

Interpretive Plan

Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area



Interpretive Plan

for

Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area

Prepared by:

BU CY Associates
2921 NW Hayes
Corvallis, OR 97330
(541) 758-3502
dbucy@comcast.net

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The following people were instrumental in creating this plan:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Curtis Smith, District Manager

Dennis Bradley, Park Manager

Sue Licht, Historical Preservation

Paul Patton, Region 4 Interpretive Coordinator

Miranda Miller, Park Ranger

Kathy Schutt, Manager, Planning

Roger Roper, Assistant, Heritage Program and Deputy of State Historic Preservation Office

James Little, Interpretive Coordinator

Others

Leslie Hara Schick, Hara Schick Architecture, PC

Ilena Fleming

Marlene Bork

Pat Lindrose

Leland Myers

Nancy Myers, Friends of SV Dredge Interpretive Site Manager

Toni Thompson, Friends of SV Dredge

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John Young

Our thanks for all your time and effort. It was a pleasure working with all of you.

Sincerely,

The Planning Team

Dave Bucy

Bucy Associates

(541) 752-5612

(541) 602-1184 (cell)

dbucy@peak.org

Leslie Alderman,

Studio A

312-673-0630

leslie@studioachicago.com

Martta Tuomala

marttatuom@yahoo.com

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Glossary of Terms

The following terms are used in this document:

Visitor Information Network

This refers to all of the information that supports a visitor's interpretive experience in the Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area. Components of such a network typically include:

- 'Didjacksons' – these are tidbits of interpretive information; the type that piques curiosity and makes a person want to know more. These essentially market the interpretive experience.
- Interpretation – informal education strategies, such as signs, exhibits and presentations that typically focus on history, natural history and management.
- Orientation – strategies designed to provide overall orientation to a visitor to a location and increase awareness of visitor opportunities in that area. This is typically in the form of a map.
- Wayfinding – strategies focused on guiding that person to all interpretive sites and features, i.e., showing them the way. It includes maps, directional signs, orientation panels and similar strategies.

Media Prescription

This is the set of recommendations for interpretive and wayfinding strategies in the planning area, such as talks, presentations, exhibits, signs, kiosks, brochures, and interpretive trails. It typically identifies and describes the strategy, identifies the location for the strategy and provides a description and concept to provide information to the designer.

Strategy or opportunity

This refers to a sign, brochure, presentation or some other technique for communicating information.

Sustainable Tourism

Sustainable Tourism as defined by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is:

" the optimal use of natural and cultural resources for national development on an equitable and self sustaining basis to provide a unique visitor experience and an improved quality of life through partnership among government, the private sector and communities."

It has also been defined as an approach – always trying to provide tourism in an ecologically and sociologically friendly manner so as to sustain the cultural and natural environment, the people who live there, and the qualities of the environment they value as part of their home.

Universal Design Standards

This is a set of standards for the design of facilities, sites, products, services and environments that accommodate the widest range of potential users, including people with mobility, visual and auditory impairments and other special needs.

Executive Summary

Introduction

In anticipation of upgrading the visitor experience at Sumpter Dredge State Historical Area, classified as an Interpretive Level 4 site according to the Regional Interpretive Framework, OPRD contracted for this interpretive plan to be prepared. The planning process was participatory, involving key stakeholders, specialists and OPRD staff at the state, regional and local levels through a series of on-site meetings and review opportunities. The process began with an identification of desired outcomes for the interpretive experience, identifying the target audiences to be served, identifying key parameters affecting the development and functioning of the interpretive network and identifying key features that created good interpretive opportunities. The next step focused on developing the themes to be communicated and the information network storylines and delivery strategies to communicate those themes.

Objectives

Working from the mission statement of OPRD, which is *“to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations,”* the following objectives and desired outcomes were developed to help guide development of the information network:

Information Network Objective #1:

Contribute to the protection and conservation of natural and cultural resources of Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA.

This objective can be achieved in part by developing interpretive opportunities to achieve the following Desired Outcomes:

- 1-1: An increase in awareness among users of negative personal impacts to the resources at the park and ways those impacts can be minimized. This will contribute to a better stewardship ethic and a decrease in destruction due to ignorance both at this park and elsewhere.
- 1-2: An increase in appropriate use patterns and behaviors among users of the park; in other words, an increase in per capita appropriate stewardship behaviors. This includes a decrease in negative behaviors such as harassing wildlife, leaving dog excrement, picking wildflowers, littering, climbing on tailing piles and other such actions.
- 1-3: An increase in support for management actions regarding protecting and/or enhancing fish and wildlife habitat.

Information Network Objective #2:

Increase public support and strengthen the constituency for OPRD in general, and for the efforts at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA specifically.

This objective can be achieved in part by developing interpretive opportunities to achieve the following Desired Outcomes:

- 2-1: An increase in awareness and approval of OPRD as the entity responsible for the preservation, restoration and management of the site, and for the interpretive and recreational opportunities provided within the park.
- 2-2: An increase in satisfaction by visitors as a result of the upgraded and expanded interpretive and wayfinding information network at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA.

- 2-3: An increase in the number of people volunteering time and/or donating money to State Parks in general and to Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA specifically to support preservation, restoration and interpretation.
- 2-4: An increase in membership in the Friends group.

Information Network Objective #3: A significant increase in the number of visitors taking advantage of interpretive opportunities, both fixed and

This objective can be achieved in part by developing interpretive opportunities to achieve the following Desired Outcomes:

- 3-1: An increase in awareness on the part of the potential traveler of the array of desirable visitor opportunities, especially interpretive opportunities, associated with a visit to Sumpter Valley Dredge.
- 3-2: An increase in the perceived value of the interpretive experiences associated with the park. This can be accomplished by increasing the *array* of opportunities and/or by increasing the *quality* of experiences desired by target markets.
- 3-3: An increase in the number of people from nearby communities such as Baker City and John Day using interpretive opportunities associated with the park. *(This is an important market because a major reason people travel in general is to visit friends and relatives.)* This can be accomplished by increasing the number of opportunities tailored to the interests of residents of nearby communities and the characteristics of that target market.

- 3-4: An increase in the number of people coming to events in Sumpter, such as the flea market, who also take part in an interpretive opportunity while at the event, or who come back due to exposure to the interpretive opportunities.

Audiences

Key audiences to reach in order to achieve these objectives and desired outcomes include school children, residents, tour groups and independent travelers. These groups were analyzed to determine the package of opportunities that would be effective in attracting and holding members of each group. Analysis of these groups can be found in Section 2 of this report.

Parameters

Although all factors noted in this report are significant, the following points are critical to understanding the project.

- Funds for implementation and ongoing operation and maintenance are likely to be limited.
- Staffing for interpretation and orientation may be limited.
- Most visitors have to travel a long distance to get to Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA.
- The Dredge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Plans call for a new interpretive center to be built on the site.
- Because of the location of the access road and depot, all visitors will start their on-site experience at the same place, just north of the dredge.

- OPRD has an agreement with Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration, Inc. that resulted in the locating and operation of the depot (owned by SVRR) on land owned by OPRD.
- Much of the site is not suitable for development due to historic cultural features (tailings), wetlands, topography and other factors.
- The interior of the dredge contains many hazards.

The complete parameters section can be found in Appendix A of this report.

Interpretive Opportunities

The key interpretive feature is the dredge and associated tailing piles. Together, they create the opportunity to interpret the following stories:

- The impact of gold mining in general and dredge mining specifically on the history of the area;
- The impact of dredge mining on the landscape and associated flora and fauna.

The complete opportunities section can be found in Appendix A of this report.

Information Network and Delivery Strategies

Based on analysis of the key audiences, parameters, and opportunities, a concept for the interpretive network was developed that fits the situation now, but has flexibility to be modified as necessary to adapt to changes. The information sequence prescribed for the proposed network flows from orientation and wayfinding to interpretive overview to detail as participants move through their

experience. This is the most effective sequencing for this type of communication network because it matches the way visitors use information. The key features of the proposed communication network include:

- Guided and self-guided tours of the dredge. The self-guided tour takes advantage of new technology in the form of a podcast coupled with lighting, audio and a booklet.
- A new interpretive center with exhibits focusing on the key stories told at the site.
- Exhibits in the depot creating a transition from the railroad story and experience to the dredge story and experience and vice versa.
- Interpretive trails utilizing signage and publications for people to explore the dredge story and the story of the altered landscape and its inhabitants.

The complete descriptions of the Information Network and the design concepts for the Delivery Strategies occupy most of this plan.

Priorities for Implementation

The first steps should be simple, easy to accomplish, provide a big bang for the buck and effective in making progress toward the Desired Outcomes. That way, participants remain motivated to keep going. Given the situation, the following steps are recommended as highest priorities:

1. Work with the City of Sumpter and any other entities with jurisdiction to install an Awareness Sign where the dredge can be viewed from the highway and a more prominent sign indicating the turn on to Austin Street.
2. Develop a partnership with Baker County to develop a Regional Orientation panel and kiosk at the park at McEwen Station.
3. Develop a partnership with the City of Sumpter to support their development of a walking tour of the town with supporting interpretive information.
4. Review and modify the partnership with SVRR to avoid supporting competing stores on the site.
5. Develop the trail map.
6. Remodel the existing Interpretive Store to remove at least part of the wall so visitors can flow through the entire facility.
7. Rearrange the interior of the building as depicted in figure3.
8. Write an RFP and let a contract for the design, fabrication and installation of the simplified exhibits to be installed in the Interpretive Building and Store.
9. Remove the existing interpretive panel structure between the Interpretive Store and the dredge (the “rocket ship”).
10. Prepare an RFP and let a contract to develop the self-guided walking tour of the dredge, which includes the tour booklet, Podcast, the triggering mechanisms and the lights.
11. Upgrade the Web Site for Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA.
12. Prepare a contract and let an RFP for the design and fabrication of the Thematic

Overview Panels, Dredge Interpretive Trail Panels, Trail Orientation Panels, Regional Orientation Panel and the Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA Site Orientation Panel.

13. Prepare an RFP and let a contract to develop the Virtual Tour of the Dredge.
14. Prepare an RFP and let a contract to develop the “Gold Country: The Story of the Sumpter Valley Dredge” audiovisual program.

The complete set of priorities can be found in the main report. Please note that the plan should be re-evaluated on a periodic basis to determine if changing audiences and/or circumstances warrant a change in the planned network and priorities for development.

The Plan

Introduction

Objectives and Desired Outcomes

Themes

Implementation Plan

Design Concepts for Delivery Strategies

Cost Range Estimates

Introduction

This interpretive plan is a blueprint for the information networks – interpretation, orientation and wayfinding – necessary to support the visitor experiences at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA. The plan consists of the following key parts:

1. Objectives and Desired Outcomes:

These identify the impacts on visitors that are to be achieved through the interpretive network.

2. Themes: These are the key messages to be communicated. The interpretive stories are selected and developed to communicate the themes.

3. Implementation Plan: This is the schedule for developing the components of the information network.

4. Delivery strategies: These are the media – signs, exhibits, publications, etc. – and other strategies for communicating the interpretive stories and the orientation and wayfinding information.

Project Background

Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area (SHA) is nestled in the Blue Mountains 30 miles West of Baker City off Hwy 7. The park features a historic gold dredge – a barge-type floating placer mine that digs its own pond to float in – that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A historic home – one of the houses in which the Dredge Superintendent lived referred to as the “Superintendent’s House,” located on the main street of Sumpter, is also park property.

The Sumpter Valley was dredged for gold between 1913 and 1954. The dredge dug to the valley floor and pulled the gold bearing

earth into its belly where the gold was captured through a variety of processes and the waste, called tailings was spewed out the back. The dredge slowly crisscrossed the valley, converting the meadows and river valley into rows of tailing piles.

In addition to the historic gold dredge (the 3rd and last dredge operating in the Sumpter Valley) and Superintendent’s House, the 80-acre Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA has one (1) mile of hiking trails, a depot for the historic Sumpter Valley Railroad, extensive tailings and a diverse array of wildlife habitat and wildlife. Visitor opportunities include interpretive programs, gold panning, events, interpretive signage, an interpretive store operated by the Friends of the Sumpter Valley Dredge, Inc. (FSVD), and another gift store operated by Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration Inc. (SVRR). A historic narrow gauge railroad operated by SVRR offers a 5-mile excursion trip between McEwen Station and the railroad-owned depot building located in the park. The railroad operates on weekends and some holidays for the general public and arranges other private trips throughout the summer months.

Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA is classified as a Level 4 park according to the OPRD Regional Interpretive Framework. This is the second highest designation for interpretation in the state park system. Level 4 sites are supposed to deliver world-class visitor experiences and can include a visitor facility of some kind. The facility can range from a small visitor contact building to a full service interpretive/nature center operated on a seasonal basis. In addition, Level 4 sites are to serve as a base for outreach educational programming and offer staffing and public access 7 days a week from May 1st through October 31st. Level 4 sites are also supposed to offer multiple interpretive opportunities in the park with both guided and self-guided tours and trails.

An Interpretive Plan is a required step in the development of interpretive services within any park in the State Park system. This plan

builds on the 1994 Master Plan and 2000 Site Development Plan to establish the array of interpretive opportunities to be developed, the themes to be used in developing those interpretive opportunities and a priority for implementing the plan. After approval, projects will be implemented when funding becomes available in accordance with the Implementation Plan.

Planning Process

Developing the plan occurred in two major phases:

Phase I: Establishment of the foundation information on which the planning decisions were based. Foundation information includes objectives and desired outcomes, profiles of target audiences, parameters affecting the development and functioning of the interpretive program and identification of the key visuals at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA that create significant interpretive opportunities.

Phase II: Development of the plan. This included developing the complete theme hierarchy, identifying and describing the components of the interpretive and orientation network, developing cost range information and developing an Implementation Plan.

Organization of the Document

This document is organized into two sections. Section 1, the Interpretive Plan, contains:

- The objectives and desired outcomes that established the focus for the information network;
- The themes to be communicated;
- An implementation plan containing a narrative of the visitor experience

available at each phase of development, with actions identified for that phase.

- A summary of the implementation plan;
- The concepts for delivery strategies for communicating the themes.

Section 2 contains the foundation information on which the planning decisions were based. That information includes the background for the objectives and desired outcomes, the profiles of target audiences, key parameters affecting the implementation and functioning of the interpretive strategies and the inventory of interpretive opportunities.

Objectives and Desired Outcomes

Introduction

The objectives and desired outcomes were derived by constructing a hierarchy beginning with the OPRD mission statement and management goals of the park. That information can be found in **Section 2: Foundation Information.**

Objectives and Desired Outcomes

Information Network Objective #1:
Contribute to the protection and conservation of natural and cultural resources of Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA.

This objective can be achieved in part by developing interpretive opportunities in areas that are not fragile and in part by developing an information network to achieve the following Desired Outcomes in terms of visitor attitudes and behaviors:

- 1-1: An increase in awareness among users of negative personal impacts to the resources at the park and ways those impacts can be minimized. This will contribute to a better stewardship ethic and a decrease in destruction due to ignorance both at this park and elsewhere.
- 1-2: An increase in appropriate use patterns and behaviors among users of the park; in other words, an increase in per capita appropriate stewardship behaviors. This includes a decrease in negative behaviors such as harassing

wildlife, leaving dog excrement, picking wildflowers, littering, climbing on tailing piles and other such actions.

- 1-3: An increase in support for management actions regarding protecting and/or enhancing fish and wildlife habitat.

Information Network Objective #2:
Increase public support and strengthen the constituency for OPRD in general, and for the efforts at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA specifically.

Support for efforts at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA can be accomplished in part simply by upgrading the interpretive and recreational opportunities available to the public. Support for OPRD comes from making visitors aware that the opportunities they are enjoying are made possible by OPRD. Put in terms of desired outcomes, we want the following to occur as a result of implementation of the plan:

- 2-1: An increase in awareness and approval of OPRD as the entity responsible for the preservation, restoration and management of the site, and for the interpretive and recreational opportunities provided within the park.
- 2-2: An increase in satisfaction by visitors as a result of the upgraded and expanded interpretive and wayfinding information network at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA.
- 2-3: An increase in the number of people volunteering time and/or donating money to State Parks in general and to Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA specifically to support preservation, restoration and interpretation.
- 2-4: An increase in membership in the Friends group.

Information Network Objective #3: A significant increase in the number of visitors taking advantage of interpretive opportunities, both fixed and

Additional interpretive opportunities can help achieve this objective by increasing the attraction and holding power of the site. More specifically, it can help by achieving the following Desired Outcomes in terms of visitor attitudes and behaviors:

- 3-1: An increase in awareness on the part of the potential traveler of the array of desirable visitor opportunities, especially interpretive opportunities, associated with a visit to Sumpter Valley Dredge.
- 3-2: An increase in the perceived value of the interpretive experiences associated with the park. This can be accomplished by increasing the *array* of opportunities and/or by increasing the *quality* of experiences desired by target markets.
- 3-3: An increase in the number of people from nearby communities such as Baker City and John Day using interpretive opportunities associated with the park. This can be accomplished by increasing the number of opportunities tailored to the interests of residents of nearby communities and the characteristics of that target market.
- 3-4: An increase in the number of people coming to events in Sumpter, such as the flea market, who also take part in an interpretive opportunity while at the event, or who come back due to exposure to the interpretive opportunities.

Themes

Introduction

The following Primary Theme, Themes, Sub-themes and Supporting Stories were developed through an iterative process involving park staff, OPRD staff from the Regional and State offices and reviewers from outside the agency.

The elements of the theme hierarchy in this plan reflect the direction for theme development in Oregon State Parks. There are four types of themes in this hierarchy:

Primary Theme

This is the key concept reflecting the significance of the park.

Themes

These are the ideas or concepts that together support the Primary Theme. Ideally, all visitors will understand at least one of the themes based on their specific area of interest (cultural history, natural history, etc.)

Sub-themes

These are the ideas or concepts that support a theme.

Supporting Stories

These are the stories that communicate a sub-theme or theme.

Primary Theme

Sumpter Dredge stands as mute testimony to the power of gold in sparking ingenuity and shaping the lives and history of a town, a region and the American West.

Selection of Primary Theme

The primary theme links the key tangible resources of the park with intangible concepts to convey the major reasons why a

particular property is significant and why it is a park. The primary theme is intended to answer the questions, “why is this park?” and, “what is significant about this park?” The intent of communicating the primary theme is to establish a sense of value among users of the park so they support the work of OPRD.

Themes

Theme 1: Gold mining in this part of NE Oregon catalyzed settlement and development of Eastern Oregon by EuroAmericans and was a significant factor in the rise and decline of communities in the area.

Sub-theme 1-1: The first established communities in Eastern Oregon were gold mining towns in this region.

Examples of Supporting Stories:

- In 1859, when Oregon became a state, there were no EuroAmerican communities on the map in Eastern Oregon. After gold was discovered in the early 1860s, boom towns sprang up as did ports along the Columbia for receiving and shipping supplies bound for the mining communities.
- Sumpter was established as a mining community.
- Sumpter was both a mining and timber community in the 1890s, but its boom was due to hard rock gold mining.

Sub-theme 1-2: The presence of miners created a market for produce, food, supplies and building materials, which catalyzed the migration of ranchers, farmers and businesses to this area.

Examples of supporting stories:

- The need for wood for buildings, fuel and mines brought lumber mills.
- The market for food and produce brought ranchers and farmers to settle the land

Sub-theme 1-3: The need for supplies catalyzed the establishment of landings along the Columbia and the building of roads and railroads, which in turn brought about more development, more expensive mining technology, and the establishment of depots and stage stops.

Examples of supporting stories:

- The Sumpter Valley Railroad was a key factor in the boom of hard rock mining, which led to Sumpter becoming a major city and the hub of gold mining in the area.
- Railroads needed centrally located depots as distribution points, leading to the establishment of McEwen, Whitney and other towns in the area. (Whitney was established in 1900; Tipton in 1904; Dixie Mtn. Summit in 1909; and Prairie City, the terminus of the railroad, in 1910.)
- Stage lines required stops every 15 miles or so, which led to the establishment of many small communities along stage routes.
- Hard rock mining required heavy machinery, which could only be brought in by wagons or on the railroad.

Sub-theme 1-4: the discovery, mining and depletion of gold deposits had significant impact on the establishment, growth and decline of communities.

Examples of supporting stories:

- The establishment of communities based on discovery of placer deposits in creeks and rivers, such as the communities of Canyon City, Sumpter, Auburn and Baker City.
- The establishment and/or rise and fall of communities based on hard rock mining

operations, such as the communities of Sumpter, Bourne, Greenhorn and Granite.

- The continued existence of Sumpter after hard rock mining operations shut down, which was due in part to the dredge operations.
- Development of sources of electricity for use in mines, dredges and eventually, homes.

Sub-theme 1-5: Because of the dependence of communities on the gold industry, changes in that industry caused impact to the lives of most people in the area.

Examples of supporting stories:

- The miners and their immediate families were the first affected by slowdowns in the industry, but all of those who sold food, goods, supplies and services to the miners suffered significantly when the miners left due to lack of diversification. Note that this story can be told using letters and diary excerpts.

Theme 2: Dredge mining, as with all gold mining, was based on using the properties of gold to extract it from surrounding material.

Sub-theme 2-1: Mining placer gold deposits was based on the fact that gold was heavier than other material.

Examples of supporting stories:

- Using a gold pan required swirling the water to pick up lighter materials and sloshing it out of the pan, leaving the heavier gold flakes behind.
- Sluice boxes ran water and material down a chute with riffles, which trapped the heavier materials such as gold.
- Hydraulic mining washed material to sluice boxes to extract gold.

- Dredges employed gravity separation to extract gold from material dug from the river bottom.

Sub-theme 2-2: The dredge is an ingenious machine for mining placer gold from deep in the river bed on a massive and cost effective scale.

Sub-theme 2-3: Extracting gold from surrounding rock required amalgamating the gold.

Theme 3: Mining gold followed a typical progression of easiest to hardest, with significant impact on settlement patterns and on the physical and social environment.

Examples of supporting stories:

- The chronological order of mining for gold by panning, to sluice boxes to hydraulic mining to hard rock mining to dredge mining.

Sub-theme 3-1: Because gold was much heavier than most of the surrounding material, gold moved downhill from its source in hard rock, where it was harder to mine to accumulate in valleys, where it was much easier to mine.

Sub-theme 3-2: Gold mining is about separating the gold from surrounding material. The harder it is to separate, the more of an impact on the surrounding environment.

Examples of supporting stories:

- The relatively small environmental impact of mining surface placer deposits with rocker boxes and gold pans.
- The environmental impacts of hydraulic and dredge mining.
- The environmental impact of hard rock mining to extract lode deposits.

Sub-theme 3-3: Dredge mining had profound impacts on the natural and social environment.

Examples of supporting stories:

- Dredge mining turned the river bed upside down, transforming fertile bottomlands into piles of river rock, which in turn affected the native flora and fauna.
- The dredge mining in the Sumpter Valley was a key factor in the town's ability to survive because it contributed to the economy of the town after the last of the hard rock mines shut down in 1916.

Sub-theme 3-4: The type and location of gold deposits dictated the type of mining operation required and the settlement patterns in the area.

Examples of supporting stories

- Surface placer gold deposits in creeks and rivers were the catalyst for gold rushes by individual miners and establishment of mining communities such as Sumpter, Canyon City and Auburn.
- When surface placer deposits played out, individual miners either went to work for larger operations or moved on.
- Lode deposits were located at higher elevations, resulting in the establishment of new communities such as Granite, Bourne and Greenhorn, and the expansion of other communities such as Sumpter.
- As gold deposits played out, most mining operations moved on, with the result that only those communities with other primary businesses survived.
- Sumpter was a modern city at the turn of the century because it was the hub of the gold mining industry in the region.

Theme 4: Because the US government was the only buyer of gold, events at the national and international level have played and continue to play a significant role in the gold mining industry.

Examples of supporting stories:

- The change in the price of gold by the US government in 1934 caused a re-opening of mines due to the increased potential for a return on investment.
- During World War II the federal government closed all gold mining operations because they were not essential to the war effort. The resulting deterioration in machinery and infrastructure resulted in many mines not reopening after the war.
- The fixing of the price of gold by the US government at \$35 an ounce until 1974 along with rising costs of machinery and labor resulted in most mines staying closed.
- The removal of price restrictions by the US government in 1974 has resulted in an increase in gold mining activity.

Visitor Experiences after implementation

Introduction

This section contains an overview of the visitor experiences after the new center is built and all other interpretive opportunities developed. Figure 1 on page 16 depicts the approximate location of fixed strategies.

Experience of Visitors arriving by auto

Pre-Visit and approach

Before coming to SDSHA, visitors will encounter information about the site from the **Web Site, Table Teasers, Sumpter Valley Dredge SHS Orientation map/brochure** and other publications in Visitor Centers, Welcome Centers and hotels in the region.

Before leaving to visit SVDSHS, travelers can download the **Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA Orientation Map/brochure** and driving directions from their location, and the **Sense-ational Discovery Quest**, designed to motivate visitors to use all their senses to explore the site. Along the way, interest is heightened by **Interpretive Pullouts** on Highway 7 near the turnoff to Sumpter and a **Regional Orientation panel** at the County Park at McEwen. After taking the turn to Sumpter, an **“Awareness” sign** near Sumpter draws attention to the view of the Dredge and makes travelers aware of the upcoming turn. Prominent signage at the junction with Austin Street causes visitors to turn west, whereupon they have clear visual access to the new Interpretive Center, which is located on the banks of the Powder River. Visitors follow signage to the parking area north of the building, note that there is an information

kiosk with SVDSHA Site Orientation and Regional Orientation panels, and make their way to the Interpretive Center.

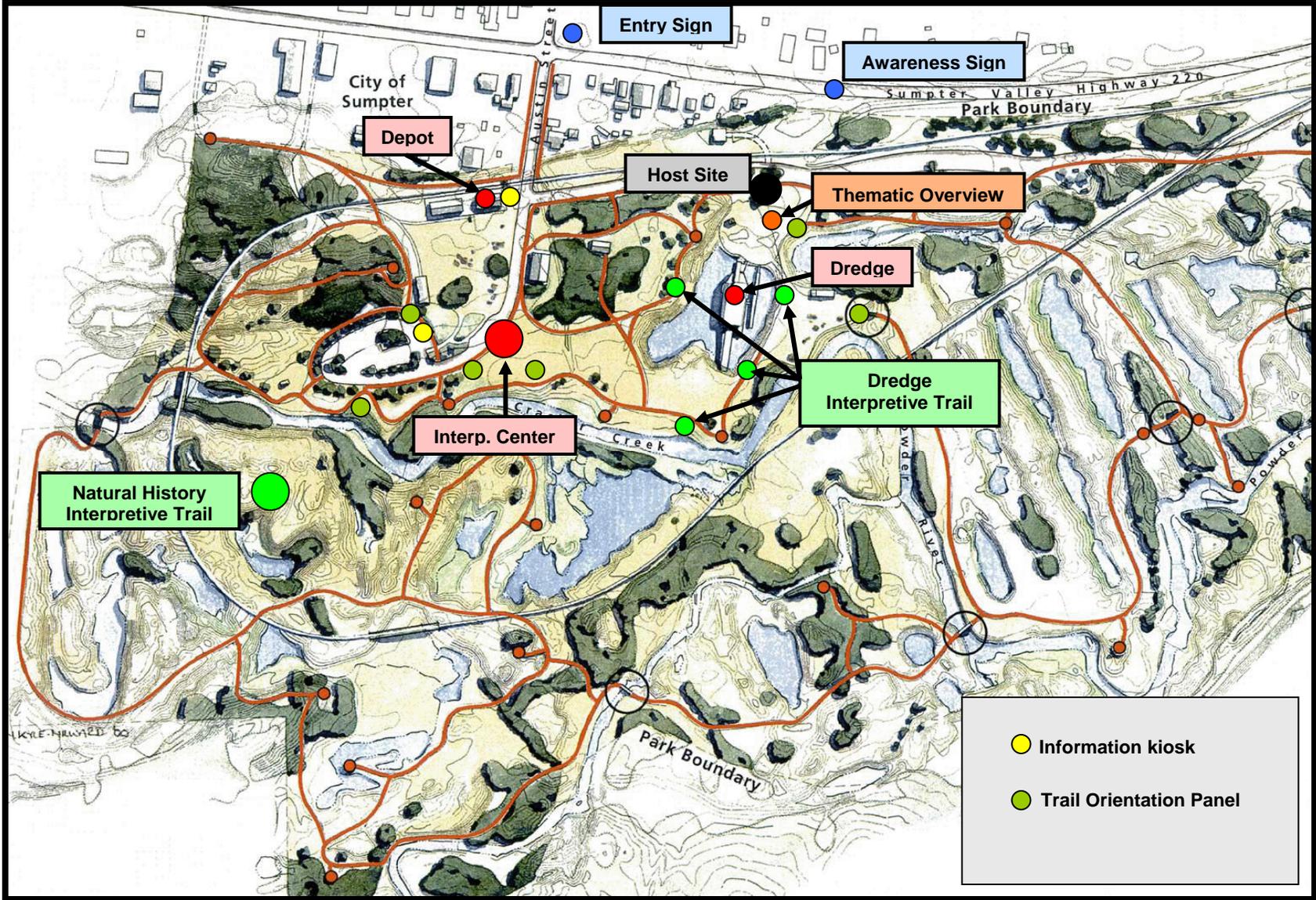
Interpretive Center

Visitors enter into the Welcome Area, which provides direct and easy access – facilitated by visual access and area/room identifiers – to the restrooms, drinking fountain, trip planning center and an information counter. The planning center includes a **Welcome to Sumpter Dredge** exhibit for those arriving and a **Regional Orientation Exhibit** for people leaving. The locations to sign up for a guided tour of the dredge and a RR excursion are also in this area.

As visitors move further into the building they have a choice of going into the multi-purpose room to see **“Gold Country: An introduction to the story of Sumpter Valley Dredge,”** which provides an overview of the dredge story, the viewing area to look out over the valley while learning about the features in the viewshed, or take in the following series of exhibits:

- **“The Country that Gold Built”** focuses on the role of gold mining in the settlement and development of Eastern Oregon by EuroAmericans, with emphasis on the fact that the visitor is in the center of “gold country.”
- **“Getting the Gold Out”** focuses on the difference between placer gold and lode gold, and that the properties of gold were used to extract it from surrounding material. In the case of placer gold, the fact that it was heavier than surrounding material was the key to different placer mining techniques. The exhibit also depicts the various tools used, including gold pans, rocker boxes, and sluice boxes in conjunction with hydraulic hoses as a lead in to focusing on the dredge.

Figure 1: Location Plan for Interpretive Opportunities



- **“Necessity is the mother of Invention”** focuses on the dredge as an ingenious machine for mining gold from the valley floor in a cost-effective manner.
- **“The Power of Gold”** focuses on events on a national and international level that affected the mining of gold, either by altering the price or by shutting down production (in WW II).
- The final exhibit, **“The Upside Down Valley,”** focuses on the long term impacts of dredge mining in the valley and what it might look like in a hundred years or longer. This includes an invitation to visitors to explore the site to see how it has changed.

Visitors who don’t have time to take the dredge tour or who are not mobile can get a **Virtual Tour of the Sumpter Valley Dredge** in the multipurpose room.

Visitors who want to continue exploring the site find themselves on the back deck, where **“Find Me” Panels** focus on features, flora and fauna that could be seen from this vantage point, with an emphasis on motivating people to get a **Discovery Guide to Trails in Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA** and/or **Identification Keys** and explore the site.

Site Experience

The exit from the deck puts the visitor on the trail system for the site where a **Trail Orientation Panel** provides orientation and wayfinding to the system. The **Dredge Interpretive Trail** takes visitors around the perimeter of the dredge pond, with interpretive panels providing tidbits of information along the way. The **Natural History Interpretive Trail** heads across a bridge to the north of the facility and loops through the dredge tailings, focusing on the natural inhabitants of the area – the flora and fauna.

Visitors can take the **Podcast Self-Guided Tour of the Dredge** or the **Guided Tour**. Visitors who go on the guided tour will gather at the Group Staging Area at the Interpretive Center. Visitors taking the self-guided tour will check out the blue-tooth (or similar device) and pick up the **Self Guided Walking Tour Booklet** in the Interpretive Center.

Ideally, the on-site experience will pique interest in knowing more and exploring more of the story in Sumpter and elsewhere. Therefore, visitors will stop back by the Interpretive Center on their way back to their vehicle or the train depot and buy books and discovery tools, such as an **Explorer’s kit** or a **Gold Panning kit**.

Experience of Visitors arriving by train

Arrival

Signage visible from the train as it approaches the depot alerts visitors that they are entering Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA.

Entry into site

Interpretive exhibits (developed in Phase 1) within the depot will provide a transition from the story of the railroad and the role it played to the story of the dredge and gold mining. A trail will then lead them to the Interpretive Center, where their experience mirrors that of people arriving by vehicle.

Experience of Visitors arriving by bus

Visitors on a tour bus will be taken to the multipurpose room to get a brief orientation and to divide them into smaller groups for tours of the dredge. School groups will do the same, but will be pulsed through different experiences at the site, which could include the exhibits in the Interpretive Center, the

Natural History Interpretive Trail, the Dredge Interpretive Trail, panning for gold, the tour of the dredge, and a visit to the railroad depot.

Experience of Visitors parking for Flea Market

This group of visitors will follow an access road to the flat area east of the dredge that will be used for overflow parking. Consequently they will not be parking in proximity to the Interpretive Center. They will follow an access trail from the parking area back to Austin Street to access the city of Sumpter. Upon returning, they will experience the site the same way as those arriving on foot.

Experience of Visitors arriving on foot

At the point where the path or sidewalk enters the SHA from town on Austin Street a kiosk with a Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA Site Orientation Panel, a Regional Orientation Panel and Thematic Overview panels. From that point, their experience mirrors that of people arriving by vehicle.

Experience of winter Recreational Users

Winter recreation users, such as snowmobilers, will find the restrooms open for use. They will also find the center open where they can stop in and get warm, look at exhibits, get a hot drink and/or chat with the Ranger during open hours.

Implementation Plan

Introduction

Due to the lag time before the new Interpretive Center is constructed, it is likely that the development of the interpretive opportunities will occur in phases. The first phase will focus on developing the basic exterior interpretive opportunities, including the experience in the dredge, remodeling and reorganizing the existing Interpretive Store, and on developing a more effective orientation and wayfinding network. The next major phase will be construction of the interpretive center and associated exhibits. That will take place as soon as money is available. Optional interim phases focus on enhancing the basic interpretive network through the addition of interpretive opportunities in existing structures and in the exterior. If the new Visitor Center is more than 10 years out, an interim phase involving construction of a smaller, temporary facility may be required.

Phase I: Basic Network

The following delivery strategies, organized by state of experience or location, represent the basic network that should be implemented now while funding and approvals are being sought for the new Interpretive Center building. Figure 2 on page 21 depicts the proposed layout of the existing interpretive store building with modifications to accommodate traffic flow.

Pre-Visit and Approach Strategies

- Web Site;
- Sumpter Valley Dredge SHS Orientation map/brochure;
- Sense-ational Discovery Quest;
- Interpretive signage at pullouts on Highway 7;
- Regional Orientation panel at the County Park at McEwen;
- “Awareness” sign on approach;
- Prominent directional signage at the junction with Austin Street.

Arrival

- Information kiosks with Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA Orientation Panel and Regional Orientation Panel.

Interpretive Building and Store

Upon entering the store (see figure 2 on page 21), visitors encounter the following:

- A model of the dredge;
- A small seating area for viewing the audiovisual program: “Gold Country: The Story of the Sumpter Dredge;”
- A Site Orientation Exhibit;
- Simplified “The Country that Gold Built” exhibit with area for displaying publications and items associated with the history of the area;
- Simplified “Necessity: The Mother of Invention” exhibit with associated area for displaying publications and items associated with the dredge and dredge mining;
- Display areas for store items;
- A welcome counter for purchasing items;
- A seating area for viewing the Virtual Tour of the Sumpter Valley Dredge audiovisual program
- Simplified “The Upside Down Valley” exhibit with associated area for

Dredge Area

- Thematic Overview Panels;
- Guided Tour of the Dredge;
- Podcast tour with self guided walking tour booklet;
- Dredge Interpretive Trail panels.

Trails

- Trail Orientation panels;
- Trail Map.

Depot

- Site Orientation Exhibit.

Other

- Group Tour Packet;
- Teacher's Packet.

Phase I: Specific Actions

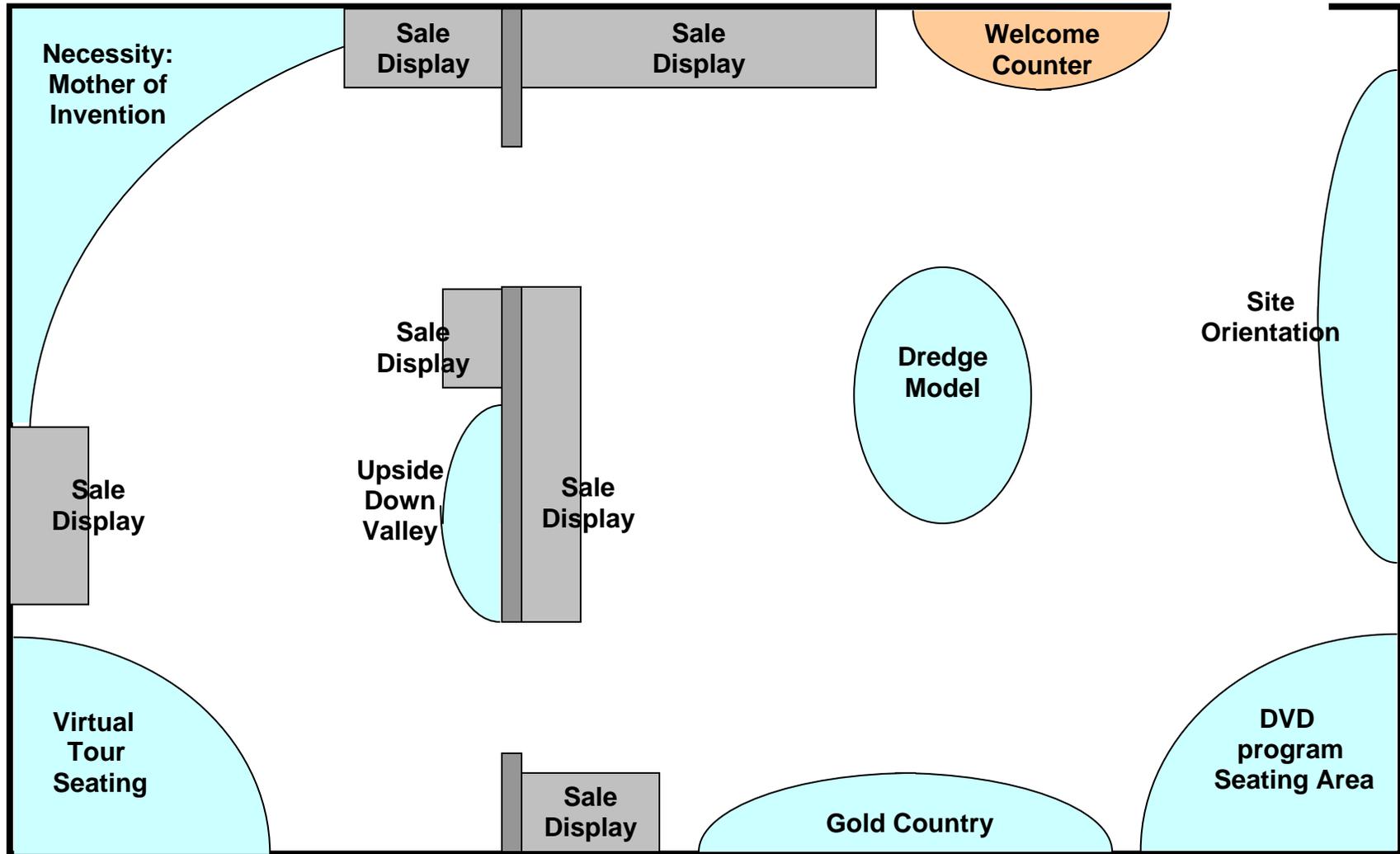
The following are the key actions to be taken during Phase 1 to begin developing the complete information network. They are presented in priority order, although many can be accomplished concurrently.

1. Work with the City of Sumpter and any other entities with jurisdiction to install an Awareness Sign where the dredge can be viewed from the highway and a more prominent sign indicating the turn on to Austin Street.
2. Develop a partnership with Baker County to develop a Regional Orientation panel and kiosk at the park at McEwen Station.
3. Develop a partnership with the City of Sumpter to support their development of

a walking tour of the town with supporting interpretive information.

4. Review and modify the partnership with SVRR to avoid supporting competing stores on the site.
5. Develop the trail map.
6. Remodel the existing Interpretive Store to remove at least part of the wall so visitors can flow through the entire facility.
7. Rearrange the interior of the building as depicted in figure 2, page 21.
8. Write an RFP and let a contract for the design, fabrication and installation of the simplified exhibits to be installed in the Interpretive Building and Store.
9. Remove the existing interpretive panel structure between the Interpretive Store and the dredge (the "rocket ship").
10. Prepare an RFP and let a contract to develop the self-guided walking tour of the dredge, which includes the tour booklet, Podcast, the triggering mechanisms and the lights.
11. Upgrade the Web Site for Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA.
12. Prepare a contract and let an RFP for the design and fabrication of the Thematic Overview Panels, Dredge Interpretive Trail Panels, Trail Orientation Panels, Regional Orientation Panel and the Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA Site Orientation Panel.
13. Prepare an RFP and let a contract to develop the Virtual Tour of the Dredge.
14. Prepare an RFP and let a contract to develop the "Gold Country: The Story of the Sumpter Valley Dredge" audiovisual program.

Figure 2: Layout for Interpretive Building/Store: Phase 1



Phase 1A: Enhanced Network

This is an optional interim phase that should occur in the biennium following the one in which Phase 1 is completed if funds are not secured for developing the new Interpretive Center.

Modifications to the Visitor Experiences

Depot

- New Exhibits (The Railroad: A Key Link and Thriving to Surviving).

Trails

- Natural History Interpretive Trail with associated map/brochure;
- Laminated Identification Keys;

Phase IA: Specific Actions

The following are the key actions to be taken during Phase 1A to continue developing the complete information network.

1. Plan design and construct the bridge(s) and trail for the Natural History Interpretive Trail, located across the Powder River in the northwest quadrant of the park.
2. Re-design the Trail Map into a Map/Brochure with interpretive information supporting the Natural History Interpretive Trail.
3. Design and produce laminated Identification Keys for the common

flora, fauna and signs of wildlife likely to be encountered on site.

4. Update the Trail Orientation Panels
5. Update the Site Orientation Panels
6. Prepare an RFP and let a contract for the design, fabrication and installation of the two exhibits for the Depot. Note that these could be a part of the exhibit development in Phase 1, which would increase the potential for a consistent look. Another option is to have them designed as part of Phase 1, but delay the construction if money is not available. Note that actions 1-5 in Phase 1A are considered a higher priority than the Depot exhibits.

Phase 1B: Upgrade Interpretive Building

This is an optional interim phase that should only occur if funds are not secured for developing the new Interpretive Center within 10 years and there is a demonstrated need for upgraded visitor services.

Modifications to the Visitor Experiences

The existing interpretive building and store is moved to the site of the planned Interpretive Center and expanded with a multipurpose room and permanent toilets. This creates the opportunity for developing programs that could be offered year round, and it creates opportunities to serve winter recreational users. The use pattern shifts so that more visitors begin their experience in the upper part of the park.

Parking in the lower parking area is restricted to the southern part to avoid compromising the view of the dredge from the highway.

Phase 1B: Specific Actions

The following are the key actions to be taken during Phase 1B to continue developing the complete information network.

1. Let a contract for site work necessary to move the existing Interpretive Building and Store and construct an addition and toilets.
2. Move the building; add the multipurpose room and toilets.
3. Develop a host site near the previous location of the Interpretive Store and Building. The site should be designed and landscaped to minimize visual

intrusion from the dredge, the overlook and the highway.

4. Delineate the parking in the lower lot to avoid compromising the view from the highway. This involves moving the parking to the south.

Phase 2: New Interpretive Building

Modifications to the Visitor Experiences

The complete set of interpretive exhibits, as conceptualized, is now available for the experience. Visitors begin their experience in the upper part of the park. Improved trails access the Dredge. The lower parking area is closed except when overflow parking is needed for community or park events. Visitors with disabilities are able to access the dredge via a courtesy shuttle.

Phase 2: Specific Actions

The following are the key actions to be taken during Phase 2 to complete development of the information network.

1. Develop an RFP and let a contract for the design and construction of the new Interpretive Center with the new exhibits;
2. Upgrade the access trails;
3. Remove the existing interpretive building and store;
4. Put in a host site as identified in Phase 1B if that phase was skipped.

Design Concepts for Delivery Strategies

Web Site

Objectives

After interacting with the web site, visitors will:

- Want to visit the Sumpter Valley Dredge;
- Know the major themes associated with the interpretive network;
- Have a simple map of the area with directions to the site (downloaded as a PDF);
- Be aware of the next major special event at the site;
- Have contact information for SVDSHA;
- Be aware that a Friends Group exists and know where they can get additional information about that group;
- Be aware of upcoming and annual special events related to the site and story;
- Be aware that the web site contains links to additional information and provides updated information on events.

Themes

All themes will be communicated at some location within the Web Site, but mostly within the sections that provide detail on the story.

Description and Concept

The home page must market the Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA experience, but also market the Web Site in order to motivate viewers to keep moving through it. To do so, the home page and every linked page must be captivating and user friendly. The home page should be dominated by visuals of different types of visitors enjoying different opportunities associated with the Sumpter Valley Dredge, such as taking the tour, perusing the exhibits, attending a special event, etc. Captions should be brief, identifying the opportunity and providing a

clue on where to get more information about that opportunity. The home page could also have “didjacks” to pique interest in the interpretive stories told at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA. Links should provide access to the remainder of the information on the site, including:

- Driving directions and printable map;
- Downloadable version of the Sumpter Valley Dredge Orientation Map/Brochure;
- Downloadable version of the Discovery Guide to Sumpter Valley Dredge;
- Downloadable version of the Sensational Discovery Quest;
- An overview of the story;
- Bird and wildlife lists;
- Upcoming events;
- Contact information;
- A list of sources for more information on the mining story including other sites to visit.

Table Teasers

Objectives

After interacting with Table Teasers, visitors will:

- Be interested in visiting Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA;
- Know where they can obtain more information.
- Be motivated to search for more information, such as on the web;
- Be more receptive to picking up information on the Dredge that they might encounter, such as publications within a Welcome Center.

Description and Concept

Table Teasers are place mats, laminated cards, or booklets to name a few possibilities that visitors can browse while waiting for or eating food. They contain tidbits of interpretive information associated with the stories covered at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA and simple directions to the site and/or contact information, such as phone numbers, so visitors can obtain more information. The

goal is to grab a visitor's attention and pique interest so he or she is more likely to visit SVDSHA, or pick up the SVD Orientation Map/Brochure if it is available in a place they might stop during their trip, such as a Welcome Center. Table Teasers should be available in restaurants within about a 150-mile radius.

Note: Consider designing Table Teasers that focus on a collection of sites in the area, including Kam Wah Chung.

Sumpter Valley Dredge Orientation Map/Brochure

This is the standard OPRD map/brochure for the site.

Discovery Guide to Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area

Objectives

After interacting with this booklet, visitors will:

- Be inspired to visit SVDSHA;
- Be inspired to walk the trails;
- Know all the major themes;
- Know why the dredge is located here;
- Understand the significance of gold mining on the development of this area and of Eastern Oregon;
- Be inspired to take the guided tour or the self guided walking tour;
- Be inspired to search other sources to get more information on gold mining and the role it played in the history of the area.

Themes

All themes will be included within this publication.

Description and Concept

This is a detailed guide to the site. Information should include:

- A map of Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA with key attractions highlighted;
- Distances, trail difficulty and time required for different combinations of trails;
- Trail logs with interpretive tidbits;
- Potential hazards (general);
- What to take along;
- A key to wildlife and signs of wildlife, such as tracks;
- A key to basic plants;
- Didjacks” focusing on key aspects of cultural and natural history;
- Suggested itineraries for those new to Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA;
- A guide to the dredge, including the walking tour of the interior;
- An insert advertising special events;
- Contact information.

Possible first steps in developing this guide are to develop laminated identification keys and associated species lists that can be used individually. Eventually these can be combined and condensed into the core of the Discovery Guide.

Teachers' packet for field trips

Objectives

After using this information packet, educators will:

- Be able to plan and organize a trip to Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA;
- Be interested enough to plan and implement a field trip;
- Know where to get more information;
- Have student activities for before, during and after the field trip;
- Have originals of the relevant publications for copying;
- Have contact information;
- Have a clear list/description of key stewardship behaviors expected of visitors to the site.
- Be willing to follow instructions and divide their group per the instructions prior to arrival.

Description and Concept

This packet should contain the following information:

- Directions to the site;
- Description of the educational opportunities available;
- Information for scheduling visits and arranging for special programs;
- A suggestion of information to be presented prior to a trip;
- What to take and what to wear;
- Written projects that could be copied and used first in the classroom with a follow-up involving an actual trip to Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA;
- Suggestions for additional stops in the area to fill out a field trip, with a recommendation for a stop at McEwen Station;
- A reproducible version of the Sumpter Valley Dredge Site Orientation Map/Brochure (for chaperones);
- A reproducible version of the Sensational Discovery Quest.

The Teacher's Packet could be made available in a printed format and on CD and/or high definition DVD for flexibility. One or more of the latter formats could also be used to provide a quick overview of this opportunity on a touch-screen monitor at the Interpretive Center.

Highway Interpretive Panels

Location

On the south side of the highway just west of the junction with the road to Sumpter and just east of the junction with the road to McEwen Station with clear visual access to the dredge piles in the valley.

Objectives

After interacting with either of these panels, visitors will:

- Be motivated to go to Sumpter to see the dredge;

- Be motivated to stop in at McEwen Station.

Themes

- **Sub-theme 2-2:** The dredge is an ingenious machine for mining placer gold from deep in the river bed on a massive and cost effective scale.
- **Sub-theme 3-3:** Dredge mining had profound impacts on the natural and social environment.

Description and Concept

The focus of these panels is on providing a teaser about the dredge to motivate people to visit Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA. One possible design concept is to use an aerial image of the valley with a "you are here" (to give viewers an idea of the extent of the tailing piles) as a backdrop for historical images. The images include one of the dredge and the railroad at work and two prominent images – one of the dredge at Sumpter and one of the RR at McEwen. Supporting text invites visitors to come learn the story of the Upside Down Valley, the Sumpter Valley Dredge and the Sumpter Valley Railroad. An inset map shows the way to McEwen Station and to Sumpter.

Guided Tour of the Dredge

Location

In the dredge

Objectives

After taking the tour, visitors will:

- Be able to explain how the dredge moved its pond with it;
- Understand the general layout of the dredge;
- Be able to explain how the dredge operated;
- Understand the extent and nature of the impacts of dredge mining on the natural environment.
- Be able to explain the difference between placer gold and hard rock gold;

- Be able to explain the basic strategy for mining placer gold – to use gravity in some way to sort out the gold because it was heavier;
- Understand that the dredge was just a massive placer mining tool, like a large rocker box;
- Be motivated to take the Dredge Interpretive Trail to learn more;
- Be motivated to purchase books and other information from the interpretive store;
- Be inspired to learn more about dredges and mining on their own.

Themes

- **Theme 2:** Dredge mining, as with all gold mining, was based on using the properties of gold to extract it from surrounding material.
- **Sub-theme 2-1:** Mining placer gold deposits was based on the fact that gold was heavier than other material.
- **Sub-theme 2-2:** The dredge is an ingenious machine for mining placer gold from deep in the river bed on a massive and cost effective scale.
- **Sub-theme 3-1:** Because gold was much heavier than most of the surrounding material, gold moved downhill from its source in hard rock, where it was harder to mine to accumulate in valleys, where it was much easier to mine.
- **Sub-theme 3-2:** Gold mining is about separating the gold from surrounding material. The harder it is to separate, the more of an impact on the surrounding environment
- **Sub-theme 3-3:** Dredge mining had profound impacts on the natural and social environment.

Description and concept

Table 1 on page 29 contains an outline of recommended stops and associated information:

Podcast Self-Guided Tour of the Dredge

This is the same as the guided tour, but the information is delivered in two ways. The first is by an electronic device such as a blue tooth. A specific audio segment is triggered when a person reaches a specific location, such as the area just inside the dredge with visual access to the gears and cables. In addition, sound effects are triggered as are spotlights to highlight specific areas being referred to in the audio. The visitor will also have a booklet with the cut-away illustrations to support the audio. For example, at that location visitors would be able to view a cut-away of the interior of the front of the dredge so they could see how the bucket line brought the material up to a high point and dropped it in the hopper.

Table 1: Stops and Associated Information for Guided Tour of Dredge

Stop	Location	Focus
1	Gold panning demonstration area near the existing interpretive store.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the difference between placer gold and hard rock gold; • Explain that placer gold is much heavier than the surrounding material so gravity is used to mine placer gold. Use the gold pan to emphasize the point. If possible, put a rocker in this location to demonstrate a more sophisticated method of separating placer gold. • Explain how gold got down to the stream and then how it got buried in the stream bed; Use an illustration of the valley to point out that placer gold had been eroding from lodes and moving down slope for hundreds of years, while at the same time the river was shifting back and forth and the valley was filling up. Emphasize that the result was that placer gold was distributed across the valley, from the top of the stream bed to the bottom. Use an overlay to identify what tools were needed to reach what deposits.
2	Move to a point where you can focus on the buckets.	The dredge was an ingenious machine designed to dredge the valley bottom and sort the dredged material to extract gold. Explain how it dredged down to the bedrock to bring up material from the ancient river bed.
3	On the dredge, under the bucket line.	Emphasize the cost of the operation and use that to focus on how much more material could be dredged and sorted in an hour or day compared to a single miner. Also compare the amount of gold produced with other methods in relation to the man-hours required.
4	Inside the dredge with visual access to the cables and gears controlling the bucket line.	Use an illustration depicting a cut-away of the image in front of the visitor so they can see the bucket line and where it dumps the material as a prop to explain that part of the operation. Use a cut-away of the control room to explain how the gears and cables are controlled.
5	Inside the dredge with visual access to the chute.	Use a cut-away illustration of this part of the dredge to explain how the material was moved down the chute, and how riffles trapped gold as the material moved along.
6	The gold room	Focus on how the gold ended up in the gold room and where it went from that point.
7	The cables and gears for moving the dredge.	Use an illustration depicting how the dredge moved by setting cables and then pulling them in to explain how the dredge moved its pond.

This is the basic tour. Ideally, visitors could be taken up the stairs to look down in the hopper and go back to the tail end of the dredge to look up and down the chute.

Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA Site Orientation Panel

Locations

- At the sidewalk entry to the site
- At the Interpretive Building and Store parking area
- At the upper parking area

Objectives

After visitors finish with this panel, they will:

- Be aware of the interpretive and recreational opportunities at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA;
- Be aware that both a self-guided and guided tour are available;
- Be aware that they have to sign up for a guided tour and know where to sign up;
- Be motivated to sign up for the tour;
- Be aware that the Dredge is not fully accessible, but that a virtual tour is available;
- Be aware of how much time is necessary for a visit.

Description and Concept

One possible design approach is to create a “visual menu” of the interpretive opportunities at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA. Use a stylized oblique aerial perspective of the site as a backdrop for enlarged images highlighting visitors enjoying different opportunities, including attending an event. Use “didjacks” accompanying the activities to identify the interpretive opportunity while piquing interest about the story. A special section on Guided Tours entitled “*How to sign up for the guided tour*” includes the length of time it requires, how to sign up, the fact that it is not fully accessible and the alternative for getting the information (the Virtual Tour).

Regional Orientation Panel

Locations

- At the sidewalk entry to the site

- At the Interpretive Building and Store parking area
- At the upper parking area

Objectives

After visitors finish with this panel, they will:

- Be aware of the State Parks in the area and what each has to offer;
- Be aware of State Parks along their route after they leave the area and what each has to offer;
- Be motivated to stop in at one or more State Parks on this or future trips.

Description and Concept

One possible approach is to use a stylized map of Eastern Oregon to highlight State Parks in the region. Associated with each State Park would be images of visitors engaging in interpretive and/or recreational opportunities in that park. Supporting text/captions would highlight the key opportunities at each park.

Gold Country: The Story of the Sumpter Valley Dredge

Location

In the existing Interpretive Building and Store

Objectives

After visitors finish viewing this program, they will:

- Be aware of the role that gold mining played in the development of this area and of Eastern Oregon;
- Know the difference between placer mining and hard rock mining;
- Know that the dredge was an ingenious approach to mining placer gold from the river bed on a massive and cost-effective scale;
- Be motivated to seek out other interpretive opportunities on the site.

Themes

All themes will be introduced in this program.

Description and Concept

This is a short (3-5 minute) audiovisual program that provides an overview of the story of the dredge. It should include a brief history of the area with emphasis on the gold mining industry to put the dredge story in context, and then focus on the story of the dredge. Ideally the narration would either be by a former dredge worker or an actor playing that part.

Virtual Tour of Sumpter Valley Dredge

Location

In the existing Interpretive Building and Store

Description and Concept

This is essentially a condensed version of the guided tour, complete with the use of lights to highlight different areas, close ups of items being talked about, sounds of the dredge, etc. It is not meant to be a program that all would take in because it will be longer than audiovisual programs should be for an interpretive center experience. It is meant for those who don't have time for a tour or who cannot access the dredge.

Thematic Overview Panels

Locations

- At the Interpretive Building and Store
- At the sidewalk entry to the site

Objectives

After visitors finish with these panels, they will:

- Be aware of the role that gold mining played in the development of this area and of Eastern Oregon;

- Know the difference between placer mining and hard rock mining;
- Know that the dredge was an ingenious approach to mining placer gold from the river bed on a massive and cost-effective scale;
- Be motivated to seek out other opportunities on the site.

Themes

All themes will be covered in these panels

Description and Concept

Panel 1: Gold Country

This panel focuses on the role gold played in settling Eastern Oregon by EuroAmericans, with emphasis on the fact that gold discoveries in this area were the first in the region and catalyzed settlement and development in this area. Sumpter should be introduced as a gold mining town. One possible design concept is to use an illustration of miners lining a stream bank panning for gold with tents in the background as a center visual with the following illustrations surrounding and linked to the central visual:

- Ranches and farms raising livestock and produce and selling it to the miners;
- Sawmill producing lumber and selling it to the miners for houses and to businesses for stores;
- Businesses locating in the area to provide services to the miners;
- Wagon roads and railroads being developed to link the mining communities to the outside world.

Captions would emphasize that the discovery and mining of gold catalyzed all the other activities, leading to the settlement of Eastern Oregon by EuroAmericans. The panel would include a pair of maps; the first showing that there were no EuroAmerican communities in Eastern Oregon at the time of statehood (1859) and the second showing the established communities in 1865, with mining communities identified through color

or symbol. Table 2 on page 33 contains draft concept text for this panel. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.

Panel 2: Getting the Gold Out

This panel focuses on the different placer mining techniques, from simple to complex, with emphasis on the gold that was accessible by the method in terms of the depth to which the valley or creek could be mined. It should include gold panning, rocker boxes, sluice boxes (including the use of hydraulic hoses), and dredges, with emphasis on the dredge as the most cost-effective way of mining gold from the material deposited hundreds of years earlier by erosion and the meandering of the stream. Table 3 on page 33 contains draft concept text for this panel. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.

Panel 3: The Upside Down Valley

This panel focuses on the impact of dredge mining. One possible design concept is to use an aerial of the Sumpter Valley showing the extensive nature of the tailings as a backdrop for the following series of enlarged photos:

- Image of pre-dredge landforms to emphasize the impact to the environment both as habitat for native flora and fauna and as farm and pasture land;
- Image of birds and/or wildlife in the small bodies of water within the tailings;
- Image of vegetation starting to come back in the tailings;
- Images of beaver activity;
- Images of fish coming upstream.

Supporting text would focus on the changes indicated in the photograph. Table 4 on page 34 contains draft concept text for this panel. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.

Table 2: Draft Concept Text for “Gold Country” interpretive panel

Working Title	Gold Country!
Body Text	Gold started it all! The first gold strike in eastern Oregon was in this region in 1861. In no time, miners were lining the streams panning for the precious metal. Businesses followed to serve the miners; supply companies established ports on the Columbia and built roads to the mining communities; ranchers and farmers settled the land because they could now get supplies and because they had a market for produce . . . all because of gold.
Inset/Sidebar <i>Captions for maps</i>	When Oregon became a state in 1859, no EuroAmerican communities could be found in eastern Oregon. By 1865, the discovery of gold had led to the establishment of dozens of mining towns.
Key body content	Maps depicting settlements in Eastern Oregon in 1859 and in 1865.
Take away message	The discovery of gold in this area led to the initial settlement and development of Eastern Oregon.

Table 3: Draft Concept Text for “Getting the Gold Out” interpretive panel

Working Title	Getting the Gold Out
Body Text	Gold is much heavier than the surrounding material, so miners “washed” the lighter material away using a gold pan, rocker box or sluice box. That was the easy part. The hard part was getting to the gold. Shovels could only scratch the surface and couldn’t reach all the gold that lay buried deep in the river bed. The solution? A dredge with a bucket line that could dig down to 40 feet if necessary to scoop out the ancient river deposits.
Inset/Sidebar <i>For sluice box</i>	Slats called “riffles” in sluice boxes trapped the heavier gold as material was washed down the box.
Inset/Sidebar <i>For gold pan</i>	Gold panning involved swirling the water to pick up and wash out lighter material, leaving the heavier gold flakes in the pan.
Key body content	Images of a dredge, someone panning for gold, and a sluice box. Could also have a rocker box and an image of hydraulic hoses washing away a hillside.
Take away message	The heavy weight of gold was used to separate it from other materials. Dredges were used to get to ancient gold deposits in river beds.

Table 4: Draft Concept Text for “The Upside Down Valley” interpretive panel

Working Title	The Upside Down Valley
Body Text	The dredge moved back and forth across the valley, turning meadows to rock piles as it pulled the ancient river bottom up and spewed it out the back in the relentless search for gold. The meadows and its inhabitants are gone, replaced by rock piles and small ponds of water. Humans don't have much use for field of rock piles, but many species of plants and wildlife have moved in and call this landscape home.
Inset/Sidebar <i>Caption for images of beaver activity</i>	You may not see beaver, but if you look closely you can see the gnawed sticks, dams and lodges that give away their presence.
Inset/Sidebar <i>Caption for images of waterfowl</i>	The small hidden ponds tucked away between piles of rock are perfect resting places for waterfowl during migration.
Key body content	Images of waterfowl in ponds and beaver activity.
Take away message	The dredge significantly altered the landscape, changing the potential for human use and as habitat for flora and fauna.

Dredge Interpretive Trail

Location

On the series of trails that can be used to walk around the edge of the dredge pond.

Objectives

After visitors finish with the interpretive panels along this trail, they will:

- Be able to explain how the dredge moved its pond with it;
- Understand the general layout of the dredge;
- Be able to explain how the dredge operates;
- Understand the extent and nature of the impacts of dredge mining on the natural environment.

Themes

- **Sub-theme 2-2:** The dredge is an ingenious machine for mining placer gold from deep in the river bed on a massive and cost effective scale.
- **Sub-theme 3-1:** Gold mining is about separating the gold from surrounding material. The harder it is to separate, the more of an impact on the surrounding environment
- **Sub-theme 3-2:** Dredge mining had profound impacts on the natural and social environment.

Description and Concept

Table 5 on page 36 contains recommendations for stops and associated information.

Table 5: Stops and associated information for Dredge Interpretive Trail

Stop	Location	Focus
1	On the bluff to the north of the dredge pond with a clear view of the dredge.	Provide a simple explanation of how material moves through the dredge. One possible design concept is to use a cut-away of the dredge from this perspective to highlight the material going into the dredge on the buckets, being dumped in the hopper, being sorted as it moves down the chute and being deposited out the back. Supporting text will clarify what is happening along the way. Table 6 on page 37 contains draft concept text for this panel. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.
2	To the south of the dredge at the edge of the dredge pond with clear visual access to the bucket line.	How the dredge was moved. One possible design concept is to use a series of illustrations to depict the process of setting the cables and then pulling them in to move the dredge forward. This should also include the setting of the anchor in the back to keep it in place once it reached its position. An inset map could show the pathway of the dredge as it moved its dredge pool around the valley. Table 7 on page 37 contains draft concept text for this panel. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.
3	To the southwest of the dredge at the edge of the dredge pond with clear visual access to the chute for dumping tailings	The tailings and how the pattern of tailing piles was made by the chute swinging as the dredge moved back and forth in the pond. One possible design concept is to use an illustration depicting this concept. An inset image of material coming out of the chute should be included. Table 8 on page 37 contains draft concept text for this panel. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.
4	Along the trail to the west of the dredge, separated from the dredge by a tailing pile. The location should have clear visual access to the valley to the west and north.	The extent of the tailing piles in the valley, how long it took to make them, and the impact on flora and fauna. One possible design concept is to use an aerial image of the valley with a “you are here” noted to give visitors an impression of the extent of the tailing piles. This can be used as a backdrop for enlarge images highlighting re-vegetation, beaver activity, waterfowl using the small ponds between tailing piles and other signs of the use of the landscape as habitat. Table 8 on page 38 contains draft concept text for this panel. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.

Table 6: Draft Concept Text for Panel 1, Dredge Interpretive Trail

Working Title	Getting to the Bottom of Things!
Body Text	The dredge is simply an improvement on shovel and rocker box. Instead of a shovel, huge buckets scoop the ancient river bottom and dump it down a hopper. Water washes the material down the trammel where gold is captured by riffles. The waste is spewed out the back, leaving a telltale pattern of piles across the valley floor.
Inset/Sidebar <i>caption for image of dredge worker working in winter</i>	The dredge was operated year round by 3 shifts of 3 men. In the dead of winter the heating system barely kept the temperature above freezing.
Key body content	Cut-away illustration of dredge with labels identifying the bucket line, hopper, trammel, etc. Short captions with arrows depict how the dredge functions.
Take away message	The dredge is a huge but simple machine for mining the river bottom

Table 7: Draft Concept Text for Panel 2, Dredge Interpretive Trail

Working Title	The Migrating Pond
Body Text	The dredge could move anywhere it wanted in the valley because it simply took its pond with it. As the buckets dug away the banks on one side, the dredge spewed the waste out the back, filling in the other side. When the dredge had scooped away another swath of bank, cables were used to drag it forward to start all over again on another swath of pond bank.
Inset/Sidebar <i>caption for dredge worker at the controls</i>	All the operations of the dredge were controlled by one man seated in the control room.
Key body content	Diagram depicting how the dredge took its pond with it by scooping out in front and filling in behind.
Take away message	The dredge could move anywhere because it took its pond with it.

Table 8: Draft Concept Text for Panel 3, Dredge Interpretive Trail

Working Title	The Biggest Spud You Ever Saw!
Body Text	The “spud” is a long beam of steel used to anchor the dredge in place as it swung from side to side, clawing away the valley floor. When the dredge was ready to move, the spud was hoisted, the dredge dragged forward with cables, and the spud dropped, burying itself in the river bottom.
Caption	The spud was a pivot point for the dredge to move in an arc across the front edge of the pond.
Key body content	Illustration depicting how the dredge moved in an arc using the spud as a pivot point.

Table 9: Draft Concept Text for Panel 4, Dredge Interpretive Trail

Working Title	The Tale of the Tailings
Body Text	The dredge moved about ?? in a month, so imagine how long it took to criss-cross the entire valley! The tailings tell the tale of the path of the dredge, which started??? in 1934, and ended here in 1954. The other tailings are from the previous 2 dredges.
Captions	It took 3 dredges almost 40 years to dredge
Key body content	Aerial photo of Sumpter Valley showing the extent of the tailing piles and the path it took to get to its final resting spot.
Take away message	The dredges moved slowly, taking years to dredge the valleys

Interior Exhibits: Depot

Location

In the railroad depot

Objectives

After visitors finish with these exhibits, they will:

- Understand that the railroad played a key role in the boom of Sumpter as the hub of hard rock mining around the turn of the century.
- Understand the role of transportation systems in the development of the area.
- Understand the role of the railroad in the dredge history.
- Be aware that more exhibits focusing on the railroad are available at McEwen.
- Be motivated to stop at McEwen, either on their own or by taking the excursion.

Themes

- **Theme 1:** Gold mining in this part of NE Oregon catalyzed settlement and development of Eastern Oregon by Euro-Americans and was a significant factor in the rise and decline of communities in the area.
- **Sub-theme 1-3:** The need for supplies catalyzed the establishment of landings along the Columbia and the building of roads and railroads, which in turn brought about more development, more expensive mining technology, and the establishment of depots and stage stops.

Description and Concept

The focus of these exhibits is to link the story of the railroad to gold mining in general and to the dredge specifically so it can be a transition from one story to the other. The other focus is to provide an introduction to the story of Sumpter to motivate people to take a walking tour of the town. With that in mind, we anticipate the following major exhibits:

Exhibit 1: The Railroad: A Key Link

The focus of this exhibit is on the changes that occurred when Sumpter was linked to the

outside world by the railroad. One possible design concept (see figure 3 on page 40) is to use a short time line across the top, spanning the years from 1890 through 1915, as an organizer for exhibit components highlighting the impact of the railroad. A line down the middle of the exhibit, or actual separation between two sub-exhibits occurring at the point when the railroad was completed, should be included to clearly demarcate the beginning of the railroad era.

Possible components include:

- A graph of the population of Sumpter during the time period (which should reflect a spike when the railroad came and hard rock mining took off);
- A graph of the amount of gold produced from hard rock gold mines during that period (supporting text would highlight the role of the railroad as a hauler of heavy equipment necessary for such mining operations);
- Photos of teams hauling heavy equipment ones showing the train hauling equipment;
- Images of the town before the boom and ones after the boom in population.

Table 10 on page 40 contains draft concept text for this exhibit. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.

Exhibit 2: From Thriving to Surviving

The focus of this exhibit is on the city of Sumpter and how it waxed and waned in direct relation to the waxing and waning of the gold mining industry, which allows a focus on the dredge operation as a part of the economy after the hard rock mines closed down. One possible design concept (see figure 4 on page 41) is to use a time line from 1900 to present as an organizer for images of the town over time. Key dates or time periods would be highlighted, such as the period of time after 1934 when some mines reopened because the price of gold was increased, World War II when gold mining was shut down because it was not essential to the war effort, and 1974 when the price restriction was lifted. Table 11 on page 41 contains draft concept text for this exhibit. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.

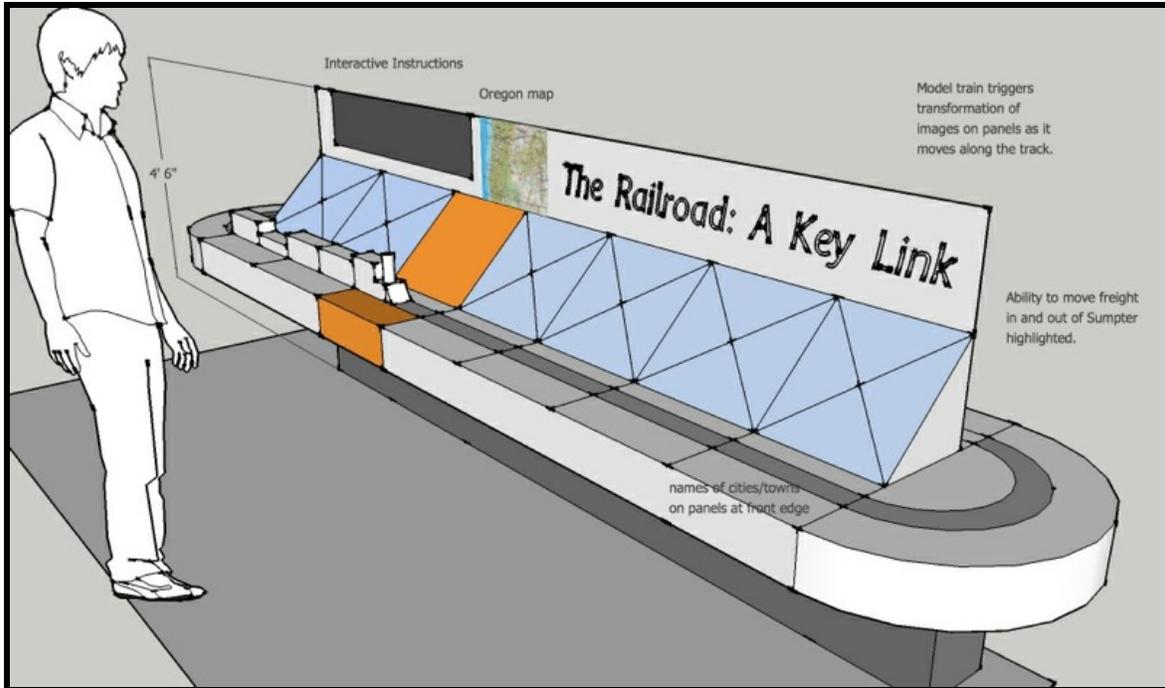


Figure 3: Concept for “The Railroad: A Key Link”

Table 10: Draft Concept Text for “The Railroad: A Key Link”

Working Title	The Railroad: A Key Link
Body Text for main text block	The railroad to Sumpter was built to support logging, but it was mining that really reaped the rewards. Heavy equipment needed for hard rock mining could now be shipped in by rail rather than hauled by wagons along muddy roads. Mines sprang up and gold flowed as miners tapped the rich veins high in the mountains around Sumpter. The City boomed, becoming one of the largest communities in Oregon.
Captions	Getting heavy equipment to Sumpter before the railroad was quite an undertaking, especially in winter.
Key body content	Images of Sumpter in its heyday, especially of the hotel Image of machinery being hauled on a wagon road in winter.
Take away message	The railroad was a key to the boom of Sumpter



Figure 4: Concept for: Thriving to Surviving

Table 11: Draft Concept Text for From Thriving to Surviving

Working Title	Thriving to Surviving
Body Text for main text block	Boom to bust – that was the story for most mining towns at the turn of the century. Sumpter thrived for about a decade, and then declined as the mines played out one by one. The last of the hard rock mines shut down in 1916, and a fire in 1917 wiped out most of the City, but the community survived. The dredge played a part, contributing to the economy until 1954.
<i>Caption for image of mine workers and superintendent in front of house.</i>	Sumpter survived in part because of the dredge and its crews, who lived in the community. The superintendent also lived in town.
Key body content	Images of the town in its heyday; images of the fire and aftermath; images of the dredge working; images of the town today; images of dredge workers and the superintendent
Take away message	The life of the town was controlled in large part by the gold industry

Note: Remainder of exhibit is primarily visuals with captions tied to a time line.

Interior Exhibits: Interpretive Center

Figure 5 on page 43 contains a bubble diagram reflecting the desired adjacencies in the new Interpretive Center and the general location of the exhibits. A floor plan depicting location of exhibits in the new Interpretive Center has not been included because the floor plan for the new facility has not been developed. Figure 6 on page 42 depicts a possible concept for the entry to the exhibit area. Figures 7 and 8 (pages 42 and 43) provide perspectives of that area. The actual layout and configuration will depend on the final design of the building.

Welcome to Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area

Location

Welcome Area of the new Interpretive Center

Objectives

After visitors finish with this exhibit, they will:

- Be aware of the interpretive opportunities at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA;
- Be aware that they have to sign up for a guided tour and know where to sign up;
- Be motivated to sign up for the tour;
- Be aware that the Dredge is not fully accessible, but that a virtual tour is available;
- Be aware of how much time is necessary for a visit;
- Be aware of the annual events and what event is coming up next;
- Be motivated to return for the event.

Description and Concept

One possible design approach is to create a “visual menu” of the interpretive opportunities at Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA. Use a stylized oblique aerial perspective of the site as a backdrop for enlarged images highlighting visitors enjoying different opportunities, including attending an event. Use “didjknows” accompanying the activities to identify the interpretive opportunity while piquing interest

about the story. A special section on Guided Tours entitled “*How to sign up for the guided tour*” includes the length of time it requires, how to sign up, the fact that it is not fully accessible and the alternative for getting the information (the Virtual Tour). Brochures, booklets, an Explorer’s Kit, identification keys and other tools for enhancing the visitor experience are displayed just below the exhibit.

Note that this is similar to the SVDSHA Orientation Panel in concept, but the exhibit should be more extensive and detailed in terms of the information provided.

Regional Orientation Exhibit

Location

Welcome Area of the new Interpretive Center

Objectives

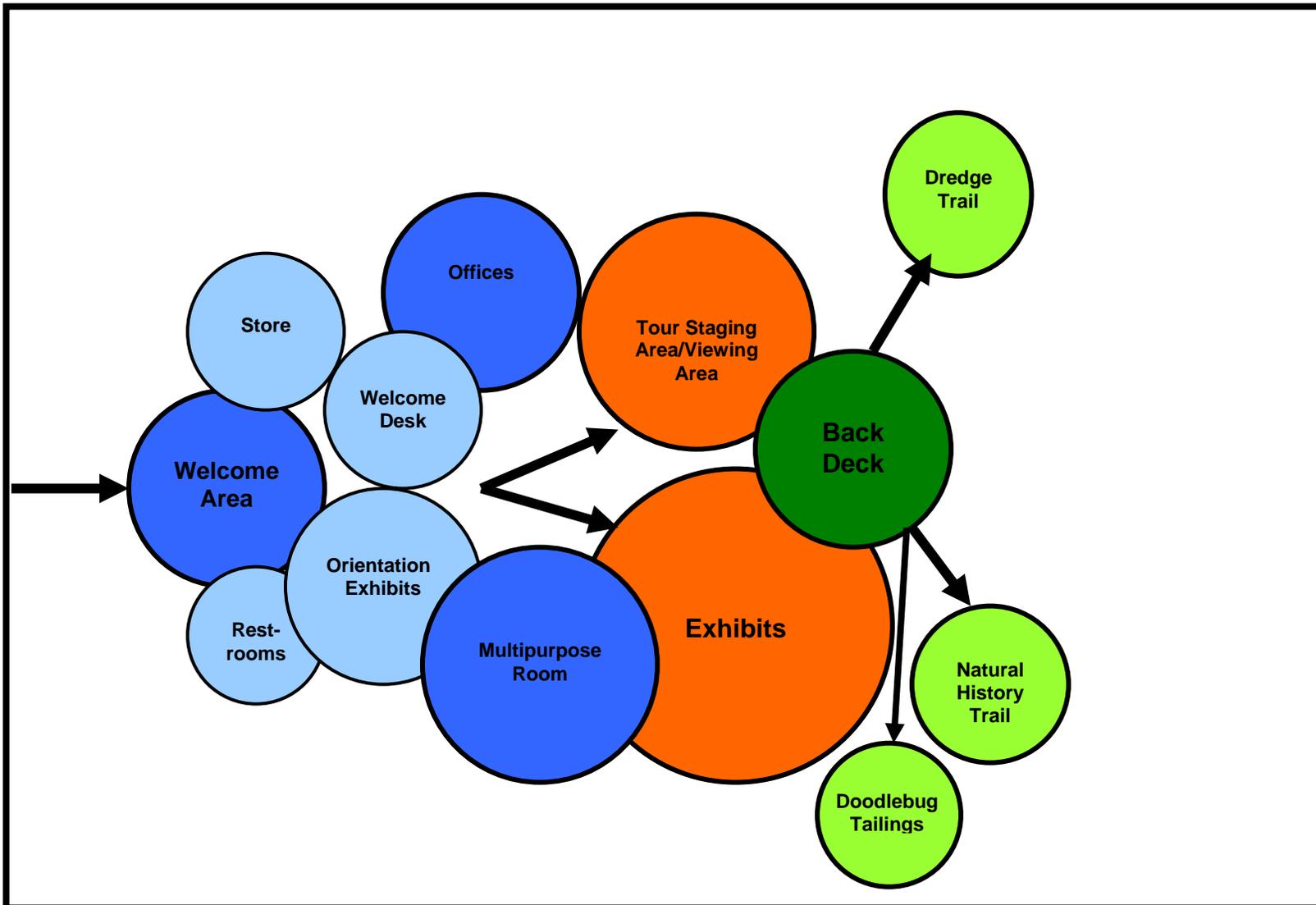
After visitors finish with this exhibit, they will:

- Be aware of the State Parks in the area and what each has to offer;
- Be aware of State Parks along their route after they leave the area and what each has to offer;
- Be motivated to stop in at one or more State Parks on this or future trips.
- Have information for the State Parks highlighted in the exhibit.

Description and Concept

One possible approach is to use a stylized map of Eastern Oregon to highlight State Parks in the region. Associated with each State Park would be images of visitors engaging in interpretive and/or recreational opportunities in that park. Supporting text/captions would highlight the key opportunities at each park. Brochure holders for distributing site brochures would be included under the exhibit

Figure 5: Recommended Adjacencies in new Interpretive Center



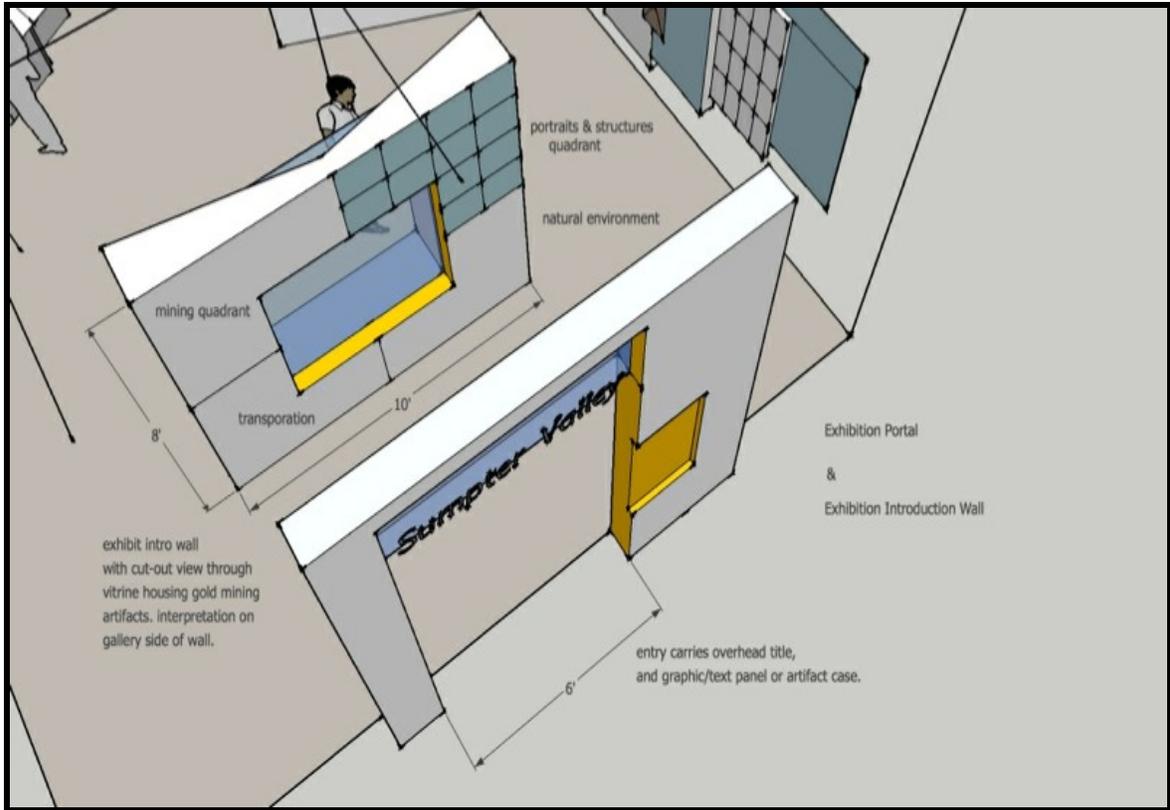


Figure 6: Concept for entryway to exhibit area

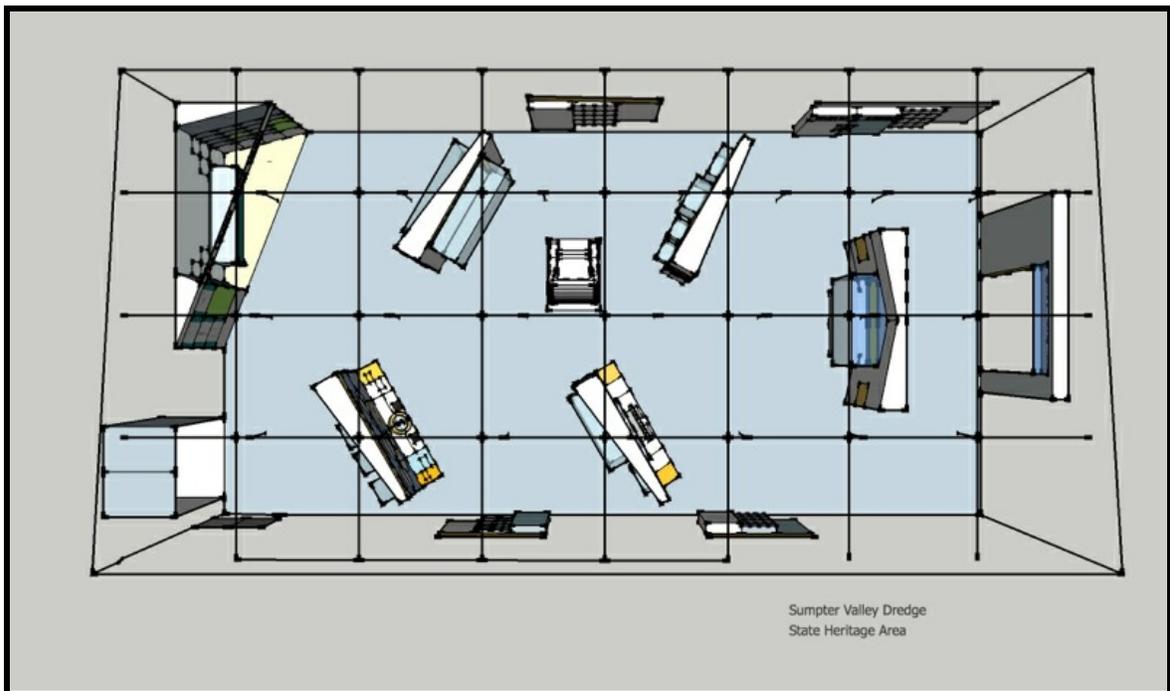


Figure 7: Bird's-eye perspective depicting one possible layout for the exhibits



Figure 8: Perspective of one possible configuration of the exhibit area.

Gold Country

Location

In the new Interpretive Center

Objectives

After visitors finish with this exhibit, they will:

- Understand that gold mining was the catalyst for the settlement of this area and all of Eastern Oregon by EuroAmericans;
- Know that it was gold strikes in this area of Eastern Oregon that caused the gold rush to the region.
- Be motivated to view the other exhibits;
- Be motivated to learn more about Oregon history.

Themes

- **Theme 1:** Gold mining in this part of NE Oregon catalyzed settlement and development of Eastern Oregon by EuroAmericans and was a significant factor in the rise and decline of communities in the area.
- **Sub-theme 1-1:** The first established communities in Eastern Oregon were gold towns in this area.
- **Sub-theme 1-2:** The presence of miners created a market for produce, food, supplies and building materials, which catalyzed the migration of ranchers, farmers and businesses to this area.
- **Sub-theme 1-3:** The need for supplies catalyzed the establishment of landings along the Columbia and the building of roads and railroads, which in turn brought about more development, more expensive mining technology, and the establishment of depots and stage stops.

Description and Concept

The focus of this exhibit is on the role of gold in the settlement and development of Eastern Oregon in general and this area specifically. One possible design concept (see figure 9 on page 47) is to use a large map of Oregon as it would have looked in terms of settlements around 1865 as a backdrop for highlighting the mining towns in this area, the ship landings along the

Columbia for offloading supplies bound for the mining towns, and the trails and roads linking the communities to the landings and other communities. If possible, historic images of different towns should be used to highlight the communities. Using this collection of communities as a core area, show arrows connecting the core area to the following:

- Images of farmers and ranchers. Supporting text focuses on them not coming prior to the rise of mining because there was no market for their produce and livestock, no easy way of getting necessary supplies, and no protection from hostile natives.
- Businesses to serve miners, such as hotels, brothels, saloons, stores, etc. Supporting text focuses on the fact that miners provided the market for the services.
- Images of pack trains loaded with supplies, wagons loaded with supplies and the railroad. Supporting text focuses on the fact that the establishment of communities along with the demand for supplies and machinery catalyzed development of transportation systems in Eastern Oregon.

Table 12 on page 47 contains draft concept text for this exhibit. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.

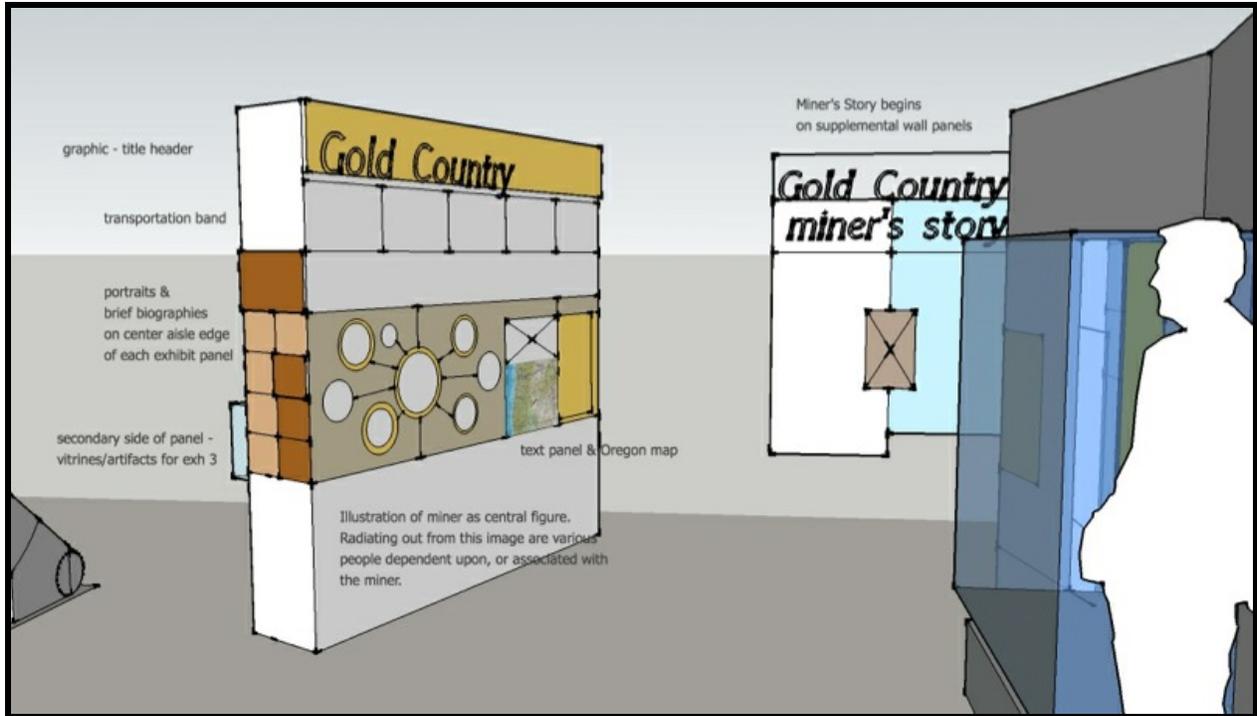


Figure 9: Possible concept for “Gold Country” exhibit

Table 12: Draft Concept Text for “Gold Country” exhibit

Working Title	Gold Country
Body Text for main text block	Gold started it all. When word got out of the gold strikes in this area, miners poured in and towns sprang up overnight along the rivers and streams. Sawmills, stores and brothels sprang up to serve the miners; supply companies established ports along the Columbia and built roads to serve the new communities. Ranchers and farmers settled the valleys now that they could get supplies and had a market for their produce. And gold started it all.
Inset/Sidebar captions for images	<i>Depends on images, but should focus on how gold catalyzed development and settlement</i>
Key body content	Illustration depicting the cause and effect impact of gold strikes on settlement and development of an area. Images of Wallula with ships offloading supplies; laden wagons bringing supplies by wagon road; early businesses in Sumpter; the Sumpter Bank; the Sumpter Hotel; early ranches in the area.
Take away message	The discovery of gold in this region catalyzed the settlement and development of eastern Oregon

Getting the Gold Out

Location

In the new Interpretive Center

Objectives

After visitors finish with this exhibit, they will:

- Understand that extracting gold from surrounding material was based on the properties of gold.
- Understand that placer gold was mined through the use of gravity because gold was much heavier than surrounding material.
- Understand how gold pans, rockers, and sluice boxes were used to mine gold.
- Understand that gold was distributed throughout valleys both vertically and horizontally due to the movement of the water course and gradual filling in of the valley over time.
- Be motivated to try their hand at panning at the gold panning area.
- Know that the dredge was the key to mining the valley floor.

Themes

- **Theme 2:** Dredge mining, as with all gold mining, was based on using the properties of gold to extract it from surrounding material.
- **Sub-theme 2-1:** Mining placer gold deposits was based on the fact that gold was heavier than other material.

Description and Concept

The focus of the exhibit is on the distribution of placer gold and the various ways that it was extracted from surrounding material. One possible design concept (see figure 10 on page 46) is to use a three-dimensional miniature cut-away profile of the valley as a tool for highlighting the distribution of gold across the valley due to meanderings of the river and vertically due to filling in of the valley. This could also be accomplished by lifting up a “core” of the valley. On this backdrop, different tools for mining placer gold would be depicted (could even have 3-D parts of a rocker and sluice box projecting from the exhibit). Associated graphics and information would

focus on how deep the area could be mined using the particular tool and how much gold could be extracted by a person in a day.

At the bottom of the exhibit, in the area depicting the area beneath the valley floor, a flip plate would ask the question, “How can a miner reach the bottom of the river valley?” A dredge would be pictured underneath the flip plate.

Table 13 on page 49 contains draft concept text for this exhibit. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.



Figure 10: Concept for “Getting the Gold Out” exhibit

Table 13: Draft Concept Text for “Getting the Gold Out” exhibit

Title	Getting the Gold Out
Body Text for main text block	<p>When it came to gold, there was a strong will to get at it, so miners created ways to find it and mine it.</p> <p>The first miners could make a fortune just panning the streams for the shiny stuff. To speed up the process they used rocker boxes that could sift shovelfuls at a time. Sluice boxes were also used. But with just a shovel, they could only scratch the surface.</p> <p>Jets of water were used to wash away whole hillsides into sluice boxes in search of gold that had been deposited eons before, saving a lot of pick and shovel work and time.</p> <p>Miners tracked the pathway of gold to find the veins in the hard rock. Dynamite pried it loose, stamp mills crushed the ore, and a refinery extracted the gold.</p> <p>But what about the shiny stuff laid down in the river bottoms eons ago and now buried by accumulated rock and sediment? The dredge was the answer. Designed to dig down 40 feet if necessary, dredges dug, sorted and discarded the ancient deposits, keeping the gold and leaving telltale patterns of tailings throughout valleys.</p>
Key body content	Images/illustrations of different mining strategies depicting in what type of terrain they were used and how deep they could go.
Take away message	Different tools and techniques were used to mine gold. The dredge was an ingenious tool for getting to the gold in ancient river beds.

Necessity is the Mother of Invention

Location

In the new Interpretive Center

Objectives

After visitors finish with this exhibit, they will:

- Understand how the dredge worked.
- Be motivated to take a tour of the dredge;
- Understand that the extraction process was essentially the same, just on a much larger scale.

Themes

- **Sub-theme 2-1:** Mining placer gold deposits was based on the fact that gold was heavier than other material.
- **Sub-theme 2-2:** The dredge is an ingenious machine for mining placer gold from deep in the river bed on a massive and cost effective scale.

Description and Concept

The focus of the exhibit is on the dredge as an innovative and cost effective way to mine placer gold buried in the river valley. One possible design concept (see figure 11 on page 51) is to use an illustration of a dredge from an outside perspective as a backdrop for a series of doors or flip plates that could be moved to reveal what was happening inside. The outside of the plate or door would have a question, such as, “How was the dredge moved around?” The images on the inside would show the gears and cables running from the dredge to points on the bank.

Supporting text would explain the process.

Table 14 on page 51 contains draft concept text for this exhibit. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.



Figure 11: Concept for Necessity: The Mother of Invention exhibit

Table 14: Draft Concept Text for Necessity: The Mother of Invention exhibit

Working Title	Necessity: The Mother of Invention
Body Text for main text block	Gold had been washing down the hillsides and ending up in the river bottom for eons, but was now buried by tons of rock and sediment. How to get it out and still make a profit? The dredge was the answer. It dug and sorted as much material in a day as a man could do in?? Come explore the dredge and see how this simple machine worked.
Supporting images and text	Captions associated with different parts of the cut-away image or model of the dredge focus on the purpose of that part and how much it could do in a day.
Key body content	Model with doors opening up to reveal different parts of dredge operation
Take away message	The dredge was an ingenious device for cost-effectively extracting gold from the valley floor.

The Power of Gold

Location

In the new Interpretive Center

Objectives

After visitors finish with this exhibit, they will:

- Understand that outside events had and continue to have impact on the gold mining industry, and consequently on all people and businesses connected with that industry.
- Understand that the city of Sumpter was a gold mining town that waxed and waned in relation to the mining industry.
- Know that the only buyer of gold in the US is the US government.

Themes

- **Theme 4:** Events on at the national and international level have played and continue to play a significant role in the gold mining industry.

Description and Concept

The focus of the exhibit is on outside events that controlled or had great impact on the gold mining industry. One possible design concept (see figure 12 on page 53) is to use a partial diorama of an assay office as a backdrop for a time line type exhibit where the focal point of the time line is a graph showing gold production in the Sumpter area compared with gold production from an area without a dredge. At points on the graph that are either markedly different from other areas (this area would show more production after 1916 because of the dredge than areas without a dredge), or where an obvious change occurs (rise in the price of gold, WWII), a flip plate or some other type of device would ask, "What Happened Here?" The answer, when revealed, would focus on those key events on the national and international stage that affected the gold industry in this area. The time line could continue through to present, noting the impact of the lifting of price control in 1974 and fluctuations in the price of gold and the affect they had on mining activity.

Table 15 on page 53 contains draft concept text for this exhibit. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.

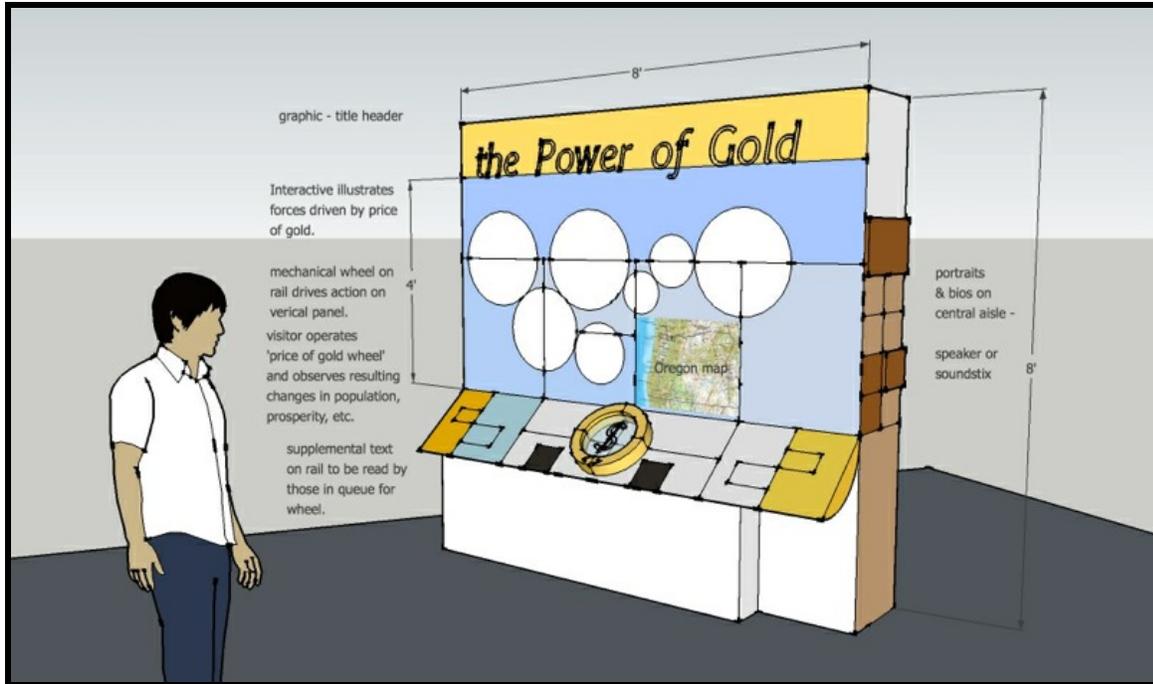


Figure 12: Concept for “The Power of Gold” exhibit

Table 15: Draft Concept Text for “The Power of Gold” exhibit

Working Title	The Power of Gold
Body Text for main text block	<p>Gold was a monopoly. Because the US had a gold based monetary system, the government was the sole buyer of gold and could therefore set the price and make the rules.</p> <p>In 1934 the government raised the price from \$20 an ounce to \$35, resulting in a flurry of activity as gold mining became more profitable.</p> <p>In 1942 the government deemed gold mining not beneficial to the war effort so they stopped buying, forcing mining operations to shut down. Many of them never recovered.</p> <p>In 1971 the government removed all restrictions on the price of gold, again sparking a flurry of new mining activity.</p>
Key body content	Graph showing gold production in the US since the turn of the century. Spikes due to changes in price of gold should be highlighted.
Take away message	National and international events had and continue to have significant impact on the gold mining industry, and on the people, businesses and communities that depend on that industry.

The Upside Down Valley

Location

In the new Interpretive Center

Objectives

After visitors finish with this exhibit, they will:

- Understand that the valley was turned upside down, literally, by the dredge, with devastating impact on the natural environment and associated flora and fauna;
- Have a sense of the extent of the impact;
- Be aware that flora and fauna are moving back in to the dredge tailings;
- Be able to name at least 3 species of wildlife that use the tailings as part of their habitat;
- Be aware that the small bodies of water in the tailings are key habitat for birds and wildlife;
- Be motivated to explore the tailings to see if they can see wildlife or see sign of wildlife.

Themes

- **Theme 3:** Mining gold progressed from the easiest to mine deposits to the hardest, which included a commensurate progression in cost of the mining operation, and associated impacts on the physical and social environment.
- **Sub-theme 3-1:** Gold mining is about separating the gold from surrounding material. The harder it is to separate, the more of an impact on the surrounding environment
- **Sub-theme 3-2:** Dredge mining had profound impacts on the natural and social environment.

Description and Concept

The focus of the exhibit is on flora and fauna of the tailings. One possible design concept (see figure 13 on page 55) is to use a diorama of a tailing landscape complete with birds and wildlife. Small interpretive labels would highlight the different species

and explain how they use the environment. As an alternative or in addition to the panels, a button could activate a light that highlighted the selected species and an audio could provide the same information. A sub part of this exhibit would be an image of a valley landscape as it might have looked prior to dredging, with enlarged images of birds and wildlife that would have been found there, but are not anymore.

Supporting text focuses on the fact that although the tailings do have flora and fauna, it is not the same array as before, nor the abundance.

Table 16 on page 55 contains draft concept text for this exhibit. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the exhibit and is not intended to be draft text.

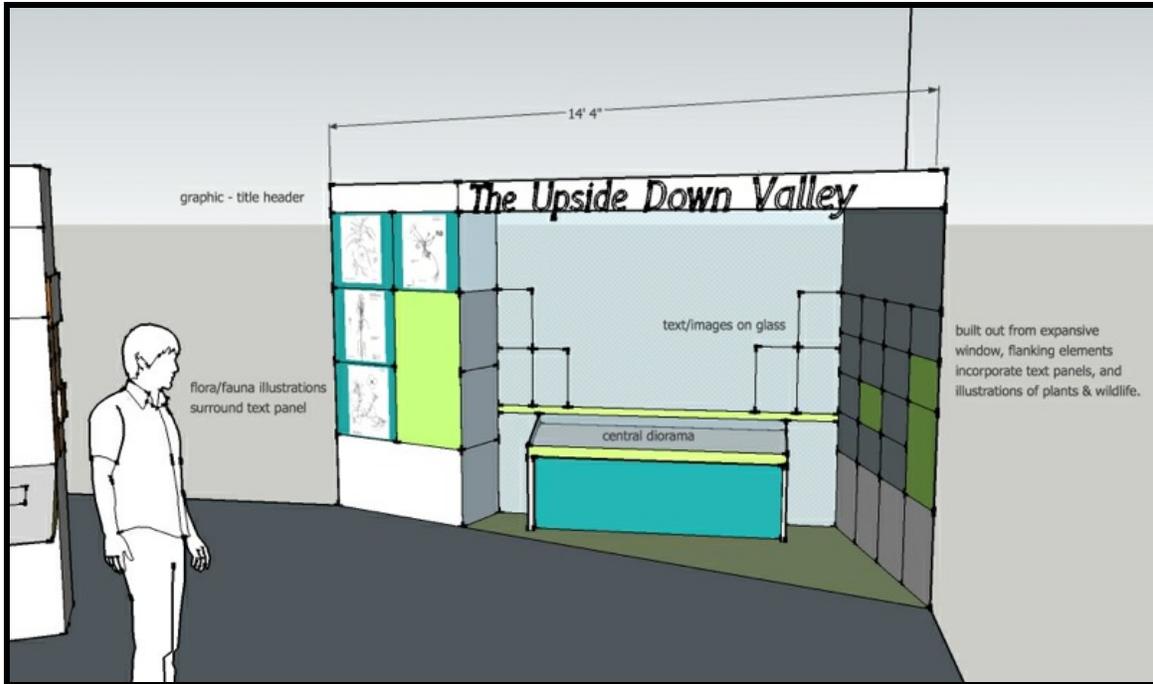


Figure 13: Concept for “The Upside Down Valley” exhibit. Note that the center is a glass window with a view out to the valley.

Table 16: Draft Concept Text for “The Upside Down Valley” exhibit

Working Title	The Upside Down Valley
Body Text for main text block	Dredge mining replaced the natural landscape of meadows and riparian areas with piles of boulders. Many of the previous inhabitants moved out, but others moved in. Look closely to see if you can find evidence of their presence.
<i>Captions</i>	Captions will depend on the images, which will feature a wide variety of plants, wildlife, fish and birds that use this habitat.
Key body content	Images of plants, wildlife, fish and birds that use this habitat.
Take away message	Changes in habitat result in changes to the array of plants and wildlife

Find me Panels

Location

Along the rail of the back deck

Objectives

After visitors finish with these exhibits, they will:

- Know that the surrounding environment is home to a lot of species of birds and wildlife;
- Be more comfortable in their ability to see and identify birds and wildlife and signs of wildlife;
- Be aware of some of the species of birds and wildlife they might see from the deck;
- Be aware of the importance of riparian habitat for birds and wildlife;
- Be motivated to spend some time looking for birds and wildlife from the deck;
- Know how different species use the environment;
- Be motivated to walk the trails to see more;
- Be motivated to get an identification key before they walk the trails.

Themes

- **Sub-theme 3-2:** Dredge mining had profound impacts on the natural and social environment.

Description and Concept

Develop one primary panel that uses the scene in front of the visitor as a backdrop to highlight birds and wildlife that live in the area and could be seen. Use supporting information to focus on the array of wildlife living in the park. Use a series of smaller panels to highlight single species with clues on where to look and how to identify.

Table 17 on page 57 contains draft concept text for this panel. It is intended to provide additional guidance to the development of the panel and is not intended to be draft text.

Trail Orientation Panel

Location

At major access points to the trail system, including on the back deck of the Interpretive Center

Objectives

After interacting with this opportunity, visitors will:

- Know the extent, condition and difficulty of the trails in this area and be able to make an informed decision on how far they want to walk;
- Be motivated to walk/hike at least one of the trails, if not on this trip then on a return visit.

Description and Concept

This panel focuses on information necessary to make a decision about hiking the trails in the park. Use an aerial perspective of the park as a backdrop for highlighting trails in the area. Information would include mileage, grade, hazards, what a person should take with them, and which are pet-friendly trails.

Table 17: Draft Concept Text for main “Find Me” panel

Working Title	Find Me!
Body Text	Although this may look like a deserted landscape, it is now home to a vast array of plants and wildlife – you just have to look closely.
Key body content	Illustration of landscape in front of the sign, but with birds and wildlife partially hidden in areas they would likely be found.
Take away message	If I look closely I can find plants, birds and wildlife that live here.

Events

Event Challenges and Opportunities

We see two primary challenges for special events:

1. The ability of staff to manage and support the events while continuing to perform their regular duties of operating a park.
2. Attracting enough people to make the event worth the effort to put it on.

With that in mind, we suggest focusing on joint events with the City and the Railroad to create a large array of benefits for coming to the event, and dividing out the effort for putting it on. One possibility is an event that would be called “Dredge Days coinciding with Sumpter Days and Sumpter Valley Railroad Days. Low cost rail excursions, tours of the dredge, tours of the city, tours of the superintendent’s house and other activities could be set up almost like a country fair.

Environmental Education and Outreach

Environmental Education

Sumpter Dredge SHA does not currently support organized environmental education programs. Lack of infrastructure to support such programs and difficulty getting into the market preclude offering regular formalized environmental education programs without a serious influx of capital. At this time we do not recommend committing resources to that function.

Outreach

The most effective tool for outreach in this case is the Internet. Expanding the web site to include materials pertaining to the dredge provides an opportunity for people to delve more deeply into the story from their homes.

One other possibility is to develop a traveling exhibit focusing on the story of the dredge in the context of the impact of gold mining in this area on the development of the area and eastern Oregon. This could be displayed at the county fair, State Fair and other expositions that could occur.

Cost Range Estimates

Introduction

As with construction of anything from an exhibit to a house, accuracy of the estimate is relative to the accuracy and detail of the design. An interpretive plan does not include designs, but rather design concepts, and those are limited to the interpretive strategies rather than infrastructure. Consequently, it is not possible to develop estimates with any meaningful degree of accuracy. However, it is possible to make some basic assumptions for interpretive panels and other strategies in order to develop cost range estimates that can be useful for budgeting.

Basic Cost Information

Interpretive Panels

A typical, digitally produced, laminate panel containing about 9 square feet of surface (2' x 3'), with extruded aluminum frames and metal posts will cost between \$3500 and \$5000 for all design, text writing and fabrication. Shipping and installation are not included because those costs vary significantly with location of the site. The variation in cost is primarily due to the design. Signs with original artwork and complex text are going to cost more than signs with embedded photos and limited text. Interactive and 3-dimensional elements negate this price range. Additional panels with the same design can cost as little as \$1000.

Audio Listening Posts

The hardware for an audio listening post, including the chip, can be obtained for as little as about \$1500-\$2000. However that does not include the cost of recording the

message, which can be relatively inexpensive if done in-house, and very expensive if a professional voice is hired and the work done in a recording studio.

Brochures

Publications are virtually impossible to price without more specific design information because there are so many variables that significantly affect the cost, such as number of pages, folds, binding, colors, source of text, type of artwork, and other variables.

Exhibits

Exhibits can cost as much or as little as you want. However, as a general rule of thumb, simple exhibits will cost around \$250 per square foot of exhibit space. If more complex exhibits are used, such as dioramas, the cost will be closer to \$500 per square foot. If electronics are used, particularly interactive components, the cost-per-square foot application do not apply. The smaller the facility, the less accurate the cost-per-square foot approach. The stone kitchen shelter is small, so the square foot approach will be less accurate. OPRD has been using a \$300 per square foot figure for a set of exhibits that are relatively basic, but that have some interaction.

Specific Cost Range Estimates

The following are cost range estimates based on the information available at this time. They include design development, fabrication and installation at Sumpter Dredge. All panels include design, layout, resource acquisition, text writing, digital file preparation, graphic production, mounting system and installation on-site. Costs are based on current (2009) material prices. The final project cost will vary depending on the length of time that passes prior to the project moving ahead. In order to effectively develop the design concepts presented in this plan into detailed exhibit designs, it will be critical for the designer to have a fabrication budget to use as a guideline for what may and may not be considered, especially when considering 3-dimensional or interactive components. The range of options outlined in the plan is wide, as it should be at this point in the process, but the budget must be established by the client before the designer could proceed efficiently.

Strategy	Unit Cost	Units	Cost	Comments
Site Orientation Map/Brochure				Exists – standard OPRD park brochure
Laminated Identification Cards			See comments	Too many variables
Trail Map				
Guide to Trails				
Self-Guided Walking Tour Booklet				
Sense-ational Discovery Quest			\$2200-3500	One page both sides; folded; 4-color; 2000 copies
Web Site				OPRD can do this one in-house
Special Events				Depends on the event and what you want to set up and offer.
SVDSHA Site Orientation Panel	\$3,500 to \$5,000/panel	3	\$5500 - \$7000	Additional panels at \$1000, primarily for the mount. “You are Here” must be changed for each panel.
Regional Orientation Panel	\$3,500 to \$5,000/panel	4	\$6500 - \$8000	Additional panels at \$1000, primarily for the mount. One of panels is for the County Park at McEwen Station
Trail Orientation Panels	\$2000 - \$3000	5	\$14,000 - \$15,000	The reduced price is because the primary graphic can be a duplicate of what is used on the Site Orientation Panel. Additional panels at \$1000, primarily for the mount. “You are Here” must be changed for each panel.
Highway Overlook Panels	\$3,500 to \$5,000/panel	2	\$7000 - \$10,000	These are on Highway 7
Thematic Overview Panels	\$3,500 to \$5,000/panel	3	\$10,500 - \$15,000	
Dredge Interpretive Trail Panels	\$3,500 to	4	\$14,000 - \$20,000	

	\$5,000/panel			
Interpretive Center exhibits			\$375,000	Includes the exhibits for the new Interpretive Center and the Depot
Virtual Tour of Sumpter Dredge				Depends on finished length.
Overview Audiovisual Program			\$10,000 - \$12,000	Depends on finished length. Generally assume \$3000 per finished minute. Maximum length – 4 minutes
Site Orientation/Trip Planning Exhibit	\$4,000 to \$8000 for all parts		\$4,000 to \$8000 for all parts	
Regional Orientation Exhibit	\$4,000 to \$8000 for all parts		\$4,000 to \$8000 for all parts	
Find Me Panels	\$3,500 to \$5,000/main panel \$2000 to \$3500 for small panels		\$15,500 to \$23,000	Depends on number of panels. The center panel will be a typical size but the other panels, highlighting specific species, can be smaller. This estimate assumes 1 primary panel and 6 smaller panels.
Podcast Tour of the Dredge				Depends on length

Section 2: Foundation Information

Goals and Desired Outcomes

Audiences

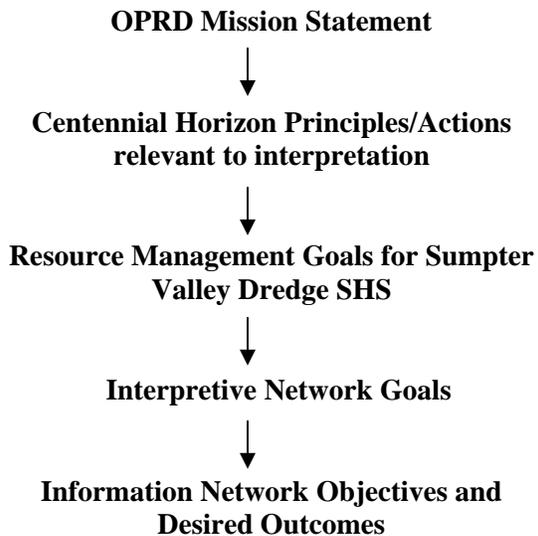
Parameters

Inventory of Interpretive Opportunities

Background: Objectives and Desired Outcomes

Introduction

The goal hierarchy contained in this section reflects the following structure:



The hierarchy is developed in this manner to clearly show the link between recommended actions associated with developing a network of orientation and interpretive opportunities and the mission statement and resource management activities of OPRD.

Background

OPRD Mission Statement

The OPRD mission statement is:

To provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA is an outstanding cultural history site. The artifacts reflect an important era in the

history of the area, northeast Oregon and the western United States. The site also contains significant natural resources (wildlife habitat).

Centennial Horizon Principles/Actions relevant to interpretation

From an interpretive perspective, the primary action affecting this plan is Principle 4, Action 5: *Refine cultural and historical interpretation at coastal lighthouses, historic forts, Champoeg and Sumpter Dredge State Heritage Areas and Kam Wah Chung State Heritage.*

Resource Management Goals

Neither the 1994 Master Plan nor the 2000 Site Development Plan have a set of management goals articulated; rather the 1994 contains a set of proposals for actions in terms of site management and development and the 2000 plan contains sets of more specific actions associated with developing and interpreting the site while protecting and conserving the cultural and natural resources. However, both are consistent in terms of a desired concept for the site and both reflect the following broad set of management goals that are derived from the OPRD mission statement:

1. ***Preserve the park and its stories for present and future generations.*** This includes protecting, conserving, and when appropriate, restoring native flora and fauna and significant cultural features and resources. This is reflected in many of the actions identified in the 2000 plan, such as restoring and protecting wildlife habitat, restoring the dredge, and restoring parts of the cultural landscape disturbed after the dredge ceased activity. This is also consistent with the Target 2014 Goal #2.
2. ***Manage natural resources to protect native flora and fauna.*** This is reflected in management actions identified in the 2000 plan, such as limiting trail access into wildlife habitat areas and enhancing riparian/wetlands habitat. This goal is

consistent with Target 2014 Interpretive Goal #3.

3. ***Be a good neighbor.*** This can be reflected by such actions as supporting local events (such as providing overflow parking for the flea markets), and by the simple act of developing opportunities that attract more people and a longer stay, which contributes to the local economy. It can also be reflected by integrating interpretive opportunities at the park with opportunities in the surrounding area.
4. ***Develop, maintain and enhance appropriate all-season recreational opportunities.*** This is reflected in the 1994 and 2000 plans by recommendations focusing on developing and upgrading the visitor experience in the park.
5. ***Foster a strong relationship with Friends and other support groups.*** This is reflected in the history of managing the area with actions such as developing the railroad depot and working with the Friends of the Sumpter Valley Dredge, Inc. and Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration, Inc. to accommodate and support interpretive stores and to provide quality interpretive and educational experiences.
6. ***Increase public support for and use of Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA.*** This is reflected in the 1994 and 2000 plans by the nature of the recommendations, which focus on developing memorable interpretive and recreational opportunities of interest and develop and maintain a good orientation and wayfinding network.

These are all consistent with the desired behavioral changes identified during the work session on November 19th, 2008. Results of that part of the work session are included in Appendix A.

Interpretive Objectives and Desired Outcomes

The next level of goals is determined by viewing interpretation as a tool to help achieve the park's Resource Management Goals through changes in visitor knowledge, attitudes and/or behaviors. This approach is based on the following concept:

Information is a tool to cause impact on the recipient of the information.

Information obviously can change knowledge, but through that change, attitudes and behaviors can be influenced. So whether a change in knowledge is sought as a means of enhancing a visitor experience, as a means of influencing attitudes to influence opinions, or as a means of directly influencing behavior to minimize negative impacts on a resource, communication can be used to help achieve desired impacts. The desired changes in behavior, attitude and knowledge represent the Desired Outcomes of the communication effort and are the justification for the time and effort spent developing and maintaining the information network.

Based on this concept, the next step in the process is to define specifically what attitudinal and behavioral changes are desired as a result of a visitor being involved in an interpretive opportunity. This set of impacts, termed Desired Outcomes, can then be used to develop a network of interpretive and wayfinding strategies that focus on achieving those outcomes while also enhancing the recreational experience.

To arrive at the Objectives and Desired Outcomes, the following question was asked: ***“How can an information network help achieve the Resource Management Goals?”*** The following objectives and outcomes for the information network were derived in that manner.

Audience Profiles

Introduction

One challenge with planning the interpretation for a park or site is in understanding the different audiences who will be using the interpretive opportunities. The goal is to build profiles of the different audiences to determine the type of experiences, including interpretive experiences, they are willing to “buy” with their time. Consequently, the focus of the profiles is on types of characteristics shared by different categories of visitors that affect the communication process. For example, a key characteristic of family groups is the different levels of education and interest inherent within such a unit, which requires creating opportunities where all members of the family can be involved at the same place and time.

The following represent brief profiles of different visitor types. The brevity is intended as it allows a focus on the key aspects of the visitor type that affect the interpretive network at Sumpter Valley Dredge.

Visitor types based on type of experience sought

Falk’s categories of museum visitors offer a good starting point for considering the different types of visitors to the site. His categories, with key characteristics noted are as follows:

1. **Spiritual Pilgrim** – wants to immerse themselves in the setting; don’t necessarily need interpretation to have a great experience. These people will want to stand inside the gold dredge without having someone talking to them; sit out in the altered landscape and contemplate the changes; or sit in a secluded spot to watch wildlife.
2. **Facilitator** – wants to facilitate a positive experience for someone else. Parents and teachers are the typical facilitators, but groups typically have

one or two people who like to facilitate the experience for others in the group. These people can use some of the same interpretive strategies as the Discoverer, but also wants ones that require or can accommodate a group leader. Self-guided interpretive trails using a brochure are an example of the type of opportunity that appeals to a Facilitator. School Groups are a special type of group that is included in a separate category.

3. **Discoverer** – wants to learn the story; absolutely needs interpretation. Wants some of the opportunities to be self-guided.
4. **Professional/hobbyist** – already knows a lot about the subject. Interpretive opportunities are not written for this type of visitor. They need more detail and depth than can be developed cost-effectively in interpretive opportunities. This group really wants a specialty tour or to look through your files.
5. **Experience seekers** – “been there, done that” crowd. They will have a good experience riding the railroad, going into the gold dredge and visiting what they might perceive to be a “ghost town.”

All of these visitor types need a good orientation and wayfinding network. However, only the Discoverer and Facilitator depend on interpretive opportunities as a key factor in the quality of the experience. It is not that the other types of visitors would not use it or enjoy it, or that it wouldn’t be considered value-added, it is just that it is not as integral a part of the overall experience for these other visitors. The others need particular types of opportunities to have the type of experience they desire. Looking at those two categories, there are several factors that are used to split them into smaller groups with similar characteristics.

Visitor types based on Learning Styles

According to most experts, people have specific styles of learning that he or she prefers. David Kolb has identified 4 different basic learning styles typically represented in our society. The following visitor types, with key characteristics noted, reflect Kolb's work:

1. **Social Learners:** These people learn through discussion. They do not like signage, computer work, computer assisted instructions and environments where they cannot talk to others. They will typically arrive in groups (so they can talk with each other), and are more likely to go on guided interpretive walks or attend programs, especially if they are interactive. Staff presence, especially at the beginning of the experience, is a key factor contributing to a high quality experience for this group.
2. **Observers:** This type of person learns by observing and tends to avoid social interaction. (*Typical classrooms were set up for this type of learner.*) As a consequence, they don't like being asked questions. You will find them on guided walks, but they are likely to prefer self-guided opportunities that don't require hands-on manipulation, but rather ones where they can come to conclusions through observation.
3. **Hands on:** This group likes to figure things out themselves, especially if it involves hands-on activities. They don't like long lectures; information without graphics; or being told the answers. This type of learner will want to pan for gold.
4. **"Jack of all Trades:"** This learner likes to have options and does not like to be limited to one learning style. They also do not like formality.

The key to accommodating different learning styles is in the delivery strategies.

For example, if you had a specific set of exhibits designed to communicate a key point where a person could read about it or get involved in a hands-on opportunity, or ask an interpreter about the topic – all in the same place – you would have created a situation where learning styles would not be a barrier. The implication for the interpretive network is that we will try to design a network where the same information is delivered in different forms to accommodate learning preferences.

Other key visitor types

The following visitor categories, with key characteristics noted, will also be considered in developing the interpretive network:

1. **Local residents:** This group of people has the greatest potential to be repeat visitors, but they need new opportunities to draw them back, such as new programs, exhibits, events, etc. They also are more likely to have a greater degree of knowledge about the dredge, Sumpter and mining in the area. For those people, fixed interpretive opportunities are not going to provide the level of detail that would interest them beyond the first visit. They also may find basic information redundant whereas those with less familiarity would find such information necessary. Special programs, tailored to their level of expertise, may be necessary.
2. **Visitors from out of the area:** This refers to all other leisure-oriented travelers, such as vacationers and day-trippers, and also other travelers with some discretionary time to spend, such as business travelers and people visiting friends or relatives in the area. They are likely to know a lot less about the story than residents, so interpretation for this group must start from a more basic level. They will also need more extensive orientation and wayfinding information than residents, and will be interested in

places they can visit after they leave Sumpter.

3. **Activity-oriented visitors:** This includes snowmobilers, ATV users, and others who are focused on their activity. Groups such as bird watchers are not included in this category because the overriding characteristic of activity-oriented visitors is that because of the nature of the activity, they are likely to regard interpretive opportunities as something that takes time away from the enjoyment of their activity. They may stop and read a “didjaknow,” but will not tend to commit much time during their activity-oriented experience. That is not the case with bird watchers. Although this type of visitor is focused on their activity, they will need orientation information for that activity and do have down time from the activity. Interpretation coupled with that orientation information and panels with “didjacks” can be an attractive sidebar to their experience. Also, providing interpretive information during the evenings, especially information applicable to what they will see during their activity, could be effective.
4. **Organized Groups:** It is not the visitor type that is the key factor in this category, but rather the number of people that have to be accommodated at the same time. Infrastructure is a key to serving this category of visitors, with bus parking and turn-around space, multiple toilet facilities and staging areas key factors. Also, organization of the on-site experience into multiple sub-experiences allows large groups to be split up and pulsed through a site. This is particularly important for school groups. It is also often important to separate the large groups from other visitors to avoid the large group having negative impact on the experience of others. For example,

a place where the large group could be divided into smaller groups before entering the Visitor Center, such as in a multipurpose room, will be important to avoid causing congestion within the facility. For school groups, anything that can help make the trip easier and more rewarding in terms of meeting the teacher’s objectives increases the likelihood of use by such groups. Pre-trip packets, staff presence to assist on-site, the opportunity to have questions answered on-site by a specialist or interpreter, and post trip activities are all factors that affect the degree of use by school groups.

5. **Families:** Families are a special type of group due to the challenges that arise out of the variation in educational and ability levels. The key is to develop opportunities that allow all members of a family to be occupied at the same time and place, ideally with the same opportunity.
6. **Those with disabilities:** The intent of ADA provisions is to promote equal access to the built environment for those with impairments. Braille and audio supposedly address the needs of those with visual impairments; elevators, lifts, grade and surface of trails, and other modifications to the physical environment address the needs of those with mobility impairments; and visuals and text, including captioned multi-media programs, address the needs of those with auditory impairments. However, most of the ADA provisions focus on physical access to information, not content. They also do not address the needs of these audiences at the experiential level. We prefer to use a *universal design approach*, which focuses on creating experiences that can be enjoyed by all parts of the target audience, including those with impairments. This approach involves

integration of multiple delivery strategies that include all senses. The result is an overall experience with opportunities that meet the needs of the few while enhancing the experience of everyone.

A Universal Design Approach also benefits our aging population because it is physical limitations that are the core of the issues that seniors have with interpretive and recreational experiences, such as deteriorating eyesight, hearing and physical capabilities, not their age. When this project moves to the design phase, a universal design approach should be used by the designer.

Parameters

Introduction

Parameters are those conditions under which an interpretive program must be developed, such as monetary constraints, and under which it must function, such as climate. Identifying parameters ensures selection and design of interpretive and wayfinding strategies and infrastructure that are effective and realistic, not idealistic. In reviewing the parameters, it is important to remember that they represent what is, not what should be or what is desired.

Key Parameters

Budget

B-1: Funds for implementation and ongoing operation and maintenance are likely to be limited. This has several implications:

- A phased approach to developing the interpretive network will be important.
- The first phase should contain projects that can be completed easily and show results in order to maintain enthusiasm and motivation.
- Low maintenance opportunities should be prime components of the basic program.

B-2: It is likely that OPRD can get about \$2M at one time for projects. The phasing should take this amount into account and set up an implementation plan that is organized into chunks that cost about \$2M.

Staffing

S-1: Staffing for interpretation and orientation may be limited. Paid staff may or may not be dedicated to providing or assisting with interpretive opportunities in the park on a full-time basis. Volunteers will

be available, but depending on volunteers is not without issues. Consequently, self-guided opportunities should form the basis of the interpretive network.

***Note:** This is not a recommendation against personal interpretive services. In fact, teachers have indicated that a staff person to answer questions and give a brief tour is a highly desirable part of a field trip experience and is a factor in attracting that target audience. Rather this is a recommendation against personal interpretive services as a critical part of the program for the general public. In other words, the program should be designed so it can function without personal interpretive services, but be enhanced by the addition of such opportunities.*

S-2: A “Friends of the Sumpter Valley Dredge, Inc.” group exists. The numbers are limited and the potential for additional members is not high, but the existing members could be used to guide, monitor and/or manage specific aspects of the park.

S-3: Podcasts, the OPRD website and other non-personal strategies for communicating pre-trip planning and orientation information can satisfy visitor needs for this type of information without relying on staff. Providing information about hours of operation, tours, fees, accessibility and events in non-personal forms, especially ones available before visitors arrive, will take pressure off reception staff.

Vandalism and Theft

V-1: Vandalism and theft are potential issues. This has several implications:

- Outdoor signage, kiosks, brochure racks and other structures should be constructed of vandal-resistant materials.
- Access to the dredge should be supervised.

V-2: Historic structures in other parts of the United States suffer from visitors removing artifacts or pieces of artifacts as souvenirs. Limiting access, fastening artifacts in place, using remote surveillance, using security alarms and maintaining a personal presence in the dredge and on the grounds may be required.

Note: According to personnel at self-guided sites such as The High Desert Museum in Oregon, Lyman Museum and Mission House in Hilo, Hawaii, and the Museum in Pella, Iowa, ropes demarcating the limits of public access in interior spaces are not sufficient to prevent theft. Alarms are necessary to alert staff when a person moves into that space or artifacts are contacted in any way.

Location and Access

LA-1: Due to its location, most visitors have to travel a long distance to get to Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA. This factor has several implications in regards to the overall information network and the interpretive opportunities:

- Good identification and wayfinding signage is required along the major routes in the area to alert travelers and guide them to the park and back to the major transportation routes to create a user-friendly experience.
- The overall experience at the SHA combined with the experience in Sumpter and along the route must be of high quality and extensive enough so people feel as if the trip was justified. *(As a general rule, people use a 4:1 ratio of time at the experience to driving time as a benchmark for worthwhile experiences. In other words, if they have to travel for an hour, they are looking for an experience that takes a half-day.)*

LA-2: A significant number of visitors will access the park by way of the

railroad. This has the following implications:

- A transition from the train experience and story to the mining site and story will be required within or adjacent to the depot.
- Since people do not have vehicles, a visit to Sumpter or nearby opportunities is not as likely to be a part of the overall experience, although pathways will connect the two.
- Visitors traveling on the train have the opportunity to use interpretive materials designed for use on both legs of the train trip.
- The length of stay at the site for these visitors is dictated by the train schedule so an itinerary of on-site activities should be developed that fits within that time frame.
- The schedule for programs should be coordinated with the train schedule.
- Information so a visitor can plan a trip on-site should be available at McEwen Station so visitors can plan their visit on the way up on the train.

LA-3: Sumpter is immediately adjacent to the SHA. It is possible to provide easy access via footpaths, and create extensions of the interpretive experience to encompass the story of Sumpter.

Environmental Conditions

E-1: Summers are likely to be warm and winters relatively cold and wet.

Exterior informational and interpretive opportunities must be either stored during winter months or constructed of materials highly resistant to the anticipated weather conditions.

E-2: School groups are likely to visit in the spring or fall, when the weather is likely to be wet and the trails muddy. This has the following implications:

- Covered staging areas, covered information or teaching stations and a place to spend time indoors would be an advantage.
- ‘Drip areas’ just inside doorways for umbrellas and coats would be an advantage in all areas accessed by the public. A mud room might also be useful because many of the trails are not paved.
- Covered walkways between the visitor center and the parking area or existing shelter may be desirable.

E-3: Due to weather conditions and lack of visitation, the park and dredge are closed in the winter.

Policy and Legal Issues

PL-1: The Dredge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This limits the degree to which the structure can be altered to accommodate visitors.

PL-2: All operations must comply with ADA rules and regulations. All significant areas of the park will be accessible to all people. Also, all information presented within the interpretive network will be accessible in some way for those with disabilities.

PL-3: By Policy, as reflected in the 1994 Master Plan and 2000 Site Development Plan, OPRD strives to conserve and preserve cultural, natural, recreational and scenic resources. This has several implications:

- Protecting the visual integrity of the dredge site is important, which has impact on the siting of the Visitor Center and any parking areas and access roads to avoid visual intrusion on the historic landscape.
- Siting of additional trails and design of the trails, plus supporting information, should discourage people from walking on tailing piles.

PL-4: OPRD has an agreement with Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration, Inc. that resulted in the locating and operation of the depot (owned by SVRR) on land owned by OPRD.

PL-5: By policy, OPRD allows people attending the flea markets to use the flat parking area just east of the dredge for overflow parking. This creates an opportunity to attract those who park in this area into the on-site experience. To do so, the access pathway from this parking area to the town should include interpretive signage plus a visual menu of what is available on-site.

Site Parameters

SP-1: Much of the site is not suitable for development due to historic cultural features (tailings), wetlands, topography and other factors. Potential sites for significant development, such as parking areas, access roads and facilities is limited to the northeast and southeast corners of the property and a narrow strip along the eastern edge that connects the two. These are the only areas in which a Visitor Center or parking areas can be located.

SP-2: Due to the need to cross the railroad to access the park and the fact that the park already has an approved developed access at Austin Street, additional railroad crossings are not an option. The northeast corner of the park will be the first encountered by the visitor. If the Visitor Center is to be a portal facility rather than a hub (a portal facility is much more appropriate for a single entry site with very limited developed area), than the Visitor Center should be located in that northeast corner.

SP-3: The easement for the railroad prevents development of the 2-lane access road paralleling the railroad as shown in

the 2000 Site Development Plan. This road will not be constructed as planned.

SP-4: The pre-dredge natural areas within the park are located in the remotest parts of the park and can only be accessed on foot. They cannot be used as a major focal point for contrasting dredged land with un-dredged land.

SP-5: A significant slope exists between the elevation of the dredge and the elevation of the area in which the Visitor Center is likely to be located. Provision must be made for access to the dredge site by those with disabilities.

SP-6: The best view of the dredge for those approaching Sumpter from the south on the highway is across a flat area currently identified for RV parking.

Visual access to the dredge from the highway is an important tool for motivating potential visitors to visit the park. Consequently, it is important to protect this view, which means eliminating regular parking in this area.

Physical Infrastructure and Layout

PI-1: Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA currently has or is planning to have the following infrastructure available that can be used in the interpretive network:

- Trails and overlooks through the tailing piles;
- A depot currently owned and operated by SVRR;
- The Superintendent's House;
- A historic barn;
- Large parking area adjacent to the dredge;
- Gift shop adjacent to the dredge;

PI-2: Because of the location of the access road and depot, all visitors will start their

on-site experience at the same place, just north of the dredge.

PI-3: Plans call for a new interpretive center to be built on the site.

Safety Issues

SI-1: The interior of the dredge contains many hazards. Visitors must be closely supervised in this space, which means that only small groups can be taken in at one time.

SI-2: Pockets of water with steep banks occur in places on the site. People, especially people with small children, need to be made aware of this hazard.

Existing Interpretive Opportunities

EO-1: Sumpter Valley Dredge SHA currently offers the following interpretive opportunities:

- Interpretive signage along the boardwalk in the dredge pond;
- Interpretive signage in the staging area for guided tours of the dredge;
- Guided tours of the dredge;
- Books for sale in the gift shop.

The interpretive plan should attempt to incorporate existing opportunities when appropriate.

Surrounding Attractions and Events

SAE-1: The following attractions should be taken into consideration when developing the interpretive program:

1. **McEwen Station and the Sumpter Valley Railroad:** Since people access the site by way of the railroad, the interpretive and overall experiences on the railroad and on the site must mesh.

2. **Cracker Creek Mining Museum:** The site focuses on dredge mining for gold while the mining museum focuses on hard rock mining, so the stories are related and complementary.
3. **Historic buildings in Sumpter:** The buildings dating back to Sumpter's heyday are related to the boom of the town due to gold mining and can be incorporated as an extension of the on-site experience.
4. **Flea Markets:** Because the site is currently used as an overflow parking area, it creates a great opportunity to attract first time visitors to the dredge experience.

Resource Management

RM-1: Maintaining the visual integrity of the dredge setting is a priority. Visual integrity is important both because it protects the scenic value of the historic resource and because it is much more conducive to an interpretive effort. It is easier to transport the visitor back in time if the area looks more like the way it might have during the historical era. This has several implications:

- Any development should be planned so it maintains the forest that blocks the view of the dredge from the entry area.
- Any development to the east of the dredge should be screened with vegetation to minimize visual intrusion of built landscapes into views from the dredge.
- An Interpretive Center should be constructed and landscaped in such a way that it fits within the visual context of the historic site, and should use landscaping and/or design features to visitor center should use the topography or vegetative screening to minimize visual intrusion of the

building into views from the more undeveloped parts of the site.

- Consideration should be given to removing the building adjacent to the dredge.

Other

O-1: A plan exists to extend the railroad tracks so they create a loop through the site. If this happens, it will be possible to compare pre-dredged landforms and dredged land from the train.

O-2: Plans call for railroad artifacts to be placed in the meadow to the west of the depot. This would take attention away from the story of the dredge; consequently, we advise separating the stories – Railroad story at McEwen and dredge story at the site with a transition at the depot.

Interpretive Opportunity Inventory

Introduction

In general, people become more interested in a subject when they can *see* something related to it, and they are more likely to believe what they can see than what they only hear or read. Therefore, the more an interpretive presentation – whether on a sign, in an exhibit, in a personal presentation or in a trail guide – connects with and uses actual artifacts or features in conveying information, the more effective the presentation will be. Consequently, the inventory of interpretive opportunities focuses on inventorying artifacts and features available for use as supporting visuals for interpretive opportunities in order to develop themes and storylines based on what visitors can *see* or *experience*. Note that the inventory of interpretive opportunities is like a menu – just because it is possible to tell a particular story does not mean that it should be told.

Potential Stories

The 2000 Site Development Plan identified the following as key stories that could be told on the site:

- The underlying geology and water system that produced the gold and mineral deposits in the area.
- The discovery, motivation and drive behind gold extraction.
- The significant regional social and cultural impact of mining operations.
- The machinery and physical impacts of the mining operations.
- The evolutionary state of the natural environment through time since mining has ceased.

Stories base on visuals

Based on the prominent visuals, human history and current situation, the following appear to be the key stories that can be communicated effectively within the

interpretive network. They are not the only stories, but they are the major ones.

The impact of gold mining on the history of the area: A person cannot really understand the whole story of the dredge and dredge mining except as a part of the overall story of gold mining and the role it played in the rise and fall in terms of prominence of this part of Oregon. This larger story encompasses Sumpter as the hub of gold mining operations in this part of the state as well as the impacts of other types of placer mining and hard rock mining operations.

The impact of dredge mining on the physical landscape. This is a part of the larger story of how landscapes continue to change as a result of many different agents of change, including humans.

How an area is used depends on the value the dominant culture places on the resources on that site. The site reflects the value as a producer of gold at one time and as the value our society currently places on our cultural heritage and natural resources.

How the changing ease of mining gold combined with increased demand by the US Government led to changes in technology and methods. The dredge was just one in a series of innovations and approaches used to mine increasingly hard to find and extract gold. As the need for technology increased so did the size of the operation.

Existing Features and Stories

Table 18 contains the key features and associated stories that could be told using those features. This table does not include what could be brought to the park and displayed outdoors or indoors in existing or new facilities.

Table 18: Stories and supporting features and events

Story or sub-story	Features/events supporting the story	Comments
Impact of dredge mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dredge spoils • Undisturbed land as a contrast • Wildlife habitat created by the dredge activity • Dredges 	
Impact of gold mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dredges (both 1st and 3rd) • Dredge spoils from large dredge • Monighan tailings • City of Sumpter • History of Sumpter and other towns that boomed and declined due to gold • Sumpter Valley RR • Gold mines in area • Smelter 	
Story of mining with a dredge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restored dredge • Dredge pond • Tailings • Interior equipment and machinery • Spare parts 	
Change in ease of extracting gold and consequent use of multiple techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dredge • Dredge tailings • Monighan tailings • Cracker Creek museum (hard rock mining) • Gold panning 	Important to understand the distribution of gold and how it got to be in the streams to understand the rest of the strategies for mining.
Evolution of landscape over time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation in the tailing ponds • Vegetation on the tailing piles 	
Story and degree of motivation behind gold mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingenuity of and investment in the gold dredge • Potential income from gold 	
Investment in town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olive Lake flumes • Banks • Railroad • Dredge • Fremont 	
Dredge workers and superintendent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendents house • Photographs of workers and superintendent dressed as they would have been • Anecdotal stories 	

Appendix A: Desired behavioral outcomes from Working Group

The following information was generated during the first work session by having participants fill out a worksheet on which they filled in the blanks in the following statement:

As a result of participating in your interpretive opportunity, (target audience)
will/will not (behavior) .

Target Audience	Will/Won't	Behavior
All	Will	Return to learn more
All	Will	Recommend to family/friends
Local residents	Will	Want to join Friends group
All	Will	Make a donation
Engineer types	Will	Appreciate the mechanics
Writers, editors, etc.	Will	Write a book, articles
Park visitors	Will	Visit RR/museum/powerhouse
Grantors and politicians	Will	Restore dredge; influence the flow of \$
Traveling visitors	Will	Visit local businesses
Local residents and park visitors	Will	Attend special events
People with Sumpter Dredge artifacts	Will	Donate relevant artifacts
Photographers	Will	Photograph sites and use for publications
Historians	Will	Gather and donate historic material
All	Will	Help preserve and protect site
Area residents	Won't	Damage resources (ATV use)
Local and regional visitors	Will	Visit other OPRD historic sites
Oregon voters	Will	Support for 2014 revote
School children	Will	Learn more
Families	Will	Come back, look deeper, donate money
Historians	Will	Donate money
Hunters	Will	Come back, join Friends
Elderly	Will	Join Friends, see other museums and mining
People in the media	Will	Help us get our story out
Rich people	Will	Give money, come back
Teenagers	Will	Learn history is cool and come back
Miners	Will	Come back, join Friends
Construction workers	Will	Marvel at the workmanship
Boys	Won't	Fish in the pond
Children	Won't	Chase the geese or deer
Railroad people	Will	Come down to the dredge
ATV riders	Will	Respect the park and join the Friends group
Snowmobilers	Will	Want to be a part of the Friends group
Flea market people	Will	Join the Friends group and give money

Motorcycle riders	Will	Join the Friends group and give money
Families	Will	Tell others about experience of gold panning and things they did
Mining enthusiast	Will	Understand how dredge operates (how it was done with historic equipment how it was done.)
RR enthusiast	Will	Take time to visit or experience train
Sightseers	Will	Travel to area to learn history and experience what's offered
Information seekers	Will	Come because internet web page is eye-catching and dazzles them with what is offered.
Wildlife seekers	Will	Take time to photograph and walk trails
History buffs	Will	Learn history of valley, town, dredge, and RR
Engineering types	Will	Learn how it was constructed and built for removing gold
ATV users	Will	Stop if we can catch their attention
Winter recreation – snowmobiling		May stop to gander but are focused on riding or destination
Day trippers		Those who planned day trips on a whim, catch their attention to hook them into the dredge.
Trip planners	Will	Target a specific attraction – dredge or RR
Trip planners	Will	Come to see an area
Trip planners	Will	Tend to stay in an area if other attractions are available
Trip planners	Won't	Come to an area if nothing attracts them
Trip planners	Will	Care about facilities available outside of attraction (motels, restaurants)
Trip planners	Will	Come to an area because of history (education)
Trip planners	Will	Go to other attractions in an area or come back again many times to see other attractions.
Drive-bys	Will	Be attracted by advertising on road, county brochures, etc.
Drive-bys	Will	Tend to stay more time in urban area because they already have plans, but the goal is to give them enough to bring them back.
Senior tours	Will	Excite memories
Jr. High tours	Will	Learn and appreciate gold rush
Families	Will	Return and bring others
Historians	Will	Tell others through books, etc.
Return visitors	Will	Human interest stories
Past workers	Will	Tell stories and explain workings
All visitors	Won't	Return or recommend a poor experience
Women	Won't	Tolerate a dirty restroom
Parents with young children	Will	Look for age-specific activities
Mature visitors	Won't	Do strenuous activities
All visitors	Will	Expect other things to do
Rail fans	Will	Expect full access
Most visitors	Will	Expect a discount ticket
Some visitors	Won't	Appreciate personal attention
Some visitors	Will	Expect personal attention

Most visitors	Will	Expect a formal museum building
The train	Won't	Run on the schedule visitors want
Educators of all levels	Will	Continue the experience in the classrooms
General public	Will	Donate money to the preservation of assets
Families and history buffs	Will	Understand the operation of dredge and why it was used
General public	Will	Donate money for visitor center
General public	Will	Understand preservation process
General public	Won't	Damage existing structures and artifacts.
Everybody	Will	Learn dredging history and why tailings
Train ride with family	Will	Learn feel of a steam engine train ride
History buff	Will	View the scenery
Tourist	Will	Learn history of the mines and the town
Mining buff	Will	Learn about the methods of dredge versus rock mining
Naturalist – outdoor activity	Will	Learn of wildlife in the area, rock
Naturalist – outdoor activity	Will	Experience adaptation of land and wildlife
Naturalist – outdoor activity	Will	Experience and learn about steam train and historical relevance to the town and community
Naturalist – outdoor activity	Will	Experience by mining on site and seeing and learning how the dredge history impact
Naturalist – outdoor activity	Will	Just experience – local tie in
Historian hobbyist	Will	The ??? component
Hikers	Will	Appreciate dredge caused ponds , etc. as valuable ecosystems
Dredge visitors	Will	Understand what the dredge is, what it does, and appreciate those who worked on the dredge
Day visitors	Will	Appreciate dredge caused ponds , etc. as valuable ecosystems
Day visitors	Will	Understand what the dredge is, what it does, and appreciate those who worked on the dredge
Day visitors	Will	Understand “Gold Era” and why people did what they did = history, attitudes, motivation
Day visitors	Will	Be able to put the past into context with our present culture/knowledge
All visitors	will	Be amazed by the dredge’s mechanics

Appendix B: Theme input from working group

The following information was generated during the first work session by having participants fill out a worksheet on which they filled in the blanks in the following statement:

When (**target audience**) finishes learning about (**topic**), I want them to know that (**theme**).

Target Audience	Topic	Theme
	Mining technology	The development of mining industry and how technological changes impacted it.
	City of Sumpter	Settlement and development of mining communities
	Dredges	The development of dredges and how they were changed and modified
	Natural habitat	Reclamation of tailings into natural habitat
	Early labor force	Chinese workers and what role they played (is there a connection with John Day?)
	Later labor force	Dredge worker's lifestyle and work day
Visitors	Dredge	The importance of mining to the development of our country
Youth	Beaver/wildlife	Adapt to the land from the dredge
Tourist	Town	The town was culturally diverse
Tourist	Dredge	The workers utilized makeshift mechanics and used all old components of all the dredges
Naturalist	Tailings	The dredge deposited stacks as it operated across the land
Historian	Human stories	Human/living history is still alive in the community and being passed down
All visitors	Dredge workers	Only 3 men operated the dredge and how they functioned as an effective unit (stories such as "a day in the life of a dredge worker")
kids	Dredge workers	It was a hard day's work
All visitors	Train	The train was the primary provider of all transportation in the area
Born after 1950	Steam locomotive	Steam locomotives had been the primary train power for 100 years
All visitors	Dredge tailings	The extent of the dredging, subsequent requirement for reclamation
School groups	Train and dredge	Basic understanding of how they function and their purpose
All visitors	Historic Sumpter	Sumpter was a large modern city at its prime
All visitors	Dredge	The dredge was modern technology for an acceptable purpose

All visitors	Wildlife	Wildlife continues to thrive in the Sumpter Valley, including tailings
All visitors	Forest	The forest provided timber for outside markets and local jobs
Families	The dredge	How it operated and how important it was to the community and country
Families	The park	Our wildlife and walking trails are great
Explorers	The dredge	How many other types of mining there were in this area
Ladies	The gift shop	They can call back and have this sent to them
Hobbyist	Dredge	What a wealth of information is available
Dredge workers	Dredge	They only took 2 days off a year – 4 th of July and Christmas – God and Country. They looked out for each other, nobody died on the dredge. Kidded each other constantly.
Children	Mining station	They can get a big picture of the hard way [by gold panning] and how much faster the dredge was
Families	Gold mines	Mines serviced by RR
Historians.	Mines and tailings	Gold amounts taken from area
Everyone	Mining	Ways in which gold was extracted
Everyone	RR	Rail built by Chinese laborers
E everyone	Dredge worker	Life experiences and the job on the dredge
All	Dredge worker	The job and how the dredge worked
All	Maps and pictures	The city of Sumpter as it was then
All	Train	Travel through time in the tailings on the RR
All	Train	See the wildlife now that gold dredge sits still
Family	The dredge and mining gold	Sumpter was the hub of the gold industry
	The dredge	Amazing machine – powerful – mechanical marvel
	The dredge	Represents a particular era of gold mining
	The dredge	Illustrates man's ingenuity
	The dredge	A sentinel of the past
	The dredge	Created new ecosystem
	The dredge	Represents in context the local history
	The dredge	Dramatically altered the landscape
Drop by visitor	Sumpter	Why it developed, part it played in the area's needs
Steam buff	SVRR	Impart part of development of NE Oregon

The inquisitor	dredge	Process of dredging the earth to find gold
All	The dredge	The dredge dug the Sumpter Valley in search of its rich deposits of gold
All	Tailing piles	The mounds of rock stacked throughout the valley shows the enormous impact the dredge had on the landscape
Families	Gold panning	The miners used gold pans to seek out precious gold particles
All	RR	The heart of transportation in the region, the railroad transported lumber and materials to support the economy
All	Sumpter	Sumpter has survived fires and the economic fluctuations of the gold rush era
All	Gold itself and the methods used	That all forms of mining are about moving material: From gold pans to dredges like ours, they existed to move material, and the harder it was to get the gold out, the larger the machines got.
All	The town	The development, construction and downturn of the town itself
All	Other mining equipment in that area	The vast array of mining equipment in the area
All	The mines	Find a picture or map of the entire area and how many mines there are in local area. Include the smelter
Kids	Gold	Make use of the panning stations the park has now.
All	Terrain	Gold in the streams or riverbeds (placer) came from somewhere. Most people (especially kids) don't understand that the placer gold came from the hills around the streams. So when streams played out the miners went to the hills – i.e. hard rock mining.
	Dredge	It took unique engineering to collect valley gold
	Fremont power house	It was one of many support services to operate dredge
	Dredge	Lifestyle of dredge workers was harsh in winter
	Water	Was the foundation for extracting gold operationally
	Tailings	Transformed landscape in valley
	Ponds	Created new areas for wildlife, flora and fauna
	RR	Trains were main transportation for all industry at Sumpter
	Dredge	It operated 24-7 for ?? years, stopping only for ??
	Area mines	Hard rock mining came before dredge mining