and/or objects with stories relating to Muir. Acquisition of objects related to Muir should be collected on a limited basis. Maximum collection of a particular title should be three total in the collection.

Note: Rare books retained for their physical properties or associative value may be acquired into the park's museum collection. Books should never be added to the museum collection simply because they are perceived as old, rare, or valuable.

- e. *Commemorative Muiriana:* National or State anniversary or commemorative coins, stamps, documents, special event memorabilia that exhibit interest in Muir's work and life are currently represented in the collection and may be accepted with discretion. Focus should be placed on those items that promote the legacy of John

Muir. The material should be highly demonstrative of Muir's legacy. This category of least importance to the park's collecting practice.

The park has little information about the ranch and domestic workers who lived and worked at the Muir-Strentzel property. Only a handful of photographs, diary entries, and letters give a glimpse of worker's names and their lives. There are no original history objects belonging to the estate staff in the museum collection. Items and archival documents belonging to or documenting a ranch or domestic worker under Muir's tenure (if authenticated) are high priority objects for acquisition and accession.

4. Not to be acquired: Objects without a direct association to the park's resources or in poor condition are not to be acquired. Objects that are inherently unstable or contain potentially hazardous materials are not to be acquired. See Appendix F: Hazards in Collections for more information. Additionally, items within the following categories will not be acquired:

- a. *Interpretive Objects:* Objects used as interpretive props will not be incorporated into the museum collection. This includes historic furnishings, books, period pieces and reproductions (excepting those which meet Controlled Property List eligibility) acquired solely for exhibition, and replicas used during interpretive demonstrations intended to enhance the visitor experience. Period pieces should only be acquired as interpretive props if they meet the recommendations of the Historic Furnishings Report.
- b. *Library Materials:* Library materials are not managed as part of the Park's museum collection. Policy and procedures for library materials are outlined in NPS *Management Policies* (Dec 2000), Chapter 5; DO-28, *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*.
- c. *General Reference Materials or Duplicates:* Donations of non-unique copies or original materials considered more useful for general reference or already well represented in the collection may be transferred to the library reference files or to the Interpretation staff and not accessioned into the collection. This includes duplicates of O'Neill books.

D. Art Collection

Art collections generally consist of paintings, drawings, prints, and sculptures admired and appreciated primarily or solely for aesthetic or intellectual content. Although created primarily for utilitarian or decorative purposes rather than aesthetics, the artistry and skill of many folk artists is now recognized, and folk art is sometimes considered within art collections. Although most artists in parks work independently, the NPS may commission artists to create works of art inspired by a specific park or resource.

Art Collection at John Muir National Historic Site

There are 125 pieces of art in the museum collection at John Muir National Historic Site as of FY24. Significant pieces in the collection include an oil portrait of John Muir by his sister Mary Muir Hand and two engravings of paintings by Albert Bierstadt and Frederic Church owned by Dr. John Strentzel. Additionally, the park has a number of period piece artworks acquired by the Saxes and early park managers for furnishing the house. They are not representative of the artwork owned by Muir and were removed from display in 2010.

1. Mandated acquisitions: There are no legal mandates for the art collection.
2. Should be acquired: Art that is directly associated with the park and/or significant people/events related to the park's enabling legislation should be acquired. Specifically, the artwork should meet the following criteria:
 - a. *Muir-Owned Artworks*: Paintings by William Keith and other artworks owned by Muir should be acquired if offered by the owners. Muir descendants currently hold the Keith paintings.
 - b. *Historic Art Pieces*: Art pieces (paintings, drawings, etchings, and sculpture) either made by Muir or his immediate family members should be acquired. Immediate family is defined as one generation above and one generation below John Muir including his siblings. Immediate Strentzel family members include Dr. and Louisiana Strentzel and Louie Muir. If belonging to family members, the materials should demonstrate a strong connection to Muir or be illustrative of familial relationships. For example, Muir frequently encouraged his sister Mary's artistic development in letters. Reproductions of original artwork should not be cataloged.
3. May be acquired: Artworks which meet at least one of the following collecting criteria may be acquired on a limited basis:
 - a. *Non-Muir Historic Art Pieces*: Art pieces (paintings, drawings, etchings, and sculpture) by artists Muir was known to collect, but are not the exact pieces owned by Muir, may be considered on a limited basis. Items within this category cannot be acquired if only intended for interpretive exhibit or the fame of the artist.
 - b. *Non-Historic Art Pieces*: Art pieces which have a strong connection to collected historic themes may be considered on a limited basis. Contemporary art should be evaluated for acquisition considering quality, rarity, research values, and any relationship to Strentzel, Muir, or Martinez families. Items in this category should illustrate a unique and meaningful facet of the impact of Muir's legacy. Within the art collection, this category is the lowest priority.
 - c. *Commissioned Art Pieces*: Works commissioned by the NPS for specific park purposes, such as exhibitions, illustrations, education, or interpretation may be acquired. Note that contracts commissioning works of art should include language transferring copyright to the NPS.

4. Not to be acquired: Art pieces which are in poor condition or contain inherently unstable or hazardous materials will not be acquired. Additionally, artwork within the following categories are not to be acquired:

- a. Art pieces with undocumented provenance or which lack clear title
- b. “Office art” and reproductions including posters and mass-printed materials
- c. Artwork with no direct association of past ownership, subject, or artist, to the park

E. Archives Collections

For the NPS, the term “archives” or “archival collections” refers to permanently valuable documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people.

From the [Museum Handbook I, CH 1, pg 11](#):

Other than resource management records, Federal records should not be included in the museum collection without specific authorization from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). These records are the original or “record copy” documents created or received in the course of performing the daily work of the NPS. Examples of records that do not belong in the museum collection include audit records, budget materials, central files, contracting files, financial records, law enforcement records, legal records, museum and project administrative records, permits, personnel records, and superintendent’s correspondence files.

As of FY24, there are approximately 254,696 archival documents in the museum collection of John Muir National Historic Site. The archives collections are comprised of manuscript collections which include historic letters, photographs, and ephemera and approximately 77 linear feet of park administrative history and resource management records. Additionally, two archival collections (approximately 80 LF) representing the lifetime research of William and Maymie Kimes into Muir’s life and his writings were recently acquired and processed. The two Kimes collections are stored at Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site.

a. Manuscript Collections at John Muir National Historic Site

The term “manuscripts” commonly refers to single documents or collections of documents created by organizations (“organizational records”), businesses (“corporate archives”), and individuals or families (“personal papers”). In NPS museum collections, manuscript collections are primarily donated by individuals, organizations, or families and may include letters between family members, ledgers from family businesses, and photographs documenting the family’s history.

Manuscript collections, or donated collections, are not “park Federal records” and should always be maintained and cataloged separately from resource management record collections. They are not subject to the Federal Records Act (FRA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), or other laws governing federal records access. Donated collections may be protected by copyright or other restrictions, and the NPS may hold copyrights for donated materials.

Significant manuscript collections include: the William and Maymie Kimes Collection (59 LF) and the Supplemental Kimes Collection (21 LF). Additionally, the park has manuscripts and non-record documents such as sheet music, letters, photographs, ephemera, scrapbooks, and publications originally belonging to or related to the Muir family. Although paper-based and historic, these documents are not specifically managed as archival collections and are generally cataloged individually.

1. Mandated Acquisitions: There are no legal mandates for manuscript collections.
2. Should be acquired: Manuscript materials and collections which fall into the following collecting categories should be acquired:
 - a. *Photographic materials associated with the Strentzel and Muir during their residence*: Any authenticated original historic photographs of Muir and the estate during the period of significance should be acquired. The following subjects are high priority for the park: Muir family photographs; historical photos of the site and workers; houses the Muir family occupied; images of the Martinez family or Adobe; images of family gatherings and Sierra Club ‘pilgrimages’ to the Muir gravesite; and images of the Swett family relevant to their relationship with the Muir family and the West Hills Farm portion of the property.

Note: Copy negatives and prints were accessioned into the collection as part of the Administrative History Collection. They are copyrighted by the Muir-Hanna Trust and maintained at the Holt-Atherton Special Collections on the campus of University of the Pacific (UOP) in Stockton, California. Use of these images requires written permission of UOP. For other images, copyright ownership should be clarified and transferred to the park when possible. Images taken during the period of significance are generally considered to be within the public domain.

- b. *Original Manuscripts*: Acquisition of original manuscripts, letters, notes, legal documents, ephemera, and business papers written to or from John Muir and his immediate family should be acquired. Immediate family is defined as one generation above and one generation below John Muir, including his siblings.
 - c. *Oral Histories*: Audio and video recordings of Muir family members and people who remember Muir should be acquired. Recorded accounts by individuals documenting the original appearance of the Muir House and grounds and/or preservation efforts of the Muir House and grounds should also be acquired. Reformatting of the media will be undertaken as needed to preserve access to the content of the original format. When the original format is not available, transcripts, copies and digital files will be accepted. Oral histories with a corresponding participant release form are preferred,

but those without a release form may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The park has little information about the ranch and domestic workers who lived and worked at the Muir-Strentzel property. Only a handful of photographs, diary entries, and letters give a glimpse of worker's names and their lives. Items and archival materials belonging to or documenting a ranch or domestic worker under Muir's tenure (if authenticated) are high priority objects.

3. May be acquired: Manuscript collections may be acquired if they fall within the following collecting categories:

- a. *Site History Documentation:* Original historic documents describing the history and use of the property before and after Muir's tenure may be acquired.
- b. *Staff Oral Histories:* Audio and video recordings of oral histories of park partners, scholars, and former/current NPS staff may be acquired on a case-by-case basis. Recorded accounts by individuals documenting the original appearance of the Muir House and grounds and/or preservation efforts of the Muir House and grounds may be accessioned. Reformatting of the media will be undertaken as needed to preserve access to the content of the original format. When the original format is not available, transcripts, copies and digital files will be accepted. Oral histories with a corresponding participant release form are preferred, but those without a release form may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- c. *Newspaper clippings:* Newspaper clippings from local, national, or international papers with articles related to John Muir's life or the administrative history of the park may be acquired on a limited basis. The articles should be rare and contain information not already preserved in the park's museum collections. See Section II.1.E.a.4.b for information on types of newspapers which are not to be acquired.
- d. *Scholarly collections:* Primary and secondary source materials and papers collected through research and/or book writing by scholars and researchers may be acquired. Collections must relate to the legacy of Muir, park significance and/or themes. For example, the William and Maymie Kimes Collection contains primary and secondary sources, articles, speeches, personal notes, other ephemera, and books by and about Muir collected by the Kimes during their lifetime.

4. Not to be acquired: The park will not acquire archival materials which are not relevant to the park's collecting themes, duplicates, or materials in poor condition. Manuscript materials within the following categories are also not to be acquired:

- a. *Contemporary Photographs*
 - i. General "family vacation" images from members of the public
 - ii. Employee personal photos unrelated to major park events or projects

- iii. Digital copies of analog photos or documents already in the collection created for access and use will not be added to the museum archives.
- b. *Newspaper Clippings*: Newspapers which contain information already in the collection or which are digitized and easily searchable online will not be acquired. This includes historic newspaper articles generally about John Muir and contemporary articles about the park.

b. Resource Management Records in the Archival Collections at John Muir National Historic Site

Resource Management Records (RMR) document the management of natural and cultural resources, and park lands which must be [preserved in perpetuity](#). Using professional discretion, knowledge of park resource management, and working with an NPS archivist (park, regional office, WASO), determine how they support the management of the resources, and if they are active records.

Associated records are Resource Management Records that document and provide context for museum objects, specimens, and samples. Some associated records are specifically mandated by laws and regulations that govern how we manage archeological, biological, and paleontological collections.

For archeology: [Archaeological Resources Protection Act](#) (ARPA), specific reference to retention of associated records found here: [US Code Title 16, 470cc](#). And [36 CFR 79](#) which are regulations associated with undertakings associated with the Antiquities Act, Reservoir Salvage Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and ARPA.

For biology: [Management Policies 2006 \(nps.gov\)](#) and [36 CFR 2.5](#)

For paleontology: [16 USC 470aaa-1: Management \(house.gov\)](#)

Resource Management Records (RMR) are federal records subject to the Federal Records Act (FRA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), or other laws governing federal records access. Although records created by government employees are in the public domain, records within the park archives created by others may be subject to copyright or other legal restrictions. A compelling reason would be needed to accept copyrighted formats.

The park has approximately 77 linear feet of park records accessioned into the museum collection. The records collections include the John Muir National Historic Site Administrative History and Resource Management Records. The last records survey was completed in 2009.

1. Mandated Collections: Records associated with collections made through permitted collections and activities associated with the Archeological Resources Protection Act (1979), the Paleontology Resources Preservation Act (2009), and the permitted collection of scientific specimens are mandated by laws to be retained.

2. Should be Acquired: Resource management and lands records should be acquired regardless of format including, but not limited to research permit deliverables, inactive records in park natural or cultural resources program offices, records related to park land ownership, easements, or minerals management, and data and other project records from specific park resource management projects that may not be issued permits. Additionally, photographs which meet the following criteria should be acquired:

- a. *Photographic materials documenting the administrative history of John Muir National Historic Site:* Photographs which trace the development of the site through its subsequent private ownership and restoration by the National Park Service should be acquired. The park will continue to document the restoration and evolution of the site through digital photography.

3. May be Acquired: The *NPS Service-wide Record Schedule (SRS)* and the *NPS Records and Electronic Information Management (REIM Guide)* identify additional records that have enduring value to both the NPS and NARA. These records are not RMR or archives, but a very small set of park records related to protection and safety, wildfire management, park facilities management. Documents which describe events or programs significant to the development or administration of the park may also be considered for retention and acquisition.

The park will work with PWR Records Management to identify federal records which have not yet been surveyed. The park's CAC will review these records and determine if any of the record types have enduring value to the park, but are not currently listed in the "May be Acquired" section. The records identified by the CAC and those that fall within the current categories listed in the "May be Acquired" section will be retained in the park's museum collection. Records that do not fall within the "Should be Acquired" or "May be Acquired" sections will be sent to NARA/Federal Records Center under the pending 2024 NPS-NARA exception request. Following the survey and CAC review, the SOCS will be updated to reflect these records assessments.

4. Not to be Acquired: Materials within the following categories are not to be acquired:

- a. Museum records including but not limited to accession book and files, catalog records and folders, annual inventories, loan documentation, images of objects and specimens, and object conservation condition and treatment reports.

2. Natural History Collection

The purpose of the John Muir National Historic Site natural history collection is to support scientific research, resource management and education; provide baseline data of the park's natural resources; document changes these resources are undergoing because of internal park conditions and external effects; preserve important or locally significant species collected in response to specific research needs; and guarantee the protection of important paleontological specimens.

Future growth of the collection is restricted to specimens and associated records generated through authorized, systematic scholarly research and selective acquisition based on:

- Needs identified in John Muir National Historic Site's enabling legislation or presidential declaration, approved planning documents and resource studies.
- Service-wide initiatives.
- Enhancing the understanding of, and promoting increased stewardship of, the park's natural resources.
- Natural resource baselines, inventorying, and monitoring activities.
- Regulatory and compliance activities such as those mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970.

All collecting activities must be in compliance with [36 CFR 2.5](#), [the Research Permitting and Reporting System \(RPRS\)](#), NPS Management Policies (2006, section 4.2.3), *Director's Order #77: Natural Resource Protection* (under development), and *NPS Natural Resources Management Guideline* (1991). See Appendix G: Research Collections and Permits for more information.

Uncontrolled surface collecting by visitors or park staff is illegal according to the *Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Volume I* (36 CFR 2.1). Specimens found on the surface should not be removed from their original location by the finder; they should be reported to park staff delegated with museum collection responsibilities. If materials are turned in to the park, standard NPS policies and procedures must be followed to ensure that the finder collects no more material, the precise provenience information is recorded, if possible, and the subject specimens and data are delivered promptly to the park. Unless the items are determined to be significant by a subject-matter expert in the respective discipline (biology, geology, or paleontology), they should not be cataloged into the park's museum collection.

John Muir National Historic Site acquires natural history collections through internal NPS projects and outside permitted research projects conducted by researchers within park boundaries. Collections associated with research permits are accessioned and cataloged. The park has an SOP for the permit approval process which includes review by the Supervisory Museum Curator. NPS projects conducted without a research permit are subject to the same laws and policies as those with a permit.

Acquisitions and future growth of John Muir National Historic Site's natural history collection are initiated by park staff or outside researchers and will be restricted to specimens and associated records divided into three disciplines: biology, geology, and paleontology.

Brief Description of the Park's Natural Resources

(Summarized from the JOMU Natural Resources Condition Assessment, 2014 and JOMU Orchard Management Plan, 2006)

Geography

John Muir National Historic Site is part of the East Bay Hills-Mount Diablo ecological subregion (Subsection 261Ac) of the Central California Coast, consisting of the Diablo Range and steep hills west of Mount Diablo (Miles and Goudey, 1997). This section is comprised of hills and valleys in the southern Coast Ranges of California. In this subsection, the marine influence is moderate. The hills tend northwest with rounded ridges, steep sides and narrow canyons. Hillslopes yield rapid runoff which decelerates in alluvial fans, generally in the lower reaches of drainages. With the exception of the larger streams, creeks are typically dry through the last half of the summer, and natural standing bodies of water are not common (Miles and Goudey, 1997).

The entire park lies within the Alhambra Creek Watershed. The Strentzel Watershed, which drains into Alhambra Creek just south of park boundaries, is located partially within the Mount Wanda parcel of JOMU, and the rest is located on private property west of the park (Alhambra Creek Watershed Planning Group 2001).

Geology

The bedrock geology is composed of marine and near-shore sediments. Older siltstones and mudstones from the Great Valley Sequence overlie younger Tertiary sandstones, indicating that the strata have been overturned. The Southampton Fault, a small tectonic feature, strikes across the southwest flank of Mount Wanda and through the steep canyon that drains into Franklin Creek (Dibblee 1980). This fault connects to a series of fault splays of the active Calaveras Fault to the south.

The lowermost formation on Mount Wanda is called the Martinez Formation by Dibblee (1980), and the Lower Vine Hill Formation by Graymer et al. (1994). This rock type, either described as glauconite sandstone or claystone-siltstone-sandstone, has ample fossils of shells and other seafloor creatures, and is of Paleocene age (~ 55 to 65 million years ago (Mya)). The older overlying rocks are of Cretaceous age (~ 65-150Mya) and were formed when the entire Central Valley area was a shallow inland sea that rapidly filled with sediments from the ancestral Klamath Mountains and Sierra Nevada.

Flora

In 1992, at least 260 species of vascular plants were found on Mount Wanda (Hunter et al. 1993). In 2002, another survey found similar results, with over 290 species on Mount Wanda identified and over 220 plant species found at the Home site. Many of the species found at the Home Site

are cultivated plants that are contributing features of the cultural landscape. 94 species were documented at the John Muir Gravesite (Jepsen and Murdock 2002).

In 2004, a vegetation map of Mount Wanda was completed. Four dominant vegetation community alliances can be found on Mt Wanda: Wild Oats Grassland (28%), Blue Oak Woodland (26%), Coast Live Oak Forest (20%), and California Laurel Forest (14%). Vegetation also consists of Valley Oak Woodland, Buckeye Woodland and Chamise Shrubland. A very small percentage of the vegetation is made up of native grasslands (1.13%) (O'Neill and Egan 2005).

Considered part of the cultural landscape, the park has several historic trees and orchards including: a Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) planted by John Muir; olive orchards on Mount Wanda; and quince, pecan, pear, and olive trees. Numerous other fruit trees are located at the site, but they are considered non-contributing to the historic integrity of the property.

Fauna

Vertebrates

Fauna at JOMU are typical of the San Francisco Bay Area wildland–urban interfaces. Bob cat and mountain lion sightings have been reported in the East Bay Hills, and they likely occur occasionally in and around Mount Wanda. Other mid-sized to large vertebrate species include mule deer, coyote, striped skunk, raccoon, and gray fox (Fellers 2001). Introduced squirrels and feral cats are also present. A 2001 bird inventory and annual bird counts have collectively documented 140 bird species in the park, which is consistent with the local avian diversity.

The only coordinated land vertebrate survey was conducted at JOMU in 2003 and 2004, though it was a preliminary inventory. A bat inventory was also conducted in 2002 and 2003. As of 2014, 26 mammal species (including 9 bat species), 5 reptile species, and 5 amphibian species have been documented in the park. Since past surveys were conducted under limited time frame and scope, and were approached as preliminary inventories, it is probable that more species occur in the park.

The park lies within the designated critical habitat of the Alameda whipsnake (*Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus*) and the species has been identified within the park. This subspecies of the California whipsnake (also named the striped racer) is currently listed as Threatened, both federally and within the state of California (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2005). Annual monitoring efforts since 2018 have been conducted to further study the Mt. Wanda population.

Invertebrates

The small undeveloped area of Mount Wanda is adequate to support a relatively diverse array of invertebrate populations. As of 2014, Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), Apoidea (bees and wasps), and Formicidae (ants) have been inventoried, but no other invertebrate groups. The bee survey conducted in 2002–2003 found 70 species of bees, representing 26 genera – relatively high diversity given the small area of the park (Griswold et al. 2003).

Since 2003, butterflies have been inventoried annually on Mount Wanda. From inventories conducted in 2003 and 2004, at least 35 species of butterflies and 147 species of moths were identified with a high degree of certainty. The presence of five species of swallowtail butterflies during one walk in 2003 is noteworthy for such a small area. The number of butterfly species identified seems low. However, given the Lepidoptera diversity present in Contra Costa County and the limited timing of trapping and resources available during the survey, it is suspected that more species are likely to occur at JOMU (O'Neil and Johnson 2006).

A. Biology Collection

Museum collections serve as the verifiable and reproducible evidence of a scientific study. Therefore, their collection and long-term preservation is a crucial aspect of ensuring scientific integrity.

Biological resources are plants and animals which live within, migrate through, or otherwise make use of a park. These include all species belonging to all five of the commonly recognized kingdoms of living things, such as flowering plants, ferns, mosses, lichens, algae, bacteria, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, insects, worms, crustaceans, and microscopic plants and animals. These biological resources can be either native or exotic.

Biological collections include specimens (or parts thereof) from plants and animals and their associated records. Copies of records created during biological research are retained, at the discretion of the park, as part of the museum collection, regardless of specimen collection. Specimens not destroyed or consumed in analysis may become part of the park's museum collection as determined during the permitting process. The NPS has an ongoing program to inventory and monitor living resources in the park that generates many specimens for the museum collections. Over time, NPS biological collections can help document changes in the park environment and changes in species, thus helping to inform park planning, natural resource management, cultural landscape management, and interpretive programs.

Examples of biological collections may include:

- Wet-preserved or taxidermied specimens
- Animal skins, skeletal material, and shell material
- DNA samples including blood and tissue
- Pinned specimens, including invertebrates
- Pressed plants and tree cores
- Casts of animal tracks, raptor pellets, and other bi-products
- Specimens or other collected material that results in derivatives that may be patentable or otherwise protected under the intellectual property (IP) laws.

Biological Resources at John Muir National Historic Site

John Muir National Historic Site has diverse biological resources and much remains to be learned about lesser studied taxa and habitats within the park, as well as impacts of anthropogenic and natural processes. As of FY24, there are no known Threatened and Endangered species represented in the museum collection, though park staff are actively monitoring the Alameda whipsnake population within the park. During fieldwork in FY24, the accidental death of an endangered Alameda whipsnake occurred and the specimen was transferred to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC Berkeley per the conditions of the park's USFWS permit for handling endangered species. This specimen will be accessioned and cataloged into the park's museum collection.

There are 3,440 biology specimens in the museum collection of John Muir National Historic Site as of FY2024. 1,083 of the specimens are historic herbarium samples gathered by Muir throughout his lifetime in North America and Africa. The remaining specimens are herbarium specimens and pinned lepidoptera, bee, and ant specimens collected through Inventory and Monitoring projects from 2002 to 2004 and in 2012.

1. Mandated acquisitions: Specimens and samples obtained for preservation during inventory, monitoring, research, and study projects, together with associated records, must be acquired. Collecting of specimens will be associated with needs identified in the Resource Management Plan/Resource Stewardship Strategy or approved I&M plans, or as needed to voucher research projects. All approved study plans will limit collected specimens to what has been determined as a sufficient number of examples. Threatened and endangered (T&E) specimens should not be added unless (1) accidental death occurs or (2) if researchers comply with all legal restrictions regarding protected species, including all Federal, State, and other permitting requirements for all proposed collections.
2. Should be acquired: The San Francisco Bay Area Network I&M program routinely monitors water quality in Strentzel Creek and several invasive species and weeds growing on Mt. Wanda. Additionally, the park has identified two areas of current and future research (listed below) which are significant for baseline inventories. Projects with these research goals are high priorities park resource managers. This section will be updated as new areas of research are identified.
 - a. *Fire ecology*. Specimens, data, and associated records regarding generated by research projects of the fire ecology of the urban-wildland interface spaces within the park should be acquired.
 - b. *Oak Succession and Sudden Oak Death*. Specimens, data, and associated records related to the park's efforts to identify, monitor, and prevent Sudden Oak Death should be acquired.
3. May be acquired: Taxidermy specimens with strong provenance to the park (particularly extirpated species) may be acquired. Such specimens should be evaluated based on provenance, condition, and rarity. Specimens prepared prior to the 1990s may be

contaminated with arsenic or heavy metals (see Appendix F: Hazards in Collections). There are no other biological collections which may be acquired by the park.

4. Not to be acquired: Any biological specimens which meet one or more of the following criteria are not to be acquired:

- a. Biological specimens collected outside the park's boundaries.
- b. Scientific specimens lacking provenience documentation, lacking scientific value, in poor condition, or which were not prepared to professional standards. This includes animals killed by vehicular traffic in the park as the park does not have a freezer dedicated for their preservation.
- c. Specimens specifically collected as a type or reference collection, e.g., for fire management programs that are used in the field, heavily used, etc., are not to be collected.
- d. Living specimens are not to be acquired for the museum collection. Nor is ICMS or its successor to be used to inventory or document living collections.

B. Geology Collections

NPS *Management Policies* (2006, section 4.8) describes geologic resources as both geologic features and processes. "Geologic processes" are the natural physical and chemical forces acting with natural systems and human developments across a broad spectrum of space and time. Examples include: exfoliation, erosion, sedimentation, glaciation, karst processes, shoreline processes, and seismic and volcanic activity. "Geologic features" are the products and physical components of geologic processes. NPS *Management Policies* ([2006, section 4.8](#)) requires the NPS to preserve and protect geologic resources and geologic features as integral components of park natural systems.

As described in the NPS [Museum Handbook, Part II \(2012\)](#), geological collections inform park planning and development, natural and cultural resources management, and interpretation.

Geological Resources at John Muir National Historic Site

According to the park's FY24 Collections Management Report, there are no geology specimens in the museum collection of John Muir National Historic Site. However, there are three (3) pieces of Cathedral Peak granite on loan from Yosemite National Park for adding to the furnishings of the historic house. They are miscataloged as history items and do not have any associated data. There are no geological specimens collected from within park boundaries and the park does not anticipate acquiring additional specimens in the next five years.

1. Mandated acquisitions: Specimens and samples obtained for preservation during inventory, monitoring, research, and study projects, together with associated records. Remainder samples and specimens not wholly destroyed during analyses that retain scientific value and potential for further testing remain Federal property and must be returned to the park.
2. Should be acquired: There are no geological Inventory and Monitoring Program projects or site-specific protocols at the park. Specimens in the following categories should be acquired:
 - a. *Historic Specimens*: Geological items that were collected by, given to, and/or owned by Muir and that were displayed in the house during his occupancy. These specimens need not have been collected within the park boundaries because they are of interest due to their historic connection, not their scientific value. Possible items include granite pieces from Yosemite and quartz collected in Arizona.
3. May be acquired: There are no geological collections which may be acquired by the park.
4. Not to be acquired: Any geological specimens and associated records including:
 - a. Specimens and samples from outside the park's boundaries, excepting those specimens owned by John Muir.
 - b. Specimens and samples lacking provenience documentation or generated through rock hounding (amateur collecting of specimens) which is prohibited in most national parks by 36 CFR 2.1(a)

C. Paleontology Collections

The [Paleontological Resources Preservation Act \(Public Law 111-011\) \(PRPA\)](#) defines a paleontological resource as “any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth, except that the term does not include— (A) any materials associated with an archaeological resource (as defined in section 3(1) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470bb(1)); or (B) any cultural item (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)).” (NAGPRA) The law requires that both the paleontological resource and copies of associated records be preserved for the public in an approved repository, to be made available for scientific research and public education.

PRPA requires that paleontological resources collected on federal land remain the property of the United States and that the paleontological resource and copies of associated records will be preserved for the public and made available for scientific research and public education. The law requires curation of these resources, stating “Any paleontological resource, and any data and records associated with the resource, collected under a permit, shall be deposited in an approved repository.”

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, but rather promptly reported to park staff. If visitors or staff collect a fossil illegally, the object and location data should be promptly given to the museum curator upon receipt by staff members.

Identify if molds, casts, and other reproductions such as 3D scans or prints, exist. See [NPS Museum Handbook, Appendix N](#) for more information about evaluating the accession of reproductions. Reproductions, such as casts or molds of a previously collected specimen, may be acquired if they are the only remaining evidence of the original specimen, a portion of a fossil that is now missing due to consumption by destructive analysis, or serve as a record of steps in the preparation process wherein they act to preserve taphonomic information or other important data which has been destroyed by the preparation process. 3D digital files should be preserved as like digital photographs within an archive or other appropriate digital repository.

Paleontology Resources at John Muir National Historic Site

According to the FY24 Collections Management Report, there are no paleontological specimens in the museum collection of John Muir National Historic Site. However, there are nineteen (19) pieces of petrified wood and one (1) fossilized mammoth tusk which are incorrectly cataloged as history items because they were acquired due to a connection with Muir or for furnishing purposes. Sixteen of the petrified wood pieces lack associated data and were transferred to the park from Petrified Forest National Park for use in furnishing the historic home. Two pieces were field collections found within the home and the last pieces was donated to the park by a descendant of someone who removed it from the Muir house in 1918 (4 years after John Muir's death). The mammoth tusk fossil is believed to have been collected by Muir during a trip to Alaska. These items were included in a national report of paleontological resources within park collections published in 2020.

No in situ paleontological resources have been identified within the park. There are no specimens collected within the park boundaries in the museum collection and the park does not anticipate acquiring any in the next five years.

1. Mandated acquisitions: Fossil plant, vertebrate, invertebrate, or trace specimens and associated records generated through systematic surveys or excavations undertaken within the park boundaries; [high fidelity casts](#) made from the molds of trace or body fossils left in situ; and scientifically significant paleontological resources, together with their associated records. Remainder samples and specimens not wholly destroyed during analyses that retain scientific value and potential for further testing must be acquired into the museum collection.

2. Should be acquired: Specimens which meet the following categories should be acquired:

- a. *Historic Specimens:* Paleontological specimens collected by, given to, and/or owned by John Muir should be acquired. Preference will be given to specimens with a strong provenance and/or that were displayed in the house during his occupancy.

Note: Park service policy restricts the purchase of fossils with particular concern for associated data, legal removal, legal ownership, specimen preparation, and preservation in public collections. See NPS 2006 MP 4.8.2.1 for details.

3. May be acquired: Materials which meet the following criteria may be acquired on a limited basis, though the park has not identified any paleontological resources within the park's borders:

- a. Confiscated paleontological materials recovered from unauthorized and illegal activities in John Muir National Historic Site in violation of PRPA may be acquired. When such collections are encountered, law enforcement and museum staff should be consulted as soon as possible to ensure proper accountability, handling, and transportation of these materials. Such objects might be held temporarily by law enforcement following legal chain of custody protocols as evidence if legal action is to be taken but should be formally turned over to the museum staff person as soon as possible if the items are to be acquired.
- b. Specimens collected before the park was established and specimens collected in the park illegally that are returned to the park should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, considering factors such as legal title, association with historical figures, importance, or rarity of the specimen, condition, available provenience and associated geologic data.
- c. Reproductions, such as casts or molds of a previously collected specimen, may be acquired if they are the only remaining evidence of the original specimen. See [NPS Museum Handbook, Appendix N](#) for more information about evaluating the accession of reproductions.

4. Not to be acquired: Any paleontological specimens or associated records including:

- a. Fossils from outside the park's boundaries except those owned by John Muir and purchased fossils which meet all criteria established in NPS 2006 MP 4.8.2.1
- b. Fossils lacking provenience documentation

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

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 USC 3001-13) and implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 10), requires Federal agencies and institutions that receive Federal funding (including museums, universities, state agencies, and local governments) to protect and repatriate Native American human remains and cultural items to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. Items in the possession or control of the NPS identified as subject to NAGPRA must be addressed in accordance with 43 CFR 10. The regulations require:

- Consultation with deference given to the Native American traditional knowledge of lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations;
- Address disposition of any newly discovered Native American human remains or cultural items removed from federal lands and any Native American human remains and cultural items in NPS possession or control removed from federal lands after the enactment of NAGPRA on November 16, 1990 in accordance with 43 CFR 10.7;
- Identification of all Native American human remains and cultural items in NPS possession or control removed from federal lands prior to the enactment of NAGPRA;
- Development of NAGPRA inventories or summaries in compliance with 43 CFR 10.9 and 10.10 to facilitate consultation and eventual repatriation of Native American human remains and cultural items removed from federal lands prior to the enactment of NAGPRA.

NPS policy and guidance for NAGPRA compliance can be found on the [NPS NAGPRA Guidance](#) SharePoint where more detailed information is available to address the following:

- Duty of Care (43 CFR 10.1(d)) which requires the NPS to care for, safeguard, and preserve human remains and cultural items in its custody, possession, or control;
- Steps to complete disposition of human remains and cultural items removed from federal lands after the enactment of NAGPRA (43 CFR 10.4 through 10.7);
- Steps to complete summaries and repatriation of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony removed from federal lands prior to the enactment of NAGPRA (43 CFR 10.9);
- Steps to complete inventories and repatriation of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects removed from federal lands prior to the enactment of NAGPRA (43 CFR 10.10);
- Consultation with lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations;
- Determining cultural affiliation (43 CFR 10.3);
- Developing and publishing a Notice of Intended Disposition (NID) - 43 CFR 10.7(c)(2), a Notice of Intended Repatriation (NIR) - 43 CFR 10.9(f), and a Notice of Inventory Completion (NIC) - 43 CFR 10.10(e);
- Evaluating requests for repatriation (43 CFR 10.9(d) and 10.10(f)) or claims for disposition (43 CFR 10.7(c)(3)) of human remains and cultural item; and Developing and maintaining a record of consultation.

There are no known objects subject to NAGPRA at JOMU. Evaluations of the park's ethnology collections are limited to identifications established by University of California, Berkeley staff in the 1970s. The park intends to enter into formal consultation with relevant groups from Arizona and Alaska to determine if any materials are sacred or items of cultural patrimony.

Any newly discovered human remains and/or NAGPRA cultural items removed from park lands **should not be accessioned** into the museum collection. Rather, disposition should be addressed through compliance with sections 10.4 through 10.7 of 43 CFR 10 in accordance with the mandated timelines found in 43 CFR 10.

IV. ACQUISITIONS

1. Acquisition Criteria

Acquisition of museum objects is governed by the park's ability to manage and preserve materials according to *NPS Management Policies, Chapter 5* (2006), the standards for managing museum objects in *NPS-28: Cultural Resources Management Guideline* (1998); *the NPS Checklist for Preservation and Protection of Museum Collections (Checklist)*; and the *NPS Museum Handbook I-III*.

John Muir National Historic Site continues to acquire objects that relate to the site through donation, purchase, exchange, transfer, field collection, and loan. Museum objects must be acquired, accessioned, and cataloged in accordance with the *NPS Museum Handbook, Part II* (2000).

In accordance with NPS policy and general museum practice, only unrestricted gifts should be accepted. Only the regional director can allow an exception to this rule. Gifts or bequests must be free of restrictions as to their use and future disposition. However, museum collections are subject to legal restrictions, such as privacy laws and classified data. Refer to the MH-III, Chapter 2: Legal Issues, for information on use and access restrictions.

Firearms and ammunition, acquired for museum exhibits and research purposes, are not intended for use as operational firearms. The NPS standards for managing, use, and disposal of museum objects are outlined in the *NPS Museum Handbook Parts I and II*, and *NPS-28, Cultural Resources Management Guideline*, as well as the *Draft Appendix X: Museum Firearms, Small Arms Ammunition, Artillery, And Munitions (still under review)*.

2. Roles and Responsibilities for Accessioning and Deaccessioning

Accountable Officer

The Park's Superintendent, by delegation, represents the Director of the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior in accepting title to and responsibility for all museum objects. The Superintendent bears the ultimate responsibility for the acquisition, proper care, and management of the unit's museum collection. The Superintendent has delegated the day-to-day care of the collection to the custodial officer for museum collections. This designation must be made in writing.

All permanent acquisitions must receive formal approval from the Park's Superintendent before they can be accepted into the museum collection. Before physical receipt of the acquisition, all paperwork, including the Deed of Gift, must be signed by both the park and the donor. Upon receipt, all newly acquired objects and related documentation must be turned over to the Receiving Officer. The Curator, or Custodial Officer, prepares, for the Superintendent's signature, all instruments of conveyance, and letters of thanks, acceptance, or rejection, and transmits them as appropriate to the donor, lender, vendor, or other sources of acquisition.

The Superintendent, as the accountable officer, also must approve all incoming loans, which are considered temporary acquisitions, and is the final signatory for all loan documentation.

Custodial Officer

The custodial officer is directly accountable and responsible for the physical care and documentation of the museum collection. The custodial officer, usually the curator or other museum staff (including collateral duty), provides oversight of the museum collection, as delegated by the Accountable Officer. In the absence of those positions, it may be assigned as a collateral duty to an employee in a different job series.

Designated Receiving Officer

The Superintendent appoints, in writing, the Receiving Officer for the museum collection.

The Receiving Officer is responsible for documenting the receipt of museum collections. The Receiving Officer can be one of the museum staff or a staff member from another program/division.

The Receiving Officer signs the Accession Receiving Report (Form 10-95), the Receipt for Property (DI-105), and any other receipts for museum property. The Custodial Officer cannot serve as the Receiving Officer, nor can the Superintendent.

Collections Advisory Committee

The Collections Advisory Committee (CAC) reviews the appropriateness of the proposed accession or deaccession and its disposition.

Since 2017, all parks are required to establish a CAC. A CAC is required to review all proposed new accessions other than scientifically generated archeological and natural history field collections and their associated records from NPS-administered land. The CAC should also review any miscellaneous items “found in collection.” See *Museum Handbook*, Part II, Chapter 2 for types of accessions and their definitions.

Park-specific CACs shall be established based on the guidelines for deaccessioning committees in the [Museum Handbook, Part II, Chapter 6](#) and [Appendix B](#). The CAC must include at least one member at the GS-1015-11 grade or higher, must include at least three members, and must make recommendations in writing.

V. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Acquisition and deaccession decisions are guided by NPS *Museum Handbook* mandates, strategic collecting directions outlined in this SOCS, and the following management actions:

- As stated in the [Museum Handbook I, chapter 2, section J: Writing the Management Actions section](#), SOCS will be reviewed and updated at least every five-years but can be updated more often whenever changed conditions clearly alter the mission of the park or when priorities in a specific collecting category have been met. Changes must be approved by the superintendent.
- The CAC will be reviewed and updated to fill vacancies as needed.
- John Muir National Historic Site CRM staff will resolve the incorrect cataloging of ethnology, geology, and paleontology items as history items.
- John Muir National Historic Site will seek to enter into a cooperative agreement (or similar partnership) with the University of the Pacific to exchange use of collections, collaborate on Muir scholarship, and provide educational opportunities.
- John Muir National Historic Site conducted an extensive self-study of its collections in 2016 and prioritized over 1,000 period pieces with no association to the site and with varying states of condition for future deaccessioning. Research was conducted to confirm provenance and ownership. Based on this assessment, the park will write a formal Deaccession Plan and begin the deaccession process.
- John Muir National Historic Site will seek to establish partnerships to work collaboratively with the Karkin Ohlone to advise and guide the park in collecting practices and principles. Procedures will determine whether cultural material remains within the community, define what terms collaborative stewardship of donated materials would operate, and/or rectify situations that caused past harm to a particular community.
- John Muir National Historic Site will establish procedures to work collaboratively with park resource management staff, researchers and non-NPS institutions, and universities to establish collecting practices and principles of natural history specimens and their associated records.
- John Muir National Historic Site will establish a process/procedure to identify, process, and potentially acquire archives in conjunction with park records management practices and procedures.

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation***Public Law 88-547, August 31, 1964, 78 Stat. 753***

AN ACT To provide for the establishment of the John Muir National Historic Site in the State of California, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior may acquire on behalf of the United States the land, improvements thereon, and interests therein situated in the county of Contra Costa, State of California, and described as follows:

Beginning at a point marked by a post that bears south 24 degrees 30 minutes east 257.40 feet from the northwest corner of lot E of division numbered 1 of the Rancho El Pinole; thence north 70 degrees 00 minutes east to a point in the westerly right-of-way line of Alhambra Avenue; thence southward along the said westerly right-of-way line of Alhambra Avenue to a point on the right-of-way line of the freeway survey delineated in the California State Division of Highways, district IV, appraisal map numbered A-655.34, dated November 21, 1962, said point also being in line with station (28 + 81') on the "M" line of said freeway survey; thence following the right-of-way line of said survey south 71 degrees 09 minutes 19 seconds west 2.0 feet to a point; thence along the said right-of-way line of the freeway survey the following two courses; south 18 degrees 50 minutes 41 seconds east 59.54 feet to a point, on a curve to the right, radius 1,958.0 feet, delta angle 2 degrees 1 minute 6 seconds, a distance of 68.97 feet to a point; thence south 16 degrees 49 minutes 35 seconds east about 112 feet to a point; thence south 31 degrees 55 minutes 10 seconds west about 160 feet to a point; thence south 80 degrees 08 minutes 57 seconds west 741.66 feet to a point; thence north 77 degrees 12 minutes 60 seconds west 132.68 feet to a point; thence north 65 degrees 53 minutes 54 seconds west 78.75 feet to a point in the center line of the Franklin Canyon Road; thence northward along the said center line of the Franklin Canyon Road to a point (which is south 9 degrees 24 minutes east along the center line of Franklin Canyon Road 281.43 feet and thence south 1 degree 50 minutes west 304.98 feet from the point common to the center line of the said Franklin Canyon Road and a north line of that certain 44.87-acre tract of land described in the deed from Daniel L. Parsowith to Pearl Parsowith, dated November 18, 1931, and recorded November 18, 1931, in Volume 290 of official records, at page 359); thence north 88 degrees 28 minutes 15 seconds east 418.01 feet (north 87 degrees 45 minutes 30 seconds east 421.70 feet-deed), as surveyed by the California State Division of Highways, district IV, appraisal map numbered A-655.34, dated November 21, 1962, to a point in the center of Franklin Creek; thence north 23 degrees 25 minutes 01 seconds east 121.15 feet (north 23 degrees 30 minutes east 120.56 feet-deed) as surveyed by said California State Division of

Highways along Franklin Creek to a point;
thence north 17 degrees 30 minutes east 132 feet continuing along Franklin Creek to a point.
thence leaving Franklin Creek north 70 degrees 0 minutes east 820.10 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning; containing approximately 9.2 acres.

SEC. 2. The property acquired under this Act shall be designated as the John Muir National Historic Site and shall be set aside as a public national memorial to John Muir in recognition of his efforts as a conservationist and a crusader for national parks and reservations. The Secretary of the Interior shall administer, protect, and develop such national historic site in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes," approved August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), as amended.

SEC. 3. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated not more than \$300,000 for land acquisition and restoration of the buildings thereon. Approved August 31, 1964.

Public Law 95-625, November 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3472

(17) John Muir National Historic Site, California; Section 3 of the Act of August 31, 1964 (78 Stat. 753), is amended by striking out "\$300,000 for land acquisition and restoration of the buildings thereon." And inserting in lieu thereof "\$224,000 for land acquisition and \$1,285,000 for development".

Public Law 100-563, October 31, 1988, 102 Stat. 2829

**SEC. 5. BOUNDARY CHANGE FOR JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
CALIFORNIA.**

(a) MAP; LAND ACQUISITION.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire (by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange) lands and interests in land within the area generally depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, John Muir National Historic Site" numbered 426-80,015B and dated July 1988. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Lands and interests in lands, within the boundaries of such area which are owned by the State of California or any political subdivision thereof, may be acquired only by donation or exchange. The Secretary of the Interior shall acquire only such interests in the John Muir grave site (as depicted on the map referred to in this subsection) as may be necessary to preserve the site in its present undeveloped condition and to provide all maintenance of the site by the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) INCLUSION WITHIN HISTORIC SITE.—The lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the area depicted on the map referred to in subsection (a) shall be administered as

part of the John Muir National Historic Site established by the Act of August 31, 1964 (78 Stat. 753; 16 U.S.C. 461 note).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For purposes of acquiring the lands and interests in lands within the area depicted on the map referred to in subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary.

(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with the East Bay Regional Park District of Oakland, California, for the operation and maintenance by such District of trails on lands within the John Muir National Historic Site.

Public Law 100-287, April 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 87

Joint Resolution To designate April 21, 1988, as "John Muir Day".

Whereas April 21, 1988, marks the one hundred and fiftieth birthday of the great American conservationist John Muir, heralded worldwide for his dedication to the preservation of wilderness in this country;

Whereas generations of Americans have reveled in the wonders of Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, and other parklands set aside by past Presidents and Congresses at the urging of the Scottish-born naturalist;

Whereas a system of natural, cultural, historical, and recreational national parks which John Muir helped pioneer has grown in size to almost eighty million acres symbolizing the stewardship Americans demonstrate for their precious public resources;

Whereas John Muir was the cofounder and first president of the Sierra Club, an organization which contributes in making this Nation a leader in the global environmental movement;

Whereas the John Muir National Historic Site, in Martinez, California, one of three hundred and thirty-seven units of the National Park Service, was set aside by Congress in 1964 as a monument to the wild lands crusader and was the site from which Muir wrote books celebrating the natural beauty and wildlife of the United States, books that are still widely read and treasured by people of all ages; and

Whereas the important role of an ecologically sound environment, in the quality of life for all people was proselytised by the tireless voice and pen of John Muir: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That April 21, 1988, is designated as "John Muir Day", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Approved April 7, 1988.

Public Law 108-385, October 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 2227

An Act To adjust the boundary of the John Muir National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “John Muir National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act”.

SEC. 2. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) **BOUNDARY.**—The boundary of the John Muir National Historic Site is adjusted to include the lands generally depicted on the map entitled “Boundary Map, John Muir National Historic Site” numbered PWR–OL 426–80,044a and dated August 2001.

(b) **LAND ACQUISITION.**—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire the lands and interests in lands identified as the “Boundary Adjustment Area” on the map referred to in subsection (a) by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange, or otherwise.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The lands and interests in lands described in subsection (b) shall be administered as part of the John Muir National Historic Site established by the Act of August 31, 1964 (78 Stat. 753; 16 U.S.C. 461 note).

Approved October 30, 2004

Public Law 115-191, June 22, 2018, 132 Stat. 1501

An Act To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, for inclusion in the John Muir National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HISTORIC SITE.**—The term “Historic Site” means the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, California, established by Public Law 88–547 (78 Stat. 753).

(2) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map entitled “John Muir National Historic Site Proposed Boundary Expansion”, numbered 426/127150, and dated November 2014.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE LAND ACQUISITION.

(a) **ACQUISITION.**—The Secretary may acquire by donation the approximately 44 acres of land and any interests in the land that is identified on the map.

(b) **BOUNDARY.**—On the acquisition of the land authorized under subsection (a), the Secretary shall adjust the boundaries of the Historic Site to include the acquired land.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The land and any interests in land acquired under subsection (a) shall be administered as part of the National Historic Site.

Approved June 22, 2018.

Appendix B: NPS Museum Collections

The Department of Interior defines a museum collection as a subset of personal property that is retained for long-term preservation, study, and interpretation consistent with statutory requirements and its relationship to the mission of the respective bureau and park. The NPS affirmed its mandate to actively acquire and preserve objects, specimens, and archives in *NPS Management Policies* (2006, section 5.3.5.5), stating that “The Service will collect, protect, preserve, provide access to, and use objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections . . . in the disciplines of archeology, ethnography, history, biology, geology, and paleontology to aid understanding among park visitors, and to advance knowledge in the humanities and sciences.”

Parks acquire and manage museum collections because they are:

important park resources in their own right as well as being valuable for the information they provide about processes, events, and interactions among people and the environment. Natural and cultural objects and their associated records provide baseline data, serving as scientific and historical documentation of the park’s resources and purpose. All resource management records that are directly associated with museum objects are managed as museum property. These and other resource management records are preserved as part of the archival and manuscript collection because they document and provide an information base for the continuing management of the park’s resources (NPS-28 *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, 1998: 137).

Because of their significance, NPS *Management Policies* (2006, section 1.4.6) includes museum collections among the park resources and values which are subject to the no-impairment standard. Impairment (pg. 11)

[NPS Management Policies \(2006, section 1.4.6, pg 11\)](#)

1.4.6 What Constitutes Park Resources and Values

- The “park resources and values” that are subject to the no-impairment standard include the park’s scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife, and the processes and conditions that sustain them, including, to the extent present in the park: the ecological, biological, and physical processes that created the park and continue to act upon it; scenic features; natural visibility, both in daytime and at night; natural landscapes; natural soundscapes and smells; water and air resources; soils; geological resources; paleontological resources; archeological resources; cultural landscapes; ethnographic resources; historic and prehistoric sites, structures, and objects; museum collections; and native plants and animals;
- appropriate opportunities to experience enjoyment of the above resources, to the extent that can be done without impairing them;
- the park’s role in contributing to the national dignity, the high public value and integrity, and the superlative environmental quality of the national park system, and

the benefit and inspiration provided to the American people by the national park system; and

- any additional attributes encompassed by the specific values and purposes for which the park was established. (See introduction to chapter 4)

Appendix C: Legislation Related to NPS Museum Collection and Other Related Conventions, Laws, and Regulations

These laws provide the legal mandates for NPS management of museum collections:

- 16 USC
 - 469-469c: Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960, as amended
 - 470aa-mm: Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979
 - 470aaa: Paleontology Resources Preservation Act of 2009
 - 668a Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940, as amended
 - 703-711 Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918
 - 1361-1407 Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972
 - 1531-1543 Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
- 18 USC 43-44 Lacey Act of 1900 [The Black Bass Act of 1930 (16 USC 851) added fish to the list of wildlife under the Lacey Act]
- 25 USC 3001-3013 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
- 41 USC 102-41 Subpart C Voluntarily Abandoned Property
- 42 USC 1996 American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
- 54 USC
 - 100101: Promotion and Regulation
 - 100301-100302: Establishment (Organic Act of 1916)
 - 100701 et seq.: System Resource Inventory and Management (National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1988)
 - 102501-102504: Museums (Museum Properties Management Act of 1955)
 - 300101 et seq: Historic Preservation (National Historic Preservation Act of 1966)
 - 312501-312507: Preservation of Historical and Archeological Data (Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974)
 - 320301-320303: Monuments, Ruins, Site, and Objects of Antiquity (The Antiquities Act)
 - 321010-321016: American Antiquities [Policy and Administrative Provisions], (Historic Sites Act of 1935)

The following regulations include major requirements for NPS museum collections management.

- Copyright Act of 1976 (17 USC 101 et seq. [1988 & Supp. V 1993])
- Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Archeological Collections” (36 CFR Part 79) and in something about the update for deaccessioning
- Disposition of Federal Records (36 CFR 1228)
- Disposal of Records (44 USC 33)
- Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (50 CFR, Sections 17.11 and 17.12)
- Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 USC 483[b])
- Federal Records Act of 1950, as amended (44 USC 3101 et seq.)
- Freedom of Information Act of 1966, as amended (5 USC 552)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Regulations (43 CFR 10)
- Preservation, Arrangement, Duplication, Exhibition of Records (44 USC 2109)
- Preservation of American Antiquities (43 CFR Part 3)

- Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a)
- Protection of Archeological Resources (43 CFR Part 7)
- Research Specimens (36 CFR, Section 2.5)
- Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 (43 USC 2101 through 2106)
- Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (7 USC 2131 through 2159)
- Copies of records, documents, etc.: charges, disposition of receipts (43 USC 1460)
- Commercial filming activities on federal land (Public Law 106-206)
- Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Policy: State-Federal Relationships (43 CFR 24)
- Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies were published in the Federal Register as 67 FR 5365
- Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 (16 USC 63)
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 USC 35)
- Federal Technology Transfer Act of 2012 (15 USC 3710)
- Information Quality Act (passed in section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554; H.R. 5658)
- National Archives and Records Administration Act of 1984 (44 USC 21)
- Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997 (Public Law 104-208)
- Permits (36 CFR 1.6)
- Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and Archeological Resources (36 CFR 2.1)
- Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014 (Public Law 113-187; H.R. 1233)

Presidential memoranda pertinent to museum and archival collections include: Presidential memoranda pertinent to museum and archival collections include

- Memorandum on Preserving Scientific Integrity in Government Decision-Making (2009) and the Presidential Memorandum on Managing Government Records (2011)
- “Technical Edits” for 36 CFR were published in the Federal Register as 80 FR 36474, effective as of on June 25, 2015

The following international conventions apply to NPS cultural collections:

- 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)
- 1983 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

The following governmentwide and departmental policies and standards apply to NPS museum collections:

- 41 CFR 101 Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR)

- Departmental Manual Part 11, Museum Property Management, Chapters 1-3
- Departmental Manual Part 517, Chapter 1, Pesticide Use Policy
- Interior Property Management Regulations, Departmental Manual Part 410, Personal Property Management (Subpart 114-60)

Excerpts from NPS Management Policies (1988) that are specifically relevant to museum objects are as follows:

- Chapter 4 - Natural Resource Management
 - Natural Resource Collections (Page 4:4)
 - Integrated Pest Management Procedures (Page 4:13)
 - Paleontologic Resource Management (Page 4:19)
- Chapter 5 - Cultural Resource Management
 - Inventories (Page 5:1)
 - Preservation of Data and Collections and Protection of Research Potential (Page 5:3)
 - Treatment of Museum Objects (Pages 5:9-10)
 - Acquisition, Management, and Disposition of Museum Objects (Page 5:10)
 - Historic Furnishings (Page 5:10)
 - Archives and Manuscripts (Pages 5:10-11)
 - Fire Detection and Suppression (Page 5:14)
 - Pest Management (Page 5:14)
- Chapter 7 - Interpretation and Education: Interpretation and Native Americans (Page 7:5)
- Chapter 8 - Use of the Parks: Research and Collection Activities (Pages 8:15-16)
- Chapter 9 - Park Facilities: Curatorial Facilities (Page 9:15)
- Chapter 10 - Concessions Management: Merchandise and Handcrafts (Pages 10:8-9)

Director's Orders (DO) supplement the NPS Management Policies. The following DO include guidance for museum collections

- Director's Order #11D: Records Management
- Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collections Management
- Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management
- Director's Order #44: Personal Property Management
- Director's Order #77: Natural Resource Protection
- Director's Order #77-10: NPS Benefits Sharing
- Director's Order #79: Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities

For a more detailed description of legislation and regulations as related to NPS museum collections, please see [Museum Handbook, Part I, Appendix A: Mandates and Standards for NPS Museum Collections.](#)

Appendix D: Uses and Restrictions of Museum Collections

A. General Use

The site's museum collections may be used for exhibits, interpretive programs, research, and other interpretive media such as publications. The governing consideration on the use of museum objects is the conservation of each object in question and of the park's collection:

- All exhibits or displays containing museum objects must have proper security and appropriate environmental controls to ensure their long-term preservation.
- Social Media posts must follow the guidelines outlined in *Director's Order #70*.
- Objects and records will be available for research purposes consistent with the preservation of the collection, subject to the guidelines outlined in *Director's Order #28* (1998) and *Director's Order #24* (2008).
- No use of the museum collection will be permitted without a curatorial staff member present. Prior arrangements must be made to examine museum collection materials. Non-NPS researchers who wish to use the collection must complete an application form, which will be reviewed by John Muir National Historic Site curatorial staff.
- Museum objects are prohibited from being used in living history demonstrations. For more information regarding museum collection use in demonstrations, see [Museum Handbook, Part III, Chapter 6](#). Exhibits may be incorporated into programs through organized tours or other non-consumptive techniques.
- Requests for consumptive analysis or testing of museum materials will comply with restrictions and procedures outlined in *Director's Order #28* (1998) and the [Museum Handbook, Part II, Chapter 4](#).
- Requests for monetary and/or non-monetary benefits sharing stemming from research results derived from NPS-permitted research including progeny and unmodified derivatives of collected specimens, museum specimens, living collections, and multiple generations thereof, i.e. *Material*, will comply with [Director's Order #77-10](#) (2013) and [NPS Benefits-Sharing Handbook](#) (2018).

With appropriate authorization, documentation, and tracking, collected specimens may be used in the laboratory to create *Material*. The Collected Specimen Transfer Agreement (CSTA) authorizes the movement of collected specimens when a determination has not been made regarding final disposition. The Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) authorizes the movement of material that a researcher has created in a laboratory, and the loan agreement authorizes the movement of permanently retained museum specimens or living collection items.

Parks must use research permits, CSTAs, cataloging records, loan agreements, and MTAs, as applicable, to track collected specimens, museum specimens, and material. Tracking collected specimens, museum specimens, and material is critical to monitoring commercial use of research results and eventual benefits sharing.

- Objects may be loaned to qualified institutions for exhibition or research use in keeping with the conditions cited in “Conditions for Outgoing Loans (Form 10-137A)”. No loans are made to individuals. Institutions must be able to adequately care for the loan and the borrowing institution must complete a facility report to determine the risk of lending an object. A standard facility report can be purchased from the American Alliance of Museums. A condition report (Form 10-637) along with photographs of the loan shall be completed by collections staff before it leaves NPS custody. Sensitive materials may require additional conditions prior to a loan commitment. Expenses related to the loan of museum collection objects, including shipping and insurance, will be assumed by the borrower.

No exemption will be granted for use of museum objects where such use may lead to loss or destruction of human remains, associated or unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony as defined by NAGPRA, unless such use is approved by the culturally affiliated group(s) in addition to the regional director or director as described in NPS-28, Cultural Resource Management Guidelines. Exhibition of Native American skeletal or mummified human remains or photos or replicas of them are specifically prohibited.

An exhibit plan and design (EPD) serve as a guide for the development of exhibits that support the interpretive themes of a park. The final production-ready exhibit plan identifies the museum objects and graphics to be exhibited and provides label text. Detailed design drawings provide specifications on environmental and security needs for objects, special mounts needed to support objects, and techniques in exhibit case construction that facilitate access to museum objects. Park curatorial staff, conservators, and regional curators must be included in the development and review of EDPs. Indigenous groups associated with archeological and ethnographic objects will be consulted about their use in exhibits. (The NPS *Museum Handbook*, Part III provides guidance on the exhibit plan and design.)

Any and all uses of materials from the John Muir National Historic Site museum collection will be consistent with the preservation standards set out in *Director’s Order #28: Guideline for Cultural Resources Management* (1998). Any consumptive or destructive use of museum objects must be approved by the Regional Director.

B. Commercial Uses

1. Filming & Photography

Filming and photography that will subject collections to unacceptable light levels, heat buildup, deterioration or possible breakage or theft shall not be permitted. Items subject to copyright and privacy shall have all appropriate releases obtained before filming or photography is permitted. Traditionally affiliated groups shall be consulted to determine whether filming or photography would have an adverse impact on them before permitting use of museum collections.

On January 22, 2021, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia issued an order in *Price v. Barr*. The decision declared the provisions applying to commercial filming under 54 U.S.C. 100905, 43 C.F.R. Part 5, and 36 CFR 5. are unconstitutional under the First Amendment. The National Park Service is working with Department of Interior solicitors and the Department of Justice attorneys to determine the ramifications of the decision and how this decision will be implemented.

Until further instructions are provided, the implementation and enforcement of the commercial filming portions of 43 CFR part 5 including: 1) accepting applications and issuing permits for commercial filming; 2) enforcing the terms and conditions of permits or issuing citations and 3) collecting cost recovery and location fees for commercial filming activities will cease.

If filming activities in your park that would have previously been managed under a commercial filming permit could potentially impact park resources or the visitor experience, please reach out to the NPS Special Park Uses WASO program manager for further assistance. We anticipate issuing additional guidance about how parks can manage filming activities in a manner that complies with the court order. If you have questions, please contact the NPS Special Park Uses WASO program manager at 202-513-7092.

2. Reproduction of Museum Objects for Profit

Only the Superintendent can authorize reproduction of a museum object, archive, or specimens. A park can enter into agreements with a cooperating association to reproduce museum collections as sales items. Parks can also enter into a reproduction agreement with contractors or other organizations to reproduce a museum object for sale or distribution. All reproductions of NPS museum objects must carry a reproduction mark, NPS credit, and interpretive label.

For detailed information regarding factors to evaluate when considering a reproduction request, legal issues, information about reproduction agreements, and other issues, see the NPS [Museum Handbook, Part III: Museum Collections Use](#). Additional information is provided in DO-21: Donations and Fundraising, DO-32: Cooperating Associations, and DO-53: Special Park Uses.

Appendix E: Sensitive and Confidential Information Statement

In accordance with 54 USC 300101 et seq.: Historic Preservation, commonly called the National Historic Preservation Act; ARPA, NHPA, as amended (16 USC 470aa-mm); 54 USC 100701-100707: System Resource Inventory and Management, and NPS Management Policies (2006, sections 4.1.2. and 5.2.3), the Park may withhold from the public sensitive and confidential information, including the specific location, character, nature, ownership, or acquisition of cultural resources, and the nature and specific locations of rare, threatened, or endangered species, commercially valuable resources, caves, minerals, and paleontological resources.

Under some circumstances, the NPS may be required by law to disclose confidential information acquired during consultations, public meetings, and other research, planning, and stewardship activities, or in association with the acquisition of resources, including museum collections. Therefore, the park cannot guarantee confidentiality of all information received. To the extent permitted by law, the park will withhold from public disclosure information provided by individuals who wish the information to remain confidential and the identities of individuals who wish to remain anonymous and who are protected from release by exemption under FOIA. The park should refer inquiries to the regional FOIA and Privacy Act officer for consultation and possible review.

The archives within the John Muir National Historic Site museum collection include sensitive information such as the specific nature and location of archaeological resources and endangered species habitat and case files for open investigations including the second theft of John Muir's pocket watch in 1978. These files and others that contain similarly protected sensitive information will be withheld from public disclosure. Members of the public who request to access to such files will be directed to submit a FOIA request for regional and Privacy Act officer consultation.

Appendix F: Hazards in Collections

Potential health and safety concerns may exist in NPS collections due to the nature of the object or specimen or to past management strategies. Some examples of inherent risks for natural science collections include: rocks and minerals may be radioactive or contain asbestos, mercury, or arsenic; fossils from some formations may be radioactive and may emit high levels of radon; fluid-preserved specimens are sometimes fixed or stored in formalin; and taxidermy collections may contain arsenic.

Samples of materials from historic structures may contain asbestos, lead, arsenic, or other potential hazards. History, ethnology, and archeology collections may include objects with radioactive compounds; mercuric or arsenic compounds; chromium, cadmium, zinc, and lead; and pyrotechnic compound fillings, chemicals, or gas. Deteriorating cellulose nitrate film emits nitrogen oxide gases. Deteriorating cellulose acetate film emits acetic acid. Ammunition for historic firearms and unexploded ordnance (UXO) such as bombs, cannonballs, grenades, rockets, & other projectiles and explosives may be live. Spears, swords, and arrows have sharp edges and may be coated with poisons. Medical, dental, and veterinary equipment may contain viable pathogens, or toxic or controlled substances. Industrial equipment, machines, and vehicles may also contain many types of hazards such as broken glass, rust, and other contamination.

Suspected unexploded ordnance (UXO), live ammunition, and other explosives and energetic materials may be discovered in storage and on exhibit, during archeological excavation, construction, or other approved ground disturbing activities, and by park visitors. UXO is extremely dangerous and constitutes a major safety risk. Treat all ordnance with extreme caution and never assume it is disarmed. Upon discovery, secure the space where the UXO resides. Do not attempt to touch, handle, or move any suspected UXO. Contact your regional curator and park Law Enforcement Ranger or Safety Officer and provide them with the following information:

- The circumstances that the items were found, a detailed description of events, current storage conditions, and the information on instructions/labeling already completed.
- Provide a catalog number list of the UXO and any other ammunition (small arms and ordinance).
- Provide any photos that can be found and scan/include those in the correspondence. Do not go back and photograph.
- Include the number of cabinets in which these items are stored or if there are any on open shelving, in boxes, etc.

The service-wide policy outlined in NPS DO-50B, Occupational Safety and Health, along with the Museum Handbook, outlines a framework for establishing and implementing a Risk Management process when managing hazardous collections including:

- Recognize and identify the hazards
- Evaluate the hazards

- Reduce or eliminate the hazards to the extent possible

NPS DO-24 (section 4.3.11) requires that curatorial staff notify users that collections may have been treated with potentially toxic substances. All individuals seeking direct access to NPS museum collections must be provided with DI-3320 “Notice of Potential Hazards in Museum Collections.” The form must be completed before providing access to collections, including repatriations, traditional use, and loans of materials from the collection for management or research. Completed DI-3320s with original signatures must be retained by the park that is accountable for the collection being accessed for 120 years from the date the form is signed. If the recipient of the form declines to sign the form, document this in the notes section at the bottom of the form.

Known hazardous collections may be acquired or deaccessioned on a case-by-case basis and only when the hazards have been identified and can be appropriately and safely mitigated.

There are several hazardous materials within the John Muir National Historic Site museum collection. This includes architectural fragments which contain rusty nails, sharp edges, and potentially lead based paint and acetate negatives with the potential to off-gas acetic acid. The negatives are stored in cold storage (below 0°F) to prevent vinegar syndrome. Staff health and safety regarding the collection is focused on safely lifting heavy materials, maintaining respirator certification to be prepared to handle mold or rodent feces which may occur in collection spaces or on incoming acquisitions, and wearing PPE such as nitrile gloves to prevent injury and contamination from historic objects which are sharp or made of heavy metals. The park’s Scope of Collection Statement identifies hazardous materials as items “not to be acquired”.

Appendix G: Research Collections and Permits

Per NPS Management Policies (2006), the Service encourages appropriately reviewed natural and cultural resource studies and research whenever such studies and research are consistent with applicable laws and policies. All studies and research in parks will employ nondestructive methods to the maximum extent feasible with respect to resource protection, research methodology, and the scientific and management value of the information and collections to be obtained. Although studies and research involving physical impacts to park resources or the removal of objects or specimens may be permitted, studies and collecting activities that will lead to the impairment of park resources and values are prohibited.

In implementing NPS policies and procedures to ensure scientific integrity and resource stewardship, NPS managers should consider that:

- The science is not complete until the specimens and associated data which voucher the study are appropriately documented and preserved.
- Field work and analysis are the most expensive components of scientific projects.
- The cost of field work means that each collected specimen has high financial value. Requiring that researchers deposit voucher specimens in permanent collections protects that financial investment.
- Failure to retain appropriate scientific collections to document the scientific validity of the research is not economical or ethical.
- Identifications of species in faunistic and ecological studies (versus taxonomic studies) are more often made by non-specialists using only published keys. This increases the likelihood that misidentifications may occur, resulting in lower levels of confidence in identifications which will need to be verified by specialists in the future to validate the research.
- Using scientific collections to answer research questions can reduce some costs for new field work.
- As scientific advances are made and new techniques are developed, existing well-documented scientific collections will become even more important to NPS resource management and science.
- A specimen available today may not be available in the future, just as many specimens collected decades ago can no longer be recollected due to habitat loss, population decline, and other issues. Environmental specimens collected in a time series can never be replicated.
- Each biological specimen is a “snapshot in time” which reflects the biology and ecology of the living animal and its environment. Collecting another specimen decades later does replicate the earlier specimen of the same species.
- The passage of time, technological challenges, and prohibitive costs make it impossible to replace specimens collected but not retained when they are needed later.
- Periodic (and in some cases, routine) collection of scientific specimens for permanent retention is vital to understanding the processes, rates, and impacts of climate change.

As noted above, museum collections serve as the verifiable and reproducible evidence of a scientific study. Therefore, their collection and long-term preservation is a crucial aspect of ensuring scientific integrity.

Per Directors Order #24, and the standard permit requirements, all resource projects in parks must include funding for curation of specimens collected to prevent an increase in the backlog of uncataloged materials. The standard permit conditions require that associated project records including data, field notes, photographs, maps, etc. are submitted as part of the project's deliverables and that they are cataloged according to NPS standards. A project is not considered completed until everything, including specimens, is cataloged and the data entered into the NPS official museum cataloging system.

Natural Resource Research Collections and Permits

Natural resource collections include non-living and living specimens. Research that includes taking plants, fish, wildlife, rocks, or minerals is governed by 36 CFR 2.5; additional guidance for research, collecting, and managing specimens and associated field records is found in the NPS Research Permit and Reporting System (RPRS), Director's Order #77, Director's Order #77-10, and the NPS Museum Handbook. Non-living specimens and their associated field records are managed as museum collections. Living collections will be managed in accordance with the provisions of a park's general management plan, the Animal Welfare Act, and other appropriate requirements.

RPRS is the online system used by the NPS to manage the research application and reporting process. Park museum staff with collection custodial duties can effectively use RPRS to collaborate with park research coordinators, resource management staff, research permittees, and repositories to help manage permanently retained collections including completion of specimen labels, submission of catalog data, and submission of copies of field notes.

RPRS is also used to help track agreements with non-NPS repositories. When a researcher applies for a permit and proposes that collected specimens be retained in a non-NPS repository, the applicant must obtain the signature of a repository official (on Appendix A of the application) agreeing to the proposal and the terms of the NPS loan agreement that would be required upon deposit of the collections. Park museum staff coordinate completion of catalog records and issue loans to document collections deposited at repositories.

Currently, NPS policy allows superintendents discretion to issue permits to park staff and other NPS staff (i.e., network Inventory and Monitoring staff), especially when specimens will be collected for retention in park collections.

Cultural Resource Research Collections and Permits

All archeological research must comply with ARPA, the Antiquities Act, and NAGPRA, as applicable. Guidance for collecting and managing field data, objects, specimens, and features of sites and structures retrieved during cultural resource research and treatment projects, together with associated records and reports, can be found in 36 CFR 79.4, Director's Order #28, and the

NPS Museum Handbook. Archeological collections and their associated records are managed within the park museum collection, stored in NPS or non-NPS repositories, as appropriate, including repositories maintained by partners.

Permits that allow cultural resources to be physically disturbed or allow objects or specimens to be collected must require provisions for the long-term preservation and management of any recovered objects and specimens and for their cataloging, together with any associated records, in the NPS museum cataloging system. Independent researchers will be authorized to conduct archeological research on park lands only through the issuance of an ARPA or Antiquities Act permit by the appropriate regional director. This permitting authority cannot be further delegated. As appropriate, parks will also issue other necessary permits, such as a special use permit.

While RPRS is most used for natural resource-related research, all external research on NPS-managed lands must be documented in RPRS and may include archeological or other cultural resource research.

Reviewing Research Permits

Current guidance does not require park museum staff or the CAC to work collaboratively with park resource management staff or the research coordinator to control collecting through permit conditions or specific requirements for collections. It is recommended, however, that park museum staff work with park research and/or resource management staff to advise the superintendent on what objects and specimens should be (or must be, according to statute) collected and managed as museum property. In some parks, curatorial and natural resource staff work together to review collection permit requests and advise the superintendent to reject certain collecting requests that are duplicative of existing collections and re-direct the researcher to conduct research on existing collections at the park or in other repositories. This process is particularly valuable to support park goals in protecting rare species, limiting/preventing duplicative or repetitive collecting, and ensuring there is no impairment of park resources or values.

At John Muir National Historic Site, the Natural Resources program manager is responsible for leading the review of all permit applications in RPRS. Should the application propose to collect specimens for long-term curation, the Supervisory Museum Curator reviews the permit and works with the researcher to establish collecting parameters and complete an Appendix A to permanently retain collections in a non-NPS repository, if required. The Supervisory Museum Curator may reject a proposed repository and/or suggest a different repository. If an Appendix A is required, the permit is approved only after the Appendix A has been signed by a representative from the agreed upon repository. Additionally, the following responsibilities are assigned:

- The Supervisory Museum Curator shall:
 - provide clear and complete instructions for collections and data submission under “Park-specific Research Conditions” on Park Information page in RPRS
 - provide instructions for permittees to coordinate with park curator and prepare and submit labels, cataloging data, and specimens for collections to be retained, as

well as resource management records and copies of field notes.

- The Natural Resources program manager monitors annual submission of IARs and reminds delinquent investigators of their responsibilities

John Muir National Historic Site does not have any park-specific instructions or restrictions listed in RPRS beyond the standard NPS permit terms. As of FY24, there are no pending research permit applications for John Muir NHS.

Helpful links:

[National Park Service Organic Act](#)

[National Park Service Omnibus Management Act of 1998](#)

[National Park Service Management Policies 2001](#)

[Natural Resource Management Reference Manual #77](#)

[Director's Order #77 \(Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring\)](#)

[Director's Order #77-10: NPS Benefits Sharing](#)

[Director's Order #24 \(National Park Service Museum Collection Management\)](#)

[Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 41 \(Wilderness Preservation and Management\)](#)

[Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act \(16 USC 470f\)](#)

[Endangered Species Act of 1973](#)

[Wilderness Act of 1964](#)

[Archeological Resources Protection Act](#)

[43 CFR 7](#)

[36 CFR 2.5](#)

[Research Permits - Everglades National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

[NPS Archeology Program: Federal Archeological Permits](#)

[Research Permits - Yellowstone National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

[Obtain a Research Permit - Bering Land Bridge National Preserve \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

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