



MULE CANYON



VWR Walk





VWR WALK - PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project Intent

The BLM requested ideas on how to use Mule Canyon Interpretive site as a way to create a sense of ethics for visitors before they visited other back country sites in Bears Ears National Monument.

Mule Canyon as an Educational Center

This project's intent is to create a walk through experience for learning the Friends of Cedar Mesa's Visit with Respect Principles within the Mule Canyon Interpretive site.



VWR WALK - RESEARCH // SOCIAL TRAILS

Social Trails are a common problem that the BLM seeks to decrease throughout Bears Ears National Monument. They are one of many problems caused by uneducated visitors coming to the national monument that the VWR Walk seeks to educate and discourage. Social trails and other behaviors can cause anthropogenic climate change and erosion.

Anthropogenic Climate Change

Visitor Impact

Trampled Vegetation

- Broken plant roots create nutrient deficiencies
- Displacement of seeds can cause lack of regrowth

Compacted Soil

- Increases soil erosion via run off
- Increases chance of landslide and avalanche

Destroys Micro-ecosystems



VWR WALK - RESEARCH // EDUCATION AND LEARNING STYLES

EDUCATING THE VISITORS

The VARK Learning Styles theory states that people tend to learn best in one of four ways - Visually, Kinesthetically, Aurally, or through reading and writing. By leaning into these principles and selecting what will work best for the Mule Canyon Interpretive site - Visual and Kinesthetic learning - and pairing that with other sources, visitors will learn more effectively the ethics that they should carry through the Monument.

Protecting the Landscape

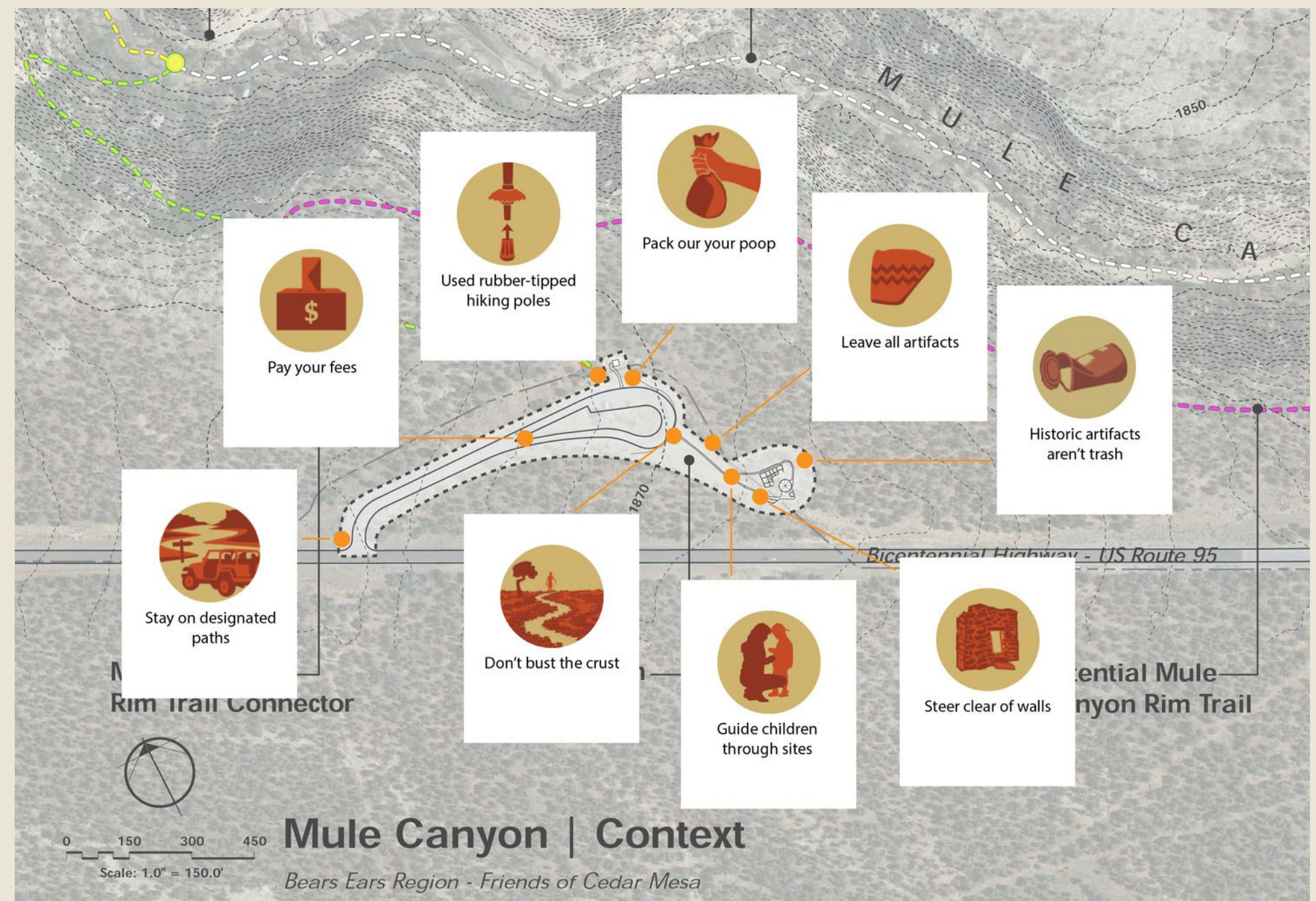
By using Mule Canyon Interpretive site as a way to educate visitors, the rest of the ancestral sites located in Bears Ears National Monument will benefit. The best resource we have for this education is the Visit With Respect Principles laid out by the Friends of Cedar Mesa. By pairing this with visual and kinesthetic learning principles, we give opportunities for learning to those who visit, should they decide to use it.

VWR WALK - VISUAL LEARNING

USING SIGNS AS SIGNALS

- work best when displayed near the point of action

Knowing this, signs are placed in the area where the call to action will have the most impact. For example, the Stay on Designated Roads principle will be posted at the parking lot exit as a reminder for visitors to be conscious of the roadways as they travel through the park.





VWR WALK - VISUAL LEARNING

USING SIGNS AS SIGNALS

- specifically states desired behavior

<p>Leave All Artifacts</p> <p>Artifacts are sacred to modern Indigenous peoples, and scientists can learn valuable lessons about the past when objects stay where they are. Artifacts include pottery pieces, stone tools, rock flakes, and corn cobs. It's illegal to remove any artifact, including historic trash, from public lands.</p> <p>For more information go to friendsofcedar mesa.org</p>	<p>Historic Artifacts aren't trash</p> <p>Leave historic artifacts like rusted cans right where they are. They help interpret the past and show who has been here before.</p> <p>For more information go to friendsofcedar mesa.org</p>	<p>Steer clear of Walls</p> <p>Structures are easily damaged. Please refrain from touching, leaning, standing, or climbing on any structures, no matter how solid they look.</p> <p>For more information go to friendsofcedar mesa.org</p>	<p>Guide children through sites</p> <p>Archeological sites are not playgrounds. Teach children to respect these places. Keep a close eye on them, so they don't get hurt or accidentally damage cultural resources.</p> <p>For more information go to friendsofcedar mesa.org</p>	<p>Don't bust the crust</p> <p>Stay on existing trails and routes to protect the living cryptobiotic soil. Once stepped on, this fragile crust takes years to regrow.</p> <p>For more information go to friendsofcedar mesa.org</p>	<p>Stay on designated roads</p> <p>Use existing roads that are approved for use by land managers. Driving off-road can damage fragile archaeology and ecosystems.</p> <p>For more information go to friendsofcedar mesa.org</p>	<p>Pay your fees</p> <p>It may not feel like much, but your small fee helps support important monitoring, enforcement, and amenities like toilets.</p> <p>For more information go to friendsofcedar mesa.org</p>	<p>Use rubber-tipped hiking poles</p> <p>A rubber tip prevents your hiking pole from scratching and scarring subtle rock images on the ground.</p> <p>For more information go to friendsofcedar mesa.org</p>	<p>Pack out your poop</p> <p>Human and pet waste threatens fragile desert ecosystems and drinking water sources for hikers and wildlife. Poop near cultural sites is disrespectful to Indigenous cultures that hold this landscape sacred. When hiking and camping, please use portable waste bags or a camp toilet. When you just can't pack it out, do your best by burying your waste 6 inches deep.</p> <p>For more information go to friendsofcedar mesa.org</p>
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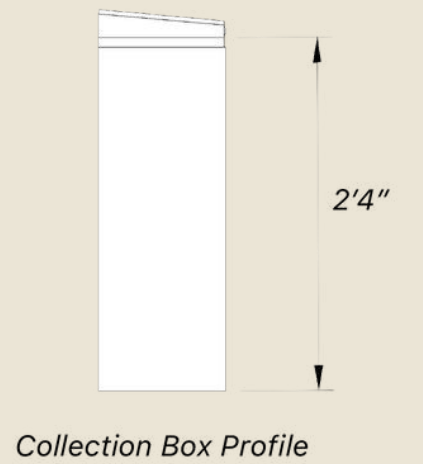
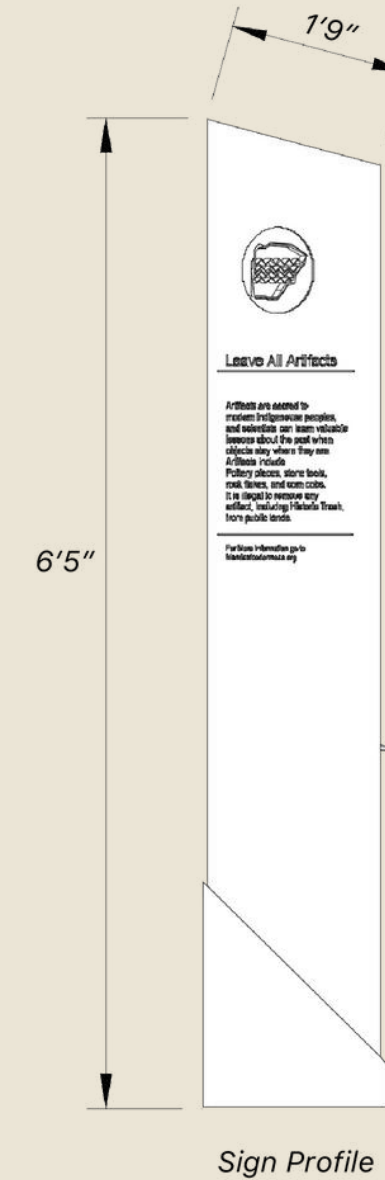
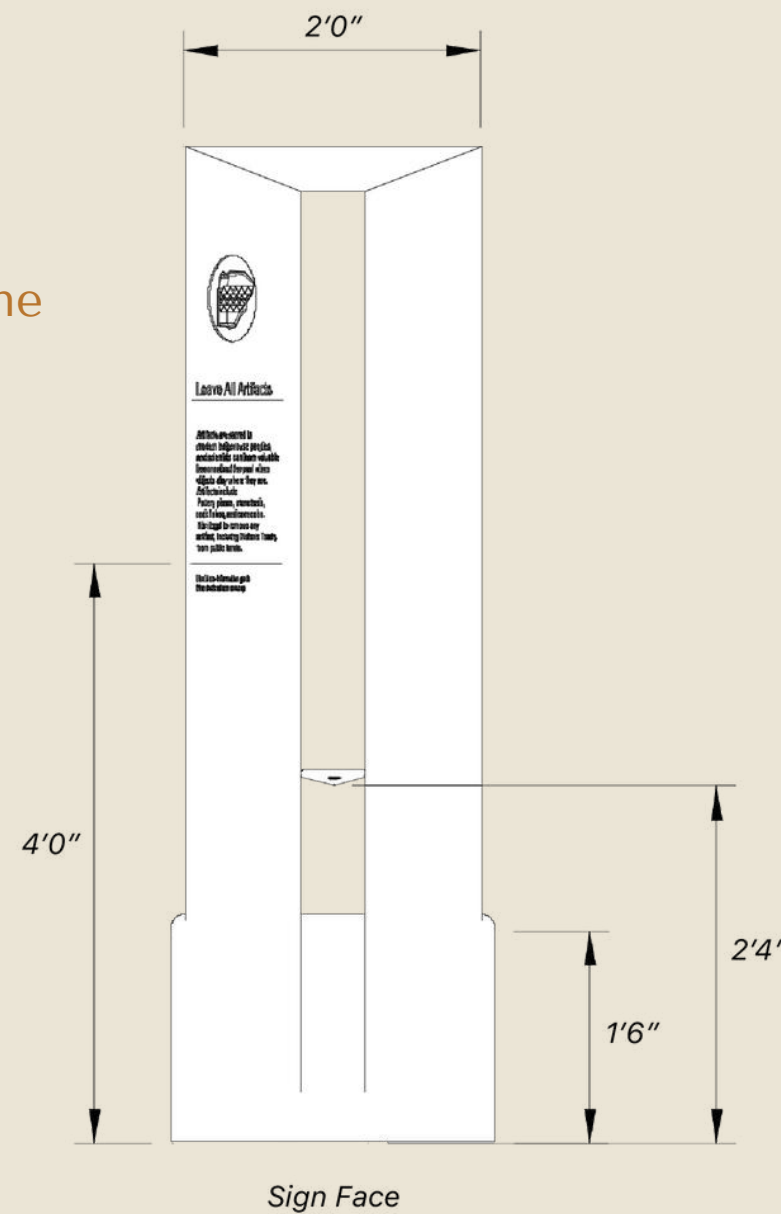
Each sign will clearly state the Visit With Respect principle, its explanation, and the link to the Friends of Cedar Mesa website where visitors would be able to find additional information and resources.

VWR WALK - VISUAL LEARNING

USING SIGNS AS SIGNALS

- need to be at least 4-5ft tall for sight lines

Placing the signs at a height of six and a half feet places the text on the signs at the five foot mark, making it clearly readable.

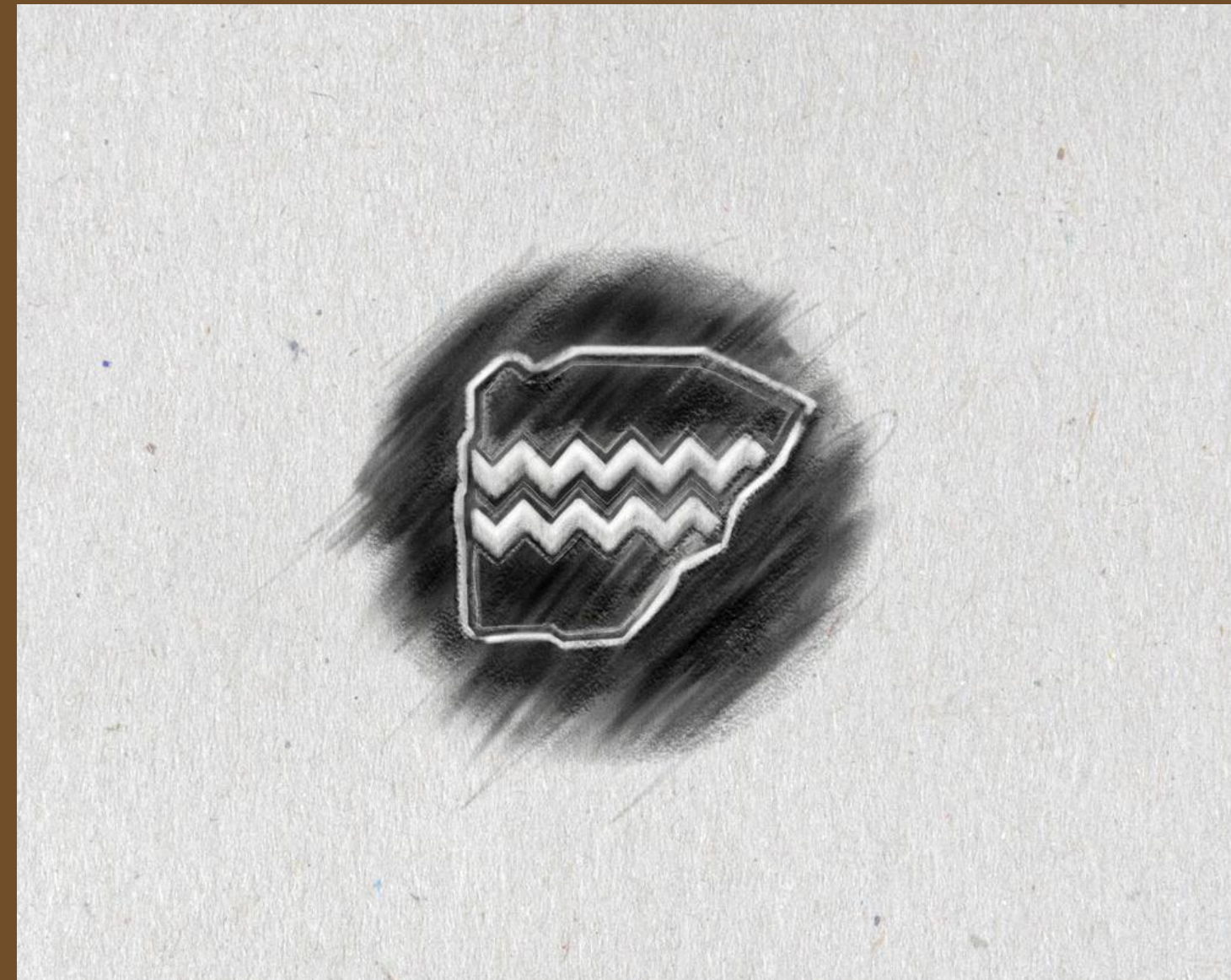


VWR WALK - KINESTHETIC LEARNING

USING TOUCH TO REMEMBER

- allowing tactile interaction can help people remember what they have read or learned.

Rubbings will give people things to carry with them as they travel to other sites. They will also allow those who learn best kinesthetically to have something tactile to anchor what they are reading.

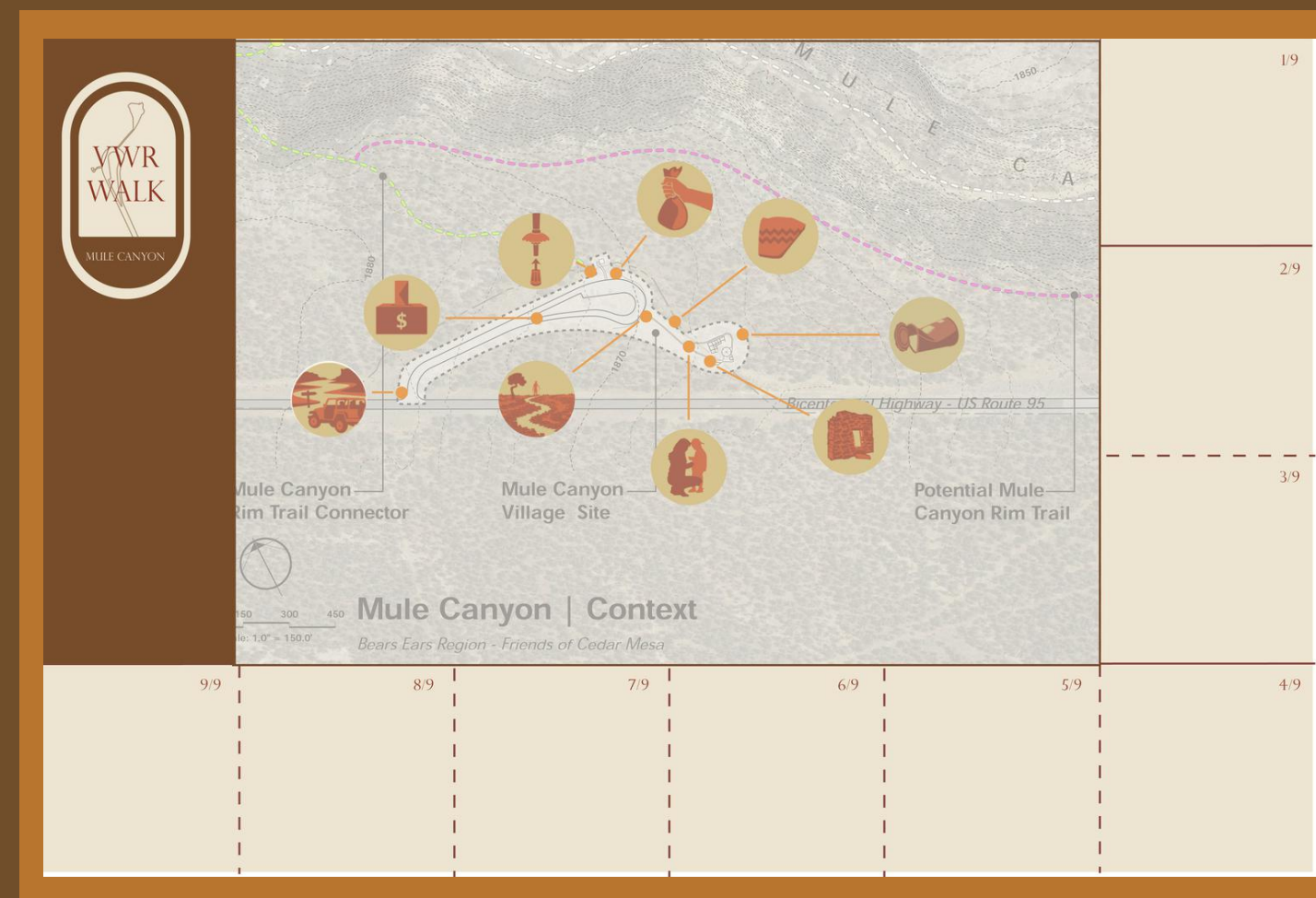


VWR - KINESTHETIC LEARNING

USING TOUCH TO REMEMBER

Giving visitors a map increases accessibility of the VWR Walk. It also gives visitors something tangible to carry with them to other sites.

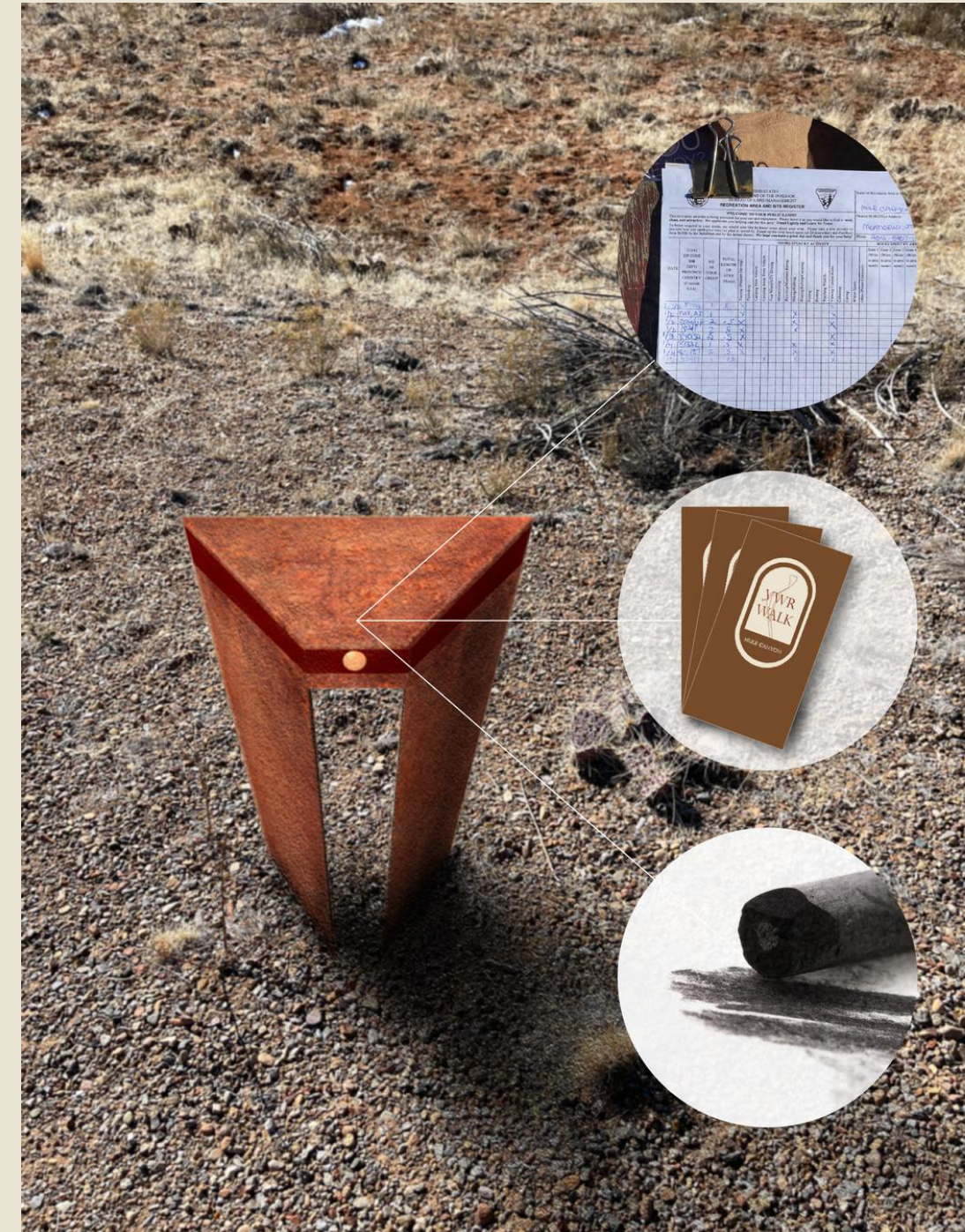
The map includes the locations of the signs, places to transfer each of the rubbings, and a list of the Visit With Respect Principles in their entirety.



VWR WALK - KINESTHETIC LEARNING

USING TOUCH TO REMEMBER

For dispersal of the maps, a redesign of the sign in box was warranted. It will still hold the sign in sheets to allow the visitors to sign their names and tell the BLM where they are visiting from but it will also include maps and charcoal for the visitors to use while at the site.



VWR WALK - RESULT

RUBBING PLATES

Shown here are the rubbing plates that would be included in the signs. The rubbing plates would be made of brass. This will keep them from rusting or deteriorating and will allow them to keep their shape well.



VWR - RESULTS

SIGNS

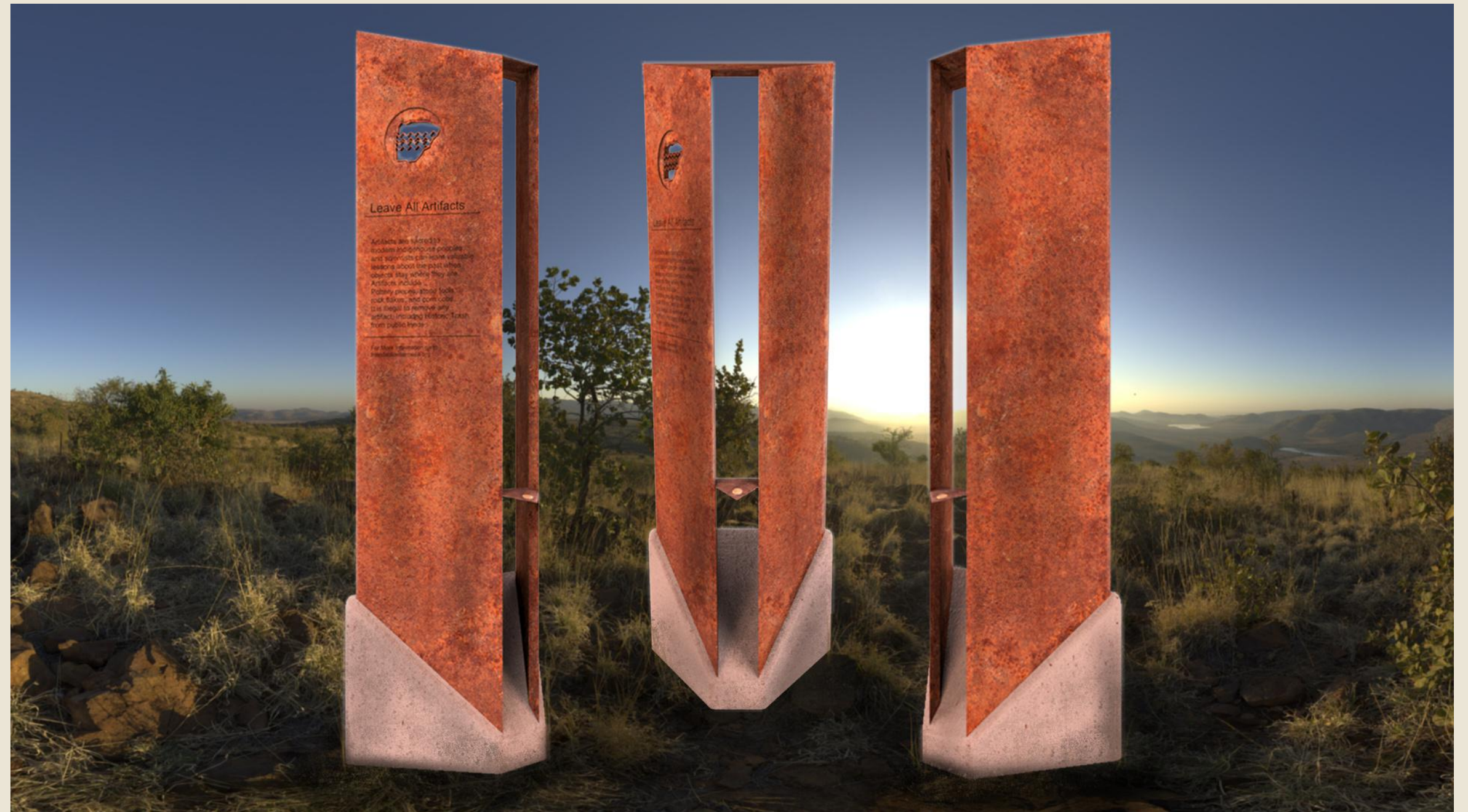
The signs will be made from Cor-Ten steel - a chemically rusted steel that, when exposed to further rust won't become structurally unstable. The Cor-Ten steel will then be plasma cut to show the icon and engraved to show the lettering.



VWR - RESULTS

SIGNS

The signs are intended to be double sided, ensuring that the flow of traffic around them won't halt other visitors. They have an intentional gap in the middle to allow visitors to view the landscape through the signs, making them less obtrusive.



VWR - RESULTS

THANK YOU

