

MUSEUM SUPPORT CENTER

	APPLICATION OF OPERATING RESOURCES							
	FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS		GENERAL TRUST		DONOR/SPONSOR DESIGNATED		GOV'T GRANTS & CONTRACTS	
	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000
FY 2006 ACTUAL	20	1,642	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY 2007 ESTIMATE	25	1,739	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY 2008 ESTIMATE	25	1,784	0	0	0	0	0	0

STRATEGIC GOAL: INCREASED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Federal Resource Summary by Performance Objective and Program Category

Performance Objective/ Program Category	FY 2007		FY 2008		Change	
	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000	FTE	\$000
Increased Public Engagement						
<i>Collections</i>						
Improve the stewardship of the national collections	25	1,739	25	1,784	0	45
Total	25	1,739	25	1,784	0	45

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Museum Support Center (MSC) is the principal off-site conservation and collections storage facility for the National Museum of Natural History's, (NMNH) irreplaceable national collections. In addition, the MSC houses important collections from other Smithsonian museums, such as the National Museum of American History. Located in Suitland, Maryland, this facility houses more than 31 million objects. The MSC accommodates collections storage for three general types of media: collections storage in cabinets, open shelving for biological specimens preserved in alcohol, and high bay storage for very large objects such as totem poles, boats, meteorites, and large, mounted mammals.

The facility also houses laboratories for molecular systematics, conservation, and other specialized research. The MSC staff provides collections management services, including preservation and logistics, safety and pest control, and administrative, shipping, and receiving services. The

staff also oversees security operations required for the proper storage of museum collections, and provides computer support services for administrative, research, and collections management data needs.

The FY 2008 budget estimate includes an increase of \$45,000 for necessary pay for existing staff.

MEANS AND STRATEGY

To support the goal of Increased Public Engagement, funding will be used to upgrade facilities to provide more accessibility to visiting researchers, students, museum professionals and designers and others. Upgrades to electronic communications capabilities will improve access to collections by conservators and researchers. Enhanced preservation equipment and programs will increase the long-term use of the collections. Emphasis will be placed on enhancements that increase efficiency to maximize staff resources.

Furthermore, in FY 2008, funds will be used to continue moving collections stored in alcohol and other fluids for relocation from the Natural History Building (NHB) on the Mall to the MSC where the Museum's valuable biological collections can be safely stored. These collections are currently housed in non-code-compliant facilities.

In addition, in FY 2008, renovation of Pod 3 will begin. This will provide space for art storage for the National Museum of African Art, the Freer/Sackler Gallery and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and special environmental storage for NMNH archival materials, meteorites, genetic resources, and anthropological collections. NMNH plans to locate the collections that need special environments and capabilities, such as backup power, at the MSC in order to improve safety and preservation. Work will begin in preparing physical anthropology, archival materials, and genetic resource collections for the move to Pod 3.

STRATEGIC GOAL AND FY 2008 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS

Increased Public Engagement

Improve the stewardship of the national collections for present and future generations (25 FTEs and \$1,784,000)

- Continue to relocate vertebrate, invertebrate, and botanical collections stored in alcohol and other fluids from the MSC Pod 3 and NHB to the MSC Pod 5
- Prepare plans for moving collections to the renovated Pod 3 and begin to prepare collections for relocation

- Ensure the safety of staff and collections by reducing the number of findings noted in the annual Management Evaluation and Technical Reviews, and ensure that safety programs are in place
- Continue to provide improved collections care: cleaning, storage (such as object supports and archival storage containers), and pest control
- Enhance facility systems for monitoring the environment
- Enhance support services to accommodate increases in staff activity and collections as staff and collections are relocated to the MSC
- Continue to move offices, laboratories, libraries, and archives to Pod 5.
- Install phones and Internet connections