



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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Washington, D.C. 20240

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(2410)

Memorandum

To: Regional Chiefs

From: Chief, Commercial Services Program

Subject: Sale of Biological Materials in Concessioner Gift Shops

This memo clarifies existing policy about the sale of biological merchandise in concession gift shops. This memorandum was prepared in consultation with the National Park Service (NPS) Natural Resources, Stewardship and Science, Division of Biological Resources Management Division.

Policy Requirements

The sale of “original objects, artifacts, or specimens of a historic, archeological, paleontological, or biological nature is prohibited” in accordance with *Management Policies 2006, Section 10.2.4.6, Artifacts and Specimens*. Biological objects include items such as plants (including seeds) and animals (including vertebrates and invertebrates). This policy also prohibits the sale of merchandise or novelty items containing whole biological specimens (e.g., scorpions, butterflies, snakes, coral, etc.) or parts of biological specimens (teeth, claws, antlers, seashells, feathers, seeds, etc.). Policy on acceptable and unacceptable merchandise is also found in *NPS 48, Chapter 28, Handicrafts, Gifts and Merchandise*.

Clarifications on Exceptions to Prohibited Sales

There are several exceptions to this policy as it relates to biological items. The sale of the following retail items is **not** prohibited:

- Commercially sold items containing common non-living biological materials from legally authorized sources. Examples are items containing feather or down insulation and items made of cowhide leather or wood.
- Handicrafts and other retail items containing non-living biological materials, such as decorative feathers, seeds, nuts or flowers embedded or affixed to the item provided they are from legally authorized sources and are labeled as originating from outside the park.
- Food products from an authorized source such as meats, produce and packaged items like sunflower seeds.

- Non-living fishing bait originating from an authorized source outside the park. The sale of live fishing bait is not permitted.
- Replicated artifacts or specimens if they are obvious replicas and clearly labeled as replicates.

Superintendent Responsibilities and Authority Regarding Acceptable Items for Sale

The park superintendent is responsible for approving retail items sold by concessioners. In addition, even if the item is not prohibited, a park superintendent may choose not to allow the sale of a particular item if he or she feels the item is inappropriate or because it is locally sensitive. These prohibited items may include biological materials not from the park but indigenous to the area. They may also include items that the park superintendent determines, if sold, could inadvertently encourage the collection of the item or similar items from inside the park or from outside the park when that biological material or the resource in which it is found could be adversely impacted.

Distribution and Further Information

Please distribute this memo to parks with concession retail services in your region. If you have additional questions, please contact Lora Farabaugh, Concessions Management Specialist at 303/987-6903.