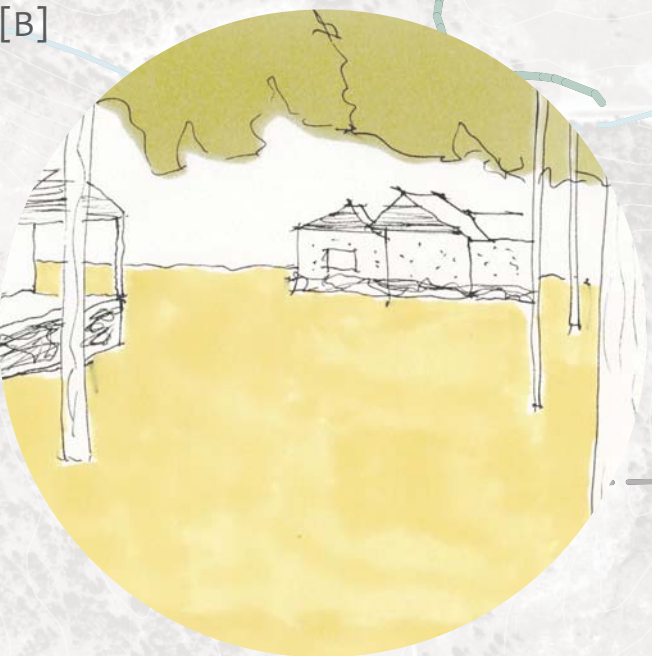


EXISTING VISITOR CENTER

The Wind Cave National Park Visitor Center is located 11 miles north of Hot Springs, South Dakota. This area is in a ravine below the level of the park's grasslands. The visitor center is part of a complex of buildings that serve visitors and park personnel. Located just to the east are three retention ponds that resulted from mining within the site. The sketches below describe the nature of the existing visitor center and housing for park employees, which are sited directly above Wind Cave itself.



The visitor center provides a vista of the rolling hills, a small museum and history exhibit, and a connection to the cave via a winding trail.



A series of cabins that house park staff sits across the street from the visitor center, in the midst of pine trees.



The ranger's house sits atop the hill as one makes the approach to the visitor center.



The elevator building connects from ground level down to one of the caverns in Wind Cave and is used by the cave's visitors at the end of their tours.

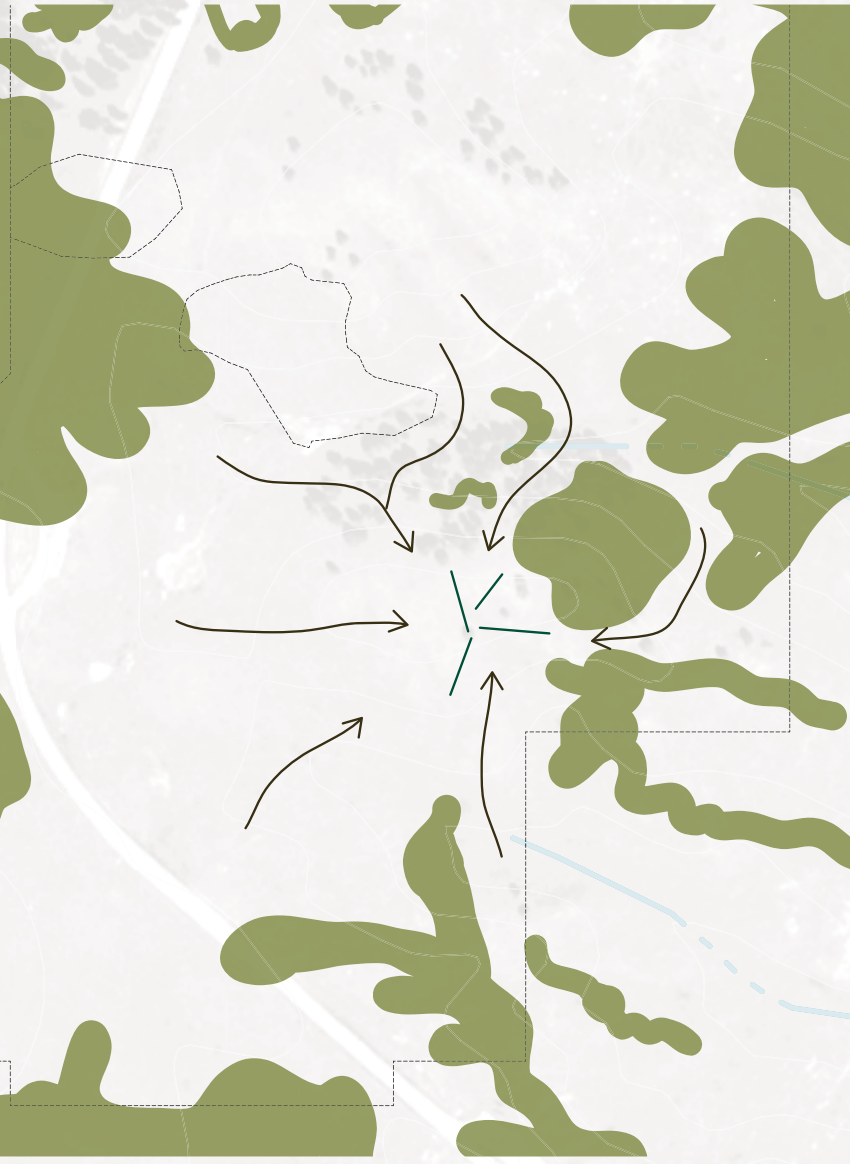
COUNTER PROPOSAL

In general, the existing complex is not at all indicative of the Lakota way of dwelling lightly on the land. The complex lacks cultural sensitivity and an understanding of the natural processes that exist on the site. The proposed bison station is sited in relation to these forces, namely topography, trees, and water. In this way, the station fits into the natural processes and seeks to be in harmony with the landscape as a whole.



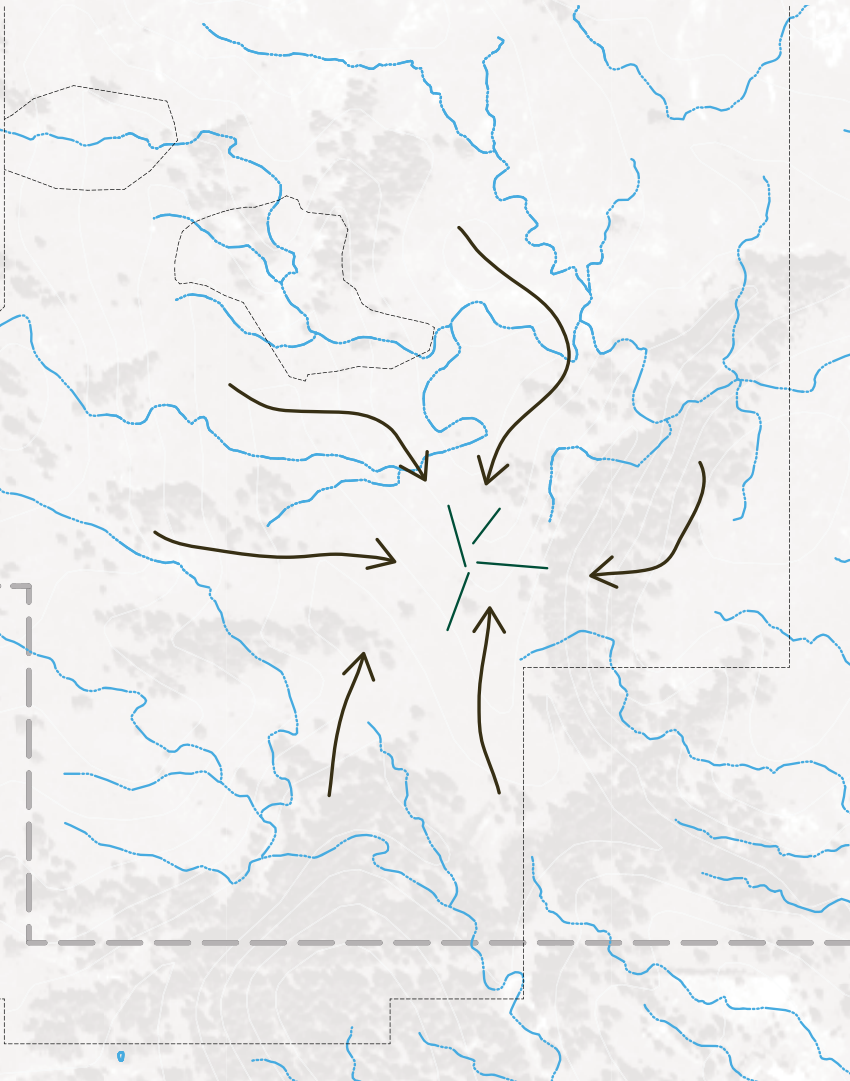
TOPOGRAPHY

Bison will move along the low points in the prairie.



TREES

Bison will treat a tree line like a buffer.



CREEKS

Bison tend to move along and beside creeks rather than across them.

