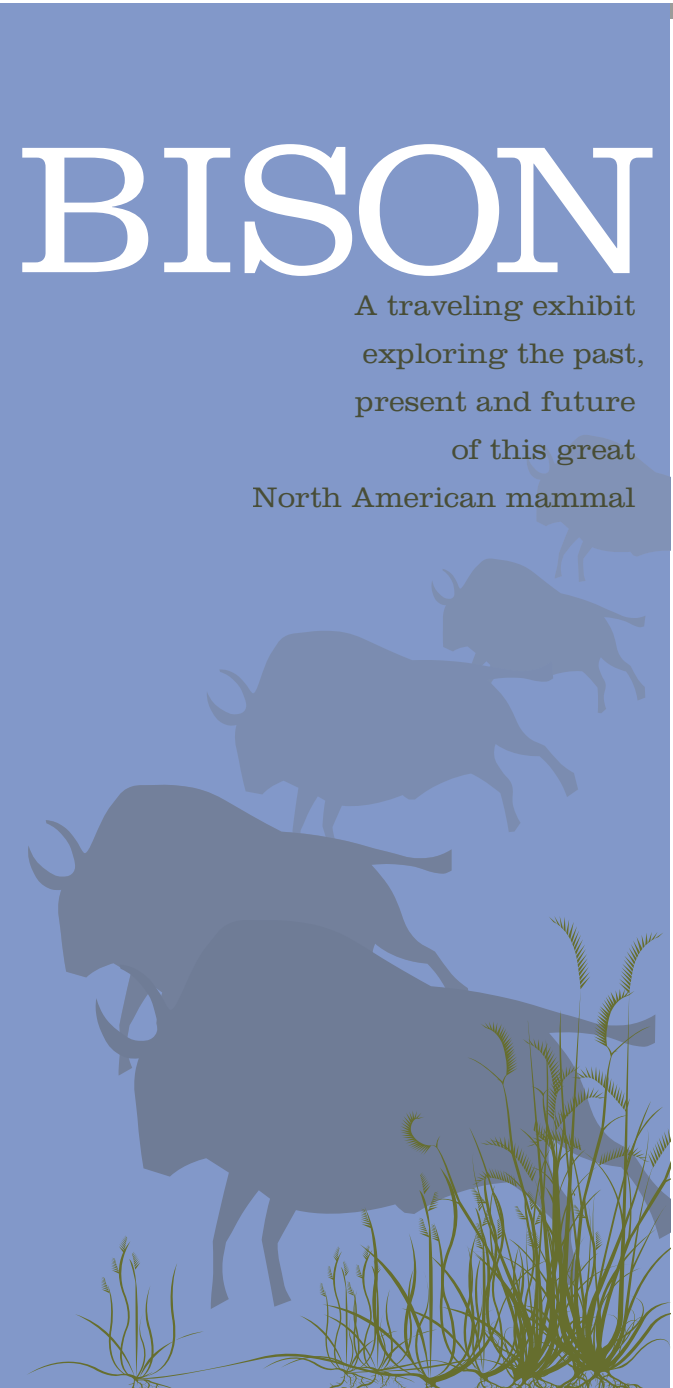
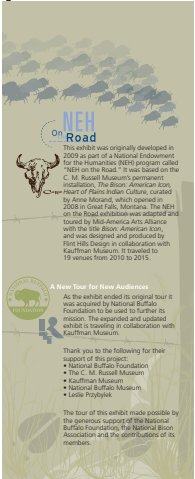
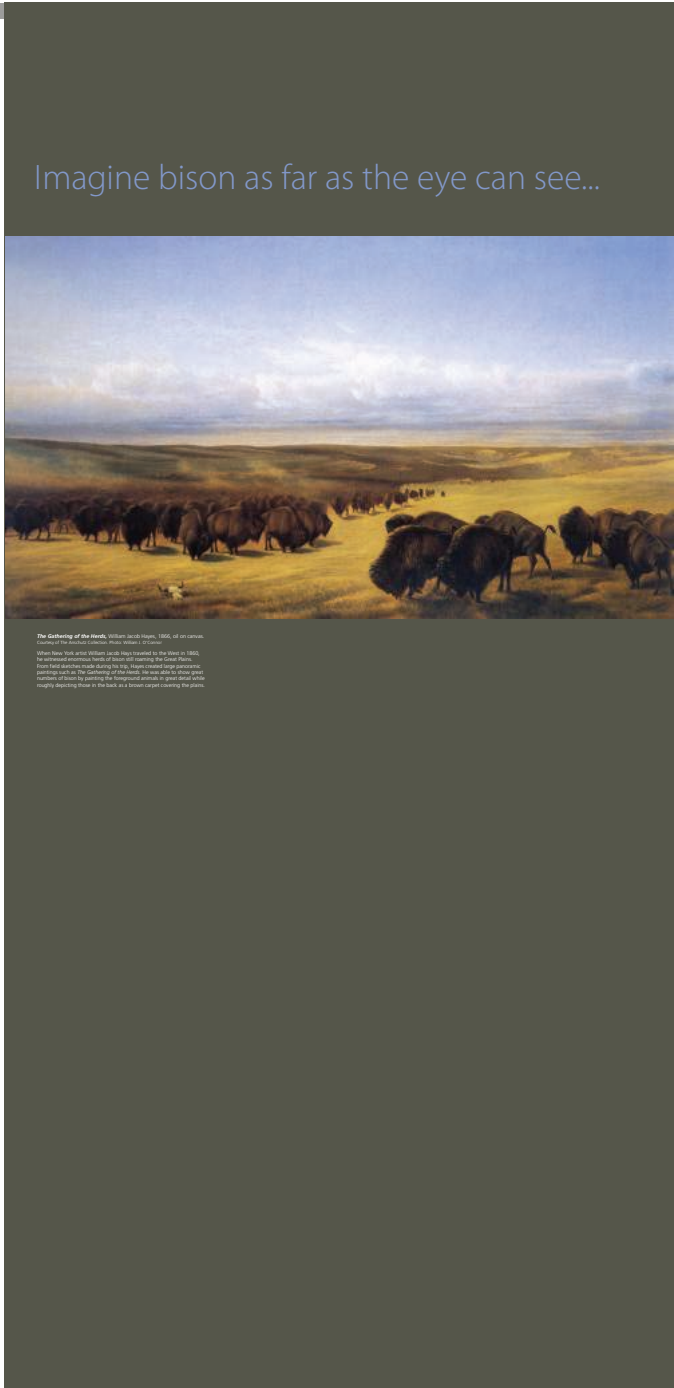
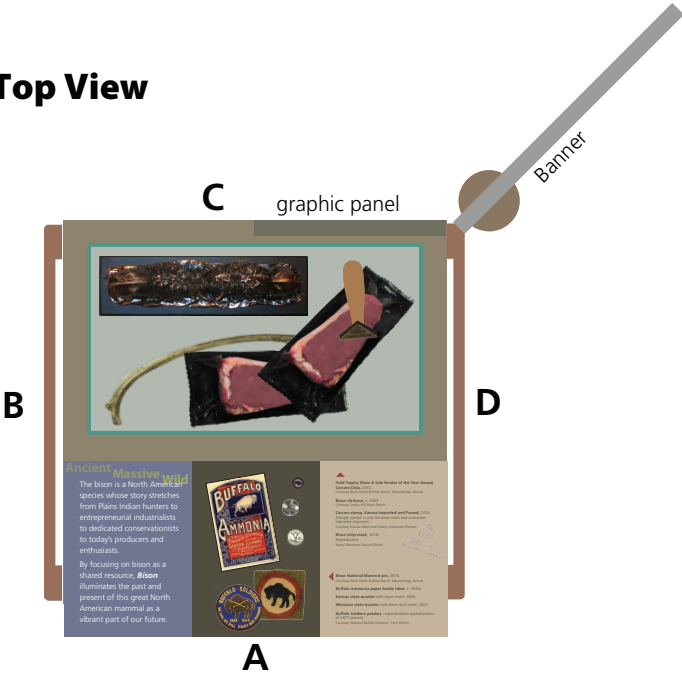


Scale :1" = 1'

Top View



C

B

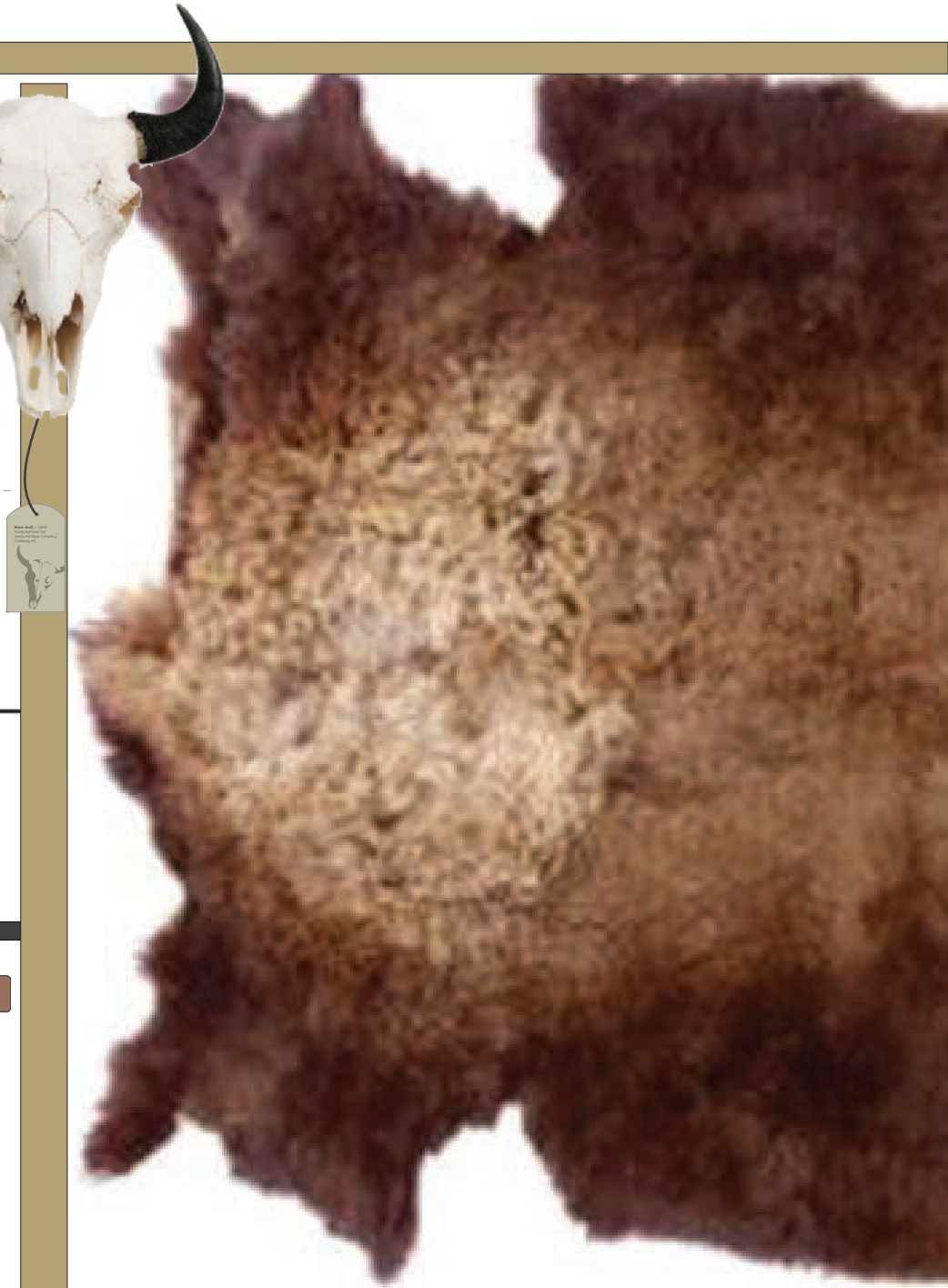
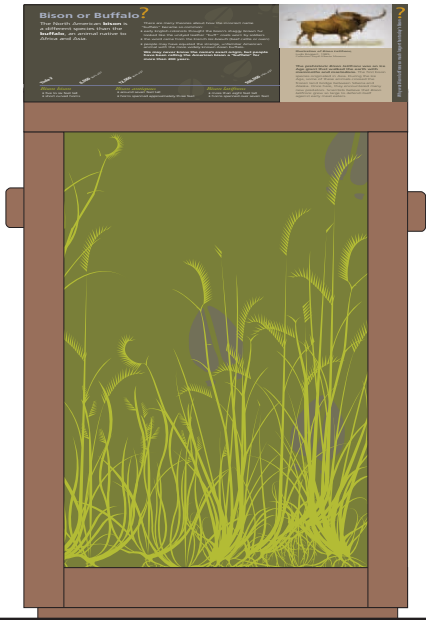
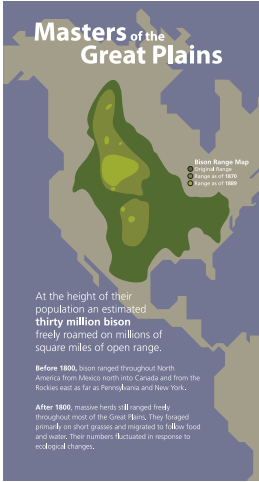
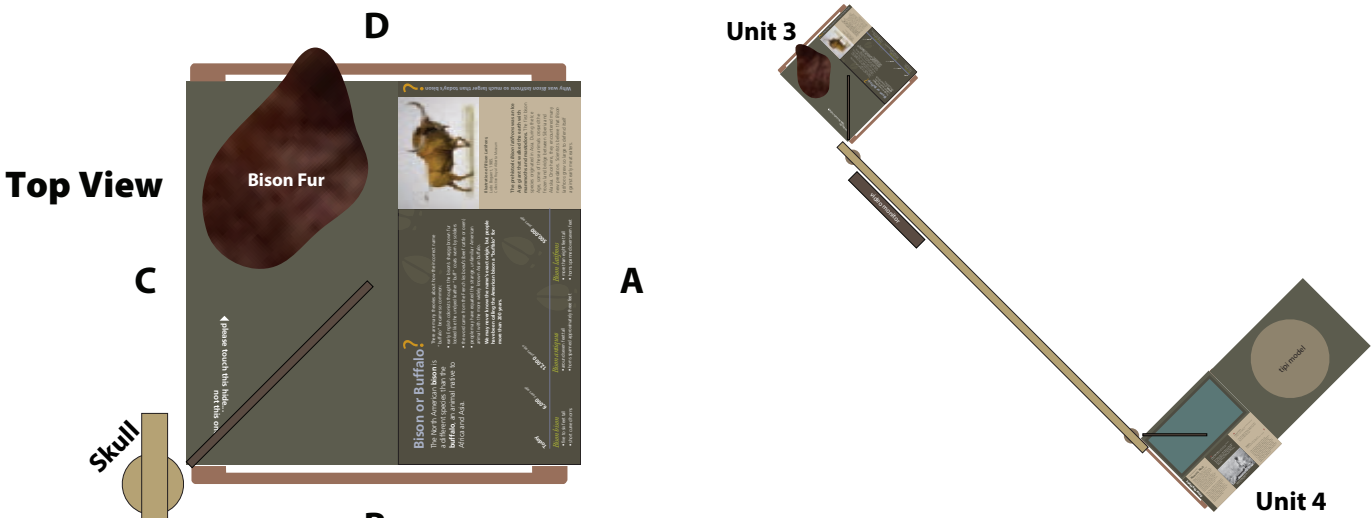
A



Scale :1" = 1'







**B**

**A**

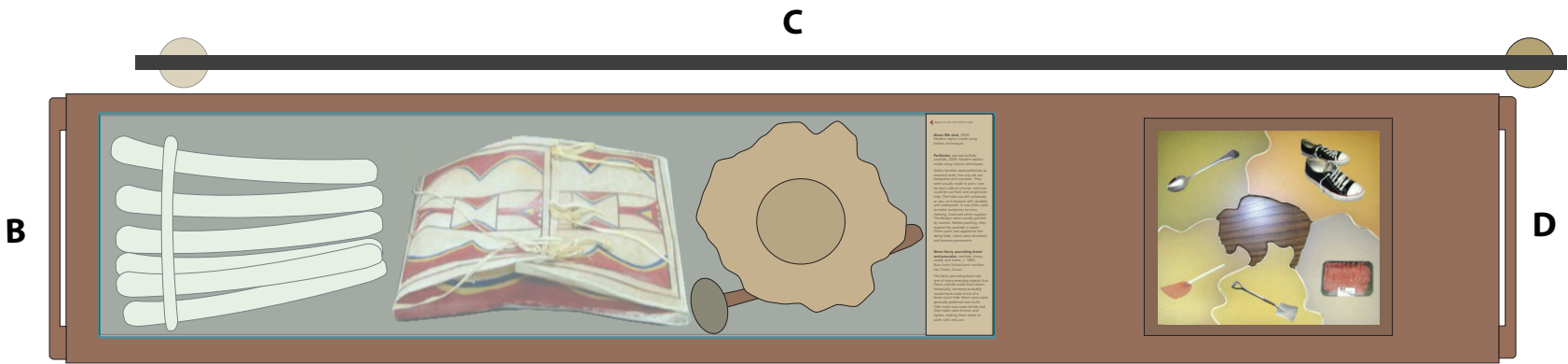
**D**

**C**





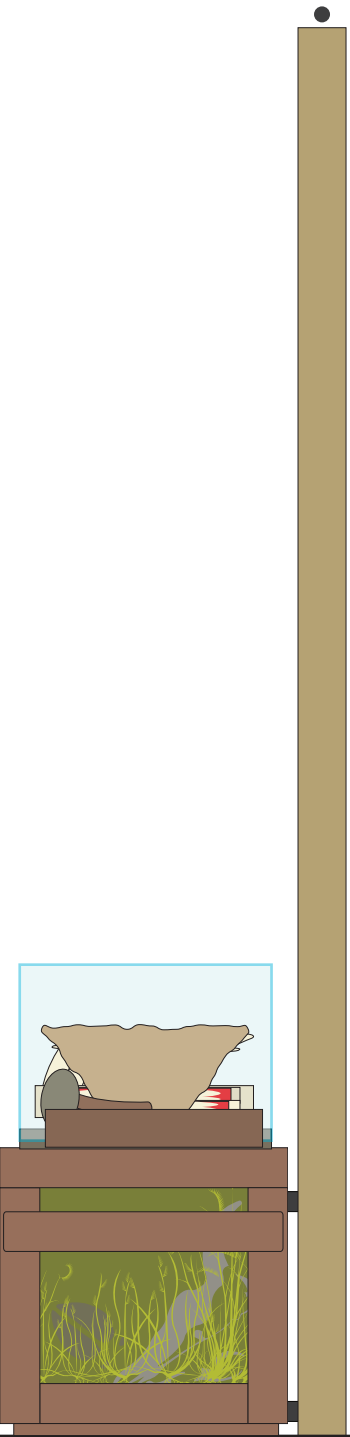
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A



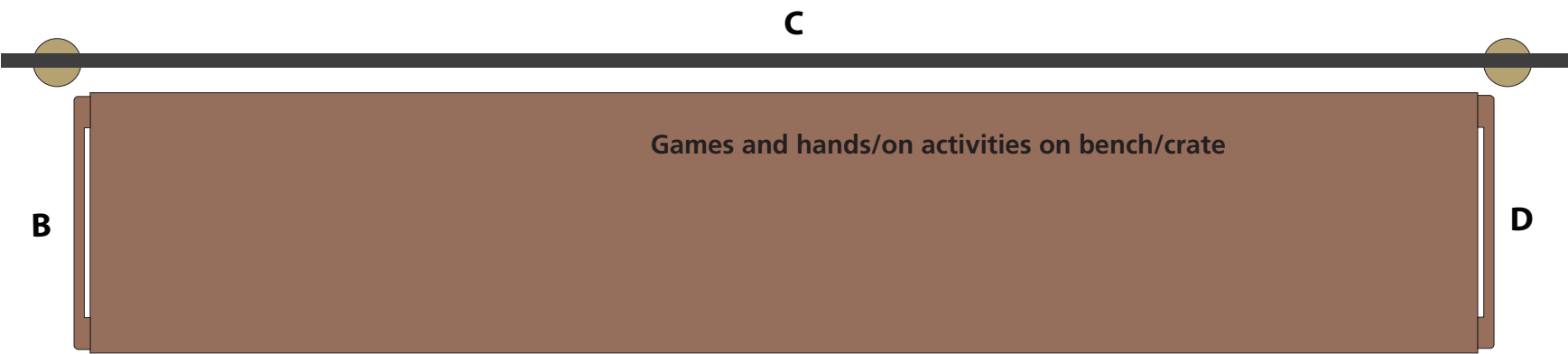
A



D



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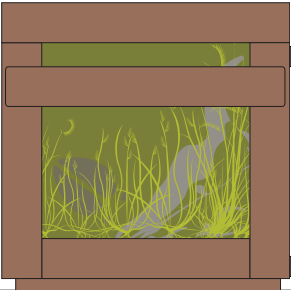


A



Interior, Crow Tipi, Richard Throssel, 1905, reprint from glass plate negative. Collection Richard Throssel Papers, University of Wyoming American Heritage Center

A



D

Games and hands/on activities on bench/crate

No.

Plant foods and other animal meat and fat were added for variety and to supplement the diet. Plains peoples also traded meat and hides for corn from native agriculturists.

Did Plains peoples eat only bison?

Plains cultures ate almost every part of the bison:

- meat from all parts of the carcass was eaten raw, boiled, roasted, or dried
- heart, liver, and kidneys provided vitamins and minerals
- fats and bone marrow were eaten fresh or saved and used to flavor other dishes
- intestines, hooves, nose gristle, eyeballs, testicles, milk, and fetus were also eaten
- tongue and hump were special delicacies



### Top View

Bison Exhibit: **Unit 7 - The Hunt**

cr 2/23/2017

**Scale :1" = 1'**



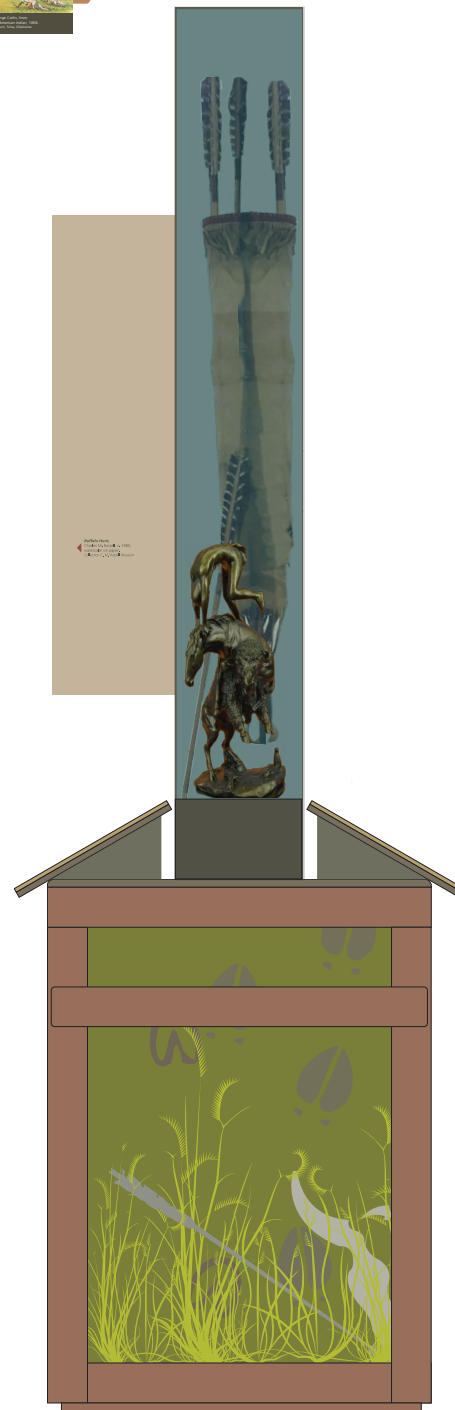
**C**



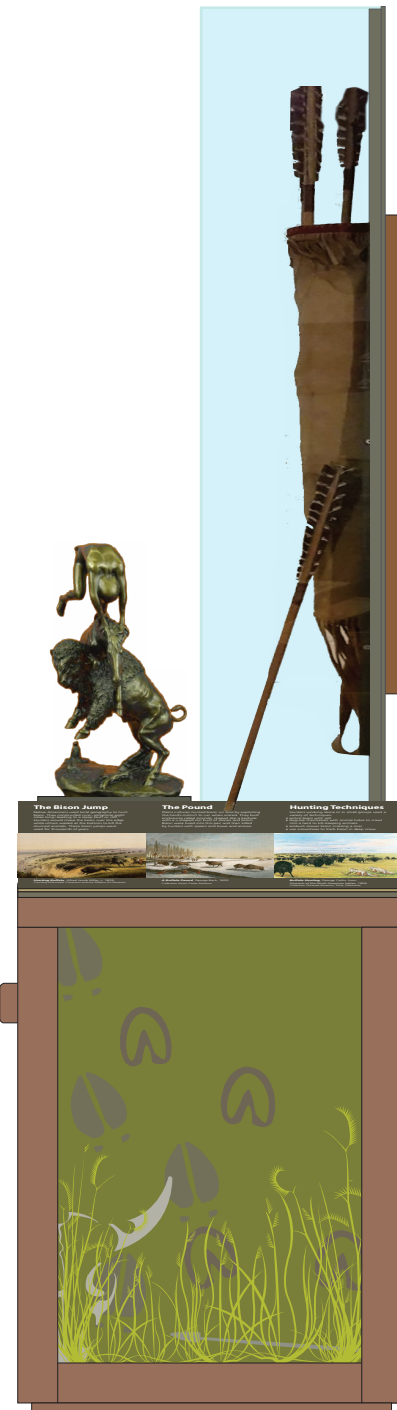
D



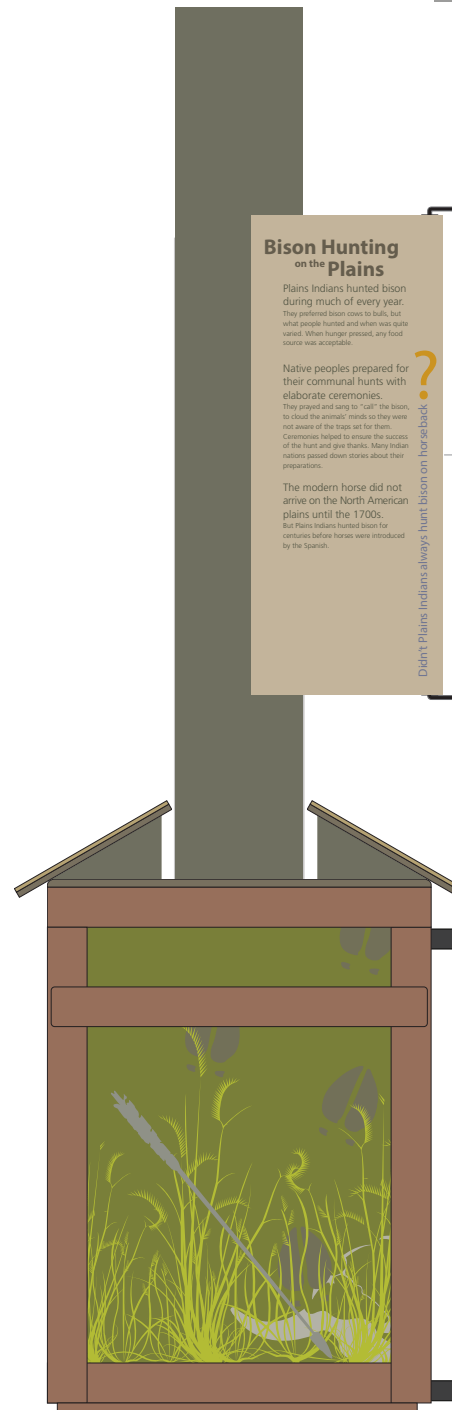
**A**



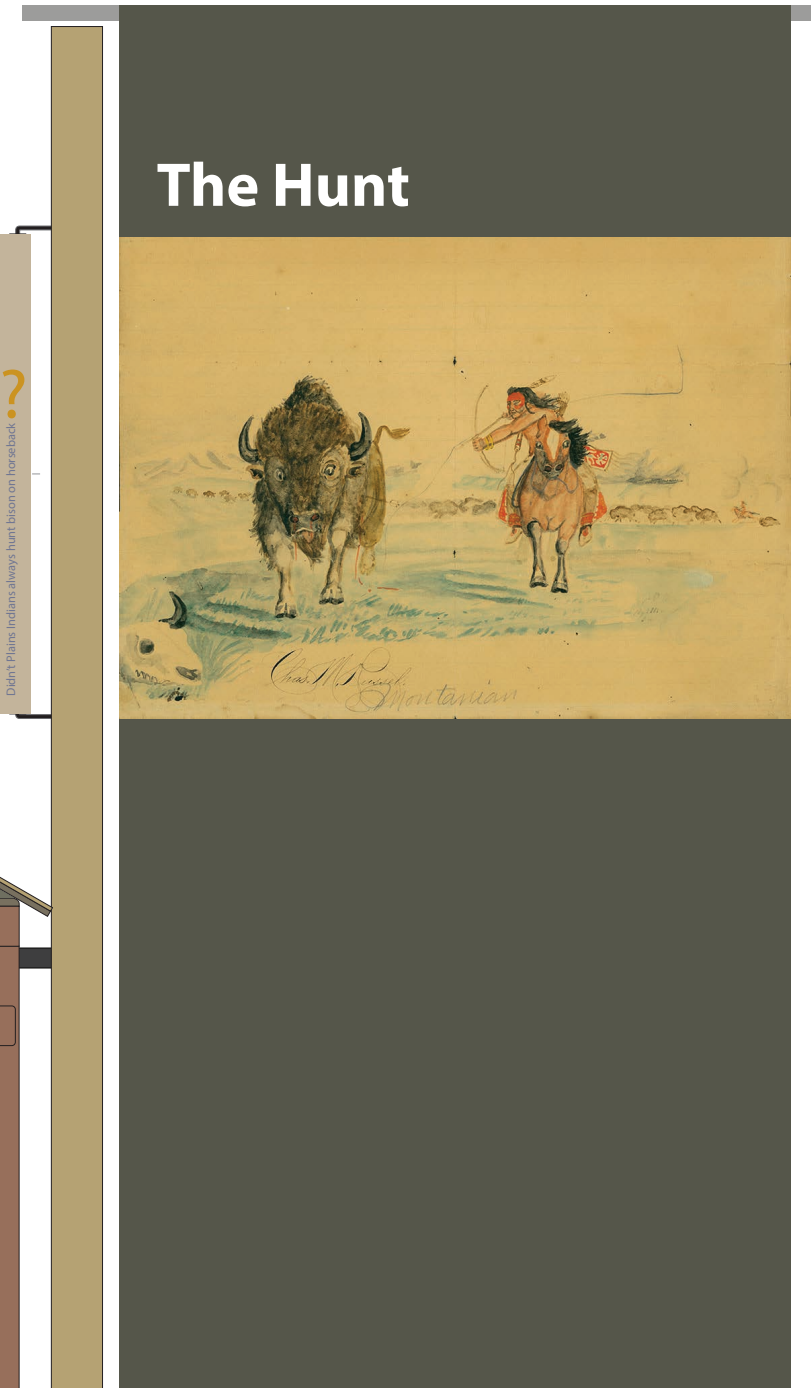
**B**



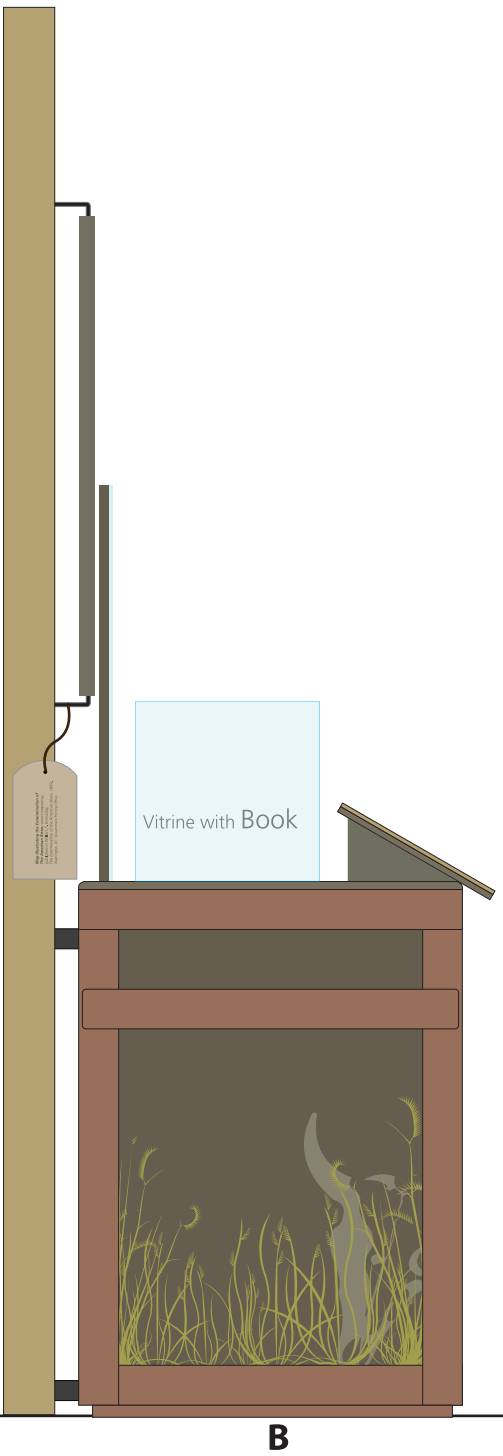
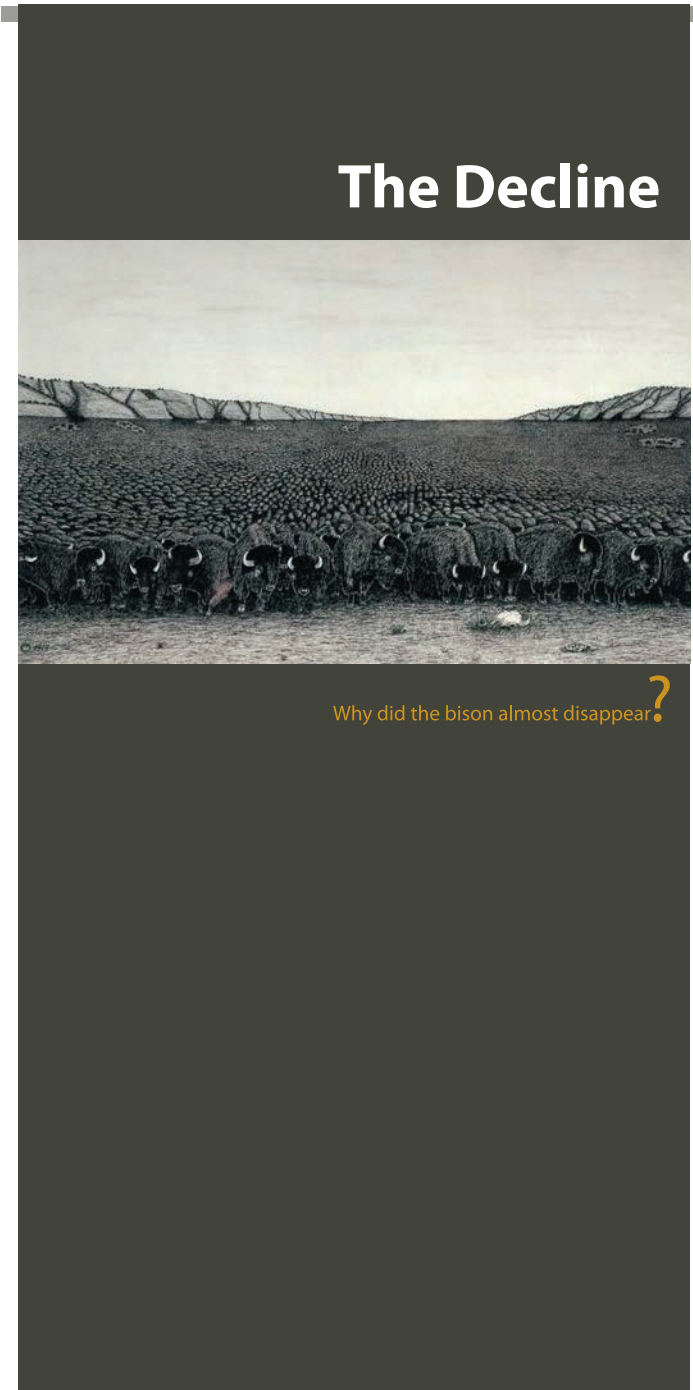
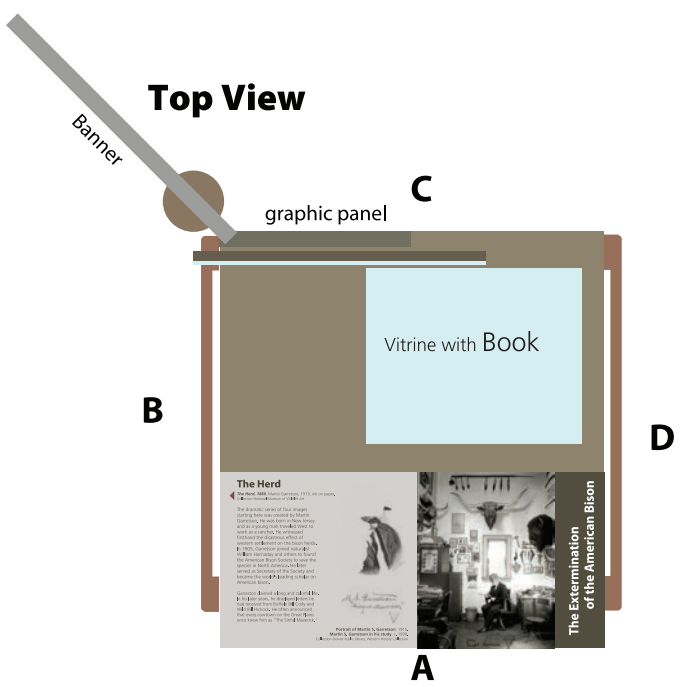
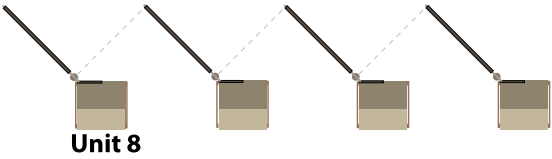
**A**



D



**C**







## A black and white illustration of a steam locomotive pulling a train through a vast, flat landscape. The locomotive is emitting a large, dark, billowing cloud of smoke or steam. In the foreground, a large herd of bison or buffalo is gathered, some standing and some lying down. Two men are standing near the tracks, and a utility pole is visible in the background.

## Over-hunting was not the only culprit in the bison's decline . . .

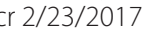


It takes a lot of **water** to keep thirty million bison satisfied. Severe drought beginning in the 1840s dried up small creeks for years. As water dwindled and competition increased, bison herds roamed up to one hundred miles to reach flowing rivers. Animals that were not healthy or able to reach water perished.

### A Hold Up

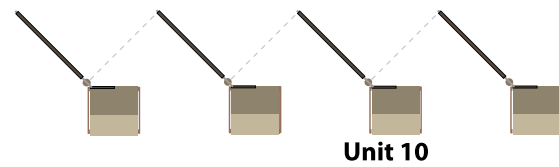


**A**



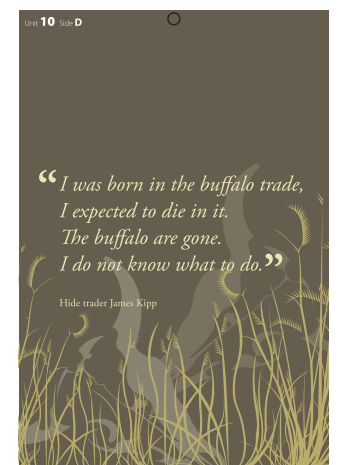
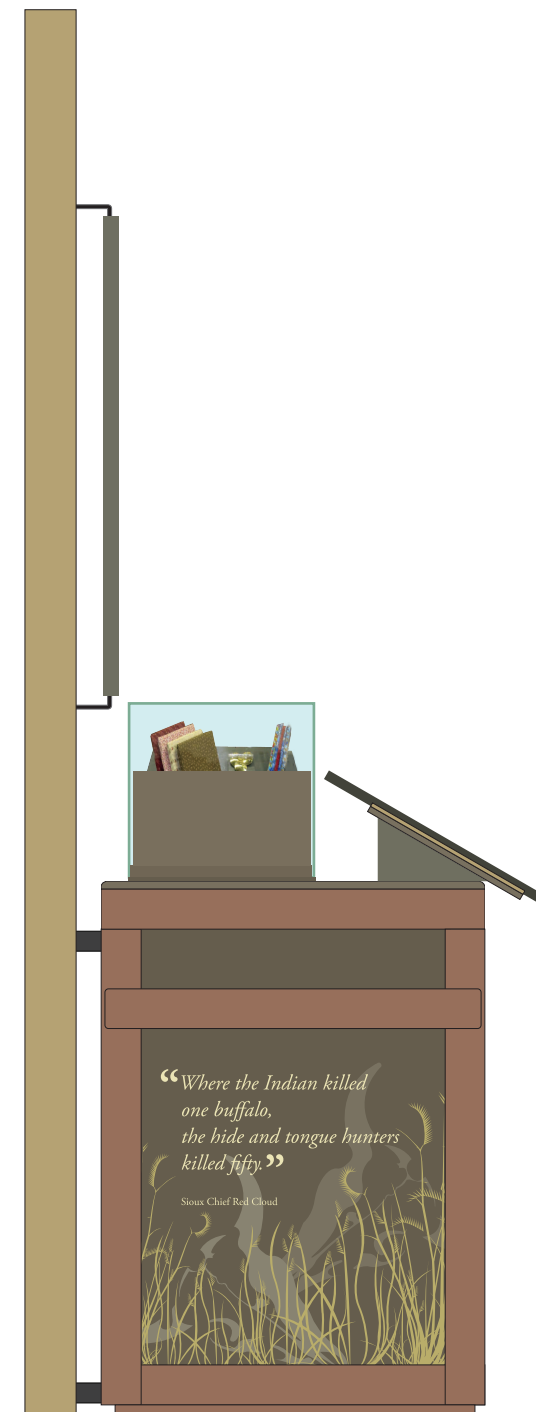
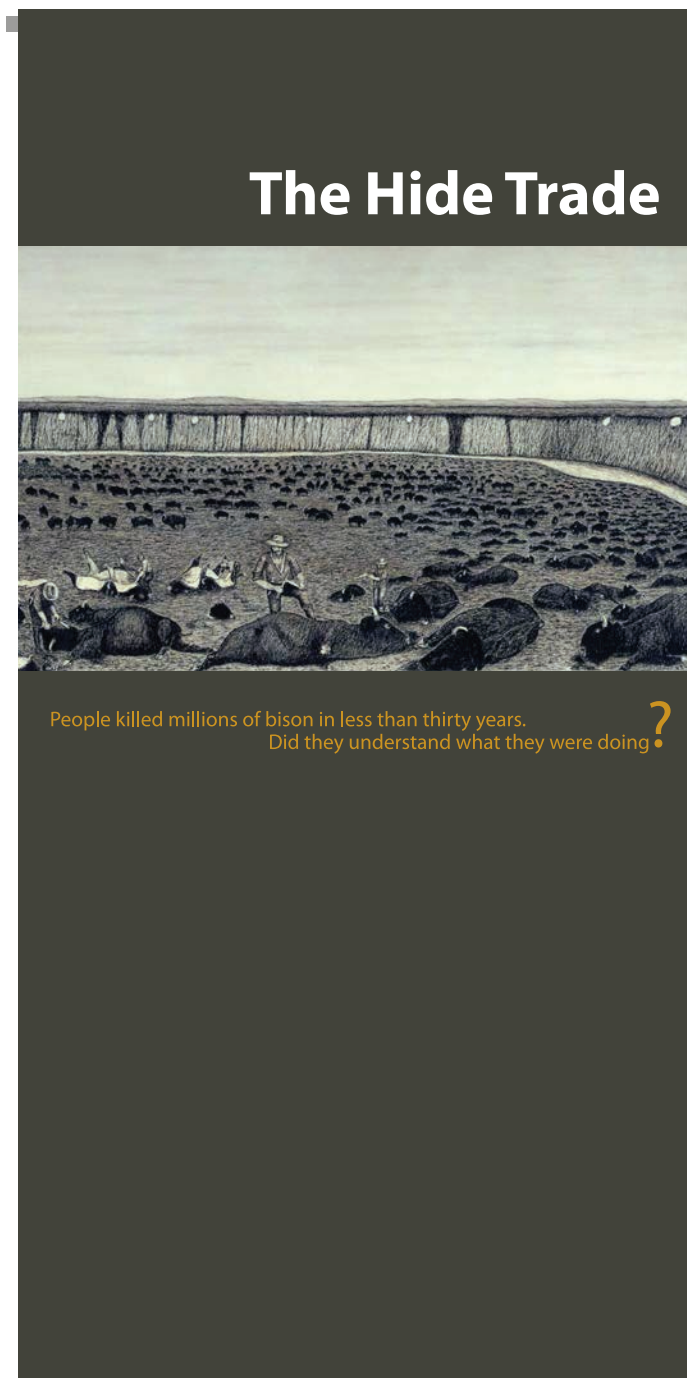
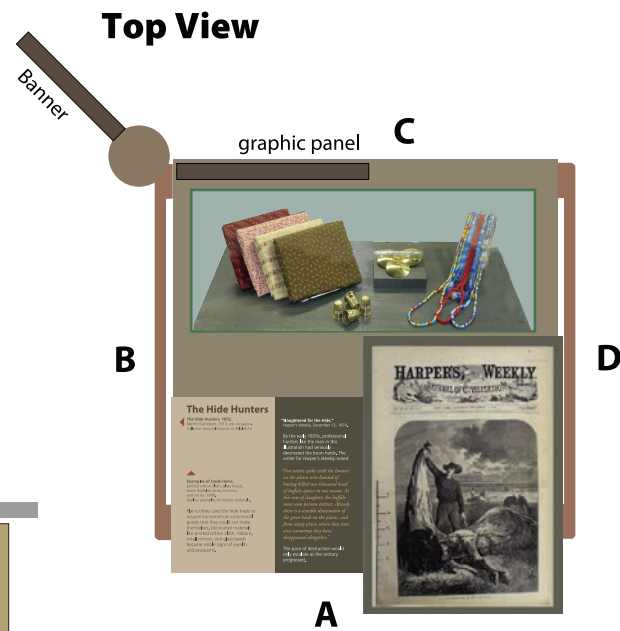
**B**



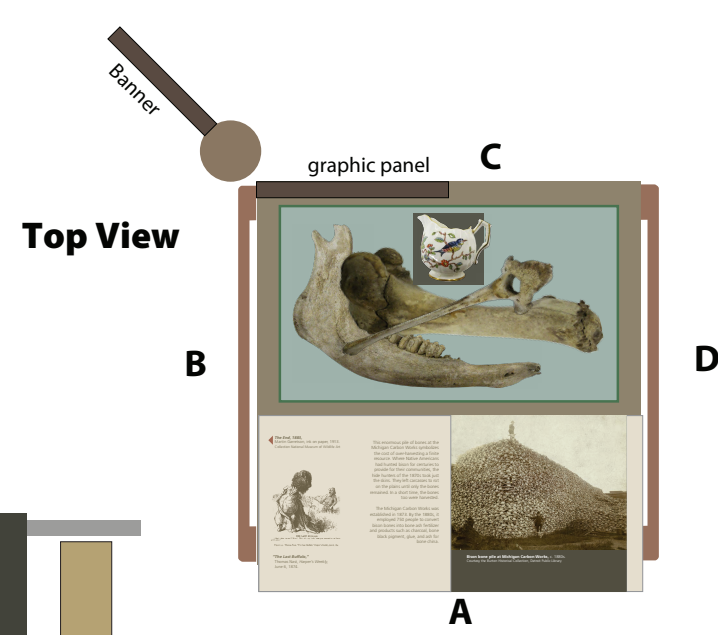
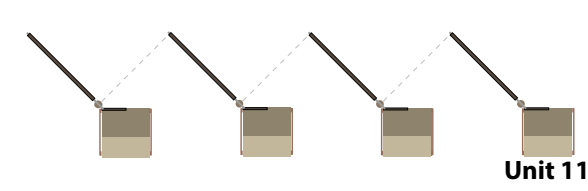
Bison Exhibit: **Unit 10 - The Hide Trade**

cr 2/24/2017

**Scale :1" = 1'**







Bison Exhibit: **Unit 11- from Resouce to Commodity**  
cr 2/23/2017  
Scale :1" = 1'

Banner to be used in proximity to Unit 11,  
on wall or hung from ceiling

# From Resource to Commodity

What changed after the 1860s ?

**From Resource to Commodity**

Around 1870 European manufacturers discovered a new chemical tanning process: a transformed bison hide into leather, industrial strength leather that was perfect for machinery belting.

Almost overnight the robe trade gave way to a commercial hide market. Growing sectors of America's industrial East and Europe clamored for bison hide belting. The creature that was central to Plains Indian culture for generations now played a role in the Industrial Revolution of North America and Europe.

Bison grew increasingly popular. American and foreign companies used almost every part of the animal—hides, bones, hair, horns, even the tongue—to make a wide variety of consumer goods. Eventually, bison could not reproduce fast enough to satisfy these demands, and the remaining herds were annihilated.



*“When I went into business [as a bison hunter], I sat down and figured that I was indeed one of fortune’s children... Just think! There were 20 million bison... I could kill 100 a day... that would be \$6000 a month – or three times what was paid to the President of the United States...”*

Bison hunter, Frank Mayer, 1958

*“Notice to Farmers: I will pay cash for buffalo bones. Bring them in by the ton or hundred. I will give fifty pounds of the best twine for one ton of bones, for this month only, or a \$40 sewing machine for forty tons. I want 5000 tons this month.”*

Griffith News and Times, 23 July 1885

Unit 11 Side C

Unit 11 Side D

## Bison as commodity

America's industries found uses for many parts of the bison.

**commodity** (noun)

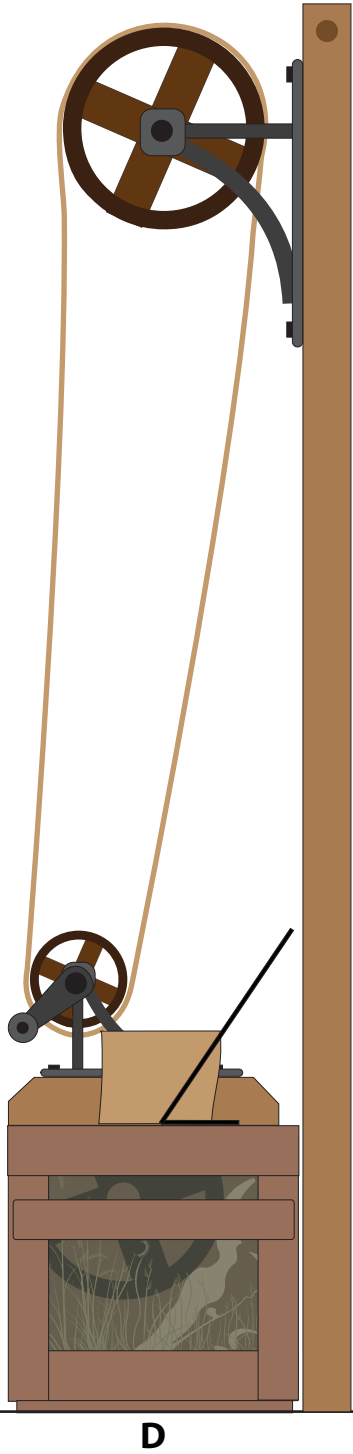
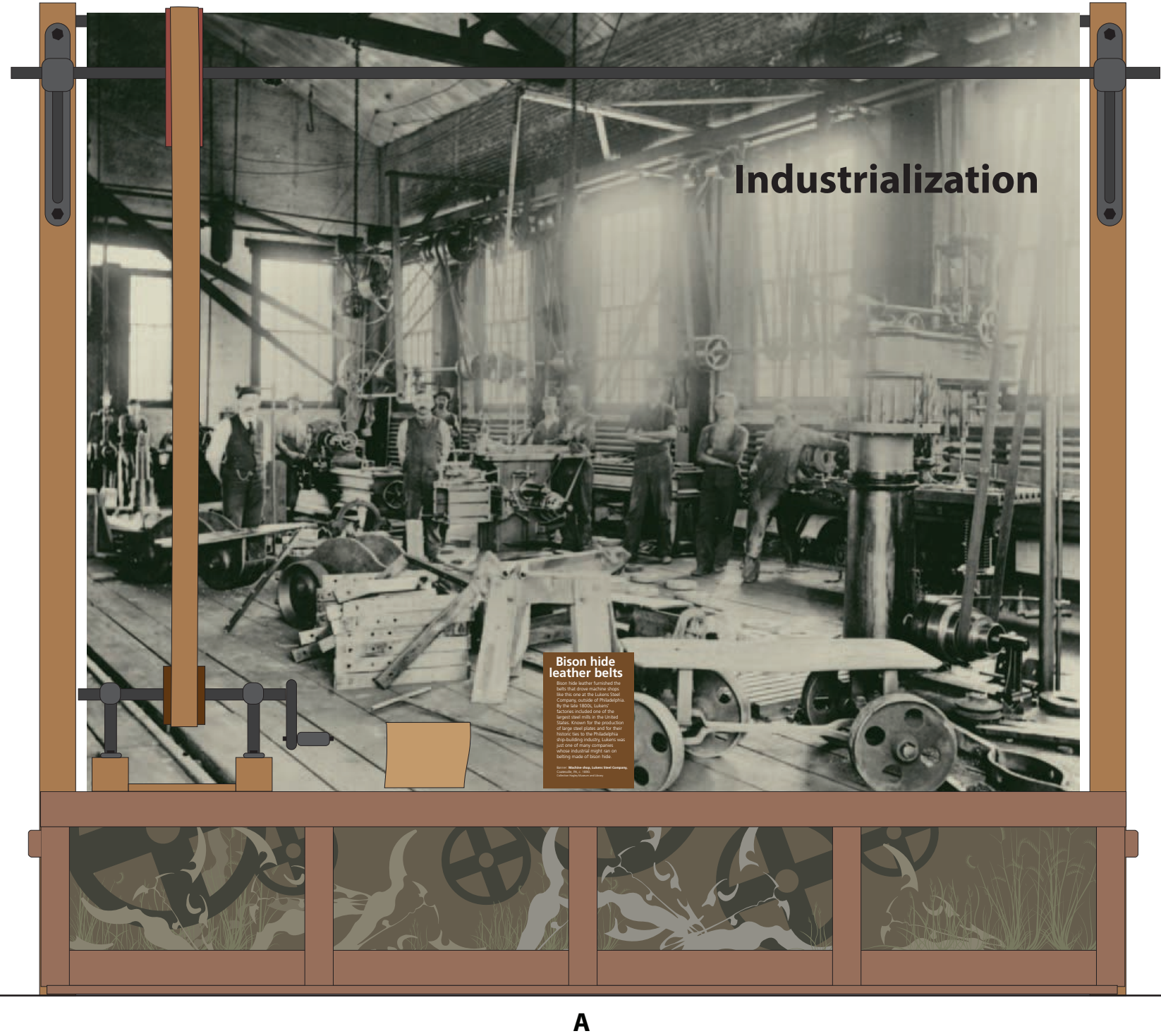
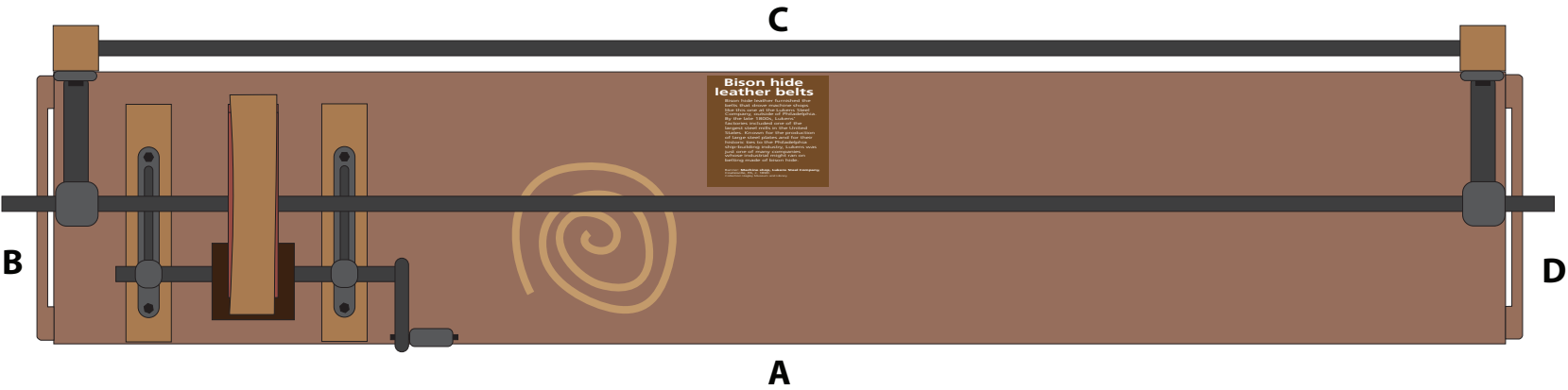
- a raw material or primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold, with no regard for value
- a useful or valuable thing, such as money or labor

**resource** (noun)

- a supply of things, materials, and other assets that can be used by a person or organization in order to function effectively
- (especially) a country's productive means of generating wealth, represented by the reserves of minerals, land, and other assets

- **Hides**  
shoes, blankets, overcoats, cushions, furniture, and wall coverings
- **Bison tongues**  
delicacies
- **Coarse bison hair and beards**  
carpeting material
- **Bones, hooves, and horns**  
ground and used as carbon for refining sugar, for fertilizer, and in other primary
- **Bison horns**  
for pens, combs, tooth handles, and buttons

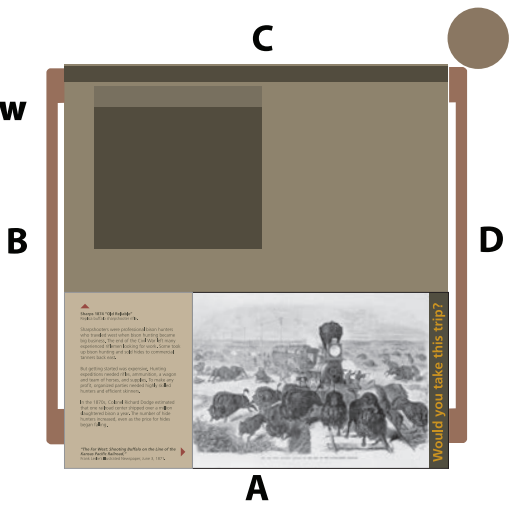
Top View





Scale :1" = 1'

Top View



**B**

Though hundreds of thousands of skins were sent to market, they scarcely indicated the slaughter.

**A**

From want of skill in shooting and want of knowledge of preserving the hides of those slain, one hide sent to market represented three, four, even five dead buffalo.

**D**

Then buffalo melted away like snow before a summer's sun. Congress talked of interfering, but only talked. Winter and summer, in season and out of season, the slaughter went on.

Colonel Richard Dodge, 1883

**C**

Scale :1" = 1'

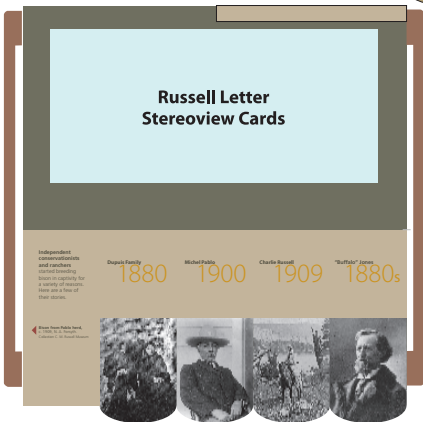




Top View

C

B



D

A

Bison Exhibit: **Unit 15 - Back from the Brink**

cr 2/24/2017

Scale :1" = 1'

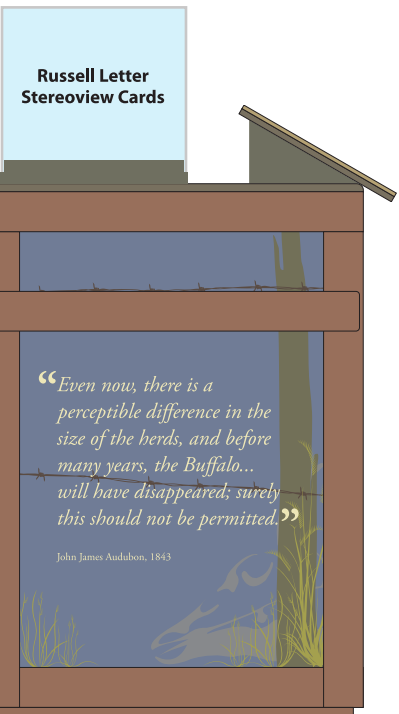
Unit 17



Unit 16



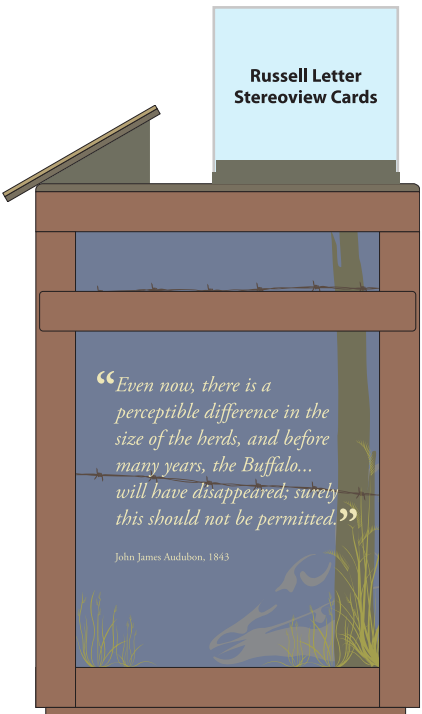
Unit 15



B



A



D

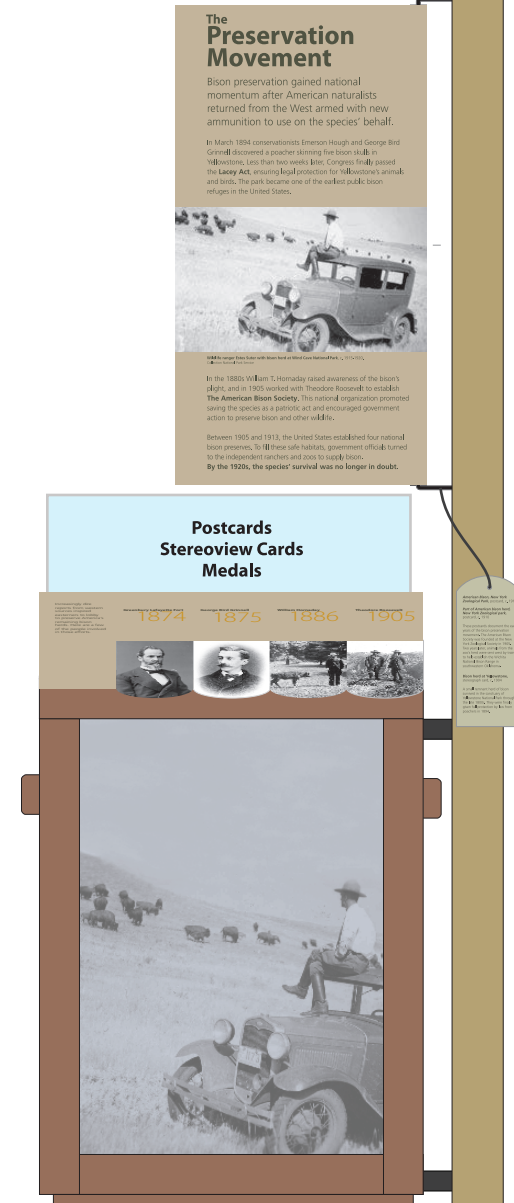
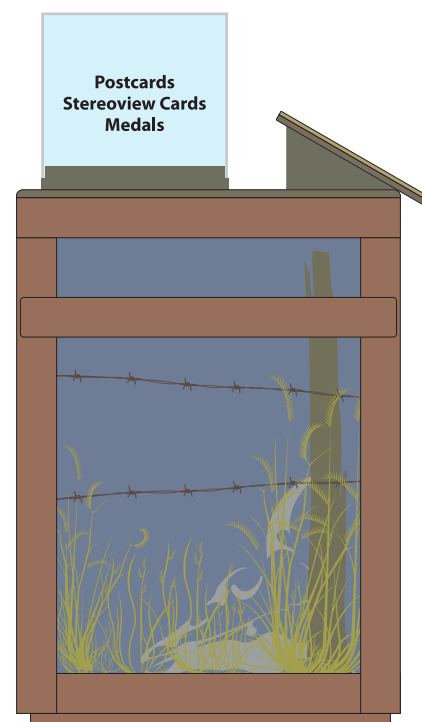
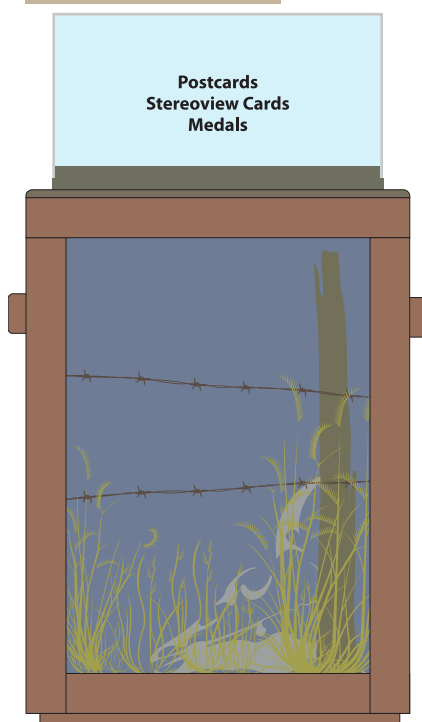
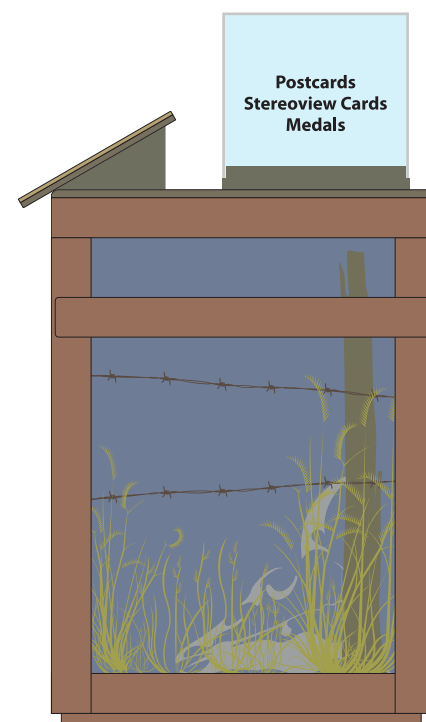
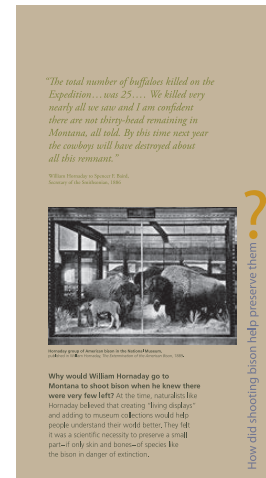
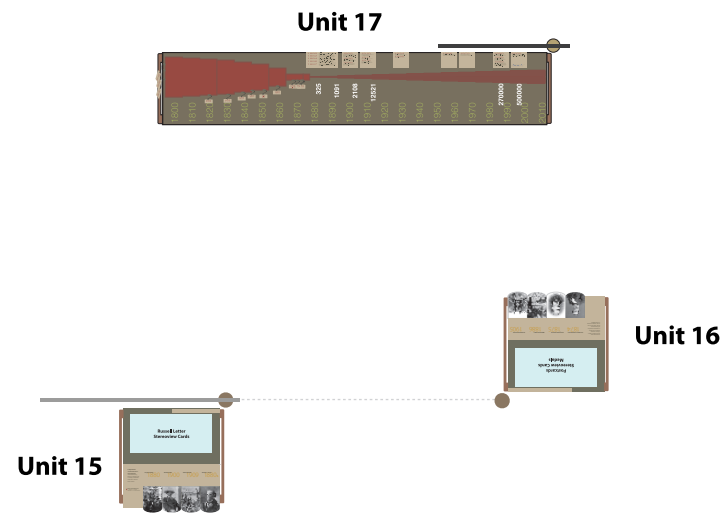
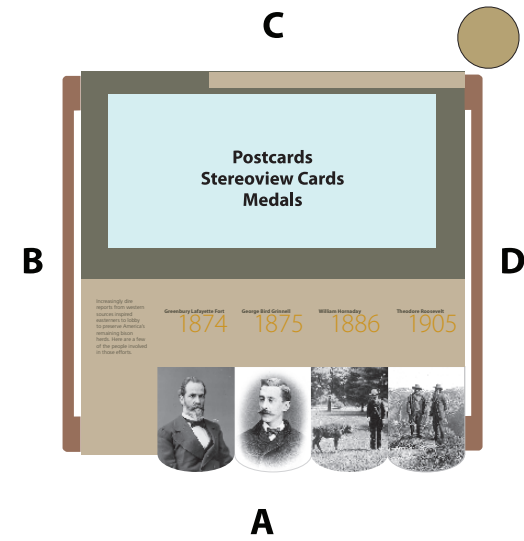


C

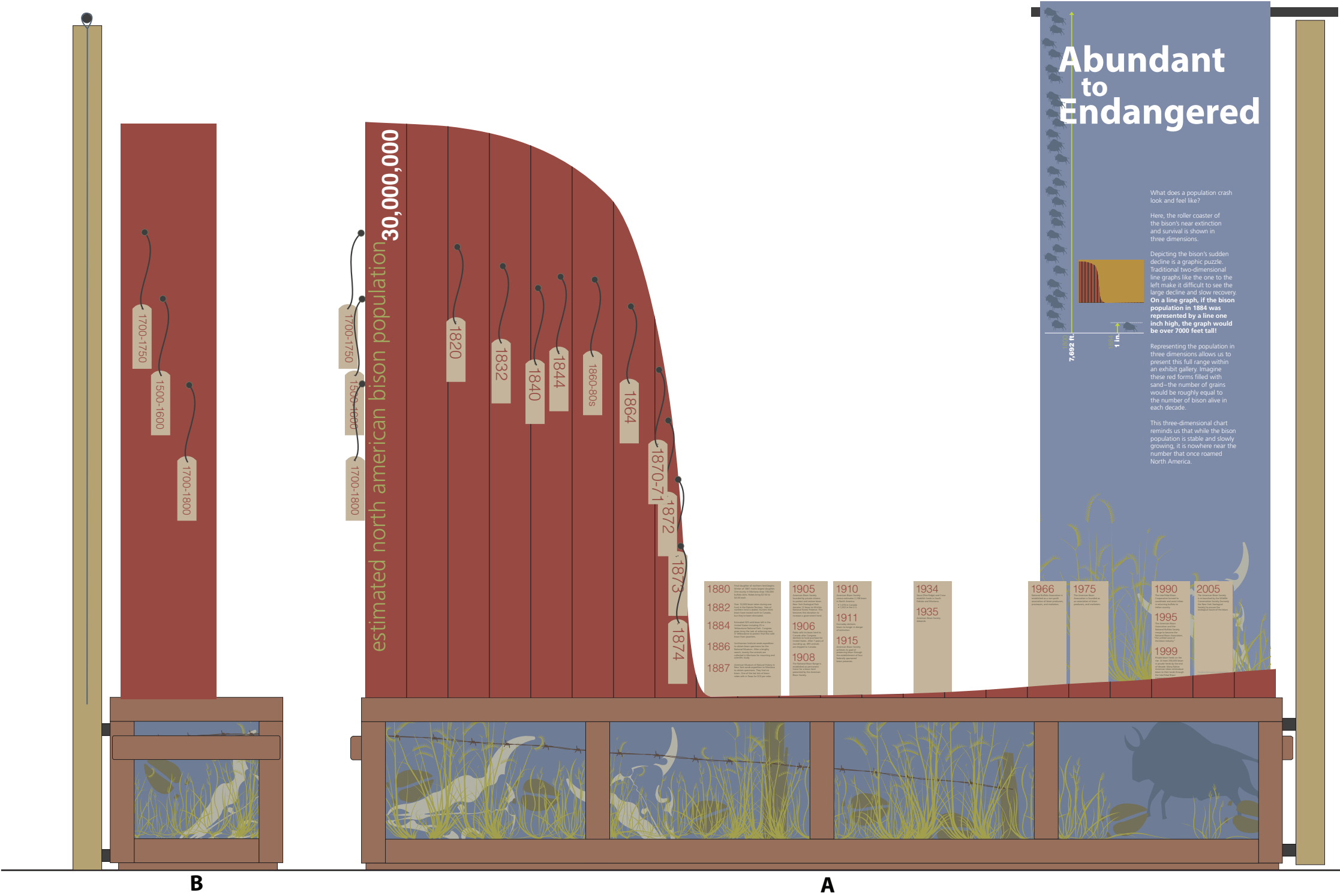
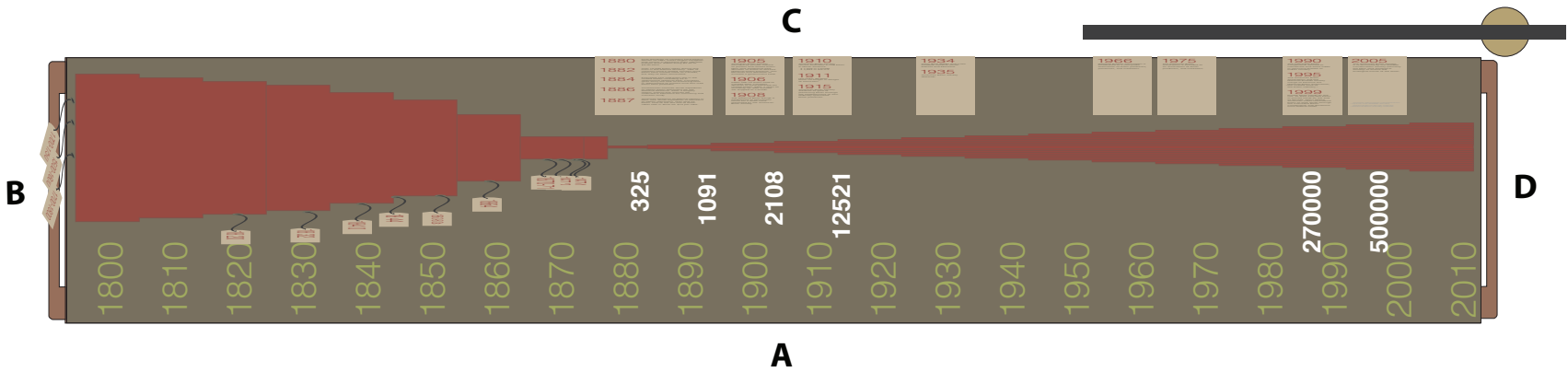
Bison Exhibit: **Unit 16 - The Preservation Movement**

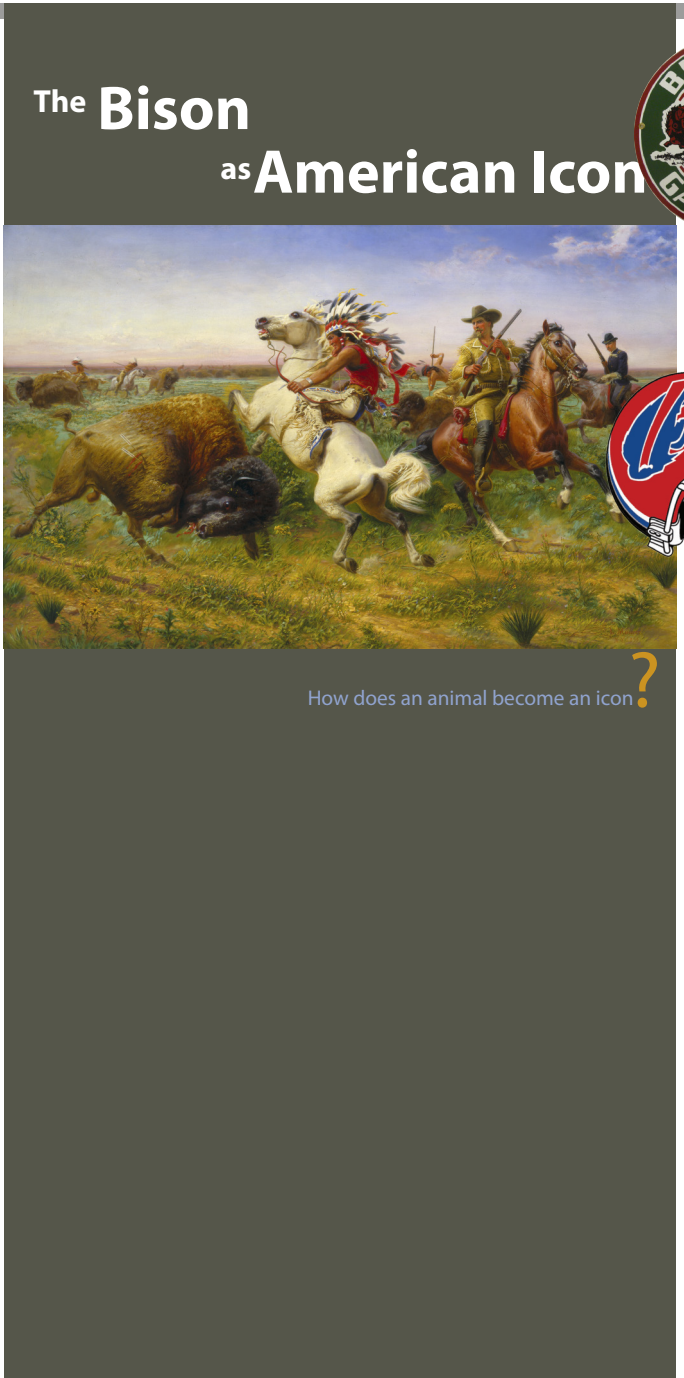
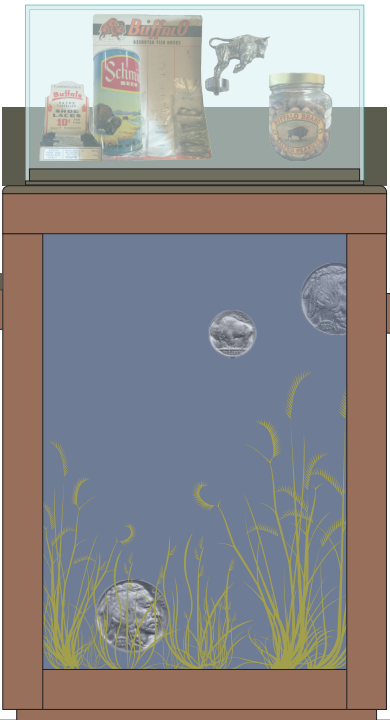
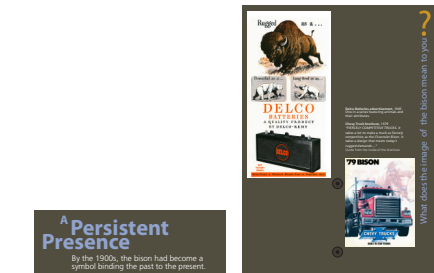
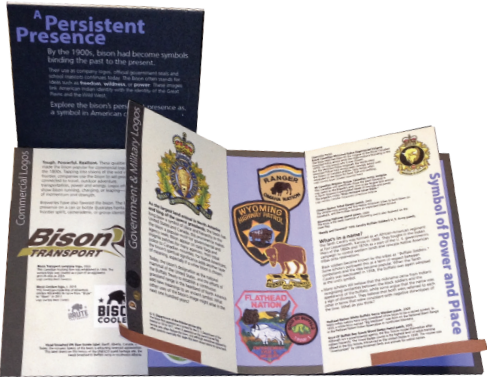
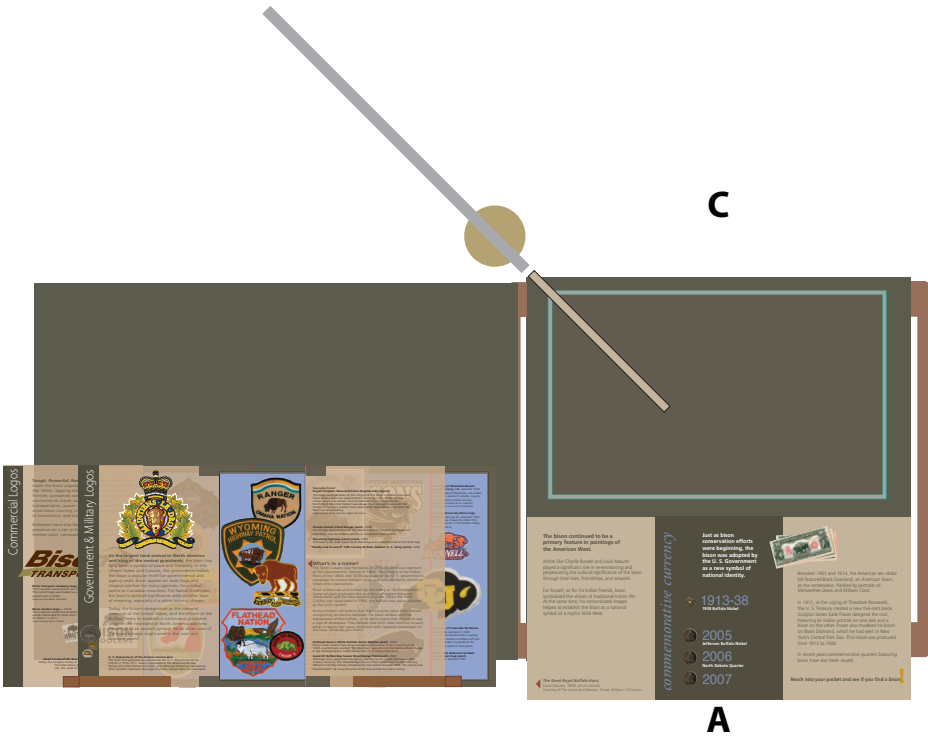
cr 2/24/2017

**Scale :1" = 1'**







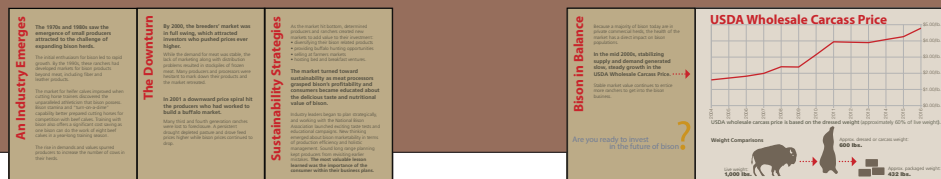


Case full of artifacts:  
-Plate, Beer Cans, Crate Label  
- Kaiser hood ornament, etc...

13d x 21w 11.25h



Other content to be added on bench later:



## Herds Today

An estimated 400,000 bison now live in North America, with herds in all fifty of the United States, all of the Canadian provinces and Mexico.

Plains bison are no longer on the endangered species list, but they still face many threats including disease, shrinking habitat, and market volatility.

The rescue of this species from extinction is a remarkable success story that is still being written. The bison's multiple and sometimes contradictory meanings are apparent today in various efforts to restore and maintain populations in **commercial, public, and tribal herds.**

### Commercial Herds

Most ranchers today employ practices ranging from holistic conservation to more mainstream livestock production. While methods differ, all share a passion for the bison.

For over a hundred years, public herds have been associated with preserving the species and so are often referred to as "conservation" herds. Public herds graze on government-owned land such as national parks.

Tribal groups today maintain both conservation and commercial herds that reintroduce the bison as a sustaining part of their cultural beliefs and way of life.



### Panel 2- Side **a** and **b**

**How many bison are there today?**  
How do we know?

Although the North American bison population is often quoted as 500,000, figuring an accurate number is a complex undertaking.

Commercial, public and tribal herds are documented in different ways and the data sometimes overlap. The Population graph is based on information from the

These calculations show the current North American bison population to be close to **400,000** in 2016.

## What's a bison worth?

Live bison auctions across the U. S. and Canada give a good indication of market value.

The **Market Value** graph is based on three of the larger U. S. auctions: Custer State Park in South Dakota, Kansas Buffalo Association, and North Dakota Buffalo Association.



Kansas Rodeo Association Arena, July 11, 2011





**Tribal Herds: Still Sacred**

For First Nations and Native American people, especially those who live across the central grasslands and northern plains, the return of the bison represents more than the survival of a species. Bison remain at the core of their spiritual beliefs and identity.

The rescue of the species from extinction is a remarkable success story that impacted diverse peoples and places. But the story is not over. For native peoples, the resurgence of the bison on tribal lands presents opportunities to connect old meanings and traditions that were nearly lost with new ways of bringing modern generations closer to the animals that played an integral role in their culture. Many tribal members view bison as relatives with sacred and reciprocal relationships to humans. They honor their herds with prayer and ceremony.

For these groups, the bison's survival preserves a sacred connection between humans and the environment. Tribal herds offer a chance at spiritual and cultural healing. In both Canada and the United States, native people continue seeking ways to strengthen that connection in the modern world.

Back side of panel

**The Bison in Contemporary Indian Art**

From the reservation period onward, Plains Indians reimagined their lives without access to bison while preserving their culture and cultural artifacts. Northern Plains women responded by decorating formal clothing and accessories with increasingly elaborate beadwork in distinctive styles and designs. Other artists began exploring new aesthetic expressions made out of traditional materials.

Today, the bison continues to capture the imaginations of Indian and Euroamerican artists alike.

Contemporary works show that a powerful relationship between this animal and humans still exists. For Native American artists like Dayne Wilson, the bison provides new ways to reimagine traditional art forms and explore the animal's ongoing symbolism.

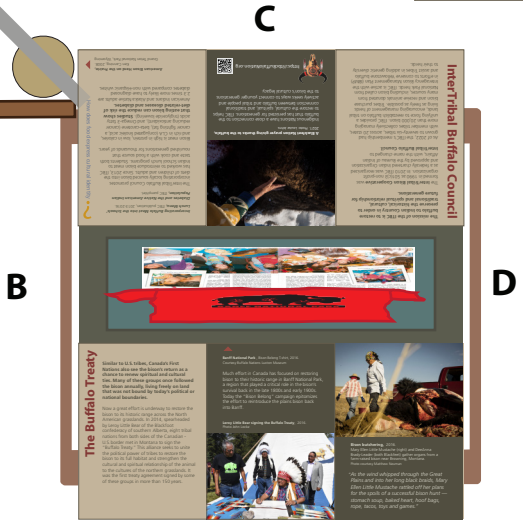


*“Native people and the buffalo have a shared history. First, flourishing in great numbers, then, declining to near extinction, and eventually being regarded as novelties. Now, we are both growing in numbers and we share a role as America's spiritual touchstones.”*

James Parker Shildt, Little Shell Chippewa



A

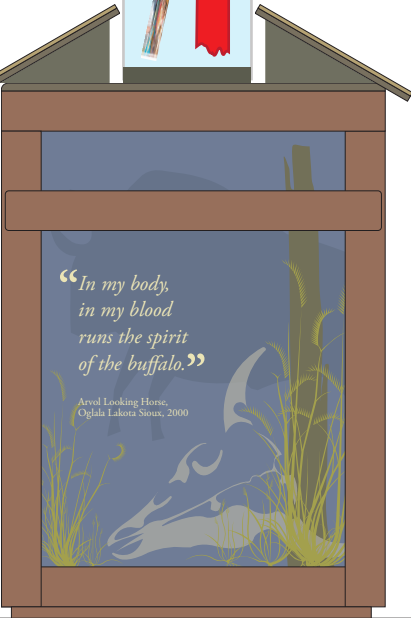
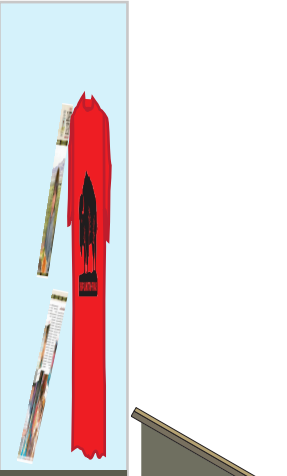


B

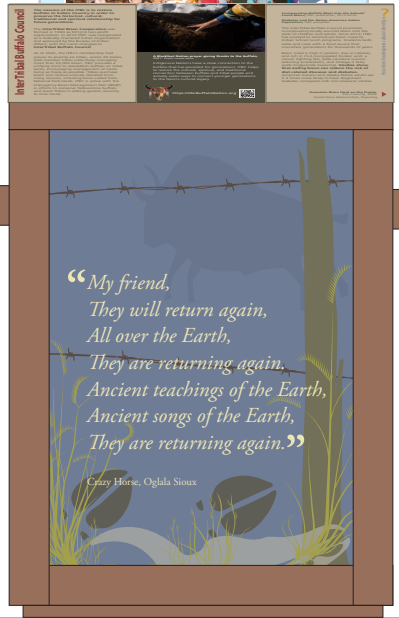
A



D



B



C



C



Base Panels B and C

Unit 21 Base B

*“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”*

Aldo Leopold

Unit 21 Base C

*“What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to the man.”*

Chief Seattle

Bison Exhibit: **Unit 21 - Conservation/Public Herds**  
cr 2/24/2017

Scale :1" = 1'

# A Shared Resource

**Bison standing at the Yellowstone Gate, November 2005.**  
The bison herd stands at Yellowstone National Park's new largest free-ranging herd in America today.

What can we learn from the bison's near extinction?

## A Shared Resource

This is a story about the interactions of human beings with natural resources, about an ancient awareness of the need for sustainability now taking hold at the global level.

Bison were a shared resource. For a long time, governments in Canada and the United States allowed everyone to actively harvest that bison resource until it was almost gone. The bison's tragic demise and near extinction brought a sobering realization that Nature has its limits.

For the 21st Century

Setting standards for American Bison Society to combat the loss of bison genetics.

In 2005, the Wildlife Conservation Society established the American Bison Society to combat the loss of bison genetics.

Today, American bison Society promotes bison conservation, education, and research, and works to ensure that bison are managed in a way that is sustainable for the future.

Counting Bison

Since 1980, the North American Bison Registry (NABR) has recorded genetic information about bison. Tracking bison DNA is critical to understanding the genetic diversity of the bison and to ensuring that bison are managed in a way that is sustainable for the future.

Counting bison is critical to understanding the genetic diversity of the bison and to ensuring that bison are managed in a way that is sustainable for the future.

A few shortgrass prairie grasses

*“Only when the last tree has withered, the last fish has been caught, and the last river has been poisoned, will you realize you cannot eat money.”*

Cree Proverb

Bovine Family Tree graphic on table with toy animals



## Conservation, Collaboration, & Controversy

For over a hundred years, people passionate about the bison have been working to preserve and nurture this majestic animal.

Commercial producers, public agencies, tribal communities, conservationists, scientists and you, the public, all play a part in maintaining bison as a species critical to our North American grassland ecosystem and to the cultures of the region's original peoples.

From this commitment to bison preservation come different approaches to restoration and difficult questions:

- Are more bison better?
- Why are some bison called "wild" when all bison have human-made limits to their range?
- What role does the genetic diversity of a herd play in preserving the species?
- What is the acceptable role of technology in preserving the species?
- Should land resources be allocated to bison growth and how should herds be managed?

Despite a significant range of responses, all share a deep commitment to preserving the bison. Progress in our lifetime will require:

- Broad public awareness of the value of the bison.
- Significant investment by both public and private sectors.
- Creative, flexible approaches that generate enduring partnerships.

# A Shared Future



How can we carry the lessons of the bison's story into our lives?

Scale :1" = 1'

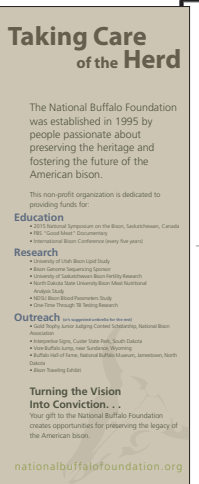
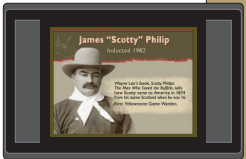


Map of exhibit venues with link to website  
schedule and booking info

Use spare table for additional material

Ideas for “down the road”:

- Touchscreen monitor :
  - Interviews with researchers and ranchers, etc...
  - BNF Hall of Fame
- Display case featuring items used in research- tracking collar, etc....



B

A

C

D



cr 2/24/2017

This unit could be displayed in museum store or in exhibit  
- number of for-sale items reduced when placed in exhibit



Table:

- used for merchandise
- if not in store, or not enough to sell use for other promo/educational materials
- put away if not enough space
- possibility of adding a second table to display more