
U.S. Department of Energy
Grand Junction, Colorado Office
Past, Present, and Future:
From the Manhattan Project to
the Atomic Legacy Learning Center

Engaging the Public through Interpretation at Legacy Sites
Waste Management Conference

April V. Gil, PhD, Manager, Grand Junction Office

Jalena Dayvault, Project Manager

Padraic Benson, Historian

Sam Marutzky, Navarro Research and Engineering

March 8, 2017



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

Manhattan Project

Manhattan Engineering District

US Army Corps of Engineers

Grand Junction Office (GJO)

Established March 1943



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

Manhattan Project: 1943 - 1946

- Processed waste (tailings) from old vanadium mines to extract uranium



Durango, Colorado, Mill



GJO activities played a role in ending World War II



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

Manhattan Engineering District

1943 - 1946

U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)

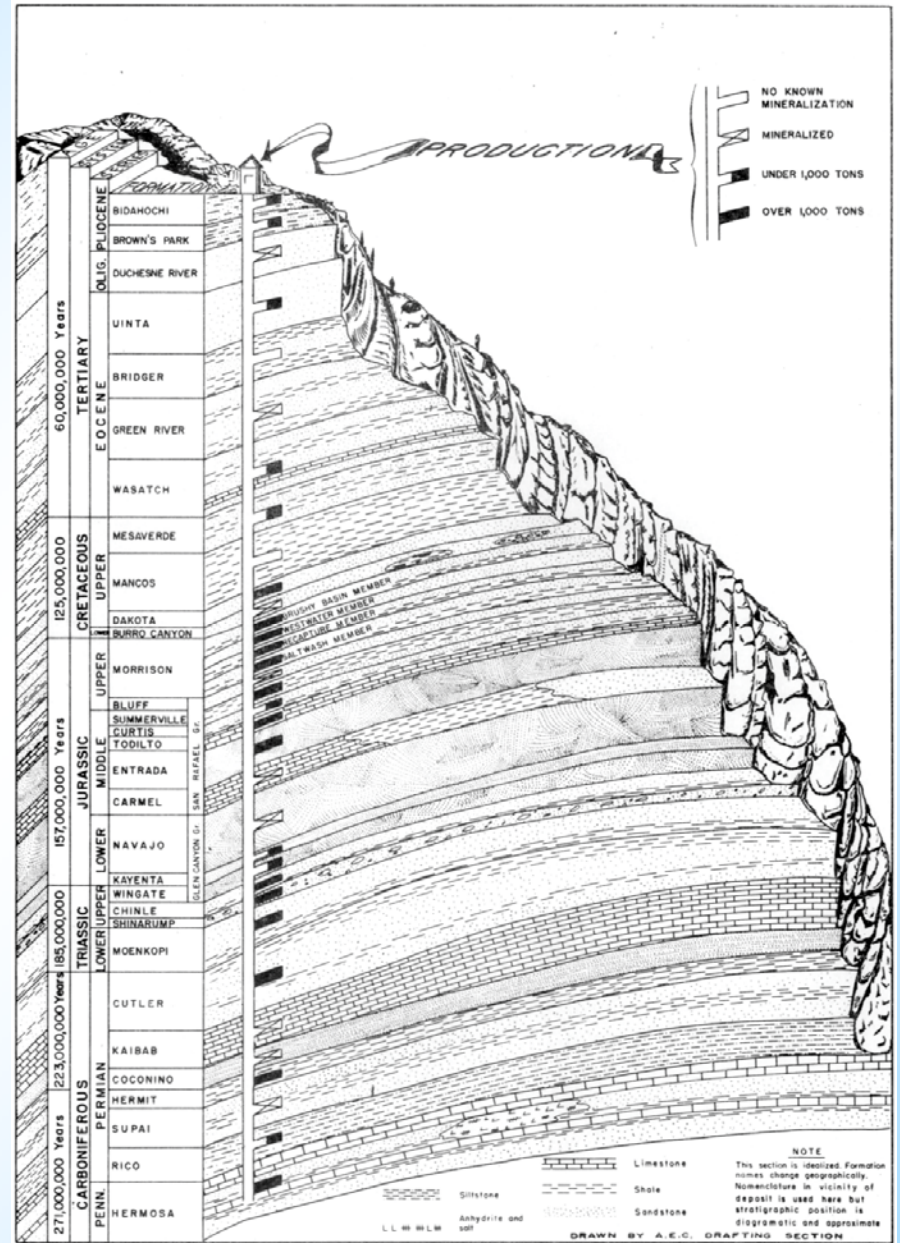
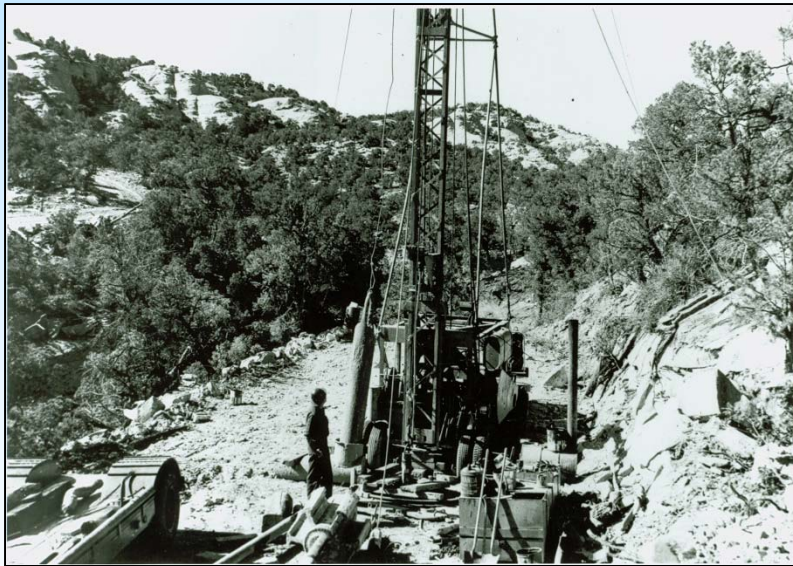
1947 - 1970



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

“Uranium Boom” or the “Atom Rush”: 1947 - 1962



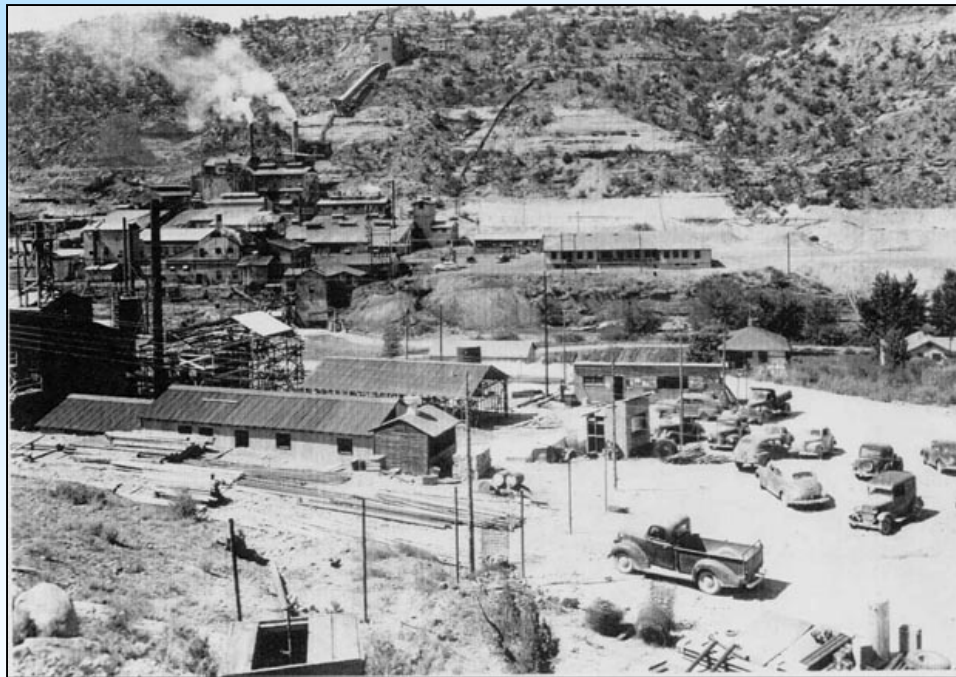
AEC-Supported Uranium Exploration: Uranium Purchase Program



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

Milling and Refining Uranium by Private Industry – ca. 1946



Naturita, Colorado, mill



Processing yellowcake



Atoms for Peace, or “Plowshare” Program 1958 – 1975

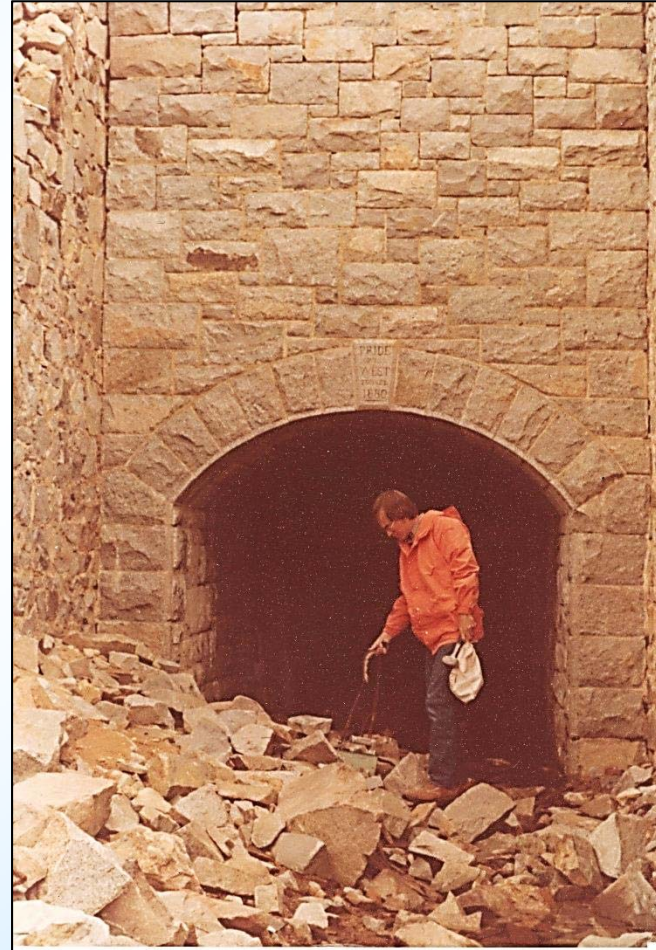
Rulison, CO
ca. 1970



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

National Uranium Resource Evaluation (NURE) 1973 - 1984



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

Grand Junction Site: 1990

During cleanup



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

Grand Junction Site: Present



After cleanup



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management



HISTORY *Colorado*

This is to certify that the

*Department of Energy
Grand Junction Office*

has been listed in the

National Register of Historic Places

by the

United States Department of the Interior

on

July 26, 2016

Holly Kathryn Norton

Holly K. Norton, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

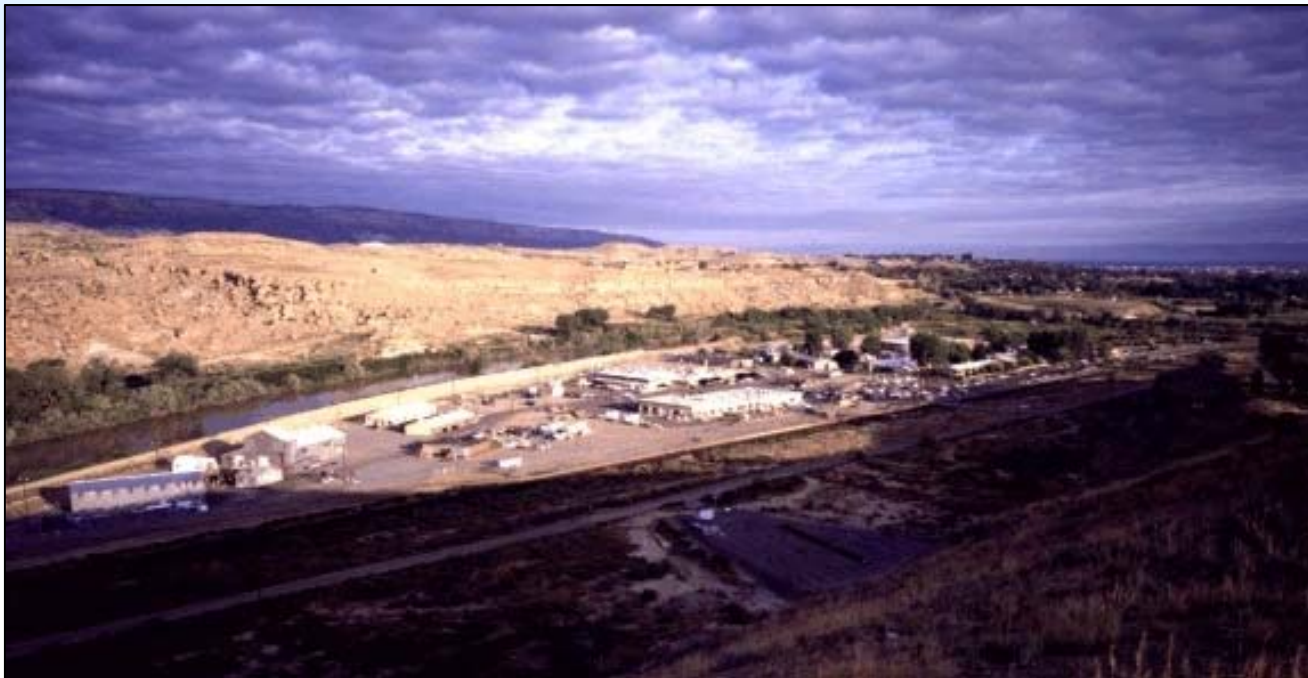


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

The Future

- Protect public health and the environment
- Preserve societal knowledge of the past
- Educate and encourage students to pursue science and engineering careers

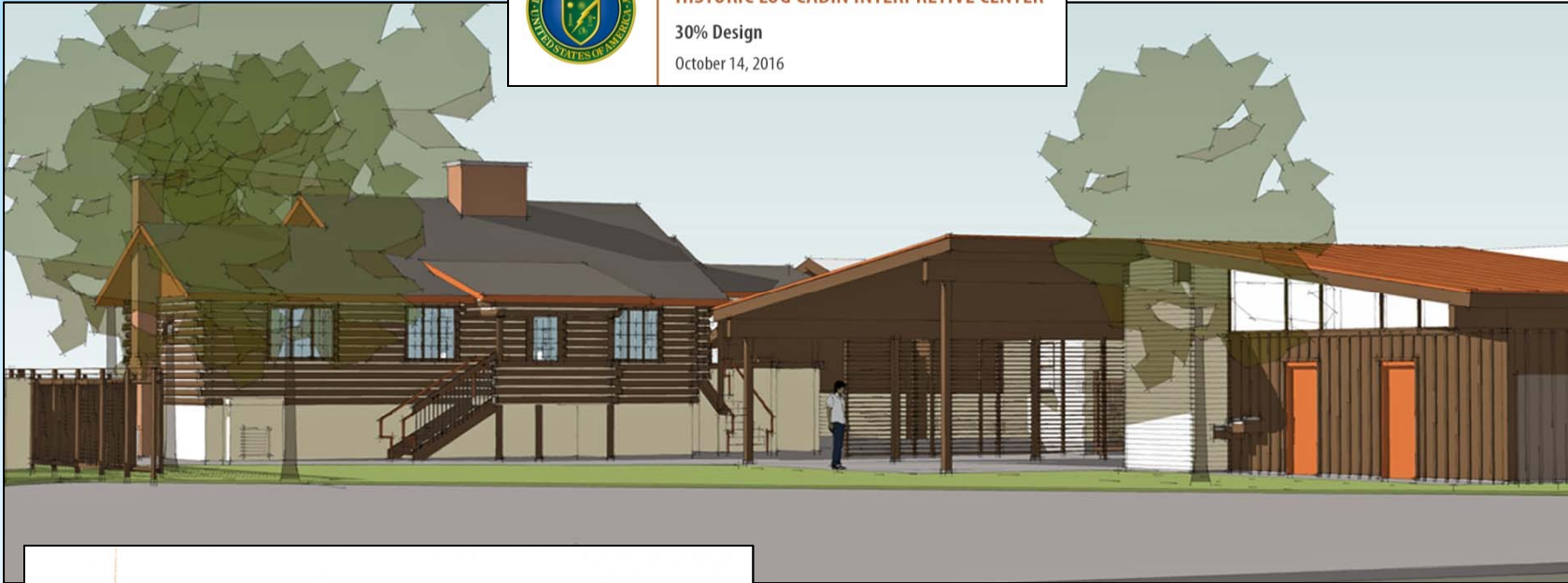


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management



U. S. Department of Energy
**GRAND JUNCTION
HISTORIC LOG CABIN INTERPRETIVE CENTER**
30% Design
October 14, 2016

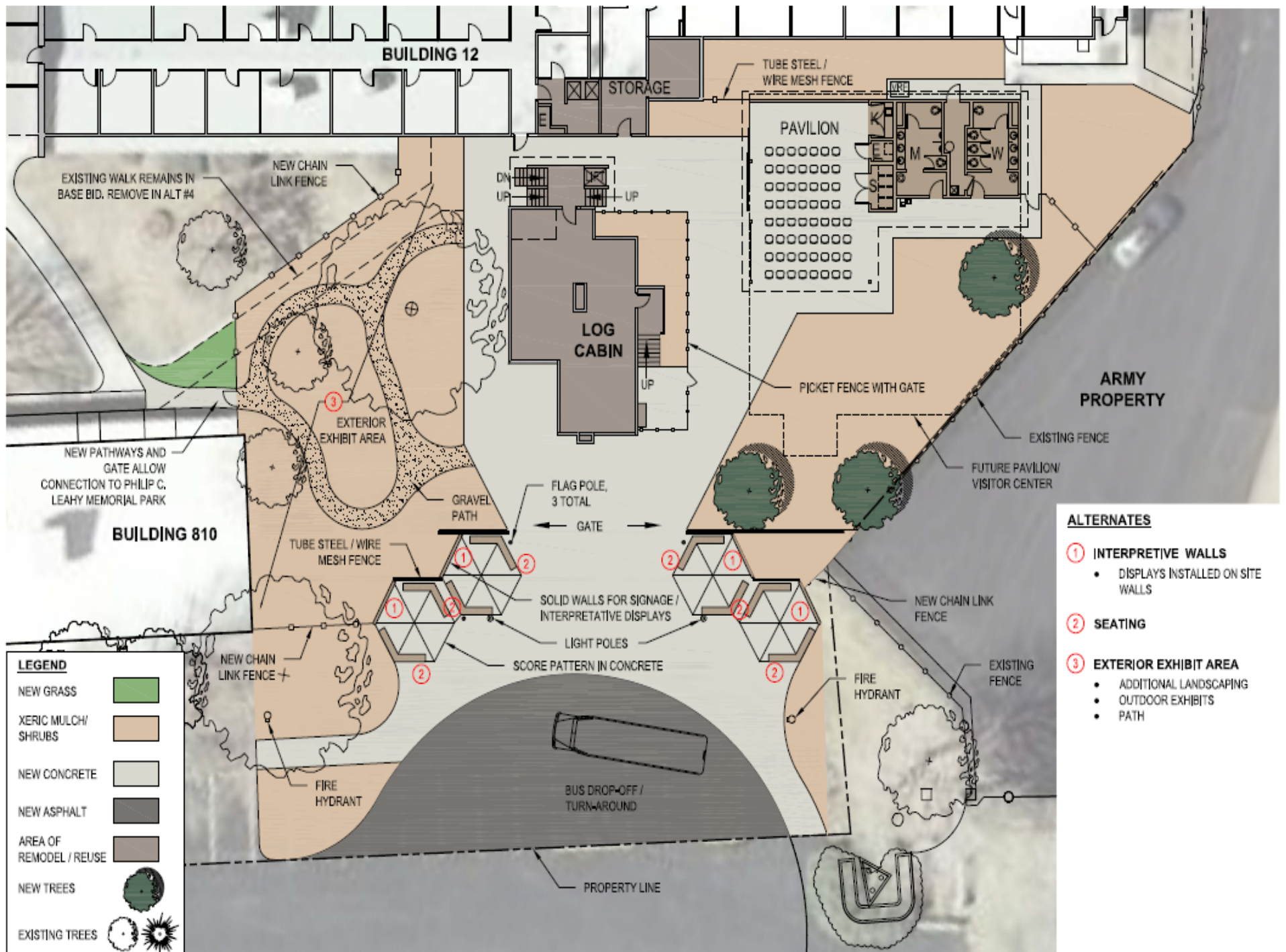


- Community is very supportive
 - Museum of Western Colorado
 - Partnering with local colleges
 - Educational opportunities
 - Local organizations
 - Historic preservation professionals
 - Current and former workers



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management



Grand Junction Atomic Legacy Learning Center Planned Opening: Summer, 2018 to Celebrate 75 years of Continuous Operations



INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN HISTORIC LOG CABIN – DRAFT

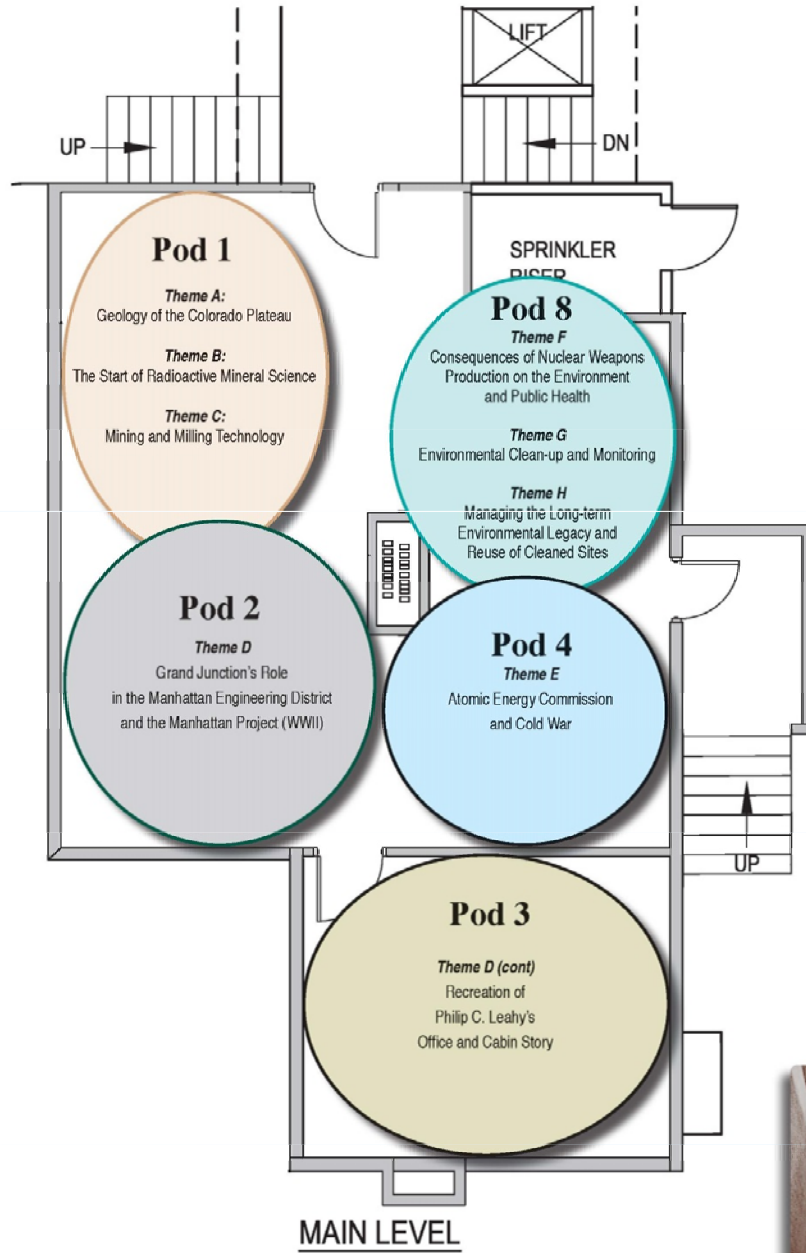
U.S. Department of Energy – Grand Junction
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503

JANUARY 2017



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

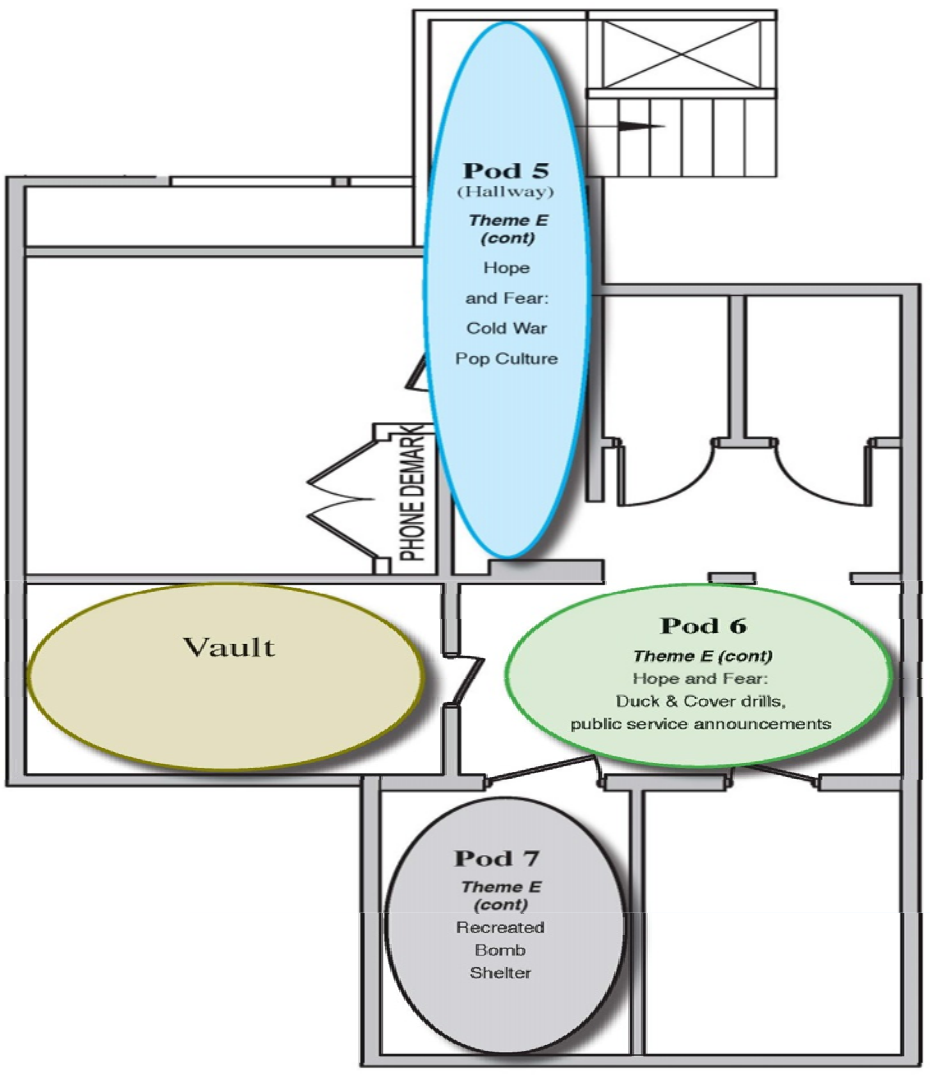
Legacy
Management



VII. Exhibit Concept Bubble Diagram - Main Level



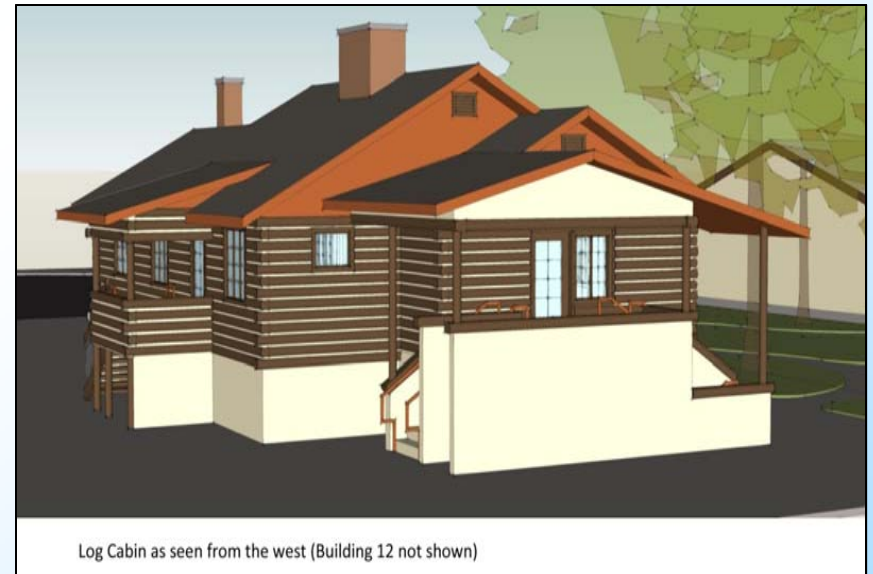
IV. Exhibit Concept Bubble Diagram - Basement Level



Grand Junction Office: 75 Years of Service



1943



2018



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management