

a field guide

WORLDS TO COME

circulating stories
for a future to come,
worlds to come,
people and
sensations to come.

In 2008-9 we took several field trips into worlds to come. We traveled to five sites of nuclear testing and mishap in Nevada and New Mexico, took two public tours of the NTS (Nevada Test Site), drove to the gates of WIPP (Waste Isolation Pilot Plant) outside of Carlsbad, NM, and attended the annual October open house at Trinity, site of the world's first nuclear explosion (July 16, 1945) in the Jornada del Muerto of New Mexico.

In the process of traveling to the nuclear, we found ourselves passing through the wreckage of former worlds. Worlds that far preceded human existence on the earth. These worlds rose and fell within a timescale greatly out of sync with that of the human. We saw tips of mountain ranges plumb the earth at violent angles, reaching to depths that we could only imagine from the surface. We crossed fault points within great basins and traversed the stretch marks of the landscape. We stood at the edges of playas and salt lakes once linked by vast oceanic bodies of water but now separated by hundreds of miles of dry land. Volcanic cones and lava flows rose as mile-markers to punctuate the highway. In the midst, we experienced an overwhelming sensation that the earth is a force of relentless change.

Here, the only certain future is that there are endless worlds to come.

Because of our experiences and journeys, we challenge the often expressed belief that it is futile or cognitively impossible for humans to sense and live in relation to the vastness of geologic time.

This field guide creates extensions from site to site, from ourselves to those who were present at these sites when they became nuclear decades ago, and from humankind's short history to the planet's long geologic past and future.

We offer this work as a field guide to a future to come. It is for humans yet to come: humans who imagine and live in relation to deep geologic time. - smudge (smudgestudio.org)

FIELD TRIP: WRECKAGE OF FORMER AND FUTURE WORLDS IN NEVADA AND NEW MEXICO

TRINITY:

12 miles E of San Antonio, NM
GPS 33.40 106.28

Accessible twice a year for an annual open house (the first Saturday of October and April). Take I-25 south from Albuquerque to exit 139 (San Antonio, NM). Head 12 miles east on Highway 380 to the Trinity Historic Landmark. Turn south onto NM 525 and proceed 5 miles to the Stallion Gate Entrance, entering the White Sands Missile Testing Range. The gate is open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Visitors are allowed to enter and exit unescorted anytime during these special days, hundreds usually attend. Photography permitted.



SHOAL:

28 miles SE of Fallon, NV
GPS 118.3844769001 39.20017584941



From Fallon take Highway 50 east 32 miles to State Highway 839. Go south on 839 for five miles to a straight dirt road heading into the hills to the west, marked on some maps as "G Z Canyon" (Ground Zero). After 2.9 miles onto GZ Canyon there is a fork. Stay on the main road (bear right). 0.7 miles from the fork is another fork

where you should bear left. After 0.2 miles turn right up a small rise. Approx. 100 feet ahead you will see a granite monument on your right marking ground zero. There are several testing wells in the area, one to the northeast of ground zero and one along GZ Canyon. There is also a large concrete pad west of the monument. This pad marks the entrance to the test shaft.

BROKEN ARROW:

5 miles SW of Albuquerque International Airport
GPS 34.513117 106.342686

From Albuquerque take I-25 South to Rio Bravo Blvd. (exit 220). Go right (west) .5 miles to Broadway Blvd. Go left (south) on Broadway Blvd. for 1.7 miles to Bobby Foster Rd. Go left (east) on this road, passing a recreational area. Follow signs for the Albuquerque dragway and take a right to follow this road to the top of the mesa. As the road bears right, take the first dirt road to the left. Pass through a gate (you might have to undo a wire loop to open the gate). Bear left after the gate and then take the first left (east) just before a rise in the road. After .75 miles there will be an FAA antenna parallel to you on the right, zig zag away from the antenna (southeast). After about 1 mile there is an intersection of a north south road, go south .3 miles. You will see a 4x4 wooden post at the center of ground zero.



FAULTLESS:

32 miles N of Warm Springs, NV
GPS 116.21617913246 38.634220830882

From Warm Springs head east on U.S. Highway 6 and turn left on the dirt road after Haligan Mesa, with a sign indicating Moore's Station. This road is approx. 12 miles west of the entrance to Lunar Crater National Natural Landmark. After approx. 13 miles the road descends and crosses another road. Signs will indicate that you are entering the Central Nevada Test Site. Continue straight, the site is further up the hill ahead and resides on public BLM land. At a "T" in the road bear right, curving in a wide circle around the site. A large column marks ground zero.



NEVADA TEST SITE (NTS):

65 miles NW of Las Vegas.

To enter the site, you must register in advance for an official tour. Public tours are offered each month and fill quickly. A chartered bus is hired for transportation and departs from the Atomic Testing Museum at 755 E. Flamingo Road in Las Vegas.



Photography is strictly prohibited. More info at: <http://www.nv.doe.gov/nts/tours.htm>

GASBUGGY:

25 miles SW of Dulce, NM
GPS 107.19806671143 36.67337561502



From Dulce take State Highway 64 south 16 miles. Just before crossing into the Carson National Forest you will see a sign for tribal road J-10 on your left, also marked in small yellow letters as fire road 357. Turn left and take this road for 7.25 miles. At a fork in the road go right, proceeding on F.S. 357, continuously bearing right. Stay on this road and enter the Carson National Forest. After .6 miles proceed downhill and you will come into an open grassy field. Ground zero is located in this area and is marked by a stone monument, a small concrete pad, and rusted infrastructure.

GNOME:

14 miles E of Loving, NM
GPS 103.86561512947 32.259818862475



concrete pad on your left. From there, the marker is about .2 miles further on and to the left.

WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT (WIPP):

26 miles E of Carlsbad, NM
GPS 103.79380702972 32.373075095867



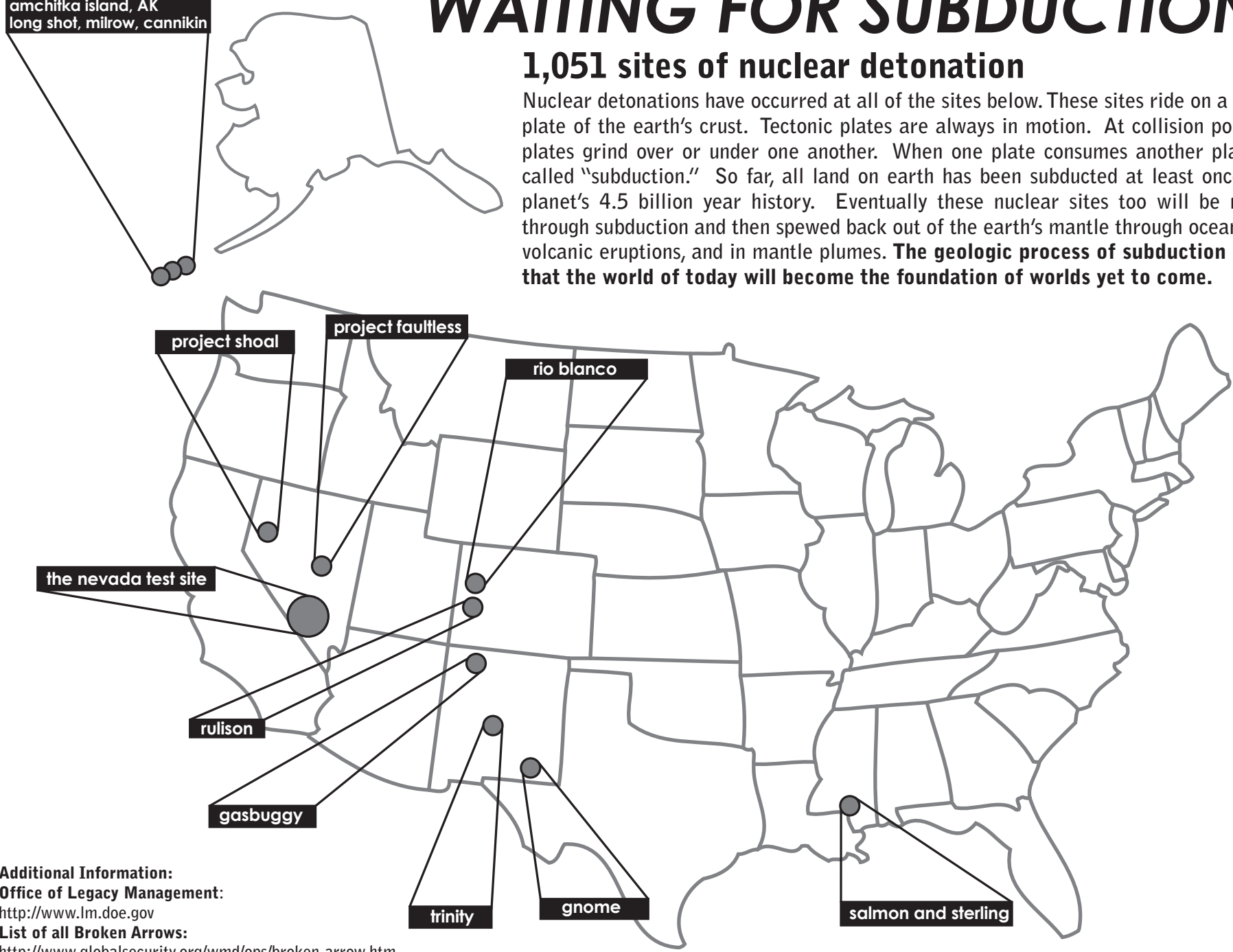
Take U.S. Highway 285 to Loving, NM, then go east on Route 31. At the Route 128 junction make a right and head east. Proceed 7.6 miles and make a right on County 795 (a dirt road, also named Mobley Ranch) heading south. There will be a fork after .6 miles. Bear left/straight and go approx. 4.3 miles. You will pass the

amchitka island, AK
long shot, milrow, cannikin

WAITING FOR SUBDUCTION

1,051 sites of nuclear detonation

Nuclear detonations have occurred at all of the sites below. These sites ride on a tectonic plate of the earth's crust. Tectonic plates are always in motion. At collision points, the plates grind over or under one another. When one plate consumes another plate, it is called "subduction." So far, all land on earth has been subducted at least once in the planet's 4.5 billion year history. Eventually these nuclear sites too will be recycled through subduction and then spewed back out of the earth's mantle through ocean ridges, volcanic eruptions, and in mantle plumes. **The geologic process of subduction ensures that the world of today will become the foundation of worlds yet to come.**



Additional Information:
Office of Legacy Management:
<http://www.lm.doe.gov>
List of all Broken Arrows:
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/ops/broken-arrow.htm>