HIDDEN LIBRARIES

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HOW MIGHT WE CONNECT PEOPLE IN YELLOWSTONE TO THE LANDSCAPE AND EACH OTHER?

Less Opportunities

Some Opportunities

Most Opportunities

POPULAR SITES
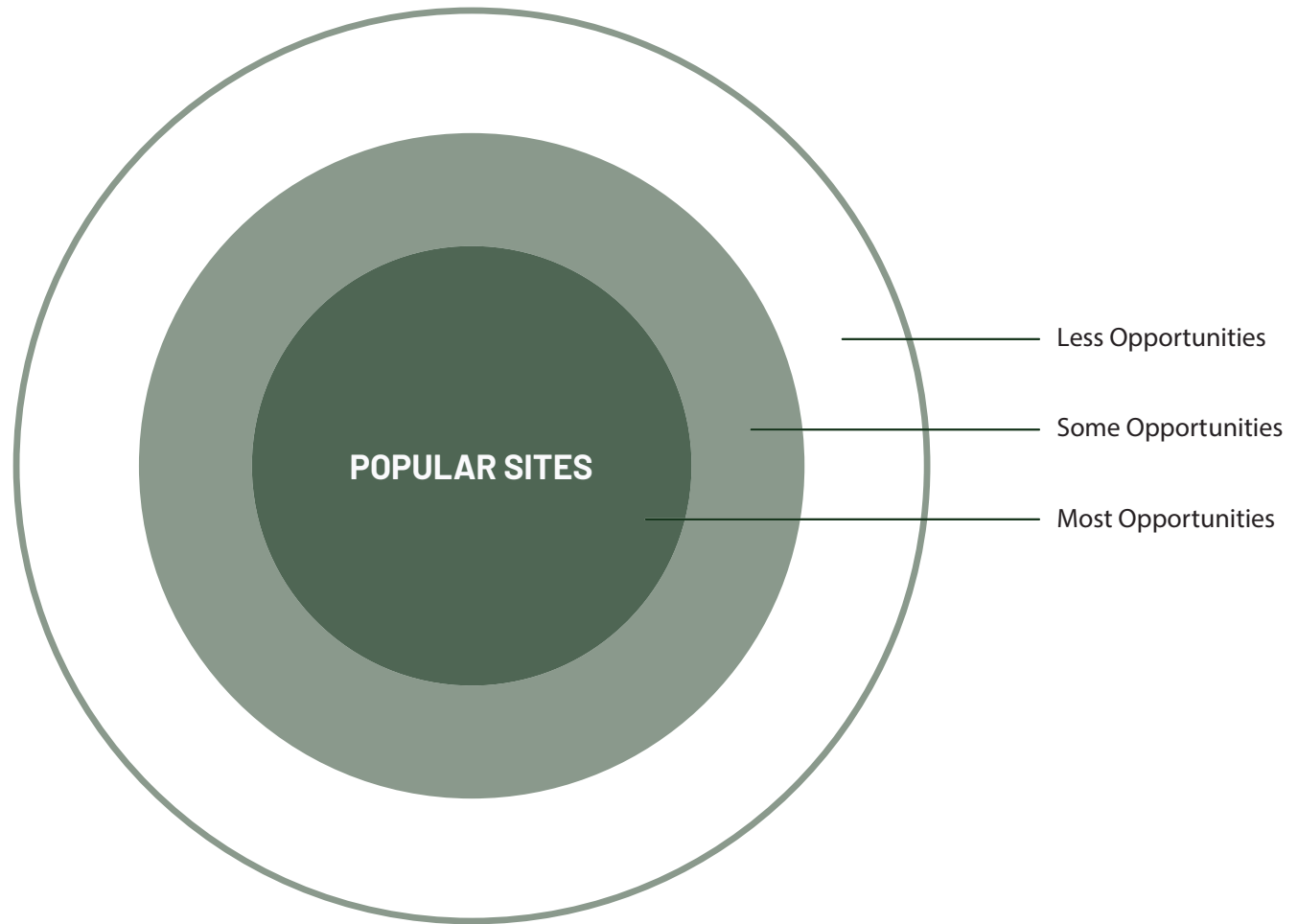
PROBLEM SPACE

Only 2% of Yellowstone National Park's four million visitors ever leave their cars or the boardwalks (Yellowstone Forever, 2019). This being said, most visitors' experiences of Yellowstone are based off of these experiences in high-traffic areas. There are many opportunities to observe the landscape from these locations in supplemented ways, but less so in less developed areas.

WHAT IS IT

Hidden Libraries is a storytelling platform completely unique to Yellowstone National Park. Users download a digital smartphone app and encounter wilderness markers known as "libraries". Each library uses geofencing technology to allow users access to a previous visitor's personal audio story. The user then records their own story that is added to the library as well. Users explore and find libraries while in Yellowstone and "stamp" their pass each time they find a library, and upon first entry and final exit. Users will then have access to their own recorded storylines, which are also uploaded to a database viewable online by anyone.

HIDDEN LIBRARIES

In order to manage this program, Yellowstone National Park will hire program managers known as storykeepers. Individuals in this role will moderate and manage digital platforms, as well as rotate and place the analaog wilderness markers. They will also be responsible for linking things that are mentioned in the stories that are told by users such as music compositions, historical photos, maps, and other visual elements. These supporting visuals or sounds can be viewed with stories on the digital platform.

NPS Website

Park Rangers

Analog Sites

inform

Storykeeper

organizes

Main Use Loop

listens

creates

User

Stories

stored in

Platform

split into

Mobile

Website

downloaded at

interacts with

unlocks

Analog Sites

INDIGENOUS NARRATIVES

Storytelling has different modes. Oral storytelling, illustration and artwork, and writing or books are just some of the main ones. Thinking about these methods, each one has a different depth that it can be interpreted at. Oral storytelling has a large impact as well as place in Yellowstone due to the fact that native Americans would use it as a tool for recording history.

PSYCHOLOGY & IMPORTANT CONCEPTS
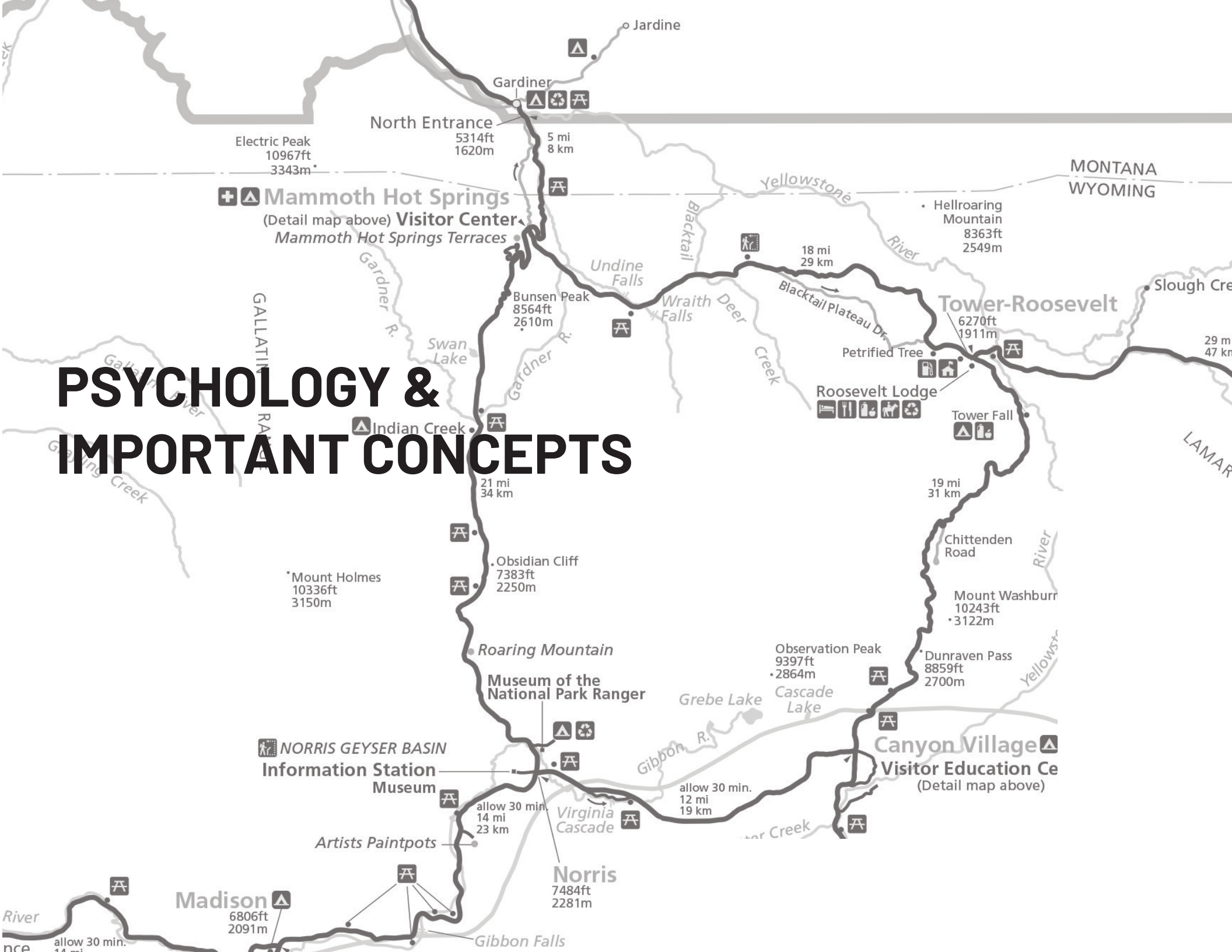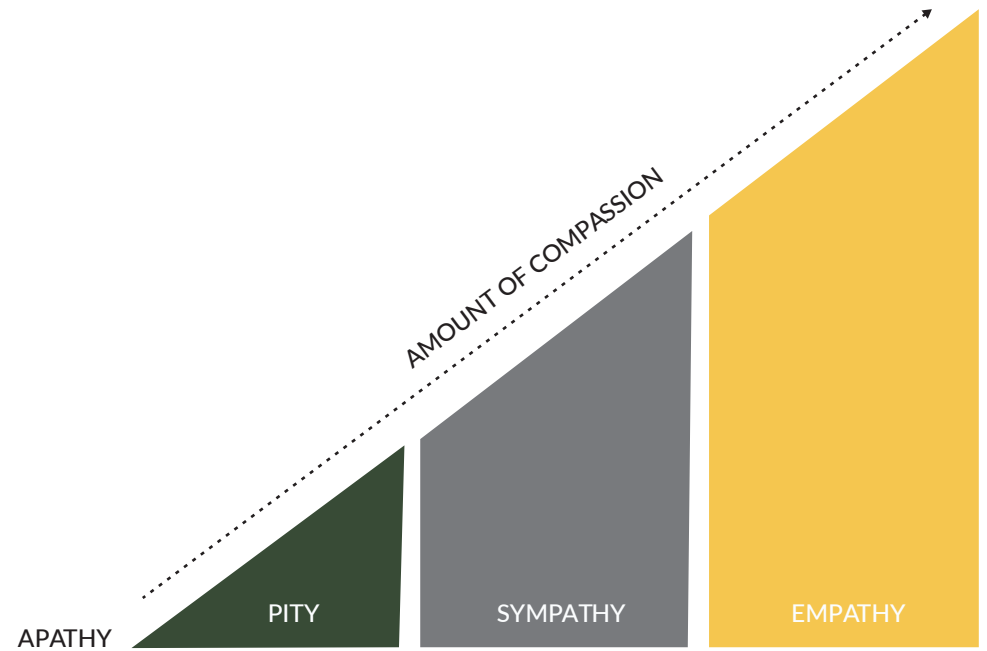
VISCERAL REACTIONS

Imagine the gut reaction that happens when you smell rotting food, or the drop you feel in your stomach when going down a roller coaster. These are both examples of visceral reactions. Visceral reactions are physical and emotional sensations that occur when certain stimulations occur to the body. Visceral reactions are primarily instinctual, which places them in an interesting position to help in design.
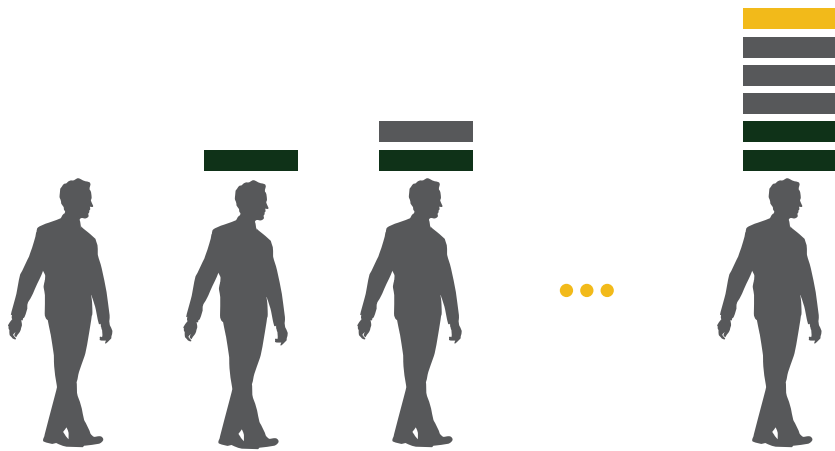
STACKING REACTIONS

Stacking visceral reactions is no different that any other of progressive learning. By contintually having instinctual and recurring events, your body becomes more receptive to progressing emotionally. This can be helpful when trying to brdge visitors in Yellowstone from an apathetic mindset to one of peace and understanding (Andrea Brandt. 2015).

COMPASSION SCALE

The compassion scale represents how much people care and understand about something. Beyond that, it also explains how moved they can be by something as well. Visceral reactions can be at any level of compassion, but are more powerful as the connection to person, self, or issue increases (Sarah Gibbons, 2019).

Grief, Fear, Lust, Anger, Pride, Courageousness, Acceptance
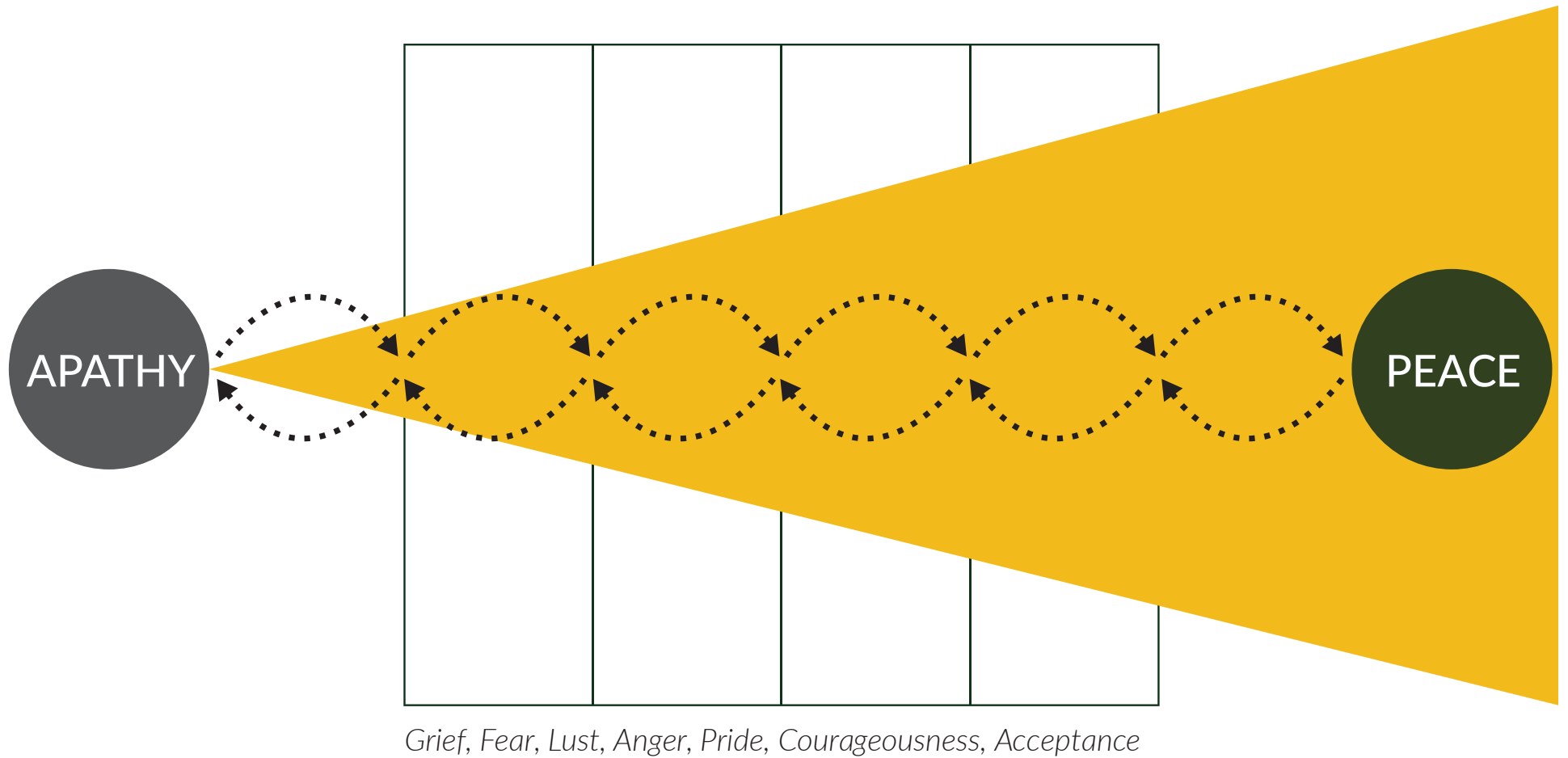
IMPERTURBABILITY

This comes with two sides: apathy and peace. On one side some-one is either ignorant or unfeeling towards something, and the other someone is acceptance and no grief for what is happening. Both of these represent imperturbability, but only peace has compassion (Sedona Method, 2019).
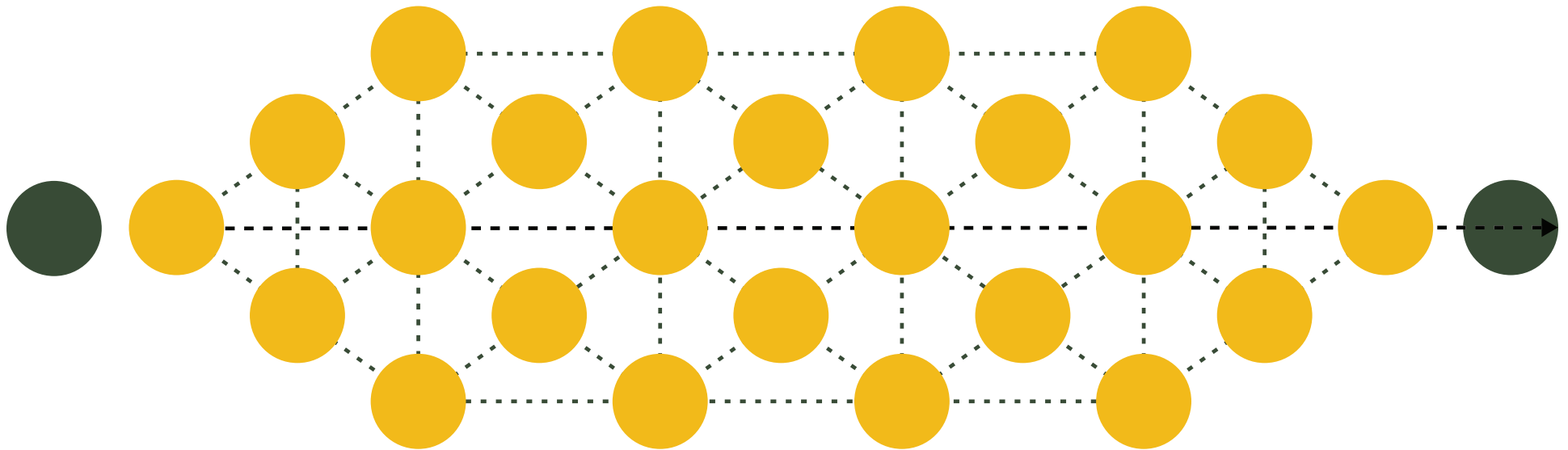
WAYFINDING

Yellowstone offers a unique platform that many locations do not: wilderness. If only two percent of people in Yellowstone leave their cars and go off of the boardwalks, there is much space left to be explored. Utilizing this space allows people to feel like they are real explorers, seeing things for the first time. This allows users to connect to the landscape by limiting their human interactions in an engaged and focused way with the wilderness and their immediate surroundings.

HIDDEN LIBRARIES: THE EXPERIENCE
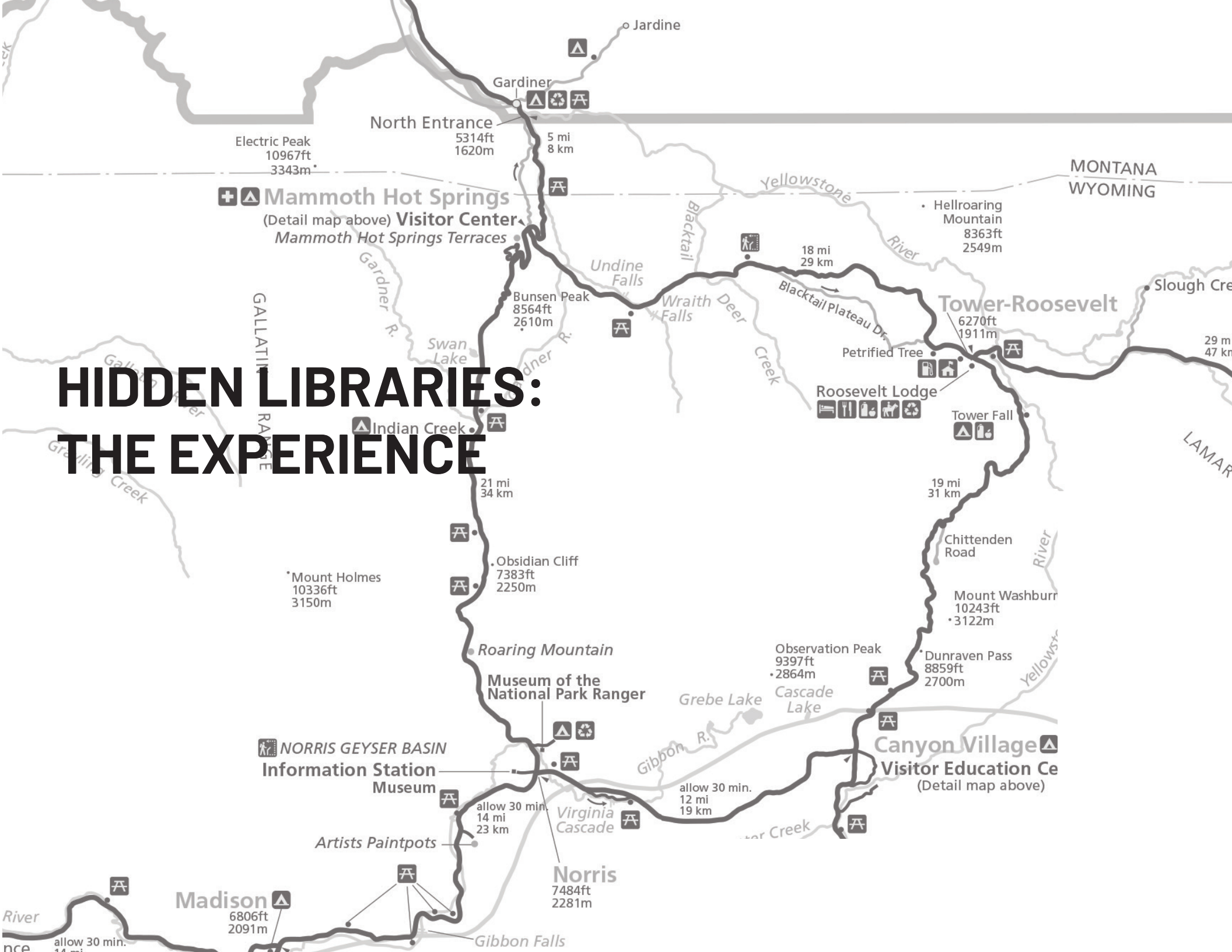
LIBRARY CARDS

At each park entrance, users will be given a wilderness card, which looks identical to the home page of the digital platform. These will act as guides to the actual experience, prompting users to download the app and start their Hidden Libraries experience at one of the main entrance locations in the park. With Yellowstone National park exploring what installing wi-fi might look like, this makes this concept even more feasible.

WILDERNESS MARKERS

Wilderness markers grant access to libraries where users can listen to other users' stories. These markers are brass plates that can be placed anywhere from popular sites to locations more off the beaten path.
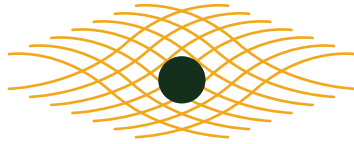
SHARE YOUR STORY

Hidden Libraries is a story-sharing platform that gives voice to visitors, rangers, educators, and any other individual that visits Yellowstone National Park.

HOW DOES IT WORK

Using geofence technology, Hidden Libraries will ping your device when you encounter libraries in the park. Each library will have a collection of stories based on its theme, giving you the opportunity to listen as well as share your own.

START WITH YOURSELF

First, let's share a little bit about yourself.

This introduction will be played before anyone listens to any of your stories. This way people will be more easily connected to your story.

Please include:
• Name
• Age
• Where you are from
• What brought you to Yellowstone
• Any other relevant information

Record Intro

GET OUT THERE

You're all set. Find libraries in Yellowstone to access their stories and share your own. Stamp your Wilderness card at every library you find. Get out there and share your unique story!

Explore

MOBILE PLATFORM

Used to access the stories of other explorers, as well as record your own. Mobile application can be downloaded in the park in the park (especially with Yellowstone's growing interest in putting effort into creating wi-fi access in the park) and utilied while exploring wilderness areas and common attractions alike.
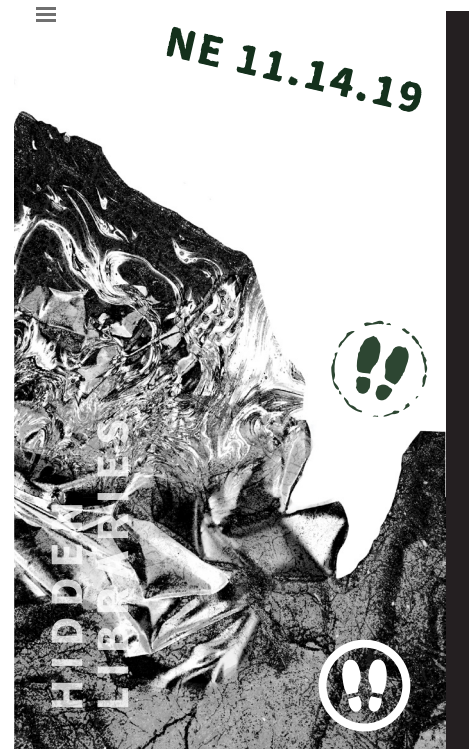
NEW LIBRARY

"8,000 bison are institutionally killed every year in Yellowstone National Park ."

Bison   01:00

Finish

NE 11.14.19

HIDDEN LIBRARIES

WEB PLATFORM

For people who aren't located near Yellowstone National Park, there will be a web platform that allows users to click through and listen to the stories of people who have participated in the experience. This creates a more accessilbe storytelling platform.

HIDDEN LIBRARIES

HOME   YELLOWSTONE

Everyone has a story to tell. This project gives a platform to explorers to share their own adventures though audio storytelling. Finding wilderness libraries in Yellowstone unlocks the opportunity to listen to and share a story. Hidden Libraries values connecting humans to the landscape, as well as each other. Get out there and explore.
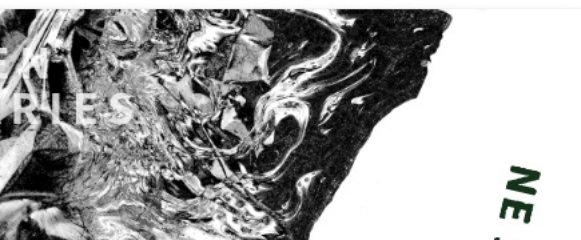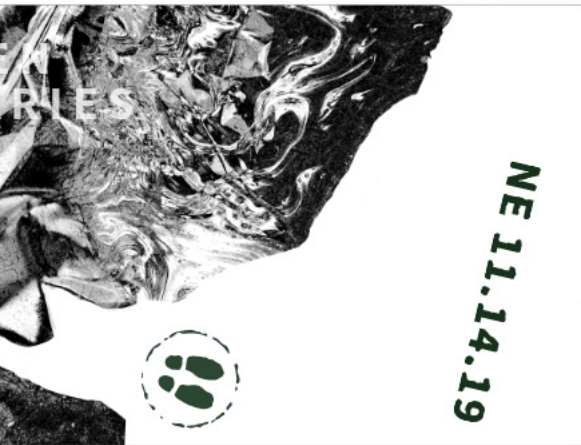
receive wildernesscardr   record intro/stamp

ENTER YELLOWSTONE   **DOWNLOAD**

ex plore and record in Yellowstone/stamp

LISTEN AND RECORD   **EXPORT AND UPLOAD**

LONGEVITY OF HIDDEN LIBRARIES

New wilderness markers can be created every year to prevent overcrowding of wilderness locations. Old markers can be archived and turned into an exhibit where users can listen to stories that were recorded with them. This process can be managed by storykeepers, who are in charge of running and moderating the hidden libraries experience at Yellowstone.

EXPLORE.
LISTEN.
RECORD.
STAMP.
REPEAT.

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