

**Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest Visitor Center  
Exhibit Proposal  
Schulman Grove Interpretive Day Use Site  
White Mountain - Mt Whitney Ranger Districts, Inyo National Forest  
September 23, 2009**

**I. Purpose:**

**I. A. Description of Project**

The current conditions that warrant construction of this facility include:

- The Schulman Grove Visitor Center has been completely destroyed by fire.
- The replacement facility would provide shelter for day-use visitors in inclement weather, a centralized point for interpretation, on-site protection of the area, an acceptable level of visual quality and would provide a barrier free opportunity for disabled visitors to have access to this rare resource.
- A temporary visitor contact trailer has been established which does not meet the visual quality objectives of the site, accessibility, nor does it meet visitor needs and expectations.
- Over 30,000 visitors from around the world visit the Schulman Grove each summer in hopes of marveling at the world's oldest living trees.
- Public outcry for this facility to be reconstructed has been overwhelming.

**I. B. Purpose of and Need for the Exhibits**

The purpose of rebuilding the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest (aka Schulman Grove) Visitor Center is to provide a centralized point of interpretation in a facility that not only compliments the natural environment, but also achieves LEED certification. The intent of this project is to produce all aspects of a sustainable and integrated design including construction drawings, specifications and cost estimates.

The total building shall be a single story 2,100 square foot visitor center. The inside area shall be divided into five main areas, an exhibit hall, a theater, a bookstore, a storage/employee room and a research office/library. The space allotment for each area of the facility shall be discussed in detail later in this prospectus. The design and functionality of this facility shall be highly influenced by the Interpretive Master Plan and the Exhibit Prospectus. The interpretive mission of the visitor center shall be integrated into the design and development of the facility. The Inyo National Forest has secured funds to re-build the visitor center and surrounding interpretive structures that were lost in the fire. The interpretive plan guides following elements of interpretive management within the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest:

- An overview of existing exhibits and interpretive programs
- Identification of main themes, sub-themes and stories to be interpreted at the Schulman Grove site.
- Identify the function and role that the visitor center plays in the overall interpretive effort which will include the themes and stories told at the site.
- Chart the development of additional resources needed for interpretation of a world class resource.

- Provide for direction of any needed demographic research and additional planning efforts

### ***1. C. Interpretive Goals and Objectives***

The overarching goal of the Bristlecone Pine Forest Visitor Center is to provide a focal point for the interpretation of the natural history of the worlds oldest trees with a facility that blends in to and complements the adjacent scenery.

Goal #1. Provide quality personal interpretive services.

- Objective: Each visitor should be given the opportunity to ask questions and engage personnel in discussions pertaining to the natural history of the ancient trees and their surroundings.
- Objective: Adequate training time should be built into pre-season operations in addition to periodic training throughout the summer. Employees should be given time to read historic and current research articles in addition to standard training materials. Place a high emphasis on reading reference materials. Conduct frequent and periodic discussions with employees on subjects pertaining to the natural history of the ancient bristlecone pines.

Goal #2. Printed information is well designed and up to date.

- Objective: On a yearly basis all publications should be reviewed and updated as needed. Hand-out material should be professionally designed for maximum effectiveness and visual appeal.
- Objective: All printed handout should be re-designed into a family design and publishing and printing should be taken over by the interpretive association.

Goal #3. Exhibits will provide the highest quality interpretive programming through well trained personnel, professionally designed and fabricated exhibits and a commitment to serving the visiting public as stewards of *their* land.

- Objective: All exhibits and displays will be professionally designed, be part of a planned integrated theme and replaced or maintained to ensure a well-maintained up-to-date facility and site.

Goal #4: Information and interpretive services are provided in such a manner that visitors leaving the site will have a broad overview of the natural history of the ancient bristlecone pines and a basic understanding of the principles of dendrochronology.

- Objective: Upon leaving the site visitors will be able to recall the distribution of the bristlecone pines, the basics of why they attain such a great age and how to determine the age of a tree (increment boring).
- Objective: Visitors should also have the basic concept of a continuous tree-ring chronology and how that relates to past climates. Visitors will be introduced to the concept of the bristlecone pines as great recorders of past climatic changes.

Goal #5: All exhibits, information and personal interpretive contacts will encourage and motivate visitors to explore the forest and to the extent possible, use the trail system to visit the *ancient* trees.

- Objective: Each visitor should be provided the information that indicates while all the trees in the vicinity of the visitor center are bristlecone pines it is only by hiking the trails that they will be able to view the old, ancient trees. Visitors should be encouraged to hike at least the short Discovery Trail, while informing them of rest benches, the distance and difficulty of the trail and the option of viewing the documentary film as an alternative to those that might be unable to hike the trail.

Goal #6: Exhibits will present the following subjects in a manner that is visually pleasing, understandable and written and designed to the highest standards.

Objectives:

- To provide a basic biological and historic background of the Bristlecone Pine and its White Mountain environment including past native inhabitants.
- To foster a greater understanding of our role in managing forest health, and water production as it pertains to management, scientific and research efforts with the as they pertain to historically long tree ring chronologies, which as an as an indicators of past climates in order to foster a greater understanding of our role in managing forest health, and water production.
- To provide a basic understand of the principles of dendrochronology, dendroclimatology, and fundamental understanding of the principles of Radiocarbon Dating and its impact as it relates to the Bristlecone Pines at Schulman Grove and the reinterpretation of the west European history.

## **II. Interpretive Planning Summary:**

### **2. A. Market/Audience/Visitation Statistics (NVUM)**

Visitation to the Ancient Bristlecone area is strictly on a day use basis; overnight camping is not allowed within the established forest. The typical group arrives with an average of 3 persons per vehicle, spends about 2 ½ hours on their visit including a day hike. These visitors often bring their own lunch and water and are usually prepared for the day trip at the 10,000 foot Schulman Grove area.

The season of visitation begins when the winter closure gate is open – usually the week prior to the Memorial Day weekend. The ending of the visitation is dictated by the arrival of winter weather. During that season of use, the heaviest visitation is from about June 15th through the end of September. The Saturdays in July and August tend to be quite busy – the parking lot is usually 2/3 full during that time with an average of 15 to 20 people in the building at any one time. Weekdays during the core summer months can be busy but typically see visitation that is busiest in the late morning/early afternoon.

Families with school age children are common during these summer months with a noticeably change to younger retired and/or traveling-adventuring seniors during September and October. The largest percentages of visitors are those from Southern

California visiting the eastern Sierra on a very long weekend or a week long visit. People frequently visit the bristlecone pines as part of their visit to Mono Lake, Devils Postpile and Death Valley (off season). Foreign visitors make up approximately 8 to 10% of the visitation during the height of the summer season and a slightly lower percentage in the fall. Of these foreign visitors however, the great majority speak English quite well and the need for translated interpretive materials has historically been low.

### **Visitor Use Trends**

Visitation to the ancient bristlecone pine forest jumped significantly after the visitor center was constructed and opened in 1996. This was in part due to the publicity of the new facility and numerous magazine and journal articles. The visitation that year exceeded 30,000 visitors for the first time. It should be noted that this figure represents visitors to Schulman Grove and not necessarily the visitor center. The visitor count includes visitors after hours and during the seasonal time periods that the visitor center is not staffed.

Since 1995, visitation has increased about 5% per year. The most notable increase has been in September, while use trends have indicated a slight decline in use during the last week in August. July and August are the busiest months followed closely by June and September. Visitation in May is not much although the weekends from the middle of the month on are getting busier. The “summer season” ends at the fourth week in August but the fall/late summer visitation through the end of September is strong. As an example, in 2006, the visitation for September actually exceeded that of August. All of the months show a much stronger visitation on Saturday with Sunday ahead of the remaining five days. Visitation becomes strongest at about 11:00 and continues until about 1:30 at which it drops off noticeably; then picks up again towards the end of the day.

\*Unpublished data collected by Humboldt State University July, 2004

Visitors frequent the area in the evenings and during the seasonal period when staff is not on duty. They come to view the *ancient* bristlecone pines and to acquire information to answer the question of how the trees attain such an incredible age. The education and income level of visitors is higher than many other local or regional destinations. Interest levels in seeing the old trees and learning about them is high as the trip to the grove requires a commitment of time.

## **2. B. Planning Assumptions Related to Interpretation**

The primary reason visitors make the effort and drive to Schulman Grove is to see and learn about the ancient trees.

Due to its location at 10,000 feet in elevation high atop the White Mountains, the Schulman Grove Interpretive Site will remain a spring, summer, and fall attraction with very limited winter visitation.

Since overnight facilities will not be provided beyond the one established campground and the fact that it takes 45 minutes to drive to Schulman Grove from the Owens Valley, it is anticipated that the area will remain as a single day visit location.

Most visitors allot enough time for a reasonably thorough stay.

Food and water (except bottled water) will continue to be unavailable at the site.

Due to the scientific nature of the resource, guests that come to the site will continue to have a higher education and income level than many other visitors to other regional park and forest lands.

All newly constructed facilities and exhibits will be ADA compliant and where appropriate, strive for LEED certification.

Prior to arriving, most visitors know that these are the oldest trees in the world but have little understanding of the concepts of:

## **2. C. Existing Facilities and Services**

### **Previous Facility**

From the time of administrative designation until the early 1970s there was intermittent Forest Service presence at Schulman Grove during the summer months. In the early 1970's small mobile home/office style trailer was moved onto the site and served as a very small "visitor center" until the log facility was built in 1995. This building contained three main rooms: an office/storage area, a small 20 seat theatre room and a main auditorium/exhibit room. The surrounding grounds also included an exterior exhibit area and patio space. The building interior contained a bookstore, art gallery area, small sitting area, free standing front desk/counter, discovery table and exhibits along the wall. The bulk of the square footage in the main auditorium area was used for visitor traffic, small stand-up group presentations and space for up to 40 visitors.

The building worked extremely well as a focal point for interpretive efforts, as a facility for visitors to get out of the elements and as an administrative facility for employees. It provided information for visitors and interpretive displays on the bristlecone pines. The building was destroyed by a fire in 2008. The Schulman Grove Interpretive Site is a day use facility located high atop the White Mountains of the Inyo National Forest from about May 20<sup>th</sup> to about November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Winter visitor's snowshoe, ski or hike through the snow to the Schulman Grove area. There are no services or facilities open to the public. Interpretive efforts have centered on achieving two main goals:

1. having visitors understand the principles of tree-ring dating (dendrochronology) and
2. leaving with a basic understanding of how these trees have changed the interpretation of western European history (through radio carbon dating).

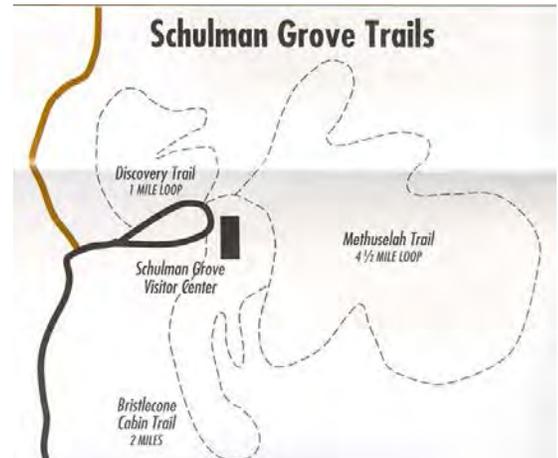
The current interpretive effort consists of 1) interpretive trails through the grove; 2).printed material specific to the area (free handouts); 3) exterior exhibit panels along the patio perimeter; 4) a visitor center with exhibits; 5) an introductory film; and 6) personally delivered interpretive information, talks and guided trail hikes.

### **Exterior Exhibit Panels**

Exhibits located remaining on the deck from the former facility, and address various natural history subjects such as competition, identification of the two conifers at Schulman Grove (limber pine and bristlecone pine), and soil condition.

### **Introductory Film**

The previous visitor center and the plans for the new one include a small theatre in order to show the documentary film: Living History – The Bristlecone Pines.



### **Goals and Objectives of New Facility**

The overall goals of a new visitor center at Schulman Grove while similar to those of the previous structure also include an updated interpretive focus on scientific research and climate change impacts and an enlarged theatre room. The following are goals for the facility to achieve that overall purpose.

1. Goal: Provide a Focal Point of Interpretation. The overall main purpose or goal of the Bristlecone Pine Forest Visitor Center is to provide a facility for the interpretation of the natural history of the ancient trees. The building should allow for visitors to read and interact with exhibits, view the film documentary, interact with on duty staff and have the opportunity to learn and understand about both not only the natural and cultural history of the trees but also the current research and on-going scientific studies.
2. Goal: Provide administrative space for staff working areas, storage of book store materials, an employee break/lunch room and an office research library.
3. Goal: Provide space for a small natural history association bookstore to provide sale items that both increase the understanding of the visitors, provide remembrances of their visitor and to provide a minimal amount of convenience items. The focus of the bookstore will be on items pertaining to high altitude research, pine forests, natural history of the west and quality items of remembrance pertaining to their bristlecone pine forest. The emphasis will be on natural history interpretation and remote area conveniences, not as a “gift shop”.
4. Goal: Provide enough space in a small theater room that can hold a typical class of 30 students in a casual “living room” home theatre style. The theatre room provides a location to show the film documentary and secondly should provide enough space for a small meeting, training or seminar presentation.

## 2. D. Overall Theme/Sub-Theme

*The Bristlecone Pine Forest is a Living Record of our Changing Earth*

### Sub-Themes (of the primary theme) and Storylines

The overarching theme of the interpretive effort reflects the two elements that have been identified as critically important in bristlecone pine interpretation: time and recorders of change.

#### Topic: Ecological adaptation

Sub theme

Life at this harsh, high altitude environment requires adaptations and means of survival.

Storylines:

- The Bristlecone is an ecologic irony.
- The White Mountains are an example of an island in a desert.

#### Topic: Geology:

Sub theme: The geological formation of the White Mountains resulted in soils conducive to Bristlecone pine survival and advancement.

Storylines:

- Sediment ocean body uplift creating dolomite soils which bristlecones have adapted to where other species have not.
- The geological formation of the White Mountains resulted in soils conducive to Bristlecone pine survival and advancement.
- The Explosion of fossils in the dolomite soils are part of the basic geologic phenomena of the story of White Mountains and the ancient sea that once flowed in this region.

#### Topic: Stewardship & Management

Sub theme: Stewardship of the landscape is consistent with the desire to preserve these ancient trees for public appreciation and scientific research.

Storylines:

- 21<sup>st</sup> century Forest Service management has guided the construction of a model, sustainable building, quality special area management and close attention to public needs and desires for the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest.
- The original visitor center was destroyed by a fire in 2008 and rebuilt in 2010 due to community support, committed from the public and private sectors and using design principles for sustainability and energy efficiency.
- A history of scientific research in the White Mountains and Schulman Grove has provided an irreplaceable picture into the earth's past environments.
- These gnarled and twisted trees with their ancient lifespan captivate our imagination and inspiration for various artistic expressions.
- The Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest was administratively designated as a Special Interest Area by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1958 in order to "protect the ancient trees and provide for scientific research and public enjoyment."
- History of building and how the place was rebuilt with community support, tax dollars are invested.

## Topic: A Sense of Time

Sub theme: Time as measured through these ancient trees has given us a more accurate understanding of our place in history.

Storylines:

- Bristlecone pines have measured time and environmental history through their incredible long continuous tree-ring chronology.
- Schulman Grove has seen a rich history of research beginning with the history of Edmond Schulman (Pioneers of Dendronchrology).
- Time has been measured in various methods Measurements of time dating back to Native American habitation of White Mountains.
- Trees serve as living recorders of past climates with Bristle cone (tree ring records dating back to 11,000 years).
- The Bristlecone tell a story in of climate change on earth (changes in treeline) and what it implies for the nature of ecosystems and species evolution.
- Because its earth temperatures are getting warmer, a more hospitable environment is being created, the trees in Bristlecone Pine forest are at risk as they are more vulnerable to disease and insects.

### **Media Recommendations, Exhibit Concepts, Design Criteria**

The visitor center will be approximately 2050 ft<sup>2</sup> with the following space allocations:

Exhibit Hall 900 feet<sup>2</sup>

Bookstore 365 ft<sup>2</sup>

Theatre 385 feet<sup>2</sup>

Office/library/work area/240 feet

Storage/employee break area 160 feet<sup>2</sup>



The interior architecture of the building will be determined by the style of logs used for construction. All inside portions of exterior walls will be left in their natural log state.

The interpretive exhibits should convey a feeling of beauty and serenity when informing visitors of the natural, cultural and scientific significance of the ancient trees and their surroundings.

Due to limited electrical power and the tone and ambiance of the area, electronic and sound producing exhibits will be limited.

A small wall space will also be dedicated as a gallery wall for rotating art works. The bristlecone forest is a popular destination for photographers and artists and a gallery area will both provide an outlet for these works and an area for visitors to appreciate the beauty of the trees in various mediums.

Main Auditorium: The main auditorium/exhibit area will have many functions including the following:

- A location to shelter from inclement elements
- Interpretive Exhibits
- Tactile or interactive displays that cannot be presented outdoors
- An indoor location to conduct both formal and informal interpretation
- An informal rest/waiting area designed in a lodge/living room type of setting with a small fireplace that can be used for either wood or propane gas operation
- A corner or portion of wall space dedicated for changing art exhibits
- The free-standing reception or information desk will be located in this main exhibit hall/auditorium

The main auditorium with wall mounted exhibits, a free standing information counter and sitting area will be the main reception and informational interchange area of the building.

Exterior exhibits will be included in the design as to allow for non-staffed interpretation during shoulder season and before/after hours visitation. These exhibits should be in close proximity to the building to be of use during staffed presentations and should portray the basic or core “bristlecone story”. The interior exhibits should also more focus on stories that are more difficult to tell in an outside setting.

Gallery Wall: This section of the visitor center will include pieces of art work centering on the bristlecone pines and the White Mountains.

Sitting/resting area: An area for visitors to sit and rest is needed due to the elevation of the facility. Details on this area can be found in the building prospectus.

#### Audio Description

Audio description will be included as part of the exhibit design and installation contract to correspond with exhibit design and development. Consideration needs to be taken into account regarding sound pollution/corruption in the event multiple audio/visual mediums are selected. The finishes in the building allow for sound to bounce within the space and can interfere with the duties and services of the VIS.

#### Exterior Kiosk Panels:

This multi-panel kiosk is to be located immediately adjacent to the visitor center so that visitor center personnel can use the panels to help instruct groups during outside interpretive talks. It is best located so that a portion of the group may elect to stand or sit.

Interior Exhibits Concepts will consist of the following:

Bristlecone cross-section table exhibit

Tree ring slab - donated by University of Arizona

Etched glass timeline raised atop the slab

Mounting table with slab interpretive panels

Discovery Table exhibit

Mounting table

Magnifying glass system

Signage and graphics

Computer Touchscreen Exhibit reinstalled

Natural History Reference pages  
Mounting table  
Small wall display  
Container box approximately 50 or so HPL pages

## **Evaluation Strategies and Techniques**

While evaluation of any program is a critical factor to its ongoing success, it is often the most over looked component. Evaluation of exhibits, programs, or any interpretive endeavor provides a venue for restructuring effective program planning and opportunity for growth. Evaluation and monitoring must be conducted regularly to ensure the high quality visitor services indicative of the Forest Service.

### **Exhibit Evaluation**

The following simple methods should be utilized on an annual basis by unit recreation staff. Exhibits may be evaluated in the planning stage and after completion by using one or a combination of the following methods:

- Print draft copies and post on sited or at adjacent visitor centers/offices with a questionnaire or blank sheet for visitors to comment before production.
- Evaluate draft exhibits with panel of outsiders not associated with interpretation of subject matter such as local historic group, people with disabilities, and organizations like friends groups, etc.
- Observe exhibit readers noting amount of time spent at exhibit.
- Evaluated exhibit based upon interaction with various sensory, ability and cognitive levels (For exhibit evaluation guidance, refer to the Wayside Exhibit Evaluation Checklist found at the CDI website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/cdi>.)
- Observe and record visitor interest at exhibit sites by fingerprints, footprints, and cigarette butts. Look for results of depreciate behavior and increase or decrease in vandalism/graffiti, etc.
- Solicit visitor comments with questionnaire they fill out.

## **III. Facility Summary**

### **3. A. Exhibit Design Elements and Criteria**

Adherence to high-quality design standards is critical to the success of interpretive media. Visitors are more inclined to read information and abide by forest regulations if the material is presented clearly, aesthetically and professionally. These guidelines should be used to define standards and maintain consistency in the development of interpretive media. Guidelines should be adhered to throughout media-development phases.

1. All exhibits should be fabricated of similar materials; using computer digitized printing adhering to standards common within the graphic design industry.
2. All interpretive media should blend harmoniously with the interior and exterior environment, using design elements consistent with the Built Environment Image

- Guide (BEIG), Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), LEED certification level, local resources, and limited impacts to cultural and natural resources.
3. Interpretive media must strictly adhere to federal accessibility standards. Written material should be available in large print and audio format.
  4. Facilities and program design should meet all current accessibility design standards and guidelines, using the Exhibit Accessibility Checklist, USDA Forest Service Accessibility Program  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/smithsonian.htm>
  5. Specifications for all artwork developed during the exhibit design phase should have provisions to provide on-going use for any future product development for the forest.
  6. Media design should adhere to all federal, state, and local codes. Both interior and exterior exhibits should be designed so they are built of standard stock materials (where possible), which will permit them to be repaired and replicated locally (within a few hundred miles' radius), or be shipped within a few days' notice.
  7. Specific narrative text, labels, captions, artwork, and signs for information displays and interpretive exhibits should be developed utilizing the themes, goals, and objectives outlined in this document.
  8. The Forest Service and the exhibit designer will consult with the local Native American tribes in development of any exhibit with Native American themes, text, or similar elements as appropriate.
  9. All exhibits should share similar lettering styles, layout elements, graphic techniques, and materials utilized by the scenic byway wayside area exhibits.
  10. Exhibit designs should be consistent with the building architecture and interior style and should use similar materials to those in the scenic byway waysides.
  11. While guidelines for development of the exhibits are stated in this section, innovative presentation techniques and media are encouraged as appropriate for the West Portal.
  12. Exhibits should be structurally sound and be designed to operate with minimal maintenance and attendance, as well as to minimize the risk of vandalism and/or other types of damage.
  13. Exhibits should be designed to present no safety hazard or threat to visitors or resources.
  14. Outdoor interpretive exhibits should be creative and consistent with the media being used inside the visitor center. Outdoor exhibit design should complement the style and coloring of the visitor center.
  15. The exhibits should feature low-tech, high-touch exhibit designs. Interactive media should be used wherever possible; however, simple mechanical techniques are favored over computerized components. In all cases, the chosen medium should enhance the message and not overpower or become the main attraction. Designs should show how the message will be conveyed if the interactive device should become temporarily out of service.

16. Exhibits that utilize sound should direct the sound so as not to disturb either visitors observing an adjacent exhibit or the center's staff.
17. All electronic messages should be easily updated or modified at minimal expense.
18. The overall design will include all lighting, sound, special effects, and other electrical or mechanical products or work specified that is not included in the building design plans.
19. Equipment cases, display cases, or any other areas with valuable items should be designed with security in mind and should be lockable.
20. Design of exhibit area should consider traffic-flow patterns, visitor habits, and accessibility in its overall layout. Exhibits should have a logical flow, but should also allow for flexibility
21. The completed products should acknowledge the funding sources used to accomplish the work. For byways designated as one of America's Byways, the brand logo should be used on all printed materials, audio or visual media, interpretive exhibits, and kiosks. The Federal Highway Administration should be recognized as a funding source on all interpretive information or products, regardless of designation. See <http://www.bywaysonline.org/program/marketing/> for information on attributing the funds.

### **3. B. Site Plan/Diagram    N/A**

Considerations should be made to accommodate the sensitive ecosystem of the development site. The site is a Brownfield site and there is infrastructure already in place. The design of the facility should utilize the current infrastructure as well as natural elements. The facility should be designed to compliment the site rather than dominate the site.

These considerations were included in the original Schulman Grove Interpretive Site Prospectus, dated 1993 by the Inyo National Forest. Some alterations have been made from the original document.

#### ***Location***

Schulman Grove (elevation 10,150 feet) is located approximately 300 miles north of Los Angeles in the White Mountain Range east of Bishop. The site is 23 miles east of U.S. Highway 395 and can be reached by taking State Highway 168 East from Big Pine to White Mountain Road, then north to the end of the pavement at Schulman Grove. The proposed interpretive site will be located in the same area as the previous interpretive site, at the south end of the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest Botanical Area.

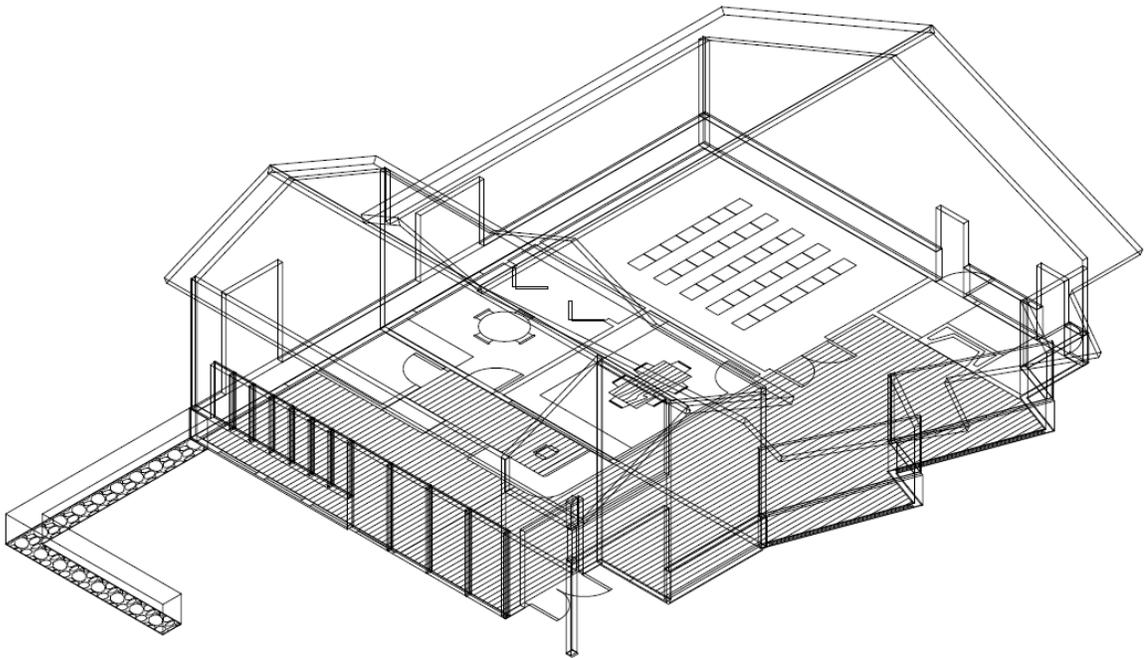
#### ***Landscaping***

The landscaping of the site will be kept to a minimum. The areas that are disturbed due to construction shall be rehabilitated to promote native vegetation growth. Attention should be paid to insure that landscaping is natural and blends perfectly with the surrounding forest. Aside from boardwalk and path boundaries, the transition from landscaped areas to native growth/material areas should be seamless. There will be no irrigation at this site.

### ***Design Considerations***

The design of the building shall take into consideration the critical objectives of the visitor center. These include the interpretive mission, LEED certification, visual quality, accessibility and visitor needs. The design shall be complimentary of the surrounding natural elements and shall not overpower the grandeur of the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. The profile of the building shall also compliment the surrounding ridgelines and use natural lines that will balance the building with the area. The rustic nature of the site is intended to be preserved. Local materials, colors and styles should also be used to not only minimize visual impact but also to give the building a timeless look and feel. There shall be a uniform architectural style throughout the entire site.

### **3. C. Floor Plan**



## **IV. Accessibility**

The exhibit accessibility checklist will be strictly adhered to. It can be found at:

Exhibit Accessibility Checklist, USDA Forest Service Accessibility Program  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/smithsonian.htm>

## V. Proposed Method/Process to Acquire Exhibit Text Development, Design, Fabrication and Installation

The Forest has completed the interpretive plan and in coordination with the Center for Design and Interpretation (CDI) has prepared this proposal for the project.

The project will be contracted out. The RFP will include design, fabrication, and installation of the all exhibits. Contract specifications will be developed to advertisement in Biz Ops. This contract will be awarded similar to an A/E contract with the top competitors doing a presentation to the review team for a final decision.

## VI. Project Team and Capabilities / Roles and Responsibilities, Project Schedule

### Project Team:

COR/Project Manager	Cheryl Hazlitt	CDI
Forest Liaison,	Nancy Upham	Inyo National Forest
Interpretive Specialist/ District Contact and		
Project Inspector	John Louth	Inyo National Forest
Engineer and facilities	Nora Gamino	
CDI Manager	Terry Wong	CDI
Contracting Officer	Denise Storm	Region 5

### Reviewers:

Tim Williams, Region 5 Interpretive Coordinator  
 Nora Gamino, District Engineer, White Mountain - Mount Whitney Ranger Districts National Forest  
 John Louth, Interpretive Specialist, White Mountain Ranger District, Inyo National Forest  
 Nancy Upham, Public Affairs Officer, Inyo National Forest  
 Jeff Marsolais, Forest Recreation Officer, Inyo National Forest  
 Margaret Wood, District Ranger, White Mountain - Mount Whitney Ranger Districts  
 Jim Upchurch, Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest  
 Terry Wong, Manager for Center for Design and Interpretation, Region 2  
 Kristen Nelson, Interpretive Services Manager, Washington Office,  
 Eugene Kim, Region 5 Architect

## VII. Project Schedule

FY09	Activity	Complete	Who	A/E Building Schedule
	Site visit and met with district team	April, 2009	CDI- Hazlitt Forest Team	
	Begin drafting Project Plan & Agreement	6-15-09	CDI- Hazlitt	

	Completed draft Interpretive Plan submitted and reviewed by district and forest	7-14-09	District-Louth	Phone conference July 17 to review timeline
	Hazlitt additions to Interp Plan	7-31-09	CDI - Hazlitt	
	Approve, sign and submit Project Plan and Agreement to CDI	8-7-09	Forest - Upham	R5 Conceptual Design presentation on bldg concept, July 29
	Forest Approves Interp Plan	8-15-09	Forest staff	
	Final formatting	9-15-09	CDI - Hazlitt	30 % design review end of Aug 26, 2009
<b>FY10</b>	RO Approval of interpretive plan	10-1-09	Tim Williams	
	Work with WO to finalize and approve interpretive and exhibit proposal	10-15-09	CDI-Hazlitt	Sept 21 <sup>st</sup> , 09 A/E contract awarded 5 months completion
	Approved interpretive plan printed and distributed	10-31-09	CDI, Forest	
	Forest to complete spatial diagrams for exhibit spaces (tied architectural designs)	11-1-09	CDI coordinates with Forest (Upham and Louth)	Design complete with construction documents complete, Feb 28/2010
	Develop RFPs using A&E procedures	11-1-09	CDI- Hazlitt	Contracting package developed, 30 days prep
	Review RFPs and Forest get comments To CDI	11-15-09	Forest – Upham and Louth	Bid closes, mid April 2010
	Revise RFP(s) and Interpretive Plan and submit final to contracting	12-15-09	CDI- Hazlitt	Construction contract awarded, mid May 2010
	Receive proposals	3-31-09	Forest CO	Construction & groundbreaking: June – Nov, 2010
	Competition Presentations done for project	April/May, 010	Potential contractors	April 2011 - Completion of construction dependent on weather with completion
	Make selection of contractor(s)	6-1-10	CDI and Forest	
	Award Contract(s)	8-1-10	Forest/CO	
	Exhibit installations completed	<b>6-1-11</b>		

	Furniture completed			
<b>FY11</b>	Grand Opening	7-2011	Everyone!	

## VIII. Estimated Cost

### Funding Plan

Funding for the exhibits is provided through allocated Forest Service dollars to the project combined with funds from the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association.

#### 8. B. Exhibits

<b>Cost Estimates for Schulman Grove VC Exhibits</b>	
<i>Interior</i>	
<b>Bristlecone cross-section table exhibit</b>	
Tree ring slab - donated by UA	0.0
Etched glass timeline raised atop the slab	900.0
Mounting table	600.0
Slab Interpretive panels design/fabrication	3,500.0
Exhibit design, construction, fabrication/install	2,500.0
	<b>7,500.0</b>
<b>Discovery Table exhibit</b>	
Mounting table	800.0
Magnifying glass system	3,000.0
Signage and graphics	900.0
Exhibit design, construction, fabrication/install	500.0
	<b>5,200.0</b>
<b>Computer Touchscreen Exhibit reinstalled as is</b>	<b>600.0</b>
<b>Natural History Reference pages</b>	
Mounting table	500.0
Small wall display	600.0
Container box approximately 50 or so HPL pages	300.0
Graphic design and text done by Forest Service staff (\$10,000 in staff resources).	0.0
Page fabrication	10,000.0
	<b>11,400.0</b>
Subtotal for all interior table exhibits	<b>24,700.0</b>
<b>Interior wall panels 3x4, design &amp; fabrication, installation</b>	<b>28,500.0</b>
<b>Mural rail exhibit:</b>	<b>17,000.0</b>
<b>Construction of a two person, free-standing information desk kiosk</b>	<b>50,000.0</b>
Audio description and listening devices	<b>20,000.0</b>

Exhibit installation and remoteness of site factors	<b>20,000.0</b>
<b>Subtotal for all interior</b>	<b>160,200.0</b>
<i>Exterior</i>	
Welcome/Entry Sign, Including design & fabrication	<b>15,000.0</b>
Total cost for exterior exhibits: \$28,500 x 25% cost overrun	<b>35,625.0</b>
Kiosk materials and stanchions	<b>15,000.0</b>
Contract administration	23,000.0
<b>Total all work for exhibits at VC</b>	<b>248,825.0</b>

### 8. C. Operations and Maintenance (staffing and facility)

Previous operational costs for running the Bristlecone Pine Forest Visitor Center were derived from three main sources: recreational force account funding, recreation fee funding and direct staffing, printing and exhibit development costs paid for by the interpretive association. Cost for the 6 month season of the visitor center were approximately \$33,500 and are broken down into the following elements:

Seasonal staff salaries:

\$20,000

Printing informational handouts

\$ 3,500

Vehicle:

\$ 6,000

Utilities, supplies and materials:

\$ 4,000

Total:

\$33,500

These figures do not include the salary of the district interpretive specialist who spends approximately 50% of his/her time on supervision, training and management of the bristlecone pine forest and visitor center. That 50% portion costs approximately \$25,000.

The following is a three year average of the funding of the operational expenses

National forest recreation funding: \$ 5,000

Recreational fee site funding: \$18,000

Interpretive association direct funding: \$ 8,000

Donations: \$ 2,500

Total: \$33,500

While future operational and maintenance costs are dependent on the size, scope and complexity of the new facility, it is planned that the visitor center will continue to be the type of facility that can be operated with minimum staff.

Seasonal staff: \$25,000

Snow removal (spring): \$ 1,500

Vehicle: \$ 8,000

Printing: \$ 4,000

Utilities, supplies materials: \$5,000

Total: \$43,500

# Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest Map

