

Figure 77—This overlook has two levels so the railing can be lower at the upper viewing area.

of interpretive signs may also help create a barrier to keep people back from the edge of the overlook without encroaching on the 32- to 51-inch (815- to 1,295-millimeter) clear field of vision (figure 78).

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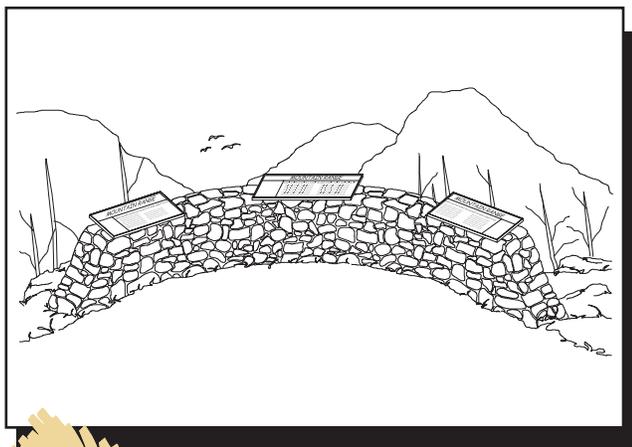


Figure 78—Signs placed to create a barrier at an overlook.



#### DESIGN TIP—

### ***Railing design***

Providing safety while maximizing viewing opportunities is a challenge for those designing a railing or structure adjacent to a dropoff. It's possible to design two viewing levels (see figure 77), where the lower level would be less than 30 inches (760 millimeters) below the upper level.

With this design, a tall guardrail isn't required for the upper level. At the upper level, where the visitors generally approach the viewpoint, a low railing or wall can permit good visibility. The lower viewing level would have a tall guardrail meeting the International Building Code requirements. This lower level provides the "catch" area for the primary level.

If the area or structure doesn't lend itself to a two-level approach, a see-through 42-inch- (1,065-millimeter-) high railing may work (figure 79). The vertical rails should be placed so that a 4-inch (100-millimeter) sphere can't pass through them. Visibility through this type of railing is excellent. The eye level of most adults seated in a wheelchair is above 42 inches (1,065 millimeters), and children sitting on the deck can enjoy the view through the rails.

The importance of vertical rather than horizontal rails can't be overemphasized. When children see horizontal rails, they regard them as an inviting ladder that encourages them to climb. The guardrail can't protect them from a fall when they do so (figure 80).