



MUSEUM & ARCHIVE COLLECTION INFORMATION SHEET

National Park Service museums collect objects specific to individual parks, and interpret those collections in their original context. Kenai Fjords' museum collection supports research and preservation strategies based on its enabling legislation with additional guidance from the park's Foundation Statement, General Management Plan, Scope of Collections Statement, and park interpretive themes.

The collection of natural and cultural specimens began soon after Kenai Fjords was established in 1980. During the early 1980s park rangers focused heavily on the collection of plant specimens and wildlife observations. Later, two significant archeological collections were made as a result of the National Park Service (NPS) Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program survey of the mid 1990s, and the Kenai Fjords Coastal Archeology project in the early 2000s. Beginning in 2003, the NPS Natural Resource Inventory and Monitoring Program (I&M) initiated surveys within Kenai Fjords. I&M collections of mammals, plants, fish, invertebrates and associated records quickly became the park's most aggressive collecting endeavor. In 2013 collections continue to grow with the primary contribution being park generated records.



Accession Number: KEFJ-00235 Shea Lot Beverage Bottles.

The majority of Kenai Fjords' collections are housed at two facilities. The NPS Alaska Region Curatorial Center is the repository for the majority of the park's archives, archeological collections, herbarium specimens, and a few natural and historical objects. The University of Alaska at Fairbanks holds a large number of herbarium and mammal specimens.

**Number of objects cataloged
into Kenai Fjords' collection:**

Archeology: 27,219

History: 47

Archival: 38,050

Biology: 3,404

Geology: 6



Coal or jet bead from Kenai Fjords' collection.

Photo by Rita Eagle

COLLECTION USE

To fulfill the principles and purposes of the park collection, items are made available for use in exhibits, research and interpretive programs. Consistent with collection preservation practices, all use is supervised by museum staff and consumptive use is avoided. When items are needed for cultural demonstrations, the use of replicas is required. Papers, logs and photographs may be duplicated to reduce wear on the originals. Duplicate copies are often filed in the park libraries.

Objects in on-site collection include:

Herbarium specimens (plants, lichen, algae)

Geology specimens

Mining tools

Maps

Photographs & slides

Tree cores

Research project materials

Ranger logs & reports

Weather records

Audio/video recordings

*If you have questions concerning the park's museum collection please contact: Shannon Kovac,
Cultural Resource Program Manager, 907-422-0541.*