



United States Department of Agriculture

North Fork Visitor Center Exhibit Concepts



Forest Service

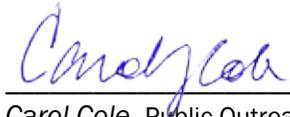
Sawtooth National Forest

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Acknowledgments and Approval

Gratitude goes to those whose time and creativity is captured in this document:

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BACKGROUND

The North Fork Visitor Center is located at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA) Headquarters north of Ketchum, Idaho. Built in 1977, the headquarters building includes office space for both Sawtooth NRA and Visitor Center staff. The majority of exhibits have been removed due to old age and/or poor condition.

This Exhibit Concept Plan provides the basis with which to complete a contract package for use in finalizing exhibit designs, specifying materials, standards, construction methods, and other details necessary for the construction and installation of exhibits. Cost estimates are also provided.

Themes and interpretive objectives are based on past planning efforts, most recently the 2013 Sawtooth National Recreation Area Interpretive Plan completed by Sea Reach, Ltd. Refinements have been made to reflect site-specific needs and emerging issues/topics at the North Fork Visitor Center.

FACILITY AND EXHIBIT GOALS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Sawtooth NRA Interpretive Goals

From the 2013 Interpretive Plan, the interpretive goals for the Sawtooth NRA are for visitors to develop a :

1. Better understanding and appreciation for the cultural and natural history of the Sawtooth NRA
2. Recognition that the National Recreation Area is a special designation within the National Forest system, and is managed by the USDA Forest Service
3. Sense of connection with this powerful landscape and its history

North Fork Visitor Center Site Goals

Site goals describe how we want the facility itself to serve our customers. Building on the goals of the Sawtooth NRA, site goals for the North Fork Visitor Center facility are to:

1. Serve as a welcoming facility that informs, orients, and intrigues visitors, and prepares them for a safe and enjoyable experience.
2. Promote a partnership model for public land management, and provide opportunities for visitors, residents, and partners to learn about and discuss the national forests' past, present, and future role in local, national, and global resource conservation issues.
3. Encourage visitors to linger in the winter during cross-country ski season.
4. Provide a venue for local artisans, connecting their work to the Visitor Center themes and storylines.
5. Provide basic after-hours information and orientation outside the Visitor Center and/or in foyer.
6. Help visitors experience the Sawtooth NRA in a manner that generates connections to the place and its resources, and inspire them to take stewardship actions here and at home: "Explore~Connect~Act."

These goals are met by:

- Knowledgeable and professional staff
- Relevant and engaging exhibits, and other interpretive media such as publications and digital media that complement (but do not duplicate) other similar services in the area
- Forest Service and partner events (e.g. presentations and temporary exhibits) in the Visitor Center.



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Exhibit Characteristics

The following describe characteristics of exhibits that were considered in conceptual development, and should be carried forth into actual design and construction:

1. The North Fork Visitor Center plays a main role as a gateway/orientation/overview center for the Sawtooth NRA. With that in mind, the themes and stories should be drawn with a broad brush rather than a fine point marker. It may have the potential to provide more of a Nature Center function for the Wood river community but that could be based more on activities and programs offered rather than exhibits.
2. Some components (20%) are mobile and can travel to other sites; most (80%) are stationary.
3. Some components are changeable by seasons and for emerging issues.
4. Exhibits address multiple learning styles (e.g. some exhibits are kid-friendly; some are tech-oriented; some are simple visuals while others provide more detail)
5. Exhibits respect the big vertical spaces; they are bold and dramatic but don't rise above the 2nd floor half wall.
6. Wherever possible, exhibits are used to reduce the noise factor to office spaces.
7. Maintain access to media room with two open doors and the conference room with one open door.
8. Exhibits rely primarily on visuals and other sensory engagements rather than text to create the "WOW" factor.



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INTERPRETIVE THEMES AND OBJECTIVES

Interpretive themes provide a framework for the development of messages by capturing the essence of the most important concepts to be conveyed. They focus interpretive efforts and link together stories in meaningful and memorable ways. A theme should answer the question "So what? Why should I care?"

Interpretive objectives describe what managers want to accomplish through various media, services, and programs. More specifically, they articulate what we want visitors to *know, feel, and do* while visiting the area or upon their return home. They also describe the kinds of results the Sawtooth NRA staff can expect from their investment in interpretive services.

Theme 1: Explore the Sawtooths!

Visitors are excited to explore the wild beauty of the Sawtooth NRA and connect with its lands and waters in a way that inspires stewardship actions both here and at home (EXPLORE~CONNECT~ACT).

Interpretive Objectives

- 1.a. Visitors leave the Visitor Center thinking "I want to experience more of this incredible place!"
- 1.b. Visitors understand that they have an inherent responsibility to preserve and respect the integrity of the landscape and to respect and accommodate the legitimate uses of others. They feel inspired to practice similar stewardship principles when they go home.
- 1.c. Visitors are appropriately guided to the experience they desire (scenic driving, backpacking, finding solitude, etc), and have the information, maps, permits, passes, and/or products they need.
- 1.d. Visitors stay safe and legal during their visit. NRA managers see less need for rescues and more compliance with regulations.

Theme 2: Clear Air, Clean Water, Wild Lands

As our planet experiences increased urbanization, population, and climate change, large wild landscapes such as the Sawtooth NRA and its three designated Wilderness areas assume greater importance as places where air and water are clean, habitats diverse, wildlife is abundant, and ecosystems are resilient.

Interpretive Objectives

- 2 a. Visitors are in awe at the superlatives supported by the Sawtooth NRA landscapes, air, and water, and how these contribute to ecosystem resiliency and the moderation of climate change.
- 2.b. Visitors feel that they are in a special place because this is where the Salmon River begins!
- 2.c. Visitors are sobered by examples of how climate change has a rippling effect on flora and fauna.
- 2.d. Visitors are saddened by the decline of salmon, but hopeful about its restoration.
- 2.e. Visitors develop an understanding of the values supported by designated Wilderness and appreciate its existence from both within and outside its boundaries.
- 2.f. Visitors are inspired to take stewardship actions to support the conservation of our natural resources and reduce their contributions to climate change, both here and at home.

Theme 3: Here by Design

What you're enjoying here in the Sawtooth NRA did not happen by accident. It is by design: this place, its preservation, and the access we enjoy are the result of special legislation, dedicated individuals, and cooperative management. What you DON'T see is as important as what you do.

Interpretive Objectives

- 3.a. Visitors appreciate that this setting is an uncommon model for public-private land management.
- 3.b. Visitors understand that there is much that they DON'T see that contributes to this spectacular setting.
- 3.c. Visitors become familiar with the legislation and the values it describes that established the Sawtooth NRA.



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- 3.d. Visitors realize that Congressionally designated Wilderness is part of the intentional design to maintain in perpetuity areas where natural processes can operate freely, and where the presence of humans is substantially unnoticeable.

Theme 4: Inspiring Our Human Spirit

Sawtooth country is a place that has always attracted people. For thousands of years, rugged wilderness has shaped—and has been shaped by—the human spirit of those who live or visit here.

Interpretive Objectives

- 4.a. Visitors are interested to learn more about why people have been drawn to this valley over time and how they have used its resources.
- 4.b. Visitors want to explore how their own human nature will be—or has been—influenced by the Sawtooth Valley and its resources, and are inspired to make their own connections via art, literature, music, and other means.
- 4.c. Visitors will be aware that the landscape has its limitations and that throughout time, actions have been taken in response to overuse/misuse of its resources.

Table 1 depicts how each of the themes and storylines is captured in the proposed exhibits.

Table 1: Relationship of Themes and Interpretive Objectives to Exhibits

Themes and Interpretive Objectives	WALL 1A	WALL 1B	WALL 2	WALL 3	WALL 4A	WALL 4B	Rotating / Seasonal
Theme 1: Explore the Sawtooths! Visitors are excited to explore the wild beauty of the Sawtooth NRA and connect with its lands and waters in a way that inspires stewardship actions both here and at home.	X	X					X
Interpretive Objectives for Theme 1							
1.a. Visitors leave the Visitor Center thinking “I want to experience more of this incredible place!”	X	X			X		X
1.b. Visitors to the Sawtooth NRA understand that they have an inherent responsibility to preserve and respect the integrity of the landscape, and to respect and accommodate the legitimate uses of others. They feel inspired to practice similar stewardship principles when they go home.	X		X				X
1.c. Visitors are appropriately guided to the experience they desire (scenic driving, backpacking, solitude, etc), and have the information, maps, permits, passes, and/or products they need.		X					X
1.d. Visitors stay safe and legal during their visit. NRA managers see less need for rescues and more compliance with regulations	X						
Theme 2: Clear Air, Clean Water, Wild Lands As our planet experiences increased urbanization, population, and climate change, large wild landscapes such as the Sawtooth NRA assume greater importance as places where air and water are clean, habitats diverse, wildlife is abundant, and ecosystems are resilient.			X				
Interpretive Objectives for Theme 2							
2 a. Visitors are in awe at the superlatives supported by the Sawtooth NRA landscapes, air, and water, and how these contribute to ecosystem resiliency and the moderation of climate change.			X				
2.b. Visitors feel that they are in a special place because this is where the Salmon River begins!	X		X				
2.c. Visitors are sobered by examples of how climate change has a rippling effect on flora and fauna.			X				
2.d. Visitors are saddened by the decline of salmon, but hopeful about its restoration.			X				
2.e. Visitors develop an understanding of the values supported by designated Wilderness and appreciate its existence from both within and outside its boundaries.		X	X				

Themes and Interpretive Objectives	WALL 1A	WALL 1B	WALL 2	WALL 3	WALL 4A	WALL 4B	Rotating / Seasonal
2.f. Visitors are inspired to take stewardship actions to support the conservation of our natural resources and reduce their contributions to climate change, both here and at home.	X		X				X
Theme 3: Here by Design What you're enjoying here in the Sawtooth NRA did not happen by accident. It is by design: this place, its preservation, and the access we enjoy are the result of special legislation, dedicated individuals, and cooperative management. What you DON'T see is as important as what you do.				X			
Interpretive Objectives for Theme 3							
3.a. Visitors appreciate that this setting is an uncommon model for public-private land management.				X			
3.b. Visitors understand that there is much that they DON'T see that contributes to this spectacular setting.				X			X
3.c. Visitors become familiar with the legislation and the values it describes that established the Sawtooth NRA.				X			
3.d. Visitors realize that Congressionally designated Wilderness is part of the intentional design to maintain in perpetuity areas where natural processes are can operate freely, and where the presence of humans is substantially unnoticeable.			X	X			
Theme 4: Inspiring Our Human Nature Sawtooth country is a place that has always attracted people. For thousands of years, rugged wilderness has shaped—and has been shaped by—the human spirit for those who live or visit here.					X	X	X
Interpretive Objectives for Theme 4							
4.a. Visitors are interested to learn more about why people have been drawn to this valley over time and how they have used its resources.						X	
4.b. Visitors want to explore how their own human nature will be—or has been— influenced by the Sawtooth valley and its resources.					X		X
4.c. Visitors will be aware that the landscape has its limitations and that throughout time, actions have been taken in response to overuse/misuse of its resources.						X	X

DESIGN NARRATIVE AND EXHIBIT CONCEPTS

The following describes how the North Fork Visitor Center space and exhibits will achieve our desired facility goals and interpretive objectives. The narrative articulates both the visitor's experiences and the constructed features. Storylines for each wall are provided to give a clear framework for the narratives.

Figure 1 shows the general floor plan of the Visitor Center with primary use areas and exhibit spaces delineated.

Exterior Plaza

Upon arriving at the Sawtooth NRA Headquarters, visitors—including those that arrive after-hours—have an immediate and positive recognition of the North Fork Visitor Center as a professional Forest Service facility. Parking lot signs clearly indicate the location of the entry sidewalk and invite further exploration.



Examples of a suitable kiosk structure; elements include dimensional timbers and metal connecting brackets to tie to the interior architecture. A logworm fence structure would tie to the proposed Sawtooth NRA entry sign design (below) and the Wall 4B exhibit inside.



A kiosk near the junction of the sidewalk and the parking area provides orientation, safety, and stewardship ethics.

Information includes the following:

- ◇ Welcome and area orientation
- ◇ Travel times and distances
- ◇ Safety and ethics for outdoor activities
- ◇ Changeable message areas for seasonal information
- ◇ Emergency contact numbers
- ◇ Websites links and/or QR codes for:
 - Recreation.gov
 - Forest Service Interactive Visitor Map
 - Sawtooth NF website
 - National Weather Service or a preferred local weather source.



Along the walkway to the building, visitors are encouraged to linger outside, enjoy their surroundings, and engage in informal learning. This is accomplished through 2-3 sturdy and functional



sculptures made of durable materials that easily withstand touching, sitting, and climbing, and are paired with 2-3 interpretive panels. They are incorporated into the center landscaped island (taking the place of non-native vegetation) and/or in the open area next to the seating on the left of the sidewalk.

One sculpture is a salmon and incorporates the “Trout Friendly Lawn” message of the Wood River Land Trust, tying to the “Clean Water” theme of water quality and conservation.

Other sculpture(s) and panels are of species that benefit from the large tracts of wild lands and clean water here.

Interpretive panels are full-color, with mounting structures that mimic the entry kiosk (metal brackets and possibly a small portion of a logworm fence).

The Mugo pines from the center island are removed, allowing a clear view of the Visitor Center from the beginning of the sidewalk. From here, visitors are greeted by both a facility identification sign (“Welcome to the North Fork Visitor Center”) as well as the branding logo for the Sawtooth NRA.

Entry Foyer

Exhibit Concepts

The space between the two sets of full glass front doors is open at all times providing a venue for after-hours information. As visitors enter this space, they immediately receive the impression that this is an interesting and professional Forest Service facility. Walls are uncluttered, information is easily found, and the most important publications are easily accessible.

On the left wall as visitors enter, an orientation map displays the most important navigation and recreation features of the Sawtooth NRA. This is a slightly smaller and more simple version of what they will find inside the Visitor Center on the EXPLORE! wall.

Above the map, a panel reads “Welcome to the Sawtooth National

Sculpture examples and VC entrance



Recreation Area, North Fork Visitor Center” and incorporates the Forest Service shield.

To the right of the map, a panel provides information, QR code(s), and website links for:

- Recreation.gov
- Forest Service Interactive Visitor Map
- Sawtooth NF website
- National Weather Service or a preferred local weather source.

On the right wall, brochure racks provide a sampling of publications that are important to after-hours visitors. There are no more than 12 brochures provided, including the Sawtooth NF Visitor Guide.

A changeable posting board is also on this right wall. Here, visitors find information on current campfire programs, guided walks, area closures, wildfire activity, and other seasonal/temporary notices.

In the middle of the colored concrete foyer floor, visitors notice a river-like design that begins at the outside door and continues under the inside doors and into the Visitor Center space. It curves around to the left and out of view behind the visitor counter space. This piques the visitor’s interest to see where it leads.

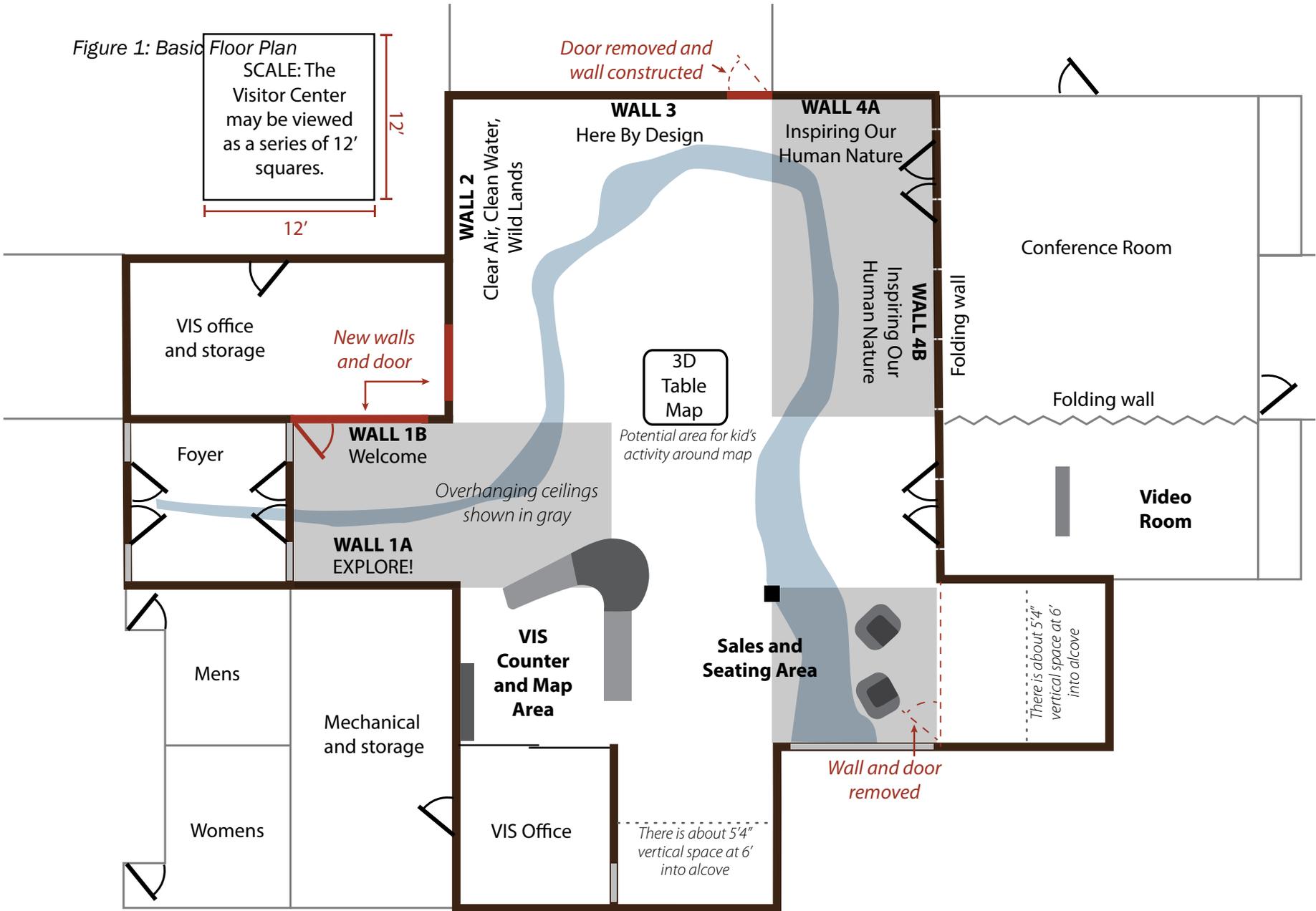
The auto tour return box has been replaced with a display case that incorporates collection box in the bottom and a clear case on top where rotating local art (tied to one of the Visitor Center themes) is displayed.



Current foyer displays

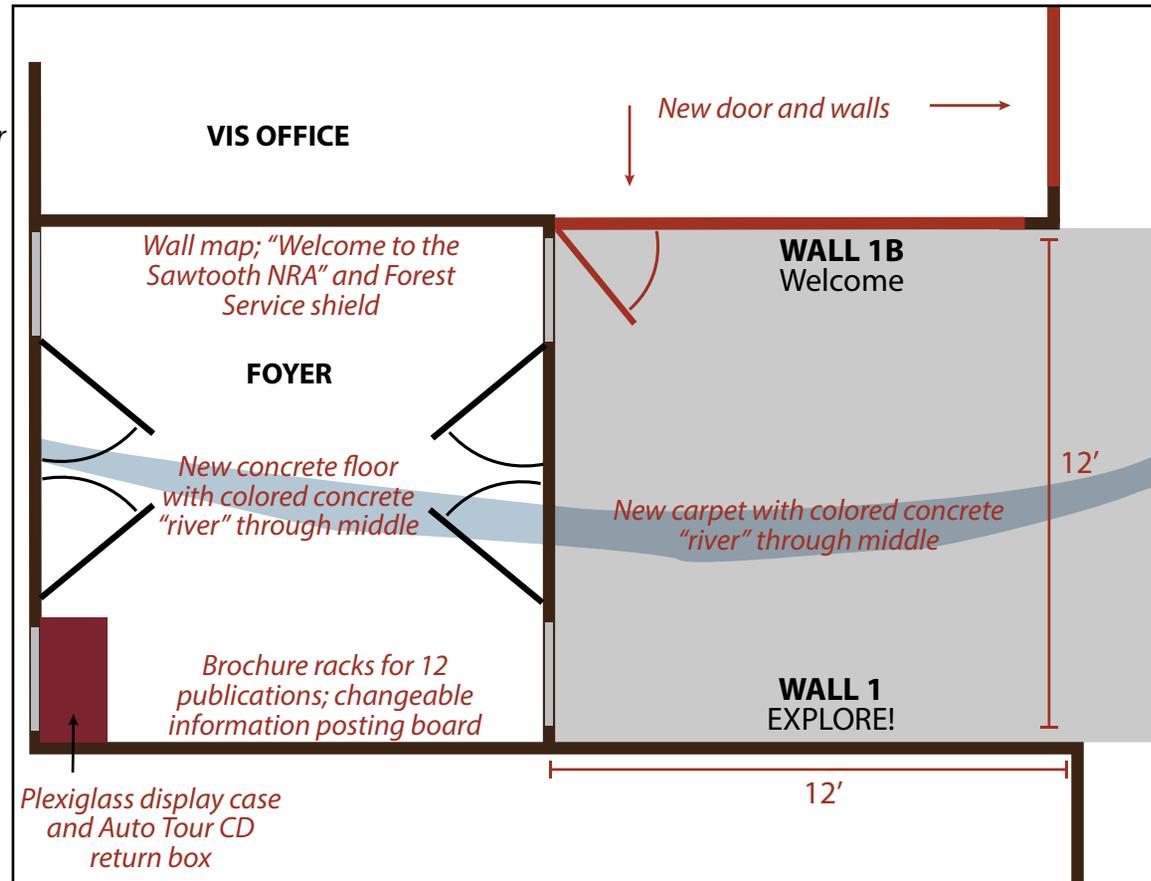
Figure 1: Basic Floor Plan

SCALE: The Visitor Center may be viewed as a series of 12' squares.



As visitors enter the central space of the Visitor Center, they will be encouraged via the river on the floor, to move in a clockwise manner. From left to right in this perspective, they will see Wall 2 (Clear Air, Clean Water), Wall 3 (Here By Design/What You Don't See), Wall 4A (Making Meanings and Connections/Inspiring Our Human Nature), and 4B (The Sawtooth Legacy). The central table map provides an axis around which visitors may mill about.

Figure 2: Foyer and Visitor Center Entry



Wall 1A: Explore!

This wall depicts **Theme 1:** Visitors are excited to explore the wild beauty of the Sawtooth NRA and connect with its lands and waters in a way that inspires stewardship actions both here and at home (EXPLORE~CONNECT~ ACT).

Storylines

1. Everyone who visits the Sawtooth NRA has an inherent responsibility to preserve and respect the integrity of the landscape, and to respect and accommodate the legitimate uses of others.

2. Watchable Wildlife – “What might I see today?” (There is plenty of wildlife to spot if you know where and how to look.)
3. There are intriguing historic sites to explore – (e.g. Pole Creek Ranger Station; mining remnants).
4. “Know Before You Go” – important safety and regulatory information; Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly messages.
5. The three Wildernesses within the Sawtooth NRA (White Clouds, Hemingway-Boulders, and Sawtooth) provide opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation.
6. There are a multitude of recreation opportunities available

Figure 3: Wall 1A - EXPLORE!

Explore!

Who Lives Here?

Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.

- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.

Fun on the Water

Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.

- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.

Know Before You Go

Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.

- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.

Can You Leave No Trace?

Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.

- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.

Trails Galore

Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.

- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.

Time Travel

Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.

- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.
- Text goes here and here and here, more here and more here.

Space and Exhibit Concepts

(See Figure 3)

On the right wall as visitors enter from the foyer, large images and a gear collage quickly grab their attention. Colors, multi-level information panels, and actual recreation gear generate a sense that “This is going to be FUN!” Together with large metal cut-out letters above the map (“EXPLORE!”) the wall’s theme is introduced.

Each of the flat image panels are mounted at varying distances from the wall to give a 3-dimensional effect. Each panel is a stylized illustration or graphic that puts viewers behind the eyes of a different recreationist to immerse them in the actual experience. Proposed views include:

1. Looking over a saddle horn and head of a horse down a trail; a hiker is coming the other direction but is waiting on the downhill side of the trail; a mountain biker is waiting patiently at a trail junction up ahead.
Text includes:
 - ◇ Title: Trails Galore!
 - ◇ Brief overview of trail opportunities;
 - ◇ Trail etiquette (including the YIELD triangle showing how hikers, bikers, and horse users yield to each other)
2. Looking over the tip of a fly rod at a fish on the hook. Text includes:
 - ◇ Title: Know Before You Go
 - ◇ Brief overview of fishing opportunities
 - ◇ Information on fishing regulations
 - ◇ Standard outdoor safety and regulatory info.
3. Looking out the door of a tent at starry skies; backpacker stove in foreground. Text includes:
 - ◇ Title: Can You Leave No Trace?
 - ◇ Brief overview of the 3 Wilderness Areas
 - ◇ Information on the 7 basic LNT principles applicable to the area
4. Looking over the a kayak paddle at the front of a kayak, or between the oars of a raft on a splashy river. Text includes:
 - ◇ Title: Fun on the Water
 - ◇ Brief overview of river recreation opportunities
 - ◇ Information on water safety and maintaining water quality
 - ◇ Information about preventing the spread of aquatic invasives

Current
EXPLORE!
wall



5. Looking through binoculars at wildlife. Text includes:
 - ◇ Title: Who Lives Here?
 - ◇ Brief overview of Watchable Wildlife opportunities
 - ◇ Information about ethical wildlife viewing
6. Looking at an historic cabin, hands holding a journal with a sketch of the cabin. Text includes:
 - ◇ Title: Time Travel
 - ◇ Brief overview of historic and prehistoric sites open for visitation
 - ◇ Information about protecting and preserving artifacts and not disturbing sites.

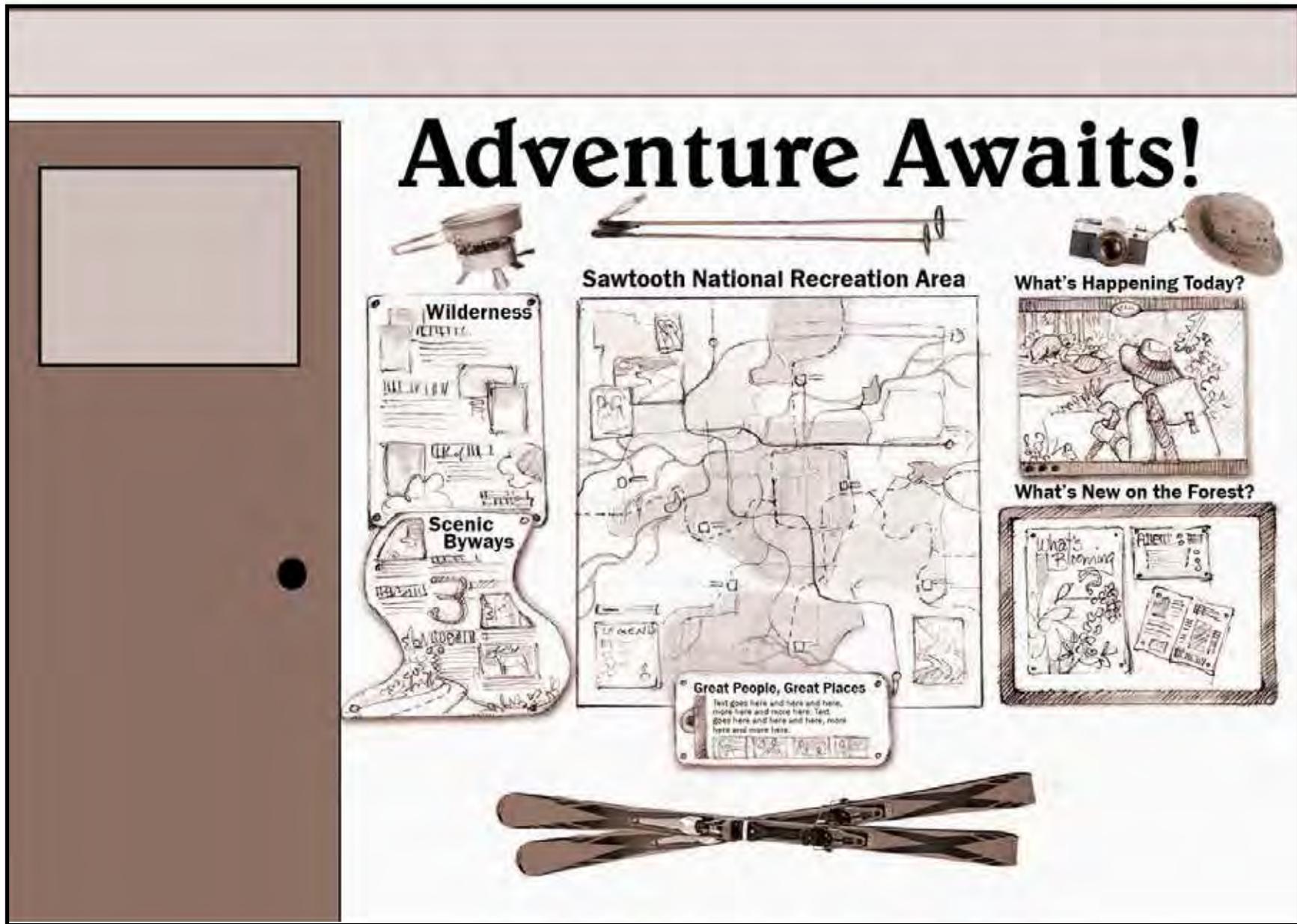
Other views could include:

- ◇ Between trekking poles looking down a nature trail
- ◇ Between ski poles or over a snowmobile at a winter view
- ◇ Over the front of a motorized boat on a lake

(Note: Recreational opportunities should show both consumptive/non-consumptive, and passive/active opportunities. Additional changeable seasonal panels could be designed, with the goal of having a 70% summer/30% winter mix.)

A sense of excitement about the recreational possibilities is generated through a collage of recreation gear along the left and right edges of this wall. Gear includes items such as a fishing pole, ski/trekking poles, hiking boots, a water bottle, binoculars, kayak paddles, and personal flotation device. The gear is cut flat on the back side to sit flush against the wall.

Figure 4: Wall 1B - Welcome



Wall 1B: Adventure Awaits!

This wall also conveys Theme 1, but focuses on providing the information and orientation needed to plan a day's outing or a weekend adventure.

Storylines

1. There are three nationally recognized Scenic Byways here (Salmon, Sawtooth, and Ponderosa Scenic Byways).
2. The three Wildernesses within the Sawtooth NRA (White Clouds, Hemingway-Boulders, and Sawtooth) provide opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation.
3. There are plenty of resources available to help you with your Sawtooth NRA experience, such as outfitters, local communities, and organizational camps.

This is a new wall, constructed where the former visitor information counter was located. It is finished in wood siding to match the other walls in the Visitor Center. Additionally, the wall with the current lower-level window opening into the Visitor Center is reconstructed as a solid wall as well (see Figure 2).

A door on the left side provides continued access to staff areas, but is locked on the outside for staff security. Two translucent windows (one in the door and one across the top of the wall) allow daylight into the office area.

Large metal cut-out "Welcome" letters are centered above a flat map (based on the existing Evelyn Phillip's trail map). As the primary focus of this wall, it quickly conveys the message that this is where visitors can get oriented to trails, roads (highlighting the Scenic Byways), recreation sites, Wilderness Areas, and major topographical features.

A monitor to the right of the map shows a looped video with current information updated by staff to include:

- ◇ Weather forecast
- ◇ Programs and activities offered in the area
- ◇ Alerts or notices (e.g. wildfires; area closures; bear activity); road conditions

A changeable framed board is also on this wall to the right of the map. Here, visitors find rotating panels or displays about current forest issues, "what's blooming" posters, and other topics.

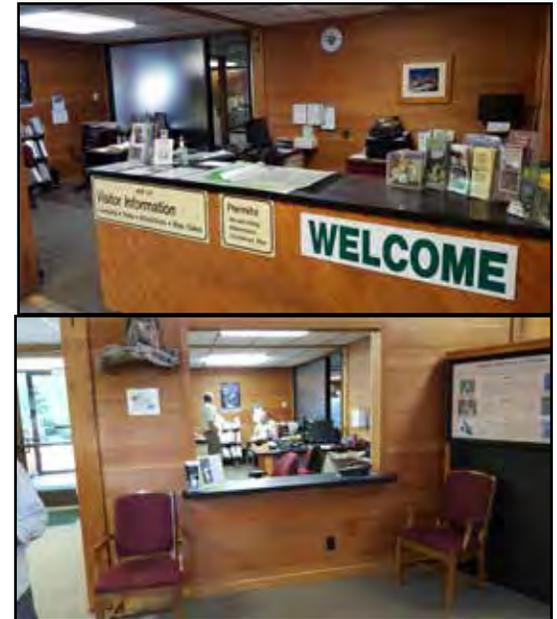
A panel to the left of the map describes the three Scenic Byways. A QR code that takes you to a site where you can download the Auto Tour programs.

A visual of an RV in a developed campground connects with the motorized recreation audience.

A second panel to the left of the map highlights the three Wildernesses within the Sawtooth NRA with an emphasis on their opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation.

Two other smaller panels are positioned over the central map to provide the following:

1. For More Information: Visitors can scan a QR code on the map or use one of the website links provided to connect to:
 - ◇ Recreation.gov
 - ◇ Forest Service Interactive Visitor Map
 - ◇ Sawtooth NF website
 - ◇ National Weather Service or a preferred local weather source.
2. Great People and Places: Visitors can get information on outfitters and guides, local resort and gateway communities, organizational camps, and other groups that can help them with their adventures.



Current information counter and window to be removed and replaced with a wall and door

The map panel will be mounted flat against the wall; other panels will be mounted at varying distances for depth and visual interest.

One of the items in the recreation gear collage is an upside-down hat or helmet that serves as a container for a kid-oriented Visitor Center scavenger hunt and crayon packs. (Note: this could be moved to the Visitor Information desk if “bottlenecking” at the entrance is a concern.)

Floor River and Traffic Flow

(See Figure 1)

From the entrance of the Visitor Center, visitors are visually encouraged to follow a clockwise route through the exhibits by virtue of a stylized Salmon River in the floor (stamped and colored concrete winding through the newly replaced carpet).

The Salmon River will generally follow the direction and shape that it does through the Sawtooth NRA to encourage this clockwise flow. It will end at the windowed corner of the Visitor Center, disappearing under the windows and into the alcove on the right. A notation on the floor indicates that you are now entering the River of No Return.

For a future phase as funding allows, the Big Wood River should be shown as well, beginning outside on the entry sidewalk and reaching the watershed divide (Galena Summit) at the front doors of the Visitor Center where the Salmon River then begins.

Visitor Information Counter and Staff Space

Space and Exhibit Concepts

(See Figures 11 and 12)

A new information counter is located just inside the main Visitor Center space on the left. This location will create an integrated visitor-staff setting, encouraging interaction and sales area oversight.

The counter shape is an exception to the otherwise rectilinear lines within the facility because it extends in a bulbous shape into the main exhibit area, approximately 3’ beyond the plane of Wall 1A. This shape allows staff to better see the front doors and physically places them closer to the visitors, sales items, and exhibits. Additionally, the visitor counter shape helps visually point visitors toward the left to encourage a clockwise flow through the exhibits.

One leg of the counter is at bar height. The other leg and the large round space at the corner are at table height and have embedded maps where staff can discuss trip planning options with visitors.

Uniformed staff greet visitors as they enter and extend a welcoming atmosphere. A streamlined and uncluttered counter space helps focus the visitor’s attention. Only 1-2 critical orientation items are displayed, along with a “Try This At Home” display rack with take-home actions and activities that support the “Act” objective of the exhibits.

On the east wall behind the visitor counter, a “Welcome to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area” sign reinforces agency identity and includes the Forest Service shield.



Looking through existing sales area toward proposed location of new visitor information counter. Office and work space would be behind the sliding glass doors on the left.

Storage of brochures, maps, and other visitor supply items is provided within the visitor counter as well as in a row of low cabinets along the east wall. The space behind the glass doors is used as staff office and work space.

3D Table Map Centerpiece

Upon entering the main area of the Visitor Center, visitors are drawn to a 3-dimensional topographic table map approximately 6' x 6' in the middle of the open space. It is constructed on top of a re-purposed wood base that has locking wheels on the bottom to provide both mobility and stability as needed. Two spots around the map are accessible to small people via steps.

Visitors will easily discern not only the typical and major geographic features but also the interwoven pattern of public and private lands. As visitors wander around the map, they have the opportunity to learn more about the area via reader rails along the map's edges. Reader rail panels include information about land designations and classifications (e.g. Wilderness, Research Natural Areas), stirring quotes about the area, Scenic Byway highlights, time/distance to drive between different points, and other map-related topics. There are also spaces for trail maps and other brochures to facilitate trip planning discussions with staff.

Examples of 3D Table Maps



Figure 5: Perspective Looking Toward Walls 2, 3, and 4

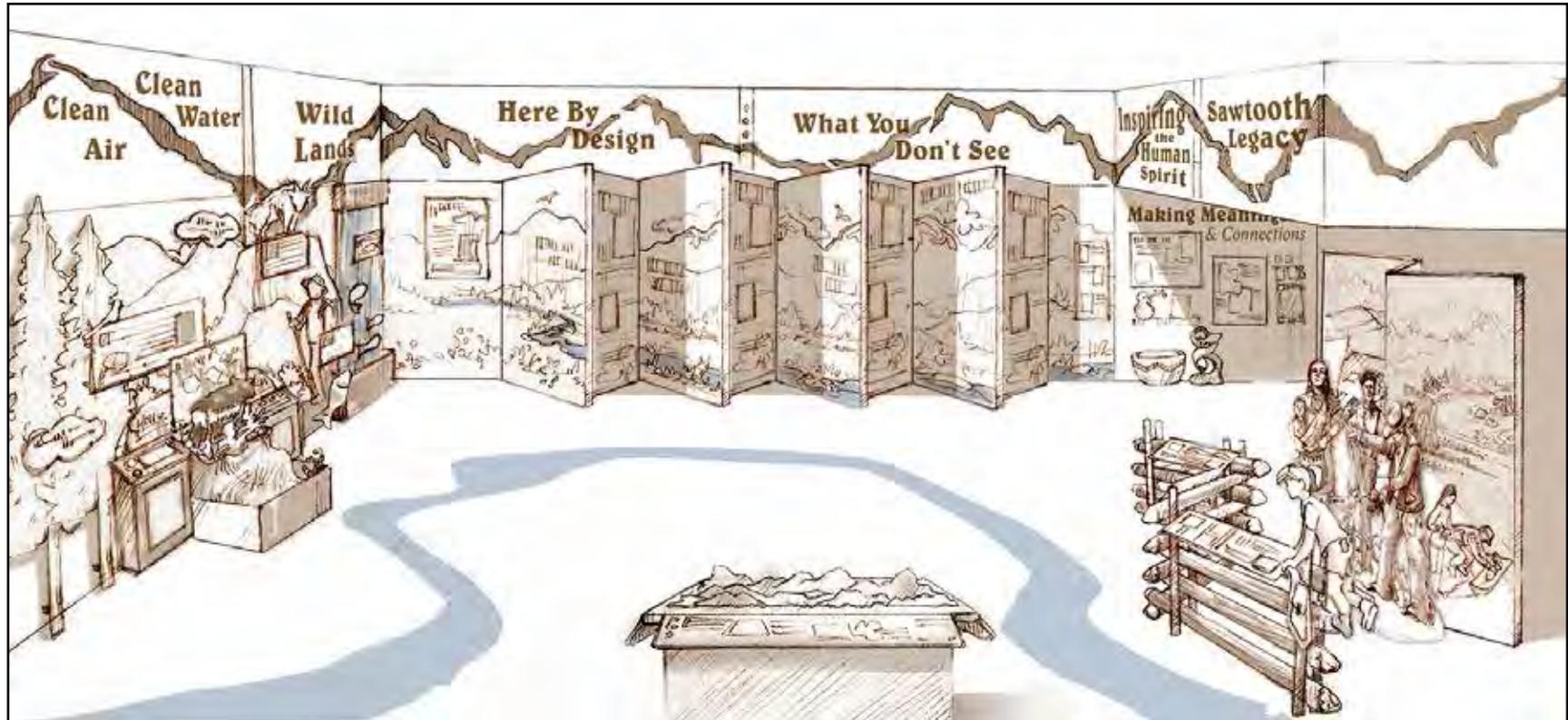
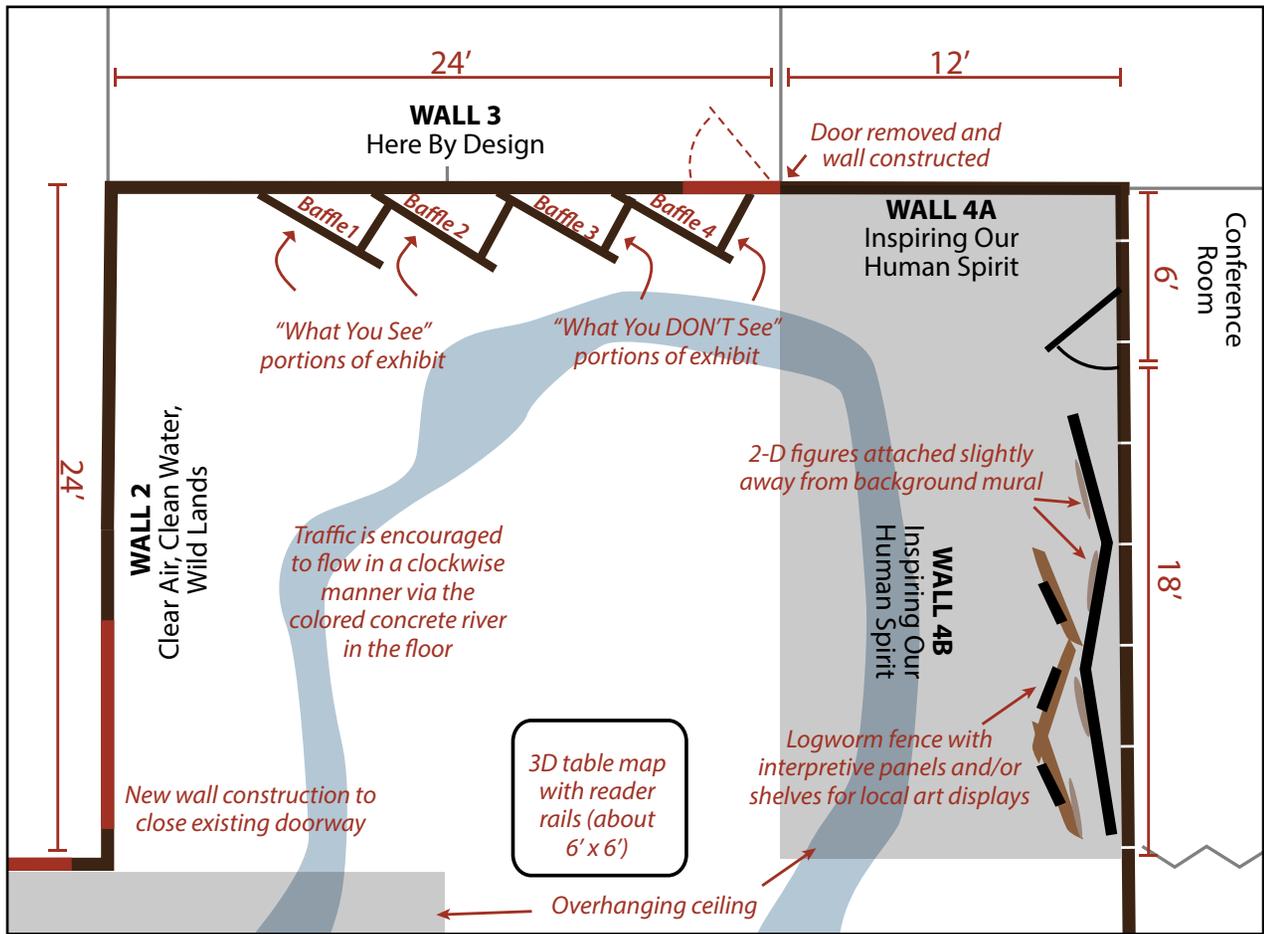
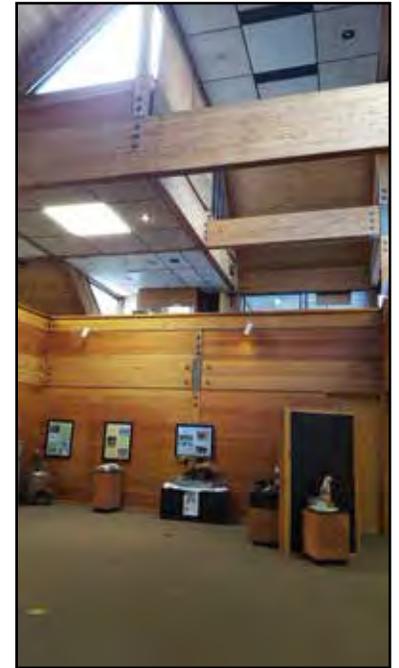


Figure 6: Floor Plan of Walls 2, 3, and 4



Existing Wall 3



Existing Wall 4



Existing Wall 2



Existing Wall 4

Wall 2: Clear Air, Clean Water, Wild Lands

This wall depicts **Theme 2:** As our planet experiences increased urbanization, population, and climate change, large wild landscapes such as the Sawtooth NRA assume greater importance as places where air and water are clean, habitats diverse, wildlife is abundant, and ecosystems are resilient.

Storylines

1. Clear air, clean water, and wild lands are vital for supporting ecosystem *resiliency*, moderating the impacts of climate change.
2. Wilderness is invaluable as a place where nature is unfettered (e.g. untrammled, unimpeded). It provides the greatest level of permanent protection for adventure, solitude, clean air and water, scenery, wildlife, and scientific understanding of how the natural world works when left alone. (“People Need Wild Lands.”) Wilderness—and specifically the 217,000-acre Sawtooth Wilderness, the 91,00-acre White Clouds Wilderness, and the 68,000-acre Hemingway-Boulder Wilderness—deserves our attention and protection.
3. The Sawtooth NRA is the location of the Salmon River headwaters (along with the Big Wood, Boise, and Payette River headwaters) which is significant at a local, regional, and national level. These drainages are conduits of life for a diversity of species; feed irrigation systems for agriculture and industry; provide fresh water to communities; and support a myriad of recreation activities. They are rare in that they are not severely impacted by human consumptive uses.
4. The Salmon River begins and grows here through 425 miles of central Idaho, draining over 14,000 square miles. The Salmon River basin contains most of the remaining salmon and steelhead habitat in the Columbia River Basin. Salmon are a cold-water species that start to die when water temperatures rise above 72 degrees—water quality is vital to its survival.

Ecosystem resilience

is a measure of how much disturbance (like storms, fire or pollutants) an ecosystem can handle without shifting into a qualitatively different state. It is the capacity of a system to both withstand shocks and surprises and to rebuild itself if damaged. (Stockholm Resilience Centre)

5. The wolverine is an important indicator species in this area whose presence provides many clues about the health of the larger ecosystem. As such, its population decline due to reduced persistent spring snowpack is demonstrating the rippling effects of climate change. Wilderness is key to the survival of this species.
6. Whitebark pine and Clarks nutcracker are a pair of iconic western species in decline from indirect effects of fire suppression and climate change, demonstrating the need for ecosystem resiliency.
7. The value of large tracts of wild lands for wildlife cannot be understated (“Wildlife Need Wild Lands”). Migration corridors, sufficiently sized territories, and undisturbed nesting and calving areas are just a few characteristics of these wild lands.
8. The remarkable clear air here is a result of remoteness, large tracts of undeveloped lands, and weather patterns. This clarity results in amazing views and night skies. Atmospheric changes have broad impacts to all types of living things, watersheds and ecosystems. This one is still intact although threats exist from power plants, mines, and agriculture.
9. Salmon—an iconic species of this area—has been negatively affected by dams, overfishing, and a changing climate.
10. There are stewardship actions we can take to help with the perpetuation of these remarkable resources. Messages enforce how reducing impacts from human-caused climate change is a responsibility that we all share Examples:
 - ◇ Trout-friendly lawns reduce water consumption
 - ◇ Using less energy reduces the need for dams and hydropower plants
 - ◇ Others focused on using less water and fossil fuels

Exhibit Concepts

(See Figure 7)

After visitors are drawn into the main Visitor Center space by the table map, they will be encouraged via the river on the floor to move in a clockwise direction toward Wall 2: Clear Air, Clean Water, Wild Lands.

On the upper sections of the wall they will be introduced to the theme of this space by virtue of two sets of large metal cut-out

letters, possibly illuminated from behind with small lights. On the left, the first set of letters read “Clear Air, Clean Water.” To the right, the title reads “Wild Lands.” (Note: In the exhibit design, care should be taken to ensure that these upper wall titles encircling Walls 2-4 do not read as one long title around the room.)

Along this section of the wall—and continuing around walls 3 and 4—is a mountain silhouette of an irregular width, fabricated of the same metal as the cut-out title letters. It can be illuminated from behind as with the title letters. The silhouette mimics 3 of the primary ranges surrounding the Sawtooth Valley (Sawtooth, Boulder, and White Cloud Mountains) and draws all 3 walls into a valley-like enclosure around the river on the floor.

From left to right on this wall are a series of exhibits and manipulatives that interpret Theme 2 and invite visitors to take action in ways that support the resiliency of our natural resources, both here and at home.

Starting at the left end of the wall, a whitebark pine and Clark’s nutcracker cutouts incorporate the storyline of indirect and negative effects of climate change and the need for large and resilient landscapes. The artwork—like that on all other panels—is stylized illustrations or graphics.



Conceptual of metal cut-out letters for wall headers, using the recommended Belwe Bold font (see page 34)

To the right of the tree, visitors are introduced to one of the many superlatives of the Sawtooth NRA—its remarkably clear air, why it is so clean, and the human uses that may threaten that clarity.

Continuing to the right, visitors encounter a series of cabinets that house two manipulatives and a wolverine diorama. The existing wolverine is incorporated into a diorama on a re-purposed wood base along with a few natural objects that depict its habitat. (An alternative wolverine model, stylized to match the fish on this wall, is acceptable.)

Behind the diorama is a large custom panel that displays an alpine environment with snow patches, supporting the visual of typical wolverine habitat. This panel extends behind much of the other exhibits on this wall, serving as a background connector the other wall components.



On this panel, text entitled “How Much Snow Does a Wolverine Need?” explains that the wolverine is an important indicator species in this area whose presence provides clues about the health of the larger ecosystem. They begin to appreciate that its population decline is due to reduced persistent spring snowpack demonstrating the rippling effects of climate change. Maps showing this snowpack reduction illustrate the loss over time. (As an option, this could be a video loop that shows diminishing habitat with increasing temperatures.)

On either side of the wolverine are cabinets that house interactive exhibits focused on personal action and our effects on the resources that we use. On the left, the exhibit focuses on our warming climate framed in terms of a “Climate Time Machine” based roughly on NASA’s Climate Kids concept (see <http://climatekids.nasa.gov/review/time-machine>). The exhibit allows visitors to manipulate different variables to see how rising sea levels and air/water temperatures affect the Earth, look into the past and ahead to a possible future, and see how their choices can affect the outcomes.

Figure 7: Wall 2 - Clear Air, Clean Water, Wild Lands

Clear Air, Clean Water

Wild Lands

Outline of mountains in weathered metal material - same as what is used for title letters. Both letters and mountain outline could be backlit.

5'

Applicable quote on translucent material, raised off panel behind

Why Is The Air So Clear?
The remarkable clear air here is a result of remoteness and weather patterns. This clarity results in amazing views and night skies....

Applicable quote about resiliency

Wildlife Need Wild Lands
**The value of large spaces
** Shrinking habitats
Do in shape of a mountain goat

People Need Wild Lands
**Wilderness definition....
**Wilderness is invaluable as a place where nature is untrammeled....
Panels in the shape of a parent and child hiking

The Headwaters

Where it Begins
** The Sawtooth NRA is the location of the Salmon River headwaters (along with the Big Wood, Boise, and Payette River headwaters) which is significant at a local, regional, and national level

Reasonably accurate salmon (dimensional, but not taxidermied) mounted above panels

There are also a couple of jumping salmon outlined in the concrete fountain as well.

What Does The Future Hold for the Salmon of the Sawtooths?
Salmon have been negatively affected by dams, overfishing, and a changing climate.....

Colored and sculpted rock, extends approximately 3" off wall. Water flows mostly not against rock, but follows rivulets within rock surface. A statement describes how fountains such as this can be extremely water efficient.

Catchment basin for fountain - extends out from wall about 8"

Climate Time Machine
Earth's global climate is warming. The average temperatures of the air and the ocean are increasing. Snow and ice are melting around the world. Average sea level is rising. Play with the Climate Time Machine. See back into the past and ahead to a possible future.

Manipulative to show effects of climate change over time in an accessible cabinet/shelf that extends out from the wall about 12-18". It is about 30" high at back and 27" high at the front.

Base extends out from wall about 24" and is about 32" high.

Manipulative to personal water use variables in an accessible cabinet/shelf that extends out from the wall about 12-18". It is about 30" high at back and 27" high at the front.

How Much Snow Does a Wolverine Need?
The wolverine is an important indicator species in this area whose presence provides many clues about the health of the larger ecosystem.....

Maps of shrinking snowpack

How Much Water Does it Take To Grow a Person?
There are stewardship actions we can take to help with the perpetuation of these remarkable resources.....



Example from NASA's Climate Kids website

On the right of the wolverine is another manipulative exhibit. The “How Much Water Does It Take To Grow A Person” exhibit demonstrates an individual’s ability to reduce energy and water consumption both here and at home; challenges visitors to consider their own impacts and the consequences; and provides practical solutions. It is based loosely on the EPA’s Climate Change Kids program at <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/basics/index.html>.

The two manipulatives can be either mechanical or electronic, depending on the audience and learning style targeted, but responsive to a variety of learning styles, ages, and those seeking more information.

Continuing to their right, visitors encounter two displays that interpret why “Wildlife Need Wild Lands” (storyline 7) and “People Need Wild Lands” (storyline 2). Specific examples promote relevancy at the individual level. These two storylines are incorporated into shaped panels (a mountain goat and a parent and child hiking) mounted a small distance away from the background. The people could have audio incorporated so they could share their perspective on why Wilderness is important.

While at this wall, visitors become aware of a quiet but intriguing sound of falling water. A fabricated rock feature in the right quarter of this wall is the source. Extending a few inches from the back wall, this feature has a recirculating and extremely water-efficient pump that creates a small amount of movement and sound across

the rock’s surface. (A small panel describes how you can enjoy water features in your backyard in a water-efficient manner.) The surface is primarily flat with a few indentations and paths for rivulets to follow. Interpretive panels are mounted with 3” spacers above the rock so that the water goes in and out of view on its way down.

(Note: Operations and maintenance concerns should be carefully considered during the design phase, with a focus on keeping the system simple. Alternatives using light and sound to simulate water could be considered, but the actual water provides a sensory experience enjoyed by many.)

The rock feature is stamped with a small amount of lettering (e.g. “The Headwaters” or “We All Live Downstream”) and salmon silhouettes in a manner that supports the theme but does not detract from the panels.

The top panel is titled “Where it Begins” and describes the importance of the Sawtooth NRA as the headwaters of the Salmon, Big Wood, Boise, and Payette Rivers, and their significance at a local, regional, and national level (Storyline 3).

Accurate molds of Chinook, sockeye (“redfish”), and steelhead are mounted approximately 6” off of the rock face in a configuration that gives the impression that they are swimming and jumping



Examples of fabricated rock waterfalls

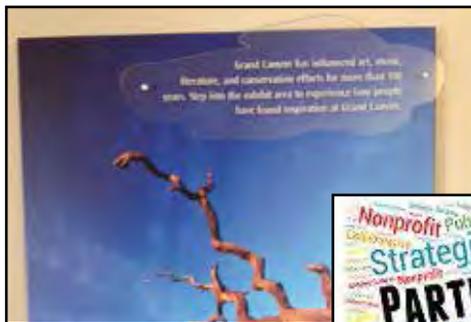


Examples of fish molds

“upstream.” Each is labeled for easy identification. A second panel mounted 3” above the rock face is titled “What Does The Future Hold for the Salmon of the Sawtooths?” and interprets the storyline of salmon’s decline and restoration efforts.

Two or three translucent cloud bubbles are located on this wall and contain short text or quotes that reinforce the storylines being interpreted. One succinctly conveys the concept that “It’s All About Resiliency.” A small amount of text or a quote focuses on the concept that clear air, clean water, and wild lands are vital for supporting ecosystem resiliency and moderating the impacts of climate change.

AI alternative to a cloud bubble is to create a word map for “Resiliency” incorporating words and short phrases that create a visual of what the word means.



Example of a cloud bubble (left) and word map (below)



Wall 3: Here By Design

This wall depicts **Theme 3:** What you’re enjoying here in the Sawtooth NRA did not happen by accident. It is by design: this place, its preservation, and the access we enjoy are the result of special legislation, dedicated individuals, and cooperative management. What you don’t see is as important as what you do. Here, the ACT message is based more on actions that agencies, organizations, and local landowners have taken and will continue to pursue. While personal action is not emphasized, visitors will see that cooperation and collaboration are a large part of the success stories. Positive outcomes are emphasized rather than the negative impacts or affects that were addressed.

Storylines

1. Through a remarkable and uncommon act, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area was set aside by Congress in 1972 “to assure the preservation and protection of the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife values and to provide for the enhancement of the recreation values associated therewith.” (Public Law 92-400).
2. **What you see:** Restoration and active preservation of public lands is a priority for the Forest Service (examples: Cabin Creek wetlands restoration; Basin Creek CG restoration).
What you don’t see: Impacts from eroding roads and overuse; fish that are now in streams where they weren’t before.
3. **What you see:** Pastoral and unobstructed views of iconic western landscapes that include private lands.
What you don’t see: “No Public Access” signs; unsuitable private land development, subdivisions, clutter; all of the behind-the-scenes work to secure community cooperation and conservation easements.
4. **What you see:** A functioning Salmon River.
What you don’t see: Overgrazing; too much irrigation (reference Salmon River EIS); how valuable this watershed is to salmon recovery; how land has been purchased and damage reversed from too much irrigation and river modification (Busterback example, without the actual name)
5. **What you see:** In the Sawtooth NRA, naturally functioning ecosystems takes precedence over other “multiple uses.”

In particular, designated Wilderness ensures that human influences are minimized in the ecosystem.

What you don't see: An emphasis on other multiple use activities such as grazing, timber harvest, or mineral extraction; impacts from off-highway use in undesignated areas; or other uses that substantially impair the values for which the Sawtooth NRA was created.

What you don't see: How naturally functioning ecosystems are mitigating the effects of climate change.

Exhibit Concepts

(See Figure 8)

The upper wall title lettering concept continues to Wall 2 with “Here By Design” on the left upper wall and “What DON'T You See?” on the upper right. Likewise, the metal silhouette mountain profile continues from Wall 1, across Wall 2, and on to Wall 3.

The primary visual that greets visitors as they move from Wall 2 to Wall 3 is one large and dramatic image emerging from the wall on four angled baffles. Each baffle has a section of the image that spectacularly displays “What You DO See” in the Sawtooth NRA. Ideally the image should contain a classic Sawtooth Valley view with a working farm, a logworm fence, and the Salmon River.

As visitors approach this image, moving clockwise from Wall 2, they first encounter 3 panels mounted at varying distances from the wall. Theme 3 and Storyline 1 are explained on these panels, explaining the baffles in a coherent message (PL 92-400 and “What you see here did not happen by accident.”

Each of the four sections of the image has a short sentence or phrase that hints at one of the “What You Don't See is as Important as What You Do” storylines, such as:

- ◇ Iconic western landscapes live on here.
- ◇ Restoration and preservation are priorities.
- ◇ The Salmon River runs through it.
- ◇ Naturally functioning ecosystems are key to the Sawtooth's vitality.

Current Wall 3 exhibits



As visitors walk down the line of angled baffles, they notice a slightly obscured panel behind each of the front baffles. These “hidden” panels provide the balance of the story by describing “What You DON'T See.” These sections articulate the story behind the scenery through words, photos, quotes, and artifacts. They are designed so that parts can be changed out or updated to stay current and interesting.

A small segment (approximately 6”) of the front baffle extends beyond the back baffle. The back side of this segment have thematic graphics or visual clues to support the baffle storylines.

On each hidden panel, a QR code provides a link to more information for each of the storylines. (Note: audio stories could be incorporated in these spaces as well.)

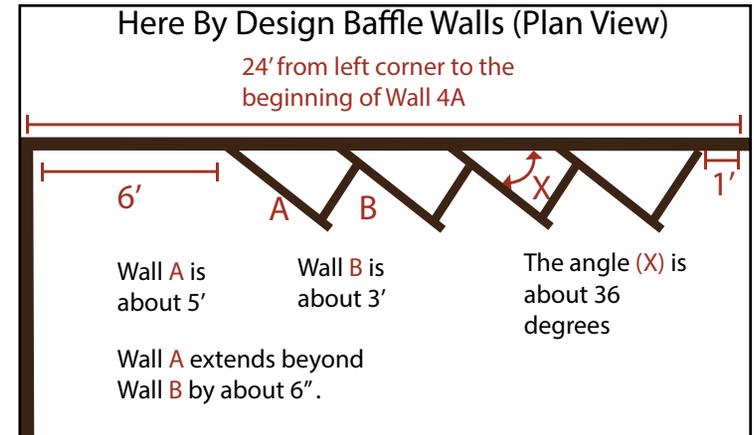
The lengths of the front and back walls and the angle connecting them is such that a person can comfortably position themselves to view a back wall without feeling crowded between neighboring front walls; they are also accessible for persons using wheelchairs. The baffles extend over the space where the supply room door used to be, but has been closed off and converted to wall space. They end approximately 1' from the 4A exhibit to give visitors a visual transition between the two exhibits.

Figure 8: Wall 3 - Here By Design



*Hidden scenes behind the baffles (the B walls),
each approximately 3' wide by 8' tall*

Wall B - Baffle 1	Wall B - Baffle 2	Wall B - Baffle 3	Wall B - Baffle 4
What You DON'T See:	What You DON'T See:	What You DON'T See:	What You DON'T See:
<p>Impacts from eroding roads and overuse</p> <p>Fish that are now in streams where they weren't before</p> <p>Other examples</p>	<p>Private land development</p> <p>"NO PUBLIC ACCESS" signs</p> <p>Behind the scenes meetings and negotiations</p> <p>Subdivisions and human clutter</p>	<p>Overgrazing; too much irrigation</p> <p>How vital this watershed is to salmon recovery</p> <p>Other examples</p>	<p>Impacts from OHV use in undesignated areas</p> <p>Timber harvest that negatively affects the Sawtooth NRA values</p> <p>Other examples</p>



Angled baffle wall concept from Theodore Roosevelt NP for Wall 3



Wall 4A and 4B: Inspiring our Human Spirit

(See Figures 9 and 10)

These two walls depict **Theme 4:** Sawtooth country is a place that has always attracted people. For thousands of years, rugged wilderness has shaped—and has been shaped by—the human spirit for those who live or visit here.

Wall 4 has two sections: Wall 4A is the section of wall between the former door to the supply room and the door to the conference room. It is on the same plane as Wall 3. Wall 4B is along the dividing wall between the Visitor Center and the conference room.



Current Wall 4A exhibits (on left)

Storylines

1. Despite the challenges of its remote location and rugged terrain, this region has always attracted people: prehistoric, EuroAmerican explorers, miners, ranchers, sheepherders, and early adventurers and recreationists.
2. The Sawtooths inspire people to make their own meanings and connections—through art, literature, music, or simply a new perspective.
3. Although this land seems boundless in size and tough as nails, it has its limitations. Throughout time, actions have been taken in response to overuse/misuse of its resources (e.g. extensive sheep grazing resulted in the creation of the national forests; a dry Salmon River resulted in the purchase of Busterback

(told in broad terms); misuse of off-highway vehicles has resulted in motor vehicle use restrictions; Castle Peak proposed molybdenum mine showing how mining shapes the land.

Exhibit Concepts

Wall 4A introduces visitors to Storyline 2—the inspiration that the Sawtooth valley and mountains have generated in visitors and residents alike. “Inspiring Our Human Nature” describes how the sights, sounds, smells, and seasons of this special place have influenced and motivated countless people over time to make connections and meanings in a personal way. Historic art, literature, and music are highlighted on flat panels, while shelves allow for a rotating display of local artists to show how the Sawtooth valley and mountains have touched them and their work.

Visitors are encouraged to share their own ideas, words, and drawings, via a Smartboard that can record their input. A small monitor and USB port allow people to instantly display photos of their Sawtooth explorations, with the option of uploading to a “Sawtooth Scrapbook” if desired.

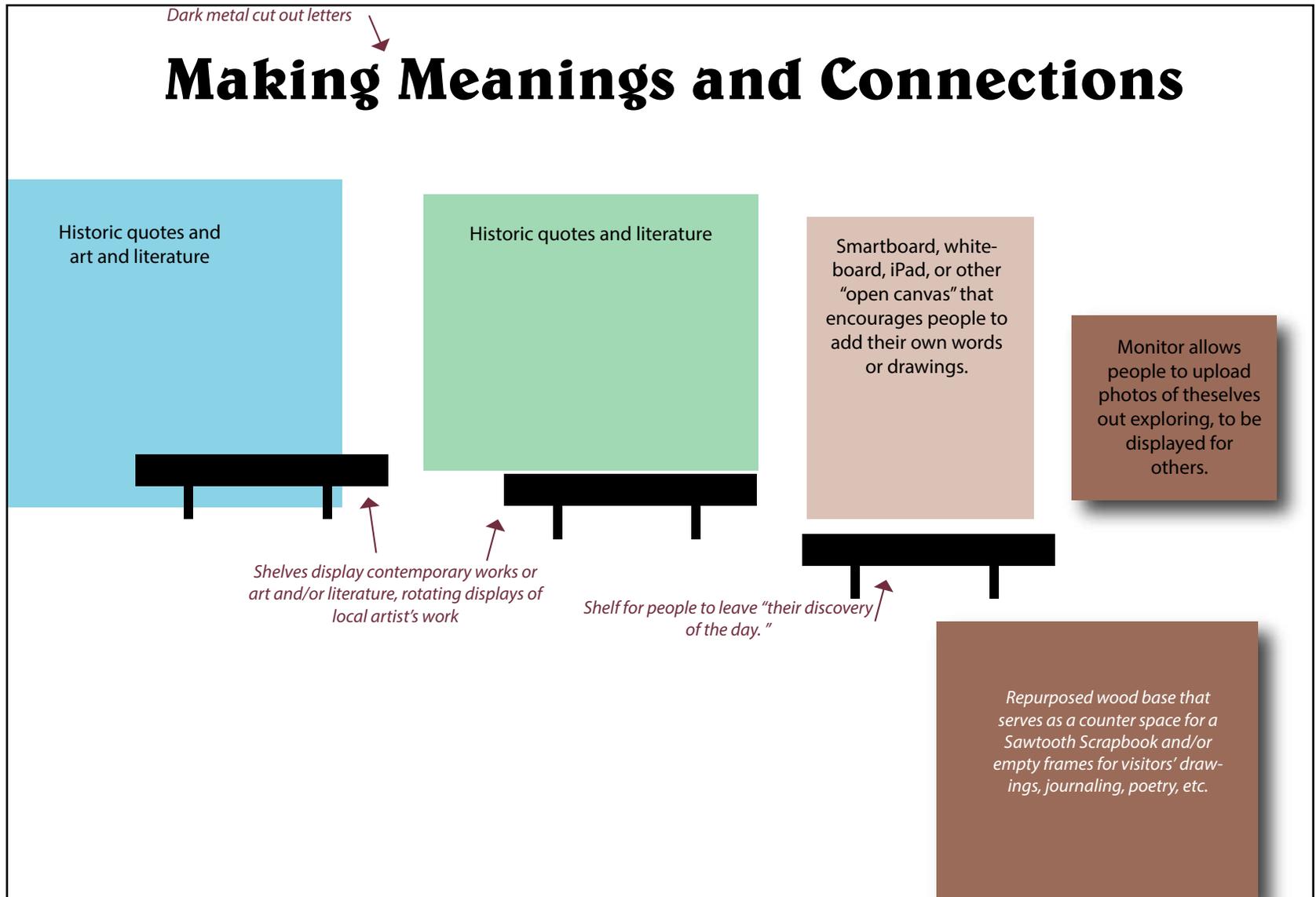


Smartboard
example

Empty frames invite visitors to insert their photos, illustrations, prose, or rambling thoughts. The frames are various sizes and designs (e.g. one could be a “journal” with plexiglass flip pages into which visitors items).

As visitors follow the river onward to **Wall 4B**, they encounter a portion of a logworm fence that extends out into the Visitor Center approximately 3 feet from the conference room divider wall. The fence and exhibits around it are all mounted on bases that allow them to be moved to another location if the conference room needs to be opened up. However, they are exceptionally sturdy to accommodate visitors who want to get close for photos.

Figure 9: Wall 4A - Inspiring Our Human Spirit



Behind the fence are 3 life-size 2-dimensional models, attached to the background mural with spacers of varying distances from the mural:

1. A female Tukudika Shoshone in historically accurate clothing (her story focuses on their history as the Mountain Shoshone/Sheepeaters)
2. A Basque shepherd (his story tells of the role that raising and herding sheep had in the valley's history)
3. A private landowner, portrayed as a rancher of the 1960s era (his story tells of his desire to preserve the pastoral qualities of the valley while allowing working ranches to continue)

A 4th 2-dimensional model is attached to the back of the fence, and is of a young girl climbing the fence with backpack and/or binoculars. Her story leaves visitors with a sense of stewardship responsibility as she describes how she plans to bring her kids back here to experience the same joy that she did as a kid.

Visitors are drawn into the lives of each of these people through a short story, first person narrative, and/or quote that captures the essence of how and why they were drawn here and the inspiration they drew from this place, not on the details of their history. These stories/quotes are on the models themselves, or could be told through audio recordings.

Three reader rail panels on the logworm fence interpret Storyline 3—the concept that the Sawtooth region's land and resources has its limitations, and these have been (and will continue to be) tested over time. The text supports the idea that multiple uses are legitimate and welcome on the national forest, but must be managed in a way that ensures their sustainability so that we don't exceed our limits. Examples may include:

- ◇ Sheep grazing and the creation of the national forest
- ◇ Salmon River drying up and the complexity of public and private water rights
- ◇ Off-highway vehicle use and the Motor Vehicle Use Plan
- ◇ Castle Peak molybdenum mine proposal

(Note: Alternately, the logworm fence could accommodate shelves for local art.)

A collage-type stylized mural behind the models shows a diversity of other people who have—and will continue to—shape the Sawtooth Valley. The mural begins at the left with prehistoric and historic images in a sepia tone. As the mural progresses to the right through time, more contemporary residents are shown and the images gradually take on full color. The mural spans around the model shapes. The people represented on the mural include:

- ◇ Pre-contact hunters (as evidenced by the Redfish Lake Rock Shelter)
- ◇ A Hudson Bay fur trapper carrying beaver hides
- ◇ A gold miner with a gold pan (the story focuses on the boom-bust nature of the gold and silver era and remnant place names)
- ◇ A rancher with saddle and rope (the story focuses on the ebb and flow of ranching over time)
- ◇ An historic Forest Service/Bill Horton image
- ◇ Contemporary landowners mending an irrigation pipe
- ◇ Contemporary recreationists, such as a rafting group or a family camping
- ◇ Contemporary Native American in consult with a Forest Service Manager about salmon management (this image has a visual tie to the model—such as an armband or jewelry that they both wear—to connect the historic model to the contemporary image)

Text on this mural is minor but large in size since visitors will be viewing from a distance. The text briefly describes how each of the characters has—or currently is—part of the human force that shapes the Sawtooth valley.

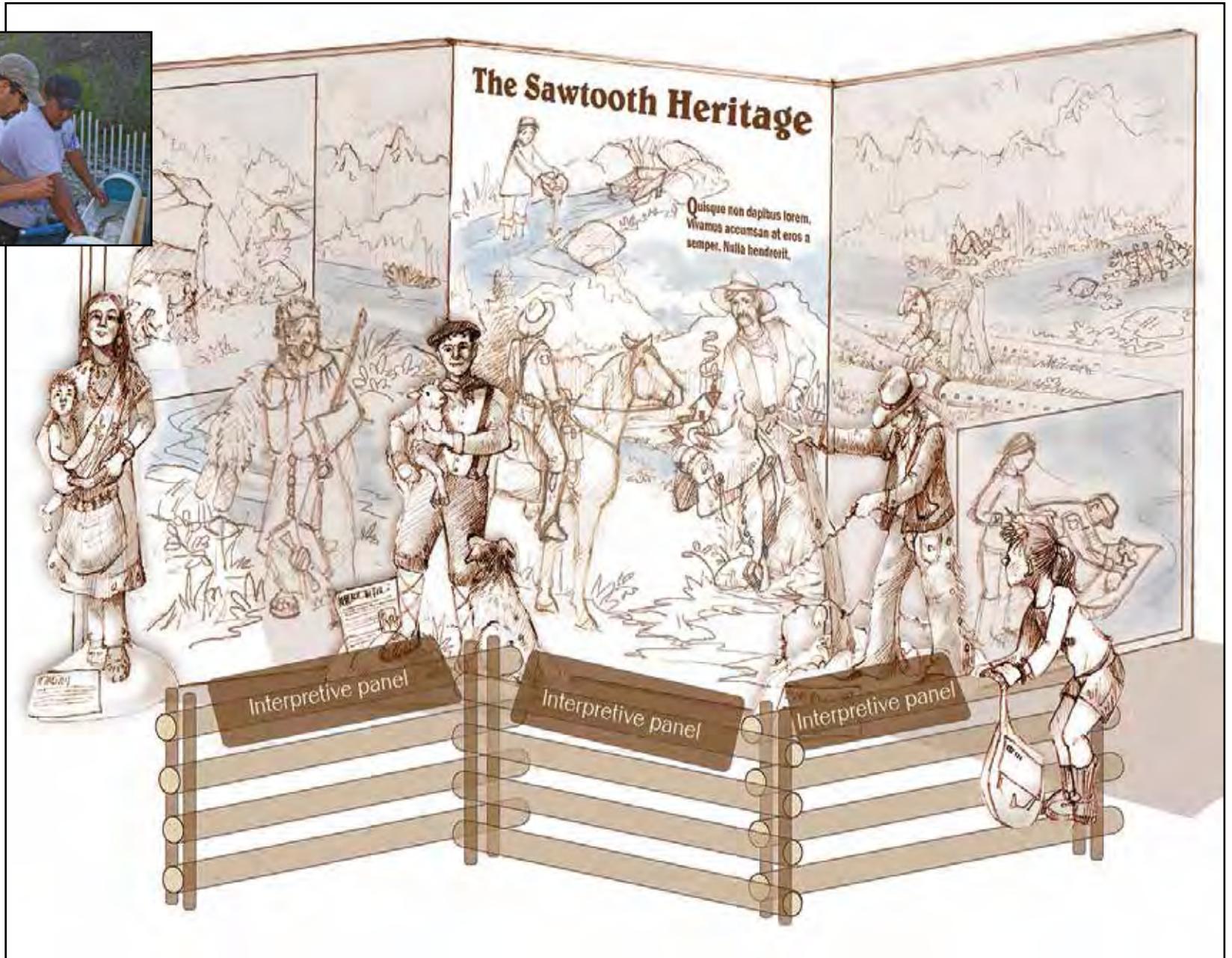
(Note: Potential sources for the narratives of Wall 4B include: Katie Breckenridge and Cliff Hansen may be potential "storytellers" for this mural. The Community Library and SIHA have extensive oral history tapes and videos for content as well.)

(Note: An alternative to the mural is a video filtered through a translucent fabric or water to give the effect of seeing characters from the past. See the Franz Kafka Museum website for an example: <http://www.kafkamuseum.cz/ShowPage.aspx?tabindex=1&tabid=4>.)

Figure 10: Wall 4B - Inspiring Our Human Spirit



Example of a Shoshone Bannock tribal member working with agency personnel of a salmon management project



Media Room and Kid's Space

After enjoying Wall 4B, visitors will meander past the open door of Media Room. A looped video is playing and comfortable seating invites visitors to pause for 15-20 minutes to enjoy a show. A short (3'-4') faux wood wall helps define the space and serves as a marquee for the movie featured. A tastefully designed and well-lit Donor Recognition Wall draws visitor's attention to the right wall. Text describes the different types of donor contributions that can be made; honors past donors; and inspires visitors to make a donation themselves.

Around the corner from the Media Room, a cave-like enclosure draws kids into the Kid's Space, in the previously walled-off storage closet. The exhibits encourage visitors of all ages to interact with games (e.g. the "Web of Life"), get up close to taxidermied animals, and handle skulls, rocks, and other items from the forest. There is a mix of electronic and mechanical elements. Re-purposed wood bases serve as display shelves.



Current exhibits in window corner and sales area

Temporary exhibits are displayed on a repurposed wood base and 6'-7' faux wood wall that provides a partial separation between the main Visitor Center space and the Kid's Space.

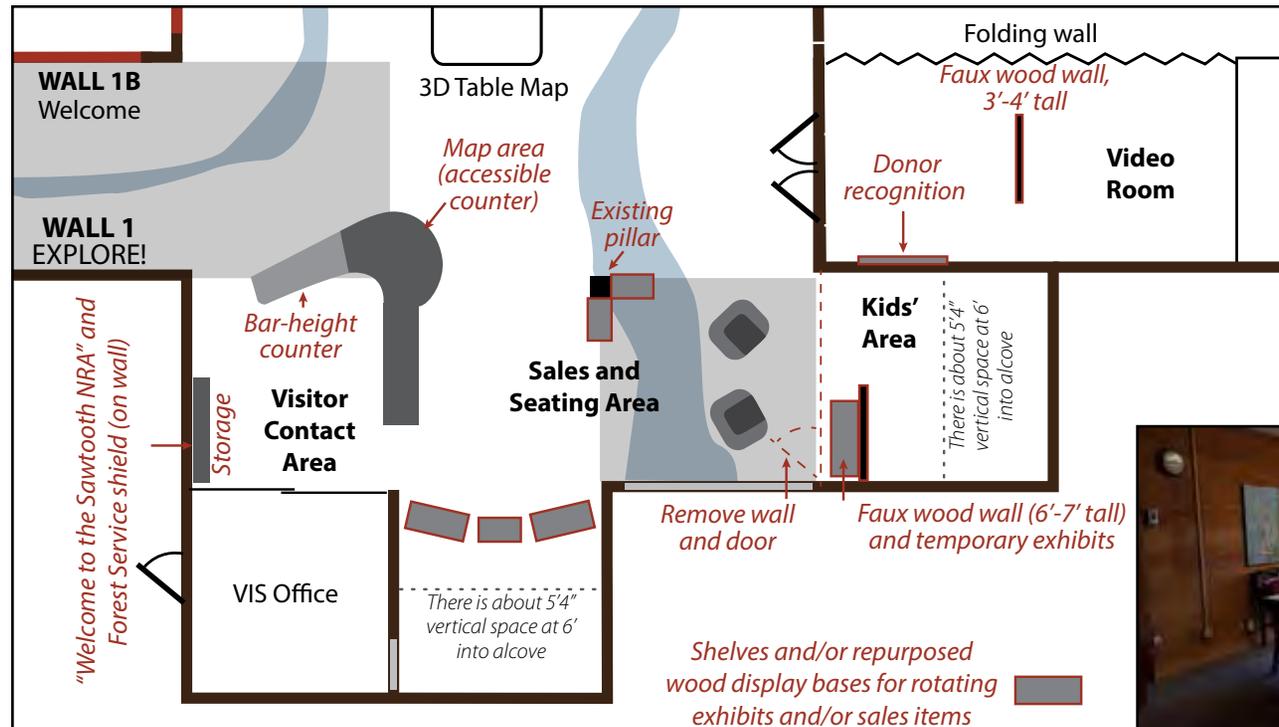
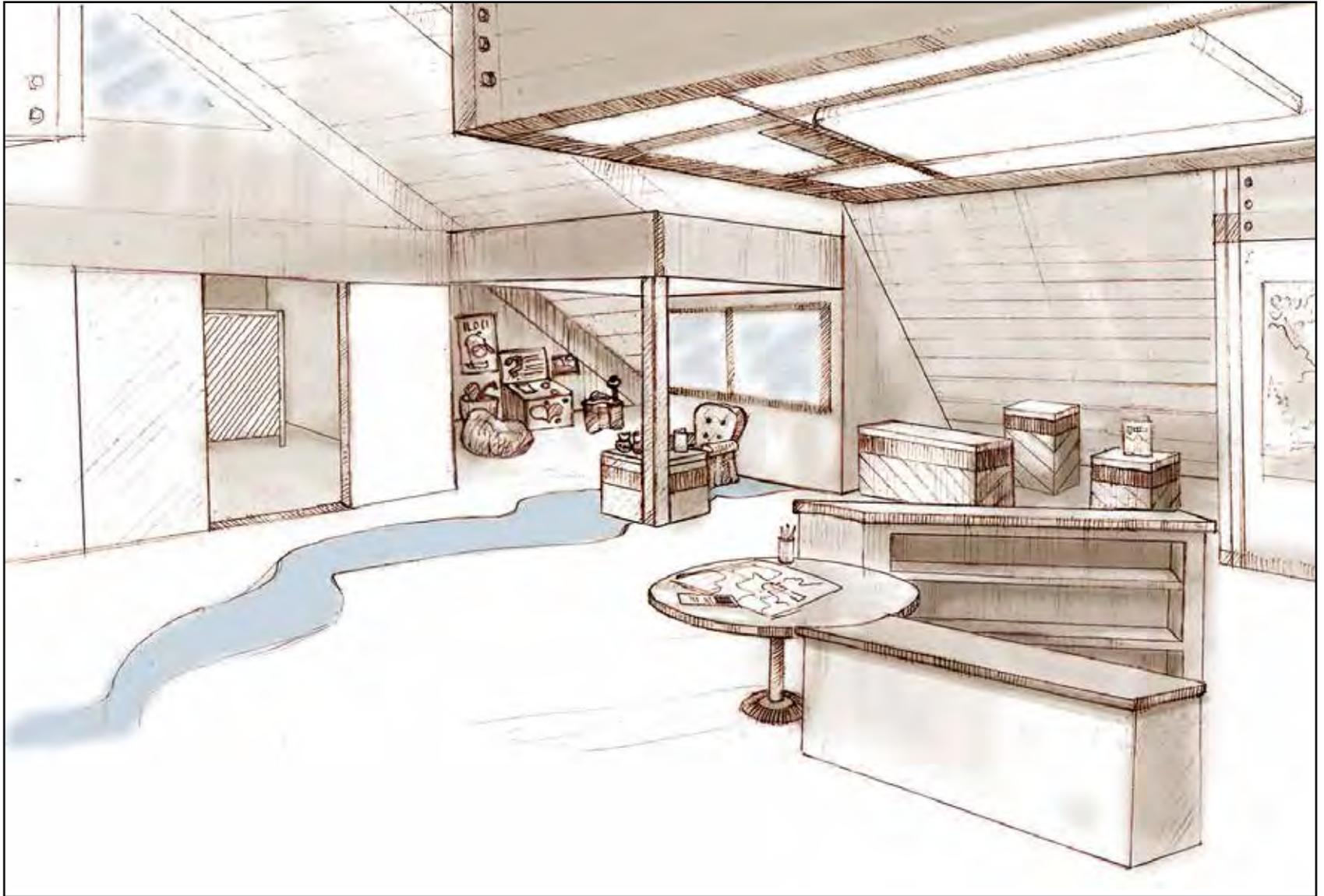


Figure 11 : Floor Plan of Visitor Desk, Sales and Seating Area

Current map table in window corner



Figure 12: Perspective Looking Toward Visitor Contact Desk and Sales Area



Sales Area and Linger Space

Having fully experienced the Sawtooth NRA story, visitors are now inspired to explore the sales area for items that might satisfy their desire to learn more, or simply provide a memento of their visit. Books and other sales items are artfully arranged in both table-height and full-wall book shelves, using re-purposed wood bases wherever possible. Most display shelves are low to not obstruct the view, but are still visible from the Visitor Information Counter.

The total sales area is equivalent to what is currently provided. Sales area display units are designed to complement the warm wood colors and slanted roof walls that are signature elements of the Visitor Center architecture.

This area also includes a seating area with at least two comfortable chairs to encourage lingering and casual conversation, especially in the winter.

In this space, there is also an attractive and prominent donation box with a clear explanation that donations will be used to promote conservation education programs on the forest. A potential interactive design would be a donation box with two compartments that allow visitors to “vote” with their donations on a question about a current topic. For example: “Which is prettier—the Indian paintbrush or lupine?” Two slots allow visitors to deposit their money in the compartment with their preferred flower. (Note: Questions on the donation box can be updated seasonally and should be provocative and fun. Questions should be presented as neutral topics, and not as issue discussions in which the Forest Service is promoting a particular response; e.g. “Should the Forest Service further restrict off-highway vehicle use?”.)

The temporary/rotating exhibit space is located between the seating area and the Kid’s Space. These exhibits may highlight current issues, seasonal recreation opportunities, “What’s Blooming” posters, and other rotating exhibits. One semi-permanent exhibit should address the natural role of fire in

the ecosystem by reducing the probability of catastrophic fire; adding nutrients to the soils; controlling insects and disease; and maintaining species diversity.

These exhibits are lightweight and portable, allowing for ease of transportation to other venues.

Infrastructure Needs

The following is a list of “tickler” items that should be kept in mind as design details continue to be developed:

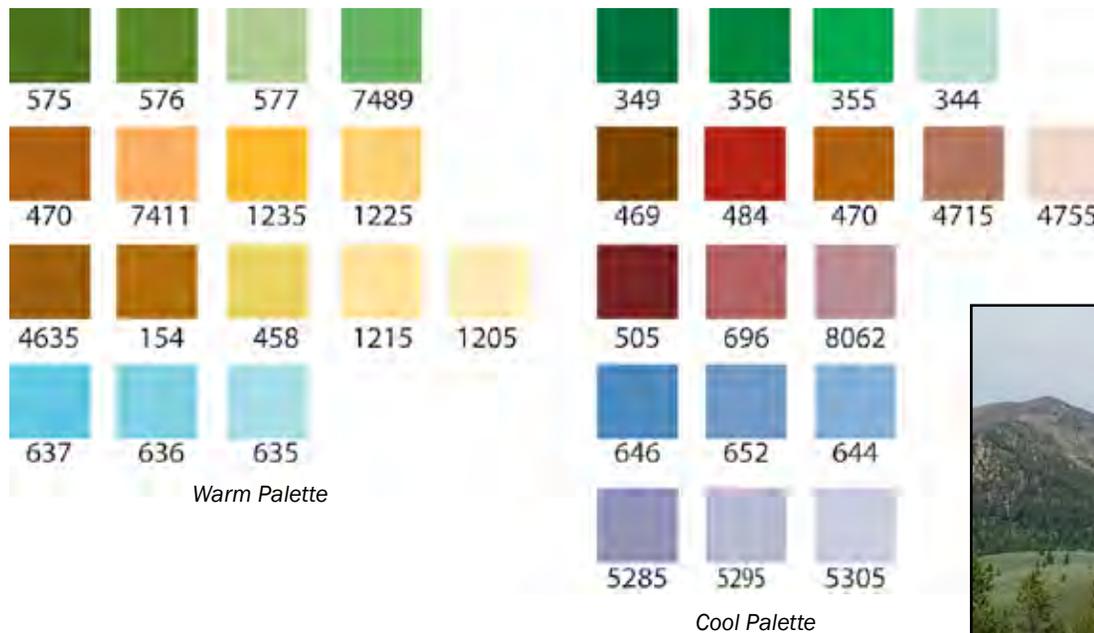
1. The Visitor Center walls will need some repair to fix fading and shadows.
2. Investigate plumbing options for the water feature.
3. Wi-fi must be added!
4. Identify those construction/demolition/re-construction jobs the forest can take on and which will need to be contracted.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

The Sawtooth National Recreation Area has a sense of place all its own. This sense of place can be largely captured through the visuals of the North Fork Visitor Center, including colors, fonts, graphic elements, style, and Forest Service branding. These visual elements help deliver the message without saying a word. Use of these Design Guidelines in the development of interpretive media will ensure focus, consistency, and professionalism.

In February 2009, the Region 4 Director of Recreation approved the *Intermountain Region Design Guidelines for Recreation-related Exhibitory and Print Media*. These guidelines are to be used to ensure a corporate Region 4 identity within the recreation program, and enhance the landscape and setting where the media is found.

Figure 13: Intermountain Region Color Palette

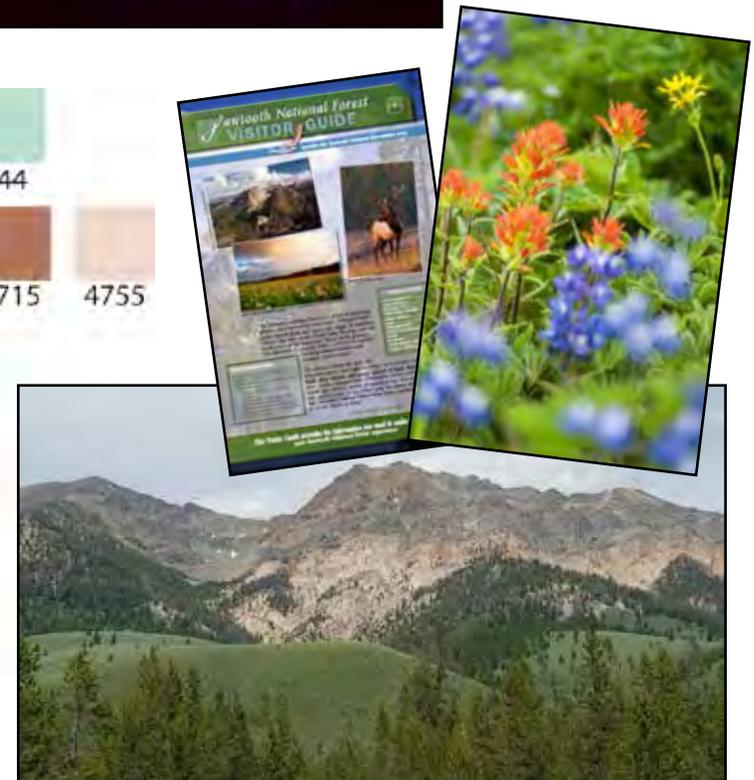


Color Palette

The color palette provided by the *Intermountain Region Design Guidelines for Recreation-related Exhibitory and Print Media* is shown in Figure 11. While this is the full palette available for national forests in Region 4, it is recommended that the North Fork Visitor Center focus on the **cool palette—with the addition**



of white—to better reflect that natural elements of the Sawtooth landscape. This will also be in keeping with the color theme of the Sawtooth NF Visitor Guide.



Fonts

Fonts approved for use in Region 4 are shown in the *Intermountain Region Design Guidelines*. They are adapted for use on the North Fork Visitor Center as follows:

“Byington” - Use for titles (including the panel header), some subtitles, and body text.

Byington Regular

Byington Bold

Byington Italic

“Franklin Gothic” - Use for some subtitles, secondary text, captions, and italicized text.

Franklin Gothic Book Regular

Franklin Gothic Book Italic

Franklin Gothic Medium Regular

Franklin Gothic Medium Italic

Franklin Gothic Heavy Regular

Franklin Gothic Medium Italic

An accent font may also be used sparingly for decorative additions and to reflect local traditions and culture. For the North Fork Visitor Center, it is recommended to use a font that has an iconic western heritage feel, such as shown in the Galena Lodge entry sign, below.



Belwe Bold is recommended as this accent font, as shown in wall header titles (see page 16).

Belwe Condensed and **Belwe Light** are components of this typeface that could also be used.

Clear Air, Clean Water, Wild Lands (in Belwe Bold)

For this 60% submittal, the Cheltenham typeface is provided also as an alternative for review and feedback:

Cheltenham BT Bold

Cheltenham Bold Italic

Clear Air, Clean Water, Wild Lands (in ITC Cheltenham Bold)

Design and Layout Guidelines

1. Use thematic graphics and images whenever possible to tell the story rather than words.
2. Panels should contain 1/3 text; 1/3 graphics; 1/3 empty space.
3. Use raised or tactile components where possible.
4. Good interpretive panel layout serves as a road map for the eye, telling them where to go next, guiding the viewer through all aspects of the sign without creating effort on their part.
5. Follow all accessibility guidelines and standards.
6. Use contrasting colors for text and background for ease of reading. Use the following websites to check your colors for those visually impaired or color blind.

◇ <http://www.vischeck.com/>

◇ http://www.lighthouse.org/color_contrast.htm

Text Guidelines

1. Follow the “Less is More” principle in text development
2. Use the “3-30-3” principle: visitors should be able to grasp the gist of a panel in 3 seconds, get a bit more detailed message in 30 seconds, and get the total message in 3 minutes. This technique can be fostered using intriguing and thematic titles, message layering, and captions.
3. Captions for graphics can be used to meet learning objectives and capture the theme; some visitors look only at graphics so the graphic and its caption should be a learning opportunity on its own.
4. Strive for balance and relevancy in the message by displaying multiple viewpoints or perspectives.

COST ESTIMATES

Exhibit Specifications and Cost Estimates for Fabrication and Installation

EXHIBITS AS PROPOSED					ECONOMY OPTIONS		
Item	Notes	Material	Design Costs	Total (fabrication and installation)	Item	Cost for materials and installation	Local Unit Contribution
Exterior							
Exterior	Design and fabrication (design should be similar to the new entry portal signs)	Dimensional timber and metal connecting brackets with logworm fence at sides.	\$2,000	\$18,000		\$18,000	FS crew construction depending on design complexity & materials
Panel for exterior kiosk	Primarily orientation map	HPL or similar	\$1,500	\$2,500	Use aluminum	\$1,000	
Front plaza interpretive panels (3-4)	Design and fabrication (design should mimic the entry kiosk)	HPL or similar	\$10,000	\$2,000	Use aluminum	\$800	
Plaza sculptures (1-3)				\$70,000	Reduce scope or solicit donors or less costly prefab sculptures	\$30,000	Partial savings with potential artist donation
Welcome sign on building		Metal cut-out letters, similar to interior	\$500	\$2,500	Use wood painted with metal paint; requires more upkeep	\$750	
Paint treatment on sidewalk to show Big Wood River down the middle		Colored and stamped concrete	\$200	\$10,000	Painted surface requiring maintenance	\$1,000	
Landscape modifications	Removal of mugo pine and other items obstructing view				Use fire crews or timber specialists		FS crew work; shown as \$1200 in 60%
Subtotal - Exterior			\$14,200	\$105,000		\$51,550	
Foyer							
Orientation map			\$3,000	\$3,500	Use aluminum	\$1,000	
Welcome to the Sawtooth NRA panel			\$500	\$1,500	Use aluminum	\$400	
"For More Info" panel			\$250	\$100	Use aluminum	\$25	
Changeable posting board				\$500	Use aluminum	\$25	

EXHIBITS AS PROPOSED					ECONOMY OPTIONS		
Item	Notes	Material	Design Costs	Total (fabrication and installation)	Item	Cost for materials and installation	Local Unit Contribution
Brochure racks	Space for 12 brochures, including Visitor Guide			\$500	None	\$500	
Reconstructed auto tour return box/display							FS Crew work
Subtotal - Foyer			\$3,750	\$6,100		\$1,950	
Wall 1A - Explore!							
Six custom shaped panels			\$9,000	\$3,000	Use aluminum	\$1,200	
EXPLORE! Lettering		Metal	\$500	\$2,500	Use wood painted with metal paint	\$750	
Recreational gear collage	Actual items but cut to lay flat on wall	Costs depend on what is selected	\$500	\$500	Use thrift shop or staff castoffs	\$100	
Subtotal - Wall 1A			\$10,000	\$6,000		\$2,050	
Wall 1B - Welcome							
Welcome lettering		Metal	\$250	\$2,000	Use wood painted with metal paint	\$750	
Map panel			\$3,000	\$3,000	Use aluminum	\$750	
4-5 additional panels	Surrounding map panel		\$3,500	\$4,500	Use aluminum	\$2,000	
Flatscreen monitor and video loop			\$2,000	\$1,000		\$1,000	
Changeable temporary panel/exhibit space	Framed and covered (no bulletin board!)		\$500	\$1,000	Use aluminum	\$200	
Recreational gear collage	Actual items but cut to lay flat on wall		\$250	\$500	Use thrift shop or staff castoffs	\$100	
Subtotal - Wall 1B			\$9,500	\$12,000		\$4,800	
Visitor Information Area							
Sawtooth National Recreation Area lettering	On wall behind counter	Metal	\$250	\$2,500	Use wood painted with metal paint	\$750	
Custom reception counter and chairs	Custom construction		\$5,000	\$10,000		\$15,000	
Low storage cabinets	Against wall (not a work space)	Stock cabinetry		\$1,500			FS cover; \$1500

EXHIBITS AS PROPOSED					ECONOMY OPTIONS		
Item	Notes	Material	Design Costs	Total (fabrication and installation)	Item	Cost for materials and installation	Local Unit Contribution
3-D table map with reader rails	Needs steps in 1-2 spaces for kids to be able to see	Costs vary between \$6000 - \$25,000		\$15,000		\$15,000	
Subtotal - Info Area			\$5,250	\$29,000		\$30,750	
Upper Walls 2-4							
Lettering			\$2,000	\$2,000	Use wood painted with metal paint	\$750	
Mountain silhouettes			\$1,000	\$2,500		\$500	
Lighting				\$1,000		\$1,000	
Subtotal - Upper Walls			\$3,000	\$5,500		\$2,250	
Wall 2 - Clear Air, Clean Water, Wild Lands							
Tree cutouts (2)			\$1,000	\$3,200	Use colored Plexiglas	\$1,000	
Wolverine diorama	Use existing wolverine and re-purposed base		\$3,000	\$8,500	Use existing mount, and create in house	\$1,000	
Interpretive panels (9)	Mixture of custom cut and rectangular		\$22,500	\$3,500	Use aluminum	\$1,000	
Translucent "bubble quotes" (3-4)	Mounted away from background panels with spacers	Something translucent	\$1,500	\$2,500		\$2,500	
3D fish models (3)	~ 5 fish @ 500/ea			\$2,500	Local fish donated taxidermied specimens	\$-	Current fish models came from Idaho F&G
Water feature	Includes plumbing and electrical			\$10,000	Lower cost model	\$10,000	
Manipulatives (2)	"How Much Water?" and "Climate Change"		\$6,000	\$6,800	Stand manipulative	\$6,000	
Subtotal - Wall 2			\$34,000	\$37,000		\$21,500	
Wall 3 - Here By Design							
Construction of framed baffle walls (4)		Schematic designs/ CDI engineer	\$1,000	\$5,000	Use FS staff to build, materials cost only	\$1,000	Maybe FS Crew if just framing from schematics
Baffle wall graphic panels (4)			\$2,000	\$5,000		\$5,000	
Panels for hidden walls			\$10,000	\$12,000		\$12,000	
Monitor with AV loops			\$2,500	\$5,000	Smaller monitor	\$3,500	

EXHIBITS AS PROPOSED					ECONOMY OPTIONS		
Item	Notes	Material	Design Costs	Total (fabrication and installation)	Item	Cost for materials and installation	Local Unit Contribution
Shadow boxes or display cases		Depends on size and number	\$500	\$2,000		\$2,000	
Translucent "bubble quotes" (1)			\$1,500	\$2,500		\$2,500	
Interpretive panels (2)			\$5,000	\$1,000	Use aluminum	\$200	
Subtotal - Wall 3			\$22,500	\$32,500		\$26,200	
Wall 4A - Making Connections							
Interpretive panels (2)			\$5,000	\$1,000	Use aluminum	\$200	
Shelves, display cases, pedestals	Could use re-purposed wood bases.			\$2,000		\$2,000	
Smart board, blank frames, and/ interactive monitor				\$10,000	Provide flatscreen with images/quotes	\$1,200	
Subtotal - Wall 4A			\$5,000	\$13,000		\$3,400	
Wall 4B - Inspiring Our Human Spirit							
Background mural panel (includes character silhouettes)	Could be a banner?		\$10,000	\$4,500		\$5,000	
Logworm fence (includes 1 silhouette character)		Local source	\$1,000	\$1,000		\$-	FS Crew; \$500
Interpretive panels on models (4)	Could be part of something model is holding		\$4,000	\$4,400	Simplified signing	\$2,400	
Subtotal - Wall 4B			\$15,000	\$9,900		\$7,400	
Kid's Room and AV Room							
Re-purposed wood bases for displaying "touch-me" items (4)	Materials only						Could be FS Crew
Kid's Room activity supplies	Skins, skulls, other items purchased				FS will cover basic "off the shelf" supplies		
Subtotal							
Sales Area							

EXHIBITS AS PROPOSED					ECONOMY OPTIONS		
Item	Notes	Material	Design Costs	Total (fabrication and installation)	Item	Cost for materials and installation	Local Unit Contribution
Gas stove		Is gas already built into building?		\$5,000		\$5,000	Depends on space available with sitting area/kid space re-do; \$5000
2 comfy chairs				\$500			
Sales items display furniture				\$1,500		\$1,500	
Donor recognition wall			\$2,000	\$1,500		\$1,500	
Subtotal - Sales Area			\$2,000	\$8,500		\$8,000	
Infrastructure							
Wall and door construction for Wall 1B and Wall 2		Schematics	\$1,000	\$2,500			FS Crew
Wall construction at current supply room door (Wall 3)		Schematics	\$1,000	\$2,500			FS Crew
New carpet				\$3,600		\$3,600	
New foyer flooring				\$1,500			Not doing this now; first need to address bigger water/frost issues
Wood wall refinishing				\$5,000		\$5,000	
Salmon River floor treatment		Concrete poured and stamped or vinyl composite material, 6 colors inlaid, surrounded by carpet	\$2,000	\$7,500	Omit, or use paint	\$100	No cutting of concrete; surface application only
Subtotal - Infrastructure			\$4,000	\$22,600		\$8,700	

EXHIBITS AS PROPOSED					ECONOMY OPTIONS		
Item	Notes	Material	Design Costs	Total (fabrication and installation)	Item	Cost for materials and installation	Local Unit Contribution
**WIFI set up and subscription service ** not shown in phased costs		Annual fee divided up per month, set up fees may also apply			Route and pay through interp association; FS staff installs equipment and set up		Will work with SIHA or other partner to provide service; need to know speed or other requirements
Totals			\$128,200	\$287,100			
Economy Version for Fabrication and Installation						\$178,550	
Contract Administration and Project Management				\$41,530		\$30,675	
Contingency costs				\$10,000		\$10,000	
Total for All Phases				\$456,830		\$337,425	

Summary of Phase Components

Phase 1

- Design
- Infrastructure items to include plumbing and electrical, refinishing of walls

Phase 2:

- Relocation of visitor information counter, construction of new walls (Wall 1B, Wall 2, and Wall 3)
- Construction of baffles (Wall 3)
- Construction of new visitor info counter and rearrangement of sales area.
- Carpet and concrete river

Phase 3

- Walls 2-4, all components, including upper wall lettering and mountain silhouette.
- 3-D Table map

Phase 4

- Walls 1A and 1B.

Phase 5

- Donor Recognition wall, temporary exhibit area, Kid's Space and Media Room.

Phase 6

- Entry foyer

Phase 7

- Exterior

Cost Estimates by Phases

Item	PHASE 1 - Exhibit Design and Infrastructure	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5	PHASE 6	PHASE 7	TOTALS
Exterior								
Exterior	\$2,000						\$18,000	\$20,000
Panel for exterior kiosk	\$1,500						\$2,500	\$4,000
Front plaza interpretive panels (3-4)	\$10,000						\$2,000	\$12,000
Plaza sculptures (1-3)							\$70,000	\$70,000
Welcome sign on building	\$500						\$2,500	\$3,000
Paint treatment on sidewalk to show Big Wood River down the middle	\$200						\$10,000	\$10,200
Landscape modifications								
Subtotal - Exterior Plaza	\$14,200						\$105,000	\$119,200
Foyer								
Orientation map	\$3,000					\$3,500		\$6,500
Welcome to the Sawtooth NRA panel	\$500					\$1,500		\$2,000
"For More Info" panel	\$250					\$100		\$350
Changeable posting board						\$500		\$500
Brochure racks						\$500		\$500
Reconstructed auto tour return box/display case						\$-		\$-
Subtotal - Foyer	\$3,750					\$6,100		\$9,850
Wall 1A - Explore!								
Six custom shaped panels	\$9,000			\$3,000				\$12,000
EXPLORE! Lettering	\$500		\$2,500					\$3,000
Recreational gear collage	\$500			\$500				\$1,000
Subtotal - Wall 1A	\$10,000		\$2,500	\$3,500				\$16,000
Wall 1B - Welcome								
Welcome lettering	\$250	\$2,000						\$2,250
Map panel	\$3,000		\$3,000	\$3,000				\$9,000
4-5 additional panels	\$3,500		\$4,500	\$4,500				\$12,500
Flatscreen monitor and video loop	\$2,000		\$1,000	\$1,000				\$4,000
Changeable temporary panel/exhibit space	\$500		\$1,000	\$1,000				\$2,500
Recreational gear collage	\$250		\$500	\$500				\$1,250
Subtotal - Wall 1B	\$9,500	\$2,000		\$10,000				\$21,500

Item	PHASE 1 - Exhibit Design and Infrastructure	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5	PHASE 6	PHASE 7	TOTALS
Visitor Information Area								
Sawtooth National Recreation Area lettering	\$250	\$2,500						\$2,750
Custom Reception Counter and chairs	\$5,000	\$10,000						\$15,000
Low storage cabinets		\$1,500						\$1,500
3-D table map with reader rails		\$15,000						\$15,000
Subtotal - Information Area	\$5,250	\$29,000						\$34,250
Upper Walls 2-4								
Lettering	\$2,000	\$2,000						\$4,000
Mountain silhouettes	\$1,000	\$2,500						\$3,500
Lighting		\$1,000						\$1,000
Subtotal - Upper Walls	\$3,000	\$5,500						\$8,500
Wall 2 - Clear Air, Clean Water, Wild Lands								
Tree cutouts (2)	\$1,000		\$3,200					\$4,200
Wolverine diorama	\$3,000		\$8,500					\$11,500
Interpretive panels (9)	\$22,500		\$3,500					\$26,000
Translucent "bubble quotes" (3-4)	\$1,500		\$2,500					\$4,000
3D fish models (3)			\$2,500					\$2,500
Water feature			\$10,000					\$10,000
Manipulatives (2)	\$6,000		\$6,800					\$12,800
Subtotal - Wall 2	\$34,000		\$37,000					\$71,000
Wall 3 - Here By Design								
Construction of framed baffle walls (4)	\$1,000	\$5,000						\$6,000
Baffle wall graphic panels (4)	\$2,000		\$5,000					\$7,000
Panels for hidden walls	\$10,000		\$12,000					\$22,000
Monitor with AV loop	\$2,500		\$5,000					\$7,500
Shadow boxes or display cases	\$500		\$2,000					\$2,500
Translucent "bubble quotes" (1)	\$1,500		\$2,500					\$4,000
Interpretive panels (2)	\$5,000		\$1,000					\$6,000
Subtotal - Wall 3	\$22,500	\$5,000	\$27,500					\$55,000
Wall 4A - Making Connections								
Interpretive panels (2)	\$5,000		\$1,000					\$6,000
Shelves, display cases, pedestals			\$2,000					\$2,000

Item	PHASE 1 - Exhibit Design and Infrastructure	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5	PHASE 6	PHASE 7	TOTALS
Smart board, blank frames, and/interactive monitor to capture visitor input			\$10,000					\$10,000
Subtotal - Wall 4A	\$5,000		\$13,000					\$18,000
Wall 4B - Inspiring Our Human Spirit								
Background mural panel (includes character silhouettes)	\$1,000		\$4,500					\$4,500
Logworm fence (includes 1 silhouette character)	\$1,000		1000					
Interpretive panels on models (4)	\$4,000		\$4,400					\$4,400
Subtotal - Wall 4B	\$15,000		\$9,900					\$24,900
Kid's Room and AV Room								
Re-purposed wood bases for displaying "touch-me" items (4)					\$-			\$-
Kid's Room activity supplies					\$-			\$-
Subtotal - Kids/AV Room					\$-			\$-
Sales Area								
Gas stove					\$5,000			\$5,000
2 comfy chairs					\$500			\$500
Sales items display furniture and rearrangement		\$1,500						\$1,500
Donor recognition wall	\$2,000				\$1,500			\$3,500
Subtotal - Sales Area	\$2,000	\$1,500			\$7,000			\$10,500
Infrastructure								
Wall and door construction for Wall 1B and Wall 2	\$1,000	\$2,500						\$3,500
Wall construction at current supply room door (Wall 3)	\$1,000	\$2,500						\$3,500
New carpet	\$3,600							\$3,600
New foyer flooring	\$1,500							\$1,500
Wood wall refinishing	\$5,000							\$5,000
Salmon River floor treatment	\$9,500							\$9,500
Subtotal - Infrastructure	\$21,600	\$5,000						\$26,600
**WIFI set up and subscription service ** not shown in phased costs								

Item	PHASE 1 - Exhibit Design and Infrastructure	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5	PHASE 6	PHASE 7	TOTALS
Totals	\$145,800	\$48,000	\$89,900	\$13,500	\$7,000	\$6,100	\$105,000	\$415,300
Present year cost of contract, no administrative costs or inflation added	\$145,800	\$48,000	\$89,900	\$13,500	\$7,000	\$6,100	\$105,000	\$415,300
Contract administration and project management	\$9,210	\$3,000	\$5,394	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,300	\$32,904
Inflation costs of that phase relative to present year	\$-	\$1,530	\$5,718	\$1,485	\$1,200	\$1,365	\$20,034	\$31,332
Contingency costs								\$10,000
TOTAL FOR ONE CONTRACT	\$155,010	\$52,530	\$101,012	\$17,985	\$11,200	\$10,465	\$131,334	\$489,536