

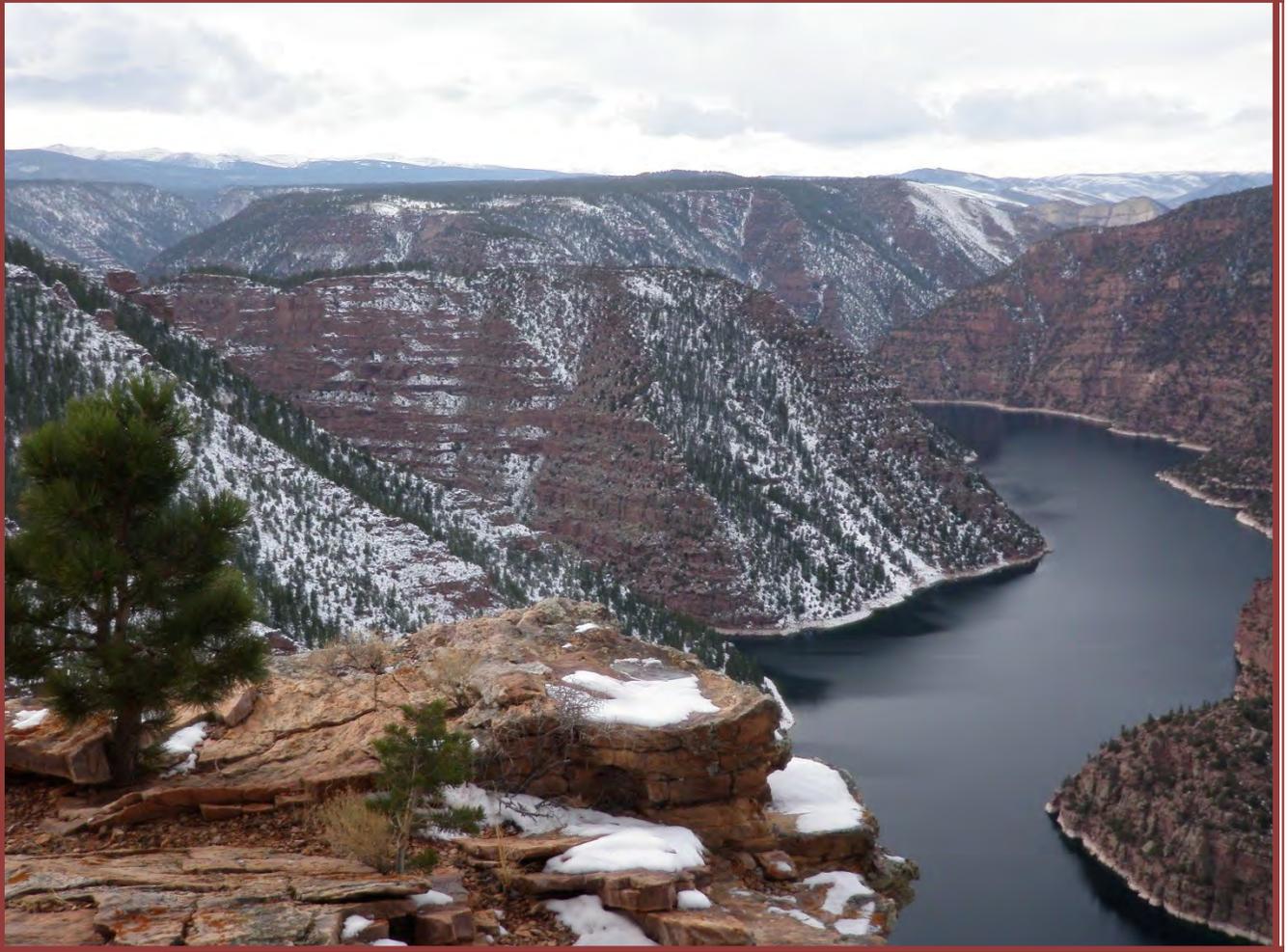


United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Red Canyon Visitors Center

Interpretive Plan



Region 4

Ashley
National Forest

December 2013



Flaming Gorge Ranger District Ashley National Forest

Discover



Immerse



Experience

Acknowledgements

The inspiration and development of the Red Canyon Visitors Center Interpretive Plan was possible with of the contributions made by the following employees and partners.



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Introduction

Background Information

The Red Canyon Visitor Center sits on the southern rim of the Red Canyon above the Flaming Gorge Reservoir overlooking a stunning view into the 1,631 foot canyon. The design of the building was to feature this magnificent view in a safe setting for visitors.

Construction began on the Red Canyon Visitor Center in 1964 and was completed by summer of 1965. The architect for this project was Thair H. Blackburn of Ogden Utah. The center currently provides scenic points of interest, educational programs, natural history, interpretive trails, and recreation information for the larger Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (NRA) as well as other recreational opportunities surrounding the NRA. For many of our visitors this center is the only opportunity they



Red Canyon Visitor Center, August 1966.

have to experience the beauty of the canyon. The center also provides interpretive signage and exhibits that allow the visitor to continue their discovery as they immerse themselves with the rich cultural and natural history of the area.

Current amenities include restrooms, area information, ample parking and nature trails. The center is a destination point for viewing the Red Canyon. While many include a visit to the center as part of their travel experience to the Flaming Gorge NRA, others find it a happy discovery. The center operates on a seasonal schedule from late May into early September and closes during winter months. During the season, the center operates 7 days a week, 7 hours per day with a mixture of agency and volunteer labor. Volunteers are housed in a nearby compound that has a duplex and several RV full service sites. The visitor center is located at the end of Red Canyon Road (FS 95) and is reached by following highway 44 west of the Greendale Junction.

Center Use

Annually the Red Canyon Visitors Center documents an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 visitors. This figure does not document the number of visitors who come to the visitors center outside of the established hours of operation to view the canyon from the overlooks in the immediate area of the center. The visitor center tends to be an important stop for foreigners as well. During the 2012 season around 4,400 visitors signed the guest book. Out of those that signed the guestbook almost 800 identified themselves as being from another country. Germany(175 visitors), Switzerland(120 visitors) and France(117 visitors) were the countries that had the most representation. Other out of country visitors include people from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Holland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Interpretive



services at the visitors center increase visitation as well. Interpretive programs held at the center attract anywhere from 5 to 30+ visitors.

Purpose of the Interpretive Plan

The intent of an interpretive plan is to create a vision for improved facilities and services that contribute to a positive visitor experience and meet Forest Service management goals of connecting with the public on current issues facing resource managers. The creation and implementation of this plan serves to provide a roadmap for a strong agency presence and Forest Service facility that works as an educational center and destination point for the agency, public, and wider community to enjoy for years to come. The Forest Service has established a wide variety of goals for our managed areas. Red Canyon Visitor Center serves to promote the goal of “Advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity, and beauty of forests and associated lands.”

This center will strive to provide knowledge to our visitors that will advocate a greater understanding and appreciation for the environment that we recreate and live in. It is our hope that this greater understanding and appreciation will instill a sense of pride and stewardship in the natural resources that surround them.

The intent of this interpretive plan is to:

- Identify the significant interpretive themes, goals, and messages to be displayed or presented at the visitor center and surrounding areas.
- Define design concepts, and options for new exhibits for the center, both interior and exterior, that address the stated themes, goals, statements of significance and interpretive themes.
- Recommend exhibit upgrades, interpretive programs, and educational or informational media with associated cost estimates, priorities and budget stretching ideas.
- Lay the groundwork for the center's visitor information services program.
- Meet recreation objectives as part of the Ashley National Forest Mission.
- Coordinate with the Bureau of Reclamation in identifying and coordinating messages on water storage, conservation, watershed management and facilities.

Vision Statement

A vision statement provides a concise definition of the interpretive program. Developed by Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area personnel, the vision is best captured with the following invitation and pledge to visitors:

Discover, Immerse, and Explore!

Red Canyon Visitor Center personnel is dedicated to providing educational and informative programs that enhance each person's visit to Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.



...companies stage an experience whenever they “engage” customers, connecting with them in a meaningful, personal, memorable way.

— Joseph Pine II, author of *The Experience Economy: Work is Theatre and Every Business a Stage*

Interpretive Goals and Outcomes

For many of our visitors the center is the first and only opportunity they have to experience the beauty and uniqueness of Red Canyon and Flaming Gorge. The center can enhance visitor experiences as they immerse themselves with the rich cultural and natural history of the area through displays and services offered by the Forest Service. Displays and activities targeting children will be offered to help instill a respect for resources and natural wonders of the area.

Goals establish what our VIS program intends to deliver to the visiting public. These goals promote the mission of the Forest Service and the Ashley National Forest. Goals for the Red Canyon Visitor Center program include:

Goal One: To provide visitors a welcome and orientation to recreational opportunities and services provided by the Ashley National Forest and its partners on the Flaming Gorge NRA.

Desired Outcomes

- ◆ Visitors are oriented to recreational opportunities, facilities, and services available in the Red Canyon area, on the Flaming Gorge NRA, in nearby communities, and nearby on connected roads and trails.
- ◆ Visitors understand how to access the opportunities, facilities, and services.
- ◆ Visitor feedback indicates that guests have been treated in a professional manner, feel welcome, are aware of opportunities, and have the maps or other navigation and information that enhance their experience on the NRA.
- ◆ With the help of partners, visitor opportunities have increased through ad diversity of programs and services, expanded hours of service, and availability of theme related sales items.
- ◆ Children leaving the center are eager to learn more about resources and Forest Service.

Goal Two: Provide a sense of place by conveying the unique and varied natural, cultural, and historic values of the Red Canyon area and Flaming Gorge NRA. Safety messages are a part of this orientation.

Desired Outcomes

- ◆ Signage, displays, fonts, and other components borrow from Red Canyon Visitor Center's natural surroundings, architecture, and historic signing where possible while providing for a varied audience.
- ◆ Interpretation in messages focus on locally unique or valued qualities.
- ◆ Visitor feedback indicates a sense of place due to their increased awareness of the scenery, geology, history or other local information.
- ◆ Visitors receive safety messages about using these resources.
- ◆ There is an increase in donations to the visitor center.

Goal Three: To inform and inspire visitors about nature, history, conservation, stewardship of public lands, and the Forest Service Mission.

Desired Outcomes

- ◆ Messages show connections of people to natural resource uses, conditions, and conservation.
- ◆ Visitors develop an understanding of the role of the Forest Service and partners in managing natural, historic, and recreational resources.
- ◆ Visitors are inspired to explore resources of the area.
- ◆ Visitors leave the area with an understanding of volunteer opportunities that are available to them on the Flaming Gorge NRA.

Interpretive Themes and Subthemes

Interpretive Themes and Statements of Significance are the building blocks for exhibit definition and development. These statements are representative of what is special, unique, and intrinsically important to a site or natural feature. A main theme statement is defined with supporting statements of significance focused on specific resources, or messages. Each statement of significance then has specific storylines that are important to include about that unique resource.

Red Canyon Visitor Center theme statement:

“ The view at Red Canyon Overlook and Visitor Center provides a glimpse into the dynamic natural and cultural history of the Uintah Mountains and the Green River watershed —a landscape rich in scenery, ecosystem diversity and wildlife that has drawn people for hundreds of years. “





Statements of Significance and Storylines

#1) The geology of a river that flows toward the mountains. Why does the Green River flow toward the mountains instead of away from them? It did not always do so.

- ◆ Reservoir Geology Overview: The rock strata ranges from recent and current wind-blown and landslide deposits around the northern tip of flaming gorge reservoir in Wyoming to 1 billion year old Uinta Mountain Group formation around the southern section of Flaming Gorge in Utah. The rocks generally increase in age as you travel downstream from Firehole Canyon to Red Canyon.
- ◆ Red Canyon within Flaming Gorge provides a visual record of earth history revealing millions of years and events in ancient environments.
- ◆ Uinta Mountain Group: This is the formation you see from RCVC. It is the oldest visible rock along the reservoir. It makes up the entire Red Canyon and is the rock on which the dam is constructed and is the core of the Uinta Mountains. The Uinta Mountain Group was laid down during the Precambrian Era. First a rift formed. Then, 770 million-1.1 billion years ago more than 24,000 feet of gravel, sand, silt and mud sediment was deposited and accumulated in this rift valley. The lithification (cementing) of this sediment became the Uinta Mountain Group.
- ◆ Uinta Mountains form: 40-70 million years ago in the Mesozoic Era, rocks were squeezed, folded, warped and uplifted along faults, forming the Uinta Mountains.
- ◆ Gilbert Peak Erosion Surface formation/Radiating streams: 10 million years of crustal stability followed and a gently sloping surface called the Gilbert Peak erosion surface formed along the sides of the Uintas. You are standing on this surface and it is also the flat surface you see across the canyon on its rim. At this time, about 30 million years ago in the Cenozoic Era, streams likely radiated down the mountains in all directions and cut across this surface. Other streams likely flowed north to the Green River Basin and into the ancestral Green River, which is believed to have flowed east into the Platte River.
- ◆ Easterly drainage begins ('Red Canyon Creek'): 20 million years ago (still Cenozoic as it is the current era), stretching of the Uintas lowered and tilted the Uintas to the north and east. The Gilbert Peak Erosion Surface warped and faulted at this time. A new east-trending drainage system formed along the former Uinta crest. We will call this Red Canyon Creek. This creek intersected north-flowing streams north of the Uintas and reversed their flow southward.
- ◆ Ancestral Green River changes course: 10-15 million years ago, Colorado Plateau uplift caused streams south of the Uintas to erode northward. Less than 5 million years ago, the Red Canyon Creek cut through the Gilbert Peak Erosion Surface and into the Uinta Mountain Group. Roughly 1-2 million years ago, Red Canyon Creek also eroded northward. It captured the ancestral Green River, forcing it to flow south toward the Uintas and through Red Canyon.
- ◆ Finality: 1 million years ago, the current course of the Green River through Red Canyon was established. But of course it's not really final- geology is always on the move.

#2) **Plant and Wildlife Adaptations** (Storylines for wildlife diorama)

The resilient life on the surface, the canyon and river has resulted in a diversity of plant and animal species with unique survival adaptations in varied ecological niches.

◆ Green River Ecology and Aquatic Life and Flaming Gorge

- ◆ This ecosystem is defined by flats, hills, and canyons underlain by the Green River Formation with plants that are highly sensitive to soil features.
- ◆ Plant life found here includes cold desert species of sagebrush and saltbush and grasses adapted to semiarid environments.
- ◆ Kokanee salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) belong to the family Salmonidae and are a landlocked subspecies of the Idaho sockeye salmon known for their dramatic spawning runs.
- ◆ Although Kokanee salmon remain inland, living in freshwater lakes instead of the ocean, they journey back to spawn in the stream in which they hatched. Other commonly seen wildlife within this ecosystem include river otter, beaver and muskrat.

North Flank (scarp slopes and intervening valleys on the north slope of the Uinta Mountains)

- ◆ A highly diverse land feature with variations in plant life depending on substrate, elevation, and aspect.
- ◆ Douglas fir stands dominate north facing slopes at higher elevations. Persistent aspen stands are more common in the intervening valleys and south aspects.
- ◆ Mountain big sagebrush and mountain brush communities are common on south facing scarp slopes at the higher elevations and on gentle dip areas at moderate and lower elevations.

Greendale Plateau lands of the eastern Uinta Mountains

- ◆ Supports large areas of continuous ponderosa pine forest to the east while lodge pole pine forest dominates the western portion and at higher elevations of the plateau.
- ◆ Structure and composition of this lodge pole pine belt indicate a strong history of stand replacement fire.
- ◆ Aspen are widespread and abundant where fire and clear-cutting have occurred.
- ◆ Sagebrush/bitterbrush and mountain brush communities are found on the eastern part of the plateau.

Life in the Canyon and on the Cliffs

- ◆ Precipitous walls of Red Canyon includes tributary canyons that feed into Red Canyon. Plant life varies with aspect, depth to bedrock, and other features.
- ◆ Where fire has reduced presence of Douglas-fir, mountain brush communities are dominated by alder leaf and mountain mahogany.
- ◆ Ponderosa pine occurs at lower elevations, mostly thin to dense stands of pinion-juniper.
- ◆ Featured wildlife will included red tailed hawk, scrub jay, marmot, bighorned sheep, mountain lion and chipmunk.

Storylines for wildlife diorama continued for Plant and Wildlife Adaptations

Structural Grain

- ◆ Dip and scarp slopes of quartzite sandstones and shale's characterize the landscape.
- ◆ Pinion-juniper is the dominant vegetation.
- ◆ Wyoming big sagebrush/needle-and-thread grass communities are found on flats, concave alluvium, and slope wash areas.
- ◆ Mountain brush communities dominated by alder leaf mountain mahogany and serviceberry are common on cool aspects, where they are seral to pinion-juniper.

Antelope Flat

- ◆ Look for sandy and gravelly quaternary pediments associated with the Green River and gypsiferous and alkaline or saline sediments of Mancos Shale.
- ◆ Wyoming big sagebrush and needle-and-thread grass communities dominate the quaternary pediments and Gardner saltbush dominates the flats of Mancos Shale.
- ◆ The steeper slopes of the Mancos shale creates badlands with only sparse vegetation and are home year round to pronghorn antelope.
- ◆ Other wildlife species found in this ecotone include great horned owl, magpie, Canada geese, Bohemian waxwing, grey fox, squirrel, and bear.

Birds to be placed in various plant community types:

- ◆ American robin, house wren, chipping sparrow, white breasted nuthatch, hairy woodpecker, northern flicker
- ◆ Ponderosa pine habitat: Clark's nutcracker, Steller's jay, mountain chickadee, pygmy nuthatch
* Red crossbill* (* least abundant)
- ◆ Less common and highly visible: *western tanager, mountain bluebird

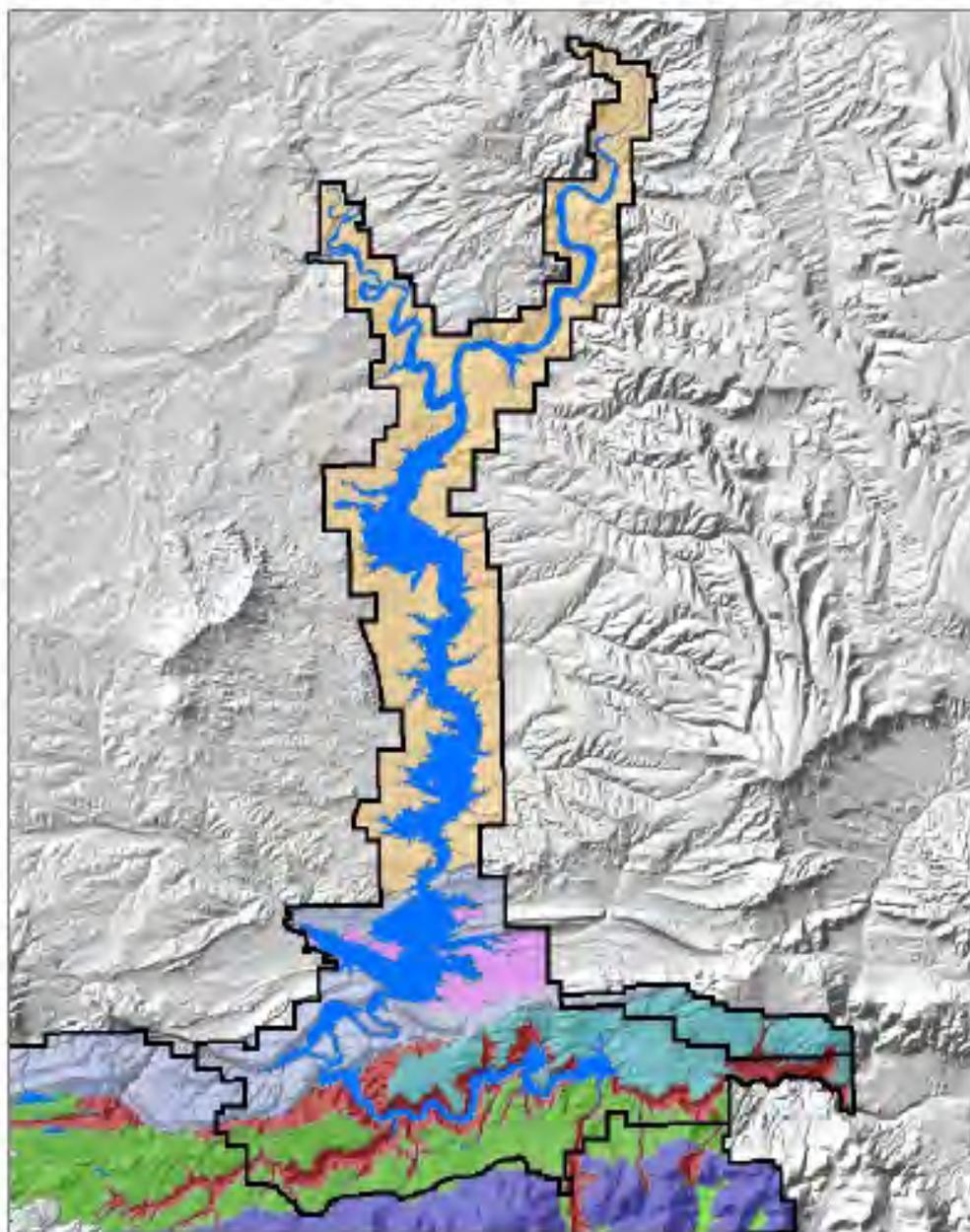
Safety Is Your First Priority

- ◆ Safety messages on dehydration, high altitude sickness, bears and wildlife.



Map of landtypes and Vegetation on FGNRA

Figure 3. Distribution of Landtype Associations in the Flaming Gorge NRA Geographic Area



Key to Landtype Associations

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  Antelope Flat |  North Flank |  Structural Grain |
|  Greendale Plateau |  Parks Plateau |  Trout Slope |
|  Green River |  Red Canyon | |

#3) Recreation

The Flaming Gorge NRA, as part of Ashley National Forest provides nearly every type of outdoor adventure—protecting our natural areas will ensure that we still have places to enjoy in years to come.

- ◆ The reservoir supports trophy-quality lake trout and Kokanee salmon.
- ◆ Below the Flaming Gorge Dam the Green River's blue ribbon trout fishing is accessed by trail, dory boats, or rafts.
- ◆ Countless opportunities exist for summer and winter recreation including snowmobiling, skiing, scenic driving, camping, boating, bird watching, biking and hiking. Popular activities include fishing, hunting, camping, and a variety of water sports.
- ◆ Campgrounds vary with amenities and experiences.
- ◆ Wildlife management has actively promoted re-establishment of several native species, including osprey, peregrine falcon, bighorn sheep and river otters.
- ◆ The FGNRA provides both recreation and economic opportunities for residents of nearby communities in Wyoming and Utah, as well as attracting visitors from all over the nation.
- ◆ The Flaming Gorge Uintas Scenic Byway provides a great opportunity for to see spectacular views of the NRA vistas, geology, and wildlife from the road and recreation sites
- ◆ Travel the Backway through the Sheep Creek National Geological Area and witness geologic formations you could never have imagined....a visual treat for the senses.
- ◆ Visit the Swett Ranch, a historic pioneer ranch that dates back to 1909, where visitors can experience a view back to days where self sufficiency was required for survival.
- ◆ West Greens Lake Nature Trail is a quiet, cool respite in the Uinta Mountains where the lake and ponderosa forest come together.
- ◆ Sheep Creek Canyon is home to Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and kokanee salmon in the stream that cuts through the canyon.
- ◆ Many recreation activities and facilities are accomplished in partnership with local businesses and community members who appreciate the unique landscapes found here and the recreation opportunities afforded.

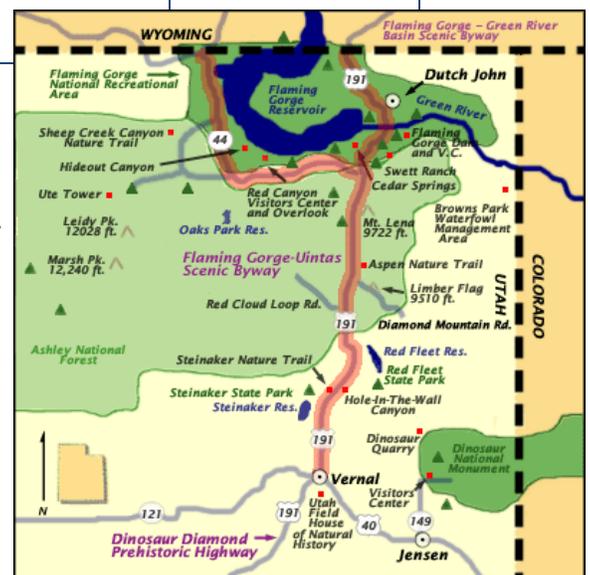


Storylines continued for Recreation

- ◆ Mountain biking areas
- ◆ Cross country ski trails/Canyon Rim
- ◆ Full service marinas and highly developed boat launches
- ◆ Locations where information is currently dispensed; and a potential for additional orientation, interpretive and recreation information provided.

Pullouts	Information Sites	Overlooks
Cart Creek	Manila Orientation Center	Greendale
Moose Ponds	Steinaker Reservoir	Windy Point
Dowds Mountain	Greendale Junction, CG and REA information	Sheep Creek
Firefighter's Memorial	Antelope Flat pull out	Canyon Rim
Cedar Springs	Flaming Gorge Dam Visitor Center	Canyon Rim Overlook
Sheep Creek	Red Canyon Visitor Center	Ute Tower
Greendale Junction	Utah Field House of Natural History	
Sheep Creek Geo Loop (multiple pullouts)		

This current map has 5 major cities on it. This type of information provides good orientation for visitors and volunteers or staff assisting them.



#4) Human Occupation and Exploration

The area is rich in archeological from the Archaic Period, the Fremont culture, the Ute and Shoshone Indians, followed by 19th century explorations by William Ashley and John Wesley Powell, until ranchers and pioneers carved out settlements in the rugged landscape.

Time Periods: - Archaic (6,000B.C. to AD 200) - A new culture appeared in the archaeological record which scientists call the Archaic Culture tied to this specific landscape, with unique tools, and artifacts. Archaic sites are documented in Flaming Gorge as well as throughout Utah, in every kind of environmental condition, from high mountain areas to the West Desert salt flats demonstrating their ability to thrive wherever they were

Graphics possibilities:

- Background landscape drawing of archaic peoples showing activities and lifestyle: (Hunting with atlatl, scraping hides, grinding seeds, cooking in fire hearth, brush structure homes).
- Pictures of actual slab lined hearths.
- Artifacts on display could include: replica atlatl, replica spear, real spear points, real grinding stones, real stone tool scraper.

Fremont (AD 200 to AD 1300s) - The basin was home to the Fremont Culture, which flourished in the tributary canyons and in sheltered areas. The Fremont were a semi-nomadic people, who made distinctive pottery and figurines, used atlatls, and lived in pithouses. Petroglyphs (rock art) and artifacts suggest that Fremont Indians hunted game near Flaming Gorge for many centuries. Graphic possibilities:

- Background landscape drawing of Fremont people showing activities and lifestyle: (Hunting with Bow and Arrow, pottery, corn fields, grinding corn into corn meal, pithouse structures, ramadas, burden baskets, etc.)
- Pictures of artifacts or rock art
- Artifacts on display could include: replica bow and arrow, real arrowheads, grinding stones, pottery, baskets, etc.) Brief text explaining lifestyle of the Fremont and tying to the landscape, tools, and artifacts.

Ute / Eastern Shoshone AD 1400s to present - In later years, Shoshone and Ute peoples, both nomadic hunters, occupied the basin of the Green, the Shoshone to the north of the Uinta Mountains and the Utes to the south. The Utes still live near the river; their reservation is in the Uinta Basin. Graphic possibilities:

- Pictures of Bear dance, Ute clothing. Need to discuss this display with representatives of the Ute and Eastern Shoshone tribes. (see information developed in Wind River Indian Reservation Interpretive Plan, final pending 11/31/13, completed by CDI)

Euro-American Exploration AD 1800s to AD 1880s - While trapping begin in 1817, in 1825 American trappers first explored the river in Utah as William Ashley and a party of trappers floated down the river from north of the Uinta Mountains to the mouth of the White River. Graphic possibilities include:

- Landscape drawing of rendezvous or other Mountain Man landscape.
- Picture or drawing of William Ashley and map of Ashley's exploration route
- Pictures of John Wesley Powell and his boats and map of Powell's expedition
- Carter Military road - Text explaining the Ashley and Powell expeditions and Carter Road. Use quotes or statements from journals when possible.

Homesteading AD 1880s to AD 1960s

- Pictures of Swett Ranch and Linwood.
- Historic ranching/farming artifacts from Linwood with text discussing homesteading / ranching history and artifacts.

Land practices and management from 1897 to present day

Forest Service management practices and history in the area.

#5) Legislative History of the NRA Designation and the USFS mission

National Recreation Area (NRA) is a designation for a protected area in the United States, often centered on large reservoirs and emphasizing large water-based recreation from legislation created in 1963. The Ashley National Forest manages the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area to provide quality recreation to the American public and manage forest resources.

Storylines:

- National Recreation Areas are public lands considered unique enough to receive Congressional designation specifically for outdoor recreation opportunities. The legislation establishes three broad missions and management goals. Specifically, the Secretary of Agriculture is directed "to administer, protect, and develop the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in a manner to best provide for (1) public outdoor recreation benefits; (2) conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment; and (3) such management, utilization, and disposal of natural resources as in [the Secretary of Agriculture's] judgment will promote or are compatible with, and do not significantly impair the purpose for which the recreation area is established. "
- The Ashley National Forest was part of the national effort to protect and conserve our watersheds, and forests for future generations. In 1897, President Grover Cleveland set aside the Uinta Forest Reserve, encompassing most of the Uinta Mountains. On July 1, 1908, President Roosevelt designated the eastern end of the old Uinta Reserve as the Ashley National Forest.
- Concern for the Uinta Mountain sanctuary began to grow after World War II, and in 1949 a portion of the Uinta's was set aside and maintained until 1984, when Congress created the High Uinta's Wilderness. After completion of the Flaming Gorge Dam in 1964, another important addition to the forest was made in 1968 when President Johnson approved legislation which transferred the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area to the Ashley National Forest.
- The FGNRA encompasses the Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Dam, a major feature of the upper Colorado River Storage Project located on the Green River in northeastern Utah and southwestern Wyoming. The Flaming Gorge Dam was completed in 1963 and impounds a reservoir that when full is about 91 miles long and covers 42,020 acres. The FGNRA is about 201,000 acres in size and lies within Daggett County, Utah and Sweetwater County, Wyoming.
- The President's Recreation Advisory Committee issued an Executive Branch policy that established criteria for establishing National Recreation Areas. The policy called for all future National Recreation Areas to be established by acts of the United States Congress.
- Early National Recreation Areas were established by interagency memoranda of agreement between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service. Areas with this designation are managed by different federal agencies, most of which operate within the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture. Some national recreation areas are under the National Park Service (Interior), one under the Bureau of Land Management (Interior), and others are managed by the U.S. Forest Service (Agriculture).

Recommendations

Center Operations and Facilities

Staffing and Hours of Operation

The Red Canyon Visitor Center currently opens just prior to the Memorial Day weekend and closes shortly after Labor Day Weekend. During this time volunteers staff the center working around 7 hours per day. Currently the visitor center is staffed by two volunteer couples and agency personnel. The volunteers also staff the Swett Ranch Historical Homestead and Ute Lookout Tower on the weekends as well. In order to keep the center open daily agency personnel staff the visitors center on the volunteer's off days. The primary objective of the volunteers is to assist the public by providing information and answering questions pertaining to the community, history, and recreational opportunities in the area. Secondary goals of the volunteers include processing transactions from the bookstore, custodial duties around the center, collecting visitor use data, and monitoring the nearby trails in order to maintain a clean and safe environment.

It is recommended to strategize how to expand hours of operations. Regardless if the center is opened or closed visitors still come to the center to see the canyon from other vantage points that are within walking distance. Expanded hours would reach thousands of people who are at the center's doorstep. Recommendations for the center's hours of operations include expanding the number of hours operated, days operated outside of the summer months, and use of more volunteers to staff the center.

Recommended Hours

April thru Early - May (staffing and weather permitting)	
Friday and Saturday	10am to 5pm
Sunday	9am to 4pm
Mid- May thru Early September	
Sunday —Thursday	10am to 5pm
Friday, Saturday and Holidays	10am to 7pm
Mid– September thru October (staffing and weather permitting)	
Friday and Saturday	10am to 5pm
Sunday	9am to 4pm

Benefits will be felt by many with the improved hours of operation. The local businesses will be able to advertise this center as a place to visit when orienting clients and potential clients to the area. The bookstore, operated by INHA, will see more revenue which is beneficial as they continue to fund various educational projects in the area. The final and most important benefit would be the improved outreach to the visitors of these area.

Strategies for increasing hours of operation with additional personnel that are not additional costs to the current budget could include:

- Increase recruitment and use of volunteers from local area, including college students/internships.
- Recruit and use summer staff from Volunteers of America. Housing would be required to provide and a small stipend.
- Stagger visitor center hours to meet needs for busiest times of use (open from 10—3PM; or 3—8PM)
- Develop agreements between local lodges, businesses and other agencies for multi-funded positions that allow for more fulltime employment (for example: 1/3 contribution from Ashley NF salary pays for summer visitor center work; 1/3 contribution from the Bureau of Reclamation pays for programming and tours at the Dam, 1/3 contribution from the US Fish & Game pays for wildlife watching tours in coordination with local lodge and business owners).
- Work with local employment agencies to provide on the job training for those seeking employment skills might potentially serve for staffing needs with supervision.



Exhibit Recommendations for Red Canyon Visitor Center

A successful interpretive program can go a long way in educating and promoting the goals of the center as well as the agency. The center will be the base of operations for the seasonal interpretive program and will serve to increase agency personnel accessibility to the public and maintain interpretive staff at interpretive facilities. The Red Canyon will host a variety of interpretive activities and programs. The current theater room will be utilized for both films and interpretive programs. Audio visual equipment installed in 2013 provides a menu selection for various audio visual programs and as a display for presentations. Collapsible tables will be purchased in order to have the tools necessary to hold activity based interpretive programs.

Creation of the individual interpretive programs will be determined by the program manager and interpretive staff to create programs that meet the goals of the center and address management stories and concerns of the forest. High priority topics for this area include recreation safety, natural history, petroglyphs, cultural history, the environment, and wildlife. Other areas of focus will be outdoor, interactive, and children's activities. All programs will be created in a way that promotes the inclusions of users with disabilities.

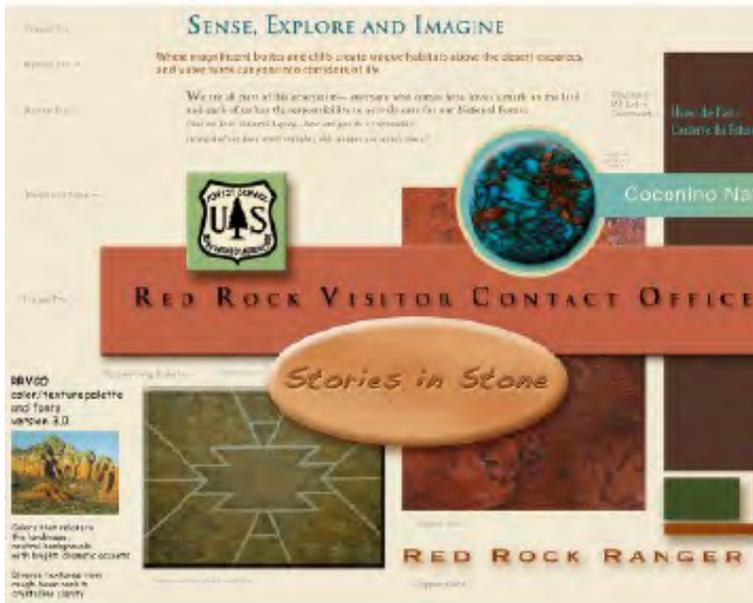
Design Criteria

It is not the purpose of this interpretive plan to cover the specifications needed for exhibit construction and design. This section gives a general breakdown of proposed upgrades to the facilities and general design criteria to be considered for the exhibit design and installation phase. It is unlikely that enough funding will be available to renovate the visitor center in a single year. The upgrades to the facilities and exhibits will need to be performed in phases.

It is anticipated that the same color scheme be used to reduce upgrade costs. All exhibits can follow the earth tone color scheme the center currently uses in order to minimize any visual conflicts during the transitional phase of the center's exhibits. Secondly the exhibits should be designed in a way that does not distract the visitor while viewing the Red Canyon or conflict with the center's age or architecture. Finally exhibits and upgrades need to be low cost to maintain and operate. In order to facilitate this need, exhibit upgrades can utilize the theme and content as a foundation to help reduce the costs of exhibit design, as long as the existing content is still relevant to the program.

Design Guidelines Examples

In the next phase of exhibit design, a palette of for design guidelines will be developed. This will define colors, styles, fonts, and a look to unify the appearance of all exhibits. Examples from other projects are shown below:



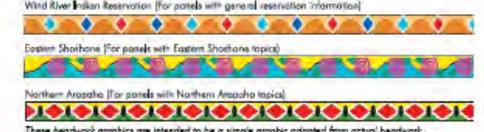
Wind River Interpretive Plan Design Guidelines

Wind River Indian Reservation logo

Thoughts behind the design: The Wind River and the Little Wind River join on the reservation. The reservation is also a joining of two people groups. While the two rivers become one river...the two people groups retain their identities but join effort, planning, and the building up of one reservation. These thoughts led to the idea of two flowing streams joining and creating one stream; one stream of two colors. The two blues for river and sky, the orange to reflect the land. It is an "open" logo because of the wide open space of the reservation.



Border Graphics



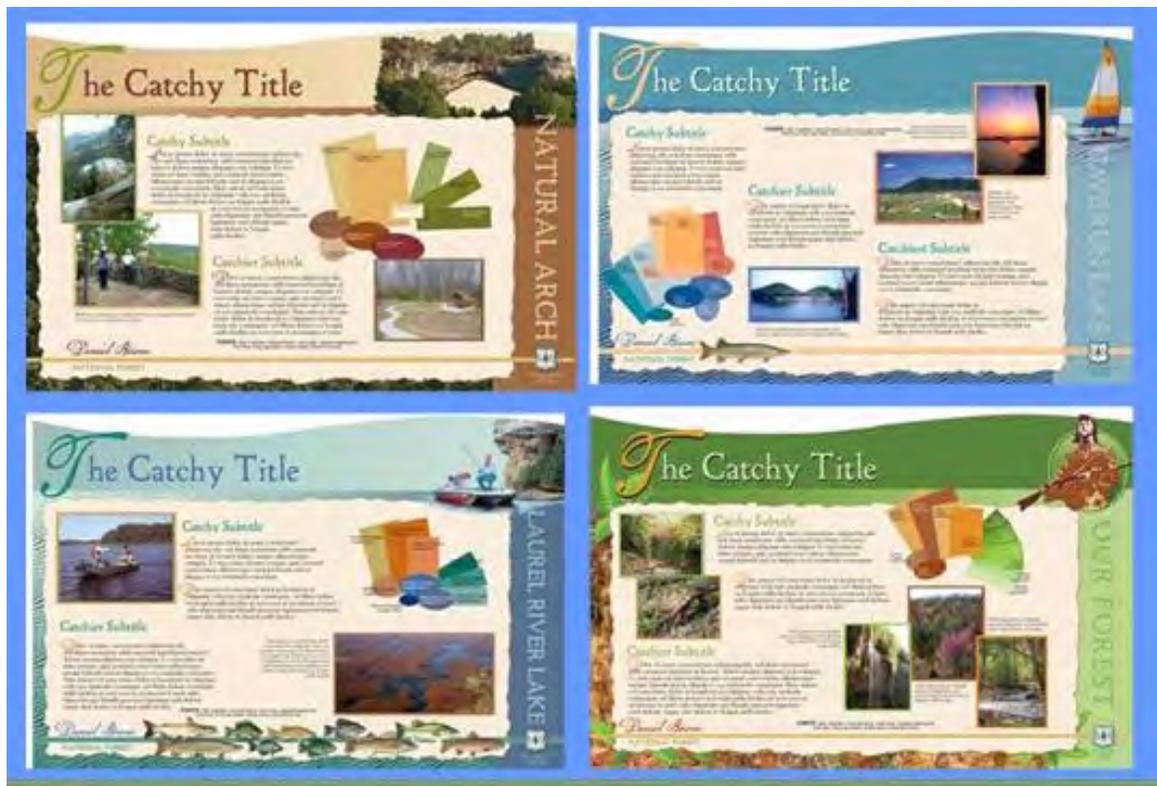
Font Suggestions:

TITLES, Subtitles, dropcaps (Cherry Bld BT Extra Bold)
 Body Text, captions, *italic if needed* (Avenirgo BT)

Palette Suggestions: (Various Solid Colors)



Add white to this color palette.



Design Narrative

This narrative is intended to design the visitors experience and exhibit concepts that can then be further refined and developed in an exhibit design and installation phase. The themes and messages established within the plan should carry forth into exhibitry and be maintained, even if the conceptual ideas are revised from beginning to end.



Standard Forest Service kiosks used today throughout various parts of the country



1960's sign in front of the visitor center

The Visitors Experience:

From the parking lot, visitors encounter a restored historic **Welcome to Red Canyon Visitor Center, Ashley National Forest sign** located at the walkway.

On the other side of the walkway a 2 panel kiosk contains recreation information for Flaming Gorge, a map of the general area; and space to advertise current events and activities. The **"After Hours Recreational Information Board"** provides summer and winter recreation information for the Flaming Gorge NRA. These panels also provide estimated open/closure dates to the public when the Red Canyon Visitor Center is closed. Each panel will be reversible with one large or two small panels with summer recreation on one side and winter on the other. These exhibits will be held on lockable tracks that agency personnel can rotate when appropriate. Approaching the visitor center, people will see a small sign matching others in area identifying **"Interpretive Trail ¼ mile walk"** with an arrow in the trail direction.

Upon entering the center, visitors are welcomed by reception staff and a welcome graphic **"Red Canyon Visitor Center, Information Station for Flaming Gorge NRA"** behind the reception desk.

Exhibit Recommendations for Entry, Sales Area, and Exhibit Spaces

As a visitor moves into the building, the reception counter is reduced in size to a smaller half circular structure with flip up panels that allow for access into the desk area.

The current map behind the counter is replaced with a welcome to the Flaming Gorge NRA and the Ashley National Forest .



The recessed wall space and overhead (image left) can be converted to a trip planning center where touchscreen computers allow for easy self service; combined with a counter top for note taking and information gathering. Wifi access for cell phone download of information will be a future consideration.

The current sales area will be retained and possibly expanded if the desk size is minimized near the front door area. The built in display case should contain objects or artifacts of interest designed to stimulate questions and conversations about specific management issues identified by the district or forest staff.



Trip Planning Wall Exhibit

Located on the recessed common wall of the theater and the sales area, this unit is intended to allow visitors to do some interactive planning on their own, and in easy access for a staff member to assist or refer to information.

The exhibit will contain a large map of the area, with recreation icons (camping, trailheads, boat input sites, and others as determined in design phase), and explained with a legend. The map's surface will have dry erase ability for staff to make notes on, post temporary closure messages, or outline a trip for visitors. A small reader rail underneath the map will contain a flip book and contain brochures with more specific recreation information on various activities, site specifics, and other items.

This recreation planning exhibit links with the exhibit on the NRA and Forest Service mission, addressing the intent of the NRA on recreation; and transitions the viewer to the immediate resources.



Current recreation display with interpretive staff talking with a visitor. There is not much specific information to work with in terms of places to go, things to see and features.



This shaded terrain map shows Guanella Pass Scenic Byway with recreational icons for easy orientation. A similar map at Red Canyon would be of benefit to visitors.

Trip Planning Wall Exhibit

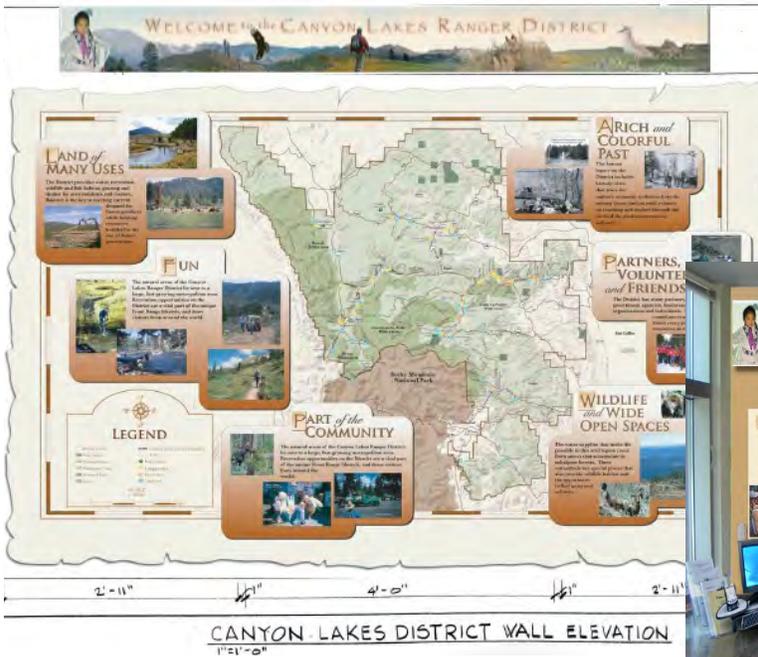
Examples of Trip Planning stations in other visitor centers with more in-depth information and detailed maps.



Centennial Visitor Center, Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest

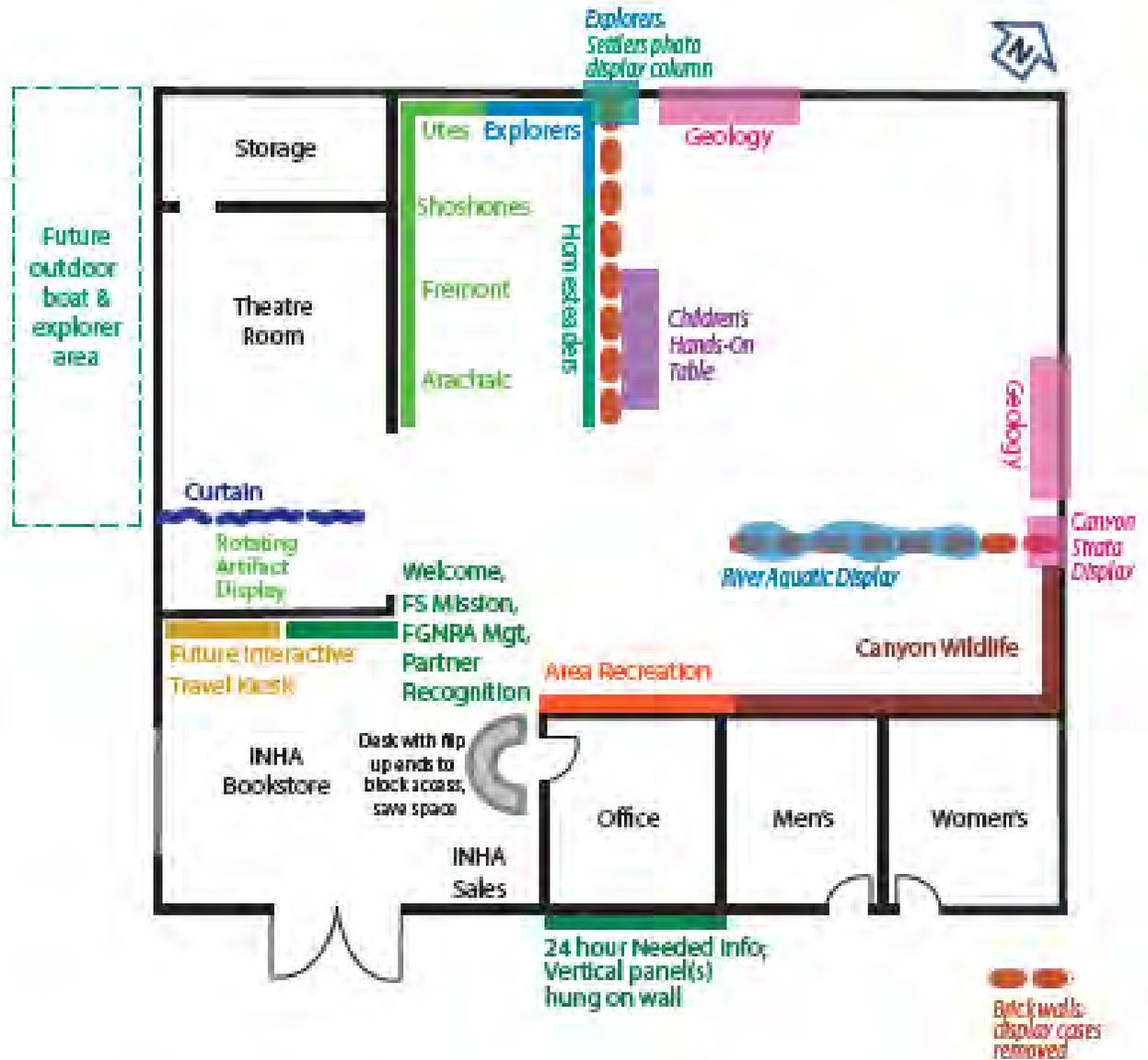


This map has an erase board surface, so markers can be used; and wiped away.



Trip Planning exhibit at the Arapahoe Roosevelt Supervisors Office

Exhibit Schematic Floor Plan



This schematic floor plan presents concepts of each wall section. A narrative description will follow and concept will follow. Each story identified ties back to the themes and storylines previously identified in this plan.

Defined Visitor Experiences and Exhibit Recommendations

Viewshed and Geology

The most powerful and significant exhibit—the giant picture windows—allow a spectacular view into Red Canyon and let people get an over-the-edge experience. Standing and looking are a major part of the Red Canyon experience. Rather than develop extensive competing exhibits on the geologic phenomena, we propose using simple reader rail panels located on the windows that provide simple graphics and a laser etching in semitransparent acrylic that identifies the various formations, and geologic information, but remains brief and concise. People can study the view and appreciate the geology versus turning their backs away from it.

To the right side of the view windows, a small geologic column will be constructed that defines rock specimens and layers of those seen in the cliffs through the windows. (see Wildlife Diorama concepts, p 34). It would be a logical place to provide a send out message to travel the Geologic Loop and make use of the existing geologic brochure. Tying into the geology exhibit and the native flora/fauna exhibit, a simulated rock strata could be created, allowing for touch and feel of rock layers that are identified on the clear reader rail panels



Wildlife and Ecosystems Dioramas

Flaming Gorge is home to a wide variety of wildlife that have adapted to living in the harsh conditions of the Uinta Mountains.

This large exhibit space combines themes of native flora and fauna adaptations into a variety of mini dioramas. Interpretive messages will focus on the diverse ecosystems in the Uinta Mountain range, the diversity of plants and wildlife and their adaptations for living in this environment. Additional storylines will address specific ecosystem requirements, management issues and sensitivity to unwelcomed changes.



This exhibit will cover the wildlife that live in the Flaming Gorge area as well as provide interesting facts about these animals. The target will be to display the most frequently seen animals in the Flaming Gorge area. An emphasis will be placed on the aquatic species especially those located in the reservoir and Green River and begin the exhibit component. This will help promote the Ashley National Forest's niche of "Big Fish, Ancient Rocks". From the water/river exhibit that will sit atop the stone wall, a gradual increase in the elevation will be created and incorporate the landscape, plant and animal changes. The exhibit will move from the lower brick area, across the adjacent



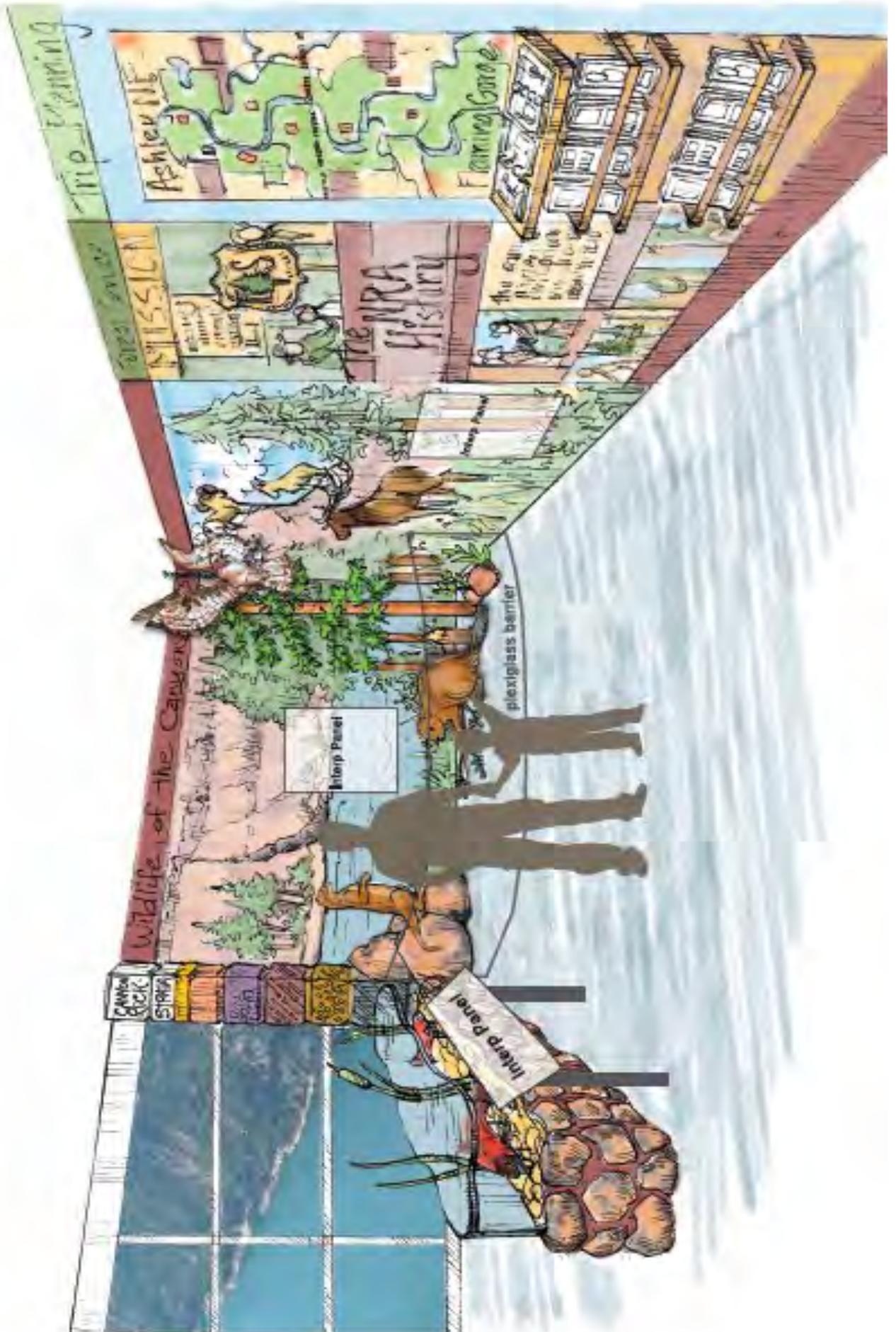
corner, and that entire wall, coming to an end on the east wall space. The diorama's will expand into a wall mural that incorporates the larger wildlife and landscapes, next to the exhibit about the creation of Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.

Within each ecosystem unit, reader rail or wall panels will provide narratives on adaptations of plants and animals within each ecosystem. The interpretive text

needs to cover scientific name, diet, markings, and interesting facts about the species. (This exhibit will make use of the existing specimens currently at the visitor center).

****Special design considerations will need to be taken into account when designing the display case in order to accurately capture the living environment of the selected species. Interpretive Objectives will include that visitors will be able to recognize the wildlife residing in the area from their habitat and markings; and will appreciate the importance of treading lightly in sensitive wildlife areas.**

Proposed Wildlife Diorama, NRA Exhibit and Trip Planning Exhibit Gallery 1





Diorama using minimal species and large mural in background



This diorama from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science relies heavily on illustrated landscaping, and the use of a low profile panel with numerous interactive components.

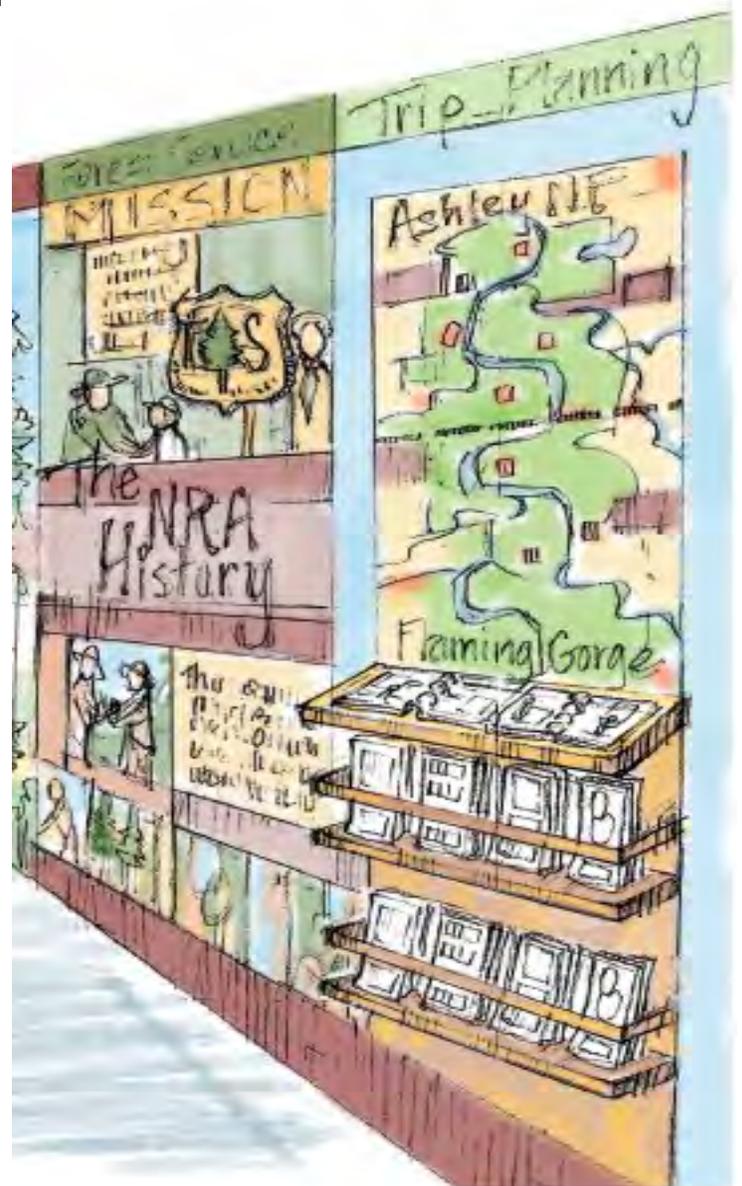
Forest Service Mission and National Recreation Area Exhibit

Located on the east wall between wildlife and trip planning exhibits, this large flat graphic panel will introduce the concept and definition of a National Recreation Area, the unique designation, and it's meaning and intent for the American Public. Management of an NRA by a federal agency, and the Forest Service's role as a land manager will be presented. This panel is a place to include management issues you want your public to know more about. Large visual images, narrative and maps will be used in this exhibit.



Interpretive Objectives for this exhibit: Visitors will realize that National Recreation Areas hold unique and special designation; and

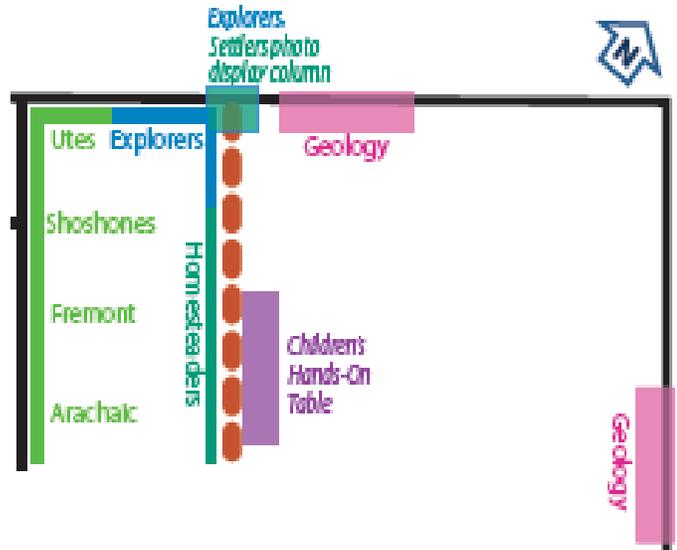
- that the Forest Service Mission is compatible and allows for management of recreation resources;
- that NRA's, like Forest Service lands operate under a multiple use mission, and can be managed by various federal land management agencies;
- that managing the NRA is a function of partnerships with other agencies, private recreation providers, local businesses, and local government;
- that partners contributed to the displays, and the Inter Mountain Natural History Association (INHA) helps with management;



Children's Active Area

One specific request was to maintain and build upon a children's active learning area within the center. Creating an inviting space with hands items and exploratory activities is a delightful experience for kids and parents.

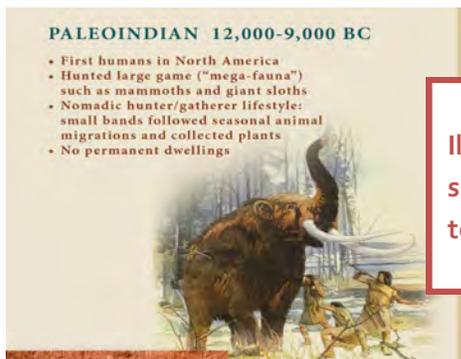
The current cabinet casing with historic artifacts will be removed and replaced with 3/4 height transparent wall panels shaped to resemble landscape features. A table with cubby holes will be installed on the south west corner to serve as a play and exploration table area for children. The cubby holes will contain various hands on objects for kids to investigate, including skulls and skins; nature activities and puzzles.



Earliest Human Occupation Exhibit

The longest portion of the south wall will be dedicated to archeology, the Archaic Period, the Fremont culture; and the later arrival of modern tribes — Ute, Shoshone, and Comanche, and their use and lifestyle in the region.

This display will need to have specific artifacts and images identified and displayed that are representative of the time periods. The longest portion of the south wall will be dedicated to Archaic Period followed by the Fremont culture. Use of a large map with overlays of various groups will show the migration and use on the landscape, color coded to educate visitors as to the migration of groups across the West over time. Each focus on a particular group of people will tie to the color coding of the map and timeline.



Artifacts could be incorporated into wall

Illustration showing tools in use

viewing exhibits, with images depicting use of artifacts in illustrations. A possible “what was this used for?” panel could depict an item, then with a sliding mechanism or flip door show it’s use and a modern day equivalent (Ex: a mano stone, today’s equivalent might be a food processor)

Earliest Human Occupation Exhibit

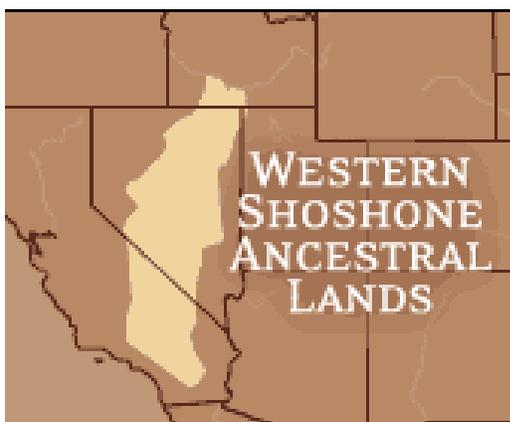
The current large basket would be relocated to a wall space with a reader rail explaining how the basket was used by its owners. An important stewardship message will be included in this exhibit. This portion of the exhibit will be a flat horizontal Plexiglas view box covering artifacts with graphic illustrations and information specific to the significance of the artifact. (the current casing may be able to be modified for this exhibit).



Current exhibits and spaces of southwest gallery

This exhibit will complement the “Migrations Across the Landscape” exhibit by displaying a variety of artifacts used by the various settlers of the area. Plexiglas cases holding the current geological specimens should be evaluated for retrofitting to show and display additional artifacts in a staggered and asymmetrical arrangement in this area. Accessibility within this space will need further evaluation.

The back southeast corner and part of the wall will contain an exhibit on the later arrival tribal people — Ute and Shoshone, and their lifestyle in the region. Information about these modern tribes in today's world will be included in the interpretive stories.



A transition to the early explorers, Ashley and Powell, and the arrival of settlers and ranchers to the region follows beginning in the northeast corner, continuing along the partial wall created over the low rock walls. A flat graphic panel will focus on the Euro American exploration and subsequent settlement. Wall murals and interpretive panels run between the two figures using historic images, maps and diaries to tell the stories. Artifacts will be included that cover the topics of “Trappers and Explorers”. The remaining space will be dedicated to early settlers and pioneers. A timeline will follow the entire space with dates, captions, potentially additional images.

Exploration and Settlement Exhibit

Brick wall

This exhibit transitions from the early pioneers, and settlers. Due to the abundance of “Native American” and “Ranchers and Homesteaders” artifacts it may be necessary to rotate artifacts so the other periods can be accommodated in the display. The option to locate an introduction of early land management and the creation of the Forest Service and current land management could also be added into this component.

The current Forest Service management messages could be accomplished through use of flat graphic panels, and a digital presentation that would include a flatscreen monitor with internet connection and set a Forest Service web page (see the Forest Discovery web page, specific for kids).



Artifacts in current exhibit on pioneers



One example of mixing large images with artifacts and various plexiglass cases from “The Journey”, Rapid City, South Dakota

Theatre Room

The primary purpose of this room is for visitors to self select and watch an audiovisual presentation. The purchase of new software and a large screen monitor have greatly enhanced the ability for self service and making choices. This should remain the primary purpose, yet allow for other secondary activities. The theatre currently has many empty wall spaces that could be used in a variety of ways.



Recommendations:

- Unless there regularly are times when all the chairs are filled, remove 2—3 rows and redefine a small, more intimate setting for users.
- In time, replace the individual chairs with sturdy benches. While not as comfortable, the benches fit within the visitors expectations, and can be easier to move, maintain and provide more seating in a smaller space.
- 3 Alternatives for wall treatment
 - Create curtain divider and use rear area for artifact displays (see next page).
 - Use the rear wall and portion of south wall space (should allow about 3 feet from wall) to create an art gallery from artists in the area that tie to the natural and cultural history of the area. Use a maximum of 2 walls for this space. One wall should remain empty to keep the area looking uncluttered.
 - Create a standard design template that staff can use and update to create and print temporary exhibits on current issues.
- Monitor the software and programming for evaluation purposes in terms of most used programs, and number of viewers using space to determine if future modifications should be made.



Exterior Patio

The south facing patio of the building presents an opportunity to expand programming and interactive exhibits beyond current use.



Recommendations:

- Use area for special events, hand-on activities related to historic or cultural activities.
- Creation of structures used over time by various tribal groups.
- Provide exhibits that allow for experiential learning (ex: flint napping, carving, blacksmith, butter churning, etc...).

Interpretive Trail from Red Canyon Visitor Center

Maintenance of the area's interpretive trails ranks as one of the higher priority targets for improving the public's experience. The interpretive signage is mounted on wood bases and in many cases these have decayed over time and need replacing. Trail maintenance and in some locations, reroutes are needed on the trails that utilize the natural surface. Unsustainable trail locations can be found in many places along the trail where heavy erosion has exposed rock creating difficulties for hikers and cross country skiers. Public safety is a critical concern at the visitor center as the drop off into Red Canyon is sheer and steep. Currently, messages posted at the parking, and fencing around

the cliff areas serve to protect wandering children and adults from getting too close to the edge.

The trail's location on the hill side requires regular maintenance. Due to the erosion, users of the trail create their own routes in order to avoid the eroded sections of trail.

The Red Canyon facts sign is inconsistent with other materials at the site. It should be removed. A shade structure might be considered at this location if it can be designed not to intrude upon the viewshed.



While this may serve as a popular place for taking pictures...it disrupts the scenic vista.

The current signage along the trail is a mix of anodized aluminum and routed wood. While anodized aluminum signage is appropriate and easily maintained for the environmental conditions, newer materials at a similar or lower cost are available. The vertical routed wood sign should be replaced with messages on low profile panels in order to protect the view and provide sign consistency. Some of the signs need replacing while others are in good condition. The current themes of these signs focus on wildlife, early explorers, and native plants of the area.



Badly weathered and worn signs need to either be replaced, or removed.

Recommendation

Interpretive signage improvements need to select topics that can be relative year round due to the year round mixed use. Other considerations for the trail improvements include trail side benches and the creation of overlooks on parts of the trail that provide a unique vantage point for the canyon but do not have access by trail users.

Replacement interpretive signs along the trail would be made of etched stone that blends with the rocks in the landscape. Fewer interpretive signs may improve visitor experiences because the view from the overlook is the most significant aspect for visitors.



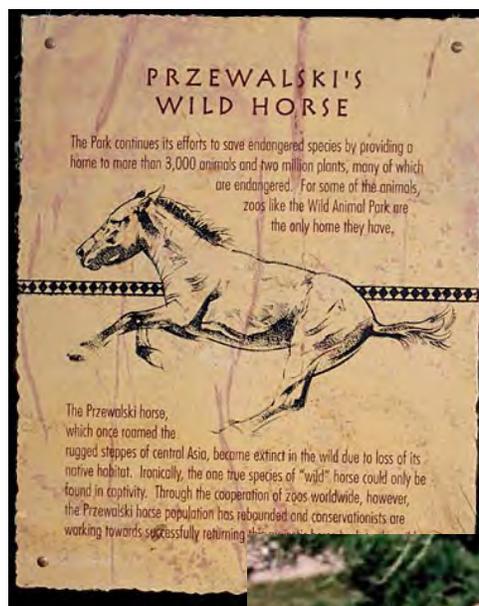
Signs need to have a consistent mounting system with others in the area.



This sign is in good condition...and relates to wildlife visible in the area.

Themes of geology; the Green River watershed; the early inhabitants and explorers making their way through the rugged landscape are relevant to where viewers are standing. Management and ecology messages are better presented at the visitor center or interpretive program opportunities.

As signs are replaced, it might be possible cut out segments of the artwork and reuse them in the children's activity area inside or locate them on the patio area where children can do "rubbings". This will require some testing to see if it works prior to any new efforts.



Canyon Rim Overlook

This overlook is a pleasant site and creates 2 different experiences in a relatively small amount of space. The trail and seated area reflects the CCC quality of stonework of the 1930's, while the overlook deck (a sturdy wood platform with safe and attractive fencing material) presents a stunning view down into the river canyon. The anodized aluminum sign on the deck is weathered and should be replaced, while the larger sign in the seating area looks nearly new, and in excellent shape. A clearly defined pathway leading from the parking lot signed "interpretive overlook" would be helpful for disoriented travelers.



Upper deck of Canyon Rim Overlook

General Recommendations



Internet

The Red Canyon Visitors Center is not easily accessible online and the information found can be misleading. Another Forest Service visitor center in the state shares the same name and is not referenced on the Ashley National Forest's website. The current information available online about the visitor center primarily comes from third party websites. Displays and digital interfaces should be developed to have relevant messages and images that have lasting power....and can be carried for numerous years rather than look outdated in 5 years.

Social Media

In order to remedy this a recreational opportunity guide (ROG) will be developed for distribution online and to other sites that distribute area information. The Forest's website will be modified to include the ROG, hours of operation, pictures, overview on the area, nearby attractions and maps. This will give the center an official web presence. This information will also be provided to the third party travel sites that cover the visitors center.

Social media will be used to increase the area's web presence as well. This allows for the agency personnel to reach a wider audience for promotion of the center and it's activities. Facebook will be the main focus because of the sites ability to be low maintenance and to present larger quantities of information in a way that does not overwhelm the viewer.



Examples of agency managed campgrounds and parks that utilize social media as a tool to connect with the public..

Goals of Incorporating the Internet and Social Media

- ◆ Increase awareness and promote visitor center and it's activities.
- ◆ Provide visitors with the ability to give feedback on the visitor center.
- ◆ Provide information about the visitor center, area activities, and updates.
- ◆ Provide an online presence that allows the public to request information or make comments to the visitor center representative.
- ◆ Forest Service would manage messaging about agency lands and recreational opportunities.

Other Digital Media Options

Digital Apps— Vendors are creating applications that make use of smart phones for programming. Some can be continually updated and information added regularly by the site manager, while a subscription fee is maintained. Others can be programmed to tie into GPS markers that trigger information tied to that specific marker. This is rapidly advancing and changing technology. Users can access the information at a Wi-Fi site; and download all the content. It also meets the requirements for providing materials that meet accessibility requirements to users. The Washington Office is currently undertaking a pilot study in Region 8 to review the options for use of this technology.

QR Codes— A popular technology within the business world, this code is a label that can be added onto products, signs, brochures, etc. A smart phone can hold programs that scan the embedded code, and take the user to a website with specifically designed content or information. QR codes can link to previously developed websites, program material, or advertising, and they can also just contain a text file of information and not have to connect to a website....thus a connection to the internet isn't necessary. The downside of this technology is that many of the remote areas on Forest Service lands have no cell phone access, so the technology application is limited.



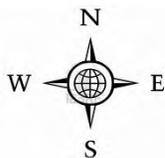
Final Cost Estimates and Priorities

High priorities shaded in blue

Exhibit Recommendation	Contracted Cost (estimate)	Options for reducing costs	Comments	Dollar Estimates
Exterior Kiosk – 4 panels (2 sides each) Kiosk Construction materials	Design: \$10,000 Fabrication: \$2000 Range from \$10 - \$20,000 based on standard FS designs	Use inhouse staff to complete construction		\$12,000 \$20,000
Interpretive waysides Exterior signage along interpretive trail	Design: \$1500/sign Use of red colored stone runs \$125 to \$250 per square foot. 6 SF x \$250 = \$1500 ea. Anodized aluminum HPL—\$400/ sign	Change signage to HPL material, significantly lower costs, with ability for high color.	Based on simplistic design similar to current signage	\$4500 \$4500
Welcome Sign along walkway	\$1500	Repairs done in house, & materials		\$1500
Welcome Banner	Design: \$1500 Fabrication: \$1500			\$3000
Computer Station for Trip Planning	Computer and software purchase—\$5000			\$5000
Map of Flaming Gorge Recreation Area with reader rail/information	Design: Fabrication: \$	Molding & reader rail could be built by FS staff		\$8000
Designation of FGNRA and Forest Service Mission panel	Planning/design—\$5000 Fabrication—\$1200			\$7200
Wildlife dioramas/sets/panels/mural		Inhouse labor construct platforms, wood bases, stone cliffs and paint to reduce costs		\$15,000

Cost Estimate
Considerations continued

Exhibit Recommendation	Contracted Cost (estimate)	Options for reducing costs	Comments
Geology reader rails	Basic design— for 4 panels; \$12,000 Fabrication and mountings for 4 panels; \$3000		\$15,000
Geology column	Masonry contract work and stone procuremt— \$5000	Do inhouse or possibly Job Corp	\$5000
John Wesley Powell & William Ashley exhibit	Design approx. \$6500 Fabrication—\$3000		\$10,000
Interpretive panel on Utes, settlers, pioneers, ranchers	Approximately \$7000 in design; \$3000 for fabrication		\$10,000
Vignette boxes of artifacts with interpretive graphic panels.			\$20,000
Theatre	Pending discussions template for temporary exhibits—\$6000	Rotating temporary exhibits by staff; template used to develop and print.	\$6000
Subtotal for blue boxes			\$96,200
TOTAL ESTIMATE			146,700.00



Partnership Opportunities

Communities near Flaming Gorge have specific interests and goals that may be unique to their area and the Red Canyon Visitor Center and Flaming Gorge Uintas Scenic Byway. Public land managers and community leaders will want to consider interests and goals. Possibilities to develop partnerships that enhance and benefit land managers and communities should include consideration of the following:

- ◆ Promote the development of events and activities during the shoulder seasons to add more weeks onto summer.
- ◆ Coordinate with Utah DOT regarding visitor orientation and interpretive sign needs and highway improvements.
- ◆ Better direction signage; and orientation at road junctions and increase road safety.
- ◆ Reduce and minimize conflicts between user groups and interests (e.g. motorcycle tours, bicycle tours, antique car tours)
- ◆ Preserve sites and natural features to maintain scenic values, open space, and access to wildlife viewing. Protect the experiences that are here now so others can enjoy those 25 years from now.
- ◆ Market and meet the needs and expectations of international travelers.
- ◆ Collaborate with Byway communities to network and share resources, promote events and opportunities that benefit local residents and visiting publics.
- ◆ Create an advisory board for the Red Canyon Visitor Center that serves as a community stakeholder, and assists in determining programming and additional funding and resources for the visitor center. (this could be a subset of a Friends of the Forest group).

Current partnerships to date exist with the following organizations:

Intermountain Natural History Association is the interpretive association working with the forest to provide sales items and educational publications and materials at the visitor center. Discussions are underway to more closely integrate messages and services shared between the RCVC and the Flaming Gorge Visitor Center operated by the Bureau of Reclamation at the dam location.

Flaming Gorge Uinta Scenic Byway is a scenic byway with interpretive sites and signage. Red Canyon complements the experience. Literature and orientation is provided at the visitor center regarding the byway.

Red Canyon Lodge—The lodge operates under a special uses permit and provides recreational activities, food and lodging for visiting guests within close proximity to visitor center. The lodge owner, Mark Wilson works closely with the forest, and often provides space for public meetings related to Forest Service business.

Appendices

- A. Recommendations for other interpretive sites in Flaming Gorge NRA*
- B. Interpretive Definitions*
- C. Geology Reference*
- D. Previous interpretive draft*

Appendix A— Recommendations for other interpretive sites in Flaming Gorge NRA

The seasonal interpreter will also host presentations at Ute Lookout Tower, Mustang, Lucerne, and Bootleg amphitheaters. These sites are designed for interpretive guided or amphitheater based presentations, however, the creation of activity based programs will be explored.

Ute Lookout Tower

Programs at this location will be focused on the history of fire lookouts and the agencies fire suppression history. Ute has several historic fire caches that will be developed in to the plans for this site.

Mustang, Lucerne, and Bootleg Amphitheaters

These outdoor amphitheaters will host interpretive programs that will be based on site specific topics as well as topic trends with the recreating public in those areas.

Swett Ranch

Swett Ranch is a historic ranch that is operated by the Forest Service. Throughout the year various events are held to give the visiting public a glimpse into the life of the settlers of the area. The Interpreter will also be used at this location to provide programs related to the history of the Swett family and life of those who initially settled in the area.



This heritage resource provides a rich opportunity for presenting an earlier era when new settlers to the region had to be tenacious and self sufficient to survive. The Forest Service has a unique opportunity to present this story combined with land management stories of the early era of the agency; evolving land management practices and the multiple use mission of the agency.

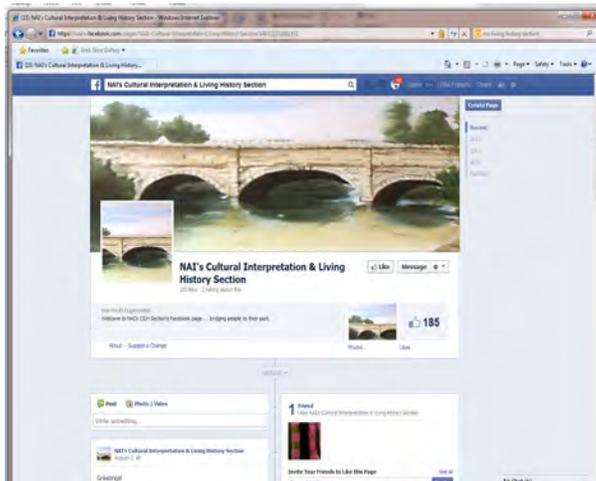
The rich collection of artifacts, and close up view of early pioneer life requires careful thought, and planning as to future management of this resource on the Ashley National Forest.

Other recommendations to consider for this site include:

- Signage with map at entry area and defined establish walking trails, with brochure tour.
- Guided hikes regularly held, and advertised that are fee based
- Serve as a training conference in Living History in partnership with the National Association of Interpretation.

The following options for maintaining and managing the ranch should be considered:

- Signage at entry with a site map and established walking trails.
- User pays fee for a guided hike regularly scheduled and advertised widely during peak season on the NRA. Offer tours based from Red Canyon Visitor Center.
- Sterilization of buildings with removal and protection of valuable items, left open to the public with interpretive signage, and fee donation tube.



- Creation of an advisory board or Friends group to support and maintain the character of the ranch. This board would include local historic groups, educators, Federal agencies, state and local leadership, families of Swett Ranch, or other early pioneers to the area.
- Grant funding and designation as a National Historic Site or Landmark.
- Cultivate an Ashley Friends of the Forest, this would be a site to focus on and cultivate support.



Appendix B—Interpretive Definitions

These definitions come from a collaborative effort called “The Definitions Project” which was a group that met in a series of 4 meetings in 2006 with 20 attendees representing federal agencies, professional organizations, and other Non Government Organizations. The following definitions resulted from those meetings. More definitions can be found at www.definitionsproject.com

Interpreter: A person who employs a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and meanings inherent in the resource.

Interpretive: Technique that assists audiences through communication media in making both emotional and intellectual connections with heritage resources.

Interpretive Center: An interpretive center is a facility where opportunities are provided for people to forge emotional and intellectual connections between their interests and the meanings that arise from learning about the resource. The facility may or may not be staffed, and can range in scale from a kiosk to a complex of buildings and natural sites, but always provides information about the natural and cultural resources.

Interpretive Equation: A visual and verbal metaphor for demonstrating the dynamic relationship between the knowledge of heritage resources, knowledge of audiences and use of appropriate interpretive techniques to create interpretive opportunities.

Interpretive Objectives: Desired measurable outputs, outcomes and impacts of interpretive services.

Interpretive Opportunity: A place, time and experience when interpretation may occur.

Interpretive Planning: The decision-making process that blends management needs and resource considerations with visitor desire and ability to pay to determine the most effective way to communicate the message to targeted markets. (National Association for Interpretation).

Interpretive Program: Activities, presentations, publications, audio-visual media, signs, and exhibits that convey key heritage resource messages to audiences. (Adapted from US Fish & Wildlife Service).

Interpretive Services: Any personal or non-personal media delivered to audiences.

Interpretive Theme: A succinct, central message about a topic of interest that a communicator wants to get across to an audience.

Living History: An attempt to accurately replicate the past through the use of a physical environment and the sights, sounds and smells of the period being represented. The two major types of interactive living history interpretation are first-person and third-person. (Adapted from Association for Living History Farms and Museums)

Program: Any type of organized, topic-specific presentation or other delivery of information. Types of programs include:

Community/outreach program – is a program that:

1. Occurs outside of the establish facility or land base
2. Is designed for a broad audience within a geographic community

Education program – is a program that is comprehensive, curriculum based, conducted on or off site for all ages.

Environmental education program – is a program that aims to develop an environmentally literate citizen who has the skills, knowledge, and inclination to make well-informed choices as a member of a community (

Interpretive program – is a program that helps accomplish the communication goal that forges emotional and intellectual connections between an audience and meanings inherent in the resources.



Junior Ranger program – is a program that engages young people in age appropriate activities and learning and provides a tangible memento for participation.

Performing Arts program – is a program that offers opportunities for learners to explore resources using creative skills (i.e., storytelling, poetry reading, dance, drama, music, etc.)

Project-based education program (also known in the environmental education field as issues investigation) – is an instructional strategy that involves students in investigating issues and proposing solutions while integrating subjects across the curriculum.

Recreation interpretive program – is a program that offers opportunities for people to improve their outdoor skills (i.e., how to correctly pack a backpack; rock climbing, snowshoeing, Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly).

Safety skill demonstration program – is a program that shows people how to safely enjoy the outdoors (i.e., carrying the right amount of water, boating and hunting safety, how to build a fire).

Scientific demonstration program – is a program that enables the participant to test specific hypotheses using the scientific method (i.e., water and soil sampling, weather studies).

Special event – is an event that celebrates a topic or theme, involves the community, and occurs outside of regularly scheduled programming.

"If you paint in your mind a picture of bright and happy 'expectations, you put yourself into a condition conducive to your goal."

-Norman Vincent Peale

Appendix C—Geology Reference

Geology Theme & Points for RCVC Interpretive Plan

Compiled (translated into English) by Patty McCourt

Refs.

A Field Guide to the Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway (Geology chap. by Sprinkel)

Geologic Guide Along Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Utah-Wyoming, Douglas A. Sprinkel, Utah Geological Survey, Salt Lake City, Utah

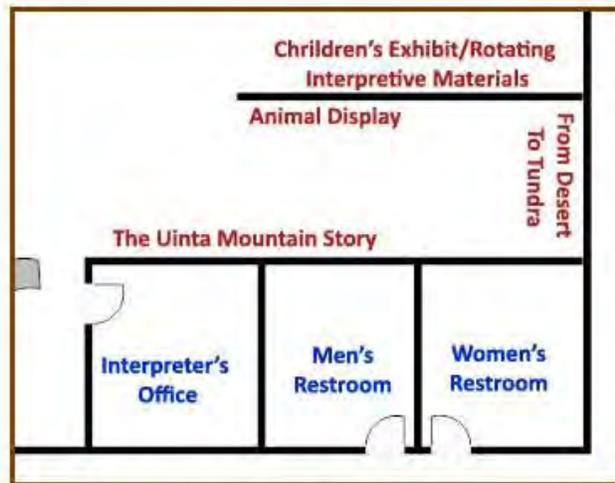
I would rely solely on geologist Doug Sprinkel for factual verification as he is the stratigrapher & researcher & geologic storyteller specifically for the Flaming Gorge area & is the writer for the Scenic Byway signs. He provided the updated (new formation names) schematic for the F.S. Geology interp. sign, currently in production.

Theme suggestion by Linda West (retired NPS interpreter, specializing in geology + Scenic Byway Committee member + guest geology presenter @ RCVC + photographer/illustrator/writer of various books & brochures on local natural history + former INHA employee + former DNM interp. ranger). Linda created the final layout (pics & writing) for the FS Geology interp. sign. Linda is good at turning complex subjects into language that can be understood by lay people. Linda felt RC was the ideal place to focus on the fascinating, mind-boggling, complex paradox of the river flowing toward the mountain, rather than away from it as would be the norm. She said she would be glad to help in whatever way she can with this project (she's retired & dedicates much of her retirement time to assisting with projects such as this). llwest@easilink.com

Appendix D— Interpretive Inventory and Evaluation, Completed by Chris Nichols, 2013

North Wing

The niche of the Ashley National Forest is “Big Fish, Ancient Rocks” and it is our goal to showcase our forest’s niche in the visitor center. The north wing of the visitor center will showcase the “Big Fish” that can be found in the Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Green River.



Current Layout



Proposed Changes

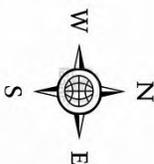


Exhibit Recommendations

"Flora in the Gorge"

Interpretive Panel—North Wing of the Visitor Center

Goal - To educate the visitors about the botanical life in the Uinta Mountain range.

Theme(s) – Flaming Gorge is home to very diverse ecosystems.

Target Audience – Visitors of all ages.

Type of Exhibit – Graphic Interpretive Panel

Location Size – The current exhibit in this location is a 22ft by 5ft graphic interpretive panel.

Exhibit Breakdown – This exhibit will cover the various ecosystems by providing information regarding the ecosystem's needs, management, and sensitivity to unwelcomed changes. The botanical life found in the Flaming Gorge area will be covered as well. Information will be included that educate the visitor regarding identification, biology, interesting facts, and management of the species

Special Requirements – This exhibit will be shared with the "Recreating in the Flaming Gorge" exhibit.

Interpretive Objectives

- * Visitors will be able to better understand diverse ecosystems of the area.
- * Visitors will be able to identify the various ecosystems while in the Uinta Mountain range.
- * Visitors will better understand the importance of Treading Lightly in environmentally fragile areas.
- * Visitors will better understand what caused the formation of the Uinta Mountain range.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Agency personnel will monitor and evaluate this exhibit by performing regular inspections of the exhibit noting any issues relating to changes of accuracy of information displayed and any damage that is occurring to the exhibit.

Exhibit Recommendations

"Wildlife of the Gorge"

Interpretive Panel—North Wing of the Visitor Center

Goal - To educate the visitors about the wildlife in the Uinta Mountain range.

Theme(s) – Flaming Gorge is home to a wide variety of wildlife that have adapted to living in the harsh conditions of the Uinta Mountains.

Target Audience – Visitors of all ages.

Type of Exhibit – Graphic Interpretive Panel

Location Size – The current exhibit in this location is a 12.5ft by 5ft graphic interpretive panel.

Exhibit Breakdown – This exhibit will cover the wildlife that live in the Flaming Gorge area as well as provide interesting facts about these animals. The target will be to display the most frequently seen animals in the Flaming Gorge area. An emphasis will be placed on the aquatic species especially those located in the reservoir and Green River. This will help promote the Ashley National Forest's niche of "Big Fish, Ancient Rocks". An emphasis will also be placed on the adaptations made by the animals in order to live in the Flaming Gorge area. The interpretive text needs to cover scientific name, diet, markings, and interesting facts about the species.

Special Requirements – This exhibit will work in conjunction with the animal mount display.

Interpretive Objectives

- * Visitors will be able to better understand the wildlife residing in the area.
- * Visitors will be able to better identify wildlife and their markings.
- * Visitors will better understand the importance of Treading Lightly in sensitive wildlife areas.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Agency personnel will monitor and evaluate this exhibit by performing regular inspections of the exhibit noting any issues relating to changes of accuracy of information displayed and any damage that is occurring to the exhibit.

Exhibit Recommendations

"Wildlife of the Gorge Display"

Interpretive Display Case—North Wing of the Visitor Center

Goal - To educate the visitors about the wildlife through interpretive text and animal mounts.

Theme(s) – Flaming Gorge is home to a wide variety of wildlife that have adapted to living to the harsh conditions of the Uinta Mountains.

Target Audience – Visitors of all ages.

Type of Exhibit – Display Case

Location Size – The current exhibit in this location is a 9.5ft by 4.6ft display case.

Exhibit Breakdown – This exhibit allows the viewer to better visualize the animal. Currently this exhibit has animal mounts, many of which need replacing. Some of these species opened with the center in the early 60's. Depending on available funding and availability of mounts we will look to add species that are frequently discussed and seen in the area. The interior of the case will be designed to look like a forest setting. This redesign will have 3 main "levels" the aquatic/underground level, forest floor wildlife, and the tree canopy dwelling/avian level. The aquatic/underground level will showcase the kokanee salmon and various trout species on one side of the display capturing the aquatic side. And the underground side will showcase a beaver in its dome. The ground level will cover various mammals found in the area. The final avian/tree dwelling layer will showcase or various avian species as well as our flying squirrel.

Special Requirements – Special design considerations will need to be taken into account when designing the display case in order to accurately capture the living environment of the selected species.

Interpretive Objectives

- * Visitors will be able to better understand the wildlife residing in the area.
- * Visitors will be able to better identify wildlife and their markings.
- * Visitors will better understand the importance of treading lightly in sensitive wildlife areas.

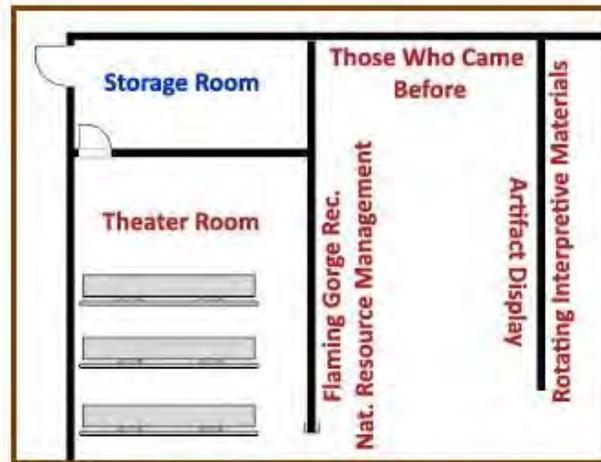
Monitoring/Evaluation

Agency personnel will monitor and evaluate this exhibit by performing regular inspections of the exhibit noting any issues relating to changes of accuracy of information displayed and any damage that is occurring to the animal mounts.

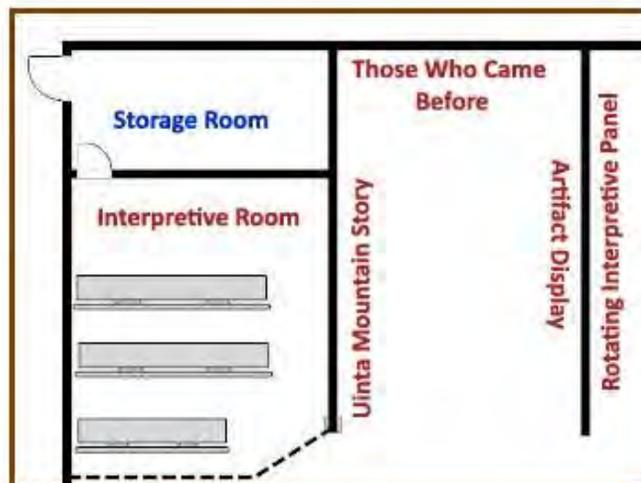
Exhibit Recommendations

West Wing

The west wing of exhibits will showcase the “Ancient Rocks” side of the niche. We will showcase this by focusing on the geology of the area with the new and improved “Uinta Mountain Story” Exhibit. This exhibit will show the location and layout of the geological formations of the area and will utilize samples of the actual rock that make up these formations instead of the identification by color code.



Current Layout



Proposed Changes

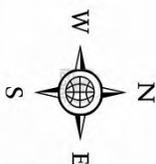


Exhibit Recommendations

"Uinta Mountain Story"

Exhibit—West Wing of the Visitor Center

Goal - To educate the visitors about the geological layers in the Uinta Mountain range.

Theme(s) – Ages of the geological layers, history of the Uinta fault, differences between geological layers.

Target Audience – Visitors of all ages.

Type of Exhibit – Graphic Interpretive Panel

Location Size – The current exhibit in this location is an 18.5ft by 5ft graphic interpretive panel.

Exhibit Breakdown – This exhibit will be based on the existing “Uinta Mountain Story” Exhibit however it will be moved to the West Wing of the visitor center. The existing exhibit displays the various geological layers by using a color code method. The proposed exhibit will have each layer of rock cut and shaped with the purpose of recreating the mountain range. Interpretive text will be added in order to identify local landmarks and towns, age of the rock, and a description of the earth when that layer was exposed.

Special Requirements – This exhibit will display cuts of the geologic formations that will reconstruct the layout of the Uinta Mountain range.

Interpretive Objectives

- * Visitors will be able to better understand geological features of the area.
- * Visitors will be able to compare the geological features by studying the differences in color, color texture, and sensory texture.
- * Visitors will better understand the existing interpretive signage placed along the highway.
- * Visitors will better understand what caused the formation of the Uinta Mountain range.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Agency personnel will monitor and evaluate this exhibit by performing regular inspections of the exhibit noting any issues relating to changes of accuracy of information displayed and any damage that is occurring to the exhibit.

Exhibit Recommendations

"Those Who Came Before"

Interactive Interpretive Panel—West Wing of the Visitor Center

Goal - To educate the visitors about the settlers in the Uinta Mountain range.

Theme(s) – The Uinta Mountain has been a home for mankind dating back to the Native Americans who settled and hunted in the area, the fur trappers and outlaws who passed through the area, to the land managers of today who strive to protect the area’s natural resources.

Target Audience – Visitors of all ages.

Type of Exhibit – On command Illuminated Graphic Interpretive Panel

Location Size – The current exhibit in this location is a 12ft by 5ft graphic interpretive panel.

Exhibit Breakdown –This exhibit will follow the same theme as the existing however we will be looking to redesign this exhibit in order to expand upon the existing content and make it more visually appealing for the audience. The current exhibit is a light display with pictures that illuminate upon command. The extent of changes to this exhibit will depend greatly funding. If funding is limited the exhibit design will be created with in-house labor. This exhibit will work in conjunction with the artifact display case.

Special Requirements – To be determined at a later date.

Interpretive Objectives

- * Visitors will be able to better understand of the past and present inhabitants of the area.
- * Visitors will be able to better understand the lives of the settlers of the area.
- * Visitors will better understand what life was like in the Uinta Mountains.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Agency personnel will monitor and evaluate this exhibit by performing regular inspections of the exhibit noting any issues relating to changes of accuracy of information displayed and any damage that is occurring to the exhibit.

Exhibit Recommendations

Native American and Settler Artifacts

Interpretive Display Case—West Wing of the Visitor Center

Goal - To educate the visitors about tools and clothing used by the settlers of the Uinta Mountain range.

Theme(s) – Living in the Uinta Mountains was difficult for those who settled the area throughout history. This required those living nomadic and/or sedentary lifestyles to fabricate most of the equipment used in their everyday lives.

Target Audience – Visitors of all ages.

Type of Exhibit – Display Case

Location Size – The current exhibit in this location is a 9.5ft by 4.6ft display case.

Exhibit Breakdown –This exhibit will complement the “Those Who Came Before” exhibit by displaying a variety of artifacts used by the various settlers of the area. Artifacts will be included that cover the topics of “Trappers and Explorers” and “Outlaws”. Due to the abundance of “Native American” and “Ranchers and Homesteaders” artifacts it may be necessary to rotate artifacts so the other periods can be accommodated in the display.

Special Requirements – Shelving units for the display case. Outlaw, Explorer and Trapper, and Rancher and Homesteader related artifacts.

Interpretive Objectives

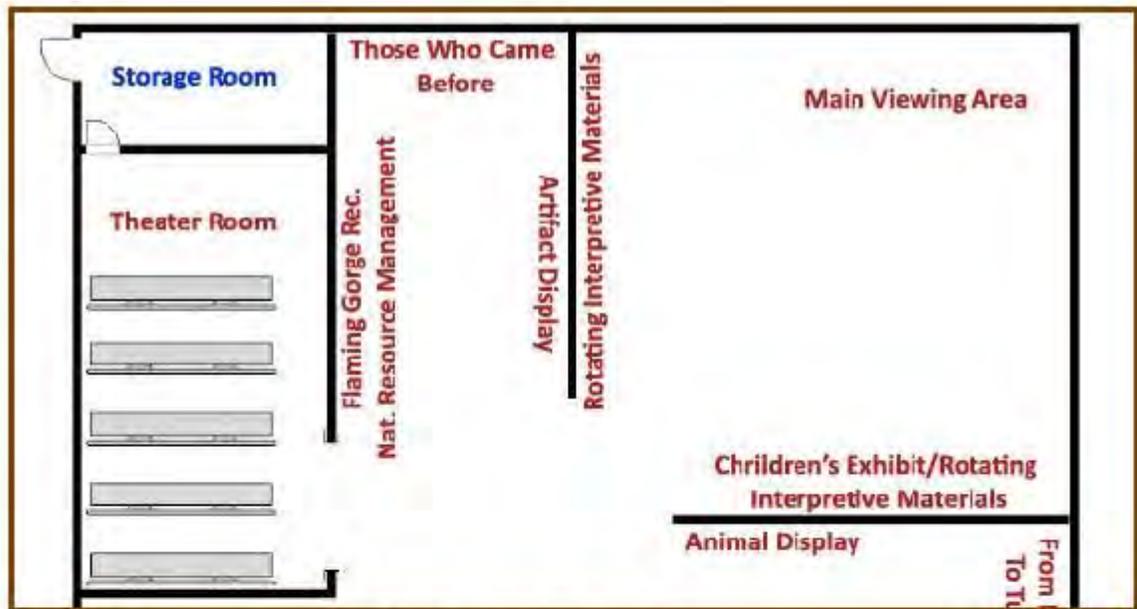
- * Visitors will be able to better visualize the tools utilized by inhabitants of the area.
- * Visitors will be able to see the progression of technology present in the area.
- * Visitors will better understand what life was like in the Uinta Mountains.

Monitoring/Evaluation

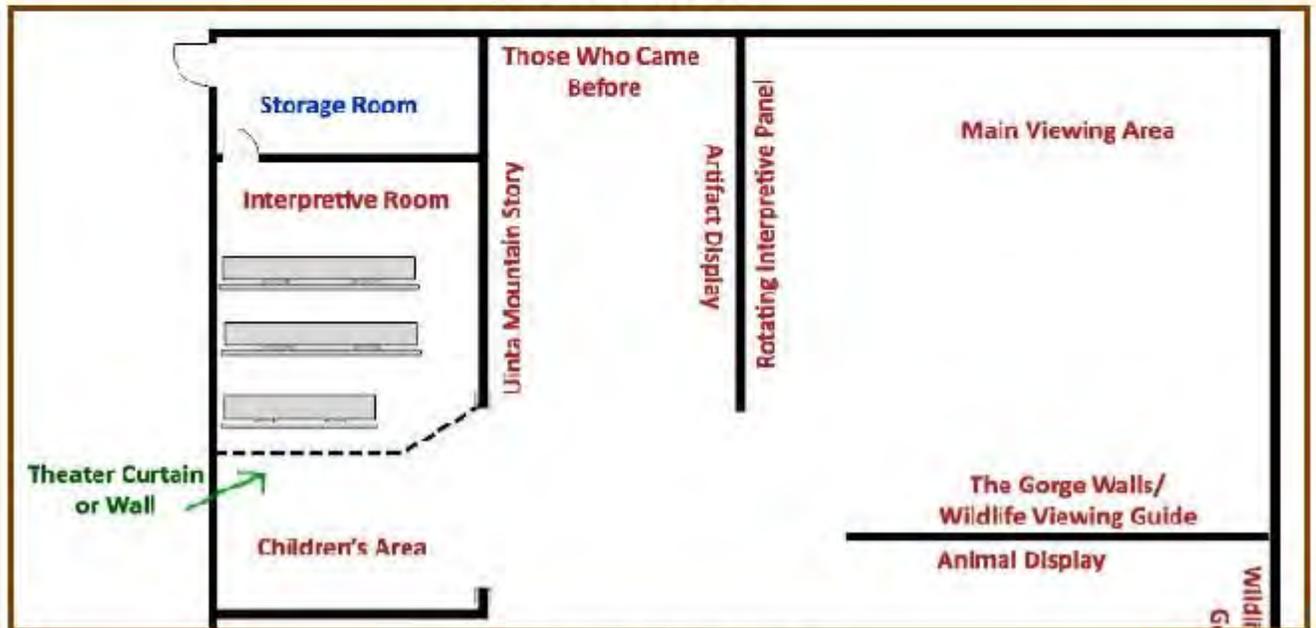
Agency personnel will monitor and evaluate this exhibit by performing regular inspections of the exhibit noting any issues relating to changes of accuracy of information displayed and any damage that is occurring to the artifacts.

Exhibit Recommendations

Main Viewing Area, Children's Area, Interpretive Theater Room



Current Layout



Proposed Changes

Exhibit Recommendations

Rotating Exhibits

Interpretive Panel—North end of the Main Viewing Area in the Visitor Center

Goal - To provide a quick reference wildlife viewing and educate the visitor about the never ending change occurring to the canyon walls.

Theme(s) – The canyon walls are in a constant state of change due to environmental changes. Wildlife Viewing.

Target Audience – Visitors of all ages.

Type of Exhibit – Graphic Interpretive Panel

Location Size – The current exhibit in this location is a 9.5ft by 4.6ft carpeted bulletin board.

Exhibit Breakdown – The current exhibit allows for rotation of exhibits/posters. The recommended upgrade would make this a permanent exhibit that is dedicated to wildlife viewing and how the canyons continue to change due to the freezing of ice in canyon crevices. The viewing guide will showcase plant, animal, and geological features that are easily seen in the viewing area with or without a pair of binoculars. Consideration should also be taken for installing a mounted pair of binoculars in the main viewing area as well. The second topic covered will discuss how the canyon wall changed over time and the changes that falling rock can bring to the river channel below.

Special Requirements – This will be a multi-topic exhibit.

Interpretive Objectives

- * Visitors will be able to better understand geological features of the area.
- * Visitors will have a better understanding of how falling rock can change the dynamics of a river channel.
- * Visitors will have a quick reference guide while viewing the wildlife, flora, and geological features in the red canyon.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Agency personnel will monitor and evaluate this exhibit by performing regular inspections of the exhibit noting any issues relating to changes of accuracy of information displayed and any damage that is occurring to the exhibit.

Exhibit Recommendations

Rotating Exhibits

Interpretive Panel—West end of the Main Viewing Area in the Visitor Center

Goal - To provide coverage on a variety of topics that can be rotated regularly to meet the needs of the public.

Target Audience – Visitors of all ages.

Type of Exhibit – Graphic Interpretive Panel

Location Size – The current exhibit in this location is a 9.5ft by 4.6ft carpeted bulletin board.

Exhibit Breakdown – This display will have a wide variety of topics including architecture, seasons of the Red Canyon, fire management, and information about the formation of canyons.

Special Requirements – This will be a multi-topic exhibit.

Interpretive Objectives

- * Visitors will be able to better understand on various topics regarding the area.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Agency personnel will monitor and evaluate this exhibit by performing regular inspections of the exhibit noting any issues relating to changes of accuracy of information displayed and any damage that is occurring to the exhibit.

Exhibit Recommendations

Children's Area

Interactive Children's Exhibit—Theater Room Area

Goal - To provide children with interactive exhibits catering to the learning styles of children.

Theme(s) – Flaming Gorge has many different kinds of animals. Petroglyphs were used by Native Americans in order to leave messages for others and tell stories.

Target Audience – For Children under the age of 13.

Type of Exhibit – Graphic Interpretive Panel, Interactive Displays

Location Size – The current location of the proposed exhibit is used as seating for the theater room. Approximate size of the proposed area will be 8ft by 7ft.

Exhibit Breakdown – The entry way into the theater room is approximately 8ft wide. We would remove two rows of seating and create a new wall either by framing it in or using theater curtains. The space will be utilized for children's exhibits including displays that the children can actively interact with. Two topics that should be covered are wildlife and petroglyphs. If interactive components are not incorporated into the interpretive panels then a touch table will be provided in order to encourage the kinesthetic learning style.

Special Requirements – This will be a multi-topic exhibit.

Interpretive Objectives

- * Retention of knowledge will be encouraged by providing the tools for the kinesthetic learning style.
- * Children will be able to identify local wildlife.
- * Children will be able to identify and have a basic understanding of petroglyphs.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Agency personnel will monitor and evaluate this exhibit by performing regular inspections of the exhibit noting any issues relating to changes of accuracy of information displayed and any damage that is occurring to the exhibit.

Exhibit Recommendations

Interpretive Room

Multi-Use Interpretive Area—Housed in the Theater Room Area

Goal - To provide educational videos and interpretive programs to the visitors.

Theme(s) – Themes will vary depending on videos available and programs performed

Target Audience – Visitors of all ages.

Type of Exhibit – Movie and interpretive program room.

Location Size – The current room will be downsized in order to expand exhibit space.

Exhibit Breakdown – The room currently has outdated equipment and videos. Recommended improvements include a 40-50 inch TV in order to accommodate sight and hearing impairments, new equipment that would allow the television to be used for interpretive programs (powerpoint, keynote, etc), and equipment allowing the visitor to select an educational film when not being utilized for organized interpretive programs.

Special Requirements – New A/V equipment will be needed.

Interpretive Objectives

- * Visitors will be able interact and learn from agency personnel.
- * Visitors will have a better understanding of the covered topics since the videos can be selected based on the groups interest in the topic.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Agency personnel will monitor and evaluate this exhibit by performing regular inspections of the exhibit noting any issues relating to changes of accuracy of information displayed and any damage that is occurring to the exhibit.

Exhibit Recommendations

Exterior Information Display and Lobby

The exterior and lobby will be home to rotating interpretive displays and information boards. The purpose of this area is to provide vital information and greet the visitors. Majority of the floor space in this area is used for INHA's product shelving units, however, there are areas available for interpretive displays and information.

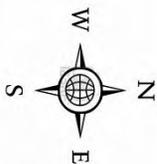
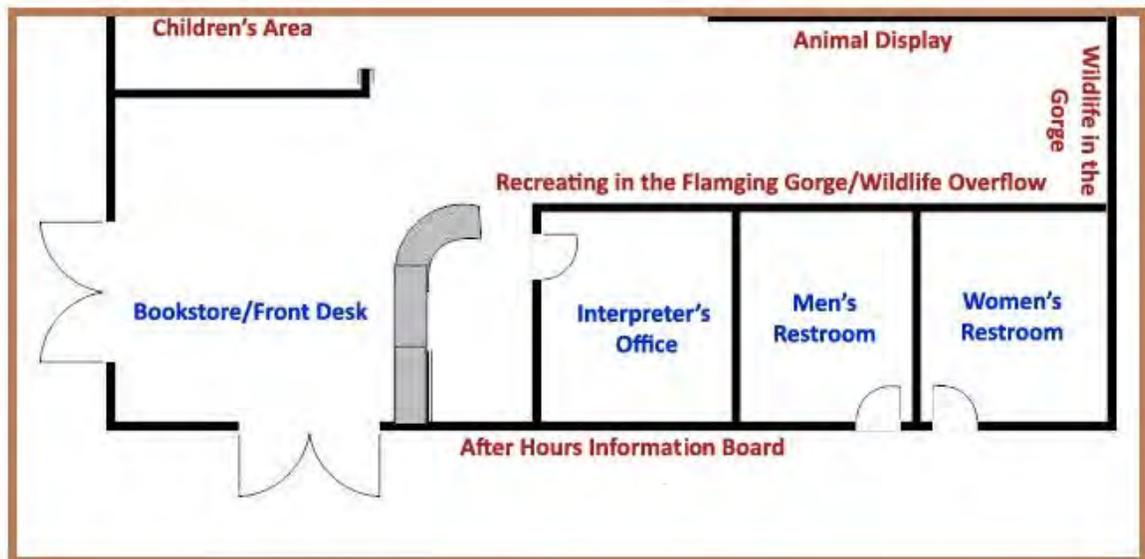


Exhibit Recommendations

After Hours Recreational Information Board

Interpretive Panel—Exterior exhibit on the East end of the Visitor Center

Goal - To provide the public with after-hours recreational information relating to the Flaming Gorge NRA.

Theme(s) – Summer and winter recreation in the flaming gorge NRA.

Target Audience – Visitors of all ages with an emphasis on adults.

Type of Exhibit – Graphic Interpretive Panel

Location Size – Currently there is a small corkboard case that will not be compatible. Plenty of room is available on the building for an interpretive panel.

Exhibit Breakdown – The exhibit would provide summer and winter recreational opportunities and estimated open/closure dates to the public when the Red Canyon Visitor Center is closed. This would be accomplished by having one large or two small panels that are reversible showing summer recreation on one side and winter on the other. These exhibits will be held on lockable tracks that agency personnel can rotate when appropriate. Information would include trails, river/reservoir, camping, and other area attractions.

Special Requirements – Double-sided Interpretive panel that can be rotated/flipped by personnel only.

Interpretive Objectives

- * Visitors will have access to area information after hours and out of season.
- * Visitors will have a better understanding of area regulations and closures.
- * Visitors will be able to orient themselves and make educated decisions regarding available attractions.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Agency personnel will monitor and evaluate this exhibit by performing regular inspections of the exhibit noting any issues relating to changes of accuracy of information displayed and any damage that is occurring to the exhibit. Agency personnel will rotate the information on the exhibit as needed.

Exhibit Recommendations

Rotating Exhibits

Interpretive Panel—West end of the Main Viewing Area in the Visitor Center

Goal - To provide coverage on a variety of topics that can be rotated regularly to meet the needs of the public.

Target Audience – Visitors of all ages.

Type of Exhibit – Graphic Interpretive Displays, Desk Display Case, and miscellaneous free standing exhibits.

Location – Various locations and sizes.

Exhibit Breakdown – This display will have a wide variety of topics including architecture, history, wildlife, and geology.

Special Requirements – This will be a multi-topic exhibits.

Interpretive Objectives

- * Visitors will be able to better understand various topics regarding the area.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Agency personnel will monitor and evaluate this exhibit by performing regular inspections of the exhibit noting any issues relating to changes of accuracy of information displayed and any damage that is occurring to the exhibit.

Current Conditions and Unmet Needs

Meeting the needs of our visitors includes ensuring the visitor has the information necessary to make an informed decision when recreating on public lands. By accommodating these needs we strive to meet the agency's goals.

Expansion of the Visitor Center's hours ranks as one of the top concern when it comes to the unmet needs. The visitor center opens just prior to the Memorial Day Holiday and from the moment the doors open the center receives 50-100 visitors in a seven hour day. From Memorial Day to Labor Day the center consistently brings in anywhere from 150-250 visitors per day. After the Labor Day Holiday weekend the center closes due to lack of staffing. At times staffing has continued on into mid-September and the visitor count sat steadily around 50-100 on weekdays and 100+ during the weekend. A comment was overheard in October 2012 by an employee performing maintenance on the visitor center that showcases this unmet need. An employee was working on the center in an area not visible by the visitors he heard a couple approach the visitor center to find the doors locked. As soon as the visitor pulled the door finding it locked the comment was made "I guess we are not important enough for this place to be open." It would be in the best interest of the public and community to remedy this situation. This place serves as a destination point for the public and is publicized heavily by local hotel and cabin rental businesses. In order to remedy this unmet need the center's availability will need to be expanded to opening during the weekends for the months of April, May, September, and October (weather dependent). It has also been requested by businesses in the community to extend weekend hours during the summer to 7:00pm in order to accommodate those who are looking for a short excursion in the evening.

The second significant unmet need involves the condition of the current exhibits. The age of the center's exhibits shows due to the outdated interpretive panels, audio visual equipment, and the aging animal mounts. Documentation and evaluation of current state of exhibits is included in Appendix A, and provides a thorough assessment of the current exhibits.

(Put into Recommendations)

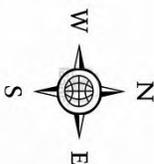
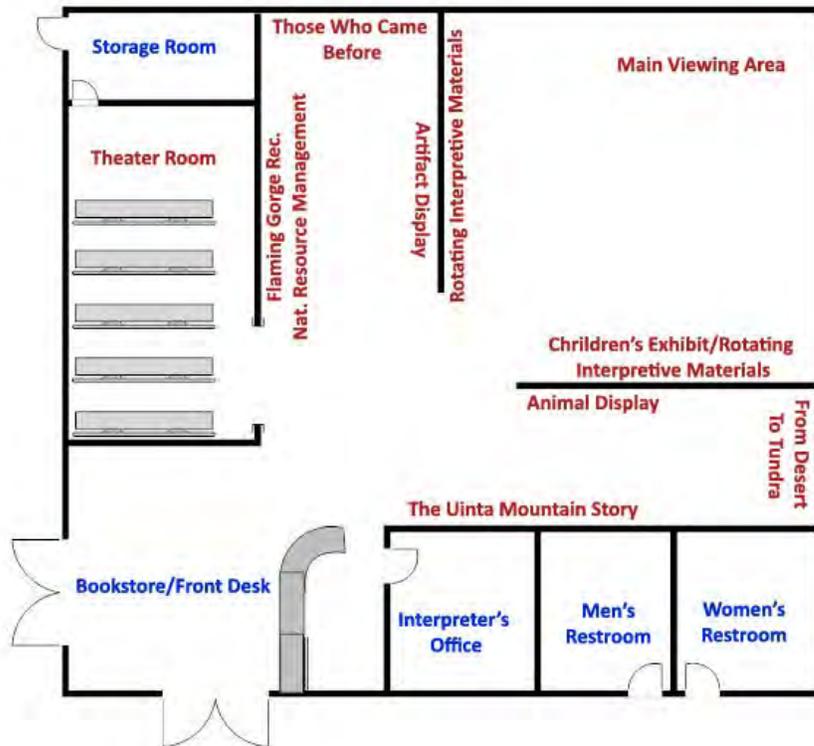
Other unmet needs include:

- * Information regarding seasonal closures in the area
- * Large scale maps orienting the public with the available roads and recreational opportunities
- * Exterior panels covering basic area information for after-hours visitors

Current Conditions

Exhibit Conditions

The following pages provide information regarding the current conditions of the exhibits at the Red Canyon Visitors Center. The National Park Service published an exhibit evaluation checklist in their publication of “Wayside Exhibit Evaluation Checklist of Guidelines for Planning, Designing, and Producing Wayside Exhibits.” This checklist has been adapted and utilized to analyze the current exhibit conditions at the visitors center.



Current Conditions

Animals of the Gorge

Animal Display Case—North Wing of Visitor Center

Content

Yes	No	
X		Is the topic interesting, significant, and appropriate?
X		Is this a logical location for the subject?
X		Is the exhibit content accurate ?
X		Are the sentences and paragraphs clear, concise, and correct ?
	X	Are the graphics effective?
	X	Does the panel contain the right amount of information ?

Exhibit Design

Yes	No	
	X	Is there a good balance of text and graphics?
X		Are the panel colors pleasing and easy on the eyes?
	X	Does the arrangement of text and graphics aid comprehension?
	X	Is the type legible and readable?
X		Are the captions complete and properly placed?
	X	Is the panel size and shape appropriate for the subject?
	X	Are the panel and the base materials appropriate for the site?

Installation/Maintenance

Yes	No	
X		Is the site accessible to visitors, including the mobility-impaired?
X		Is the exhibit plumb, level, and solidly anchored ?
	X	Is the exhibit clean and in good condition ?

Comments:

This display case showcases the animals in the gorge area. The display case is a bare case with nameplates that identify the animals. Most of these animal mounts range from good to poor condition. It would be advisable to slowly replace and repair animal mounts.

The residents of the case include:

Aquatic Life: Kokanee Salmon

Birds: Great Horned Owl, Magpie, Red Tailed Hawk, Canadian Geese, Scrub Jay and Bohemian Waxing

Mammals: Otter, Mountain Lion, Marmot, Grey Fox, Flying Squirrel, Beaver, Muskrat, Squirrel, Big Horned Sheep, Bear



Current Conditions

The Natural Environment from Desert to Tundra

Interpretive Panel—North Wing of Visitor Center

Content

Yes	No	
	X	Is the topic interesting, significant, and appropriate?
	X	Is this a logical location for the subject?
X		Is the exhibit content accurate ?
X		Are the sentences and paragraphs clear, concise, and correct ?
X		Are the graphics effective?
	X	Does the panel contain the right amount of information ?

Exhibit Design

Yes	No	
X		Is there a good balance of text and graphics?
X		Are the panel colors pleasing and easy on the eyes?
X		Does the arrangement of text and graphics aid comprehension?
	X	Is the type legible and readable?
X		Are the captions complete and properly placed?
X		Is the panel size and shape appropriate for the subject?
X		Are the panel and the base materials appropriate for the site?

Installation/Maintenance

Yes	No	
X		Is the site accessible to visitors, including the mobility-impaired?
X		Is the exhibit plumb, level, and solidly anchored ?
X		Is the exhibit clean and in good condition ?

Comments:

This interpretive panel covers Desert and Tundra type environment and the role they play in the Ashley National Forest. The information on this display is accurate however the display is dated. The size of this display is approximately 65 square feet.



Current Conditions

The Uinta Mountain Story

Exhibit—North Wing of Visitor Center

Content

Yes	No	
X		Is the topic interesting, significant, and appropriate?
	X	Is this a logical location for the subject?
X		Is the exhibit content accurate ?
X		Are the sentences and paragraphs clear, concise, and correct ?
	X	Are the graphics effective?
	X	Does the panel contain the right amount of information ?

Exhibit Design

Yes	No	
	X	Is there a good balance of text and graphics?
	X	Are the panel colors pleasing and easy on the eyes?
	X	Does the arrangement of text and graphics aid comprehension?
	X	Is the type legible and readable?
X		Are the captions complete and properly placed?
X		Is the panel size and shape appropriate for the subject?
X		Are the panel and the base materials appropriate for the site?

Installation/Maintenance

Yes	No	
X		Is the site accessible to visitors, including the mobility-impaired?
X		Is the exhibit plumb, level, and solidly anchored ?
	X	Is the exhibit clean and in good condition ?

Comments:

This exhibit tells the story of the different geological formations visible in the area. The 115 square foot interpretive panel is accompanied by small samples from some of the formations in the area. These samples are contained in a small glass display case placed in front of the current exhibit. This exhibit has visible wear and repair work where the panel had issues with cracking. The information is accurate however this exhibit is dated. Complaints received from the public regarding this display note the small print used. That is a major issue with this exhibit. To fully understand this exhibit the viewer has to actively search for the information instead of the exhibit presenting the information to the viewer.



Current Conditions

"Recreation Fun Flaming Gorge" and "Resource Management... A Growing Partnership with our Environment"

Interpretive Panel—West Wing of Visitor Center

Content

Yes	No	
X		Is the topic interesting, significant, and appropriate?
	X	Is this a logical location for the subject?
	X	Is the exhibit content accurate ?
X		Are the sentences and paragraphs clear, concise, and correct ?
	X	Are the graphics effective?
	X	Does the panel contain the right amount of information ?

Exhibit Design

Yes	No	
X		Is there a good balance of text and graphics?
X		Are the panel colors pleasing and easy on the eyes?
X		Does the arrangement of text and graphics aid comprehension?
	X	Is the type legible and readable?
X		Are the captions complete and properly placed?
X		Is the panel size and shape appropriate for the subject?
X		Are the panel and the base materials appropriate for the site?

Installation/Maintenance

Yes	No	
X		Is the site accessible to visitors, including the mobility-impaired?
X		Is the exhibit plumb, level, and solidly anchored ?
X		Is the exhibit clean and in good condition ?

Comments:

This interpretive panel covers the topics of Recreation and Natural Resources. The panel is roughly 110 square feet including an enhanced area that introduces recreational opportunities in the area. The presented information is accurate on the panel however the age of the interpretive panels is showcased by the age of the photos used and missing forms of recreation that have gained popularity since its initial design. A large part of the design for the recreation portion includes a map that really is too basic for the public to utilize effectively. The natural resources section discusses the management of natural resources throughout the years. The information is accurate, however, the art work could be improved upon.



Current Conditions

"Those Who Came Before"

Exhibit—West Wing of Visitor Center

Content

Yes	No	
X		Is the topic interesting, significant, and appropriate?
X		Is this a logical location for the subject?
X		Is the exhibit content accurate ?
X		Are the sentences and paragraphs clear, concise, and correct ?
X		Are the graphics effective?
X		Does the panel contain the right amount of information ?

Exhibit Design

Yes	No	
X		Is there a good balance of text and graphics?
X		Are the panel colors pleasing and easy on the eyes?
X		Does the arrangement of text and graphics aid comprehension?
	X	Is the type legible and readable?
X		Are the captions complete and properly placed?
X		Is the panel size and shape appropriate for the subject?
X		Are the panel and the base materials appropriate for the site?

Installation/Maintenance

Yes	No	
X		Is the site accessible to visitors, including the mobility-impaired?
X		Is the exhibit plumb, level, and solidly anchored ?
	X	Is the exhibit clean and in good condition ?

Comments:

This interpretive panel discusses the inhabitants of this area covering the hunters and gatherers to the modern day land managers. This panel is in good working order and contains relevant information. The main issue with this display is that one of the illuminating pictures has disappeared over time and the small print used makes the interpretive panel difficult to read.



Current Conditions

Settler and Native American Artifacts

Exhibit—West Wing of Visitor Center

Content

Yes	No	
X		Is the topic interesting, significant, and appropriate?
X		Is this a logical location for the subject?
X		Is the exhibit content accurate ?
X		Are the sentences and paragraphs clear, concise, and correct ?
X		Are the graphics effective?
	X	Does the panel contain the right amount of information ?

Exhibit Design

Yes	No	
X		Is there a good balance of text and graphics?
X		Are the panel colors pleasing and easy on the eyes?
X		Does the arrangement of text and graphics aid comprehension?
	X	Is the type legible and readable?
	X	Are the captions complete and properly placed?
X		Is the panel size and shape appropriate for the subject?
X		Are the panel and the base materials appropriate for the site?

Installation/Maintenance

Yes	No	
X		Is the site accessible to visitors, including the mobility-impaired?
X		Is the exhibit plumb, level, and solidly anchored ?
X		Is the exhibit clean and in good condition ?

Comments:

This display contains a wide variety of artifacts that come from Native Americans and Settlers. The Native American artifact highlights include cooking accessories, basket, and arrowheads. The Settler artifact highlights include a pair of chaps, hunting rifle, and spurs.



Current Conditions

Main Viewing Area Displays and Touch Table

Interpretive Materials and Interactive Touch Table—Main Viewing Area of Visitor Center

Content

Yes	No	
X		Is the topic interesting, significant, and appropriate?
	X	Is this a logical location for the subject?
X		Is the exhibit content accurate ?
X		Are the sentences and paragraphs clear, concise, and correct ?
X		Are the graphics effective?
X		Does the panel contain the right amount of information ?

Exhibit Design

Yes	No	
X		Is there a good balance of text and graphics?
X		Are the panel colors pleasing and easy on the eyes?
	X	Does the arrangement of text and graphics aid comprehension?
X		Is the type legible and readable?
X		Are the captions complete and properly placed?
X		Is the panel size and shape appropriate for the subject?
X		Are the panel and the base materials appropriate for the site?

Installation/Maintenance

Yes	No	
X		Is the site accessible to visitors, including the mobility-impaired?
X		Is the exhibit plumb, level, and solidly anchored ?
X		Is the exhibit clean and in good condition ?

Comments:

In the main viewing area you have the Children’s Touch Table and the pin board displays which allow for rotating exhibits. The Children’s touch table contains a limited amount of items that the children can explore. A few other educational items such as blocks are in this area as well for children to explore. Currently items that are displayed on the other pin board pertain to child related educational material and wildlife identification posters.



Current Conditions

Interpretive Trail

Surrounding the Visitor Center are opportunities for visitors to travel on foot to a number of overlooks as well as other points of interest. The trail tread consists of both paved and unpaved surfaces with varying 1-5% grades. Visitors traveling these trails have the opportunity to gaze upon the Red Canyon in various locations as well as read the interpretive signage installed along the trail. This interpretive signage covers topics on the areas natural history, wildlife, climate, and vegetation. Most of this signage is aged but overall is in good condition. The only issue that needs to be addressed is a few of the displays stands should be replaced.



Visitor Center Partners

The Red Canyon Visitor Center partners with several local business and non-profit organizations. The common goal of these organizations is to promote tourism to the area as well as educate those visiting the area of the cultural and natural history that surrounds them. The bookstore at the visitor center is operated by the Intermountain Natural History Association (INHA). The bookstore has a variety of souvenirs, books, and information is available for public to purchase or take. The proceeds from these sales are used to fund INHA's various educational programs and literature that are available to the public.

Seeds-kee-dee-Agie



The Green River was known to the Shoshone Indians as the Seeds-kee-dee-Agie, or Prairie Hen River. This name, in one version or another, was later adopted and widely used by the mountain men. Dominguez and Escalante named the Green the Rio de San Buenaventura, but the river was known by later Spaniard and Mexican explorers as the Rio Verde, or Green River. The Spanish connection resulted in the river being known for a time as the Spanish River, but by the time Ashley floated the Green in 1825, the name "Green River" was in common use.

in 1869, when John Wesley Powell and his expedition traveled the Green, he called the canyon "Flaming Gorge" after seeing the "sun reflecting off the red rocks", although Red Canyon, was to them, more impressive than Flaming Gorge, with its far more dangerous rapids.