Split Rock Studios for Camas National Wildlife Refuge

Call for Shoshone-Bannock Artist / Graphics Artist Proposals

Eligibility: Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Members
Total Image Samples: Minimum 3, Maximum 6
Entry Deadline: Friday, February 23rd
Budget: $2,100
Timeline: Artwork / graphics completed and provided to Split Rock Studios by Friday, March 22nd

Application Requirements:

Please label attachments with your name: for example Smith.Tom_CamasNWR.pdf
1. **One-page Letter of Interest** that articulates your interest in this project in particular. Describe your work and how your past experience relates to this project. Please limit the letter to 500 words or one page, whichever is less.
2. **Resume:** A current list of professional and related experience, if applicable.
3. **Images Samples of Work:** Please provide up to 6 images of previously created art that relates to this opportunity, one per page.

Submission Process: Email all documents and attachments to Mike Otis, project manager with Split Rock Studios. His email address is motis@splitrockstudios.com

Project Background

Camas National Wildlife Refuge covers 16 square miles in the high desert of eastern Idaho. Most of the refuge contains seasonal wetlands that offer critical habitat for migrating and nesting birds in an otherwise very dry region.

Existing interpretive signage is now quite old. Many of the signs are faded, outdated, and/or soiled. USFWS has hired Split Rock Studios to develop a series of new signs that bring the interpretive content up to date, improve wayfinding, and provide visitors with a more well-rounded experience. The signage will include new information drawn from and approved by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes as well as revised content that better reflects current hydrological and ecological conditions on the refuge.

Audience

The refuge occupies the homeland of the Shoshone and Bannock people. When Shoshone and Bannock tribal members visit, they should see some of their experiences reflected in the panels—whether through the subtle addition of Shoshone and Bannock terminology and design patterns or through explanations of the way they view Camas as part of a larger, interconnected landscape. All visitors will benefit from an exhibit that presents multiple ways of seeing the world.

Camas National Wildlife Refuge is best known for its birds, especially during migration season. Unsurprisingly, the most common and consistent visitors are birders who come to view and

photograph the animals. Located along I-15, the refuge also draws tourists. Some make the refuge a destination in itself. Many are eco-tourists on their way to or from nearby national parks who are looking for another interesting stop along the way.

Artwork Location/Context

The artwork will be placed on signs along the drivable routes at Camas National Wildlife Refuge. Currently, placeholder graphics are shown on the wayside signs. These placeholder graphics will be replaced by the art or graphics from a Shoshone-Bannock artist or graphics artist.

Artwork / Graphics Design Media

The selected artist or graphic artist's artwork / graphics will be used to complete the interpretive and wayfinding signs. The final artwork to be created will be:

- Either ten unique or one repeating header design for the wayfinding signs. (FWS can decide which way they want to go based on aesthetics and cost.)
- Artwork (perhaps a cottonwood tree or leaf) or a pattern to be featured on the A.1.a Welcome to Sohodai graphic.
- Three or four artistic patterns to fill the mountain-relief-shaped headers on each of the roadside interpretive graphics. (One pattern for each of the four directions the various signs face; namely, west, north, and east.)
- Art or design pattern for the sidebar background on A.3. The theme is the importance of trees, especially cottonwoods. Associated text (provided and approved by the tribes) reads:

  > In the past, Shoshone and Bannock people making their seasonal movements would stop here at Sohodai, "Cottonwood Hole," and camp near the flowing water of Camas Creek. Cottonwoods serve practical purposes, such as firewood, shade, shelter, and ceremonial purposes. Cottonwood is central to Shoshone-Bannock spiritual practices that continue today. The relationships between indigenous people, places, and plants are dynamic and deep.

- Art or design pattern for the sidebar background on A.8. The theme is riparian habitats, with a focus on coyote willow and other natural resources harvested from riparian areas. Associated text (provided and approved by the Tribes) reads:

  > Riparian zones in eastern Idaho provide Shoshone and Bannock people with valuable materials. Coyote willow is an especially versatile plant. It can be used to make baskets, cradleboards, traps, and backrests, among other things.

Wayside Interpretive and Wayfinding Signage

Signs will be produced as Pannier Gelcoat graphics. An aluminum plate will be mounted to back of the graphic, and the combined piece will then be secured to the existing mounting plate.

Wayside Interpretive and Wayfinding Signs and Shapes

NOTE: Interpretive and wayfinding header designs shown here will feature the Shoshone-Bannock art / graphics.
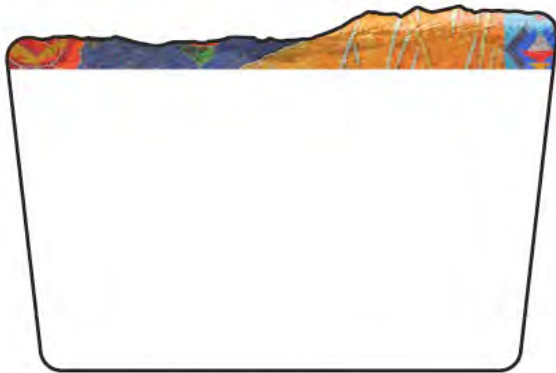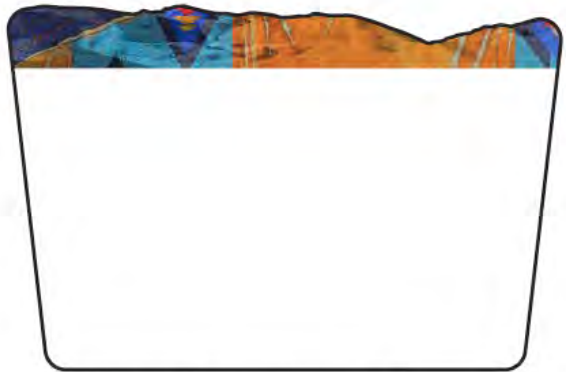

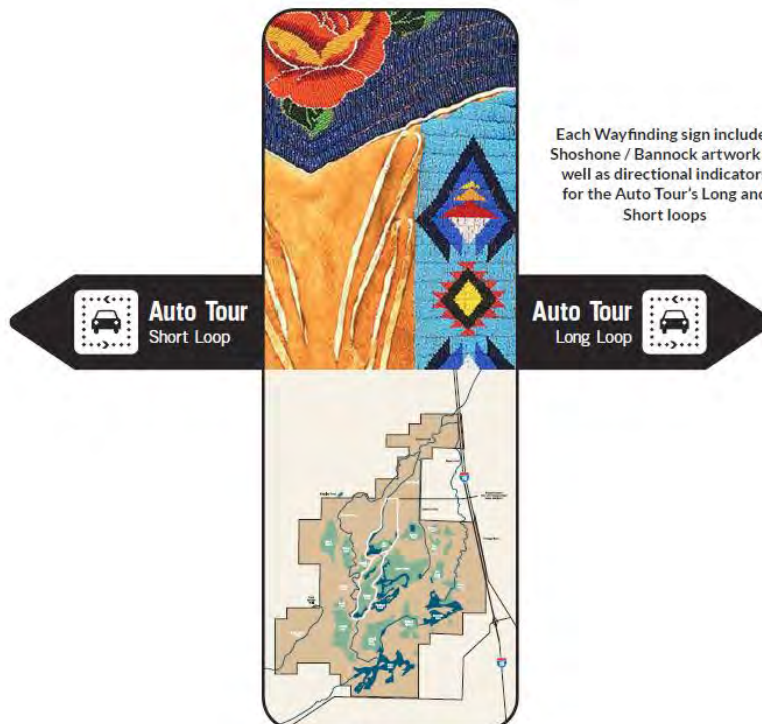Looking east Teton Mountain Range

Looking south Menan Buttes Mountain Range

Looking west Beaverhead Mountain Range

Looking north Centennial Mountain Range

Each Wayfinding sign includes Shoshone / Bannock artwork as well as directional indicators for the Auto Tour's Long and Short loops

Auto Tour Short Loop

Auto Tour Long Loop

Version 1 Wayfinding Sign
Overall size = 12"w X 34"h
Directional Arrows size = 12"w X 4.5"h

WELCOME TO SOHODAI

Welcome from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Sohodai (so-ho-die) is a Shoshone name for this place; this word from the Shoshone language translates to "Cottonwood Hole."

Shoshone-Bannock history extends for thousands of years throughout the surrounding region, where our homelands include Sohodai and beyond. Our ancient ancestors—and families of only a few generations ago—have lived here and traveled through here.

Today the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes continue to relate to the land, water, and many of the same plants and animals we have relied upon for millennia. Our modern relationships with our homelands embrace traditional knowledge, nourishment, utility, ceremony, policy, management, science, and stewardship.

Visit Us

The Fort Hall Indian Reservation is to the south on Interstate 15. You can find our Tribal Museum, Shoshone-Bannock Hotel-Event Center, and other attractions off I-15, Exit 80.

Annually, the second weekend in August, the Shoshone-Bannock Festival welcomes all visitors to our celebration of parades, traditional singing and dancing, rodeo, food, authentic fine arts and crafts, Indian relay horse racing, and athletic tournaments.

Pishayu e pittena. (Bannock)

"It is good you are here."

Tsaande e pithei. (Shoshone)

"It is good you are here."

A.1.a Kiosk
Quantity = 1
Size =36"w X 48"h

NOTE: Artwork (perhaps a cottonwood tree or leaf) or a pattern to be featured on the A.1.a Welcome to Sohodai graphic.

Wayside Interpretive Signage: A.3.a Cottonwood Hole

COTTONWOOD HOLE: HIGH DESERT TREE HABITATS

In the past, Shoshone and Bannock people making their seasonal move meets would stop here at Sohoda, "Cottonwood Hole," and camp near the flowing water of Camas Creek.

Cottonwoods serve practical purposes, such as firewood, shade, shelter, and ceremonial purposes. Cottonwood is central to Shoshone-Bannock spiritual practices that continue today. The relationships between indigenous people, places, and plants are dynamic and deep.

Trees are uncommon on the Snake River Plain. Yet they are a critical part of the desert ecosystem.

Where trees exist, they provide essential habitat to songbirds on long-distance migrations. They offer shelter and food for mammals like porcupines and, in the past, beavers. Eagles, owls, and other birds of prey perch and nest in them. Many insect pollinators and even bats need trees to thrive.

Wilson's warblers nest in understory thickets along streams like Camas. During breeding season, listen for a string of eight or nine accelerating chirps.

[Shoshone Translation]
[Bannock Translation]

Under Threat
Stands of cottonwoods like those visible off to your right are threatened by both extended drought and stream channelization. Cottonwood seeds rely on floods to deposit new sediment along shorelines, where their seeds germinate.

Channelized streams are straighter and deeper than naturally flowing creeks. Droughts keep water levels low. Both have the effect of containing water within the banks. These processes disconnect the creek from its floodplain and leave nowhere for new cottonwoods to become established.

The lack of new sprouts and saplings has led to the current situation where trees are reaching the end of their lifespans and younger trees do not exist to fill the void. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working to restore tree habitat in this area by planting young cottonwood and other tree and shrub species native to Idaho.

Each winter, **bald eagles** gather to roost in cottonwoods near the headquarters building. As many as 120 eagles have been seen in a single evening.

Camas NWR would not have eagles or the same number of songbirds without the trees planted here by Refuge managers many years ago.

[Shoshone Translation]
[Bannock Translation]

A.3.a Cottonwood Hole
Quantity = 1
Size = 40"w X 26"h
Output = iZone .5" exterior grade phenolic resin graphic with matte finish
Finish = iCut to shape

NOTE: This sign faces west

Wayside Interpretive Signage: A.8.a Riparian Habitats on Camas Creek

RIPARIAN HABITATS ON CAMAS CREEK

Riparian Resources
Riparian zones in eastern Idaho provide Shoshone and Bannock people with valuable materials. Coyote willow is an especially versatile plant. It can be used to make baskets, cradleboards, traps, and backrests, among other things.

A riparian zone is a place where land and water meet—like the shores of Camas Creek. Riparian habitats bring aquatic and terrestrial wildlife together. Here, you will sometimes see unique interactions between species that don't often run into each other.

Healthy riparian habitats are important for the long-term sustainability of the wetland. Shoreline shrubs reduce erosion and provide shade, which slows evaporation rates. Riparian habitats also feature the highest level of wildlife diversity on the refuge.

The aptly named **willow flycatcher** breeds in shrubs along the water's edge. To eat, they dart out from their perch to catch flying insects.

[Shoshone Translation]
[Bannock Translation]

Critical Cover
Shoreline shrubs along Camas Creek provide habitat and cover for a variety of species. They are an important year-round food source for large mammals such as moose, elk, and deer.

Riparian habitats are critically endangered in the Intermountain West. More than 95% of such habitats have been lost across western states due to creek channelization, flood control systems, and other human alterations, as well as extended drought.

Porcupines not only hide in coyote willow, they eat it too.
[Shoshone Translation]
[Bannock Translation]

Bannock winnowing basket collected from Ya-Pa-Wah (Mattie George) by anthropologist William (Willem) Wildschut in 1924 during fieldwork sponsored by MAI.

Shoshone-Bannock Tribal members harvest coyote willow.

A.8.a Riparian Habitats on Camas Creek
Quantity = 1
Size = 40"w X 26"h
Output = iZone .5" exterior grade phenolic resin graphic with matte finish
Finish = iCut to shape

NOTE: This sign faces west