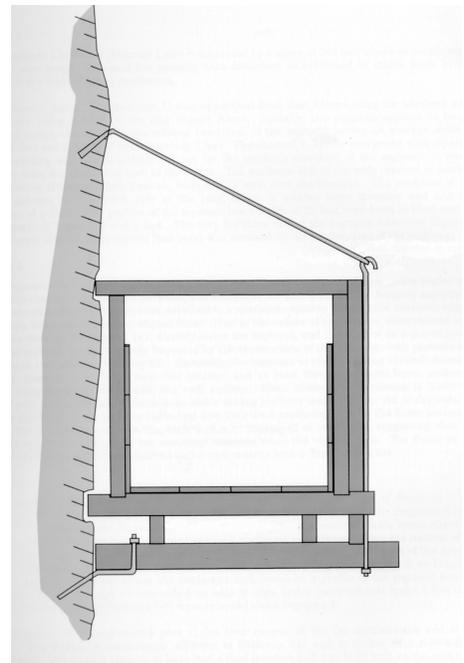


# INTERPRETIVE PLAN

## MONTROSE PLACER MINING COMPANY HANGING FLUME



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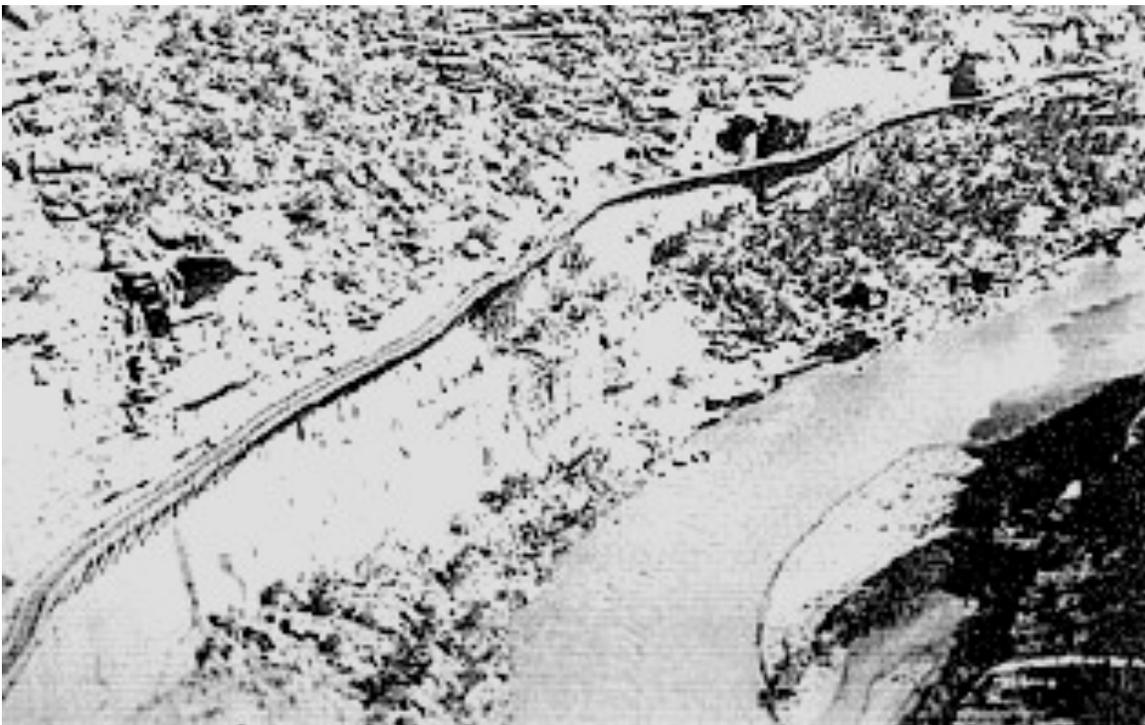
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## **ABSTRACT**

In September 2006, Interpretive Design, LLC, of Durango, Colorado was contracted by Western Colorado Interpretive Association (WCIA) of Delta, Colorado to develop an Interpretive Plan for the Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume in Montrose County. The Hanging Flume is located on State Highway 141 along the Unaweep/ Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway.

In addition to this Interpretive Plan, Interpretive Design LLC will develop an interpretive Implementation Strategy. This strategy, in concurrence with the Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office), will provide site-specific recommendations for interpretive signs and an interpretive brochure for the Hanging Flume.



Montrose Placer Mine Hanging Flume, 1897.  
W.J. Carpenter

## **Perceptions of the Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume**

As an interpretive plan is developed for the Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume, we realize that we have a responsibility to not only tell the historic story, but to place safeguards to protect the fragile nature of this incredible resource.

At the turn of the nineteenth century, various types of ditch and trestle flumes were built throughout the United States. Hanging flumes, such as the one built by the Montrose Placer Mining Company, are quite rare. For nearly 2.5 miles, the Hanging

Flume was attached to a nearly vertical sandstone cliff face. The Hanging Flume was suspended on the cliff face by a system of metal rods, timber supports (bents), and sandstone rock.

Throughout the United States, various types of flumes were built to deliver water for irrigation, mining, industrial use, community consumption, and hydroelectric power generation. Most were built using untreated, locally supplied lumber and hand-forged metal braces and bents, brackets, and often hand-cut nails. Most of these historic structures have fallen into disrepair, been vandalized, had materials salvaged for other uses, or have been replaced by more modern structures.

Due to the arid conditions of the southwest and the general southern exposure of the Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume, many segments remain visible on the sandstone cliff face. Today, the Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume reminds us of a bygone era when the lure of gold influenced elaborate water delivery schemes that were developed to support local placer mines.

As we explore interpretive opportunities for the Hanging Flume it is important to understand visitor experiences and what it is we hope to accomplish in interpreting these resources.

1. The Interpretive Plan for the Hanging Flume needs to develop and understand **visitor experiences**. Visitor experiences build upon the knowledge and experiences that the visitor uses to visualize history. These experiences will be based on previous research, personal preferences, and what the public sees, reads, and understands upon visiting a site. A common **experience model** we will use to guide our planning efforts include:
  - Anticipation
  - Preparation and Research (Internet, Brochures, and Newspaper articles)
  - Arrival and orientation that includes travel to the site
  - Encounters or opportunities to see the Hanging Flume and read interpretive materials on site
  - An ability to recall, re-live, and recount their experiences
  - Renewal of anticipation and wonderment of the unique properties found at the Hanging Flume

The Hanging Flume experience includes several components such as the need to:

- Develop interpretive materials about the Hanging Flume.
- Provide detailed information about where it is, how to see it, and how to protect it.
- Provide opportunities for others to visit Hanging Flume sites. We must include information for non-traditional users especially by rafters, guided tours, mountain bike riders, locals, and uranium miners.
- Develop on-site interpretive materials including signs, brochures, and exhibits. This may also include first-hand encounters and observation.

## Interpretive Plan – Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume

- Provide opportunities for the public to travel across the landscape. We may try to answer questions such as: Where will the public like to explore the area? How might they impact private lands, cultural resources, and public safety?
  - Provide follow-up materials such as additional reading material, web site access, and research opportunities.
  - Provide future trip planning opportunities such as rafting trips on the San Miguel or the Dolores Rivers, or mountain bike adventures to see the Hanging Flume.
  - Make referrals to local museums and Chamber of Commerce offices for the public to obtain additional information.
2. The Hanging Flume experience must be part of an **Economic Development and Marketing Plan** for rural Southwest Colorado. This Marketing Plan should include a method for bringing in outside revenue to the local tax base. The Hanging Flume is located in the western portion of Montrose County in an area that has limited economic opportunities. Strategic planning will seek to improve economic opportunities and methods needed to attract visitors to the area and ultimately to spend money in the region.
  3. It has long been recognized that State Highway 141/145 and the Dolores River Corridor is used as an **alternative transportation route**. The Hanging Flume is located on and within the **Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway**. For the most part, travelers often by-pass this route due to its circuitous route along the Dolores River and the highways generally isolated route. Those that drive this highway must intentionally take this route and as such travel at slower speeds to reach their final destination. This Interpretive Plan needs to integrate hiking, sightseeing, horseback riding, mountain biking, auto driving, and tour bus access. In some locations, resource protection will require diverting or barring some modes of travel or not discussing sensitive cultural resources.
  4. The **Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway** provides **access to a magnificent and diverse canyon ecosystem**. The Dolores River Corridor exposes visitors to a stunning slickrock valley, high cliffs, a rolling river, and spectacular rock formations. The route travels through a mixture of pinon/juniper woodland and an associated high desert ecosystem with remarkable wildlife habitat with spectacular canyon topography. Interpretive stories associated with the byway include: geologic history, geomorphology, Ute history, Spanish explorers, ecology, flora & fauna, and landscapes as well as historical anecdotes associated with mining, ranching, timber production, settlements, and energy production

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this Interpretive Plan is to develop and present historically significant stories about the Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume and educate the public about the fragile nature of this resource. From this plan, site location recommendations will be made to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Western Colorado Interpretive Association (WCIA). It is anticipated that 5 to 6 interpretive panels will be developed and installed along the Hanging Flume Project Area as a direct result of this plan.

## **Audience Analysis**

The communities of Whitewater, Gateway, Naturita, Norwood, and Placerville are connected by the 133-mile, Unaweeep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway. This stretch of State Highway 141/145 averages about 80,000 vehicles per year. Most visitors to southwestern Colorado bypass this route in favor of Highway 550/50 between Grand Junction and Ridgway.

In addition, visitors traveling to Telluride typically turn west on Highway 62 at Ridgway and south on Highway 145 at Placerville — again bypassing this scenic and historic route. As a result, travelers on the Unaweeep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway must really want to visit this area. Those that do are rewarded with a truly wonderful scenic drive and are provided with an opportunity to see the Hanging Flume.

Approximately thirteen miles of the Unaweeep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway encompasses the Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume Project Area. Any interpretive efforts planned for the Hanging Flume must also address the general interpretive opportunities available along the entire Scenic and Historic Byway.

In recent years, Gateway Resort has become a destination in itself. With outstanding scenic amenities, this resort provides guests with opportunities to experience the Dolores River Corridor in luxurious accommodations. The resort offers a variety of tours of the valley including rafting and mountain bike guides and services. They operate a first class business and are an active partner in historical preservation efforts. Guides are well versed in the significance of the Hanging Flume.

Rafting and mountain bike guides and services are also available in the Telluride area. Outfitter and guide services are highly motivated and are interested in historical preservation. Individual companies and guides are well versed in the historical significance of the Hanging Flume. Seasonal guide training often includes an introduction to the historic significance of the Flume. All outfitter and guide service providers are required to obtain a business permit from the Bureau of Land Management to operate on public lands.

## **The Hanging Flume: National and International Significance**

### **World Monument Fund Watch List**

In 2006, the Hanging Flume was listed by the World Monuments Fund as one of the “100 Most Endangered Sites in the World.” The Hanging Flume was listed with such international sites as Bam Citadel, Iran; Temple of Portunus, Rome; San Juan Bautista Cuauhtinchan, Mexico; Patan Royal Palace, Nepal; Shayzar Caste, Syria and the Ellis Island Baggage and Dormitory Building, New York.

This listing by the World Monuments Fund recognizes the significance of the Hanging Flume as more than a local and regional curiosity to a national and internationally recognized and appreciated historic feature. Visitation has increased as the public has become increasingly interested in this amazing structure.

### **National Register of Historic Places Site**

The Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places in September 1997 and was listed as site #80000917 in July 1980. This national listing allows for state and federal funds to be used to document and stabilize the structure.



Montrose Placer Mine – Hanging Flume, circa 1890.  
Denver Public Library – Western History Department

## **The Hanging Flume: Interpretive Themes, Goals, and Objectives**

### **Theme:**

An interpretive theme and sub-themes help the planning group to stay focused on the central story line that should be developed. The overall theme for the Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume is:

*In the days before electricity, ingenious entrepreneurs developed elaborate water delivery systems to divert water for placer gold mining operations. Today, we can see, marvel, and appreciate the uniquely constructed Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume—the historic remnant of a bygone era of men, water, and the lure of gold; and the incredible lengths to which men would go pursuit of wealth.*

### **Goals:**

- Orient visitors to the cultural resources visible along the Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway. Specifically oriented to those resources associated with the Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume that is accessible to the public can be safely visited, and that can reasonably support visitor use.
- Identify for visitors the historic features associated with the Hanging Flume and help them appreciate the historic significance of these items.
- Familiarize visitors with historic preservation techniques and the importance of protecting and preserving remnants of the Hanging Flume.

### **Objectives:**

Through the use of various types of media including training programs, brochures, web sites, video productions, and interpretive and orientation signs the public will:

- 1) Be oriented to the Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway and the Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume.
- 2) Appreciate historic preservation efforts associated with the Hanging Flume.
- 3) Reduce management concerns associated with recreation impacts and historic preservation of the Hanging Flume.

### **Interpretive Media Prescriptions:**

Strategic planning and site development for Hanging Flume sites will require a partnership between the Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway, and Montrose County. Each of these public agencies will need to be appraised of these proposals and be willing to approve the projects or right-of-ways as it applies to their jurisdiction.

## Currently Planned Interpretive Sites

### **Cactus Flats or Confluence Overlook– Day Use Area**

This day-use facility would be located on Highway 141 near milepost 79.5. From a vantage point on top of a sandstone cliff, the overlook provides a stunning view of the confluence of the Dolores and the San Miguel rivers.

- Parking pullout adjacent to Highway 141 (milepost 79.5)
- Concrete or hardened trail to the Confluence Overlook
- 2-3 picnic tables
- Three interpretive panels with the following topics
  - Ancestral Ute Homeland (Brunot Treaty)
  - Geology: Glaciers, Gravel, and Gold
  - Drop Zones: Dropping Supplies for the Hanging Flume

In the future, it is envisioned that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in consultation with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), would design and develop this day-use facility to provide easy access to the overlook. The site would have a vehicle parking area to accommodate 6-8 vehicles. BLM would install two to three picnic tables and a concrete or hardened trail to the overlook. The trail would terminate at an interpretive overlook that would be designed using locally available sandstone rock, metal railings, safety fences, and natural rock benches for sitting. In addition this overlook would have three interpretive signs mounted in three NPS-style metal sign bases (rail mount or in-ground mount).

Within a few hundred yards of this site are located a number of cultural features associated with the Hanging Flume. They include a “drop” zone (derrick site), a staging area for supplies and materials, and a series of narrow wagon roads used to access the drop zones. The derricks, located at strategic spots along the top of the cliff were used to lower materials to the workers below. To maintain the integrity of these cultural sites, these features will not be specifically identified.

The interpretive stories at this site are quite diverse and provide an opportunity to explore some of the more esoteric stories about the Hanging Flume. These may include the dynamics of geologic processes and how gold was transported from the distant San Juan Mountains and deposited among the river gravel along the San Miguel and the Dolores Rivers. Another story could be about the ancestral Ute homeland and how the Brunot Treaty that allowed miners to access the gold fields significantly altered their land.

**Existing Highway 141 Interpretive Site (Milepost 81.5)**

- Evaluate the integrity of the existing “safety fence” and replace or reinforce the fence if needed.
- Add 2-3 spotting tubes to the safety fence.
- Possible site of a life size reconstructed derrick.
- Install two rail-mount interpretive panels with the following topics:
  - The different types of flumes and their construction
  - Archeological Assessment Studies & Recognition as a World Monument Fund Site

This existing interpretive site is located on Highway 141 at milepost 81.5. This site has a large parking area that currently accommodates 10 to 12 vehicles, one to two buses, and one to three recreational vehicles at any one time. Within the site there is a chain-link “safety fence” along the edge of the cliff face and a two-sided interpretive exhibit developed by the Colorado Historical Society. Topics presented on this existing interpretive exhibit include the Dominguez & Escalante Expedition (1776), the Hanging Flume, and a map that identifies regional points-of-interest.

This overlook offers commanding views of the Dolores River corridor and the Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume attached to the sandstone cliff below the overlook. The sinuous nature of the Dolores River and the corresponding Wingate Sandstone allows the public to easily see the Hanging Flume. This allows the public to see and marvel about its construction and use.

It is recommended that the safety fence be evaluated and reinforced as needed. Once reinforced, two interpretive signs and 2-3 spotting tubes would be added to the top rail of the fence to highlight hanging flume features.

**Charcoal Oven Site (Milepost 83.5)**

- Vehicle pullout
- One interpretive panel with the following topic
  - Charcoal ovens and iron forges

Develop a small interpretive site on Highway 141 at milepost 83.5 just above the Charcoal Oven. This site should accommodate one to two vehicles at any one time.

This interpretive site offers an opportunity to see an historic charcoal oven. Although the story about this charcoal oven is not conclusive, it is believed that it was probably used to “reduce” locally available wood products to form charcoal that was then used as fuel in a nearby metal forge that was needed to manufacture the iron bents used to build the flume. The actual location of the forge, however, is not known, but it may have been destroyed by nearby placer mining.

In addition, land ownership may be a factor in developing this site. We will also need to encourage the public to respect private property and protect cultural resources (ARPA).

## Potential Future Sites

### Portal Entrance Signs — Two Identical Structures:

- Highway 145 at milepost 86 across from Caddis Flats Campground
- Highway 141 at milepost 152 within the BLM East Creek Day Use Area (near the community of Whitewater.)

Portal entry signs would welcome visitors to the Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway and the Montrose Placer Mining Hanging Flume. These identical entrance signs would be thematically related to the natural and cultural resources found along the scenic byway. These massive, rather imposing structures would be fabricated using local sandstone rock, wood, and metal. These structures would give the public a “visual anchor” to the sites and a visual cue associated with the scenic byway and the Hanging Flume.

These structures would be installed adjacent to existing pullouts along the highway. At each site there would be sufficient room for vehicles to park in the pullouts and to take pictures of their families in front of the structure.

### Uravan Ballfield Campground (Montrose County) (Mile Post 74.2)

- Semi-primitive campground
- One Interpretive Panel with the following topic:
  - Orientation and overview of the Hanging Flume OR
  - The lifestyle of Uravan

To enhance visitor experiences on the Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway, Montrose County has proposed to develop a public campground adjacent to the San Miguel River at milepost #74.2.

It is proposed that one interpretive/orientation sign be installed at this site in an NPS-style metal sign base. Future signs may be developed for this site if the site is further developed.

### River Road Site

- Parking pullout/area along the river road (County Road Y-11) for
- 4-6 vehicles and one full-size recreational vehicle (or bus)
- 100-foot concrete or hardened trail to an interpretive overlook
- Three interpretive panels with the following topics
  - Surveying the Hanging Flume, “How did they get it level?”
  - Hanging Flume - Construction Details

It is proposed that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Montrose County develop a vehicle pullout or parking area adjacent to the river road, across from the Hanging Flume. This pullout would accommodate four to six vehicles, a single bus, or a couple of recreational vehicles. Space is a limited, but it is not anticipated that visitor use would exceed capacity in the near future. In addition, vehicles could park along the river road if needed. (A bus and RV turnaround site may need to be considered in association with this site.)

A short concrete trail (100-feet in length) would be built by the BLM or Montrose County from the parking area to an interpretive overlook located above a cluster of large boulders above the river road. From this slightly elevated vantage point, the public would be able to look across the river road and the San Miguel River to view the Hanging Flume on the north side of the river. This interpretive overlook would provide a safe viewing opportunity for the public by physically separating them from the road and allowing them to see the Hanging Flume above the trees that line the river. The river and sandstone cliff will discourage visitors from attempting to access the Flume.

The trail would terminate at a small interpretive overlook designed and constructed by the BLM. This site should be designed using native rock and a metal railing. In addition this site would have three interpretive signs mounted in three NPS-style metal sign bases (rail mount or in-ground mount). Natural rock benches would be installed for the public to sit or rest while viewing the signs. (Photo point by W.J. Carpenter, 1890.)

#### **Mesa Creek – Placer Mine Site (Milepost 85.5)**

- Vehicle pullout
- One interpretive panel with following topic:
  - Placer Mining on the Dolores River
  - Orientation/Overview Hanging Flume with ARPA message

Develop a small interpretive site on Highway 141 near Mesa Creek at milepost 85.5. This site should accommodate one to two vehicles at any one time.

This interpretive site provides an opportunity for the public to see a historical placer mining area and envision what it may have been like to process tons of rock and gravel to find elusive nuggets of gold. Just up valley, the Hanging Flume terminated in a ditch that was used to transport water to a “pressure box.” The pressure box was used to increase water pressure needed to deliver water to a “water cannon” that was used to wash sediments into a sluice box system. This allowed the miners to extract the gold that became trapped in the “wifely” structures at the bottom of the sluice box.

### **BLM Dolores River Access on State Highway 90 at Bedrock**

- Hanging Flume Orientation Interpretive panel with ARPA message

Nearly duplicate the orientation/interpretive sign used at site #3. The storyline and photographs will emphasize the river access potential of the Hanging Flume, resource protection messages, and the expectations that river users need to take care of these fragile resources.

### **Dolores River Site (Access from river, exact location to be determined)**

- Orientation/Overview Hanging Flume with ARPA message

This site will be on the Dolores River at a river pullout located directly below the Hanging Flume. This orientation/interpretive resource protection and the expectations that river rafters and kayakers need to take care of these fragile resources.

### **Reconstructed Hanging Flume**

Possible location may be the River Road Site

- Construct a historically accurate 48 to 100 foot section of reconstructed Hanging Flume using three to six metal and wood bents.
- One or more interpretive signs with the following topics
  - Reconstructing the Hanging Flume
  - Construction Details

Reconstruct a 48 to 100-foot, historically accurate section of a Hanging Flume as a working model of the Flume, exact site to be determined. This reconstructed segment would be built using locally available ponderosa pine (yellow pine) and manufactured bents. This life-size reconstruction could be mounted onto the Wingate Sandstone cliff on the north side of the San Miguel River across from the River Road Site. In 2008, WCIA secured funding to reconstruct this portion.

This reconstruction of the Hanging Flume would be fabricated and installed to allow the public to safely experience the Hanging Flume. The interpretive panels would be used to complement this structure by identifying bents, support structures, the origins of native materials, water levels, and volumes of water transported in the flume.

### **Reconstructed Hanging Flume Model**

Possible locations for this mockup may be the Uravan Ballfield Campground, the Existing Hanging Flume Overlook, Gateway Resort, or the Naturita Visitor Center.

- Construct a historically accurate 48 to 100 foot section of reconstructed Hanging Flume using three to six metal and wood bents.
- Possibly mounted on a fiberglass rock wall (optional)
- One or more interpretive signs with the following topics
  - Reconstructing the Hanging Flume
  - Five to ten labels for the models

## Interpretive Plan – Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume

Reconstruct a 48-100 -foot, historically accurate section of a Hanging Flume as a working model of the Flume, at a site to be determined. This reconstructed segment would be built using locally available ponderosa pine (yellow pine) and manufactured bents. This life-size reconstruction could be developed as a life-size model at one of the above sites.

This model of the Hanging Flume would be fabricated and installed to allow the public to safely experience the Hanging Flume. It is possible that the model would be placed at ground level to allow the public to walk through this exhibit. This would allow the public to closely inspect and appreciate construction features associated with the Hanging Flume. The interpretive labels would be used to complement this structure by identifying bents, support structures, the origins of native materials, water levels, and volumes of water transported in the flume.

### **Details Incorporated into all Sites and Interpretive Projects**

#### **Colorado Scenic Byways Columbine Signs**

Once sites are funded and the facilities are built it is important to incorporate the State Byway logoed signs along the route to identify the interpretive sites.



Water canon at U.S. Gold Placer No 18A on the San Miguel River.  
Denver Public Library- Western History Department

## **Other Interpretive Media Prescriptions:**

### **Brochure:**

Develop a 12"x18" brochure (accordion folded to 4"x9") about the history of the Hanging Flume. Text and photographs would be developed from the interpretive panels. Specific reference would be made to project sponsors, locally available outfitter and guide services, and local Chamber of Commerce offices and community museums.

Although this brochure would present a historical overview of the Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume, it could also be used as a lure piece to entice visitors to the Unaweap/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway.

### **Video:**

Currently, a companion video on the "Mystery of the Hanging Flume" (working title) is being developed by Camera One for use by the local historical societies, museums, schools, and Colorado Public Broadcasting. Video footage has been shot of historical photos, contemporary scenic and historical sites, recreational amenities, and interviews with local historians familiar with the Hanging Flume, as well as research work conducted by Robert Silman Associate. At this time the video project is still in production and the full scope of the project is being refined.

### **Website:**

In conjunction with the aforementioned interpretive efforts in the corridor, this would be an opportunity to secure funding to update existing websites on the Hanging Flume and to highlight the accomplishments of local tourism programs. Educational materials, brochures, interpretive signs, research projects, and outfitter guide services along the Unaweap/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway and the Hanging Flume should be linked on this site. Gateway Resort, the Unaweap/ Tabeguache Byway Council or local historical societies such as the Rimrocker Historical Society should manage this site.

### **Interpretive Training:**

The culmination of the interpretive efforts in the corridor would be to work with local and regional outfitter and guide services, visitor service providers, Chamber of Commerce representatives, museum staff, and historic societies in the Telluride, Ridgway, Ouray, and Gateway area. Training programs would be developed that would include educational materials, brochures, and site visits to the Unaweap/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway and the Hanging Flume.

## **Interpretive Exhibits Design Standards**

All sign panels prepared for the Hanging Flume Project Area will be designed with the visitor in mind. We often ask the question “So What?” What is so important that we want the public to stop, read the information, and take with them a better understanding of the natural or cultural resources of an area?

To accomplish this, we use a technique described as the 3-30-3 rule (three seconds, thirty seconds, three minutes.) Three seconds is allowed to give the reader a quick glance at the story. They may read the title, see the colors used, or may look at a single photograph. Thirty seconds allows the public to look at all the photographs, read the body text, and in general understand the story. Three minutes is provided to read all the text, study a couple of the photographs in detail, and fully understand the story. In some situations they will be influenced to want to find out more information or to be directed to local museums or visitor centers to find out more information.

### **Interpretive Sign Design:**

All sign panels will use design treatments that compliment the Dolores River Corridor. Earth-tone colors will be selected that compliment the sandstone slickrock and the corresponding rock formations and pinion/juniper woodlands found in the area. Once this design template is created, all panels will have a similar look and feel. Most of the panels will be a standard 24”H X36”W, however orientation panels will be 36”H X 40”W and small label panels would be fabricated for the Hanging Flume mockups.

Due to the intense sunlight experienced in this high desert environment, the font selected for the interpretive panels will be an easy to read, Arial font. For the header(s) we will use a block font called Herculanum. Font size will typically be no smaller than 36 point with the exception being captions and photo credits. (See Figure 1)

### **Interpretive Sign Structure:**

We will use an NPS-style, extruded aluminum sign base for all interpretive signs. The standard interpretive sign base will be low profile, slanted back to a 30° angle. Some will be double-legged, in-ground mount, while others will be fabricated as rail-mounted frames depending on location. The larger orientation panels will be upright panels using double legged mounts.

All sign bases will have a powder-coated finish. The powdercoat finish will be dark gray, black, or light brown. The final color for the frames will be determined at a later date. (See Figure 2)

### **American with Disability Act (ADA) standards:**

All sign designs will meet American with Disability Act (ADA) standards for accessibility and readability. Fonts selected will be no smaller than 36 point for the main body of text. In addition, fonts selected will in general be easy to read.

**Existing Interpretive Signage and Milepost Reference Points:**

**Highway 141**

MP 62	Road Pullout	Existing	Dominguez & Escalante interpretive sign
MP 74	San Miguel Pres.	Existing	River Preserve orientation sign
MP 74.2	Bridge Crossing	Proposed	Ballfield Campground
MP 76	CDOT Fence Site	Existing	Mountain Bike Trail orientation sign
		Existing	Colorado Uranium Mining interpretive sign
		Existing	Uravan- Joe Jr. Mill interpretive sign
MP 76	County Rd Y-11	Existing	River road turnoff
MP 77.5	Trestle Bridge	Existing	Trestle Bridge (Pedestrian only)
MP 79.4	Road Pullout	Proposed	Confluence Day-use Area
MP 81	Road Pullout	Existing	Uranium Mining interpretive sign
MP 81.5	Flume Road Pullout	Existing	Overlook
		-	Hanging Flume interpretive sign (with Dominguez & Escalante info)
			Regional Recreation orientation sign
MP 83.5	Roadside Attraction	Proposed	Charcoal Oven
MP 85.5	Bridge Crossing	Proposed	Mesa Creek & placer mines

Figure 1: Interpretive Sign Design

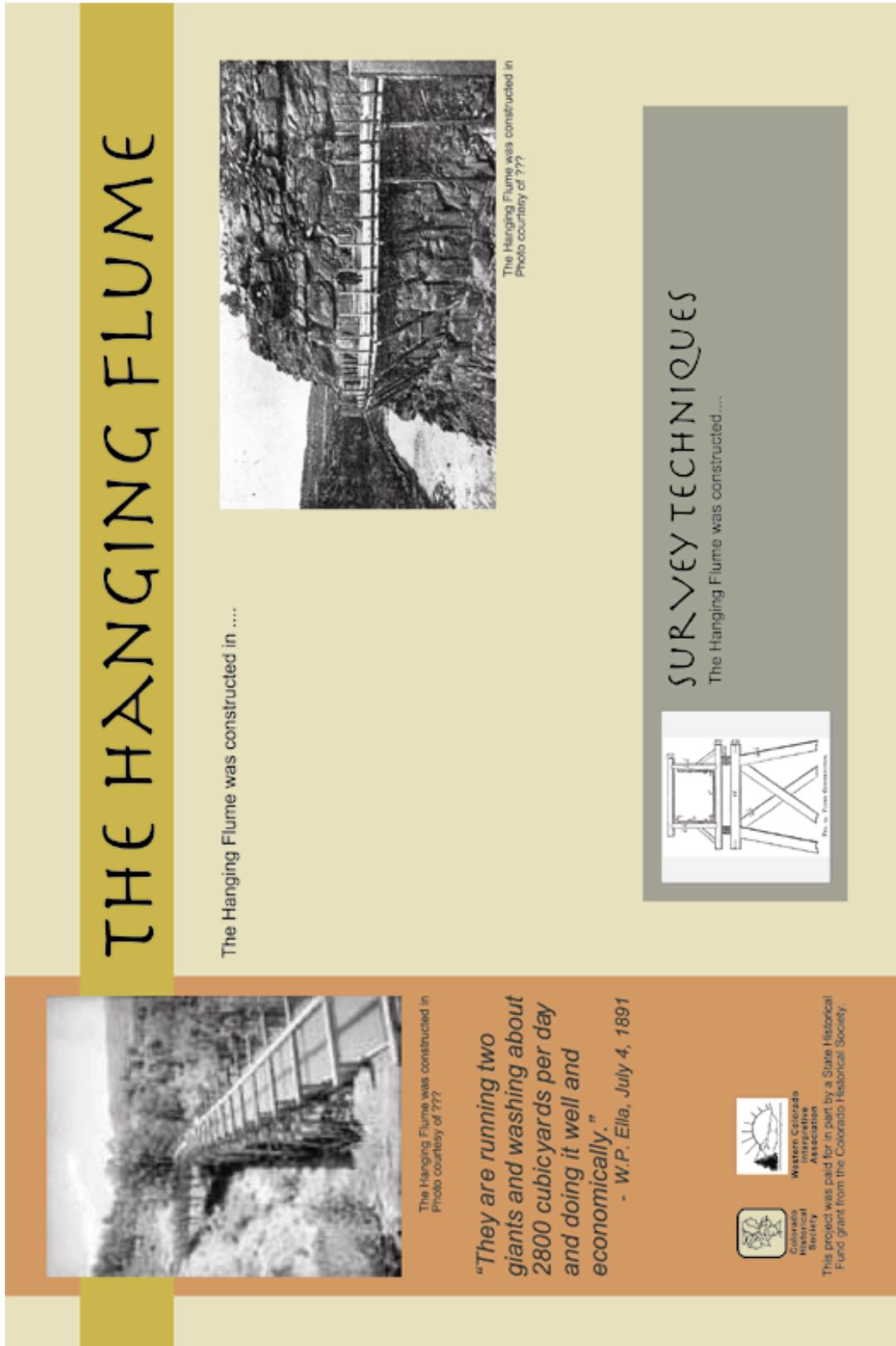
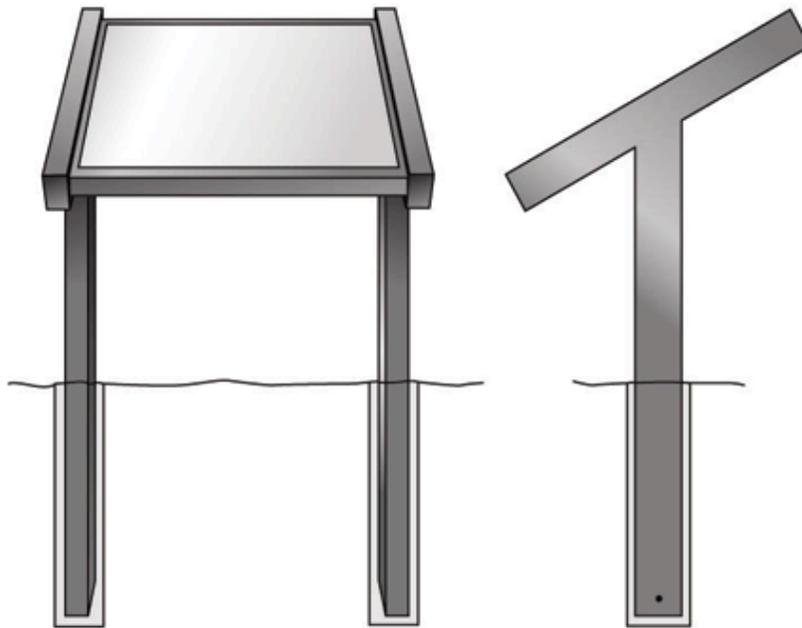


Figure 2: Interpretive Sign Structures (Frames)

## NPS—Style Traditional Low Profile Base (TB)



The National Park Service sets the standard for many aspects of interpretation, and exhibit bases are no exception. The **Traditional Low Profile Base (TB)**, introduced in the 1980s, quickly became the most common interpretive panel stanchion—it is a classic!

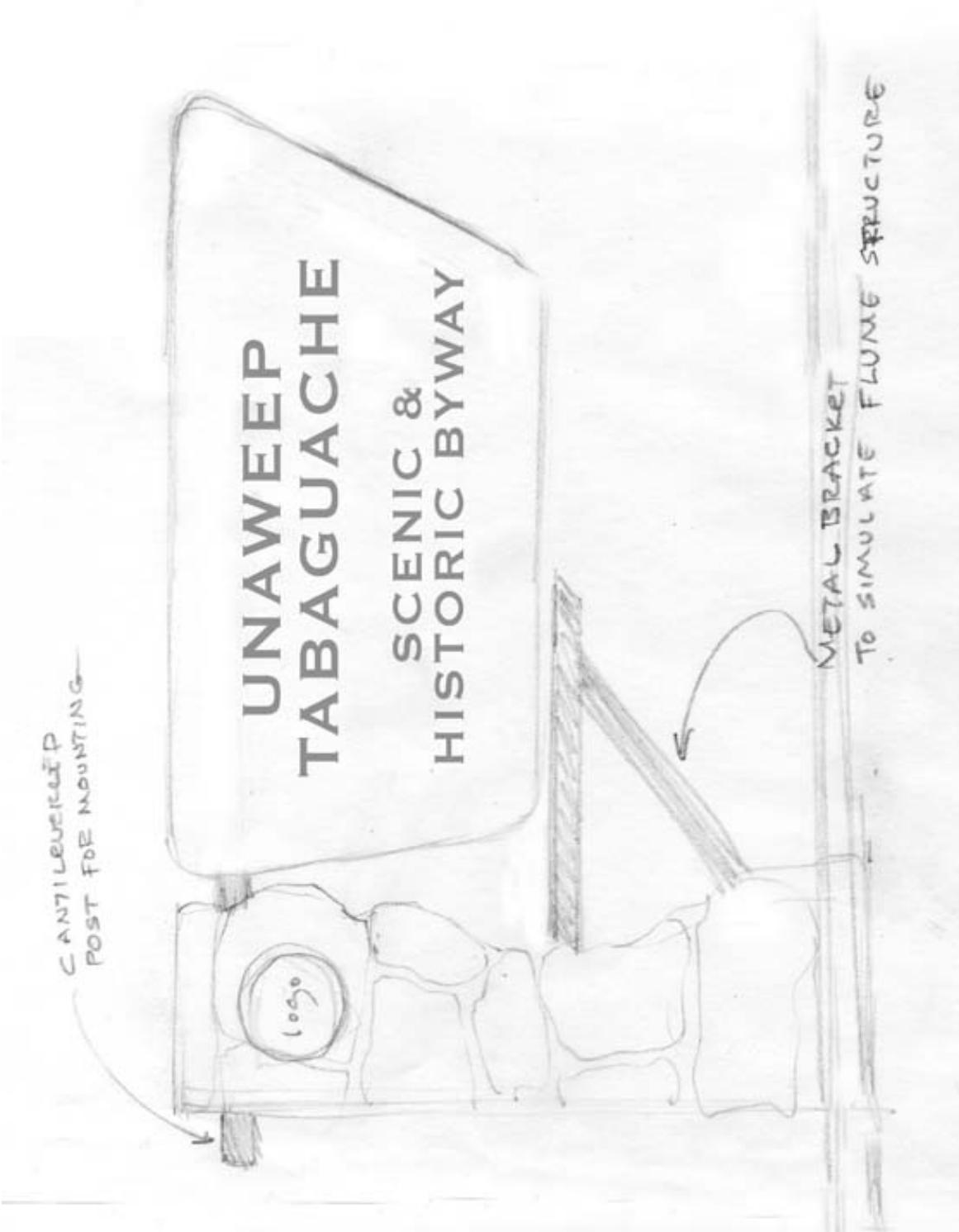
The **Traditional Low Profile Base** is fabricated from extruded aluminum, and is designed to break down into its component parts for shipping. The sturdy 2" x 6" outboard legs attach to the standard NPS frame and backing plate assembly with drive rivets. The frame and backing plate assembly's top frame rail is held secure by counter-sunk drive rivets—there are no exposed, accessible fasteners. When properly installed to allow 28" to 32" clearance above grade, this pedestal is wheelchair accessible.

Panel Size (W X H):	24"x18", 24"x24", 36"x24", 42"x24", 48"x 36", Custom
Panel Thickness:	Up to 1/8", Custom
Angle:	30°, 45°, Custom
Finish:	Textured-finish polyurethane, Custom
Color:	NPS Dark Brown, NPS Medium Gray, Custom
Depth Below Grade:	18" to 24", Custom
Height Above Grade:	28" to 32", Custom

Appendix A: Portal Sign – Option 1

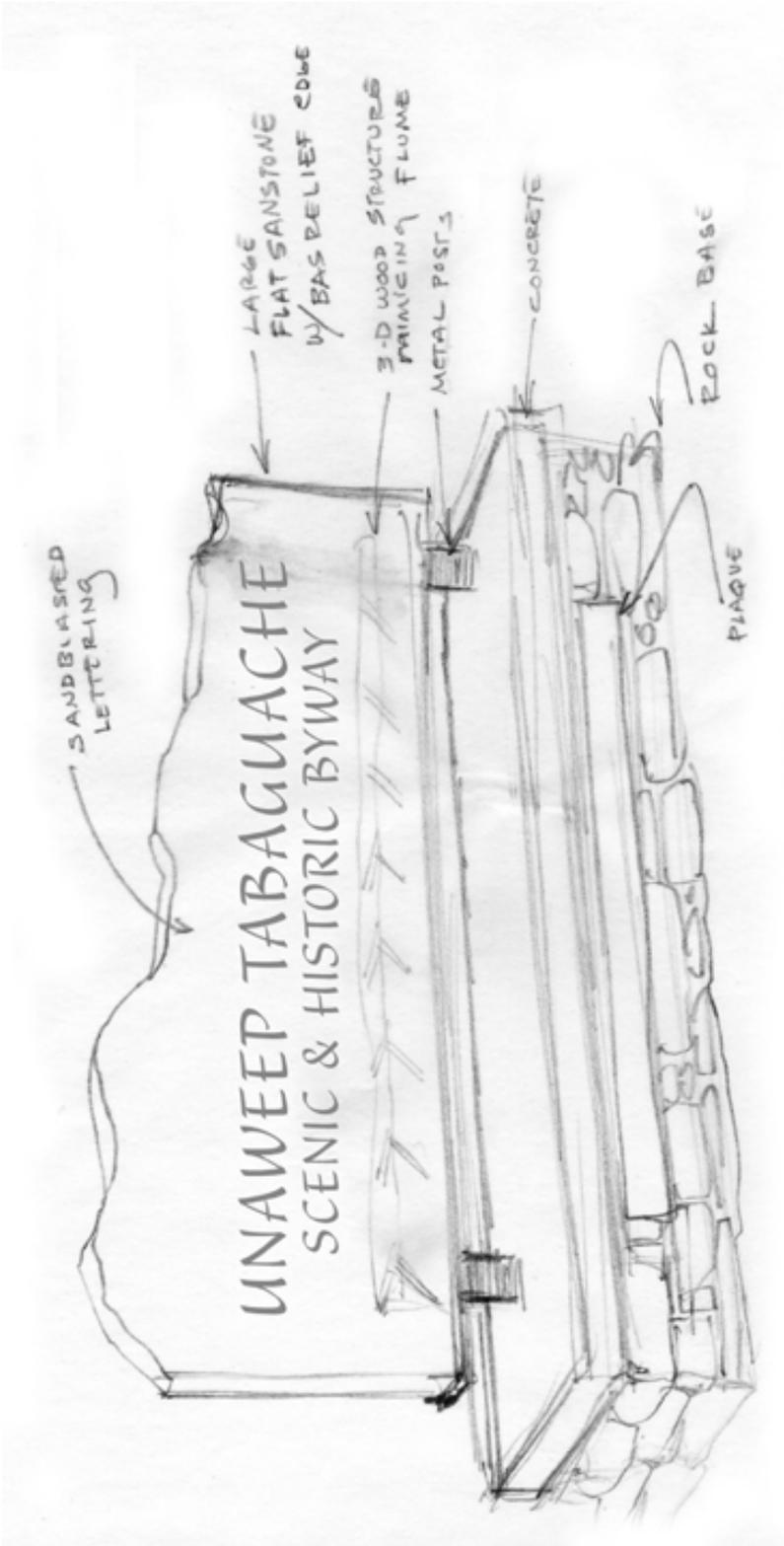


Appendix A: Portal Sign – Option 2

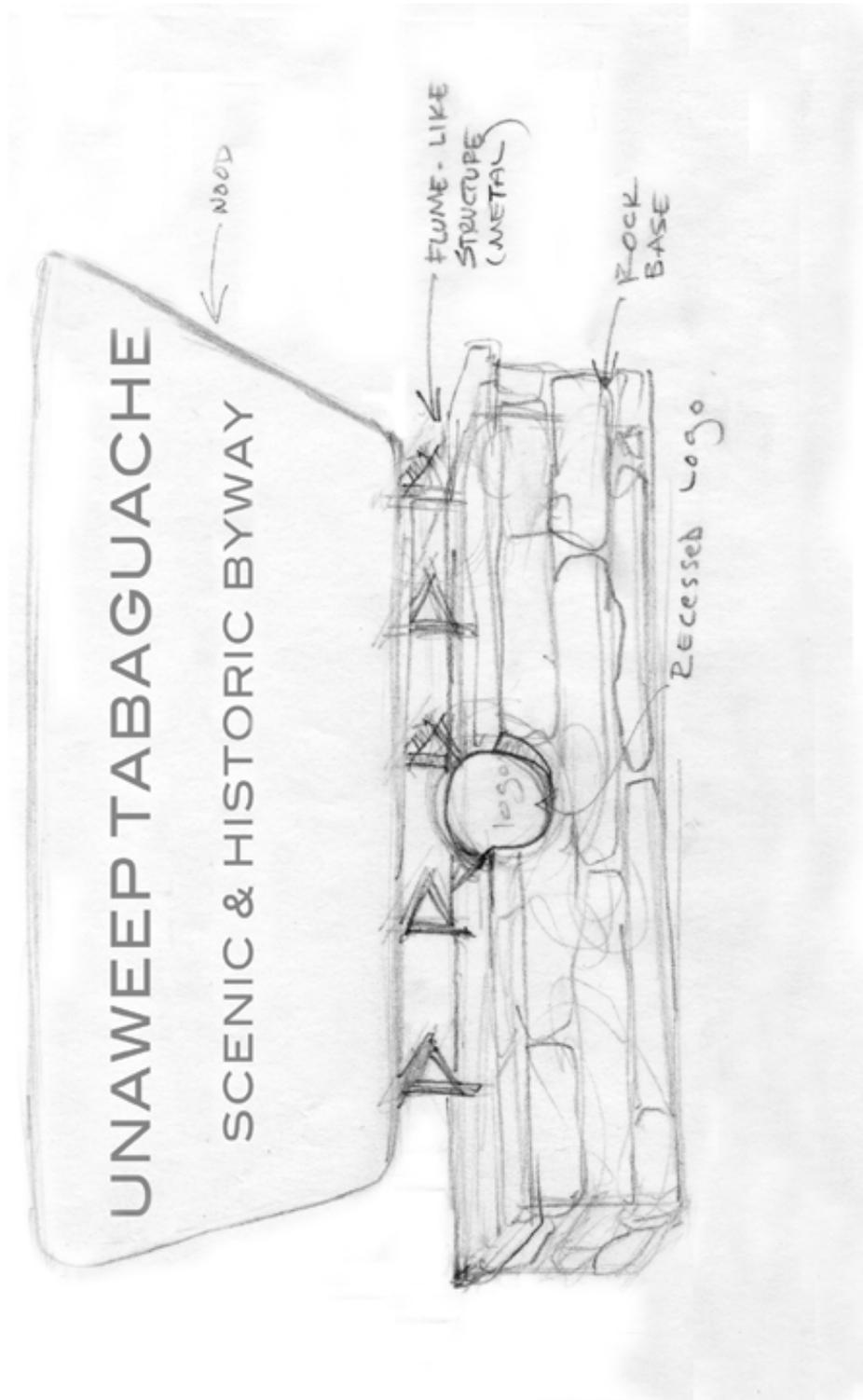


Interpretive Plan – Montrose Placer Mining Company Hanging Flume

Appendix A: Portal Sign – Option 3



Appendix A: Portal Sign – Option 4



Appendix B: Photo & Illustration Database

Photo archives investigated:

- Alpine Archaeological Consultants
- Denver Public Library – Western History Department
- Colorado Historical Society
- Museum of Western Colorado
- Jerald Reid, Whitewater, CO (970) 243-7290