



City of Steamboat Springs Cultural Heritage Interpretive Plan
Stockbridge Park Interpretive Master Plan

Approved and Adopted by the Steamboat Springs City Council
May 15, 2007



City of Steamboat Springs
Cultural Heritage Interpretive Plan

Stockbridge Park
Ranching Heritage Master Plan

Prepared by:
Noble Erickson Inc

Interpretive Planning Team
Noble Erickson Inc
Shapins Associates
Post Modern Company



Cover Art: Robert C. Dieckhoff

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		iv - v
INTRODUCTION	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
	PURPOSE OF INTERPRETIVE PLAN	2
	VISION OF INTERPRETIVE PLAN	2
	GOALS OF INTERPRETIVE PLAN	2
	OBJECTIVES OF INTERPRETIVE PLAN	3
	PLANNING PROCESS	4
	USING THE INTERPRETIVE PLAN	4 - 5
PLANNING FOUNDATION	INTERPRETIVE THEME OVERVIEW	6 - 7
	INTERPRETIVE LOCATION OVERVIEW	8 - 9
	INTERPRETIVE METHODS OVERVIEW	12 - 43
	INTERPRETIVE LOCATIONS	44 - 45
RECOMMENDATIONS	TRAIL MARKER PANEL STANDARDS	46 - 45
	INTERPRETIVE PANEL TYPE STANDARDS	48 - 49
	TRAIL MARKER SIGN SYSTEM	50 - 51
	CUSTOM TRAIL MARKER SIGN SYSTEM	52
	TRAIL MARKER PANEL STANDARDS	53
CASE STUDIES	STOCKBRIDGE: RANCHING HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN	54 - 75



Interpretive Partners

Community Stakeholders

Main Street Steamboat Springs

Tracy Barnett

Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association

Riley Polumbus

Historic Routt County!

Arianthé Stettner

Steamboat Springs Arts Council

Nancy Kramer

Community Agriculture Alliance

Marsha Daughenbaugh

Yampatika

Stacy Kolegas, Jenn Wright, Karen Vail, Charlotte Jensen

Tread of Pioneers Museum

Candice Lombardo, Jayne Hill

Colorado Division of Wildlife

Susan Werner

US Forest Service, Routt/Medicine Bow National Forest

Diann Ritschard

Stockbridge Western Interpretation Group

Bill Montag

Routt County Economic Development Cooperative

Noreen Moore

Steamboat Springs EDC, Mountain Business Association,
Base Area, Ski Corp

Diane Stoyko

Regional Cultural Heritage Tourism

Shelly Flannery

Key Internal City

Intergovernmental Services

Winnie Delliquadri

Historic Preservation

Laureen Schaffer

Park, Recreation and Open Space

Chris Wilson, Craig Robinson

Public Works

Jim Weber

Planning - Sign Code

Alan Patterson

Transit

George Krawzoff

Historic Preservation Advisory Committee

Public Art Board

Community Center Advisory Committee

Botanic Garden

Parks and Recreation Commission

Planning Commission, City Council

Schools

Interpretive Partners

Stockbridge Park Stakeholders

Community Agriculture Alliance
Marsha Daughenbaugh

Tread of Pioneers Museum
Candice Lombardo

Stockbridge Western Interpretation Group

Paul Bonnifield

Bill Montag

Harry Thompson

Jo Stanko

John & Wanda Busch

Regional Cultural Heritage Tourism
Shelly Flannery

Key Internal City

Intergovernmental Services
Winnie Delliquadri

Historic Preservation
Laureen Schaffer

Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services

Chris Wilson, Craig Robinson

Public Works

Jim Weber

Planning - Sign Code

Alan Patterson

Transit

George Krawzoff

Historic Preservation Advisory Committee

Public Art Board

Community Center Advisory Committee

Botanic Garden

Parks and Recreation Commission

Planning Commission, City Council

Schools

This interpretive plan is supported in part by a Preserve America grant administered by the National Park Service, Department of Interior. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and participants in the planning process and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Created as a course of action, the *Steamboat Springs Cultural Heritage Interpretive Plan* and the case study, *Stockbridge Park/ Multi-Modal Interpretive Master Plan* are intended to guide you in the sharing of the community's natural, recreational, cultural, and historical resources.

The Plan's express purpose is to enhance the local and visitor experience of the heritage of Steamboat Springs. Interpretive themes and recommendations—ideas, methods, opportunities and case studies—are provided to inspire exploration and promote understanding of the Yampa Valley's inherent qualities.

While not exhaustive, the collection of storylines presented is intended as a starting point, which can be added to over time. Interpretive themes and stories were selected for their ability to pique the interest of locals and cultural heritage tourists.

Developed to complement existing interpretive programs, the Plan will be a valuable tool in guiding future interpretive efforts. By working with the Primary Themes and Subthemes established in this Plan, interpreters, artists, local business people and residents will be able to create integrated and compelling stories about the authentic character of Steamboat Springs.

PURPOSE OF INTERPRETIVE PLAN:

Guide an integrated approach to interpretive planning of the community's historic resources and cultural assets

Forge emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of visitors by communicating the tangible, intangible and universal meanings of the resources

Respect and protect the authenticity and value of the cultural heritage sites

Coordinate community efforts of interpretation to ensure consistency and quality

Facilitate understanding and involvement in preserving the communities cultural heritage resources through accurate interpretation

VISION OF INTERPRETIVE PLAN:

Interpretation will connect locals and visitors with the Steamboat Springs' heritage: it's history and people; built environment and cultural landscape; natural, recreational and scenic resources.

GOALS OF INTERPRETIVE PLAN:

Using a variety of methods and media interpretation will:

Explore connections between the past and present

Accurately and creatively express the community's authentic, significant and unique attributes

Define storytelling opportunities, which resonate with locals and engage them in the cultural heritage of Steamboat Springs

Enhance the visitor's experience of the cultural heritage of Steamboat Springs

Provide a context for understanding the region's cultural heritage in order to orient visitors and promote exploration of the community resources of Steamboat Springs as well as regional assets

Promote preservation and stewardship of both Steamboat Springs' and region's cultural heritage

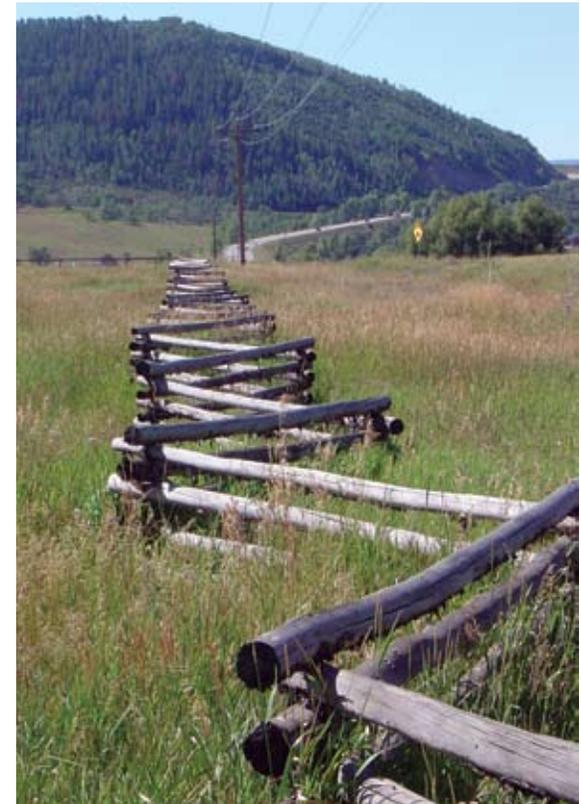
OBJECTIVES OF INTERPRETIVE PLAN:

Assessing the past, present and future, create a continuum between history and current culture to guide the integration of stakeholder knowledge into compelling interpretation, which will:

Capture the energy, spirit, involvement and strong ethic of self-sufficiency of the community's people

Reveal the unique and authentic story of the Steamboat Springs community and its people

Share Steamboat Springs' friendliness and welcoming hometown attitude



Ranch log fencing along Highway 40

PLANNING PROCESS

In November 2006 and January 2007, Interpretive Partners—Community Stakeholders and Key City staff—participated in a series of meetings and workshops to **explore the continuum of Steamboat Springs’ traditions and stories** in order to:

Identify and prioritize the cultural heritage tourism resources and opportunities.

Develop the community’s natural, cultural and historical themes and subtheme stories.

Workshops followed the National Park Service:

Interpretive Process Model for defining a hierarchy of interpretive themes to link the community’s tangible resources with their intangible meanings in order to create compelling messages.

As a foundation for all future interpretive efforts, participants reached consensus on an over-arching theme and three primary interpretive themes, which communicate the significance and values of the community’s resources.

USING THE INTERPRETIVE PLAN

The *City of Steamboat Springs Cultural Heritage Interpretive Plan* introduces the philosophy and techniques of interpretation—the *what, why and where*—to stimulate your thinking in developing a community-wide program. The *Stockbridge Park/Multi-Modal Interpretive Master Plan* shows the application of the philosophy and techniques as a Case Study to demonstrate the *how of interpretation*.

We hope you find this Plan both informative and inspiring. The Plan consist of three sections, which move progressively from a synopsis of interpretive themes and development of subthemes to interpretive products and guidelines:

ONE PLANNING FOUNDATION

The development of Primary Themes and appropriate Subthemes provide you with a framework for structuring the multiple storylines of the historic, cultural, natural and recreational resources of Steamboat Springs. A list of Cultural Heritage Icons and Interpretive Methods is also provided to stimulate your thinking as to where and how interpretation could occur.

The Tread of the Pioneer Museum is an excellent source for all your researching needs. Their collection includes over 4000 historic photographs, a research library displays on ranching, mining and pioneer life as well as the history of skiing and Native Americans. Additional community archives include: Historic Routt County! Bud Werner Memorial Library; Perry -Mansfield; the City and County Records; and www.yampavalley.info.

Information found in the subtheme descriptions is derived from the *Historic Context of Routt County*, prepared for the Tread of Pioneers Museum in 1994. The full text is attached in the Appendix.

TWO RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure consistency and quality in the interpretation of the community's cultural heritage, standards and guidelines are provided for the design and specification of interpretive panels and trail markers.

NOTE: Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services Interpretive Signage Protocol

The natural environment is one that is easily impacted by man. When looking for a method to convey a message or to make a point, a sign is a foreign object that dramatically changes the landscape. As society as a whole advances, expectations and opinions will change. As technology progresses, there will be new mediums available that may be utilized rather than traditional signage. For each message or point that one needs to make, all mediums possible should be explored to be innovative, efficient and effective. If one is not able to identify a medium that works better than traditional signage, then the impacts of the sign on the environment should be reviewed in detail prior to approval.

One should determine what the point or problem is and whether the benefits of having a sign outweigh any perceived negative impacts created. Placement of a sign should respect the natural environment and try to fit into the landscape as naturally as possible. It should not be situated in such a way as to affect others within that area and information presented should be clear and concise. If these conditions

are not attainable, perhaps a sign is not in the best interest of the community. It will be important to re-evaluate existing signage that has been installed to see if new mediums may be employed that may better serve the public and the message that is trying to be conveyed.

Any interpretive signs installed on land for which **Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services** is responsible must be approved by the POSRS.

NOTE: City of Steamboat Springs Cultural Heritage Interpretive Signage

Article IX of the Steamboat Springs Community Development Code regulates the use of signs within the City of Steamboat Springs. Most signs—including Cultural Heritage Interpretive Signs—will require review and approval by the City Planning Department.

Details of the sign code can be viewed by visiting the City of Steamboat Springs web site at:

www.ci.steamboat.co.us

Then click on the Planning Department page.

THREE CASE STUDY

For purposes of demonstration, the *Stockbridge Park Multi-Modal Interpretive Master Plan* is presented as a Case Study. The National Park Service **Interpretive Model Process** of identifying the intangible and universal concepts of a resource to develop opportunities for connections to meaning is the basis of the Case Study.



Iconic barns and willows along Highway 40

INTERPRETIVE THEME OVERVIEW

As a means of organizing the many ideas, concepts and stories surrounding the cultural heritage resource of Steamboat Springs, Primary Themes and Subthemes were developed to capture the core meaning of the community's resources.

Primary Themes - the far-reaching story of the value and significance of resources.

Subthemes are the compelling stories which add depth of meaning and define specific aspects of the resource.

OVER-ARCHING THEME

VIBRANT TRADITIONS:

Revealing Our Legacy to Shape Our Future

Trace the continuum of cultural heritage in Steamboat Springs to reveal how the places, people and pursuits of the community shaped our past and sustain our future.

PRIMARY THEME

POWER OF PLACE: *Nature's Influence*

The natural beauty, abundant resources, ruggedness and remoteness of the mountains, rivers, creeks and springs of the Yampa Valley influenced settlement and continue to define the Steamboat Springs community.

SUBTHEMES

- 1 WATER
- 2 CLIMATE
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY
- 4 HABITAT AND WILDLIFE
- 5 CONNECTEDNESS TO PLACE
- 6 STEWARDSHIP

PRIMARY THEME

INTERDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE:
A Spirited, Individualistic & Resilient Community

*Historically and currently, the Steamboat Springs community attracts spirited, self-determined and resilient individuals whose kinship is rooted in a **connectedness to place** and the interdependence of "doing what it takes to live in the Yampa Valley."*

SUBTHEMES

- 1 INHABITANTS and SETTLERS
- 2 CULTURAL VALUES
- 3 COMMUNITY BUILDERS
- 4 AGENTS OF CHANGE
- 5 RANCHERS AND FARMERS
- 6 WORLD CITIZENS

PRIMARY THEME

TENACITY OF PURSUITS:
A Western Community at Work and Play

An enduring tradition of creating a rich quality of life established in the Western ethos continues to shape people's livelihoods and pursuits.

SUBTHEMES

- 1 TRANSFORMING THE ENVIRONMENT
- 2 DEVELOPING THE ECONOMY
- 3 ENDURING INDUSTRIES
- 4 CULTIVATING QUALITY OF LIFE
- 5 CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

INTERPRETIVE LOCATION OVERVIEW

The community of Steamboat Springs is rich in significant cultural heritage sites which lend themselves to compelling interpretation. Below is an initial list of landmarks or iconic sites to be considered as you develop your interpretive ideas.

Successful interpretation integrates knowledge of the resource with knowledge of the intended audience to develop appropriate storylines and methods of telling the stories of place, people and pursuits in ways that create emotional and intellectual connections.

Generally, there are four types of interpretive locations:

Off-site interpretation is valuable in pre-trip planning to inform visitors of cultural heritage opportunities—for example websites and brochures. Armchair travelers and classroom programs also utilize this type of program.

Place orientation where people are given an overview of all the primary themes and resource locations; generally occurs at visitor centers, museums or hubs.

Site interpretation where people experience the resource and are engaged in discovering relevant and evocative interpretive meaning.

Wayfinding is the thread of interpretation linking resources and themes; it encompasses interpretive trail markers, signs, kiosks and banners.



POWER OF PLACE: *Nature's Influence*

YAMPA RIVER / Core Trail*

- Boardwalk
- Yampa Island Park
- 5th Street Bridge [panel exists] 13th Street Bridge

SPRINGS / [existing panels and brochure]

- Heart Spring
- Iron Spring
- Soda Spring
- Sulphur Spring
- Sweetwater/Lake Spring
- Steamboat Spring
- Black Sulphur/Narcissus/Terrace
- Lithia Spring
- Sulphur Cave Spring
- West Lincoln/Little Toots Park

CREEKS / FALLS

- Sarvis Creek
- Soda Creek
- Butcherknife Creek
- Spring Creek
- Fish Creek Falls



INTERDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE:
A Spirited, Individualistic & Resilient Community

Tread of Pioneers Museum*

- Mesa School
- Perry Mansfield
- Legacy Ranch [Gateway]

Howelsen Hill Complex*

- Downtown Historic Buildings

Stockbridge Park* [Gateway]

- Arts Depot
- Rodeo Grounds

TENACITY OF PURSUITS:
A Western Community at Work and Play

- Mesa School
- Perry-Mansfield
- Downtown Historic Buildings
- Stockbridge Park*** [Gateway]
- Arts Depot
- Rodeo Grounds

This is not intended as a definitive list, but to denote iconic resources; other non-resource sites include: **Local businesses, Bud Werner Memorial Library** and the **Steamboat Springs Visitor Center.***

*Hub / orientation sites where people can be given an overview of all the interpretive resources of Steamboat Springs within the context of Routt County.



Yampa River along Core Trail looking towards Mt. Werner

INTERPRETIVE METHODS OVERVIEW

Cultural heritage tourists are looking for meaningful experiences. Understanding your audience is critical to determining and developing the method—media, programs and events—that best serve the resource and story being interpreted. Anticipate that visitors will have varying degrees of knowledge about the resource, and create interpretive messages which speak to people on many different levels.

For example: Walking/Biking tours, with self-guided brochures, trail markers, signs and audio devices—listening posts, portable wands, portable CD/DVD players and/or cell phone or iPod/MP3 players. Scenic byway tours by auto or bus could use the same interpretive devices as well as GPS technology.

Self-guided Interpretation methods:

- **Off-site interpretation**
- Computer / Web-based interactive maps, video, games
- Brochures / Guides - complex information/overview

Place orientation

- Computer / Web-based interactive maps, video, games
- Websites and video images
- Exhibits - artifacts, models and media
- Displays - thematically designed maps, photos, art, text
- Trail Markers / Signs - thematically designed signs along trails or at resource site
- Audio / Video / Photography - sensory devices to
- CD/DVD players
- iPod / MP3 players
- Recreational guide / Map

Site interpretation

- Trail markers / exhibits
- Audio / Listening posts / Portable wands
- CD / iPod / MP3 players
- Brochures / Guides
- Video productions / Channel 18

Wayfinding

- Trail markers / Signs / Banners - thematically designed signs along trails or at resource site
- Displays - thematically designed maps, photos, art, text
- Kiosks - outdoor structures for orientation, information and interpretive displays

Guided Tours:

Learning from informed and engaging guides. Yampatika currently focuses on natural history tours and Routt County Ranch Tours explore ranching in the region. There is room for additional guided tours exploring cultural heritage. Companion brochures for existing and future guided tours would be an excellent addition.

Non-traditional methods:

Performance and Visual Art: Art / sculpture which can be played upon/interacted with; interpretive performances—dance, music, theater, festivals and art. Possibly art-created bus shelters or bike racks.

Businesses: restaurant, retail, galleries, historic buildings could use interpretive photo/text displays; interpretative themes on menus, coasters and place mats.

Steamboat Springs Transit: interpretive brochures on board buses, at bus stops,shelters, advertising for cultural events i.e. Ranch Tours, Bus Art Tour.

City/Steamboat/Chamber of Commerce website:

For trip planning; announcing events:

www.yampavalley.info is an excellent resource.

Hospitality training: Incorporate lessons on area's heritage into hospitality training.

Audio / Visual The advent of the iPod/M3 player is revolutionizing the audio tour. Content is more stimulating and the tours tend to facilitate experience of a place rather than just disseminate information. Oral histories, diaries, letters and memoirs produced as audio can tell us things that written text cannot convey. This option will appeal to younger audiences and provides an opportunity to share a good deal of interpretive content. Hand held GPS units also hold great promise as technology develops.

Projections: Outdoor movies (westerns) on sides of downtown/historic buildings.

Gondola Cars: Appropriate interpretive themes/ storylines could be featured inside cars or inspire designs on car exteriors.

Lift Lines: Engaging interpretive videos about Steamboat Springs could be produced and played while skiers/snowboarders are waiting in line.

Recreational Tours: Kayaking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling tours could be avenues for interpretive information.

Bike Tours: Planned event or self-guided, the bike tour could also incorporate interpretive information for more far ranging tours than a walking tour.



Aerial view of Steamboat Springs from Mt. Werner

The natural beauty, abundant resources, ruggedness and remoteness of the mountains, river, creeks and springs of the Yampa Valley influenced settlement and continue to define the Steamboat Springs community.

I WATER: SPRINGS

Heart Spring
Iron Spring
Soda Spring
Sulphur Spring
Sweetwater/Lake Spring
Steamboat Spring
Black Sulphur/Narcissus/Terrace
Lithia Spring
Sulphur Cave Spring
Strawberry Park Hot Springs

Sacred Waters: Native Americans referred to the springs clustered around Steamboat Springs as “Medicine Springs.” They believed the springs were sacred places where the Great Spirit lived deep below the earth’s surface. Utes and Arapaho regarded the odiferous, sulphur gas as having unique curative powers; after battles, they would visit the springs to rejuvenate their strength.

Lure of the Waters: Early Settlement:

Water, in particular mineral spring water, attracted Utes, Mountain Men, pioneering settlers and even wildlife to Steamboat Springs. This area was a favorite summer encampment for the Utes and other Native American tribes prior to settlement. The tribes took advantage of the areas mineral waters as well as abundant hunting opportunities.

In 1874, James Crawford and five other men ventured from Hot Sulphur Springs into the Yampa Valley

scouting for homesteading sites. Impressed by the areas springs, Crawford selected a site on Soda Creek 'above the bubbling Iron Spring. He returned the following year with his family to a cabin he had built, thereby, becoming Steamboat Springs' first resident.

Bathers: The First Tourists

The log shelter Crawford built in 1875, over a spring located one mile east of his cabin, became the area's first bathhouse. The early bathhouse served the towns few residents as well as miners from as far away as Hahn's Peak. Replaced by a frame building from lumber supplied by the sawmill, the bathhouse became a “focal point” for the growing community.

By 1900 several rooms had been added to the building and the Town Company hired a caretaker who furnished soap and towels. In 1909 the frame building was replaced by a stone structure featuring dressing rooms, and an open air swimming pool. This building, known today as the Steamboat Springs Health and Recreation Center, marks the evolution of the original Crawford shelter and demonstrates how the spring has remained a focal point in the community.

Following the arrival of passengers on the railroad in 1909, tourists came to swim in the spring-fed pools and drink from the mineral springs. To accommodate the influx, the luxury Cabin Hotel was built at the present day site of the Bud Werner Memorial Library.

Healing Waters: Spring water was said to be curative of a host of ailments including heart problems, rheumatism and kidney disorders:

- **Black Sulphur/Narcissus/Terrace Spring** - Mud from these springs was used for treating skin disorders
- **Lithia Spring:** Prior to the depression, enterprising Steamboat Springs resident, H.W. Gossard, had plans to bottle the Lithia Springs water which was high in lithium and call it "Miraquelle."
- **Sulphur Spring** - the areas most odiferous spring, was believed to have curative powers.
- **Irons Spring** - The Crawfords and many visitors made *Iron Water Lemonade* from Iron Spring near their home.

Underground Forces: *Geology of the Springs*

A geologist's account of the springs includes: "All the springs are...thermal springs and derive their heat from rocks centered around Hahns Peak...a young volcano containing very hot rocks. Water gets into these rocks, flows along fault lines where it picks up minerals, then returns to the surface."

It's in the Water: *Mineral Water*

Spring water is comprised of unique mineral solutions derived from the Dakota sandstone formation in the Yampa Valley.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Interpretation of Springs: Old advertisements for potions, treatment, healing properties, and Images of the early bathers.

Bringing Early Settlement Alive: Stage a homesteading experience for youth. Use costumes and props to get them in character. Feature mountain men/trappers, hunters, miners, spring bathers, lumberjacks, settlers. Host a lemonade party event at Iron Spring, or the historic cabin at Casey's Pond.

Revealing Native American Heritage: Map of Native American camping sites in Steamboat Springs, seasonal migration routes and use of the mineral springs. Utilize Native American art collection from Tread of the Pioneers Museum.

Underground Forces: *Geology of the Springs*
Explain the underground forces and geologic events that gave rise to the gurgling, spewing, steaming, and cool mineral waters of the springs.

Bridging Nature: River vantage points on bridges provide opportunities to interpret water stories from watershed to riparian communities and wildlife.

Butchercreek Rehabilitation: *Fragile Environments*
Interpret the story of a community coming together to re-vegetate a threatened habitat.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS / MEDIA

West Lincoln Park/Little Toots Park
Casey's Pond
Orientation Sites: Steamboat Springs Visitor Center and Lithia Spring

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

Interpretive signs at springs and *A Walking Tour of the Springs of Steamboat* map and brochure

Information on Native Americans and Hot Springs: www.yampavalley.info – Routt County & Steamboat Springs Community Center

Heart Springs/Steamboat Springs Health and Recreation Center: Historic photos/copy in entry

WATER: YAMPA RIVER

The Last of the Free Flowing Rivers:

The Yampa is the last free-flowing river in the Colorado River drainage system. Although the river bed is managed in Steamboat Springs, it is still allowed to flood Snake Island—in the middle of the Yampa—to maintain native habitats.

Big Bend: In Steamboat Springs, the Yampa River (originally called the Bear River) makes an arc and begins flowing westward. The river originates near the town of Yampa in the Flat Tops Wilderness Area.

River Chutes and Log Jams: *Transporting Timber*

The Sarvis Timber Company (1913-1919) used chutes to move logs from Sarvis Creek to the Yampa River and then downstream to the sawmill in Steamboat Springs. Log guides in the Yampa River can still be seen along the Core Trail.

Tapping the Source: *Irrigating the Valley*

To compensate for the lack of precipitation during summer months in the Valley, ranchers/homesteaders tapped the mountain creeks and rivers heavy spring run off to build irrigation systems. Irrigation ditches and headgates used to control water flows remain visible in the landscape today.

Thundering Water: *Fish Creek Falls*

Located a few miles out of town, Fish Creek Falls offers trails and views of cascading water.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

The Last of the Free Flowing Rivers: *Nature of Floods*

Explore the large area that the Yampa River drains. What are the tributaries that feed it and where do they originate? Explain spring melt and run-off. What are its waters used for and by whom (agriculture, wildlife, recreation)? What habitats are maintained by allowing the Yampa to flood?

River Chutes and Log Jams: *Transporting Timber*

Explore the history of lumbering in the Valley and the building of the sawmill in Steamboat Springs.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS / MEDIA

Along the Yampa River / Core Trail
Boardwalk
Yampa Island Park
13th Street Bridge/ Bridges along Yampa River
Orientation Sites: Steamboat Springs Visitor Center

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

5th Street Bridge: Yampatika Interpretive Panels

2 CLIMATE

Predictable Patterns: *Harsh Winters and Short Growing Seasons*

Weather in Steamboat Springs is characterized by harsh winters and a short growing season. At 6000 feet and higher, crops only have about 60 frost-free days. To the delight of skiers, winters are typically snowy with snowfall totals reaching as high as 450".

Three Wire Winters: In Steamboat Springs, fences define snowfall. When snow accumulates up to the third row of a four row ranch fence wire—about 30"—ranchers call it a three-wire winter. Four-wire winters, generally more than 350" at the resort's mid-mountain location, were recorded in 1983/84, 1989/90, 1992/93, 1995/96, 1996/97, 1999/2000 and 2005/06.

Isolated and Rugged: The Steamboat Springs area, nestled within the Yampa Valley and encircled by mountains, remained isolated well into the 20th Century. Other than Native American tribes who used the area as a seasonal hunting ground, few ventured into the area before the late 1800s. Narrow, rugged mountain passes and long distances were deterrents to venturing into the Yampa Valley.

Cycles and Seasons: *Measuring Climatic Forces*
Located at 10,568' atop Mt. Werner, Storm Peak is home to one of the country's highest climate laboratories. Scientists/students from around the world have used the Lab for the past 24 years to study snowfall patterns, climate change and weather movements.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Three Wire Winters: *Measuring Climatic Forces*
Trail marker/sign structures could be incised with snow measuring gauges to denote height of "three wire winter snow accumulation.

Storm Peak Lab: *Science in the Clouds*
Use available information to interpret the story of climate and water in the Valley.



Storm Peak Lab located at 10,568' atop Mt. Werner

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS / MEDIA

Gondola car interiors could feature photos of the snow crystal which makes up Champagne Powder in conjunction with interpretive stories of the area climate.

Gondola Transit Center/Ski Time Square Turnaround
Kiosks at Steamboat Resort could tell the interpretive stories of climate and water as recorded by Storm Peak Lab.

Tread of Pioneers Museum could also feature snowfall records with skiing history or as part of a climate story.

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHY

Mountain and River Valley: Within Steamboat Springs' boundaries, there is a diversified and varied landscape, which harbors a wide range of biological communities. A route from the valley floor to surrounding mountains and hills climbs from sage brush to alpine tundra.

Emerald Mountain: Native sandstone was extracted from Emerald Mountain (behind Howelsen Hill) and was used to build the city's first permanent structures. Onyx was also mined.

Mineral Resources / Mining: *Harnessing Power*
Mining and other resource extraction played a major role in the economy of Routt County. Fuel was needed to power the boilers, smelters, homes, railways and industries. Coal became the major source of power. Once the railroad arrived in 1908, camps sprang up in a triangular area formed at twenty-mile intervals between Hayden, Yampa and Steamboat Springs and became known as Twentymile Park.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Diversity of the Landscape: *Valley to the Mountain*
Interpretive panels could show an elevation silhouette of the topography of the Yampa Valley demonstrating the climb from sage to alpine tundra.

Place-Based Speaker Series: *Landscape*
Create a speaker series with a set time and regular schedule for photographers, adventurers, scientists, environmentalists, ranchers, Native Americans, artists, and writers to speak or give demonstrations.

Nature Photography: Exhibits and seasonal instructional workshops exploring landscapes and/or natural and wildlife habitats.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS / MEDIA

Take advantage of views/vistas: Areas with expansive views—the top of Emerald Mountain or the Gondola—provide ideal places and staging areas to communicate the area's broader context; watershed, ecology, public land, conservation, community development.

Kiosks: Core Trail Kiosks - Yampatika trades out kiosks seasonally. These facilities present opportunities for natural history interpretation including interesting/fun facts about wildlife, habitat and water.

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

U.S. Forest Service kiosks on Core Trail

Yampatika sponsors many seasonal programs



View from Rabbit Ears Pass looking toward the Flat Tops and Pleasant Valley

4 HABITATS AND WILDLIFE

Plentiful Game: In addition to providing a food source for Native Americans, miners and early settlers, the area's plentiful game—deer, elk and black bear—also drew sportsmen to the area. Theodore Roosevelt visited Routt County on several hunting trips and helped build the area's reputation.

Trout Fishing: Streams and rivers in the area provide excellent fishing and were first stocked in 1902. Today, the closest operating fish hatchery is the state-owned Finger Rock State Fish Unit/Rearing facility, which supplies the fish for the Yampa River. Fly fishermen still flock to Steamboat Springs to wet their line in the Yampa River.

Beaver: Pelts had become a commodity in Europe and on the east coast by the middle of the 19th century, luring trappers to the Steamboat Springs area. These mountain men found abundant populations of beaver along the Yampa River. Beaver still populate the River, as evidenced by their dams, felled trees and lodges along the Yampa.

Aspen: This signature Colorado tree is found in abundance around Steamboat Springs' area. Known as trembling or quaking aspen (*Populus Tremuloides*) for its leaves that rustle in the wind, these trees are the first to colonize a disturbed area. Following the huge forest fire of 1879, when many evergreens were scorched, stands of aspen grew in their place.

Birding/Grouse: Routt County has an international appeal to birders given the population of Greater Sage Grouse, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse and the traditional game bird, the Blue Grouse. Although the Greater Sage Grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse are not a threatened or endangered, they are considered a state species of special concern. The Yampa corridor also offers bald eagle populations.

Elk/Winter Range: The largest elk herds in the world reside in Routt and Moffat counties. The loss of winter range east of town due to escalating housing development threatens the viability of these herds. Moose, the largest member of the deer family, were reintroduced into Colorado in 1978.

Observable Wildlife: The riparian community associated with the Yampa River provides outdoor enthusiasts with wildlife encounters—bald eagle, blue heron, beaver, river otter and trout may all be observed along the Yampa River corridor through Steamboat Springs.

Bear: Black bear (*Ursus americanus*) is the only remaining bear species known in Colorado and the Yampa River region is among its habitats. Designation of the bear as game animals in 1935 provided for their protection by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Moose: Until the 1970s only a few moose ranged into northern Colorado from Wyoming herds. Re-introduced into the State in 1978, the moose are now thriving in the riparian habitats of Routt County.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Aspen: *Colonization of a New Forest*

In conjunction with the current story of pine beetle kill, show how aspen will re-colonize the forest and change the face of the existing landscapes.

Riparian Community: Reveal the intricacies of the riparian ecosystem. Explore the inter-relationships of the aquatic, invertebrates, bird and mammal species that reside, nest, and/or hunt along within the river corridor—bald eagles, trout, insects, and beaver.

Natural History/Identification: *Footprints in the Snow*
Explanation of common winter tracks likely to be seen; Plant and animal survival adaptations to living year round in the Rockies; Summer wildflower, native plants, and birds.

Class/Tour: *Wildflower Art/Botanical Illustration*
learn to ID wildflowers and other native plants; practice nature journal sketching, make a flower press. Introduce the history of botanical illustration and the world of plant hunters. (There is a school of Botanical Illustration at the Denver Botanic Gardens—a source for instructors.)

Tour: *Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants:* Pick two locations and offer an outing by an herbalist who can share what's edible and what's not. Provide information on the medicinal effects of plants, how to prepare them. Incorporate Native American use of plants. Prepare/schedule a Yampatika dinner.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS / MEDIA

Bicycle Birding Tour: Interpreter or self-guided tour along the Yampa Core Trail.

Trailheads: Interpret plants and ecology at Spring Creek Trailhead, Fish Creek Trailhead and Botanic Garden—its plants and ecology.

Gondola car interiors could feature photos and interpretive stories about the mountain resources and speaks to how preservation of the habitat makes skiing on Mt. Werner a unique experience.

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

Wetland ecology is interpreted at Rotary Park

Yampatika's Education Partnership provides guided tours and interpretive information on the forest, mountain habitat and native flora and fauna.

Interpretive signs at Thunderhead: The Ski Resort, in cooperation with, the US Forest Service and Colorado Division of Wildlife created panels to inform visitors of wildlife and points of interest in the Yampa Valley from the vantage point of the Thunderhead overlook.



Fishing in the Bear River
Courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

5 CONNECTEDNESS TO PLACE:

Seasonal Hunting Grounds: Small bands of Cheyenne, Arapahoe and Ute occupied the area seasonally during the spring and the fall. The Yampa Valley presented the tribes with abundant hunting opportunities.

Tribes hunted elk, antelope, deer and buffalo. In 1881, following increased tensions with the Euro-Americans; the Utes were removed from their traditional territories and were forced onto a reservation in Utah.

Lure of the Land: *Early Settlement*

In 1874, Crawford led six men over Gore Pass into Egeria Park and the Yampa Valley. They traveled as far as Craig before returning to the east where they discovered springs along the Yampa River and its creeks. He returned to Soda Creek in 1875 and established a homestead along with five other families. Most left during the winter, leaving the Crawfords as the only permanent residents. By 1879 about a dozen families had settled in the Yampa Valley.

Placing Claims/Squatting/Homesteading: The history of land acts and requirements of homesteading reveal the sharp contrast in land prices between today and 1874 when the first claims were made; The Homestead Act of 1862 presented a remarkable real estate deal—settlers were entitled to a claim of up to 160 acres for free—they paid only the filing fee. The Homestead Act gave settlers six months to establish residence and required five years of settlement and “proving up” by cultivating portions of their land to gain title.

Fertile Mountain Valley: *Shove up and Shove Down*

Early ranchers allowed their herds to graze and roam free throughout the open range. In summer, ranchers “shove up,” driving their herds to the alpine meadows at higher elevations. As winter approached, they “shove down,” herding the livestock back into the valley. In addition to providing forage in the winter, the lush natural grasses of the valley produced excellent hay that ranchers used for their own stock and sold to others. The valley bottom hosted a mosaic of uses from pastures to homesteads to growing fields to large elk and deer herds.

Yampa Valley: *A Haven for Ranching:*

The grasses of the Yampa Valley provide excellent forage for cattle and sheep. Cattle fattened in this mountain valley brought better prices than those raised on the drier, hardier grasses from elsewhere in the U.S. During the summer cattle were driven from as far off as Texas and sheep were trailed from Wyoming to graze the grasses of Routt County. Both sheep and cattle are still fixtures in the Yampa Valley.

Ranchers and Farmers: *Acts of Government*

Early settlers who were drawn to Routt County by mining often turned to ranching and farming to support themselves. With the enactment of the Homestead Act in 1862, settlers could file claim on 160 acres of public land. In 1916 with the Grazing Homestead Act settlers could purchase 640 acres of public land for \$35.

Centennial Ranches: *Enduring Legacy*

Ranches on “a scale big enough to survive,” which have been in the same family for at least one hundred years demonstrate an enduring connection of families to their land. Steamboat Springs’ ranching roots are what sets it apart from every other ski community.

The Colorado West: *A State of Mind*

The romance of the West—a way of life in tune with the land—has drawn people to the area for generations.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Don't Fence Me In: *The Evolution of Land Use*

Trace the evolution of land use; the Homestead Act of 1862; to the appearance of sheep in the 1890s, to the cattle and sheep range wars, the federal regulation of grazing beginning with the organization of Routt National Forest in 1905; and through the repercussions of the Grazing Homestead Act of 1916 to show how the West continued to evolve.

What's in a Name: *Revealing History*

The story behind the place names—Steamboat Springs; Strawberry Park; Lithia Springs and “Miraquelle;” Flat Tops; Beef Trail; Emerald Mountain; Sleeping Giant, etc.

Remote Mountain Valley: Create a map of cattle/sheep trails in Routt County detailing why Northwest Colorado was, “Where the West Stayed Young,” as described by author, John Burroughs. Display on backlit wall at Stockbridge Transit Center. The same map could be posted on-line and programmed to be interactive with audio for download.

Homestead Act: *Public Land to Private Land*

Create a digital graphic based on historical documents that reveals the government's generous real estate propositions and its influence on the population and growth of the Yampa Valley and Steamboat Springs.

Centennial Ranches: *Generations of Ranchers*

The story of these ranches is really about family—and the handing down of knowledge and respect for the ranching tradition. Profile the ranches and the people through photos, oral histories and timelines.

The Colorado West: *A State of Mind*

Visitors seek hands-on experiences with livestock and authentic cowboys: schedule events/demonstrations where horse, cattle and sheep are brought to temporary pens at Stockbridge. Feature cowboy poetry, oral stories and opportunities for people to interact with the horsemen, cattlemen and sheep men of the region.

INTERPRETIVE LOCATIONS / MEDIA

Stockbridge Park: Demonstrate through photos and actual fencing, tools, branding irons, etc. what to look for in the ranching landscape to determine the type of operation—sheep or cattle.

Casey's Pond: Interactive interpretation of early mountain men, trappers, hunters, sportsmen and settlers—dressing up in period outfits; trappers using old traps, show fishing gear; homestead experience staged at historic cabin.

6 STEWARDSHIP

Public Land: *Preserving Wilderness*

Land in the public domain is important—wildlife agencies (USFS, BLM, DOW) protect lands outlying Steamboat Springs. The Routt National Forest manages four congressionally designated Wilderness areas: Never Summer, Sarvis Creek, Flat Tops and Mount Zirkel for hiking, livestock grazing, timber production and other forest products.

Tending The Land: *Preserving a Way of Life*

Ranchers are, traditionally, stewards of the land. Their love of the land is intense; they are working hard to maintain their way of life and preserve the rural, ranching landscapes, which have come to define the Yampa Valley.

The success of ranching and farming can be attributed to the ability of those involved to switch back and forth between various industries. Many settlers also worked jobs in town during the day and then worked the land on weekends and evenings. It continues to be the Valley way of life—ranchers work the slopes as well as the land during the winter.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Vanishing Wilderness: *Beetle Kill in Northern Colorado*

In 2006, the Steamboat ski area and US Forest Service mounted an aggressive effort to reduce mountain pine beetle infestation and spruce beetle population; plus the U.S. Forest Service with community support is also working to treat Spruce Beetle and save trees in the scenic corridors of Routt County.

Economics of Ranching: *Getting Paid Once a Year*

At Stockbridge Ranching Heritage Center profile current ranchers who rope, ride and ski to make a living. Panels could be readily changed to highlight various people. If developed in conjunction with the Ranch Tours, profiles could highlight the ranchers and ranches being visited.

Preservation of Natural Resources Allowing ranchers and landowners to sell future development rights to conservation trusts, and placing property in protected status addresses preservation of the wide-open spaces of the Yampa Valley. A model program, Purchase of Development Rights or PDR, is generating national attention and could be interpreted at Stockbridge.

INTERPRETIVE LOCATIONS / MEDIA

Interpretive Tours / Guided Walks: Incorporate the ideas of preservation and stewardship in the ranch tour and guided walks. Utilize overlooks and key vantage sites to point out views to lands that have been preserved by federal and local governments, through conservation easements or are under the caring protection of ranchers and farmers.



Rabbit Ears Pass

INTERDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE:

A Spirited, Individualistic and Resilient Community

Historically and currently, the Steamboat Springs community attracts spirited, self-determined and resilient individuals whose kinship is rooted in a connectedness to place and the interdependence of “doing what it takes to live in the Yampa Valley.”

INHABITANTS AND SETTLERS

Many adventurers crossed into Routt County while exploring the Western United States. Some were fur traders, some were guides, and others were government surveyors and researchers. They established contact with Native Americans, came to know the land, and in some cases called the area their home. Early explorers also brought back information about the land that later would fuel the county’s settlement.

First Inhabitants: *Yamptika Ute, Cheyenne and Arapaho* tribes were the first inhabitants of the region. Utes controlled all of Colorado west of the Continental Divide and the Yamptika Ute dominated Northwest Colorado until 1881 when they were forcibly removed from the region and re-located to a reservation in Utah.

Encounters and Confrontations: *Chief Yarmonite* Utes, Cheyenne and Arapaho engaged in territorial battles on the hill above Heart Spring and Woodchuck Hill (present site of Colorado Mountain College), as recorded by Dr. John Campbell in his 1905 book, *Indian Echoes*.

Trappers and Mountain Men: *Lure of the Beaver* From 1887 to 1859, fur traders trapped beaver in the area for its fur, which was used primarily for hats in the East and in Europe.



Trappers simple log cabin
 Courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

End of an Era: Trapped Out
 As beaver populations declined due to being “trapped out” and silk hats replaced beaver hats as fashion accessories, many trappers and mountain men used their knowledge of the area as guides for government and private expeditions.

Explorers and Adventurers 1824-1859: Early explorers came seeking knowledge of the area’s resources and potential travel routes. They collected geographical data and mapping information. Adventurers and sportsmen also left their mark. In 1855 Lord St. George Gore, a British engineer, stopped in the Steamboat Springs area. His expedition’s route over a Native American trail was later named Gore Pass after him.

Scientists and Surveyors 1859-1925: Scientists replaced explorers and were responsible for conducting surveying, cataloging and mapping of the area. Lt. E.D. Berthoud discovered coal at two locations in Twentymile Park, and Ferdinand Hayden, working for the USGS, 1873-1876, also identified coal deposits in the Yampa Valley.

Loggers and Woodsmen: First sawmills in Routt County operated to supply the mining camps with railroad ties and telephone poles. Scandinavian lumberjacks brought lumber cutting skills as well as skis from the old country, which were used as an alternative mode of transportation during winter.

First Settlers: James Crawford was the first European to settle in the Yampa Valley after discovering it on a hunting trip along the Gore Trail in 1874. Crawford staked a claim and moved to Steamboat Springs the following year and chose a site near a spring on Soda Creek. Five other men, including Perry A. Burgess and William H. Walton along with Crawford took 160 acres and registered homesteads, thus creating the Steamboat Springs community in 1875.

Ranchers and Farmers: *Public Land to Private Land* Early settlers who were drawn to Routt County by mining often turned to ranching and farming to support themselves. With the enactment of the Homestead Act in 1862, settlers could file claim on 160 acres of public land, and in 1916 with the Grazing Homestead Act settlers could purchase 640 acres of public land for \$35.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

First Inhabitants: *Yampatika Ute*
Create a map of Native American trails as described in Dr. John Campbell's 1905 book, *Indian Echoes*.

Names and Misnomers: Trace Native American names and anglicized names—Yampa and Bear River with definitions to understand the Ute influence in the region.

Resiliency and Career Changes: *Guides and Map Makers*
Develop a timeline and/or map showing the influence of trappers turned guides, explorers turned surveyors and miners to ranchers as a way of demonstrating the concept of: "doing what it takes to stay in the Yampa Valley."

King of the Mountains: *Wanderlust*
Using historic maps, demonstrate how the mountain men turned map makers brought America to the West.

Bear Dance: *Momaqui Mowat of the Yuta*
Every spring, Utes gathered for a celebration of singing dancing, storytelling and playing games. Re-enact a Bear Dance at the Colorado Mountain College.

Homestead Act: *Public Land to Private Land*
Create a digital map/graphic based on historical documentation that reveals the government's generous real estate propositions and it's influence on the population and growth of the Yampa Valley and Steamboat Springs.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

Colorado Mountain College to interpret Ute impact on Steamboat Springs.

Casey's Pond for re-enactments of people in the Valley.

POTENTIAL MEDIA

Revealing Influences of Immigrants: Audio to share voices/accents; Reveal unique cultural differences in dress, architecture, customs, food, etc.

Storytelling/Voices: Share area folklore; Ute Bear Dance story, use audio voice the stories of local characters from the past and present.

Homestead Act Graphic: Create a digital graphic based on historic documentation that reveals the government's generous real estate propositions and it's influence on the Yampa Valley.

Mapping the Present: Children could learn the art of mapmaking beginning with hand drawing and then with the help of GPS devices to map their present day world.

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

Tread of Pioneers Museum

Colorado Mountain College hosts a week long Native American Festival offering drumming, dancing and cultural displays.

INTERDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE:

A Spirited, Individualistic and Resilient Community

2 CULTURAL VALUES

Early ranching and farming were interconnected with mining as people often moved from one industry to the other. In fact, the success of agriculture in the county can be attributed to the ability of those involved to switch back and forth between farming and ranching. Many settlers also worked jobs in town or in the mines during the day and then worked the land on weekends and evenings.

Many Steamboat Springs residents continue the work ethic and tradition of “doing what it takes to stay in the Valley” by working two or more jobs—ranchers work the slopes as well as the land during the winter.

Skiing and Skijourning: *Coming Together to Recreate* Miners, ranchers, and mail carriers used primitive skis/snowshoes as a means of transportation to feed livestock, travel to town and visit neighbors. Ranching children were often towed on skis behind horses—known as skijourning—to get to school. But, it wasn't until Norwegian ski-jumping and cross-country champion Carl Howelsen arrived in Steamboat and built Howelsen Hill ski jump in 1914, that skiing began to be considered a “healthful recreation” for ranchers and families throughout the Valley. Howelsen staged a two-day Ski Tournament for “coasting, jumping and long distance contests,” which continues today as Winter Carnival. Creating the “ultimate place to ski” on Storm Mountain was the vision and hard work of a third generation rancher, John Temple, and chief engineer, John Fetcher. Storm Mountain opened to skiers in 1963.

Raising Children: *“Get ‘em young and Make it Fun”* (from a quote by Lucy Bogue). Sureva Towler in, *The History of Skiing at Steamboat Springs*, states that “Tradition holds that youngsters raised in Steamboat Springs, ski before they can walk.” The Steamboat Springs school system was the first in the country to make skiing a part of the curriculum. Generations of Steamboat Springs kids have grown up with the lessons learned from striving for their personal best in youth skiing organizations like: the Girls Ski Club, (1931), Ski and Scoot, S and S Club, High School Ski Team (1945), Little Toot Program (1957).

Competitive Spirit: *A Philosophy of Life* Known as the Olympic Factory, Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club (SSWSC) blends the competitive spirit of sport with a cultural cooperation rooted in the western way of life.

Symbol of the West: *Cowboy Culture*

The cowboy creed and Code of the West is an ethic of integrity, loyalty, honesty, courage and hard work. As David Dary states in *Cowboy Culture*, the cowboy symbolizes the free life, closely tied to the out-of-doors and nature.

Ranching Ethic: *A Handshake and a Welcome Sign*

To survive in Routt County, ranchers needed to be self-reliant and also rely on neighboring ranchers during branding, roundup and haying season.

Ranchers and Farmers: *Men, Women and Families*

Ranching is a family business—one that requires the dedication of men, women and children. Ranching attracts those who are at home in the out-of-doors, and includes: skiers, rodeo riders, ranch hands, cowboys, outfitter, guides, sheepherders, writers and poets.

Tolerance and Intolerance: *Open Range Strife*

Neighborliness and tolerance among the ranching community in Routt County did not extend to sheep ranchers. As homesteading acreage increased, free-range acreage and watering holes were fenced off, leading to escalating tension and conflict between cattlemen, sheep ranchers and homesteaders.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Photography: *Up Close and Personal*

Black and white photographs could be used to portray the Olympians competitive spirit as well as the childlike joy of the beginner. Current photos juxtaposed with historic photos would convey the continuum of traditions as well as the name: Ski Town USA.

Competitive Spirit: *A Philosophy of Life*

The history of ski jumping parallels the growth of Steamboat Springs and is an excellent example of the continuum of winter sport in the Valley. Provide visitors with historic information about Carl Howelsen and Howelsen Hill; graphics showing jump length records set by Howelsen and Olympians; how the sport is judged; the legacy of the Steamboat Springs' Olympians.

Raising Children: *"Get 'em young and Make it Fun"*

The Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club is a story about family—and the generations of children who have grown up skiing on Howelsen Hill. Through photos, quotes and text, tell the story of three or four boys and girls—rancher's kids and "townies" whose lives have been shaped by the "Hill."

Code of the West: *Simple and Direct*

Use John Wayne quotes to reveal the cowboy code of life: Contrast similarities and disparities between past and present people in the Yampa Valley: *"They were simple, direct men...they were a pretty tough lot, but they had to be. It was a tough era in our history. There was no room for nuance or no time for luxury. Out of the lives of these cowboys have come all sorts of stories and legends, some true some fiction."*

Ranching: *Depending on your Neighbor*

Ranchers survived with the help of their neighbors. Show how the traditions of round up and rodeoing coincide and contrast with the lore of the cowboy as a self-reliant loner.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

Howelsen Hill

Stockbridge Park

Art Sculpture: *Interpreting the West*

Commission sculpture which tells a story about the West in Steamboat Springs. Consider using John Wayne's quote as inspiration: "But the most authentic and dependable evidence of what the cowboys really were has come from the artists who pictured them in their true environment, risking their lives in stampedes, freezing or sweating under the stars, by lonely campfires, rowdy in saloons, fighting, branding and whooping it up around the chuck wagon."

Galleries

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

Olympian Hall

Steamboat Resort - Mt. Werner

Tread of Pioneers Museum

INTERDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE:

A Spirited, Individualistic and Resilient Community

3 AGENTS OF CHANGE

Strong-Willed Women

- **Margaret Crawford**
- **Lulie Crawford**
- **Portia Mansfield** and **Charlotte Perry** - 1913 founders of Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp
- **Daisy Anderson** - poet / author, Strawberry Park farmer
- **Eleanor Bliss** - Arts advocate
- **Dorothy Wither** - Winter Sports Club, Ladies Recreation Club, Tread of Pioneers Museum, Colorado Mountain College, Chamber Resort Association, Routt County Department of Social Services
- **Elaine Gay** - rancher, author, *How Pleasant is the Valley*; local historian Jayne Hill described Gay as a “gentle ranch woman” who isn't reluctant to take on cowboy chores
- **Lucile Bogue** - founder Colorado Mountain College's Alpine Campus

Determined Men:

- **James Crawford** - Steamboat Springs' founder
- **F.M. Light** - F. M. Light & Sons, Steamboat Springs' oldest retail business; established in 1905.
- **Charles Leckenby** - 1896 published the Steamboat Pilot; the Pilot's first edition was printed in 1885 making it the oldest newspaper in northwest, CO
- **Carl Howelsen**: Norwegian stone mason introduced recreational skiing and ski jumping in 1914 when he organized a two-day Ski tournament and turned skiing into a popular sport.
- **Bob Adams/Family** - negotiated a land trade with the U.S. Forest Service to secure Fish Creek Falls in a non-revocable trust; airport named after him.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Video: piece together historic photos, oral histories, interviews to reveal history via personal accounts of Cow Town to Ski Town.

Counterparts and Kindred Spirits: pair current day Agents of Change with their historic counterpart i.e. Eleanor Bliss/Nancy Kramer etc.

From Settlement to City: Interpret how the community comes together to bring cultural quality of life through schools, churches, art, dance and recreation.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

- Downtown Businesses
- Art Depot
- Howelsen Hill
- Colorado Mountain College
- Stockbridge Park
- Steamboat Springs Visitor Center

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

- Tread of Pioneers Museum
- Channel 18

4 COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Architects/Builders of Mountains

- **Carl Howelsen** - Ski jump, quarrier stone mason
- **James Temple** - Storm Mountain
- **Buddy Werner, Marvin Crawford, Bill Sare, John Fetcher, Willis Nash and Glen Stuco** - Storm Mountain

Doctors

- **Doc Willett**

Architects/Builders Commercial and Residential

- **Ernest Campbell** - 600 Lincoln, 800 Oak Street
- **Joe Critchfield** - Pioneer Building
- **Henry Schnaffitt** - Hotels, 405 Oak Street
- **Harry Gordon** - Chief Theater
- **James Hoyle** - Steamboat Pilot
- **Everett Cole** - Soda Creek/Steamboat Laundry
- **Don Walter and Norman Carver** - hired architects
- **George Slater** - Power Plant
- **J.D. Maxwell** - Squire Building
- **F.M. Light** - 830 Lincoln
- **Camillo Giamboni** - 646 Oak Street
- **Art Gumprecht** - Mesa School, homes in Old Town
- **Frank Edbrooke** - Depot (Denver architect)
- **Robert Fuller** - Routt County Courthouse (Denver architect)
- **Eugene Sternberg** - Yampa Valley Land Trust, YVEA (Denver architect)

5 RANCHERS AND FARMERS

Men, Women and Families

- **Bill May** - Rancher and Poet
- **Vernon Summer** - Centennial Ranch owner
- **Pat Mantle** - Rodeo rider, cowhand, outfitter, guide
- **Don Lufkin** - Rancher
- **Brent Romick** - Bronc rider, rodeo promoter
- **Andy Maniotis** - Oak Creek sheepherder
- **Quentin Semotan** - Rancher
- **Jo Semotan** - Ranch woman
- **Evelyn Semotan** - Quarter Horse breeder
- **J.C. Trujillo** - Rodeo rider
- **Cameletti** - Rodeo rider
- **Gay Family**
- **Werner Family**

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Characters of Steamboat: Can be brought alive through performances; introduced through photos and audio; remembered through sculpture memorials. Individuals typically are best represented in the places most evocative of their influences on the community's development, lend themselves to specific locations – i.e. Eleanor Bliss/Depot, Carl Howelsen/Howelsen Hill.

Legends: *Poets, Rodeo Riders and Characters*

Can be brought alive through: performances; introduced through: audio/oral histories; “quotable rancher” quotes/poems; rodeo images, wear and gear. Individuals typically are best represented in the places most evocative of their influences on the community's development.

Photographs: *Every Line Tells a Story*

Enlarged black and white photographs of the faces and hands of area ranchers will reveal the ethos of the ranching life—hard work, resiliency, love of the land. Photos can be juxtaposed with historic imagery to convey the continuum of traditions.

Ranching Women: *At Home on the Range*

Portray the life of women ranchers as hands and rancher's wives to give perspective about life on the range—show similarities and contrasts between the the roles of women and men.

Cowboy: *Of Horses, Gear and Tools*

Bring the Code of the West alive through the gear and tools required of the cowboy/rancher: show how clothing; boots, spurs, hat; gear and tools: saddles, lariat, snow shoes prepared him for life on the range. Contrast the historical cowboy/rancher with his Steamboat Springs counterpart—both men and women.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

Downtown Businesses
Art Depot
Howelsen Hill
Colorado Mountain College
Stockbridge Park
Steamboat Springs Visitor Center

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

Tread of Pioneers Museum

INTERDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE:

A Spirited, Individualistic and Resilient Community

6 WORLD CITIZENS / AMBASSADORS

The Olympians: trace the history of Steamboat Springs as the Olympic Factory—beginning with the skiing heritage of the community and native sons as well as those who choose to train at Howelsen. Create a timeline and world map to show the magnitude of cultural influence and achievement.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Profile of an Olympic Ski Jumper: Trace the training regime of a Steamboat Springs local who goes on to compete in ski jumping in the Olympics. Photographs in combination with statistics—what they do in their free time, typical day, favorite vice, typical breakfast, what they love about Steamboat Springs.

Evolution of Flight: The Wright brothers first flight in 1903 was 120 feet—not as far as the ski jumping distance record of that time of 134 feet/41 meters, held by Nils Gjestvang of Norway. Graphically portray the height, length and flight time of the 60 and 90 meter jumps.

Ski Jumping: Scoring Jumps
Interpret ski jumping through an interactive game where visitors learn how jumpers are scored.

SSWSC: Sporting Community
Trace the legacy of the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club as a way of showing how children and community come together through skiing.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

Howelsen Hill Trail Marker(s)

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

- Olympian Hall
- Tread of Pioneers Museum
- Steamboat Ski Area



Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club at Howelsen Hill – 2006



Howelsen Hill Tow House and sled – 1957
Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

TENACITY OF PURSUITS:

A Western Community at Work and Play

An enduring tradition of creating a rich quality of life established in the Western ethos continues to shape people's livelihoods and pursuits.

I | TRANSFORMING THE ENVIRONMENT

Resource Extraction: *Timber and Sawmills*

Sawmills were first established in Routt County to supply the mining operations. Later, logs were cut to supply the railroad. After 1905, when Routt National Forest was designated, logging permits were required for timber cutting. In 1883, H.H. Suttle opened a sawmill in Steamboat Springs to cut logs for use in building homes and commercial buildings.

Resource Extraction: *Discovering Coal*

Coal camps and company towns sprang up in a triangular area formed at twenty mile intervals between Hayden, Yampa and Steamboat Springs, which became known as Twentymile Park. Coal extraction, however, was not feasible until the railroad came to the Yampa Valley in 1908.

Routt National Forest: *Theodore Roosevelt's Legacy*

Impressed by the wooded areas of Routt County, President Teddy Roosevelt, designated the 570,000 acres a National Forest in 1905 as the Park Range Forest Reserve and later renamed it Routt National Forest in 1908 to honor of former Colorado Governor, John Routt. The National Forest Service's main office was established in Steamboat Springs in 1907 (and still exists today), with a mission to manage timber, watershed, wildlife and recreation within its boundaries.

Quarriers and Builders: *Emerald Mountain*

Stone for building was quarried at the Steamboat Town and Quarry Company on Emerald Mountain. Prevalent in historic buildings on Main Street and Historic Downtown, much of the stone blocks are the handiwork of stonemason, Carl Howelsen.

Recreation Transforms the Landscape:

Skiers and jumpers used naturally occurring features of the landscape to create recreation areas beginning with Howelsen Hill in 1914 and continuing to Storm Mountain Ski area beginning in 1958.

Howelsen Hill is the birthplace of organized skiing in Colorado. Although miners, ranchers, and mail carriers used primitive skis as a means of transportation as early as the late 1880s, it wasn't until Norwegian ski-jumping and cross-country champion Carl Howelsen built the Howelsen Hill ski jump in 1914 that skiing began to be considered a recreational sport in Colorado.

In 1963, Storm Mountain was developed for skiing, and Steamboat's future as a modern ski resort took off. The mountain was renamed Mount Werner after the 1964 avalanche death in Europe of Steamboat Springs' native Olympic skier, Buddy Werner.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Resource Extraction: *Discovering Coal*
Show how the advent of the railroad and coal mining directly influenced the population of Routt County and Steamboat Springs as a market town—link to the coal trains which pass daily through Steamboat Springs.

Routt National Forest: Interpret Steamboat Springs' backyard to give an understanding of today's accessible landscapes and recreational opportunities, and contrast them with the isolation created by the remote rugged terrain before the railroad and advent of the automobile.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

- Art Depot
- Steamboat Springs Visitor Center
- U.S. Forest Service
- Howelsen Hill

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

- Historic Walking Tour of Steamboat Springs



Historic Main Street in Steamboat Springs



Main Street with town fountain – 1926
Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

TENACITY OF PURSUITS:*A Western Community at Work and Play***2 DEVELOPING THE ECONOMY**

Growing a Town: Isolated and remote, particularly in winter, Steamboat Springs grew slowly. In 1879 a dozen families settled in the area and by 1883 a sawmill was established to supply building material. The school was moved out of the Crawford home and into a small log cabin on his property in 1874. The *Steamboat Pilot*, printed its first paper in 1885. By 1886, the town had a general store, post office, and hotel. By 1905, a small town was clearly on the rise and included the F.M. Light & Sons store (1905), the Sheridan and Onyx Hotels (1888, 1902), Church, flour mill, school, three livery stables, three banks, four general stores, two meat markets and other small businesses.

Stage Coach: In 1888 the Whipple Stage was established from Wolcott with an overnight stop in McCoy and then on to Yampa and Steamboat Springs. The Whipple Stage was pulled by four to six horses and carried 14 passengers. It made three trips/week to Steamboat Springs. Other Steamboat lines included connections to Craig, Hayden and Hahn's Peak. When the weather was too harsh for even the sleighs, stage drivers delivered mail on skis or snowshoes. During the spring thaw the teams traveled at night when the trails were still frozen. Stage coaches ran until 1913 when the railroad reached Hayden.

Market Town: Initially, Steamboat Springs provided a small, local market for ranchers and farmers' produce. With the arrival of the railroad in 1909 the town became a shipping hub that connected ranchers/farmers with

outside markets. Steamboat Springs became a cattle shipping center and by the early 1910s more cattle were shipped from Steamboat Springs than any other shipping point in the United States.

The ability to ship livestock out of Steamboat Springs led to the development of stockyards—holding pens, loading structures along the rail line. In the spring livestock were received and in the fall they were marketed or shipped out. Cowboys frequently drove large herds down Lincoln Avenue—a report exists of nearly 5000 head being stampeded down the main street in 1900. Today livestock arrive and depart via trucks but, for over 50 years steers, cows, calves, sheep, lambs and pigs were transported by rail.

Transportation: *Trails to Trains*

Game trails and foot paths leading into the Yampa Valley eventually gave way to wagon routes and primitive roads. It was the arrival of the Denver, Northwestern & Pacific that allowed Steamboat Springs to emerge as a central shipping point for Routt County and beyond. Game trails were adopted by Native tribes for their seasonal migration to and through the Territory. These trails were also used by hunters and trappers and eventually adopted by ranchers for herding livestock. Primitive wagon roads came next, over which teams of four to eight horses hauled wagons and sleds in the winter. Freight wagons and stages provided mail, supplies and transportation for early settlers. Finally, in 1908, the Denver Northwestern & Pacific railroad arrived in Steamboat via Moffat Road.

Depot: Passenger trains arrived at the Depot from 1908 to 1968. Dancers coming to the Perry-Mansfield Dance Camp traveled by rail from as far as New York and Chicago. Likewise, audiences from Denver took the Moffat line up to Steamboat to attend dance performances as well as to visit the springs, hunt and fish. Today cars full of coal from the Moffat County mines pass by regularly.

Steamboat's Strawberries: Strawberry production resulted in Steamboat Spring's first crop boom around 1900. The meadowland north of Steamboat Springs proved ideal for strawberry production—sunshine, rich soil and insulating deep winter snows. Routt County Strawberry Company was formed in 1910 and the first crates of strawberries shipped in 1911 from Steamboat Springs. In 1911, producers formed the Steamboat Springs Strawberry and Produce Association and began shipping their strawberries to markets in Denver, Omaha, Chicago and New York. Competition from new markets and early frosts brought the boom to an end in 1915.

Brooklyn:

The Red-Light District The 1914 prohibition of the making and sale of spirituous liquor in Steamboat Springs angered local cowboys. In reaction to the law, they formed the small community south of town called Brooklyn, which consisted of one unnamed street lined with saloons and brothels. Between 1902 and 1914 as many as 40 people lived in Brooklyn. The saloons closed in 1914.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Growing a Town: *Interacting with History*

Create an interactive on-line map/timeline with clickable categories like dates/names which show the progress of growth in Steamboat Springs.

Market Town: Compare today's downtown with the downtown of different periods in Steamboat Springs' history using historic photos, sidewalk graphics, images/historic ads in storefront windows or business interiors.

Strawberry Crate Graphics: Research photos, ads and graphics from the Steamboat Springs Strawberry and Produce Association. Graphics would bring the story alive.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

Transportation: Arts Depot could tell the story of transportation through the eyes of a rancher, dancer or tourist and be displayed in the baggage room. Graphics of strawberry crate art, merchandise ads, fashion ads, even livestock ads could also be displayed.

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

F.M. Light features historic photos on their walls and merchandise racks.

"We decided to get panel trucks, which we loaded with samples—cowboy boots, Stetsons, Levis and saddles. We took orders to fill back at the store...The ranchers looked forward to our visits, not only to see the samples but to hear the news from town." Clarence Light



Returning home from a ski meet in Denver. Photo circa 1925
Courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

"You got around on horseback, on skis, or with a team and sled. That was the only transportation...I was lucky if I got to town twice in one winter." Clarence Wheeler, Rancher

TENACITY OF PURSUITS:

A Western Community at Work and Play

2 DEVELOPING THE ECONOMY *continued*

Working the Land: *Ranching Ethic*

Early settlers combined stock raising, primarily cattle and horses, with farming to keep their operations profitable. They grew crops and hay on their land and grazed their herds on open range or public grazing areas. The mixed operation of farming and ranching continued through to the close of World War II. This more diversified operation avoided complete dependence on one crop or the market.

Agricultural operations often included a kitchen garden, grain crops, chickens, hogs, horses and dairy cattle in addition to herds of cattle or sheep. The ranches/farms outlying Steamboat Springs and other market towns frequently raised more chickens and dairy cattle for sale to nearby residents than the more rural ranches.

Farming: *Harvesting Hay*

Homesteaders grew crops for their own survival and bartered or sold surplus locally. The crop of choice was hay, which was grown to feed livestock during the long winter months. By the 1920s, many farmers devoted most, if not all, of their land to hay and grain.

Sheep Ranching: *An International Affair*

Sheep herding/ranching was a significant part of the economy of Steamboat Springs. Much of the sheep grazing was seasonal, with herds being on the trail for nine months at a time, often with Basque and Greek shepherders. Sheering sheep each spring was a

major business, which attracted Australians and New Zealanders to Routt County. Sheep were also shipped to market from the Steamboat Springs stockyards.

A Working Horse: *Stamina on Four Legs*

A reliable horse was integral to life in the Yampa Valley and remains a mainstay on ranching operations today. In addition to being a mode of transportation and used in rounding up livestock, horses and draught horses pulled farm implements and hauled stagecoaches, mail coaches and wagons. North Routt County is known for its Quarter Horse breeding.

Rodeo: *Keep One Leg on each Side and Your Mind in the Middle*

Impromptu contests where cowboys could demonstrate their abilities in bronco riding to calf roping appeared throughout town around the turn of the century. According to John Burroughs in, *Where the West Stayed Young*, "city fathers passed an ordinance making it a misdemeanor for cowboys to hold bucking contests and horse races on Main Street." A rodeo grounds was created in 1909, but grandstands, corrals and fences were not built until 1927 and continue in use today.

Ranch Work: *Irons in the Fire*

In an attempt to prevent cattle theft and thwart cattle rustlers, the Colorado Stock Growers was organized in 1867. Although brands had been in use earlier, 1867 was the first recorded brand in Colorado. Branding is done mainly at two times of the year; in the spring after calving and in the fall after roundup.

Stock Drive: *Trailing Livestock*

In 1912, over 7000 cattle reached Steamboat Springs along the Beef Trail for shipping. Cattle ranching became economically important to the community. Historically, the Beef Trail drove cattle from Slater and California Parks to Yampa; another route followed the Yampa River to Steamboat Springs by way of Spring Creek and Buffalo Pass. Historian Paul Bonnifield states that, "with few exceptions, the herds were trailed by one of two routes: the Twenty Mile Road handled herds south of the Yampa River; and everything north of the River crossed the stock bridge" to the Depot stockyards. Sheep were also trailed from open grazing lands and area ranches.

A Bridge to the Stockyards: *Cattle Drives and Shipping*

With the arrival of the railroad, the Steamboat Springs Depot became a major shipping point for livestock. There are two primary shipping times: spring when livestock was shipped in for fattening and fall when cattle and sheep coming off open grazing land were shipped out to markets across the United States.

A stockyard—temporary holding pens for livestock being shipped to market—was constructed in 1908 on the west side of the Yampa River near the Depot. To get trailed livestock across the river, a stock bridge was constructed. According to historian, Paul Bonnifield, the bridge was needed because sheep can not swim—their wool fills with water and sinks them. Farrington Carpenter also states in his book, *Confessions of a Maverick*, that cattle and calves are also hard to drive across water. Bonnifield also cites another reason; the Cabin Hotel did not want guests to be disturbed by livestock being driven near the Hotel or mineral springs, so the bridge was constructed further down stream.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Clues in the Landscape:

Known for their ability to use the materials at hand and to use simple technologies in innovative ways, ranchers developed unique fencing methods and materials. Homesteaders first used barbed wire fences to keep cattle off their property, sheep ranchers use a woven-grid fencing, and ranchers use log fences or worm fences. Show visitors what to look for in the landscape, and prepare them to become more attuned to the nuances of the ranching complex—fences and gates; barns and outbuildings; haymakers and hay roles. Use the story of three-wire winters as a means of describing the seasons impact on the Yampa Valley.

Harvesting Hay: *Rolling Landscapes*

Hay racks are a visible artifact in the Yampa Valley and hay rolls as opposed to hay bales could be used as means of interpreting the versatility of ranchers and ranching as well as showing how ranchers use traditional methods and embrace new technologies.

Sheep: *Staying Power*

Despite range wars and conflict, sheep ranching is still evident in the Valley. Using Routt County Woolens as an example of “doing what it takes to stay in the Valley,” show how present day ranchers are adapting in order to continue their way of life.

Tolerance and Intolerance: *Open Range Strife*

Neighborliness and tolerance among the ranching community in Routt County did not extend to sheep ranchers. As homesteading acreage increased, free-range acreage and watering holes were fenced off; leading to escalating tension and conflict between cattlemen, sheep ranchers and homesteaders.

Sheep: *Contrasts of Life*

Contrast the life of sheep men with the life of cattlemen; as well as sheepherder with the life of the cowboy as a way of telling about the range wars.

Roundup: *River Crossings and Stampedes*

Oral histories, cattle and sheep drive audio could be accessed at the bridge or Stockbridge Ranching Heritage Center. Feature Ferrington Carpenter's 1929 film, which shows the difficulty of moving cattle across rivers.

Campfires: *Roundup*

Schedule barbecue and song event around the campfire to create opportunities where ranching/roundup experiences can be told through oral histories, songs and poetry.

TENACITY OF PURSUITS:

A Western Community at Work and Play

2 DEVELOPING THE ECONOMY *continued* INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Ranch Tour: *On the Trail*

The roundup was an annual communal event that brought together cowboys, stockmen and their families. Tour ranches/dude ranches could create trail rides, which use oral histories and interpretation to let people experience a roundup through a specific duty: trail boss; nighthawk; horse wrangler; point rider; flank rider; drag rider; or cook.

Ranch Hands: *The Truth about Ranching*

The act of cowboying—riding fence or roundup—is only a fraction of the duties required of a ranch hand. Detail the daily tasks of the rancher from sun up to sun down, winter and summer.

Branding: *Rope, Ride and Brand 'Em*

Demonstrate/give instructions at a Stockbridge Park event on lariat roping as a way to bring the branding story alive. Locate historic ranches with their brand on an interactive map at Stockbridge. The map legend could denote brands which are still in use today. Content or an interpreter could teach people how to read a brand—and make their own.

Cowboy Up: *Contest of Will and Skill*

Through historic imagery, explore the rodeo as a celebration of ranching and roundup—and as a way for cowboys to show-off their ranching skills. The Rodeo Grounds provide an excellent opportunity for a trail marker to feature the cowboys and rodeo riders.

Working Horse: *A Man with Guts and a Horse**

Schedule events/demonstrations where horses, cattle and sheep are brought to Stockbridge to show how: a reliable horse was integral to ranching life and remains a mainstay on ranching operations today; draft horses could show build and stamina needed to haul stagecoaches, mail coaches, wagons. Share the story of the teamster's connection with their horses and ability to work them.

* Will James

Jack of All Trades: *Living Life with the Hand you Dealt*

Create interactive/ranch artifact cards for people “to draw” which interpret some aspect of ranching through: horse shoeing tools, farm implements, sheep herding gear, etc. These cards could also be drawn to let visitors experience life through a member of the trail crew: cook, wrangler, cowboy, point rider, flank rider and drag rider or cattleman.

Cowboy for Hire: *Jack of all Trades*

Research historic ads to develop an advertisement that outlines all the skills and characteristics needed to be a ranch hand, cowpuncher: Must be able to: Doctor cattle and horses; keep things running with baling wire/ weld; harvest and put up hay; ride, break and shoe horses; carpenter; fix and ride fence; irrigate; shovel snow, herd/drive, rope and brand cattle.

Stock Drive: *From Range to Railhead*

Create an interactive Routt County map of the livestock trails used to drive cattle and sheep as a means of linking the visitor to the cowboy and shepherd's story of trailing and roundup to get them to market.

Stockbridge: *Panic at the River Crossing*

An interpretive trail marker at the bridge telling the story of the difficulty in herding cattle across water and the necessity for a bridge across the Yampa. Create an audio component of the sounds of cattle and sheep as well as the railroad to convey getting livestock to market.

Core Trail: *Arts Depot to Rodeo Grounds*

A walking tour brochure/audio/Podcast to highlight the legacy of ranching from round up to the stockyards, from the Depot to the Rodeo Grounds.

Ipod/Driving Tour: A tour beginning in Stockbridge which allows visitors to explore the ranches outlying Steamboat on a scenic drive. The tour could include the following components: explanation of ranching history, clues to understanding the ranching complex, folklore/superstitions, sounds of cattle drive, day in the life of a rancher (in their voices), cowboy poets, music.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

SST: Riding the Valley

A walking/biking tour brochure/audio/Podcast could highlight the legacy of ranching from round up to the stockyards, from the Depot to the Rodeo Grounds. Distribute on board the Steamboat Springs Transit buses.

Interactive Sculpture/Play Structure: a sculpture of horses that horse that kids can "ride"; a play structure engineered or inspired by ranching equipment. Stockbridge Rodeo Grounds

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

Ranch Tours via bus throughout Routt County
Dude and Guest Ranches throughout the Yampa Valley
Ranch Rodeo: Cattle Drive - 4th of July



Cattle drive down Lincoln Avenue in Steamboat Springs – 1908
Photo Courtesy the Tread of Pioneers Museum

Stockbridge
Rodeo Grounds

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

Ranch Tours via bus throughout Routt County
Dude and Guest Ranches throughout the Yampa Valley
Ranch Rodeo: Cattle Drive - 4th of July



Sheep herd across from the Depot – 1915
Photo Courtesy the Tread of Pioneers Museum

"If we lose the working landscape, we'll lose not only the stewards of the land, we'll lose one leg of what I call the three-legged milking stool that makes the valley what it is: Citizens, Community and Countryside." Lyman Orton

TENACITY OF PURSUITS:

A Western Community at Work and Play

3 ENDURING INSTITUTIONS

Tourism/Spa Town

Tourism has played a significant role in Steamboat Routt County. The hot springs at Steamboat Springs were a notable attraction as early as 1849. John Crawford, Steamboat Springs first permanent resident counted over 150 mineral springs in the area. He built a small shelter over Heart Spring in 1875 for bathers. The year 1909 saw the building of a stone structure at Heart Spring as well as the construction of the Cabin Hotel near Steamboat Spring and Soda Spring. Built to accommodate tourists and health seekers, the Hotel catered to tourists arriving by train in Steamboat Springs. Today, the Steamboat Health and Recreation pools and facilities continue to serve tourists and bathers.

Tourism/Skiing

Skiing became popular in Steamboat Springs in 1914 with the formation of ski clubs and the start of Winter Carnival, which is the oldest winter carnival west of the Mississippi. Carl Howelsen prepared the competitive ski course on Woodchuck Hill (now Howelsen Hill) the day after he won the Colorado Ski Jumping Championship in Hot Sulphur Springs.

Tourism/Dude Ranches

Dude ranches, catering to visitors seeking a western experience were first established in the 1930s.

Steamboat Pilot: *Recording History*

The Steamboat Pilot is the oldest continuing business in northwestern Colorado—its first publication was in August 1885.

F.M. Light and Sons: *Outfittin' the West since 1905*

Established in 1905 as a men's clothing store, F.M. Light & Sons is one of the oldest businesses in Steamboat Springs. During the Depression, F.M. Light traveled throughout northwest Colorado and Wyoming selling merchandise from his sales trucks. Beginning in 1911, bright yellow signs advertising the store were placed on horse and foot trails within a 100 mile vicinity of Steamboat Springs. In the 1930s when Highway 40 opened, signs were placed along the roadside to attract tourists into town.

Howelsen Hill: *Recreational Leap*

Skiing became popular in 1914 when ski clubs were formed and an annual Winter Carnival took place at Howelsen Hill. Today, Howelsen Hill and Winter Carnival and the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club are still going strong.

The Depot: *Art Arrival*

Trains no longer stop in Steamboat Springs, but from 1908 to the early 1970s the railroad was a major factor in the development of Steamboat Springs—bringing tourists to recreational events: hot springs, skiing, Winter Carnival, and cultural events such as Perry-Mansfield. Today, the Depot is home to the Steamboat Springs Arts Council and is still attracting locals and tourists to Steamboat Springs with offerings in both the visual and performing arts.

Perry-Mansfield Performing Art School:

Charlotte Perry and Portia Mansfield started the Perry-Mansfield School and Camp in 1913. Combining instruction in modern dance and drama with horsemanship and camping, the School is now the oldest continuously operating performing arts school and camp in the nation. Perry-Mansfield offers summer programs taught by internationally renowned faculty in dance, theater, musical theater, dramatic writing and equestrian riding for ages 8 through college as well as master workshops for adults. Several public performances are presented throughout the summer months.



Ladies Recreation Club Parade on Main Street – 1928
Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum



Howelsen Hill lift – 1948
Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS

Industrious Families: *Participating in Place*

Trace the history of the enduring institutions through the stories of generations/families who participated in the events and now are seeing their children experience the same traditions. Using oral history, newspaper articles and photos develop the personal/human story, which will bring history alive.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

At the site of the businesses—the *Steamboat Pilot*, the Arts Depot, Howelsen Hill, Downtown Main Street, Perry-Mansfield Performing Art School.

EXISTING FACILITIES, MEDIA OR PROGRAMS

F.M. Light & Sons displays historic photos on their walls and merchandise racks.

Cemeteries are often a wealth of history. At the Steamboat Springs' Cemetery, the grave of James Crawford, who founded Steamboat Springs and his wife is etched with a likeness of the first cabin he built with the words "The End of the Trail."*

*The Tread of Pioneers Museum is an excellent source of archived information for research.

TENACITY OF PURSUITS:

A Western Community at Work and Play

4 CULTIVATING QUALITY OF LIFE

Arts and Culture

Perry-Mansfield Performing Art School: Established in 1913, the camp combined instruction in modern dance and drama with horsemanship and camping experience. The camp initially stirred controversy among some townspeople who thought things were too “wild” out at the camp. The local Temperance Society and a local preacher criticized the camp and its “dancing girls,” but the camp proved to be a success and won the community over. Dancers socialized with cowboys, who taught them to square dance and students at the camp offered performances and art work to the town. The camp inspired square dance festivals in the 1950s, which were held on Lincoln Avenue and attracted thousands from across the country.

Cultural Organizations

Steamboat Springs Arts Council / Art Museum
Perry-Mansfield Performing Art School
Colorado Mountain College

Recreational Organizations

Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club - 1914
Ladies Recreation Club: 1920 -

Community Celebrations

Winter Carnival: The oldest winter carnival west of the Mississippi began in 1913, when Carl Howelsen constructed a ski jump on Woodchuck Hill and organized a two day event to showcasing skiing and ski jumping. Today Winter Carnival events occur on Lincoln Avenue and Howelsen Hill.

Recreational Events

Winter Carnival: 1914 -
Lighted Man: 1936 -
Diamond Hitch: 1927 -
Cowboy Downhill: 1974 -
Chariot/Cutter Races
Steamboat Springs Stampede: 1981 -
Fourth of July
Art in the Park
Hoe Downs and Barn Dances
Game and Fish Day

Historic Downtown

Carver Power Plant 1900
St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1913
Routt County National Bank 1919
Christian Science Church 1934
Seventh Street District
Craig House 1910
Burroughs Houses
Routt County Court House 1923
Giamboni House 1889
Willett House
Horizons, Schaffnit House
Old Town Pub 1904
Pioneer Building
First National Bank/Rehder Building 1902
Chief Theater
Yacht Club 1922
Harwigs Grill 1890s
Lincoln Avenue Printers/The Pilot 1909
Soda Creek Building/Steamboat Laundry 1920s

Lorenz Building 1893
Thiesen Mall 1890
Lyon Drug Store, Squire Building 1908
F.M. Light & Sons 1905
Allen's 1920s
The Cantina
The Furlong Building 1920s

Education

School House: One year after the Crawfords arrived, a Miss Jennie Bennett was hired to educate the family's children. Class met in the living room of the Crawford's log cabin from 1876 to 1877. Seven years later, daughter Lulie Crawford was the teacher, and class had moved to a storeroom on the property. As more settlers arrived in the Valley, the landscape became dotted with one room schoolhouses dedicated to educating children of all grade levels. Children arrived on horseback, skis and by surreys. These rural schools became the gathering centers for the community dinners, dances and meetings.

Mesa School

Of the 96 schools built in Routt County, Mesa School is one of the few still standing in its original location. Built in 1917 by Art Gumprecht, Mesa School served the community until 1959. It was restored and dedicated in 2000. The film, *Cow Town to Ski Town*, borrowed footage from Universal Pictures, 1959 film, *Ski Town USA*, which show children attending class at Mesa School and leaving for ski exercise in the schoolyard.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS/LOCATIONS

Perry-Mansfield Playbills and Photos: in an effort to take the story out of the museum, utilize graphics and images from the dance camp. Also consider interpretation at the camp—in a historic building there or through tours.

An Inspired Setting: Showcase the work of local artists and voice their creative inspiration. Explore how the beauty of the setting and the soul of the Steamboat community continue to influence artists.

Local Architecture: Walking tours are already offered. Other opportunities exist to explore the five predominant architectural styles in the residential area of Old Town and commercial styles of downtown. The predominant residential styles are Pioneer log and rustic, vernacular wood frame; Bungalow/Craftsman; Queen Anne; Colonial revivals and Foursquare. Common regional characteristics among the homes regardless of their architectural style include: high-pitched roofs clad in corrugated metal to discourage snow accumulation—roofing typically post-dates the homes construction; wood construction (where brick and stone are prevalent in commercial area); locally quarried stones featured in cut and uncut stone facades built by local master craftsman; side-gabled porches or hoods over the main entrance to deflect snow.

5 CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ski Story

“Norwegian Snowshoes:” The earliest skis were called Norwegian snowshoes by the pioneers and were used primarily for transportation in the late 1880s. Early accounts of lumberjacks and homesteaders related that skis were the only way people could travel during severe winters. Postmen delivered mail on homemade skis measuring 8 to 12 feet in length. Trips to Denver by ski were not unusual and typically took two weeks. These early skiers used a single pole as a brace, a rudder, or to drag between their legs to slow speed.

Steamboat Springs’ Ski Hills: *Jumping through History* Howelsen’s first take off was from a hill behind his house in Strawberry Park,; Woodchuck Hill (where CMC is located today) was the site of the first Winter Carnival in 1913; then at Carl Howelsen’s instigation, trees were cleared on Crawford Mountain/Quarry Mountain (later re-named Emerald Mountain) in 1914. The front slope was named Howelsen Hill in 1917. It is the oldest continuously operating ski hill in Colorado and the oldest ski jump in the nation.

INTERPRETIVE IDEAS/LOCATIONS

Scavenger Hunt: Use cell phone text messaging technology or traditional brochure to develop a scavenger hunt experience. Appealing to a younger audience, the tour would facilitate exploration of the City’s skiing history/ski jumping locations. Tour should be accessible on foot or via transit.

Timeline: Generate a creative graphic demarcating the milestones in Steamboat Springs’ development as a western ski community at Howelsen Hill.



Carl Howelsen jumping at Howelsen Hill – 1915
Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

INTERPRETIVE LOCATIONS



LEGACY RANCH



MESA SCHOOL



SPRINGS

Heart Spring
Iron Spring
Soda Spring
Sulphur Spring
Sweetwater/Lake Spring
Steamboat Spring
Black Sulphur/
Narcissus/Terrace
Lithia Spring
Sulphur Cave Spring
Strawberry Park



RODEO GROUNDS



HOWELSEN HILL

Howelsen Hill Lodge
Ski Jump 1914



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

Carver Power Plant 1900
St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1913
Routt County National Bank 1919
Christian Science Church 1934
Seventh Street District
Craig House 1910
Burroughs Houses
Routt County Court House 1923
Giamboni House 1889
Willett House
Horizons, Schaffnit House
Old Town Pub 1904
Pioneer Building
First National Bank/Rehder Building 1902
Chief Theater
Yacht Club 1922
Harwigs Grill 1890s
Lincoln Avenue Printers/The Pilot 1909
Soda Creek Building/Steamboat Laundry 1920s
Lorenz Building 1893
Thiesen Mall 1890
Lyon Drug Store, Squire Building 1908
F.M. Light & Sons 1905
Allen's 1920s
The Cantina
The Furlong Building 1920s



CULTURAL CENTERS

- Arts Depot
- Tread of Pioneers Museum
- Perry-Mansfield



YAMPA RIVER / CORE TRAIL

- Boardwalk
- Yampa Island Park
- 5th Street Bridge
- 13th Street Bridge



STOCKBRIDGE PARK



PARKS

- Rotary Park
- Stehley Park
- Confluence Park
- Summit Park Trailhead
- River Creek Park
- West Lincoln Park/Little Toots Park
- Spring Creek Trailhead
- Memorial Park



CREEKS

- Sarvis Creek
- Soda Creek
- Butcherknife Creek
- Spring Creek

0.25 in Margin

Teacher
+
Wedlock
= No Teacher

Ed duisl dolupta tuerost ionsecte min enis augue ming ent velese tat ver susci tat nullaorem zzril ea autpat. Duis num dolor ing eril ex exero consensil iure tatie facil ut vulputatum nismodignim zzriuscil ero etue modiam.

Ed duisl dolupta tuerost ionsecte min enis augue ming ent velese tat ver susci tat nullaorem zzril ea autpat. Duis num dolor ing eril.

One-Room Schoolhouse

Ed duisl dolupta tuerost ionsecte min enis augue ming ent velese tat ver susci tat nullaorem zzril ea autpat. Duis num dolor ing eril ex exero consensil iure tatie facil ut vulputatum nismodignim zzriuscil ero etue modiam irillam commole stionsed dunt veleseq uipsum dolorer assequis nulla feu faccum odigna am zzrit nit del doloreet, commodo loreetum diam, velit velendignibh erit wisit lamet, conulputpat vullamet prat.

Na alis at. Duis nos atumsan henisit at vel et in hendre del ing etum volor aliquis sequat del dit, quisil dolore vel eu faccumsan et wis doloreet wis nullamet, si.

Brains, Brawn & Beauty
The Historic Mesa School

A Tale of Strong-Willed Women

Aessequis nulla feu faccum odigna am zzrit nit del doloreet, commodo loreetum diam, velit velen dignibh erit wisit lamet, conulputpat vullamet prat. Na alis at. Duis nos atumsan henisit at vel et in hendre del ing etum volor aliquis.

Ed duisl dolupta tuerost ionsecte min enis augue ming ent velese tat ver susci tat nullaorem zzril ea autpat. Duis num dolor ing eril ex exero.

Ed duisl dolupta tuerost ionsecte min enis augue ming ent velese tat ver susci tat nullaorem zzril ea autpat. Duis num dolor ing eril.

RECOMMENDATIONS

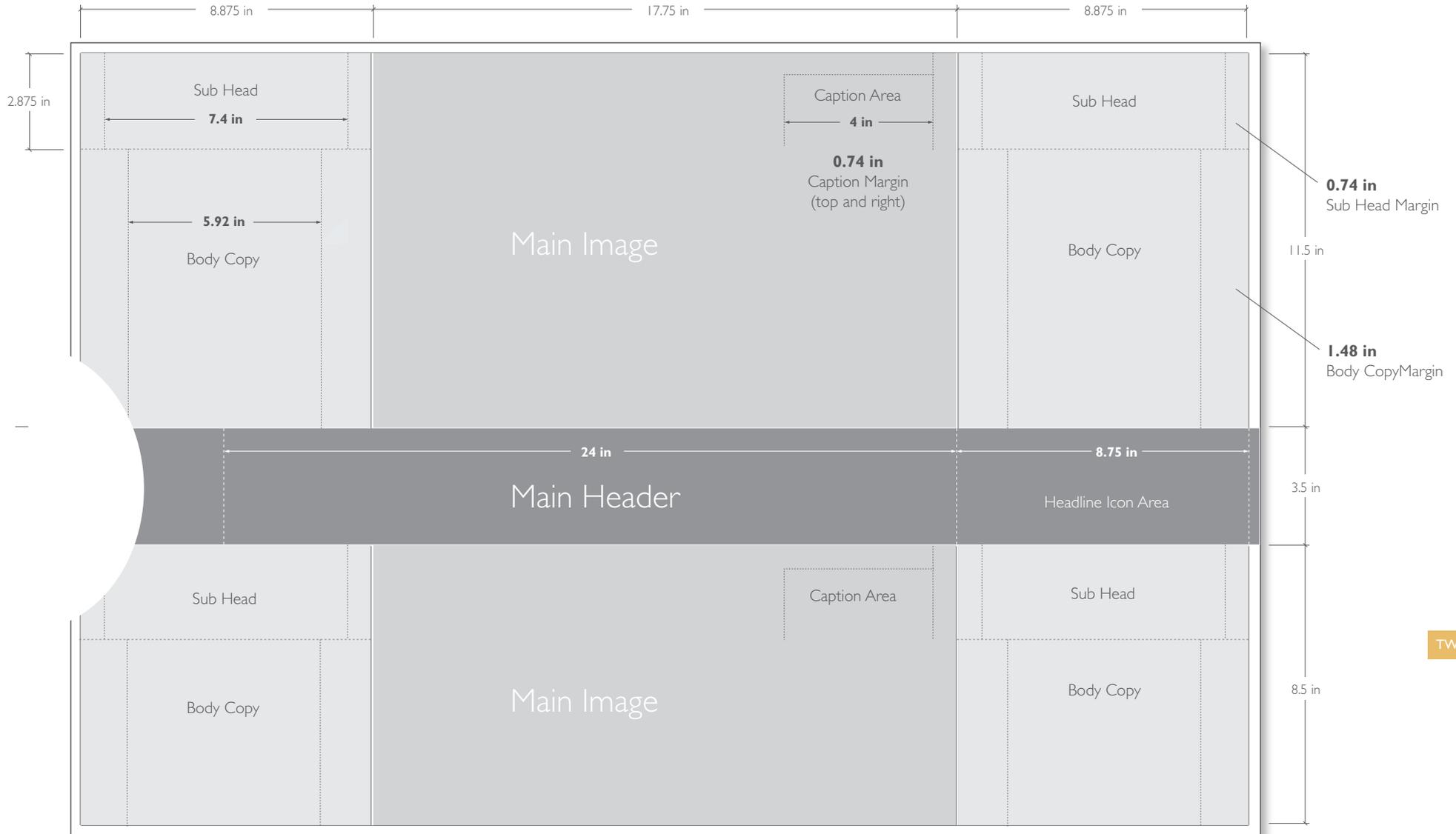
TWO

36 in

24 in

Heads and Sub-heads are modified in Photoshop to simulate tooled leather. The main head is tooled into a band of leather which spans the length of the panel and includes the white margins.

TRAIL MARKER LAYOUT DIMENSIONS



RECOMMENDATIONS

TWO

Designing Interpretive Panels

Effective interpretation transforms people's thinking by revealing meanings and relationships that:

- **Provoke** attention
- **Relate** to the visitors everyday life
- **Reveal** the key point through an engaging viewpoint
- Addresses one Primary Theme
- Uses graphics, quotes, text, photos and images, color and texture to convey the story

Once you have decided on the appropriate Primary theme and storyline for interpretation, define: Why would a visitor want to know about it—the “so what” question? Secondly, determine what you want the visitor to leave knowing.

People learn best when they are actively involved in the learning process, so encourage them to use their senses. Ask questions: *can you see? Have you experienced?* And, have them; *look for, listen to, find the...*

A good rule of thumb is to keep interpretive text to a maximum of 200 words, 150 if possible. Keep sentences short, verbs active, the tone conversational and use the word *you*.

Interpretive Panel Type Guidelines

Show it rather than say it: People decide within seconds whether or not to read interpretive panels. So, get your message across immediately in the Headline, Main Picture and related Sub Heading the following suggested minimum type point sizes:

HEADLINES are vital

Type

130 point / 5 Tracking / 1.3 Cap Height
Cheltenham Book Condensed

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPO
abcdefghijklmno
0123456789

Type

60 point / 5 Tracking / 0.6 Cap Height
Matrix Script Bold

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPO
abcdefghijklmno
0123456789

SUB HEADINGS are important

Type

44 point / 5 Tracking
Cheltenham Ultra Condensed

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
op
0123456789

Type

40 point / 5 Tracking
Matrix Script Bold

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
op
0123456789

BODY TEXT: must be lively and engaging

Type

24 point Type / 34 point leading
Cheltenham Light

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
op
0123456789

Type

24 point type / 32 point leading
Cheltenham Bold Condensed Italic

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
op
0123456789

CAPTIONS: should highlight your messages

Type

24 point Type / 30 point leading
Gill Sans Light

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
op
0123456789

TRAIL MARKER SIGN SYSTEM

Trail Marker Guidelines

We are recommending the **Echosierra** sign system for its durability and custom-looking round tube bases. The system features sign bases for identification, information and orientation as well as interpretation.

Echo System is a complete component-based sign system with frames and legs and all related hardware, and utilizes iZone's high-pressure laminate graphic sign panels. The system is patented and boasts durability with attractive styling and economical pricing.

For purposes of interpretation, the **sierraexhibit**, reverse angle base is the standard for interpretive trail markers and panels.

Specifications

Posts: Steel posts: Vertical structural elements

Finish options:

Oxidation to a dark brown patina - never needs painting or maintenance

Powder coat - standard and custom colors

Natural galvanized finish - recommended for coastal installations

Installation Options:

Standard in-ground, posts fitted with buried stabilizer blades

Wooden deck the units can be mounted with base plates—lag bolts

Concrete footings—J-bolts



Standard Viewing Height
Front Edge Height: 32"
Angle: 30 degrees or 45 Degrees

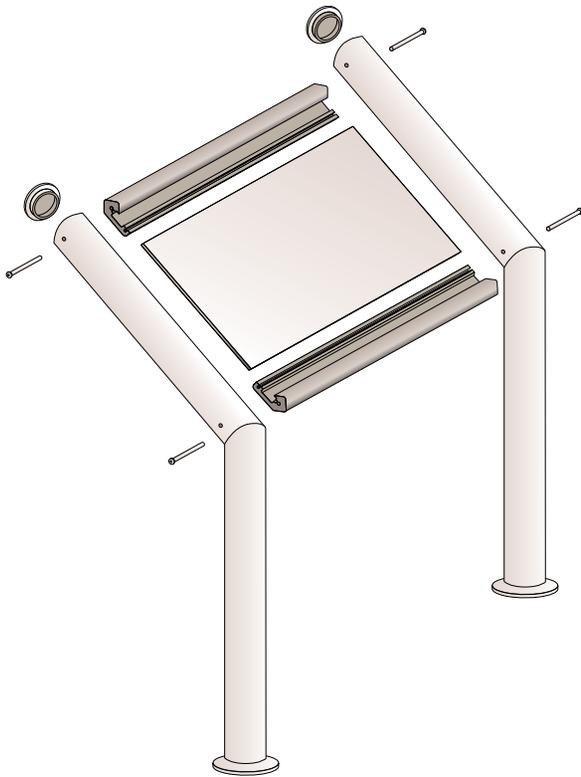
Manufacturer
iZone
2526 Charter Oak Drive
Suite 100
Temple, TX 76502

www.izoneimaging.com
Tel: 888.464.9663



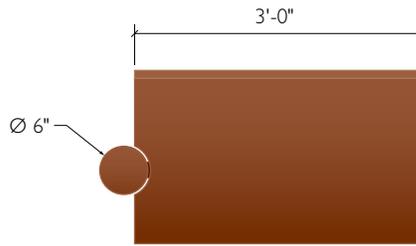
TRAIL MARKER SIGN SYSTEM

Interpretive Panel Standard Sizes



CUSTOM TRAIL MARKER SIGN SYSTEM

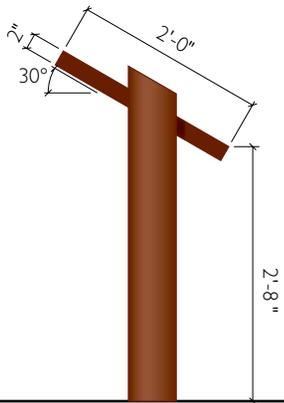
Cast Bronze Medallion mounted to top of post



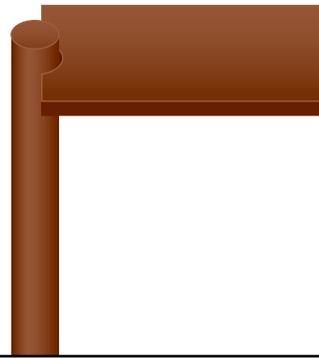
Plan View



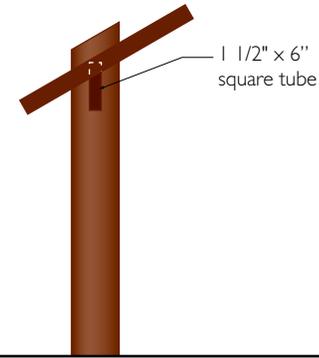
Detail



End Elevation A



Front Elevation



End Elevation B

RECOMMENDATIONS

TWO

TRAIL MARKER PANEL STANDARDS

Interpretive Panel Performance Matrix			
Performance Factors	Porcelain Enamel on Steel	High Pressure Laminate-Folia / I-Zone	High Pressure Laminate - CellEx
Graphics & Color	4 color seps+spot	Very Good	Excellent
Color Range	Excellent	Very Good	Excellent
Image Color Retention over Time	Excellent	Very Good	Excellent
Photo Reproduction Capability	Excellent	Very Good	Excellent
Material Durability			
Life Expectancy in Serviceable Condition	Exel - 25+ yrs	Good 8-10 yrs	Excellent 10 years interior 20 years exterior
Scratch/Abrasion Resistance	Very Good	Very Good	Recoverable; grind/polish
Cracking/Peeling/Warping Resistance	Very Good	Very Good - 10 years	Excellent
UV Protection	Excellent	Excellent - 10 years	Excellent - 10 years
Maintenance Needed	Annual Wash/wax	Bi-ann wash	Wash as needed; Bi-ann wax
Framing Needed	Yes	1/2" + no	Hidden base plate less than 1/2" thick
Impact Resistance (Hard Blows)	Poor-fair	Very Good	Excellent - shatterproof
Graffiti Removal	Excellent	Very Good	Excellent - graffiti proof
Replaceable / Duplication	Poor	Very Good	Excellent
Typical Application			
Interpretive Panels	Excellent	Very Good	Excellent
Trail Waysides	Excellent	Very Good	Excellent
Full-bleed graphics	Yes	Yes	Yes
Overall Assessment			
Drawbacks - Disadvantages	Chipping, Rusting		None
Advantages - Best Application	Durability/Resolution	Custom Shapes Color/Durability	Custom Shapes Color/Durability/Res.
Value for the Money	Very Good	Very Good	Excellent, + recyclable
Relative Cost	Very High	Moderate	Moderate
Maximum Size		53" x 142" + Hi Resolution Graphics	48" x 96" + Hi Resolution Graphics

STOCKBRIDGE RANCHING HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What do you want visitors to know about the Western heritage in Steamboat Springs and the Yampa Valley? A statement of significance helps you organize the ideas into compelling storylines, which can be tailored to offer something of value to the visitor and help them connect with the meanings inherent in Steamboat Springs ranching traditions.

Cattle and sheep ranching are two of Routt County's defining western legacies. And, as the largest rail shipping point for the region's cattle, ranching played a significant role in the growth of Steamboat Springs as a thriving market town.

The cattle drive to market is the culmination of the rancher and cowboy's hard work and signifies a time of celebration, socializing and rodeoing.

While cattle are now trucked to market, and the original depot stockyards and stock bridge are gone, the location of Stockbridge Park at the historic shipping site provides opportunity to orient people to the ranching traditions and people of Routt County. Stockbridge offers visitors the opportunity to physically and emotional "bridge" the story of the cattle drive.

INTERPRETIVE AUDIENCE

Visitors expect special experiences, which offer something of value to their lives. Their knowledge of ranching could range from the expert audience to the more general audience and include children and seniors, educational groups and recreational groups, locals and international groups.

Resource interpretation must be developed for all levels of audience knowledge.

In order to be relevant and provoke an understanding of the significance of ranching in the Valley, the interpretation must be orchestrated through: a series of hands-on experiences or demonstrations; interactive experiences which include, maps, oral histories, film, artifacts; brochures and guides; web-based or cell phone technology. To be successful, interpretive methods must engage all the senses.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES AT STOCKBRIDGE

Drawing from the Primary Themes of: Power of Place, Interdependence of People and Tenacity of Pursuits, the larger meaning of ranching traditions in the Yampa Valley can be conveyed at Stockbridge Park through four inter-related stories:

POWER OF PLACE: *Nature's Influence*

Given the remoteness and abundant resources of Northwest Colorado, Routt County was where the West stayed young. The region offers insight into the contributions ranching made to the growth and prosperity of Steamboat Springs.*



Cattle Roundup – 1908
Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

INTERDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE

As one of the last hold-outs of the American West, the region attracted rugged individualists—both men and women—whose stories exemplify the character traits of self-sufficiency, resiliency, spiritedness and integrity.



Branding calves

Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

INTERDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE

The amount of working and preserved ranchland in the area represents the value ranchers and their communities place on maintaining the ranching way of life. These cultural values provide a means of provoking appreciation and respect for a threatened way of life.



Chariot Racing – Winter Carnival

Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

TENACITY OF PURSUITS

Ranchers and cowboys choose a life of hard work and determination as a means of living life on their own terms. Their working and recreational pursuits provoke an understanding of the dualistic qualities of independence and interdependence, teamwork and competition required in the Yampa Valley.



Slide basket hay stacker

Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

POWER OF PLACE: *Nature's Influence*

Given the remoteness and abundant resources of Northwest Colorado, Routt County was where the West stayed young.* The region offers insight into the contributions ranching made to the growth and prosperity of Steamboat Springs.

1 Yampa Valley: *A Haven for Ranching:*

The grasses of the Yampa Valley provide excellent forage for cattle and sheep. Cattle fattened in this mountain valley brought better prices than those raised on the drier, hardier grasses from elsewhere in the U.S. During the summer, cattle were driven from as far off as Texas and sheep were trailed from Wyoming to graze the grasses of Routt County. Both sheep and cattle are still fixtures in the Yampa Valley.

2 Fertile Mountain Valley: *Shove up and Shove Down*

Early ranchers allowed their herds to graze and roam free throughout the open range. In summer, ranchers “shove up,” driving their herds to the alpine meadows at higher elevations. As winter approached, they “shove down,” herding the livestock back into the valley. In addition to providing forage in the winter, the natural grasses provided excellent hay that ranchers used for their own stock and sold to others. The valley hosted a mosaic of uses from pastures to growing fields.

Remote Mountain: *Trails of the West*

Create a map of cattle/sheep trails in Routt County detailing why Northwest Colorado was, *Where the Old West Stayed Young*, as described by author, John Burroughs; display on backlit wall at Stockbridge Transit Center. The same map could be viewed on the web and downloaded.

3 Market Town: *Shipping Hub*

Initially, Steamboat Springs provided a small, local market for ranchers and farmers' produce. With the arrival of the railroad in 1909 the town became a shipping hub that connected ranchers/farmers with outside markets. Steamboat Springs became a cattle shipping center and by the early 1910s more cattle were shipped from Steamboat Springs than any other shipping point in the United States.

The ability to ship livestock out of Steamboat Springs led to the development of stockyards—holding pens and loading structures along the rail line. In the spring livestock were received and in the fall they were marketed or shipped out. Cowboys frequently drove large herds down Lincoln Avenue—a report exists of nearly 5000 head being stampeded down the main street in 1900. Today livestock arrive and depart via trucks but, for over 50 years steers, cows, calves, sheep, lambs and pigs were transported by rail.

a Stock Drive: *From Range to Railhead*

Create an interactive Routt County map of the livestock trails used to drive cattle and sheep as a means of linking the visitor to the cowboy and shepherd's story of trailing and roundup to get them to market.

4 Ranchers and Farmers: *Public Land to Private Land*

Early settlers who were drawn to Routt County by mining often turned to ranching and farming to support themselves. With the enactment of the Homestead Act in 1862, settlers could file claim on 160 acres of public land, and in 1916 with the Grazing Homestead Act settlers could purchase 640 acres of public land for \$35.

a Homestead Act: *Public Land to Private Land*

Create a digital map and graphic based on historical documentation that reveals the government's generous real estate propositions and its influence on the population and growth of the Yampa Valley and Steamboat Springs.

5 The Colorado West: *A State of Mind*

The romance of the West—a way of life in tune with the land—has drawn people to the area for generations.

a The Colorado West: *A State of Mind*

Visitors seek hands-on experiences with livestock and authentic cowboys: schedule events/demonstrations where horse, cattle and sheep are brought to temporary pens at Stockbridge. Feature cowboy poetry, oral stories and opportunities for people to interact with the horsemen, cattlemen and sheep men of the region.

* Book title by John Burroughs, *Where the West Stayed Young*

INTERDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE

As one of the last hold-outs of the American West, the region attracted rugged individualists—both men and women—whose stories exemplify the character traits of self-sufficiency, resiliency, spiritedness and integrity.

6 Ranchers and Farmers: Men, Women and Families

Ranching is a family business—one that requires the dedication of men, women and children. Ranching attracts those who are at home in the out-of-doors, and includes: skiers, rodeo riders, ranch hands, cowboys, outfitter, guides, sheepherders, writers and poets.

a Legends: Poets, Rodeo Riders and Characters

Can be brought alive through: performances; introduced via audio/oral histories; “quotable rancher” quotes/poems; rodeo images, wear and gear. Individuals typically are best represented in the places most evocative of their influences on the community’s development.

b Photographs: Every Line Tells a Story

Enlarged black and white photographs of the faces and hands of area ranchers will reveal the ethos of the ranching life—hard work, resiliency, love of the land. Photos can be juxtaposed with historic imagery to convey the continuum of traditions.

c Ranching Women: At Home on the Range

Portray the life of women ranchers as hands and rancher’s wives to give perspective about life on the range—show similarities and contrasts between the the roles of women and men.

7 Symbol of the West

The cowboy creed and Code of the West is an ethic of integrity, loyalty, honesty, courage and hard work. As David Dary states in *Cowboy Culture*, the cowboy symbolizes the free life, closely tied to the out-of-doors and nature—and includes skiing.

In Steamboat Springs the cowboy/rancher is also a Steamboat Ski Resort employee. A typical summer’s day for them includes eight hours of maneuvering a backhoe or excavator at the base of the ski area in the summer before heading home to gather hay and tend to sheep and cattle on ranches around Steamboat Springs. They work year-round for the Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation and moonlight as Snowcat groomers throughout the winter months.

a Cowboy: Of Horses, Gear and Tools

Bring the Code of the West alive through the gear and tools required of the cowboy/rancher: show how clothing; boots, spurs, hat; gear and tools: saddles, lariat, snow shoes prepared him for life on the range. Contrast the historical cowboy/rancher with his Steamboat Springs counterpart—both men and women.

b Code of the West: Simple and Direct

Use John Wayne quotes to reveal the cowboy code of life: Contrast similarities and disparities between past and present people in the Yampa Valley:

“They were simple, direct men. . .they were a pretty tough lot, but they had to be. It was a tough era in our history. There was no room for nuance or no time for luxury. Out of the lives of these cowboys have come all sorts of stories and legends, some true, some fiction.”

c Art Sculpture: Interpreting the West

Commission sculpture which tells a story about the West in Steamboat Springs. Consider using John Waynes quote as inspiration: “But the most authentic and dependable evidence of what the cowboys really were has come from the artists who pictured them in their true environment, risking their lives in stampedes, freezing or sweating under the stars, by lonely campfires, rowdy in saloons, fighting, branding and whooping it up around the chuck wagon.”

INTERDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE

The amount of working and preserved rangeland in the area represents the value ranchers and their communities place on maintaining the ranching way of life. These cultural values provide a means of provoking appreciation and respect for a threatened way of life.

8 **Tending The Land: Preserving a Way of Life**

Ranchers are, traditionally, stewards of the land. Their love of the land is intense; they work hard to maintain their way of life and preserve the rural, ranching landscapes, which have come to define the Yampa Valley.

The success of ranching and farming can be attributed to the ability of those involved to switch back and forth between various industries. Many settlers also worked jobs in town during the day and then worked the land on weekends and evenings. It continues to be the Valley way of life—ranchers work the slopes as well as the land during the winter.

a **Economics of Ranching: Getting Paid Once a Year**

At Stockbridge Ranching Heritage Center profile current ranchers who rope, ride and ski to make a living. Panels could be readily changed to highlight various people. If developed in conjunction with the Ranch Tours, profiles could highlight the ranchers and ranches being visited.

9 **Centennial Ranches: Enduring Legacy**

Ranches on “a scale big enough to survive,” which have been in the same family for at least one hundred years demonstrate an enduring connection of families and their land.

a **Centennial Ranches: Generations of Ranchers**

The story of these ranches is really about family—and the handing down of knowledge and respect for the ranching tradition. Profile the ranches and the men, women and children who have made these ranches lasting through photos, oral histories and timelines. Focus on what it takes to be successful.

b **Preservation of Natural Resources: Ranchers and the Future**

Convey the story of programs which are allowing ranchers and landowners to sell future development rights to conservation trusts and place property in protected status to address the ranchers role in the preservation of the wide-open spaces of the Yampa Valley. A model program, Purchase of Development Rights or PDR, is generating national attention and could be interpreted at the Stockbridge Ranching Heritage Center.

c **Legacy Ranch: Generations of Ranchers**

Purchase of the 131-acre hay meadow and pasture with ranch house, bunkhouse, machine shed, pole shed, coal shed and barn signifies the City of Steamboat Springs' commitment to protecting and preserving its authentic ranching heritage. Legacy Ranch is an excellent place for demonstrations, events and hands-on experiences where the visitor can learn about ranching and farming. Given its distance from the City, consider creating a ranch bike tour which starts at Stockbridge and uses the Core Trail to the Rodeo Grounds and Legacy Ranch.

TENACITY OF PURSUITS

Ranchers and cowboys choose a life of hard work and determination as a means of living life on their own terms. Their working and recreational pursuits provoke an understanding of the dualistic qualities of independence and interdependence, teamwork and competition required in the Yampa Valley.

10 Working the Land: Ranching Ethic

Early settlers combined stock raising, primarily cattle and horses, with farming to keep their operations profitable. They grew crops and hay on their land and grazed their herds on open range or public grazing areas. The mixed operation of farming and ranching continued through to the close of World War II. This more diversified operation avoided complete dependence on one crop or the market.

Agricultural operations often included a kitchen garden, grain crops, chickens, hogs, horses and dairy cattle in addition to herds of cattle or sheep. The ranches/farms outlying Steamboat Springs and other market towns frequently raised more chickens and dairy cattle for sale to nearby residents than the more rural ranches.

a Clues in the Landscape: Using the Materials at Hand

Known for their ability to use the materials at hand and to use simple technologies in innovative ways, ranchers developed unique fencing methods and materials.

Homesteaders first used barbed wire fences to keep cattle off their property, sheep ranchers used woven grid fencing, and ranchers used log fences or worm fences. Show visitors what to look for in the landscape, and prepare them to become more attuned to the nuances of the ranching complex—fences and gates; barns and

b *out buildings; haymakers and hay roles. Use the story of three-wire winters as a means of describing the seasons impact on the Yampa Valley.*

c Roundup: River Crossings and Stampedes

Oral histories, cattle and sheep drive audio could be accessed at the bridge or Stockbridge Ranching Heritage Center. Feature Ferrington Carpenter's 1929 film, which shows the difficulty of moving cattle across rivers.

d Campfires: Roundup

Schedule barbecue and song event around the campfire to create opportunities where ranching/roundup experiences can be told through oral histories, songs and poetry.

e Ranch Tour: On the Trail

The roundup was an annual communal event that brought together cowboys, stockmen and their families. Tour ranches/dude ranches could create trail rides, which use oral histories and interpretation to let people experience a roundup through a specific duty: trail boss; nighthawk; horse wrangler; point rider; flank rider; drag rider; or cook.

f Ranch Hands: True Ranching Stories

The act of cowboying—riding fence or roundup—is only a fraction of the duties required of a ranch hand. Detail the daily tasks of the rancher from sun up to sun down, winter and summer.

11 Ranch Work: Irons in the Fire

In an attempt to prevent cattle theft and thwart cattle rustlers, the Colorado Stock Growers was organized in 1867. Although brands had been in use earlier, 1867 was the first recorded brand in Colorado. Branding is done mainly at two times of the year; in the spring after calving and in the fall after roundup.

a Branding: Rope, Ride and Brand 'Em

Demonstrate/give instructions at a Stockbridge Park event on lariat roping as a way to bring the branding story alive. Locate historic ranches with their brand on an interactive map at Stockbridge. The map legend could denote brands which are still in use today. Content or an interpreter could teach people how to read a brand—and make their own.

b Ranching Ethic: A Handshake and a Welcome Sign

To survive in Routt County, ranchers needed to be self-reliant and also rely on neighboring ranchers during branding, roundup and haying season.

c Ranching: Depending on your Neighbor

Ranchers survived with the help of their neighbors. Show how the traditions of round up and rodeoing coincide and contrast with the lore of the cowboy as a self-reliant loner.

TENACITY OF PURSUITS

Ranchers and cowboys choose a life of hard work and determination as a means of living life on their own terms. Their working and recreational pursuits provoke an understanding of the dualistic qualities of independence and interdependence, teamwork and competition required in the Yampa Valley.

12 Rodeo: Keep One Leg on each Side and Your Mind in the Middle

Impromptu contests where cowboys could demonstrate their abilities in bronco riding to calf roping appeared throughout town around the turn of the century. According to John Burroughs in, *Where the West Stayed Young*, “city fathers passed an ordinance making it a misdemeanor for cowboys to hold bucking contests and horse races on Main Street.” A rodeo grounds was created in 1909, but grandstands, corrals and fences were not built until 1927 and continue in use today.

a **Cowboy Up: Contest of Will and Skill**

Through historic imagery, explore the rodeo as a celebration of ranching and roundup—and as a way for cowboys to show-off their ranching skills. The Rodeo Grounds provide an excellent opportunity for a trail marker to feature the cowboys and rodeo riders.

13 A Working Horse: Stamina on Four Legs

A reliable horse was integral to life in the Yampa Valley and remains a mainstay on ranching operations today. In addition to being a mode of transportation and used in rounding up livestock, horses and draught horses pulled farm implements and hauled stagecoaches, mail coaches and wagons. North Routt County is known for its Quarter Horse breeding.

a **Working Horse: A Man with Guts and a Horse***

Schedule events/demonstrations where horses, cattle and sheep are brought to Stockbridge to show how: a reliable horse was integral to ranching life and remains a mainstay on ranching operations today; draft horses could show build and stamina needed to haul stagecoaches, mail coaches, wagons. Share the story of the teamster’s connection with their horses and ability to work them.

* Will James

14 Cowboy for Hire: Jack of all Trades

Research historic ads to develop an advertisement that outlines all the skills and characteristics needed to be a ranch hand, cowpuncher: Must be able to: Doctor cattle and horses; keep things running with baling wire/ weld; harvest and put up hay; ride, break and shoe horses; carpenter; fix and ride fence; irrigate; shovel snow, herd/drive, rope and brand cattle.

a **Jack of All Trades: Living Life with the Hand your Dealt**
Create interactive/ranch artifact cards for people “to draw” which interpret some aspect of ranching through: horse shoeing tools, farm implements, sheep herding gear, etc. These cards could also be drawn to let visitors experience life through a member of the trail crew: cook, wrangler, cowboy, point rider, flank rider and drag rider or cattleman.

15 Sheep Ranching: An International Affair

Sheep herding/ranching was a significant part of the economy of Steamboat Springs. Much of the sheep grazing was seasonal, with herds being on the trail for nine months at a time, often with Basque and Greek shepherders. Sheering sheep each spring was a major business, which attracted Australians and New Zealanders to Routt County. Sheep were also shipped to market from the Steamboat Springs stockyards.

a Tolerance and Intolerance: Open Range Strife

Neighborliness and tolerance among the ranching community in Routt County did not extend to sheep ranchers. As homesteading acreage increased, free range acreage and watering holes were fenced off, leading to escalating tension and conflict between cattlemen, sheep ranchers and homesteaders.

b Sheep: Staying Power

Despite range wars and conflict, sheep ranching is still evident in the Valley. Using Routt County Woolens as an example of “doing what it takes to stay in the Valley,” show how present day ranchers are adapting in order to continue their way of life.

c Sheep: Contrasts of Life

Contrast the life of sheep men with the life of cattlemen; as well as shepherd with the life of the cowboy as a way of telling about the range wars.

16 Farming: Harvesting Hay

Homesteaders grew crops for their own survival and bartered or sold surplus locally. The crop of choice was hay, which was grown to feed livestock during the long winter months. By the 1920s, many farmers devoted most, if not all, of their land to hay and grain.

Harvesting Hay: Rolling Landscapes

Hay racks are a visible artifact in the Yampa Valley and hay rolls as opposed to hay bales could be used as means of interpreting the versatility of ranchers and ranching as well as showing how ranchers use traditional methods and embrace new technologies.

TENACITY OF PURSUITS

Ranchers and cowboys choose a life of hard work and determination as a means of living life on their own terms. Their working and recreational pursuits provoke an understanding of the dualistic qualities of independence and interdependence, teamwork and competition required in the Yampa Valley.

- 17 A Bridge to the Stockyards:** *Cattle Drives and Shipping*
With the arrival of the railroad, the Steamboat Springs' Depot became a major shipping point for livestock. There are two primary shipping times: spring when livestock was shipped in for fattening and fall when cattle and sheep coming off open grazing land were shipped out to markets across the United States.

A stockyard—temporary holding pens for livestock being shipped to market—was constructed in 1908 on the west side of the Yampa River near the Depot. To get trailed livestock across the river, a stock bridge was constructed. According to historian, Paul Bonfield, the bridge was needed because sheep can not swim—their wool fills with water and sinks them. Farrington Carpenter also states in his book, *Confessions of a Maverick*, that cattle and calves are also hard to drive across water. Bonfield also cites another reason; the Cabin Hotel did not want guests to be disturbed by livestock being driven near the Hotel or mineral springs, so the bridge was constructed further down stream.

- a Stock Drive:** *From Range to Railhead*
Create an interactive Routt County map of the livestock trails used to drive cattle and sheep as a means of linking the visitor to the cowboy and sheepherder's story of trailing and roundup to get them to market.
- b Ipod/Driving Tour:**
A tour beginning in Stockbridge which allows visitors to explore the ranches outlying Steamboat Springs on a scenic drive. The tour could include ranching history, clues to understanding the cattle/sheep industry, sounds of the "drive," quotes, poetry, music and life of a rancher—oral history. Existing Bill May "written driving tour" could be made into a downloadable CD version.
- c Stockbridge: Panic at the River Crossing**
An interpretive trail marker at the bridge telling the story of the difficulty in herding cattle across water and the necessity for a bridge across the Yampa. Create an audio component of the sounds of cattle and sheep as well as the railroad to convey getting livestock to market.

- d Core Trail:** *Arts Depot to Rodeo Grounds*
A walking tour brochure/audio/Podcast to highlight the legacy of ranching from round up to the stockyards, from the Depot to the Rodeo Grounds.
- e SST: Riding the Valley**
A walking/biking tour brochure/audio/Podcast could highlight the legacy of ranching from round up to the stockyards, from the Depot to the Rodeo Grounds. Distribute on board the Steamboat Springs Transit buses.
- f Interactive Sculpture/Play Structure:** a sculpture of horses that horse that kids can "ride"; a play structure engineered or inspired by ranching equipment.



Wrangler in Pleasant Valley – 1908
Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum



Sheep Ranching – ????
Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum



Harvesting a load of hay with shot stacker – ????
Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

		STOCKBRIDGE	WEB / BROCHURES	TRAIL MARKER	SITE-INTERPRETATION	
1	Yampa Valley	•	•			Interior Exhibit: Interactive Map / Digital Audio and Visual Technology
2	Fertile Mountain Valley	•	•			Interior Exhibit: Interactive Map / Digital Audio and Visual Technology
3	Market Town	•	•			Interior Exhibit: Interactive Map / Digital Audio and Visual Technology
4	Filing Claims	•	•			Interior Exhibit: Interactive Map / Digital Audio and Visual Technology
5	The Colorado West	•	•			Event / Demonstration / Hands on experience
6	Ranchers and Farmers	•	•			Interior Exhibit / Digital Audio and Visual Technology
7	Symbol of the West	•	•			Interior Exhibit / Digital Audio and Visual Technology
8	Tending the Land	•	•	•		Interior Exhibit / Digital Audio and Visual Technology
9	Centennial Ranches	•	•			Interior Exhibit / Digital Audio and Visual Technology
10	Working the Land	•	•			Event / Demonstration / Interior Exhibit / Digital Audio and Visual Technology
11	Ranch Work	•	•			Hands on experience / Interior Exhibit / Digital Audio and Visual Technology
12	Rodeo	•	•	•		Interior Exhibit / Digital Audio and Visual Technology / Event / Demonstration
13	A Working Horse	•	•			Interior Exhibit / Digital Audio and Visual Technology / Trail Marker / Demonstration
14	Cowboy for Hire	•	•			Interior Exhibit / Digital Audio and Visual Technology
15	Sheep Ranching	•	•			Interior Exhibit / Digital Audio and Visual Technology / Cards
16	Farming	•	•			Interior Exhibit / Digital Audio and Visual Technology
17	A Bridge to the Stockyards	•	•	•		Interior Exhibit: Interactive Map / Digital Audio and Visual Technology



Rodeo at Steamboat Springs – 1928
Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum



Stake Race at Steamboat Springs – 1920
Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum



Winter Feeding – ????
Photo courtesy of the Tread of Pioneers Museum

STOCKBRIDGE RANCHING HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What do you want visitors to know about the Western heritage in Steamboat Springs and the Yampa Valley? A statement of significance helps you organize the ideas into compelling storylines, which can be tailored to offer something of value to the visitor and help them connect with the meanings inherent in Steamboat Springs' ranching traditions.

Cattle and sheep ranching are two of Routt County's defining western legacies. And, as the largest rail shipping point for the region's cattle, ranching played a significant role in the growth of Steamboat Springs as a thriving market town.

The cattle drive to market is the culmination of the rancher and cowboy's hard work and signifies a time of celebration, socializing and rodeoing.

While cattle are now trucked to market, and the original depot stockyards and stock bridge are gone, the location of Stockbridge Park at the historic shipping site provides opportunity to: orient people to the ranching traditions and people of Routt County. Stockbridge offers visitors the opportunity to physically and emotional "bridge" the story of the cattle drive.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES AT STOCKBRIDGE

Drawing from the Primary Themes of: Power of Place, Interdependence of People and Tenacity of Pursuits, the larger meaning of ranching traditions in the Yampa Valley can be conveyed at Stockbridge Park through four inter-related stories:

- 1 Given the remoteness and abundant resources of Northwest Colorado, Routt County was *where the West stayed young*.^{*}The social forces that surround the Cattle Drive to Market provides opportunity to explore how the Steamboat Springs' community survived and prospered.
- 2 As one of the last hold outs of the American West, the region attracted rugged individualists—both men and women—whose stories exemplify the character traits of self-sufficiency, resiliency, spiritedness and integrity.
- 3 The amount of working and preserved rangeland in the area represents the value ranchers and their communities place on maintaining the ranching way of life. These symbols of the West provide a means to link the visitor to the past and explore how a time-honored way of life is evolving.
- 4 Ranchers and cowboys choose a life of hard work and determination as a means of living life on their own terms. Stories of their working and recreational pursuits reveal an understanding of the dualistic qualities of: independence and interdependence; teamwork and competition required to succeed in the Valley.

INTERPRETIVE AUDIENCE

Visitors expect special experiences, which offer something of value to their lives. Their knowledge of ranching could range from the expert audience to the more general audience and include children and seniors, educational groups and recreational groups, locals and international groups.

Resource interpretation must be developed for all levels of audience knowledge.

In order to be relevant and provoke an understanding of the significance of ranching in the Valley, the interpretation must be orchestrated through: a series of hands-on experiences or demonstrations; interactive experiences which include, maps, oral histories, film, artifacts; brochures and guides; web-based or cell phone technology. To be successful, interpretive methods must engage all the senses.

STOCKBRIDGE INTERPRETIVE CHALLENGES

Stockbridge Park—the Transit facility, parking area, access to the Core Trail, Bridge and land along the Yampa River—provides excellent opportunities to tell the story of ranching, but several issues will need to be addressed in order to create awareness and visitorship at Stockbridge:

- a No clear name, identity or “brand” for the ranching interpretive center to separate it from the Transit Center—and bring awareness and visitorship to the interpretive center of Stockbridge Park.
- b Signing the building as a transit center and as a ranching orientation/interpretive center becomes problematic for wayfinding.
- c Lack of visibility for the Center and bridge from Lincoln Avenue / Hwy 40.
- d Areas for interpretation are isolated from one another with no clear pathways of connection. The vastness of the parking area acts as a deterrent to exploration and wayfinding.
- e The Core Trail is frequented by bicycle commuters—making interpretation and/or demonstrations at or near the Bridge or area along the Yampa—a traffic flow/congestion issue.
- f Given the number of visitors who use SST, the possibilities of harnessing transit to the marketing of the ranching orientation center are numerous.
- g The facility is unmanned and unlocked during SST operating hours, which creates potential tampering, theft and maintenance problems for interpretive displays and media.



Stockbridge Transit Center

STOCKBRIDGE RANCHING HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN

CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- a No clear name, identity or “brand” for the ranching interpretive center to separate it from the Transit Center—and bring awareness and visitorship to the interpretive center of Stockbridge Park.

Create a unique “destination brand” or mark for Stockbridge Park, to set it apart from the transit facility. The brand would have application to marketing/awareness: brochures, websites, signs, temporary magnetic bus graphics for Ranch Tours, as “moving billboards” and potential promotional items.

- b Signing the building as a transit center and as a ranching orientation/interpretive center becomes problematic for wayfinding.

Consider featuring art and signs on the west side of building to establish the identity. Symbols and icons from ranching could be used to attract attention to the entrance. Identity/informational signs directing visitors to the correct entrance should be located in the parking lot.



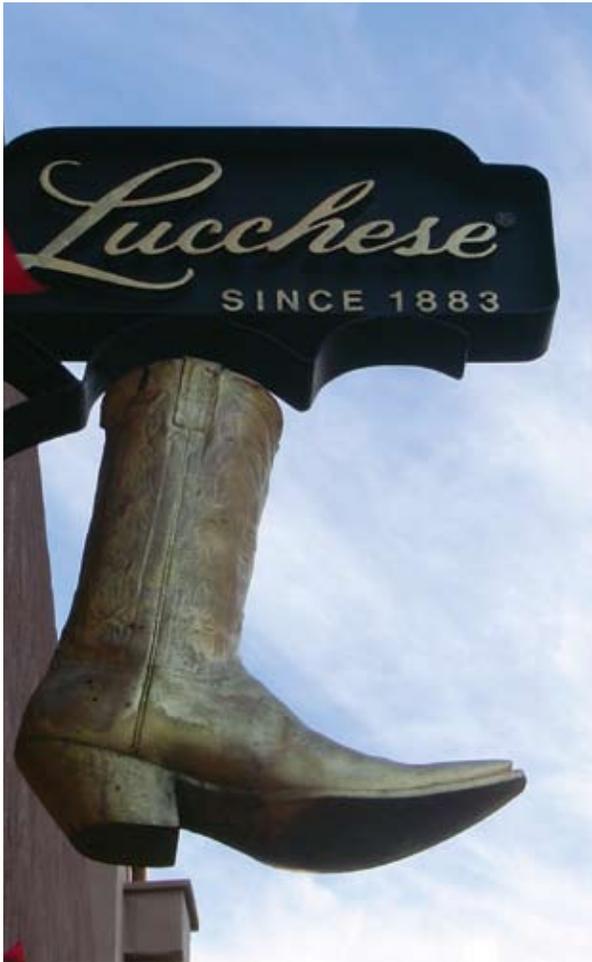
Custom Hat Maker's Sign: Santa Fe, New Mexico



View of west entrance and Highway 40



View of west entrance



Lucchese Boot Sign: Santa Fe, New Mexico



Mustangs of Las Colinas, by Robert Glen: Irvine, Texas



- c Lack of visibility for the Center and bridge from Lincoln Avenue / Highway 40.

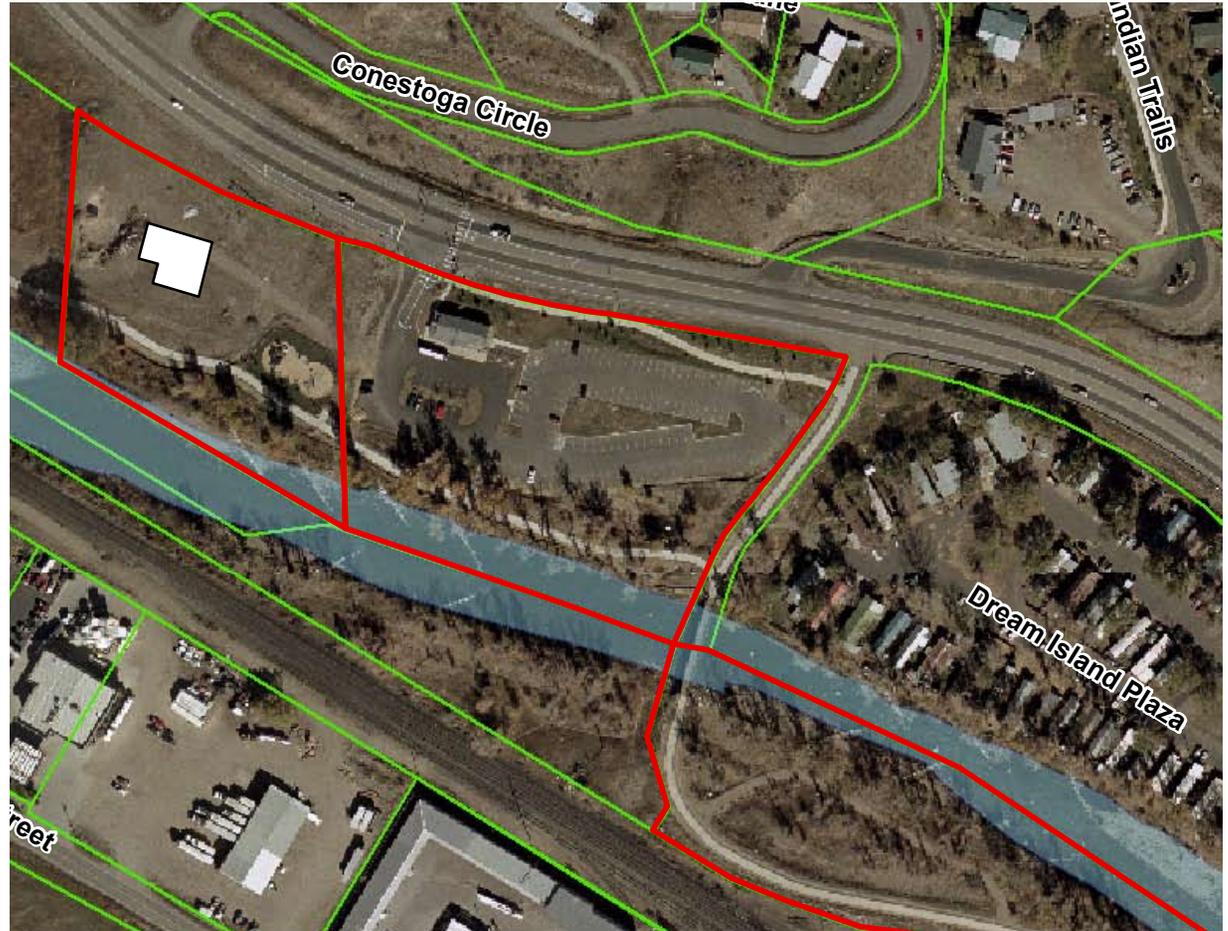
Viable solutions to activate Stockbridge Park include: a "gateway"; signs and banners; ranching structures and fencing; art and sculpture.

STOCKBRIDGE RANCHING HERITAGE
INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN

CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS continued

- d Areas for interpretation are isolated from one another with no clear pathways of connection. The vastness of the parking area acts as a deterrent to exploration and wayfinding.

Create an intuitive pathway for wayfinding through the design of pedestrian links: paving material, edge development, parking islands, plant material, greenway fencing sculpture/art and sign system.



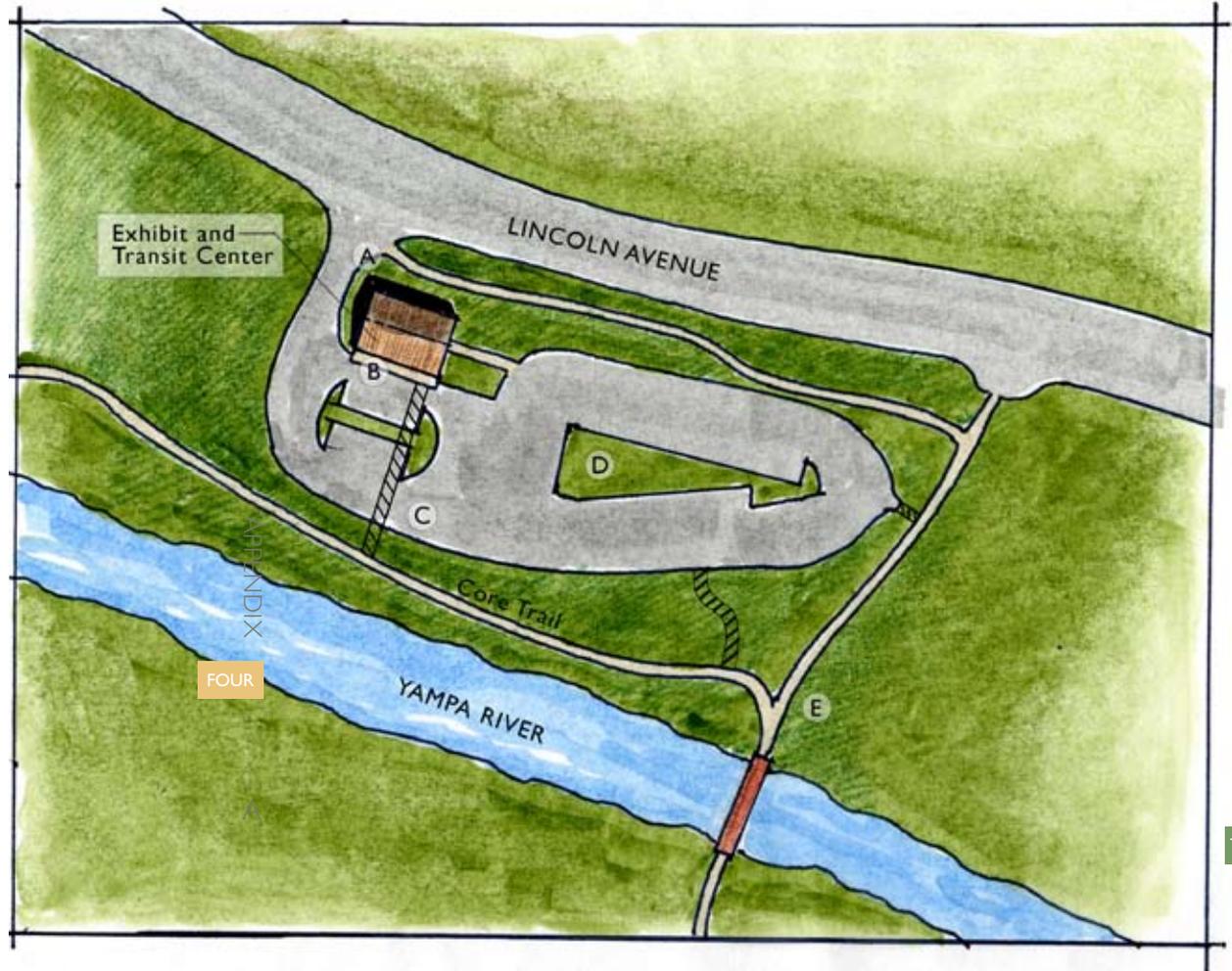
N 1 inch equals 198 feet (when viewed as an 8.5 x 11) Aerial Photo taken Oct. 17, 2003

CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS continued

- a. Enhanced identification and arrival with addition of sign and/or sculpture.
- b. Define building entrance/identity with sign and architectural treatment.
- c. Establish pedestrian-friendly connections between interpretive center and Core Trail.
- d. Opportunity for sculpture to bring attention to the interpretive center.
- e. Trail marker location for stock bridge interpretation.



Existing parking lot link to Core Trail



Conceptual plan of visitor pathway from the Transit Center to the Core Trail

STOCKBRIDGE RANCHING HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN

CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS continued

- e The Core Trail is frequented by bicycle commuters—making interpretation and/or demonstrations at or near the Bridge or area along the Yampa—a traffic flow/congestion issue.

Locate trail markers with enough surrounding area to allow people to stop without impeding traffic. Audio would be self-activated not triggered by motion. Consider limiting the number of visitors for events and demonstrations, by requiring reservations like the Ranch Tours.



Yampa River at Stockbridge



Stockbridge at trail market location

CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS continued

- f Given the number of visitors using SST, the possibilities of harnessing transit to the marketing of the ranching orientation center are varied and numerous:

Stage Ranch Tours from Stockbridge Park as a way of enhancing the visitor's experience. People could be oriented to Routt County and the region's ranching heritage before touring. Orientation could be self-guided or part of the interpretive guides' presentation.

SST vehicles, operating throughout the City and Steamboat Resort could carry ranching heritage brochures and walking tour guides on board the bus. SST bus stops could be enlivened by cultural heritage panels and information about Stockbridge. Bus schedules could be designed with information about visiting Stockbridge.



Photoshop rendering of proposed Routt County Map at Stockbridge Park Ranching Heritage Center

STOCKBRIDGE RANCHING HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN

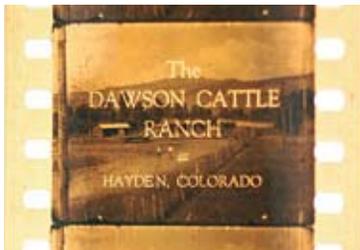
CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS *continued*

- g** The facility is unmanned and unlocked during SST operating hours, which creates potential tampering, theft and maintenance problems for interpretive displays and media.

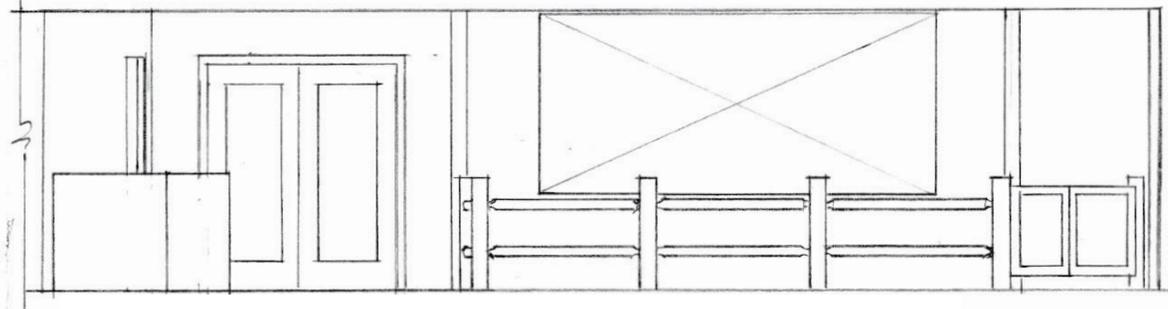
Design exhibits with anti-theft and anti-tampering materials and devices. Casts of artifacts could be made and incorporated into the design of display panels—so valuable items are not compromised.

Consider renovating/re-configuring the Transit Center for additional interpretive space, secure cases, museum lighting and interactive digital, audio/visual technology.

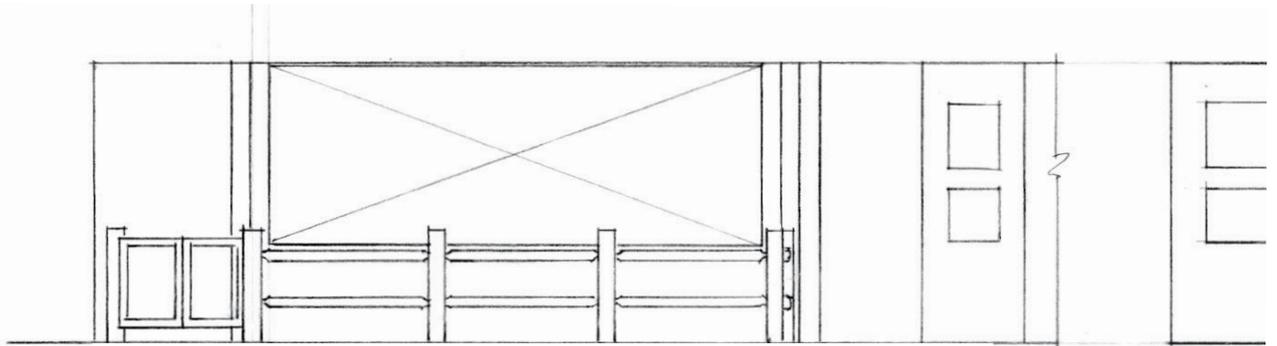
Raise funding to restore Ferry Carpenter's 1929 film to show the difficulty of driving cattle across the Yampa River and to demonstrate the purpose of the stock bridge in getting livestock to market.



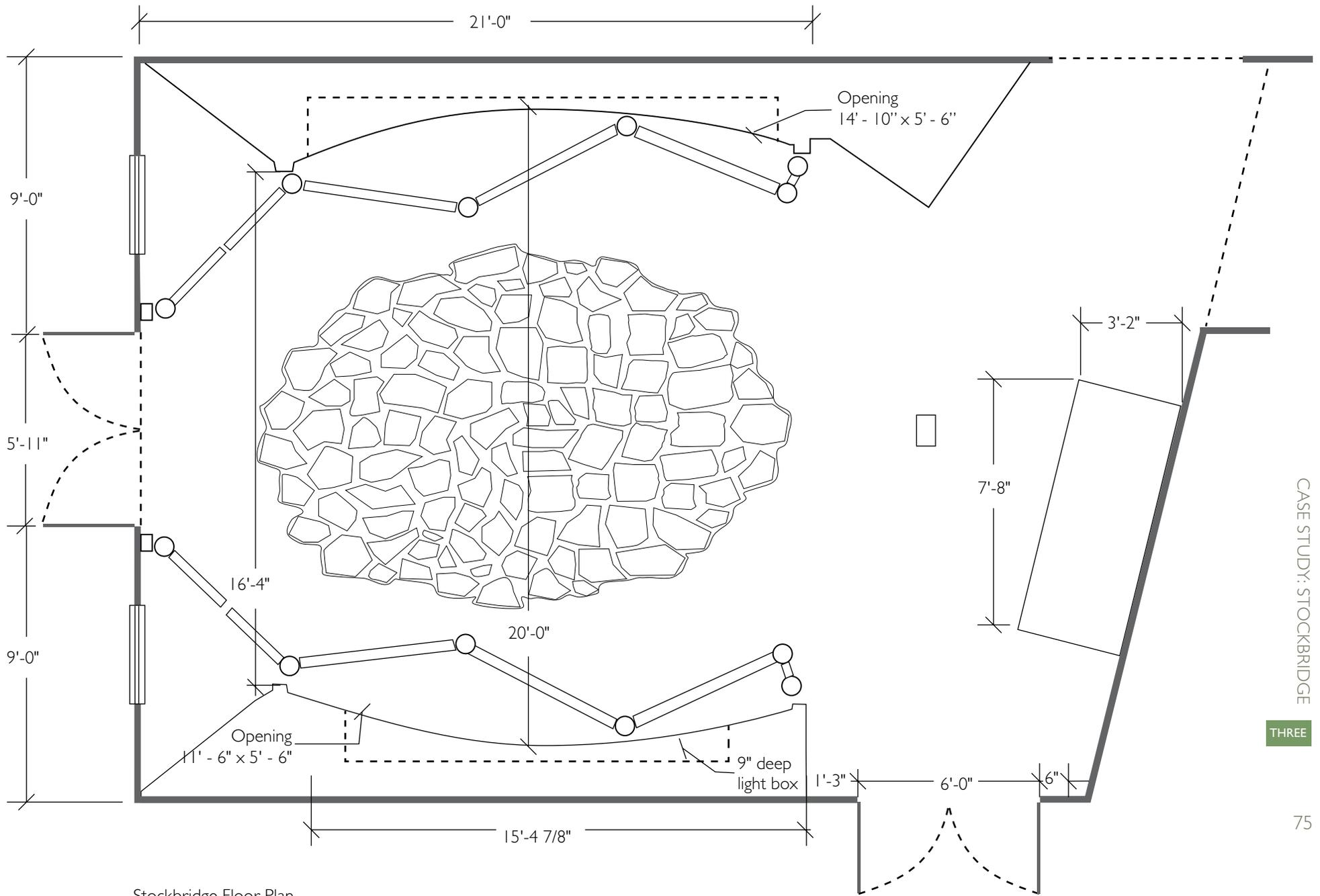
Still from 1929, Ferrington Carpenter film prior to restoration



Elevation A: Existing Interpretive Panel at Stockbridge – 11'- 6" x 5' - 6"



Elevation B: Existing Interpretive Panel at Stockbridge – 14'- 10" x 5' - 6"



Stockbridge Floor Plan
 1/4" = 1' - 0"

