

The CNHC Vision

We envision a New Mexico with knowledge of natural history intimately embedded in educational activities, policy and management decisions, and the public interest.

Our Mission

We are a learning center for natural history, serving New Mexico's educators, their students, policy makers, and the public. Our mission includes

- Providing outreach activities to increase public awareness of the value of natural resources to New Mexicans.
- Assisting educators to include natural history in the curriculum.
- Making the nation and the world aware of New Mexico's unique natural history.
- Supporting public policy decisions through access to scientific information.
- Aiding land managers by documenting the state's natural history.
- Leveraging scientific research activities to foster intelligent stewardship of New Mexico's natural resources.

Contact Information

For further information, please visit our web page at <http://cnhc.nmsu.edu> or contact any of the following individuals at NMSU.

- Dr. Donovan Bailey, Herbarium Director, Department of Biology, 505-646-7021, dbailey@nmsu.edu.
- Dr. David B. Richman, Arthropod Museum Director, Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Weed Science, 505-646-2900, nmbugman@taipan.nmsu.edu.
- Dr. Brook Milligan, Director of Informatics, Department of Biology, 505-646-7980, brook@nmsu.edu.

Member: Natural Science Collections Alliance, Washington, DC



CENTER FOR NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

Scientific Resources
Working for
Educational
Excellence
in New Mexico



NEW MEXICO
STATE
UNIVERSITY



Who Are We?

The Center for Natural History Collections is a research and service-orientated organization, uniting the NMSU natural history museums and associated research activities into a facility that showcases learning and discovery strengths of the university. Collections within the Center include 250,000 specimens of:

- Anthropology
- Vertebrates: Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Fish and Amphibians
- Invertebrates: Insects, Arachnids
- Plants
- Microorganisms
- Rocks, Minerals and Fossils
- Frozen tissue archives

Information Resources

Accomplishing our mission requires providing access to information on New Mexico's natural history as well as to the physical collections. To this end we maintain publicly accessible databases of the following:

- Natural history specimens
- Spatial data and maps of New Mexico
- Gazetteers of New Mexico placenames
- Environmental information
- Taxonomic categorization systems

These resources contribute to our outreach mission by enabling educators, researchers, and natural resource stewards to learn about New Mexico's natural history through dynamic maps, species lists, and statistical analysis.



Importance of Natural History Collections

The physical collections, associated information resources, and expertise associated with the CNHC is invaluable to New Mexico in many ways.

- Collections are *the* primary documentation of New Mexico's natural resources.
- Representing over 200 years of collecting, CNHC specimens provide a unique temporal dimension to New Mexico's natural history.



- Containing 250,000 specimens, the CNHC collections are irreplaceable.
- Intelligent stewardship of our valuable natural resources requires information on the state's biodiversity and the factors that influence it, all available from the CNHC collections.