Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site

Interpretive Plan

Date: 3/1/2014
Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site

Interpretive Plan

Prepared By:

____________________________________________                     _______________  
Dennis Henry, Interpretive Planner  Date
Click Point Ranch

Reviewed By:

____________________________________________                     _______________  
Todd Thibodeau, SPHST  Date

____________________________________________                     _______________  
Mabel Jones, SPHST  Date

____________________________________________                     _______________  
Brooks Jordon, SPHST  Date

Approved By:

____________________________________________                     _______________  
Todd Thibodeau, SPHST  Date
INTRODUCTION

MEDICINE LODGE STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

This plan is part of a large-scale effort to enhance interpretive and educational media at Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site. It provides overarching goals, objectives, and recommendations designed to enhance visitors’ experiences at the site. Interpretive themes, storylines, and visual media concepts for exhibits at the visitor center, interpretive cabins, and trails, are also defined in this plan.

The visitor center exhibits will focus primarily on the archaeological history of the site. Exhibits will incorporate the following primary interpretive topics:

- Ranch/site history
- Archaeological excavations at site
  - Excavation process and discoveries
- Paleoindian occupation: 8,000–10,000 years before present (BP)
  - Culture
  - Artifacts
- Archaic period occupation: 8,000–1,500 years BP
  - Culture
  - Rockart
  - Artifacts
- Late prehistoric occupation: 1,500–150 years BP
  - Culture
  - Rockart
  - Artifacts
- Historic Crow Indian occupation
  - Culture
  - Rockart
- Artifacts
- Visitor ethics and behavior

In addition to exhibits within the visitor center, a site map panel with Tread Lightly! guidelines will be located near the cabin’s entrance. This panel will be base on the site map panel to be developed in the petroglyph cliff wayfinding exhibit by the main parking lot.

Two small cabins, located along the nature trail, will also house interpretive media. The natural history cabin will focus mainly on the habitat types found at Medicine Lodge, and the local flora and fauna. An overview of the area’s geology will also be presented in this cabin.

The second cabin, referred to as the elk management cabin, will include exhibits about the Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area — its history, wildlife management policies and approach, and the life history of elk.

INTERPRETIVE PLAN

This plan includes an analysis of the park’s visitor use, recreational resources, history, and existing interpretive resources. The plan also covers interpretive themes, concepts, storylines, and recommendations for the development of interpretive displays and potential programs at the site.

The plan’s recommendations and design concepts will guide writers and designers to develop interpretive, orientation, and interactive strategies that enhance a visitor’s experience at the site and support State Park’s missions and goals.

Before reviewing the details of this plan, please review the following points to fully understand its purpose, where it fits within an overall planning process, and how it guides the development of interpretive concepts for this site.
INTRODUCTION AND SITE OVERVIEW

- This is a plan, not a design. An interpretive plan provides managers with sufficient information to make decisions regarding funding priorities, and gives designers sufficient information to develop recommended interpretive concepts. With this information, when funding is available, individual elements specified in the plan can be designed and produced.

- Although environmental education is important to State Parks, this is an interpretive plan — not an education plan. It does not, in detail, address environmental programs or other education opportunities or standards.

SITE OVERVIEW

Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site is located at the juncture of the Big Horn Basin and the western slopes of the Big Horn Mountains, near the town of Hyattville.

The site is well known for its quantity and quality of petroglyphs and pictographs. Rock art images numbering in the hundreds are spread out over a 750-foot long sandstone cliff. It is one of several important archaeological sites found within the Big Horn Basin.

From 1968 to 1975, extensive archaeological research was conducted at the site that included numerous excavation pits. These incredible digs produced a wealth of artifacts and other evidence of prehistoric occupation dating back to more than 10,000 years ago. Medicine Lodge is considered a benchmark archaeological site. The well-documented human occupation layers and associated artifacts provide an excellent dating tool for artifacts and prehistoric discovers found at other sites around the region.

The existence of prehistoric cultures at Medicine Lodge is largely attributed to the site’s geographic location. The site is located at 4,800 feet elevation near the confluence of two streams, Wet Medicine Lodge and Dry Medicine Lodge Creeks. Several vegetation zones exist in the surrounding area, ranging from alkali, to foothills–scrub, grassland-sagebrush, riparian, and alpine areas above treeline. These diverse habitats supported an abundance of plants and animals, which in turn provided the necessary food and resources for prehistoric cultures.

There are two interpretive trails at the site — The Deer Path Trail and Medicine Lodge Nature Trail. Interpretive brochures are available for both trails.

In addition to its rock art, Medicine Lodge offers a variety of recreational opportunities including camping, hiking, picnicking, fishing, and horseback riding. Visitors also use the site as a base camp and trailhead for access to trails in the surrounding public lands.

The diverse vegetation zones in this area, in conjunction with the availability of water, provide shelter, food, and living space for a wide variety of animals. Several species of mammals are commonly seen, including mule deer, jackrabbits, cottontail rabbits, foxes, coyotes, marmots, prairie dogs, and bats. More than 100 species of birds have also been identified at the site. The Wyoming Recreation Commission (predecessor to Wyoming State Parks and Historic Sites) developed a bird list, which is available at the park’s headquarters.
INTRODUCTION AND SITE OVERVIEW

View of Medicine Lodge Canyon

Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site is open year around, weather permitting. The visitor center and interpretive cabins are closed from September 30 to April 30. The site has 30 individual campsites with picnic tables and fire rings. Most campsites will accommodate RVs or tents. A group camping area and shelter is available by reservation for large groups and special events.

Site History

B. F Wickwire originally homesteaded in this valley during the late 1890s. In 1897, after hearing stories of incredible sums of money being paid for horses in the Klondike gold fields in Canada, Wickwire rounded up 380 horses and headed north. The 2,500-mile journey proved to be disastrous for Wickwire and the horses. He arrived with only one horse alive. Wickwire was absent for two years and when he finally got home to his ranch, he discovered his wife had given him up for dead and sold the ranch. Harry and Sadie Taylor acquired the Wickwire property. In 1972, they sold the 12,100-acre ranch to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to ensure adequate winter range for elk herds in this region of the Bighorn Mountains. This transaction marked the establishment of the Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area. In 1973, Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, & Trails (at that time known as the Wyoming Recreation Commission) entered into a cooperative agreement with the Game and Fish Commission to maintain and administer a small portion of the habitat area, which became Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site.

The existence of petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge has been known for a long time. But it was not until the late 1960s that the true archaeological significance of the site started to come to light. Based on stone artifacts collected at the site by a well-known avocational archaeologist named Stuart Conner, the University of Wyoming initiated an archaeological investigation that started in 1968 and ended in 1976. The project involved the excavation of several trenches and pits to depths of more than 26 feet. Artifacts from the excavation project, including projectile points, tools, bones, ceramics, fire pits, and more, support archaeologists' theories of human occupation at Medicine Lodge over the past 10,000 years.

Excavation area

The eight-year project uncovered an incredible wealth of artifacts from the Paleoindian, Archaic, and Prehistoric Periods — 10,000 years before present to around 150 years ago. The archaeological research and discoveries are an important part of the site's interpretive story.
INTRODUCTION AND SITE OVERVIEW

AUDIENCE ANALYSIS

Based on 2009–2012 statewide surveys, 62% of visitors to Wyoming’s state parks consider them to be their primary destination site. In contrast, 90% of visitors at historic and archaeological sites consider them to be their destination site. Medicine Lodge is unique in that it is a state archaeological site with campsites and other recreational activities common to state parks. This aspect creates a blending in its visitation use since visitors come to the site for its historic significance and for recreation. Approximately 75% of the people visiting Wyoming’s historic and archaeological sites are first-time visitors. This corresponds with the percentage of out-of-state visitors. In contrast, most of the visitors at Medicine Lodge are return visitors. This is due to the high percentage of local visitors coming to the site to camp.

VISITOR USE TRENDS

Visitation to Medicine Lodge has shown an overall increase over the past several years. In 2009, visitation at Medicine Lodge was 23,615. In 2010, site visitation decreased by 14% to 20,409. Visitation increased in 2012 by 22%, with more than 24,936 visitors.

The activities visitors participated in at Medicine Lodge relate directly to the type of experience they were seeking:

- Relaxing: 79%
- Hiking/walking trails: 69%
- Nature/wildlife viewing: 67%
- Visitor center: 50%
- Picnicking: 49%
- RV/trailer camping: 48%
- Fishing: 27%
- Tent camping: 25%
- ATV riding: 24%

A majority of visitors polled in the 2009 survey stated that the top five preferred facilities and services included:

- Visitor/welcome center
- Interpretive exhibits/signs
- Developed campgrounds
- Historic restoration
- Motorized trails

(Sources: 2009–2010 Visitor Survey, and 2010 and 2012 Visitor Use Surveys)

The diversity of recreational opportunities at Medicine Lodge, its trail system, and access to surrounding public lands, will likely continue to fuel increases in site visitation.
**Existing Site Interpretation**

**Overview**

Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site has a significant amount of existing interpretive media. There are three small log buildings housing interpretive media: a visitor center and two historic cabins. In addition, there are two self-guided interpretive trails at the site — The Deer Path Trail and Medicine Lodge Nature Trail. Other print media includes the site's newspaper *Petroglyph Parlance*, site brochure, and a bird list.

As you enter the site there is an entrance kiosk with a pay station, fee sign, and two glass bulletin boards with information about fishing regulations and the site's brochure.

![Entrance kiosk](image1)

The signs include information about the abundance of food and water for human habitation, the petroglyphs and pictographs, and the site's archaeological research and excavations. Some of these signs show extreme weathering. The content of these signs should be incorporated in the new petroglyph cliff wayfinding exhibit near the main parking area.

![Weathered trail sign](image2)

Also located in front of the rock art cliff are 16 small, ground level signs providing references to historic events that correlate to the site's 10,000 years of human occupation. An example of one of these signs is “1,900 years ago: Roman Empire at its peak.”

![Time period signs](image3)

**Trailside Signs**

Four interpretive signs are located along the trail in front of the sandstone cliff with the petroglyphs and pictographs.
INTRODUCTION AND SITE OVERVIEW

A sign about aquatic insects that trout feed on is positioned near a bend in Medicine Lodge Creek. Unfortunately, the stream’s course changed during a 2011 flood and the ADA accessible fishing platform and sign are now located about 15 feet from the water’s edge. This panel shows signs of weathering and cracking and should be replaced.

Wyoming Game and Fish has a large metal interpretive sign located along the four-wheel drive road at the boundary to the Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area. This sign describes the importance of habitat management, the area’s elk population, and the use of controlled burns to improve winter forage for elk and other wildlife species. The sign, which was installed in 1994, shows considerable weathering and cracking.

Visitor Center

The Medicine Lodge visitor center is a 325 square-foot log structure. In early 2013 the building underwent renovation and the old flooring and joists were replaced.

The existing interpretive exhibits were removed with the intent of developing new exhibits based on interpretive concepts presented in this plan. The previous exhibits included information on the following topics:

- Site history
- Flora and fauna (overview)
- 10,000 years of human habitation
  - Overview
  - Stratigraphy
- Protection of archaeological sites
- Archaeological excavation
  - Project overview
  - Areas excavated
  - Overview of artifacts found
  - Excavation tools (diorama)
- Projectile points
- Stone tools ( mano, metate, maul)
- Petroglyphs and pictographs
- Ranch history (audio box)

An audio recording about the history of ranching prior to the site becoming a habitat management area is part of the current visitor center’s exhibits.

The visitor center also includes brochures about other Wyoming state parks and historic sites and a guest registration book.
INTRODUCTION AND SITE OVERVIEW

WILDFLOWER AND ELK CABINS

The Wildflower Cabin, now referred to as the Natural History Cabin, and the Elk Cabin are small log structures located along the Medicine Lodge Nature Trail.

The Natural History Cabin contains photographs and names of common wildflowers found at the site. The goal of site management is to remove the existing signage within the building and develop an interactive learning environment that focuses on the natural history of Medicine Lodge, including habitats and the plants and animal species found in the area. In addition, basic information will be presented about the geology of the region.

Existing exhibits within the Elk Cabin will be removed and updated with the interpretive concepts outlined in this plan.

INTERPRETIVE TRAILS

There are two interpretive trails at the site — The Deer Path Trail and Medicine Lodge Nature Trail. Interpretive brochures are available for both trails. The Deer Path is a one-mile loop trail with 24 marker posts that correlate to information in the trail guide about local plants. The one-half mile Medicine Lodge Nature Trail begins near the petroglyph cliff, meanders along Medicine Lodge Creek, and ends near the middle campground. Its trail brochure includes checklists for birds and mammals, and information about habitats, plants, animals, and natural features found along the trail.
INTRODUCTION AND SITE OVERVIEW

Site Brochure

The current site brochure provides a brief overview of the history of the site, a description of its rock art and archaeological research and discoveries, and an introduction to wildlife viewing in the area. It also includes site rules and a map that highlights key public use areas such as campgrounds, picnic areas, and other amenities.

Web Sites

State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails (SPHST) and Wyoming Tourism have web sites promoting Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site. The SPHST web site provides a brief overview of the site, its rock art and archaeological discoveries, and the abundance of wildlife found in the area. In addition, the web site has information about entrance fees, camping seasons, and hours of operation. The Wyoming Tourism site provides similar site information.

Programs

Current interpretive programming includes pre-arranged and impromptu school tours, and informal tours given by site staff at the request of visitors.
INTERPRETIVE PLANNING

Planning Overview

Interpretive planning is a strategic process that, in its implementation, achieves management objectives for interpretation by facilitating meaningful connections between visitors and a site’s resources and history. It is a goal-driven process that determines the appropriate means to achieve desired visitor experiences. Good interpretive planning provides opportunities for people to form their own intellectual and emotional connections with a site’s resources, while protecting and preserving them.

Goals and Objectives

Interpretive goals focus on enhancing a visitor’s experience, knowledge of, and appreciation for a site’s resources and history. Objectives guide the development of the interpretive plan and will be used in evaluating the final product. They also describe what we want visitors to know, feel, and do while visiting Medicine Lodge or the wildlife habitat management area.

Interpretive Goals
For this site the interpretive goals are:

1. Orient visitors to the cultural and natural resources found at Medicine Lodge.
2. Provide intuitive, self-guided interpretation of site’s rock art and archaeological projects.
3. Instill upon visitors the value of preserving petroglyphs and other archaeological artifacts, and the need to treat the site with respect.
4. Encourage better awareness and appreciation of the area’s plants, animals, and habitats in order to promote a stewardship ethic and a sense of public ownership.
5. Improve understanding of the role and mission of Wyoming Game and Fish in developing and managing wildlife habitat management areas.

Interpretive Objectives
At the conclusion of their visit to Medicine Lodge, the majority of visitors will:

1. Have an understanding of the site’s archaeological projects and discoveries
2. Have a basic understanding of the site’s rock art and the people that have lived here over the past 10,000 years
3. Understand how to conduct themselves when visiting historical and archaeological sites, and natural areas
4. Recognize the importance of protecting historical and archaeological sites, and natural areas
5. Enjoy the various recreation opportunities in the area and engage in appropriate and safe use of the site
6. Recognize the value of Medicine Lodge in contributing to academic research and knowledge in the areas of archaeology, wildlife biology, and botany

State Park’s Mission And Vision Statements

It is important that the interpretive goals and objectives are in line with the mission and vision of State Parks, Historic Sites, & Trails. A key step in the development of this plan was to develop an understanding of the state’s mission and vision statements, as they relate to interpretive concept development.
INTERPRETIVE PLANNING

Mission Statement
Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, & Trails protects and enhances the natural and cultural environment by providing enjoyable, educational and inspiring experiences for present and future generations.

Vision Statement
Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, & Trails offers exceptional and safe experiences that enhance the overall quality of life. Our guests gain an understanding and appreciation for the well-maintained amenities we manage, while exploring and enjoying Wyoming’s natural and cultural heritage. Dedicated and professional employees provide outstanding customer service at adequately staffed and financed parks, historic sites, and trails.

INTERPRETIVE AREAS

Medicine Lodge’s interpretive areas will provide information about the site’s history, rock art, archaeological discoveries, recreational opportunities, habitats, flora and fauna, and geology. Each exhibit will include underlying messages designed to promote responsible, positive behavior toward the goal of preserving and protecting cultural and natural resources.

There are seven primary areas at Medicine Lodge for interpretative media (Appendix A). The following is a list of these areas and key topics to be interpreted.

Exhibit Area A: Visitor Center
• Site history
  o Ranching
  o Becoming a state archaeological site
  o Wildlife habitat management area
• Archaeological research and discoveries
  o Project overview
  o Areas excavated
  o Discoveries
  o Excavation process
    • Overview
    • Tools (diorama)
  o Excavation process
  o Who were they
  o Petroglyphs and pictographs
    • What are petroglyphs and pictographs
    • Petroglyph forms (types)
    • How rock art was created
    • What rock art represent
  o Protecting cultural resources
    • Look, but don't draw
  o Wyoming archaeological sites

Exhibit Area B: Natural History Cabin
• Diverse habitats of area
  o Description of the area’s vegetation zones
• Plants
  o Common species found at Medicine Lodge
  o Usage by Native Americans
• Animals
  o Common species found at Medicine Lodge
  o Tactile elements (skins, casts of tracks, antlers, nests, etc.)
• Area geology
  o Basic overview of geology
• Value of biology and botany academic research conducted in area

Natural History Cabin
INTERPRETIVE PLANNING

Exhibit Area C: Elk Cabin
- Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area
  - Description and history
  - Goals and objective
  - Management techniques
    - Overview
    - Science of wildlife management
    - Tracking elk (radio collar)
    - Hunting
      - Re-establishing elk in the Bighorn Mountains
      - Importance of fire to habitat management
  - Interesting facts about elk
  - Elk antlers and ivories (teeth)
    - Overview
    - Antler growth
    - Aging elk from ivory teeth
  - What elk eat

Exhibit Area D: Petroglyph Cliff
Wayfinding Exhibit
- Site Orientation and visitor ethics
- Tread Lightly! guidelines
- Overview of site’s cultural history
- Petroglyphs and pictographs
  - Rock art at site
  - Why they were made
- Overview of archaeological excavation projects and discoveries

Exhibit Area E: 10,000 Years Display
- Worldwide events that have occurred during the 10,000 years of human occupation at Medicine Lodge

Exhibit Area F: Deer Path Trail
- Interpretive trial and guide
  - Common plants
    - Native species
    - Invasive species
  - Fire management

Exhibit Area G: Nature Trail
- Interpretive trail and guide
  - Riparian habitat
  - Common plants
  - Shiprock geologic feature
  - Medicine Lodge Creek
  - Birds and mammals checklists

Exhibit Area H: Streamside Exhibit
- Trout fishery
- Aquatic insects
  - Mayfly, stonefly, caddisfly

Exhibit Area I: Entrance Kiosk
- Site map
- Fee area information and pay station
- Fishing regulations
- Site brochure and map

Statement of Significance

Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site provides visitors an incredible opportunity to learn about archaeological excavations that led to the discovery of Indian cultures dating back more than 10,000 years ago. In addition to the archaeological discoveries, visitors can view hundreds of rock art images pecked and painted onto the sandstone cliff. Medicine Lodge is one of several important archaeological sites found within the Big Horn Basin. The site provides an opportunity to contemplate the perceptions, experiences, and beliefs of prehistoric and historic cultures.
Medicine Lodge is unique in that it is a historic site that also offers a variety of recreational opportunities including camping, hiking, picnicking, fishing, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing. Four distinct vegetation zones exist within the site’s boundary — an alkali zone, a riparian zone along the creek, and grassland-sagebrush and foothill-scrub zones beyond the canyon floor. These distinct habitats account for the diverse flora and fauna found at and around Medicine Lodge.
RECOMMENDATIONS

**Introduction**

The following recommendations are designed to further define, support, and communicate Medicine Lodge's mission, purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and visitor experiences. Implementation of these recommendations will help ensure visitors are well informed and that they will be able to develop meaningful connections with the site's resources.

The description of each interpretive concept and exhibit design approach identifies its purpose, special considerations, and sometimes suggests specific means of presentation. It is important to remember that these are only suggestions and should not in any way limit the creativity essential during the design and media development and processes.

**Orientation and General Site Information**

**Overview**

Medicine Lodge should continue to provide information and orientation through traditional means such as answering phone, mail, and email requests. The State Park web site is a valuable means of providing information to the public. Periodic reviews of the web site's content should be conducted and information about Medicine Lodge updated as needed.

**Site Entrance**

Visitors arriving at the site’s entrance kiosk should continue to have access to a self-service pay station and basic site information, such as brochures, site map, camping information, fishing regulations, and site rules. The site map should display all key facilities and resources, and encourage people to make the visitor center their next stop. Information within existing glass bulletin cases should be current and inform visitors of site activities, closures, areas under construction, and other important announcements.

![Entrance kiosk](image)

**Printed Material.**

The site's printed material should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they remain accurate, appropriate, and current.

**Web Site**

SPHST should continue to enhance its web site, especially the descriptive text and visual media related Medicine Lodge, as well as other state parks and historic sites, in order to reach a larger and more diverse audience. Various types of downloadable information should be developed so the people can place the media onto their MP3 and mobile devices for use at home, on the road, or when they get to the site.

**Petroglyph Cliff Guide**

The extensive number of petroglyphs and the overlaying of images make it difficult to distinguish many of the rock art images. Consideration should be given to developing a guide brochure describing some of the key petroglyph panels along the cliff. Interpretive markers placed at key points along the cliff would correlate to information on the guide (to be developed). The trailside markers will be short wooden posts, approximately 12-inches in height, and be designed to blend in with the landscape. The guide may be used to visually separate some of the extensive layering of petroglyphs and would help visitors better understand the magnitude of rock art at the site.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Visitor Center Exhibits

Approach and Exterior
Interpretive information within and around the visitor center is vital to the enhancing a visitor's experience. One of the goals will be to attract visitors into the building. This can be easily accomplished with proper signage identifying the cabin as the visitor center.

Another important sign that should be located near the entrance to the visitor center is a site map panel. This panel should include a map of Medicine Lodge that highlights camping areas, trails, rock art trail, site headquarters, corals, access points to the wildlife habitat management area, and other key features and amenities.

Existing exhibits at visitor center

Interior Exhibits
The remodeled visitor center offers a wonderful opportunity to present the story of Medicine Lodge. Interpretive concepts, themes, and storylines for these exhibits are described below.

Interpretive Themes and Storylines

Exhibits in and around the visitor center will include five primary interpretive themes:

- Site orientation
- Archaeological excavations and discoveries
- Human occupation over the past 10,000 years
- Rock art
- Site History

The following is a description of key themes and storylines for the visitor center exhibits.

Exh-A_1: Site Orientation
Theme: Resources, features, and amenities

Storylines: Site map displaying the recreational and cultural resources at Medicine Lodge.

- Resources
  - Camping
  - Hiking
  - Fishing
  - Wildlife viewing
  - Rock art
  - Interpretive trails
  - Public land access

- Site features
  - Roadways
  - Buildings
  - Boundaries
  - Creeks

- Amenities
  - Picnic areas
  - Campgrounds, hook-ups

- Visitor ethics and behavior

Exh-A_2: Site History
Theme: Several fascinating stories exist leading up to the establishment of Medicine Lodge as a state archaeological site.

Storyline A: B. F. Wickwire originally homesteaded the land that is now Medicine Lodge and the area surround it during the late 1890s.

Storyline B: In a get rich quick scheme, Wickwire attempted to drive 380 horses to the Klondike gold fields in Canada and sell them to the miners. He arrived with only one horse alive. Wickwire was absent for two years, and when he finally got home to his ranch, he discovered his wife had given him up for dead and sold the ranch.
**Storyline C:** Harry and Sadie Taylor acquired the Wickwire property. In 1972, they sold the ranch to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to ensure adequate winter range for the elk herds in the Bighorn Mountains. This transaction marked the establishment of the Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

**Storyline D:** In 1973, Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, & Trails entered into a cooperative agreement with the Game and Fish Commission to maintain and administer a small portion of the habitat area, which became Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site.

**Exh-A_3: Archaeological Discovery**

**Theme:** Medicine Lodge is an important benchmark archaeological site for the Bighorn Basin and surrounding area.

**Storyline A:** The existence of petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge has been known for a long time. But it was not until an archaeological investigation was initiated in 1968 that the true significance of the site started to come to light.

**Storyline B:** Based on stone artifacts collected at the site by a well-known avocational archaeologist named Stuart Conner, the University of Wyoming initiated an archaeological investigation that started in 1968 and ended in 1976. The project involved the excavation of several trenches and pits to depths of more than 26 feet.

**Storyline C:** The project led to the discovery of more than 60 cultural levels spanning 10,000 years of human occupation. It uncovered a wealth of artifacts from the Paleoindian, Archaic, and Late Prehistoric Periods — 10,000 years before present to around 150 years ago. Items discovered during the excavation project, included projectile points, tools, bones, ceramics, fire pits, and more.

Medicine Lodge is considered a benchmark archaeological site. The well-documented human occupation layers and associated artifacts provide an excellent dating tool for artifacts and prehistoric discoveries found at other sites around the region.

**Exh-A_4: A Dig Site**

**Theme:** Archaeological excavations are complex and involve slow, careful, and tedious work.

**Storyline A:** In archaeology, excavation projects involve complex 3D grids that precisely outline the excavation areas. This detailed mapping allows archaeologists to accurately identify where each artifact is found.

**Storyline B:** Archaeological digs involve slow, tedious work to remove layers of sediment. Once an artifact is found, uncovering it may require working with hand trowels and even small picks and brushes.
Storyline C: The three primary excavation areas were located along the sandstone cliff incised and painted with petroglyphs and pictographs. Several of the excavation units were so deep that they required steps cut into the side of the pit to remove the soil. Some of the pits were as deep as 26 feet.

Exh-A_5: 10,000 Years of Occupation
Theme: The extensive timespan of human occupation at Medicine Lodge is largely attributed to the site's geographic location.

Storyline A: The existence of prehistoric cultures at Medicine Lodge is largely attributed to the diverse habitats surrounding the site and its year-round source of water. Several vegetation habitats exist in the surrounding canyons and mountains, ranging from riparian areas, sagebrush steppe, prairie grasslands, foothills shrubland, xeric lower montane forest, and montane and subalpine forest. These habitats supported an abundance of plants and animals, which in turn provided the necessary food and resources for prehistoric cultures.

Storyline B: Paleoindian Occupation
The oldest cultural evidence was discovered about 23 feet deep in the excavation pits. Projectile points, stone tools, and radiocarbon dating of bones and charcoal from campfires, indicates that Paleoindian people occupied this site from 10,000 years ago to about 8,000 years ago.

Storyline C: Archaic Occupation
The Archaic period is divided into three time spans: Early (8,000 – 5,000 years before present or BP), Middle (5,000 – 3,500 years BP), and Late (3,500 – 1,500 years BP). Numerous discoveries, including projectile points and stone tools, and radiocarbon dating of bones and charcoal from campfires, indicated human occupations spanning the entire Archaic period.

Exh-A_6: Rock Art
Theme: Petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge represent almost every manufacturing technique and figure type documented about rock art of the northwestern plains.

Storyline A: Petroglyphs and pictographs often preserve the only known records created by our human predecessors. The rock
art found here at Medicine Lodge, some as old as 2,500 years, have barely withstood the effects of time and weather.

Storyline B: Almost every manufacturing technique and figure type documented about rock art of the northwestern plains is found at Medicine Lodge.

Storyline C: Petroglyphs and pictographs may mean something different to each person who sees them. Regardless of our interpretations, it stimulates our thoughts, imaginations, and expands our awareness of cultural expressions. Archaeological sites such as Medicine Lodge should be treated with the utmost care and respect in order to preserve their value for all people.

Exh-A_7: Unsolved Mystery
Theme: Two of the most common questions about the petroglyphs and pictographs — who created them and when — may never be answered, but archaeologists have some interesting theories.

Storyline A: In most instances it is difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain the age of rock art images. Several techniques were used to develop a relative chronology. These include dating methods such as: degree of weathering, superimposition analysis, stylistic analysis, subject matter, and inter-site patterning.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exh-A_8: Pecked in Stone
Theme: The different styles represented in the making of petroglyphs, along with scientific dating methods, help researchers develop theories about the relative chronology of the glyphs.

Storyline B: We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Anthropomorphic types or styles
  - Shield figure
  - V-necked
  - En toto pecked, horned and unhorned
  - Fully pecked, horned
  - Outlined pecked, horned
  - Wavy lined, horned
- Euro-American graffiti
- Abstract designs

**Storyline B:** The red and black painted figures and shapes are called pictographs. Painted images include animals and human figures, and horses and riders. The red paint was made by combining hematite (a red iron oxide mineral) with wet binding agent, such as blood, egg yoke, and albumin. The black colored pictographs were made with manganese oxide mineral.

**Storyline C:** Rock art and the landscapes in which they occur are extremely fragile. Once damaged, these cultural resources are irreparably lost. Only through the preservation and respect of these resources can we hope to obtain an understanding of past cultures and ethnic groups, who must be allowed to pass on stories about their ways of life for each new generation.

**Exh-A_9: Look, But Don't Peck**
**Theme:** Visitors should not add their own drawings to rock art sites.

**Storyline A:** Don't add graffiti or deface the images or the site. Even if others have been thoughtless enough to add their names or a message to the images, please don't condone their actions by adding your own.

**Storyline B:** Remember that on public lands, defacing the site is illegal.

**Storyline C:** The defacing of rock art sites is not unlike placing graffiti on public buildings, sculptures, churches, gravestones, or other structures and objects.

**Exh-A_10: Wyoming Rock Art**
**Theme:** Nearly every county in Wyoming has rock art.

**Storyline A:** For thousands of years, Wyoming's mountains, plains, and high plateaus have been home to numerous indigenous cultures. The many petroglyphs and pictographs they left behind illustrate this diversity. Coming from so many different cultures, the rock art at Medicine Lodge is a truly unique and significant cultural resource.

**Storyline B:** Map of Wyoming identifying and describing other major rock art sites.

**Exh-A_11: Touch Screen Kiosk**
**Theme:** TBD in future

**Exh-A_12: Edible and Medicinal Plants**
**Theme:** Native plants provided necessary food and resources for prehistoric cultures.

**Storyline A:** Native plants were key to the survival of Indians. Plants were not only a source of food; they were also used for
medicinal and ceremonial practices. **Storyline B**: A metate, also called a “mealing” stone, is a mortar-like stone tool used for processing grain and seeds. In traditional Mesoamerican culture, metates were used by women to grind seeds and other organic materials during food preparation.

**Natural History Cabin Exhibits**

**Approach and Exterior**
Proper signage indicating the Natural History Cabin has interpretive media should be prominently displayed on the building.

**Interior Exhibits**
Interpretive concepts, themes, and storylines for the Natural History Cabin exhibits are described below.

**Interpretive Themes and Storylines**
Exhibits in the Natural History Cabin will include three primary interpretive themes:
- Vegetation zones in and around Medicine Lodge
- Native plants and animals
- Geology

The following is a description of the themes and storylines for each interpretive concept.

**Exh-B_1: Geology**
**Theme**: Regional geology is closely tied to archaeological discoveries.

**Storyline A**: Medicine Lodge is located at the eastern edge of the Bighorn Basin in the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains. The Bighorn Basin is bounded by the Absaroka Range on the west, the Bighorn Mountains on the east, and the Owl Creek Mountains and Bridger Mountains on the south.

**Storyline B**: These mountains were uplifted during the Laramide orogeny, a period of mountain building in western North America, which started in the Late Cretaceous 70 million years ago and ended 35 to 55 million years ago. During this event, tremendous pressures within the earth caused major folding and uplifting, resulting in the formation of the Rocky Mountains.

**Storyline C**: Rocks are naturally occurring solid material consisting of various minerals. Earth’s crust is largely made up of rocks. Rocks are classified by mineral composition, how they were formed, and other physical attributes such as texture. The three main types, or classes, of rock are sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous.

**Exh-B_2: Diverse Habitats**
**Theme**: Diverse vegetation zones located in and around Medicine Lodge provide shelter, food, and living space for a wide variety of animals.

**Storyline A**: Medicine Lodge and the surrounding area contains 10 of the 11 habitat types found in Wyoming, including riparian areas, sagebrush steppe, prairie grasslands, foothills shrubland, xeric lower montane forest, and montane and subalpine forest. The diverse habitats and availability of
water provide shelter, food, and living space for a wide variety of animals.

**Storyline B:** The riparian area is located along Medicine Lodge Creek. Cottonwood trees, along with chokecherry, willows, boxelder, wild rose, and clematis vine, are found along the creek.

**Storyline C:** The foothills shrubland extends east of Medicine Lodge Canyon for approximately two miles. This area is rough and rocky with a 1,000-foot rise in elevation. Numerous ravines cut through the landscape. Rain and snowmelt channeled into the ravines provide adequate moisture for the forbs and shrubs that grow there. Predominant shrub species include curl-leaf mountain mahogany, serviceberry, antelope bitterbrush, and currant. Mountain big sagebrush and silver sagebrush are also common. Associated grasses and forbs include, wheatgrass, Junegrass, hairy golden-aster, and lupine.

**Storyline D:** Desert shrubland is found along the western border of Medicine Lodge. It is characterized by rolling hills and sparse vegetation. Grasses, such as bottlebrush squirreltail, Sandberg bluegrass and Indian ricegrass are found here, as well as saltbush and greasewood shrubs. Scattered patches of prickly pear cactus, yucca, and Hooker’s sandwort, and globemallow are also present.

**Storyline E:** Extensive prairie grasslands and sagebrush shrublands exist both west and east of Medicine Lodge Canyon. Elevation of this habitat ranges from around 4,800 feet to 6,800 feet.

Patches of yucca, and prickly pear cactus are also found in these habitats.

**Exh_B_3: Plants**

**Theme:** The dramatic change in elevation and diverse habitats accounts for the abundance and variety of plants in and around Medicine Lodge.

**Storyline A:** Elevation within a 12-mile radius of Medicine Lodge ranges from 4,000 feet to more than 13,000 feet at the top of Cloud Peak. Ten different habitats, from desert shrublands to montane and subalpine forests, and tundra, exist within this area. Plant life varies from cactus, to Indian ricegrass, cattails, junipers, and limber pine.

**Storyline B:** Blooming wildflowers can be found in this area throughout the spring and summer months. In lower elevations, flowers begin blooming in the spring, while plants on the alpine tundra show their colors during the summer months.

**Storyline C:** Availability and abundance of plants was key to the survival of Indians. Plants were not only a source of food; they were also used for medicinal and ceremonial practices.

[Note: Species of edible and medicinal plants should be highlighted and described.]

**Storyline D:** The diverse habitats in this area
provide an excellent opportunity for botanist to study plants.

**Exh-B_4: Wildlife**  
**Theme:** Wildlife viewing can be a fun and entertaining family event.

**Storyline A:** Wildlife viewing is a pastime that can be enjoyed in any season and by any age group. Several species of mammals are commonly seen at the site, including mule deer, ground squirrels, cottontail rabbits, foxes, coyotes, marmots, prairie dogs, and bats.

**Storyline B:** More than 100 species of birds have also been identified in the riparian habitat along Medicine Lodge Creek and in the surrounding grasslands and shrublands.

**Storyline C:** A variety of reptiles are found at Medicine Lodge including the prairie rattlesnake, bullsnake, gartersnake, and the northern sagebrush lizard. The only amphibians found at the site are tiger salamanders and northern leopard frogs.

**Storyline D:** An exciting part of outdoor lore is learning to identify an animal’s track and scat. These signs can help identify which animals are present in an area and even determine what they are eating. [Note: Different animal tracks should be displayed in an interactive panel]

**Interactive Exhibit Elements**  
Exhibits within the Natural History Cabin should include a variety of interactive elements that may include:
- Pressed plants
- Samples of different tree bark
- Sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rock samples
- Animal skins
- Casts of animal tracks
- Field guides for birds and animals

**Elk Cabin Exhibits**

**Approach and Exterior**  
Proper signage indicating the Elk Cabin has interpretive media should be prominently displayed on the building.

**Interior Exhibits**  
Interpretive concepts, themes, and storylines for the Elk Cabin exhibits are described below.

**Interpretive Themes and Storylines**  
Exhibits in the Elk Cabin will include two primary interpretive themes:
- Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area
- Elk

The following is a description of the themes and storylines for each interpretive concept.

**Exh-C_1: Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area**  
**Theme:** Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area was established to provide crucial winter range for elk.

**Storyline A:** In 1972, Harry and Sadie Taylor sold their 12,100-acre ranch to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to ensure adequate winter range for elk herds in the Bighorn Mountains. This transaction marked the establishment of the Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

**Storyline B:** Elevations within the
management area vary from 4,000 feet to 9,000 feet, with canyons and steep walls along Wet and Dry Medicine Lodge Creeks. A wide variety of plant communities exist here, ranging from deciduous trees and shrubs in the canyons, to grasslands and shrublands, to aspens and conifers at higher elevations.

**Storyline C:** Up to 1,000 elk winter on these lands, which provide excellent hunting opportunities in the fall. Sage and blue grouse, chukars, Hungarian partridge, rabbits, and squirrels are also commonly found here.

![Blue grouse](image)

**Storyline D:** The primary habitat management objective is to maintain adequate amounts of winter forage for elk. This practice also benefits other wildlife species and insures protection of the watershed.

### Exh-C_2: What is A Wildlife Habitat Management Area?

**Theme:** Wildlife habitat management areas provide critical habitat for animals.

**Storyline A:** Wildlife habitat management areas are geographic areas managed to provide food, shelter, water, and space for wildlife. Wyoming Game and Fish primarily manages these areas for one or several key species. However, the habitats found in the area benefit a multitude of other wildlife species.

**Storyline B:** There are two wildlife habitat management areas on the western slope of the Big Horn Mountains, the Renner and the Medicine Lodge areas. Both areas were acquired for big game winter range. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department manages 34 wildlife habitat areas in the state, totaling more that 400,000 acres. These areas are vital to maintaining healthy populations of animals, especially elk, deer, and antelope.

### Exh-C_3: Managing Wildlife Habitat

**Theme:** Managing wildlife habitat requires the skills and cooperation of a variety of people from the public and private sectors.

**Storyline A:** Managing the Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Areas requires the skills and cooperation of a variety of people including game wardens, biologists, ecologists, habitat and range specialists, public information officers, professors, volunteers, ranchers, and outdoorsmen.

**Storyline B:** Hunting is a management tool that allows populations of game animals to be in healthy balance with the habitats that sustain them. Too many animals can over-utilize their habitat resulting in deteriorated plant health, which in turn leads to poor health of herds. The purchase of fishing and hunting licenses provides a major portion of the budget needed to maintain healthy habitat areas for wildlife.

**Storyline C:** GPS collars are an important tool that biologist use to track elk and learn about their habitat selection, migration routes, sex and age characteristics, and calving success. Placed around the neck of an elk, the battery-powered transmitter emits a signal that is monitored by a radio receiver.

![Elk with GPS collar](image)

### Exh-C_4: Re-establishing Elk Herds
**Theme**: Elk herds in the Big Horn Mountains were almost exterminated in the early 1900s.

**Storyline A**: During the early 1900s, elk herds in the Big Horn Mountains were nearly exterminated due to hunting, predation, and severe winters. In 1909, efforts began to re-establish elk in this area.

**Storyline B**: Elk captured in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho were transported by railroad to Greybull, Manderson, and Sheridan, Wyoming, and then herded to the Big Horn Mountains and released. Horse-drawn wagons and sleighs were used to transport elk to railroad stations.

**Exh-C_5: Fire and Habitat Management**

**Theme**: Fire is important to the health of the wildlife habitat management area.

**Storyline A**: Fire has been around since the beginning of time and it is nature’s way of rejuvenating new growth. Fire is also necessary for biological diversity.

**Storyline B**: Fire is a natural occurrence in sagebrush grasslands and conifer forests. Prescribed burns are sometimes started by man to better control the outcomes. Habitat managers use fire to reduce sagebrush and juniper densities and allow increased growth of grasses and forbs. Fire is also used to promote new growth in aging sagebrush and aspen stands.

**Exh-C_6: Elk Facts**

**Theme**: Interesting facts about elk

**Storyline A**: Did you know?
- Elk are grazers and eat 12 pounds or more of forage per day
- Elk can run up to 35 miles per hour
- Females, called cows, live up to 22 years and begin breeding at 2.5 years old
- Males, called bulls, live up to 13 years and begin breeding at 1.5 years old
- The breeding season is called the “rut,” which happens in September and October
- An elk calf weighs about 30 pounds at birth and has spots to camouflage them in the stippled light in a forest
- The largest bull taken by a hunter in Wyoming (as of 2013) came from the Big Horn Mountains in 1890.

**Exh-C_7: Antlers and Ivories**

**Theme**: Interesting facts about elk antlers and ivories.

**Storyline A**: Only male elk have antlers. The antler is an extension of the frontal bone of an
elk’s skull. Bulls shed and grow a new set of antlers every year. A set of antlers on a mature bull can weigh up to 40 pounds.

**Storyline B:** While the antler is growing, it is covered by a thin layer of blood vessels and nerves called “velvet.” The velvet is shed in early fall as the bone hardens.

*Elk in velvet*

**Storyline C:** An elk’s top two canine teeth are called ivories. Scientists believe ivories are remnants of saber-like tusks that ancestral species of elk used in combat.

*Elk hide*

In addition, consideration should be given to developing a touch screen kiosk that includes videos, audio, and photographs of elk.

**Exh- C.8: What Elk Eat**

**Theme:** Elk primarily eat grasses and forbs.

**Storyline A:** An elk’s diet is primarily made up of grasses and forbs. During the winter months they will also forage on shrubs, tree bark, and twigs.

**Storyline B:** The common species of grasses, forbs, and woody plants in this area that elk eat include bluebunch wheatgrass, green needlegrass, bluegrasses, mountain brome, spike fescue, Idaho fescue, dandelion, sagebrush, mountain mahogany, and aspen.

**Interactive Exhibit Elements**

Exhibits within the Elk Cabin should include a variety of interactive elements that may include:

- Elk skin (hide)
- Radio color
- Antlers of varying sizes (from spike bull to mature six-by-six bull)
- Ivories (teeth)
- Cast of elk track
- Elk dropping vs. deer droppings
- Section of aspen showing bark stripped by elk
- Samples of plants that elk eat
RECOMMENDATIONS

Petroglyph Cliff Wayfinding Exhibit

Approach
This exhibit will provide orientation to the park, its trails, and key features. In addition, it will display site rules (Tread Lightly! principles), and an introduction to the site's rock art and archaeological significance.

Orientation Exhibit
Wayfinding exhibit's interpretive concepts, themes, and storylines are described below.

NOTE: This panel will be similar to the site orientation panel near the visitor center.

Storylines: Site map displaying the recreational and cultural resources at Medicine Lodge.

- Resources
  - Camping
  - Hiking
  - Fishing
  - Wildlife viewing
  - Rock art
  - Interpretive trails
  - Public land access

- Site features
  - Roadways
  - Buildings
  - Boundaries
  - Creeks

- Amenities
  - Picnic areas, campgrounds, hook-ups

Exh-D_2: Site Rules and Guidelines
Theme: Tread Lightly! Principles help guide the actions of visitors

Storyline A: Following the Tread Lightly! principles will help ensure that the natural resources that we have today are available for generations to come.

Travel Responsibly
- Stay on designated trails and roads.
- Observe trail designations and rules.

Respect the Rights of Others
- Be considerate of others' desire for solitude and a peaceful outdoor experience.
- Please keep your pets on a leash and clean up after them.

Educate Yourself
- Camp only in designated areas.
- Fireworks are prohibited.
- Discharge of firearms or other projectile devices is prohibited at all State Parks and Historic Sites.

View of petroglyph diff and possible location of orientation exhibit (yellow).

INTERPRETIVE THEMES AND STORYLINES
The orientation exhibit will include five primary interpretive themes:

- Site orientation
- Site rules
- Overview of site's cultural history
- Overview of petroglyphs and pictographs
- Overview of archaeological excavation projects and discoveries

The following is a description of the themes and storylines for each interpretive concept.

Exh-D_1: Site Orientation
Theme: Medicine Lodge offers numerous recreational resources and amenities.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Avoid Sensitive Areas
- Avoid disturbing historical and archaeological areas.
- Please help us ensure that this place will remain available and in good condition for future use.

Do Your Part
- Do not litter; place trash in designated containers.
- Pack out your recyclables.

Storyline B: Rock art and the landscapes in which they occur are extremely fragile. Don’t add graffiti or deface the images or the site. Even if others have been thoughtless enough to add their names or a message to the images, please don’t condone their actions by adding your own.

Exh_D_3: A Home for Ancient Cultures
Theme: The extensive timespan of human occupation at Medicine Lodge is largely attributed to the site’s geographic location.

Storyline A: Food, Water, Shelter
The abundance of plants and animals, a permanent source of water, and protective cliffs, provided the necessary food and resources for prehistoric cultures.

Storyline B: 10,000 Years of Occupation
Projectile points, stone tools, and radiocarbon dating of bones and charcoal from campfires, indicates that the site was occupied by Indian cultures during several eras.
- Paleoindian occupation: 10,000 years ago to about 8,000 years ago
- Archaic occupation: 8,000 to 1,500 years ago
- Late Prehistoric occupation: 1,500 – 150 years ago

Some evidence of early historic Crow Indian presence, including pottery shards and bone and shell artifacts, were also uncovered at the site.

Exh_D_4: Uncovering the Past
Theme: Archaeological discoveries at the site provide insight to the age of other archaeological sites in the region.

Storyline A: Uncovering the Past
Artifacts uncovered during the late 1960s lead to an eight-year archaeological project that started in 1968 and ended in 1976. The project involved the excavation of several trenches and pits to depths of more than 26 feet. Artifacts from the excavation project, including projectile points, tools, bones, ceramics, fire pits, and more, support archaeologists’ theories of human occupation at Medicine Lodge over the past 10,000 years.

Exh_D_5: Rock Art
Theme: Petroglyphs and pictographs found at Medicine Lodge are more than 2,500 years old.

Storyline A: Ancient Stories
Rock art images numbering in the hundreds are spread out over the 750-foot long sandstone cliff. It is one of several important...
archaeological sites found within the Big Horn Basin.

**Storyline B: Unknown Artists**
We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologists have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

**Storyline C: Pecked in Stone**
Many of the petroglyphs at appeared to be made using a fist-sized chunk of hard rock — with a sharp point on one side — to peck into the sandstone surface. This pecking removes the outer dark surface called varnish to expose the inner, lighter colored stone. Other figures were made by using a sharp stone to incise the rock surface.

**Storyline D: Painting Stories**
The red and black painted figures and shapes are called pictographs. Painted images include animals and human figures, and horses and riders. The red paint was made by combining hematite (a red iron oxide mineral) with wet binding agent, such as saliva or a plant extract. Charcoal was typically used to create the black colored pictographs.
Currently, there are no formal interpretive programs at Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site. On occasion, site staff will conduct pre-arranged and impromptu school tours, and informal tours at the request of visitors.

Consideration should be given to developing formal interpretive programs that promote the site and provide visitors the opportunity to explore and gain an understanding of the site’s history, archaeological discoveries, rock art, and the plants and wildlife found in and around the site. These programs should be available to all site visitors and should facilitate awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources of Medicine Lodge.

Some of the Wyoming Kids eXtreme activities and programs may be practical events for the site. These programs were developed to encourage youth and families to experience, explore, engage with and connect with Wyoming’s cultural and natural resources. eXtreme programs for the site may include the Junior Ranger and Junior Historian programs and the ORV Outreach program.

Examples of other interpretive programs for Medicine Lodge include:
- Campfire programs
- Guided nature hikes
  - Bird watching/identification
  - Wildlife of the park
  - Animal signs
  - Riparian habitat
  - Aquatic insects
  - Wildflower identification
- Archaeological tours
- Petroglyphs and pictographs tours
- Demonstrations and discussions
  - Making projectile points
  - Life 10,000 years ago
- Life as a park ranger

The comforting, relaxing, and informal qualities of campfire activities make many visitors especially receptive to promoting important messages, particularly ones concerning protection of the resources of the park. Campfire activities are fun as well as educational: they allow campers and staff to share stories and opinions.

All programs should include information about protecting and preserving the site. Examples of these messages would be:
- Awareness of vandalism to rock art
- Why it is wrong to inscribe names or peck symbols into the rock
- How oils from our hands damage rock art
- How fragile some habitats are
- Importance of managing habitat for wildlife

Any group participating in a program may include adults or children with disabilities. Disabilities may include hearing impaired, learning disabilities, mobility or visual impairments, or limited English proficiency. Be sure to ask about any special needs that may affect the presentation of your program or present an emergency situation.

Off-site Interpretive Programs

Off-site interpretive programs can extend park interpretation into local communities. These programs enable park staff and docents to share their interests, skills, and knowledge with people in the surrounding community that are unable to visit the site. Off-site interpretive programs can take many forms, such as workshops, classes, talks, A/V programs, and demonstrations. Older adults, people with disabilities, and school children make ideal audiences for off-site interpretive programs. Presentations made to these groups also help build community support for the park.
Design Guidelines

Adherence to high-quality design standards is critical to the success of interpretive media. Visitors are more inclined to read signage if the content is presented clearly, aesthetically, and professionally.

These guidelines should be used to define standards and maintain consistency in the development of interpretive media. They should be adhered to throughout media-development phases.

- All panels should be fabricated of similar materials.
- All interpretive media should blend harmoniously with the interior and exterior environments, using design elements consistent with state park guidelines.
- Interpretive media must adhere to ADA standards for accessible design.
- Graphics for all media should be consistent, i.e., produced by the same artist and graphic designer, and follow a consistent design theme.
- Signage and mounting systems should be structurally sound, requiring minimal maintenance and attendance.
- Panel designs and materials used should minimize the risk of vandalism and/or other types of damage.
- Narrative text, labels, captions, and artwork for information displays should be developed utilizing the goals, objectives, and storylines outlined in this plan.

Materials, colors, and textures in exhibits and designs should suit the region and setting. While guidelines for the development of interpretive panels are stated in this section, innovative presentation techniques and media are encouraged, as appropriate for Medicine Lodge. The location of panels should consider traffic-flow patterns, visitor habits, and accessibility.

Helpful Hints for Media Design

The following are some basic guidelines and helpful hints for the preparation and design of interpretive media.

Captions
Captions for graphics can be used to meet interpretive objectives and to capture the theme. Some visitors look only at graphics, so the graphic and its caption can provide a learning opportunity.

Color and Contrast
Use contrasting colors for text and background to make reading easier.

Branding
Incorporate the appropriate state historic site branding on all signs, brochures, and other materials.

Layout/Design
In general, signs should contain 1/3 graphics, 1/3 text, and 1/3 blank space.

Margins
Margins on text should be aligned on the left.

Mounting Height
A mounting height of 24 to 30 inches, with a 30- to 45-degree angle toward the viewer, will be accessible to most visitors and meet ADA guidelines.
Site Compatibility
Make sure each sign is compatible with the site in terms of color, size, mounting, and material. Each sign should enhance the site, not detract from it.

Simplicity
The main body of the text should be no more than two paragraphs consisting of three or four short sentences each. Keep the main text body to 150 words or less. The word count for the entire panel should not exceed 300 words.
SUMMARIES

Summary of Products and Actions
The following is a summation of the action items and products proposed in this interpretive plan. Each of these items is described in greater detail in the Recommendations section of this document. This list is designed to help develop the implementation schedule, short-term priorities, assignment of responsibilities, and cost estimates. It is important to note that the following list deals specifically with actions and products related directly to information, orientation, and interpretation of the site. It does not provide direction on how to design panels or exhibits at Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site.

ADA Compliance
All exhibits within and around interpretive buildings should conform to ADA guidelines for the design and display of interpretive exhibits. Trailside panels should also follow these guidelines.

Site Entrance
Visitors arriving at the site entrance should receive basic information (including the official site brochure) and be encouraged to make the visitor center their first stop. Material at the entrance kiosk should include orientation to the site as well as information on key resources, amenities, interpretive programs, activities, regulations, and safety. All information at the entrance kiosk should be reviewed for accuracy and content.

Printed Material
The site’s printed material should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they remain accurate, appropriate, and current, including all trail guides and wildlife and plant lists. The site brochure should be redesigned in order to meet current State Site branding guidelines, correct inconsistent dates and terms, and update content where needed. Consideration should be given to removing specific availability and contact information about the publication "Medicine Lodge Creek: Holocene Archaeology of the Eastern Big Horn Basin" that may become obsolete.

Petroglyph Cliff Guide Brochure
The extensive number of petroglyphs and the overlaying of images make it difficult to distinguish many of the rock art images. Consideration should be given to developing a guide brochure describing some of the key petroglyph panels along the cliff. Interpretive markers placed at key points along the cliff would correlate to information on the guide (to be developed). The trailside markers will be short wooden posts, approximately 12-inches in height, and be designed to blend in with the landscape. The guide may be used to visually separate some of the extensive layering of petroglyphs and would help visitors better understand the magnitude of rock art at the site.

Web
SPHST should continue to enhance its web site, especially the descriptive text and visual media for Medicine Lodge, as well as other state parks and historic sites, in order to reach a larger and more diverse audience. Various types of downloadable information should be developed so the people can place the media onto their MP3 and mobile devices for use at home, on the road, or when they get to the park.

Visitor Center Exhibits
Approach and Exterior
A site orientation panel (based on the site panel in the petroglyph cliff wayfinding exhibit) should be located near the entrance to the visitor center. This sign includes a map of the site highlighting camping areas, trails, petroglyph trail, headquarters, corals, access points to the habitat management area, and other key features and amenities. Site rules (Tread Lightly!) may be included on this sign.

The cabin should have proper signage identifying it as the visitor center. This sign should be clearly visible from the parking
area and walkway leading up to the visitor center.

Approach and Exterior
Proper signage indicating the Natural History Cabin has interpretive media should be prominently displayed on the building.

Interior Exhibits
New interior exhibits should be developed following the interpretive concepts and design guideline outlined in this plan. In addition, consideration should be given to including interactive elements within the exhibit such as flip-up panels, elk skins, antlers, and a skull.

MEDICINE LODGE DEER TRAIL
Prior to the next reprinting of the brochure, the trail guide should be carefully reviewed for any necessary corrections or updates related to changes in the trail or natural features along the trail.

MEDICINE LODGE NATURE TRAIL
Prior to the next reprinting of the brochure, the trail guide should be carefully reviewed for any necessary corrections or updated related to changes in the trail or natural features along the trail.

STREAMSIDE SIGN
The aquatic insects sign beside Medicine Lodge Creek shows signs of weathering and cracking and should be replaced. If possible, the stream should be redirected back to its previous channel location near the signs platform.

ELK CABIN EXHIBITS
The content of the four interpretive signs located along the rock art trail in front of the sandstone cliff should be replaced and incorporated in the Petroglyph Cliff Wayfinding Exhibit.

- Overview of site’s cultural history
- Overview of petroglyphs and pictographs
- Overview of archaeological excavation projects and discoveries

10,000 YR. TIME PERIOD SIGNS
There are 16 ground level signs referencing historic events that correlate to the site’s 10,000 years of human occupation. The condition and position of signs in this exhibit should be evaluated.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA SIGN
The Wyoming Game and Fish sign, which was installed in 1994, shows considerable weathering and cracking and should be replaced. Content should be carefully reviewed for any necessary updates prior to being replaced.

PETROGLYPH CLIFF WAYFINDING EXHIBIT
When funding is available, an orientation exhibit should be constructed near the parking area in front of the petroglyph cliff. Interpretive signs in this exhibit would include a site map showing trails and key site resources and features, as well as general information about the petroglyphs and archaeological projects and discoveries. The kiosk should be low profile as to not obstruct the view of the petroglyph cliff. Signs in this exhibit would replace the signs currently positioned along the petroglyph trail. The orientation exhibit will include five primary interpretive themes:
- Site orientation
- Site rules

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS
Formal and informal interpretive programs should be developed that promote the site and provide visitors the opportunity to explore and gain an understanding of the site’s history, archaeological discoveries, rock art, and the plants and wildlife found in and around the site. Programs that should be considered include guided tours, campfire talks, nature walks, archaeological tours, demonstrations, and possible off-site presentations.
## Cost Estimates

Cost estimates based on the designs and concepts described in the interpretive and exhibit plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exhibit Display #</th>
<th>Panel / Display</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Mounting Style</th>
<th>Dev / Design Cost</th>
<th>Fab Cost (or printing)</th>
<th>Mounting / Hardware Costs</th>
<th>Installation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_1</td>
<td>Site Orientation sign (based on Exh-D_1)</td>
<td>26&quot; x 20&quot;</td>
<td>Pedestal mount</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_2</td>
<td>Moved to Exh-D_1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_3</td>
<td>Site History panel</td>
<td>18&quot; x 26&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_3b</td>
<td>Replica projectile points display</td>
<td>14&quot;W x 9&quot;D</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_4</td>
<td>Archaeological Discovery panel</td>
<td>18&quot; x 26&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_5</td>
<td>Dig Site (tall side panel)</td>
<td>14&quot; x 72&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
<td>$275.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_5b</td>
<td>Excavation Display</td>
<td>7'H x 3'D</td>
<td>Free-standing</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_6</td>
<td>10,000 Years Occupation</td>
<td>84&quot; x 16&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$325.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_6b</td>
<td>Projectile point display case w/ labels (Base built by SP)</td>
<td>72&quot;W x 32&quot;H x 18&quot;D</td>
<td>Free-standing</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_7</td>
<td>Rock Art</td>
<td>18&quot; x 26&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_8</td>
<td>Unsolved Mystery</td>
<td>18&quot; x 26&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_9</td>
<td>Pecked in Stone</td>
<td>18&quot; x 26&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_10</td>
<td>Look, But Don’t Peck</td>
<td>20&quot; x 16&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_11</td>
<td>Wyoming Rock Art</td>
<td>26&quot; x 18&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_12</td>
<td>Touchscreen Kiosk (FUTURE DEVELOPMENT)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Free-standing kiosk</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_12-b</td>
<td>Kiosk hardware (FUTURE DEVELOPMENT)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Free-standing kiosk</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_13</td>
<td>Grinding Stone/Plants Display Case</td>
<td>30&quot; x 20&quot;</td>
<td>Free-standing</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A_14</td>
<td>Exhibit Intropanel</td>
<td>72&quot;H x 30&quot;D</td>
<td>Free-standing</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_1a</td>
<td>Geology panel A</td>
<td>18&quot; x 26&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_1b</td>
<td>Geology panel B</td>
<td>14&quot; x 18&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_1c</td>
<td>Geology rocks display (Built by SP, mounting plate by CPR)</td>
<td>30&quot;W x 18&quot;D</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_2a</td>
<td>Diverse Habitats panel</td>
<td>30&quot; x 12&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_2b</td>
<td>Alkali, Foothill- scrub, grassland, riparian zones panels (2 panels)</td>
<td>20&quot; x 30&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$425.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_3a</td>
<td>Columbine to Cactus panel</td>
<td>18&quot; x 24&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_3b</td>
<td>Forbs panel</td>
<td>16&quot; x 18&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_3c</td>
<td>Grasses panel</td>
<td>16&quot; x 18&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_3d</td>
<td>Trees panel A</td>
<td>9&quot; 12&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_3e</td>
<td>Trees panel B</td>
<td>9&quot; 12&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_3f</td>
<td>Trees panel C</td>
<td>9&quot; 12&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_3g</td>
<td>Trees panel D</td>
<td>9&quot; 12&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_3h</td>
<td>Roots, Shoot, Berries panel</td>
<td>36&quot; x 14&quot;</td>
<td>Pedestal mount</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_4a</td>
<td>Watchable Wildlife panel</td>
<td>18&quot; x 24&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_4b</td>
<td>Mammals panel</td>
<td>15&quot; x 18&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_4c</td>
<td>Birds panel</td>
<td>15&quot; x 18&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_4d</td>
<td>Reptiles/Amphibians panel</td>
<td>15&quot; x 18&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-B_4e</td>
<td>Tracks and Scat panel</td>
<td>36&quot; x 14&quot;</td>
<td>Pedestal mount</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-C_1</td>
<td>Habitat Management Area</td>
<td>40&quot; x 30&quot;</td>
<td>Floor posts mount</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-C_2a</td>
<td>What is a Wildlife Habitat Management Area?</td>
<td>30&quot; x 18&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-C_2b</td>
<td>Food Water Shelter panel</td>
<td>18&quot; x 20&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-C_3</td>
<td>Managing Wildlife Habitat</td>
<td>30&quot; x 18&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-C_4</td>
<td>Re-establishing Elk Herds</td>
<td>18&quot; x 20&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-C_5</td>
<td>Fire and Habitat Management</td>
<td>18&quot; x 20&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-C_6</td>
<td>Elk Facts</td>
<td>36&quot; x 14&quot;</td>
<td>Pedestal mount</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-C_7</td>
<td>Antlers and Ivory</td>
<td>18&quot; x 24&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-C_8</td>
<td>What Elk Eat</td>
<td>18&quot; x 24&quot;</td>
<td>Wall mount</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-D_1</td>
<td>Site Orientation sign</td>
<td>26&quot; x 20&quot;</td>
<td>Pedestal mount</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-D_2</td>
<td>TreadLightly- site rules and guidelines</td>
<td>26&quot; x 20&quot;</td>
<td>Pedestal mount</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-D_3</td>
<td>Home for Ancient Cultures</td>
<td>26&quot; x 20&quot;</td>
<td>Pedestal mount</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-D_4</td>
<td>Uncovering the Past</td>
<td>26&quot; x 20&quot;</td>
<td>Pedestal mount</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-D_5</td>
<td>Rock Art</td>
<td>26&quot; x 20&quot;</td>
<td>Pedestal mount</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Art Brochure</td>
<td>Petroglyph Cliff Guide Brochure (printing: 1000)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh_E</td>
<td>10,000 yrs. Period Signs</td>
<td>In-ground</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$650.00</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh_F</td>
<td>Deer Path Trail (Update trail brochure &amp; printing: 1000)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh_G</td>
<td>Nature Trail (Update trail brochure &amp; printing: 1000)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh_H</td>
<td>Streamside Exhibit</td>
<td>30&quot; x 20&quot;</td>
<td>Pedestal mount</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Subtotals (1): | $51,000.00 | $17,345.00 | $5,925.00 | $3,325.00 |
| Production (subtotals): | $77,595.00 |
| Travel & Expenses | $2,100.00 |
| TOTAL: | $79,695.00 |
APPENDIX A: Interpretive Exhibit Locations
Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site

Visitor Center and Cabins
Exhibit Design Plan
This Exhibit Design overview document is for interpretive exhibits at Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site. It is the intent of this document to provide detailed information about the design intent for each exhibit display component, quantity of each interpretive element, and fabrication requirements as best understood at this time.

Placement of each element on the floor plan will be suggested, but exact placement will not be determined until construction of the exhibition.

Exhibit Interpretive Plan Scope:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>EXHIBIT DISPLAY (Visitor Center)</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
<th>NUM</th>
<th>EXHIBIT DISPLAY (Nature Cabin)</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exh- A-1</td>
<td>Site Orientation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Exh-B-1</td>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-2</td>
<td>Tread Lightly!</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Exh-B-2</td>
<td>Diverse Habitats</td>
<td>18-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-3</td>
<td>Site History</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Exh-B-3</td>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>20-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-4</td>
<td>Archaeological Discovery</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Exh-B-4</td>
<td>Wildlife</td>
<td>22-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-5</td>
<td>Dig Site</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-6</td>
<td>10,000 Years Occupation</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-7</td>
<td>Rock Art</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Exh-C-1</td>
<td>ML Wildlife Habitat Management Area</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-8</td>
<td>Unsolved Mystery</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Exh-C-2</td>
<td>What is a Wildlife Habitat Management Area?</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-9</td>
<td>Pecked in Stone</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Exh-C-3</td>
<td>Managing Wildlife Habitat</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-10</td>
<td>Look, But Don’t Peck</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Exh-C-4</td>
<td>Re-establishing Elk Herds</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-11</td>
<td>Wyoming Rock Art</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Exh-C-5</td>
<td>Fire and Habitat Management</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-12</td>
<td>Touchscreen Kiosk</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Exh-C-6</td>
<td>Elk Facts</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-13</td>
<td>Welcome Intro</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Exh-C-7</td>
<td>Antlers and Ivories</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exh-A-14</td>
<td>Grinding Stone/Plants</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Exh-C-8</td>
<td>What Elk Eat</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Site Plan: Visitor Center

Visitor Center Exhibit Layout

Outside Displays
- Exh-A-1: Site Orientation
- Exh-A-2: Tread Lightly!

Inside Displays
- Exh-A-3: Site History
- Exh-A-4: Archaeological Discovery
- Exh-A-5: Dig Site
- Exh-A-6: 10,000 Years Occupation
- Exh-A-7: Rock Art
- Exh-A-8: Unsolved Mystery
- Exh-A-9: Pecked in Stone
- Exh-A-10: Look, But Don’t Peck
- Exh-A-12: Touchscreen Kiosk
- Exh-A-13: Grinding Stone/Plants
- Exh-A-14: Welcome Intro
Exh-A_1: Site Orientation
Storylines: Site map displaying the primary recreational and cultural resources at Medicine Lodge.

Exh-A_2: Tread Lightly!
Storylines: Following the Tread Lightly! principles will help ensure that the natural resources that we have today are available for generations to come.

Exhibit Notes
Panels are 1/8” exterior HPL sign (24” x 18”), matte finish. Pedestals are in-ground frame style with center of panels at 31” height.
Exh-A-3: Site History

Storylines: B. F. Wickwire originally homesteaded the land that is now Medicine Lodge and the area surrounding it during the late 1890s.

Harry and Sadie Taylor acquired the Wickwire property. In 1972, they sold the ranch to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. This transaction established the Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

In 1973, Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, & Trails entered into a cooperative agreement with the Game and Fish Commission to maintain and administer a small portion of the habitat area, which became Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site.

Exhibit Notes

HPL interior panel 18” x 26”, matte finish. Wall mounted tactile display of projectile points (reproductions).
Exh-A_4: Archaeological Discovery

Storylines: The existence of petroglyphs and pictographs at Medicine Lodge has been known for a long time. But it was not until an archaeological investigation was initiated in 1968 that the true significance of the site started to come to light.

Based on stone artifacts collected at the site by Stuart Conner, the University of Wyoming initiated an archaeological investigation that started in 1968 and ended in 1976. The project involved the excavation of several trenches and pits to depths of more than 26 feet.

The project led to the discovery of more than 60 cultural levels spanning 10,000 years of human occupation. It uncovered a wealth of artifacts from the Paleoindian, Archaic, and Late Prehistoric Periods — 10,000 years before present to around 150 years ago.

Exhibit Notes

HPL interior panel 18” x 26”, matte finish.
Exh-A_5: Uncovering the Past

Storylines: In archaeology, excavation projects involve complex 3D grids outlining exact excavation areas. This detailed mapping allows archaeologists to precisely identify where each artifact is found.

Archaeological digs involve slow, tedious work to remove layers of sediment. Once an artifact is found, uncovering it may require working with hand trowels and even small picks and brushes.

There were three primary areas of excavation located along the sandstone cliff bearing the rock art. Several of the excavation units were so deep that they required cut steps to remove the soil. Some of the pits were as deep as 26 feet.

Exhibit Notes

HPL interior panel 14” x 18”, matte finish. Vertical panel on right is 14” x 72” with information related to dig site discoveries at varying depths. Corner display is reproduction of excavation wall with artifacts in place (with reproductions of labels). Discovered artifacts on acrylic display shelves will be mounted to the excavation walls. Excavation tool may also be included within this display.
Exh-A_6: 10,000 Years of Occupation

Storylines: The existence of prehistoric cultures at Medicine Lodge is largely attributed to the diverse habitats surrounding the site. Several vegetation zones exist in the surrounding canyons and mountains. These habitats supported an abundance of plants and animals, which in turn provided the necessary food and resources for prehistoric cultures.

The Archaic period is divided into three time spans: Early (8,000 – 5,000 years before present or BP)), Middle (5,000 – 3,500 years BP), and Late (3,500 – 1,500 years BP).

The Late Prehistoric culture layers, 1,500 – 150 years old, revealed numerous projectile points and tools, along with fire hearths, rock-lined pits, bone and shell ornaments, and trash heaps filled with animal bones.

Exhibit Notes

HPL interior panel (84” x 16”) with matte finish. Artifacts from the extensive collection of projectile points and tools discovered at the site will be displayed within the exhibit case with description labels.

Display case dimensions (base) are 72” W x 32”H x 18”D. The acrylic cover will be secured with tamper resistant screws.
Exh-A_7: Rock Art

Storylines: Petroglyphs and pictographs often preserve the only known records created by our human predecessors. The rock art found here at Medicine Lodge, some possibly as old as 2,500 years, have barely withstood the effects of time and weather.

Almost every manufacturing technique and figure type documented in the rock art of the northwestern plains is found at medicine Lodge.

Petroglyphs and pictographs may mean something different to each person who sees them. Regardless of our interpretations, it stimulates our thoughts, imaginations, and expands our awareness of cultural expressions. Archaeological sites such as Medicine Lodge should be treated with the utmost care and respect in order to preserve their value for all people.

Exhibit Notes

HPL interior panel 18” x 26”, matte finish.
Exh-A_8: Unsolved Mystery

Storylines: In most instances it is difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain the age of rock art figures. Several techniques were used to develop a relative chronology. These include dating methods such as: degree of weathering, superimposition analysis, stylistic analysis, subject matter, and inter-site patterning.

We will never know exactly who created the petroglyphs at Medicine Lodge, but archaeologist and anthropologist have developed some interesting theories on the subject. Evidence suggests that manufacture of rock art at Medicine Lodge began around 2,500 years ago, during the Late Archaic period and continued to around 150 years ago. The ancestors of Native Americans, who have lived in this region for hundreds of years, created some of the more recent petroglyphs found at the site.

Exhibit Notes

HPL interior panel 18” x 26”, matte finish.
Exh-A_9: Pecked in Stone

Storylines: Petroglyphs were made using a fist-sized chunk of hard rock — with a sharp point on one side — to peck into the sandstone surface. Other figures were made by using a sharp stone to incise the rock surface. Researchers have divided the petroglyphs into various manufactured styles. These styles include:

- Zoomorphic types or styles
- Anthropomorphic types or styles
- Euro-American graffiti
- Abstract designs

The red and black painted figures and shapes are called pictographs. Painted images include animals and human figures, and horses and riders.

Petroglyphs and the landscapes in which they occur are extremely fragile. Once damaged, these cultural resources are irreparably lost.

Exhibit Notes

HPL interior panel 18” x 26”, matte finish.
Exh-A_10: Look, But Don’t Peck

Storylines: Don’t add graffiti or otherwise deface the images or the site. Even if others have been thoughtless enough to add their names or a message to the images, please don’t condone their actions by adding your own.

Remember that on public lands, defacing the site is illegal.

The defacing of rock art sites is not unlike placing graffiti on public buildings, sculptures, churches, gravestones, or other structures and objects.

Graffiti or art? Effort has been made to remove all graffiti believed to have been carved in the sandstone since 1988.

Exhibit Notes
HPL interior panel 20” x 16”, matte finish.
Storylines: For thousands of years, Wyoming’s mountains, plains, and high plateaus have been home to numerous indigenous cultures. The many petroglyphs and pictographs they left behind illustrate this diversity. Coming from so many different cultures, the rock art at Medicine Lodge is a truly unique and significant cultural resource.

Map of Wyoming identifying and describing other major rock art sites.

Exhibit Notes

HPL interior panel 26” x 18”, matte finish.
Exh-A_12: Touchscreen Kiosk

Storylines: TBD (Future exhibit component)

Exhibit Notes
Kiosk (19” touchscreen) display within a freestanding enclosure. Requires electrical outlet to be located near the kiosk.
**Exh-A_13: Exhibit Introduction Panel**

**Storylines:** Introduction sign to exhibit.

**Exhibit Notes**

Freestanding triangular display with one concave side. Height is approximately 72 inches. Historic images or photos of the petroglyphs and/or pictographs may be mounted onto the two sides of the display.
Storylines: Archaeologists found evidence of stone tools, called “manos” and “metates,” designed specifically for the preparation of plant foods. Remarkably, these same tools—or variations of them—are still used today in cultures around the world.

Plants were not only a source of food; they were also used for medicinal and ceremonial practices.

Exhibit Notes
Display case showing mano and metate with native grains and nuts. Display also include drawers on two sides that contain native plants that were an important source of food and medicine for Indian cultures.
Site Plan: Nature Cabin

Nature Cabin Exhibit Layout

Displays
- Exh-B-1
- Exh-B-2
- Exh-B-3
- Exh-B-4

Topics
- Geology
- Diverse Habitats
- Plants
- Wildlife
Exh-B_1: Geology

Storylines: Medicine Lodge is located at the eastern edge of the Bighorn Basin in the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains. The Bighorn Basin is bounded by the Absaroka Range on the west, the Bighorn Mountains on the east, and the Owl Creek Mountains and Bridger Mountains on the south.

These mountains were uplifted during the Laramide orogeny, a period of mountain building in western North America, which started in the Late Cretaceous 70 million years ago and ended 35 to 55 million years ago. During this event, tremendous pressures within the earth caused major folding and uplifting, resulting in the formation of the Rocky Mountains.

Rocks are naturally occurring material consisting of various minerals. They are classified by mineral composition, how they were formed, and other physical attributes such as texture. The three main types, or classes, of rock are sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous.

Exhibit Notes

Display includes 18” x 26” panel (right), 14” x 18” panel (left), and samples of sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rocks.

Panel material is HPL, 1/2” thick, internal signs with matte finish.
**Exh-B_2: Diverse Habitats**

Storylines: Four distinct vegetation zones, including alkali, foothills–scrub, grassland-sagebrush, and riparian, are found at Medicine Lodge. These environments, in conjunction with the availability of water, provide shelter, food, and living space for a wide variety of animals.

The alkali zone is found along the western border of the site. It is characterized by small rolling hills and sparse vegetation. Saltbush and greasewood are most common, with scattered patches of prickly pear cactus and yucca.

The foothills-scrub zone extends east of Medicine Lodge Canyon for approximately two miles. This area is rough and rocky with a 1,000-foot rise in elevation. Juniper and mountain mahogany line the slopes of the arroyos, with forbs and shrubs on the arroyo bottoms. This zone is interspersed with grasslands and shrublands along the ridgetops between arroyos.

**Exhibit Notes**

This display consists of an overview panel (32” x 16”) and four panels (18” x 26”) with content specific to each vegetation zone. HPL material with interior matte finish.
Exh-B_2: Diverse Habitats (cont.)

Storylines: Two extensive grassland-sagebrush zones exist both west and east of Medicine Lodge Canyon. Elevation of this zone ranges from around 4,800 feet to 6,800 feet. The most common grasses are cheatgrass and needle-and-thread, with clumps of wheatgrasses, wildrye, and Indian ricegrass. Big sagebrush, yucca, and prickly pear cactus are the most abundant non-grass species.

The riparian zone is located along Medicine Lodge Creek. Cottonwood trees and mountain mahogany, along with chokecherry, willows, boxelder, wild rose, and clematis vine, are commonly found along the creek.

Exhibit Notes

This display consists of an overview panel (32” x 16”) and four panels (18” x 26”) with content specific to each vegetation zone. HPL material with interior matte finish.
Exh-B_3: Plants

Storylines: Elevation within a 12-mile radius of Medicine Lodge ranges from 4,000 feet to more than 13,000 feet at the top of Cloud Peak. Six distinct vegetation zones, from desert to alpine, exist within this area. Plant life varies from cactus, to Indian ricegrass, cattails, junipers, and pinyon pine.

Blooming wildflowers can be found in this area throughout the spring and summer months. In lower elevations, flowers begin blooming in the spring, while plants on the alpine tundra show their colors during the summer months.

One of the most familiar plants are grasses. The seeds of various grasses are an important food source to small animals, such as chipmunks and mice. Taller species of grasses provide cover during the winter and are habitat for a variety of ground-nesting birds and small mammals.

Exhibit Notes

Display includes eight HPL panels, matte finish:
- 4 - 9” x 12”
- 2 - 16” x 18”
- 1 - 18” x 26”
- 1 - 36” x 14”
Exh-B_3: Plants (cont.)

Storylines: Four species of trees commonly in and around the park area include aspen, cottonwood, juniper, and .

Availability and abundance of plants was key to the survival of Indians. Plants were not only a source of food; they were also used for medicinal and ceremonious practices.

Exhibit Notes

Sections of logs (tactile interactive) from four species of trees found in the area will be mounted onto the wall.

Pedestal is constructed of 1/8” aluminum with panel mounting bracket set at 30 degrees angle, complying with ADA viewing standards.
Storylines: Wildlife viewing is a pastime that can be enjoyed in any season and by any age group. Several species of mammals are commonly seen at the site, including mule deer, jackrabbits, cottontail rabbits, foxes, coyotes, marmots, prairie dogs, and bats.

More than 100 species of birds have also been identified in the riparian habitat along Medicine Lodge Creek and in the surrounding grasslands and shrublands.

A variety of reptiles are found at Medicine Lodge including the prairie rattlesnake, bullsnake, gartersnake, and the northern sagebrush lizard. The only amphibians found at the site are tiger salamanders and northern leopard frogs.

Exhibit Notes
Display includes five HPL panels, matte finish:
• 3 - 15” x 18”
• 1 - 18” x 24”
• 1 - 36” x 14”

This display area is ideal for additional tactile elements such as animal pelts, antlers, or skulls.
Storylines: An exciting part of outdoor lore is learning to identify an animal’s track and scat. These signs can help identify which animals are present in an area and even determine what they are eating.

Identifying animal tracks and sign can open up an unseen world, a window into the lives of shy and elusive animals.

A common animal sign that is often ignored is scat, also called droppings. Predator scat often contains large amounts of hair and bone from prey. Rabbit and other herbivore scat usually contain only plant material.

**Exhibit Notes**

This pedestal-mounted panel includes two flip-up interactives. Pedestal is constructed of 1/8" aluminum with panel mounting bracket set at 30 degrees angle, complying with ADA viewing standards.
Displays | Topics
--- | ---
Exh-C-1 | Habitat Management Area
Exh-C-2 | What is A Wildlife Habitat Management Area?
Exh-C-3 | Managing Wildlife Habitat
Exh-C-4 | Re-establishing Elk Herds
Exh-C-5 | Fire and Habitat Management
Exh-C-6 | Elk Facts
Exh-C-7 | Antlers and Ivories
Exh-C-8 | What Elk Eat
Exhibit perspective

Exh-C_1: Wildlife Habitat Management Area

Storylines: In 1972, Harry and Sadie Taylor sold their 12,100-acre ranch to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to ensure adequate winter range for elk herds in this region of the Bighorn Mountains. This transaction marked the establishment of the Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

Elevations with the management area vary from 4,000 feet to almost 9,000 feet, with canyons and steep walls along West and Dry Medicine Lodge Creeks. A wide variety of plant communities exist here, ranging from deciduous trees and shrubs in the canyons, to grasslands and shrublands, to aspens and conifers at higher elevations.

The primary management objective is to maintain adequate amounts of available winter forage for elk. This practice also benefits a variety of other wildlife species and insures protection of the riparian area along the Wet Fork of Medicine Lodge Creek.

Exhibit Notes

This 40” x 30” panel is mounted on two six foot posts. The panel is attached to the post with two-inch wide metal bands.
**Exh-C _2: What is A Wildlife Habitat Management Area?**

Storylines: Wildlife habitat management areas are geographic areas managed to provide food, shelter, water, and space for wildlife. Each area, or unit, is managed by Wyoming Game and Fish according to a primary objective or species, but it also supports other wildlife species found in the area.

There are two wildlife habitat management areas on the western slope of the Big Horn Mountains, the Renner and the Medicine Lodge areas. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department manages 34 wildlife habitat areas in the state, totaling more than 400,000 acres. These areas are vital to maintaining healthy populations of animals, especially elk, deer, and antelope.

More than 1,000 elk winter on these lands, which provide excellent hunting opportunities in the fall. Sage and blue grouse, chukars, Hungarian partridge, rabbits, and squirrels are also commonly found here.

**Exhibit Notes**

Display consists of a 30” x 18” panel and an 18” x 20” panel. Both panel are interior, matte finished HPL material.
Exh- C _3: Managing Wildlife Habitat

Storylines: Managing the Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Areas requires the skills and cooperation of a variety of people including game wardens, biologists, ecologists, habitat and range specialists, public information officers, professors, volunteers, ranchers, and outdoorsmen.

Hunting is a management tool that allows both the herd and the habitat to sustain a healthy balance. Too many animals can over-utilize their habitat resulting in too little forage for winter use, which can lead to starvation. The purchase of fishing and hunting licenses provides a major portion of the budget needed to maintain healthy habitat areas for wildlife.

Radio collars are an important tools that biologist use to track elk and learn about their population numbers, migration routes, sex and age characteristics, and calving success. Placed around the neck of an elk, the battery-powered transmitter emits a signal monitored by a radio receiver.

Exhibit Notes
This display includes one 30” x 18” panel and two 18” x 20” panels. Other tactile elements displayed are elk antlers, elk skin, and a radio collar (secured to the wall with tamperproof cable).
**Exh- C_4: Re-establishing Elk Herds**

Storylines: During the early 1900s, elk herds in the Big Horn Mountains were nearly exterminated due to hunting, predation, and severe winters. In 1909, efforts began to re-establish elk in this area.

Elk captured in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho were transported by railcar to Greybull, Manderson, and Sheridan, Wyoming, and then herded to the Big Horn Mountains and released. Horse-drawn wagons and sleighs were used to transport elk to railroad stations.

**Exhibit Notes**

This display includes one 30” x 18” panel and two 18” x 20” panels. Other tactile elements displayed are elk antlers, elk skin, and a radio collar (secured to the wall with tamperproof cable).
Exh- C_5: Fire and Habitat Management

Storylines: Fire has been around since the beginning of time and it is nature’s way of rejuvenating new growth. Fire is also necessary for biological diversity.

Historically, wild fires occur every 30 to 60 years. Fire in nature is unpredictable, so prescribed burns are set by man to help speed nature along. Habitat managers use fire to reduce sagebrush and juniper densities and allow increased growth of grasses and forbs. Fire is also used to promote new growth in aging sagebrush and aspen stands.

Areas within the wildlife habitat management area are being treated with prescribed fire on a rotational basis to approximate natural fire cycles. These burns are designed to create a mosaic of forage areas and cover.

Exhibit Notes

This display includes one 30” x 18” panel and two 18” x 20” panels. Other tactile elements displayed are elk antlers, elk skin, and a radio collar (secured to the wall with tamperproof cable).
**Exh- C_6: Elk Facts**

Storylines: Did you know?
- Elk eat 12 pounds or more of forage per day
- Elk are grazers and mostly eat grasses
- Elk can run up to 35 miles per hour
- Females, called cows, live up to 22 years and begin breeding at 2.5 years old
- Males, called bulls, live up to 13 years and begin breeding at 1.5 years old
- The breeding season is called the “rut,” which happens in September and October
- An elk calf weighs about 30 pounds at birth
- The largest bull taken by a hunter (as of 2013) came from the Big Horn Mountains in 1890.

**Exhibit Notes**

This pedestal-mounted panel is 36” x 14” HPL interior sign with a matte finish. Pedestal is constructed of 1/8” aluminum with panel mounting bracket set at 30 degrees angle, complying with ADA viewing standards.
Exh- C_7: Antlers and Ivories

Storylines: Only male elk have antlers. The antler is an extension of the frontal bone of an elk’s skull. Bulls shed and grow a new set of antlers every year. A set of antlers on a mature bull can weigh up to 40 pounds.

While the antler is growing, it is covered by a thin layer of blood vessels and nerves called “velvet.” The velvet is shed in early fall as the bone hardens.

An elk’s top two canine teeth are called ivories. Scientists believe ivories are remnants of saber-like tusks that ancestral species of elk used in combat.

Exhibit Notes
Panel is an 18” x 24” matte finished HPL sign.
Exh- C_8: What Elk Eat

Storylines: An elk’s diet is primarily made up of grasses and forbs. During the winter months they will also forage on shrubs, tree bark, and twigs.

The common species of grasses, forbs, and shrubs in this area that elk eat include thickspike wheatgrass, green needlegrass, Canadian bluegrass, mountain broomgrass, spike fescue, Idaho fescue, sagebrush, and mountain mahogany.

Exhibit Notes
Panel is an 18” x 24” matte finished HPL sign.