



## Barn Restoration & Visitor Center



From this 400 sf temporary visitor contact station, moved on site in 1977, to the 12,000 sf Warren Barn, the park hopes for support for a \$2.8 million dollar renovation. When restored, the barn would serve visitors and the gateway community with a facility that includes education and performance space, a museum for the 27,000 piece, Smithsonian-quality collection and the necessary orientation and administrative space.

The need for historic preservation work on the Warren (red) Barn is imminent with a 2005 Condition Assessment-Comprehensive (CAC) report indicating structural and cosmetic deficiencies. Saving this preeminent icon structure requires action in the near future. A 2005 PMIS proposal estimates a \$2.8 million dollar cost to restore the 1950's vintage barn, reinforcing its structural elements and architectural character, while reprogramming its space for visitor services and as the final museum building for larger exhibits. This proposal was in the upper tier of line item construction, slated for funding until emergency funding tightened the NPS line item budget. The park is currently updating the 1995 program elements with a proposed design charrette in 2008.

The approved 1993 General Management Plan/EIS selected the Warren Barn as the preferred alternative for a visitor center facility. The renovated barn will provide 9,000 square feet for orientation, partner sales, auditorium, classroom, museum, exhibit, performance and gallery use. Administrative use will occupy 3000 square feet and allow the current headquarters, temporarily placed in the Warren House to be moved to a final location, and the Warren House to be used as an exhibit area. The park anticipates making its extensive museum collection available for display and to provide indoor facilities for interpretive and community programs in a winterized, four season building. **The estimate does not include the furnishings, exhibits or additional media products for this structure, or the addition of 1 FTE for staffing support.** Those costs will be calculated when renewed planning occurs in 2008. Supporters include the State Historic Preservation Office, the City of Deer Lodge, 70 respondents to a local 2004 survey, and the State Tourism Council.