

tion of natural or cultural heritage and is qualified to manage the property, prior to any conveyance under this subsection.

(3) Destroy or cause to be destroyed museum objects and museum collections that the Secretary determines to have no scientific, cultural, historic, educational, esthetic, or monetary value.

(b) Review and approval

The Secretary shall ensure that museum collections are treated in a careful and deliberate manner that protects the public interest. Prior to taking any action under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall establish a systematic review and approval process, including consultation with appropriate experts, that meets the highest standards of the museum profession for all actions taken under this section.

(July 1, 1955, ch. 259, §2, as added Pub. L. 104-333, div. I, title VIII, §804(a)(2), Nov. 12, 1996, 110 Stat. 4187.)

§ 18f-3. Application and definitions

(a) Application

Authorities in this section and sections 18f and 18f-2 of this title shall be available to the Secretary of the Interior with regard to museum objects and museum collections that were under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for the purposes of the National Park System before November 12, 1996, as well as those museum objects and museum collections that may be acquired on or after November 12, 1996.

(b) Definitions

For the purposes of this section and sections 18f and 18f-2 of this title, the terms “museum objects” and “museum collections” mean objects that are eligible to be or are made part of a museum, library, or archive collection through a formal procedure, such as accessioning. Such objects are usually movable and include but are not limited to prehistoric and historic artifacts, works of art, books, documents, photographs, and natural history specimens.

(July 1, 1955, ch. 259, §3, as added Pub. L. 104-333, div. I, title VIII, §804(b), Nov. 12, 1996, 110 Stat. 4188.)

SUBCHAPTER II—VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS PROGRAM

§ 18g. Creation of program

The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the Secretary) is authorized to recruit, train, and accept without regard to the civil service classification laws, rules, or regulations the services of individuals without compensation as volunteers for or in aid of interpretive functions, or other visitor services or activities in and related to areas administered by the Secretary through the National Park Service. In accepting such services of individuals or volunteers, the Secretary shall not permit the use of volunteers in hazardous duty or law enforcement work or in policymaking processes, or to displace any employee: *Provided*, That the services of individuals whom the Secretary determines are skilled in performing hazardous activities may be accepted.

(Pub. L. 91-357, §1, July 29, 1970, 84 Stat. 472; Pub. L. 98-540, §1(b), Oct. 24, 1984, 98 Stat. 2718.)

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-540 restricted the activities of volunteers except in the case of skilled individuals.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 91-357, §5, July 29, 1970, 84 Stat. 472, provided that: “This Act [enacting this subchapter] may be cited as the ‘Volunteers in the Parks Act of 1969’.”

§ 18h. Incidental expenses

The Secretary is authorized to provide for incidental expenses, such as transportation, uniforms, lodging, and subsistence.

(Pub. L. 91-357, §2, July 29, 1970, 84 Stat. 472.)

§ 18i. Federal employee status for volunteers

(a) Employment status of volunteers

Except as otherwise provided in this section, a volunteer shall not be deemed a Federal employee and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to Federal employment, including those relating to hours of work, rates of compensation, leave, unemployment compensation, and Federal employee benefits.

(b) Tort claims

For the purpose of the tort claim provisions of title 28, a volunteer under this subchapter shall be considered a Federal employee.

(c) Civil employees

For the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, relating to compensation to Federal employees for work injuries, volunteers under this subchapter shall be deemed civil employees of the United States within the meaning of the term “employee” as defined in section 8101 of title 5, and the provisions of that subchapter shall apply.

(d) Compensation for losses and damages

For the purpose of claims relating to damage to, or loss of, personal property of a volunteer incident to volunteer service, a volunteer under this subchapter shall be considered a Federal employee, and the provisions of section 3721 of title 31 shall apply.

(Pub. L. 91-357, §3, July 29, 1970, 84 Stat. 472; Pub. L. 101-286, title II, §204(b), May 9, 1990, 104 Stat. 175.)

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-286 added subsec. (d).

§ 18j. Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this subchapter, but not more than \$3,500,000 shall be appropriated in any one year.

(Pub. L. 91-357, §4, July 29, 1970, 84 Stat. 472; Pub. L. 94-128, Nov. 13, 1975, 89 Stat. 682; Pub. L. 98-540, §1(a), Oct. 24, 1984, 98 Stat. 2718; Pub. L. 104-333, div. I, title VIII, §805, Nov. 12, 1996, 110 Stat. 4188.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-333 substituted “\$3,500,000” for “\$1,000,000”.