



# Minidoka Internment National Monument

ABBREVIATED FINAL General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



June 2006



## Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to release the *Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* in an abbreviated format. Please note that this abbreviated format is not a full reprint of the original draft GMP/EIS. This document provides the revisions that have been made, a summary of public comments received about the draft GMP/EIS, a section that notes implementation suggestions, and our responses to substantive comment letters. Some readers find it convenient to refer to the draft GMP/EIS while reading the abbreviated final GMP/EIS.

We appreciate the active role you have taken in this complex four-year process. During the public comment period for the draft GMP/EIS, approximately 215 individuals attended the public meetings and another 160 provided written comments that were received during the 90-day comment period. Your engagement and comments provided an important contribution to the decision-making process and have helped shape the long-term management decisions for the protection, development, and public use of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The completion of this plan is not the end of a process, but the beginning of the implementation process. The implementation of the plan and its many elements will require your continued support and involvement with the many individual organizations and agencies that participated in the plan development.

Again, thank you for taking an active role in the management decision-making for Minidoka Internment National Monument. Your active participation in the planning process is helping the National Park Service to achieve our mission to preserve these nationally significant resources and to provide for public enjoyment not only for current visitors but also for future generations.

Sincerely,



Superintendent  
Minidoka Internment National Monument

*Six gun salute by the  
Wendell Veterans of  
Foreign Wars  
during the  
Minidoka  
Pilgrimage. June  
2004. Courtesy of  
Cliff and Jean  
Dickey ©*



*Rock arrangement  
by Fujitaro Kubota  
in the entrance  
garden area, 2003.  
NPS Photo.*

# Minidoka Internment National Monument

## ABBREVIATED FINAL General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

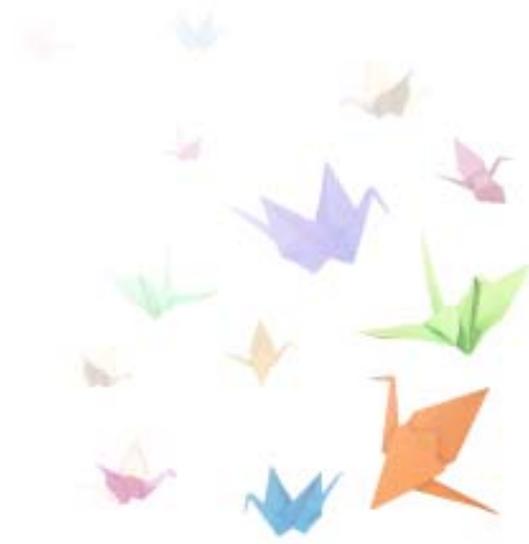
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Prepared by:

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National Park Service Pacific West Region  
Park Planning and Compliance Division  
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*COVER: Former internees, their family members, and friends each hung a crane under the umbrella as a remembrance of those who were incarcerated at Minidoka during World War II. May Namba, a former Minidoka internee, folded each crane. She stated that the tattered umbrella represents the hardships that were caused by the incarceration experience. The cranes symbolize the internees, their struggles during World War II, and their ability to finally fly away from the situation to find peace and freedom. The umbrella and cranes were left at the national monument by the Minidoka Pilgrimage. June 2004. Courtesy of Cliff and Jean Dickey ©*





*Internees of Block  
7, 1943. Permission  
of the University of  
Washington.*

## Abstract

*Minidoka Internment National Monument was established on January 17, 2001 (Presidential Proclamation 7395). The national monument encompasses 72.75 acres of the original Minidoka Relocation Center that incarcerated Japanese Americans from the Northwest during World War II. As a new unit of the National Park System and to comply with the Proclamation 7395, the National Park Service (NPS) is required to develop a general management plan for the national monument. The general management plan outlines how the national monument will be developed and managed over the next 15-20 years.*

This document is the final general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS) for Minidoka Internment National Monument. The plan is intended to be a useful long-term decision-making tool, providing NPS managers with a logical and trackable rationale for decisions about the protection and public use of the national monument's resources. This GMP examines four possible management strategies, called "alternatives," and the impacts of implementing these alternatives on the national monument. These alternatives address NPS planning requirements and respond to issues identified over the past four years. One of these alternatives, Alternatives C, constitutes the Proposed Action and the Preferred Alternative by the NPS. If approved, it will become the general management plan for the national monument.

Because changes to the draft document were minor and confined primarily to factual corrections which do not modify the analysis, an abbreviated format has been used. Use of this format complies with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1503.4[c]). This abbreviated format requires that the material in this document be integrated with the draft GMP/EIS to describe the final plan, significant environmental impacts, and public comments that have been received and evaluated. Additional copies of the draft are available upon request.

Alternative C, the Proposed Action, emphasizes on-site education and interpretation, and cultural resource enhancements through rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. The Proposed Action would require congressional legislation to authorize a boundary expansion to reestablish a complete residential block to an original location, to administratively transfer the camp's original landfill from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the NPS, and to change the name from *Minidoka Internment National Monument* to *Minidoka National Historic Site*. The residential block would be the cornerstone of interpretive services and facilities. Alternative C would use a variety of preservation techniques, such as delineation, stabilization, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction to protect and enhance historic resources. Off-site visitor education and interpretation would be conducted through a diversity of comprehensive programs developed in cooperation with partners, including school districts, museums, and educational and legacy organizations and institutions.

The final GMP/EIS includes the results of public involvement, consultation, and coordination during the draft GMP/EIS public review. On June 21, 2005, the draft became available for public review. Public meetings were held in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California during July and August of 2005. The 90-day comment period ended on September 19, 2005 and approximately 375 individuals commented on the draft GMP/EIS in the form of participating in a public workshop or through correspondence.

The release of this final GMP/EIS and published Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* will be followed by a 30-day no-action period after which time the alternative or actions constituting the approved plan will be documented in a Record of Decision. For further information, contact the Superintendent at Minidoka Internment National Monument, P.O. Box 570, Hagerman, ID, 83332-0570 or by phone at (206)220-4157, or online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/miin>

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## Diverse Terminology and Perspectives on the Treatment of Nikkei in the U.S. during WW II

*Many different words have been and continue to be used to describe the U.S. government's wartime policy toward Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry, the events through which the policy was implemented, the facilities that provided for implementation, and the impact on affected individuals, families and communities. Highly charged debates over words and terminology continue to reflect intense passions and diverse perspectives on whether the policy was appropriate and justifiable 60 years ago. To commemorate historic sites, such as Minidoka Internment National Monument, and to fulfill the National Park Service's responsibilities to the public, the National Park Service acknowledges the diversity of perspectives and opinions on the meaning and significance of various words. Instead of selecting certain words or sets of terminology as either "acceptable" or "correct," the National Park Service encourages reflection, education, and discussion about this aspect of American history.*

*A glossary of words and terms appears in the last chapter of this document. It includes terminology used by the government, the media, and various members of the public during World War II, as well as in subsequent and contemporary debates and discussions. The preparers acknowledge that certain words and terms have been used by various individuals, groups, and the government itself for diverse ideological purposes, such as denying the negative results of policy implementation, minimizing the impacts, or exaggerating its consequences.*

*Among the words included in the glossary are: evacuation, exclusion, detention, incarceration, internment, and relocation that have been used to describe the event of forcefully removing people from their homes and communities. The people themselves have been referred to with words such as evacuees, detainees, inmates, internees, nonaliens, and prisoners. Also, the people have been referred to as Japanese, Japanese Americans, Japanese legal resident aliens, Nikkei, and by their generation in the United States — Issei (first generation) and Nisei (second generation). Finally, the facilities used to implement the policy have been called assembly centers, camps, concentration camps, incarceration camps, internment camps, prisons, relocation centers, and War Relocation Centers. This document uses some of these words, depending on the specific context and the sources used and cited. However, for the purposes of this draft general management plan and environmental impact statement, the National Park Service uses the following words most consistently: incarceration, internment, internee, Nikkei, camp, and Minidoka Relocation Center. We acknowledge that readers may not always agree with the use of certain words in specific contexts.*





*View of the entrance  
area from the garden.  
2004. NPS Photo.*

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Photograph No. 210-G-D108. A panorama view of the Minidoka War Relocation Authority Center. Photograph by Francis Stewart. August 18, 1942. Photograph No. 210-G-G242. Minidoka Relocation Center Main Administration Building. June 1943. Central Photographic File of the War Relocation Authority, 1942-1945. National Archives at College Park, MD.

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# Chapter 1

## Corrections and Revisions

*After conducting the public comment period on the Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, the planning team concluded that changes to the draft GMP/EIS were minor and confined primarily to factual corrections which did not modify the original analysis. Therefore, an abbreviated format to the final GMP has been used. Use of this abbreviated format complies with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1503.4[c]). This abbreviated format requires that the material in this document be integrated with the draft GMP/EIS to describe the final plan, significant environmental impacts, and public comments that have been received and evaluated. To review this final GMP/EIS, it is necessary to reference the draft GMP/EIS. Additional copies of the draft GMP/EIS can be obtained by contacting the Minidoka Internment National Monument office or the Seattle National Park Service office.*

The changes have been handled in the following way:

- Chapter titles relating to the draft GMP/EIS are identified first for ease of reference.
- Page numbers refer to the page numbers in the *Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*.
- Paragraphs cited are counted beginning with the first full paragraph on the page or are counted after the specific section cited.
- Recommended text to be removed from the draft document appears as ~~remove~~.
- Text to be added appears underlined.
- Updated maps are included in this document.

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### General Edits

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All references to "3 acre" and "9 acre" parcels are changed in the final GMP/EIS. These parcels are owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and, per legislative authorization currently under consideration by the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress (S.2129), would be transferred from the Bureau of Reclamation to the National Park Service to be included within the boundaries of Minidoka Internment National Monument. All references to "3-acre" are changed to "visitor services area" and "9-acre" are changed to "east end site" throughout the document. In Appendix B, all references to "3-acre" are changed to "2.31-acre" and "9-acre" are changed to "7.87-acre."

Chapter numbers are added to all chapter titles, according to the Table of Contents.

All references to the Minidoka Relocation Center or Minidoka WRA Center landfill or dumpsite are changed to historic Minidoka Relocation Center landfill.

All references to the “monument” are changed to the “national monument.”

All references to the “preferred alternative” are changed to the “proposed action.”

Chapter 6 summarizes public involvement and the consultation process that was an integral part to the creation of this ~~Draft~~ final GMP/EIS. Chapter 6 also includes summaries of public comments received by the NPS and NPS responses to the public comments received during the public review of the draft GMP/EIS. The appendices provide more detailed information, including a glossary, which some readers may find helpful when reviewing the main text of the document.

Delete “How to Comment on this Document” section.

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## Preliminary Pages

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### How to use this Document

This ~~Draft~~ final general management plan/environmental impact statement is presented in 6 chapters and appendices. The Summary at the beginning of the document provides a condensed version of this document. Chapter 1 sets the stage for the ~~Draft~~ final GMP/EIS by describing the history of the internment and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. It also provides the national monument’s purpose, significance, interpretive themes and desired future conditions that were developed with public involvement during the ~~three~~ four year planning process. Chapter 2 describes the purpose and need for this GMP/EIS. Chapter 3 outlines the environment, which could be affected by the decisions contained in the individual management alternatives. Chapter 4 describes four management alternatives including the NPS’s preferred alternative. The alternatives represent reasonable sets of management decision that are considered and evaluated in the EIS. Chapter 5 describes the impacts of each alternative on resources.

### Diverse Terminology and Perspectives on the Treatment of Nikkei in the U.S. during WWII

This section, located on page 2 of the draft GMP/EIS, is moved to its own stand alone section before the Summary.

### Summary

Page i, *Introductory paragraph, line five:*

...and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry) from Washington, Oregon, California, and Alaska during World War...

Page i, *Column one, paragraph one, line twenty:*

Americans Indians

Page ii, *Column one, paragraph one, line one:*

This document presents a ~~draft~~ final general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS) for Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Page ii, *Column two, paragraph one, line one:*

The formal planning process began in the spring of 2002 with “a notice of intent” to prepare a ~~Draft~~ GMP/EIS general man-

agement plan and environmental impact statement for the national monument. The NPS organized an interdisciplinary planning team of NPS professionals and subject matter experts to guide the development of this ~~Draft~~ GMP/EIS throughout the ~~three~~ four-year planning process.

Page iii, *Column one, paragraph two:*

The NPS invited the public to provide comments during ~~two~~ three formal public planning stages.

Page iii, *Column one, paragraph two, add after last sentence:*

The third stage, called Public Review of the Draft GMP/EIS, was intended to present the public with the Draft GMP/EIS for formal review and comment. Ten public workshops were held in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California and July and August of 2005. 213 people attended the workshops, and another 159 letters were received by the NPS during the comment period.

Page iii, *Column two, first four lines:*

The public's comments and recommendations are the foundation of this ~~Draft~~ final GMP/EIS, represented in the national monument's purpose, significance, interpretive themes, alternatives, and preferred alternative.

Page iii, *Column two, paragraph one:*

The major issues identified during the scoping process are addressed in this ~~Draft~~ final GMP/EIS.

Page iii, *Figure caption:*

Irene Ayleen and Hiroshi ~~to~~ walking along a path in Block 44 at Minidoka. Circa 1944. National Archives.

Page vi, *Column one, bullet one, sentence two:*

(Since 2001, the NPS has conducted a ~~preliminary~~ cultural landscape inventory, and archeological studies including a survey of the site, and an archeological excavation and survey of the entrance area, and a survey of. ~~In 2004, the NPS will map~~ the historic Minidoka Relocation Center landfill.)

Page vi, *Column one, bullet two under "Cultural Resources" section:*

Identify and support collaborative endeavors to collect and preserve oral histories of ~~the~~ former internees, their families, and people associated with Minidoka. (The NPS and the Densho Project entered into a cooperative agreement for the collection of oral histories in 2003. Through this agreement, the Densho Project has conducted ~~eight~~ six oral interviews ~~as of July 2004~~ with plans for additional oral interviews forthcoming.)

Page vii, *Column one, bullet one under "Boundaries and Adjacent Lands" section:*

Recommend that legislation authorize the Secretary of the Interior to transfer the visitor services area (2.31 acres) ~~3-acre~~ and the east end site (7.87 acres) ~~9-acre sites~~ from the Bureau of Reclamation to the NPS. (See Appendix B: Analysis of Boundary Adjustment and Land Protection Criteria.)

Page vii, *Column two, line two:*

(The NPS and BOR ~~have~~ entered into an agreement to move the American Falls Reservoir Irrigation District No. 2 operations to a new site, located outside the national monument's boundary. The NPS ~~has~~ obligated \$250,000 in relocation costs to the BOR to effect the relocation. The Reservoir Irrigation District relocated their employee housing in 2005, however they continue to use the site for some necessary operations.)

Page viii, *Column one, last sentence*:

The reestablishment ~~location~~ of a ~~one-complete~~ residential block in an its original barracks block location and configuration would be the cornerstone of interpretive services and facilities at the national monument.

Page viii, *Column one, last sentence*:

The preferred alternative would require congressional legislation to authorize a boundary expansion to ~~reestablish~~locate a complete residential block in an its original location.

Page x, *Column one, paragraph three*:

Under all alternatives, a recommendation would be made for congressional legislation to ~~transfer the 3-acre and 9-acre Bureau of Reclamation sites to the NPS and to authorize an exchange or purchase of land exchange to acquire the remainder of the extant root cellar. The American Falls Irrigation District No. 2 operational facilities would be relocated to a new off-site location.~~

Page x, *Column one, paragraph three*:

The NPS would also identify and support collaborative endeavors to collect and preserve oral histories of the former internees, their families, and people associated with the Minidoka.

Page xii, *Column two, paragraph one, sentence one*:

The reestablishment of a historic residential block in an its original location and configuration would accurately depict the internees living conditions, convey the significance of the internees' experiences, and provide a unique and authentic setting for educational programs.

Page xiii, *Inset*:

In 2002, the NPS was directed by Congress to conduct a study of alternatives for the long-term management and public use of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial site. The law directed that a special resource study be conducted to examine the national significance of the site at the Eagledale Ferry Dock, Bainbridge Island, Washington, and the suitability and feasibility of designating it as a unit of the National Park System. The final study report, delivered to Congress on May 1, 2006, recommends the addition of the Bainbridge Island site to Minidoka Internment National Monument as a satellite site, rather than as a separate new unit of the National Park System. The study is available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Search> under Pacific West Regional Office and select Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study of Alternatives and Environmental Assessment. Any action taken by Congress as a result of the study findings that would affect Minidoka Internment National Monument might require an amendment to Minidoka's general management plan.

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## Chapter 1: Background of the National Monument

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Page 1, *Leading paragraph, line two:*

From 1942 to 1945, the site was a War Relocation Authority (WRA) facility, which incarcerated nearly 13,000 Nikkei (Japanese American citizens and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry) from Washington, Oregon, California, and Alaska.

Page 1, *Column two, last sentence, add:*

During this period, Issei contributed to establishing important infrastructure, industries and settling of the American West.

Page 4, *Photo caption:*

Japan Day celebration at the Shattuck School in Portland, Oregon featuring Nisei students with parents and teachers.

Page 6, *Column one, last line:*

From their homes in March 1942 after ~~EØ~~ Executive Order 9066.

Page 9, *Column one, paragraph one, last sentence:*

Minidoka housed residents from ~~three~~ four states: ~~Alaska~~, Washington, Oregon, California, and Alaska. Washington state counties included: King, Pierce, and Kitsap. Oregon counties included: Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Yamhill, Tillamook, Clatsop, and Columbia. When 1,500 people arrived from Tule Lake in 1943, their home of origins were other counties in Washington ~~and~~, Oregon, and California.

Page 12, *Figure two caption:*

Baggage, belonging to internees who have just arrived from the assembly center at Puyallup, Washington, is sorted and trucked to barracks ~~apartments~~.

Page 15, *Column one, line two:*

...Eden train stop. Beginning on August 16...

Page 15, *Column two, paragraph two, sentence seven:*

Located in the center of the camp, near water tower ~~#1~~ #2, it included a pumphouse...

Page 16, *Column one, paragraph one, sentence four:*

There were outright protests, especially when the fence was electrified by the building contractor for a few hours on November 12.

Page 19, *Column two, paragraph one, sentence two:*

There were 13 softball/baseball fields, ~~and numerous~~ basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, swimming holes, and an ice-skating rink.

Page 25, *Column one, paragraph two, first sentence:*

Tensions between the Issei and Nisei were ~~exasperated~~ exacerbated in the centers as a result of the WRA policies, emphasis on American culture, and breakdown of the traditional family structure.

Page 26, *Figure one caption:*

WRA suggestion box. Circa 1944. National Archives. (~~Bot-~~  
~~tom~~)

Page 28, *Column one, paragraph one, line five, add:*

Those that answered “yes, yes” could transfer to other camps. However, approximately four thousand Tule Lake internees who answered “yes, yes” chose to stay at Tule Lake rather than transfer; these internees were often called the “Old Tuleans.

Page 28, *Column two, paragraph one, line five, add:*

Several Nisei resisted the draft in order to protest the internment and incarceration. They believed that the injustice of being incarcerated outweighed their duty to serve in the U.S. military. These “no no boys” would eventually be sent to federal prisons for as much as two years for this choice. Minidoka had less than 7 percent of the male population of all the centers, yet it provided 25 percent of the volunteers. The Nisei at Minidoka distinguished themselves as loyal citizens, and eventually 1,000 names were listed on Minidoka’s honor roll as having served in the American armed forces. Minidoka had less than 7 percent of the male population of all the centers, yet it provided 25 percent of the volunteers. Nisei from Minidoka served in the 442nd, Military Intelligence Service and Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps.

Page 32, *Column two, last sentence:*

Generally, Nikkei were then barred from staying in the area and were not allowed to participate in the future land drawings of former camp lands.

Page 36, *Column one, paragraph one, last line:*

The homesteaders established their ranches ranchettes, and many homesteaders lived in the barrack buildings until as late as the 1970s (Shrontz 1994).

Page 37, *Figure caption, sentence two:*

The Herrmann farm is located on the site of the former water tower #1 #2, fire station, sewage treatment plant...

Page 42, *Column two, paragraph one, sentence two:*

The visitor services area (2.31 acres) 3-acre parcel is located in the historic warehouse area within the national monument. It contains three buildings from the historic period as well as numerous warehouse foundations. The area is was used by the American Falls Reservoir Irrigation District #2 as its operational facilities for administration, maintenance, and staff housing. The east end site (7.87 acres) 9-acre parcel on the east end of the national monument is considered undeveloped land. Since establishment of the national monument, the NPS and BOR have entered into an agreement to move the American Falls Reservoir Irrigation District operations to a site outside the national monument’s boundary. The NPS has obligated \$250,000 to the BOR for relocation costs. The American Falls Reservoir Irrigation District No. 2 vacated the BOR site in 2005.

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## Chapter 2: Purpose and Need

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Page 57, *Column two, line two:*

A variety of interpretive methods and media that enable visitors to understand and appreciate the size and environmental conditions of the original site should be explored.

Page 60, *Column two, paragraph one:*

The American Falls Irrigation District No. 2 currently uses for-

merly used the BOR's ~~3-acre~~ 2.31 parcel for staff housing and operations for the Irrigation District. At this time, the Reservoir Irrigation District has relocated their employee housing, however they continue to use the site for some necessary operations. At the specific direction of Congress, NPS and BOR are in the process of relocating these facilities outside the national monument. Under the GMP, the NPS would request a transfer of the ~~3-acre~~ 2.31 parcel and its historic buildings and structures and the adjacent ~~9-acre~~ 7.87-acre parcel to the NPS.

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## Chapter 3: Affected Environment

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Page 69, *Figure caption*:

Frank Tsuboi, a former Minidoka internee, visiting Minidoka during the Pilgrimage. June 2004. ~~NPS Photo.~~ Photo courtesy of Jane Davenport.

Page 79

The updated map located on page 8 of this document replaces the Minidoka Internment NM map.

Page 80, *Column one, paragraph one, line ten*:

The 2001 survey was divided into camp use zones and included the entrance, north administration area, central administration and staff housing area, south staff housing area, warehouse and motor pool, swimming ~~pool~~ hole, and perimeter security fence.

Page 83, *Column two, paragraph one, line four*:

In the land parcels surveyed outside the national monument,

there were ~~40~~ 12 features recorded. These include a basalt and concrete pond that was situated near Barracks 2 of Block 34, the concrete footings of water tower #1 and #2, the foundation slab of the farm mess hall, the foundation of guard tower #7, the original fire station, the camp's landfill, the railroad siding and warehouse, ~~and~~ the canal constructed by the internees, the historic wildlife preserve near Blocks 13, 15, and 17, Hunt Bridge, and barrack buildings, structures, and associated features throughout the area located on private property.

Page 83, *Column two, paragraph two, last sentence*:

The NPS determined that, while historically significant, the physical cemetery itself does not retain historical significance or integrity.

Page 87, *Column one, paragraph two, last sentence*:

One homestead is on the former military police area; another one is situated in the former fire station ~~#1~~/water tower #1 2 and sewage treatment plant area.

Page 87, *Column one, last line*:

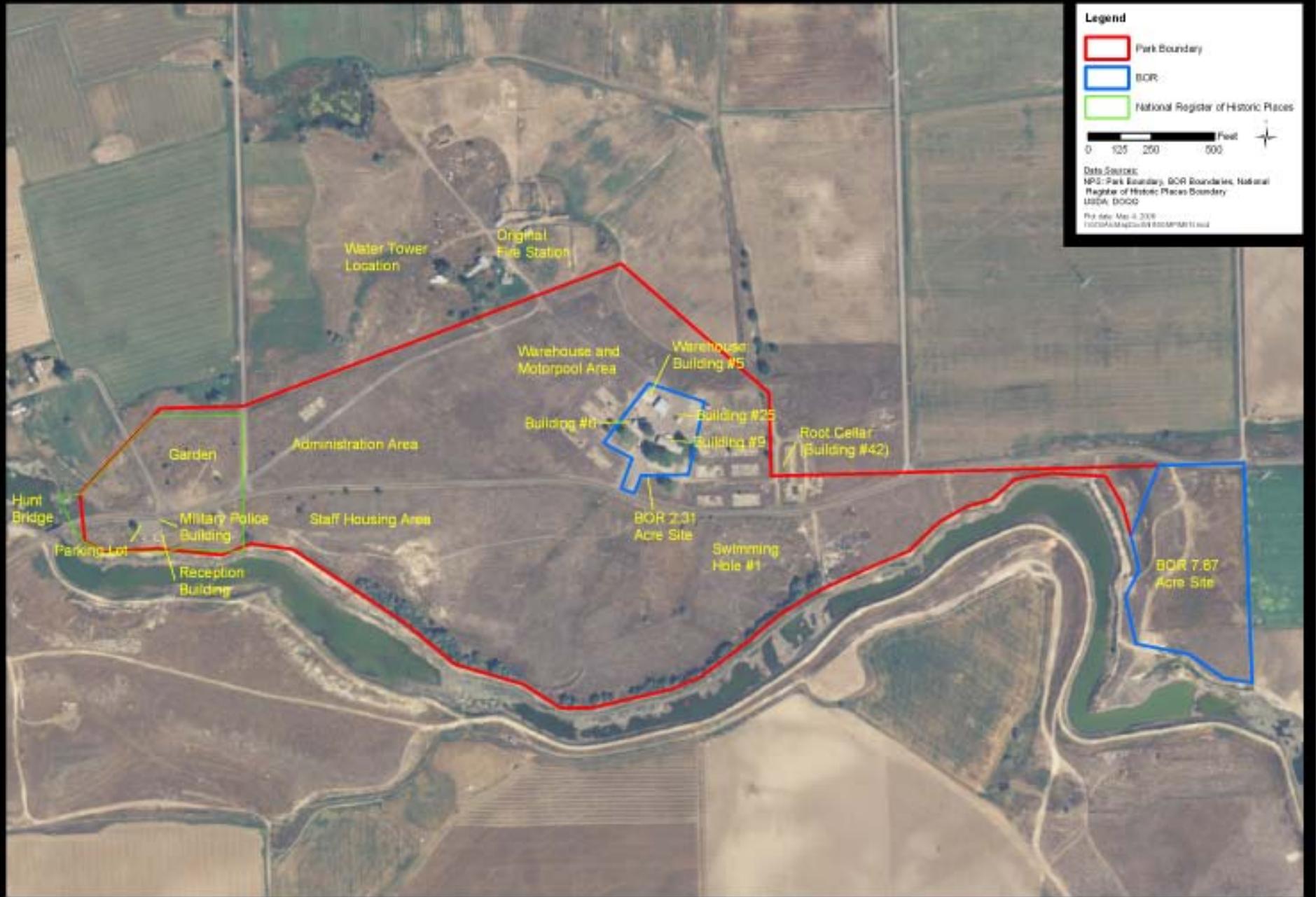
The American Falls Reservoir Irrigation District #2 offices and residences ~~are~~ were located on historic foundations in the former warehouse area. Additional cultural landscape features are associated with the archeological features outside the national monument's boundary listed on page 83.

Page 92, *Column two, paragraph one, sentence two*:

As of June ~~2004~~ 2006, this collection consisted of ~~eight~~ eight acquisitions. Most of these acquisitions are that include original furniture made by internees at Minidoka, an original WRA-issued cot, personal items of internees from Minidoka, and paper

# Minidoka Internment NM

Minidoka Internment NM GMP/EIS



Map Prepared by: Pacific West Region - GIS Group

items that have been donated to the national monument.

Page 93, *Column two, paragraph one, last sentence:*

The train stop at Shoshone was the departing location for most internees leaving Minidoka to relocate outside the Exclusion Zone during World War II and those returning to Washington, ~~and Oregon,~~ California, and Alaska after the war.

Page 94, *Column two, paragraph one:*

In 2002, the NPS was directed by Congress to conduct a study of alternatives for the long-term management and public use of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial site. The law directed that a special resource study be conducted to examine the national significance of the site at the Eagle Dale Ferry Dock, Bainbridge Island, Washington, and the suitability and feasibility of designating it as a unit of the National Park System. The final study report, delivered to Congress on May 1, 2006, recommends the addition of the Bainbridge Island site to Minidoka Internment National Monument as a satellite site, rather than as a separate new unit of the National Park System. The study is available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Search> under Pacific West Regional Office and select Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study of Alternatives and Environmental Assessment. Any action taken by Congress as a result of the study findings that would affect Minidoka Internment National Monument might require an amendment to Minidoka's general management plan.

Page 95, *Column two, paragraph two, line seven:*

Kichio Allen Arai, along with his family members, was incarcerated at Minidoka.

Page 97, *Column two, paragraph two, line five:*

In the pre-war period, Nikkei used the Merchant Hotel for a variety of businesses, including ~~contained~~ the Teikoku Japanese Merchandise Company, a publisher, laundry, bathhouse, and barbershop. ~~, and various businesses run by Nikkei. Preceding World War II, Nikkei used the building for a variety of businesses.~~

Page 100, *Table 1, title:*

Federally Designated Sites Related to the Internment and Incarceration of Nikkei during World War II

Page 104, *paragraph one, line four:*

They have a comprehensive website about Minidoka at [www.friendsofminidoka.org](http://www.friendsofminidoka.org) [www.minidoka.org](http://www.minidoka.org)

Page 108, *Figure caption three, replace existing photo of Malad Gorge with photo of Craters of the Moon:*

~~Malad Gorge. Tuttle, Idaho. Photo courtesy of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.~~ Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. NPS Photo.

Page 109, *Column one, after City of Rocks section, add:*

**Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve** — Cooperatively managed by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management, Craters of the Moon preserves more than 740,000 acres including vast lava flows that erupted as recently as 2,000 years ago. Recreational activities include backpacking, biking, camping, caving, cross country skiing, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

Page 127, *Column two, line last sentence*:

Historically, a large portion of the area between Hunt Road and the North Side Canal was maintained as open space, and no structures were in this portion of camp. ~~Few developments historically occurred in this area,~~ except for a kidney-shaped swimming hole used by internees and the perimeter fence.

Page 129, *Column two, second to last sentence*:

Other cooperative efforts would be established with schools, universities, and local, state and other federal agencies, as well as other civil and constitutional rights organizations.

Page 130, *Column one, paragraph three, last line*:

Many former internees still have memories of their experiences along the canal.

Page 136, *Column one, paragraph one, line six*:

Most public lands managed by federal and state land management agencies ~~all~~ have open-door policies and are available for hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking, and other activities.

Page 141, *Column one, last sentence of Tribal Interests section, add*:

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes did not provide comment on any interests relative to the presence of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Page 144, *Column one, paragraph one, last sentence*:

A draft study ~~is expected~~ was completed in 2005.

Page 144, *Column one, paragraph two*:

The National Park Service ~~is conducting~~ conducted a study of

alternatives for the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial in Washington State. In 2002, Congress authorized the NPS to develop the long-term management options for the site. Thematically, Eagledale Ferry Dock is closely related to Minidoka Internment National Monument and Manzanar National Historic Site. The Bainbridge Island Nikkei were the first to be forcibly removed from their homes under Executive Order 9066. They were sent to Manzanar in March 1942 and transferred to Minidoka in 1943. The final study was delivered to Congress on May 1, 2006 and recommends the addition of the Bainbridge Island site to Minidoka Internment National Monument as a satellite site, rather than as a separate new unit of the National Park System. Congress may or may not make a final decision about any federal designation of the site.

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## Chapter 4: Alternatives

---

Page 147, *paragraph one*:

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires that alternative management schemes be developed in a ~~draft~~ general management plan to fully explore a range of ideas, methods, and concepts for managing a park unit. All alternatives should be feasible for implementation. Also, regulations require that the ~~draft~~ plan identify a "preferred alternative proposed action" ~~before in~~ the Environmental Impact Statement ~~is released for public review~~. The ~~preferred alternative proposed action~~ is that alternative the National Park Service believes would best accomplish its goals, based on the analyses completed to date.

Page 147, *Column one, paragraph one, last sentence:*

The alternatives were developed by a comprehensive interdisciplinary planning team in April 2003 and have since been refined by comments received during the draft alternatives public comment period in July and August of 2003, ~~and~~ a planning team workshop in November 2003, and the draft GMP/EIS public review period from June to September of 2005.

Page 147, *Column one, line two:*

(Since 2001, the NPS has conducted a ~~preliminary~~ cultural landscape inventory, and archeological studies including a survey of the site, and an archeological excavation and survey of the entrance area, and a survey of: In 2004, the NPS will map the historic Minidoka Relocation Center landfill.)

Page 147, *Column two, bullet one:*

Identify and support collaborative endeavors to collect and preserve oral histories of ~~the~~ former internees, their families, and people associated with Minidoka. (The NPS and the Densho Project entered into a cooperative agreement for the collection of oral histories in 2003. Through this agreement, the Densho Project has conducted ~~eight six~~ oral interviews ~~as of July 2004~~ with plans for additional oral interviews forthcoming.)

Page 147, *Column two, bullet two:*

Develop a historic resource study. (In 2003~~5~~, the NPS ~~began~~ completed a historic resource study for the national monument.)

Page 147, *Figure caption:*

The honor roll listed approximately 1,000 names of those

serving in the military from Minidoka or whose families were incarcerated at Minidoka.

Page 148, *Column one, bullet one, sentence two:*

Promote the care, collection, ~~and curation,~~ and access to ~~of~~ a wide range of artifacts and memorabilia.

Page 149, *Column two, after last bullet under "Visitor Facilities" section, add:*

Incorporate the principles of sustainable and universal design into all facilities and operations.

Page 150, *Column one, last line, Common to All Alternatives, Land Protection and Boundaries, add:*

Collaborate with Jerome County to initiate a request for the inclusion of Minidoka Internment National Monument lands into the Jerome County Preservation Zone.

Page 150, *Column two, bullet one, sentence three:*

(The NPS and BOR ~~have~~ entered into an agreement to move the American Falls Reservoir Irrigation District No. 2 operations to a new site, located outside the national monument's boundary. The NPS ~~has~~ obligated \$250,000 in relocation costs to the BOR to effect the relocation. The American Falls Reservoir Irrigation District No. 2 vacated the BOR site in 2005.)

Page 150, *Column two, last bullet:*

Seek out a variety of funding sources for capital development costs.

Page 151, *Column one, first paragraph, second sentence:*

Management zones vary according to the ~~kind of~~ resources and conditions that exist...

Page 152

This updated map on page 13 of this document replaces the Management Zones map.

Page 153

Change colors of columns to correspond with colors of zones on the "Management Zones" map on page 152.

Page 165, *Column two, line four, add:*

A searchable database of those who were incarcerated or affiliated with Minidoka would be developed.

Page 174, *Column two, before "Cultural Landscape" section, add:*

The National Register boundary would be expanded to correspond with the boundary of the national monument and new additions to the national monument that would be located within the historic camp lands.

Page 173, *Column two, line four:*

The ~~reestablishment of one a complete~~ residential block in its an original location and configuration would be the cornerstone of interpretive services and facilities at the national monument, essential for understanding and appreciation of the incarceration experience and the significance of the national monument.

Page 173, *Column two, paragraph two, sentence one:*

The preferred alternative would require congressional legislation to authorize a boundary expansion to include areas where barracks historically stood in order to reestablish ~~relocate~~ a complete residential block.

Page 174, *Column two, last sentence before "Cultural Landscape":*

Under the preferred alternative, the NPS would acquire and return original historic residential buildings to the site to reestablish ~~locate~~ a representative historic residential block for resource protection and visitor understanding and appreciation.

Page 175, *Column one, paragraph one, line one:*

Only ~~three~~ four features would be considered for reconstruction as interpretive exhibits in the entrance area. These features are the honor roll, guard tower, flagpole and perimeter barbed wire fence, as they are the most evocative, symbolic, and identifiable features associated with the Minidoka story.

Page 175, *Column two, paragraph one, line one:*

~~Following the completion of t~~These studies would assist, the NPS ~~would~~ to develop a proposal for reconstruction of these features (honor roll, guard tower, flagpole, and fence) as interpretive exhibits that addresses the requirements of NPS Management Policies...

Page 176, *Column two, paragraph two, sentence one:*

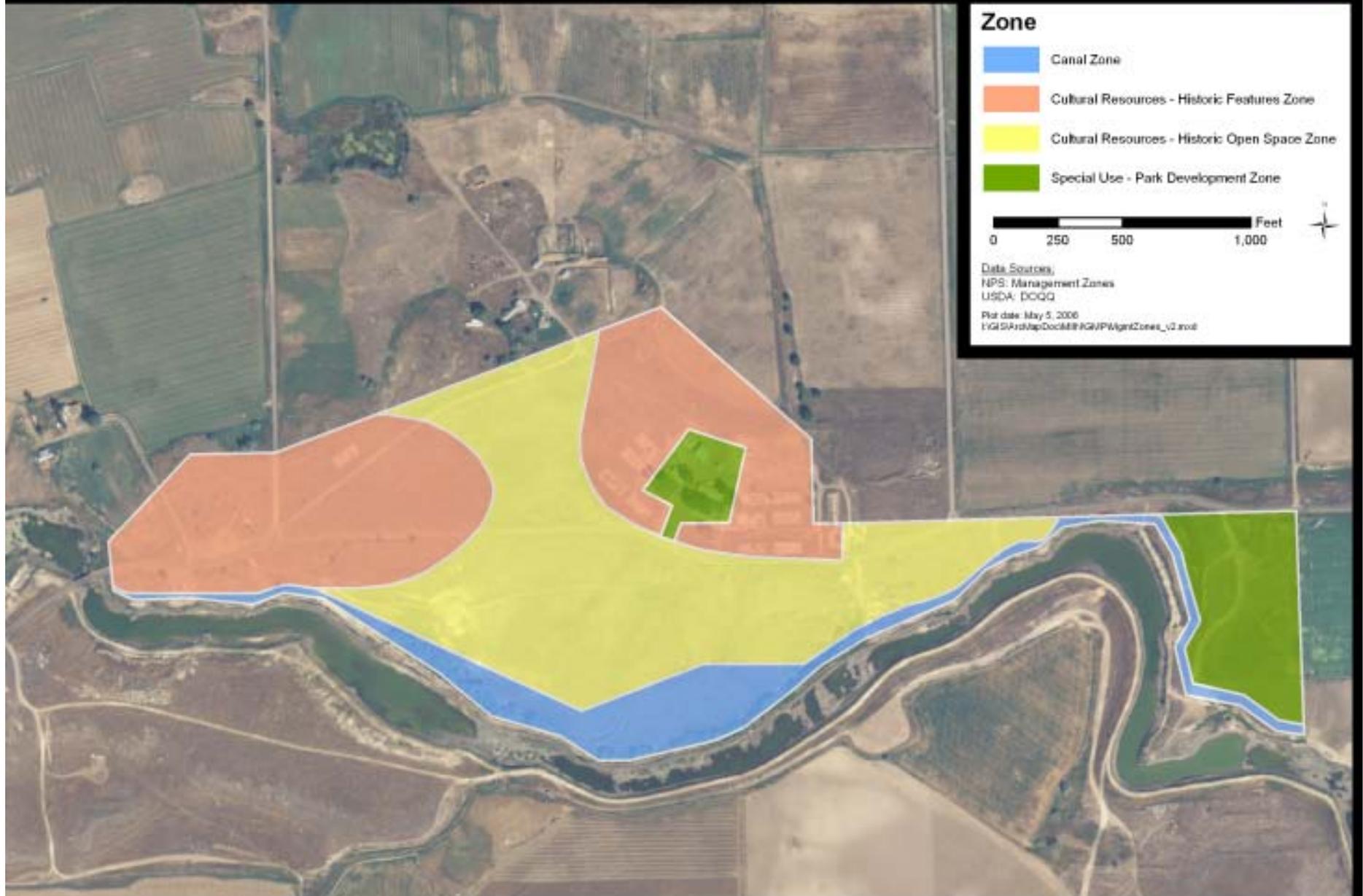
The root cellar would be ~~maintained in its stabilized condition~~ partially restored.

Page 176, *Column two, paragraph three, sentence one:*

A complete barracks block would be reestablished ~~located in~~ to an original barracks block location utilizing historic residential buildings returned to the site. ~~Reestablishment~~ location of a representative residential block responds to broad public opinions about the need to accurately depict the experiences of some 13,000 internees who were incarcerated at Minidoka. Public comments during ~~over~~ the ~~three-year~~ planning process...

# Management Zones

Minidoka Internment NM GMP/EIS



**Zone**

- Canal Zone
- Cultural Resources - Historic Features Zone
- Cultural Resources - Historic Open Space Zone
- Special Use - Park Development Zone

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

Data Sources:  
NPS: Management Zones  
USDA: DCOG

Plot date: May 5, 2006  
I:\GIS\ArcMap\Doc\MR\GMP\WgmtZones\_v2.mxd

Map Prepared by: Pacific West Region - GIS Group

Page 177, *Column one, line six:*

The NPS has responded to these strong public sentiments by proposing the ~~reestablishment location~~ of a historic barracks block to an original historic site.

Page 177, *Column one, paragraph one, line seven:*

The ~~reestablished located~~ barracks block would recapture the sense of residential life, evoke the day-to-day experiences of the internees, and would educate the public about the internees' mass removal and incarceration at Minidoka.

Page 177, *Column two, line one:*

rack could be ~~could~~ be adaptively rehabilitated for...

Page 177, *Column two, last sentence before paragraph beginning "Today, historic barrack buildings..." add:*

Landscape features may be rehabilitated, restored, and reconstructed as appropriate to provide visitors with an understanding of the historic landscape conditions in and around the barracks block.

Page 178, *Column one, paragraph one, sentence one:*

The ~~reestablishment location~~ of a historic barracks block meets all of the criteria outlined in the NPS management policies (5.3.5.4.5 Movement of Historic Structures).

Page 178, *Column two, line two:*

Reestablishing~~locating~~ a historic barracks block to an ~~its~~ original block location will ensure the long-term preservation of these buildings for visitor education and interpretation.

Page 180, *Column one, paragraph one, before last sentence:*

A searchable database of those who were incarcerated or affiliated with Minidoka would be developed.

Page 180, *Column two, line three:*

The NPS, ~~through and partnerships,~~ will select a site appropriate for the development of an Issei memorial on the east end site. ~~would explore the suitability and feasibility of establishing a new memorial in the park development zone.~~

Page 182, *Column one, first sentence under "Off-site Facilities" section:*

Directional signage along Interstate ~~94~~ 84 and ...

Page 182, *Column two, paragraph one under "Scenic Resource Management" section, sentence two:*

Scenic viewing areas and interpretive overlooks along the northern boundary of the site and ~~interpretive overlooks~~ within the ~~3-acre and 9-acre parcels~~ east end site would be developed to provide panoramic views of the physical extent of the historic residential areas.

Page 183

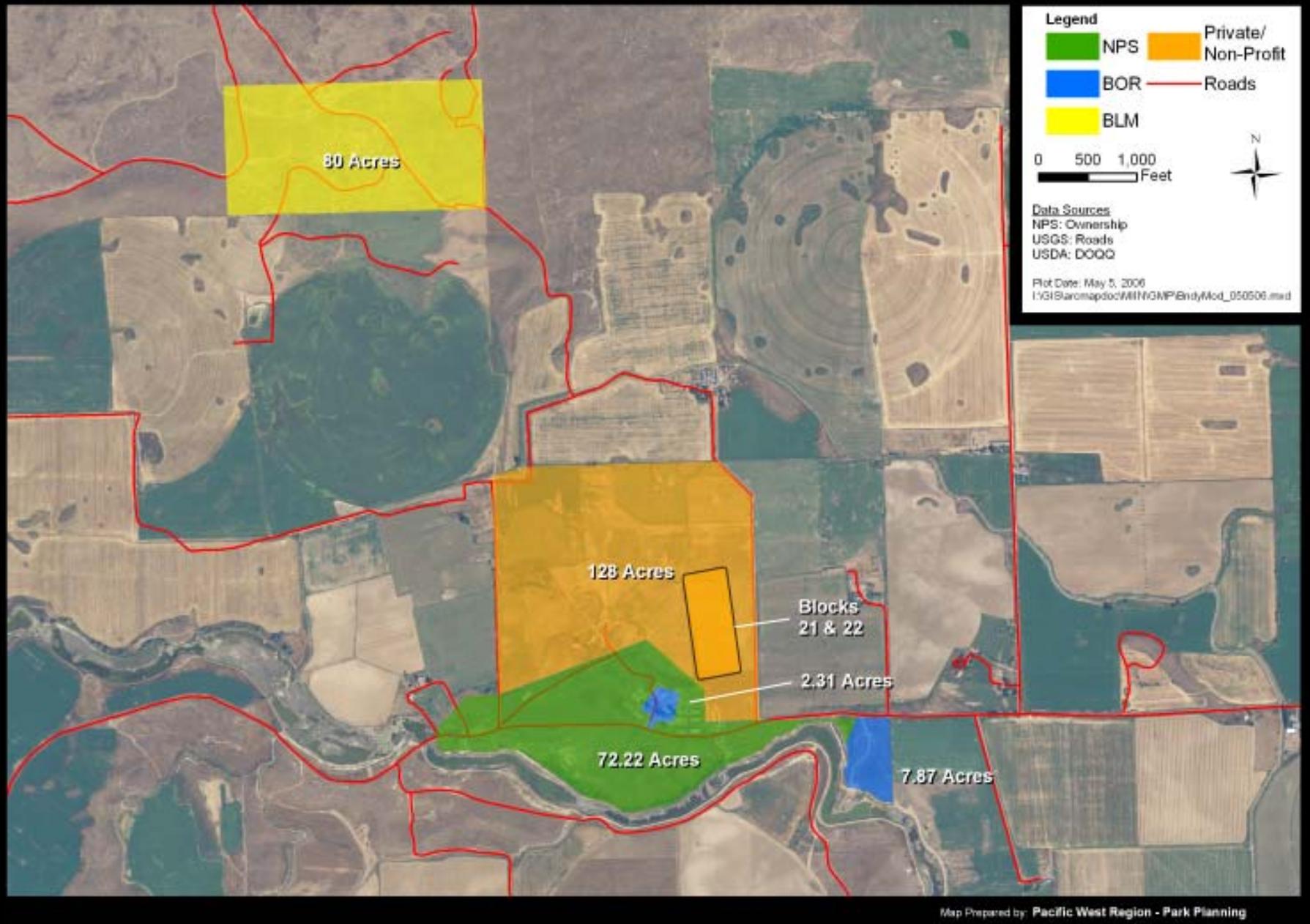
This updated map , Boundary Modifications, on page 15 of this document replaces the Potential Boundary Changes map.

Page 184, *figure caption:*

Farm-in-a-day property, located on the site of the camp's water tower ~~#1~~ ~~#2~~, firehouse, and sewage treatment facility. 2001. NPS Photo.

# Boundary Modifications

Minidoka Internment NM GMP/EIS



Page 184, *Column one, last paragraph under “Partnerships and Outreach” section, add:*

The vast majority of the public has indicated that partnerships and outreach are an integral component to the national monument. Therefore, the preferred alternative would provide outreach/off-site activities, and on-site interpretative and educational programs, using available funds to maximize opportunities to establish and maintain partnerships and cooperative efforts.

Page 184, *Column two, paragraph two, line five:*

This transportation study would analyze existing roads, access, and safety issues related to the national monument and propose alternative management strategies for transportation and circulation. It may also include consideration related to possible rerouting of the section of Hunt Road that traverses the national monument. The study would also analyze existing roads, access, and safety issues related to the national monument.

If and when Hunt Road could be relocated, the NPS would consider restoring the historic circulation patterns on the site and rehabilitating the historic road from the entrance to the warehouse area.

Page 185, *Column two, line three:*

The 128-acre area proposed for addition to the national monument is denoted on page 1843...The area includes the camps intact fire station, portions of two historic barracks buildings that were moved to the site, and foundation piers of water tower #1 #2.

Page 186, *Column one, after paragraph one, add:*

In the event that the 128-acre area is added to the national monument, the historic features and historic open space zones would be applied to this area. Additionally, if the historic Minidoka landfill is added to the national monument, it would be zoned in the historic features zone.

Page 186, *Column two, line five:*

With the actual landfill site determined to be approximately 26 acres in size, it is anticipated that the total amount of land to be transferred to the NPS would not exceed ~~40~~ 80 acres, or two quarter quarter sections.

Page 186, *Column two, paragraph before “Carrying Capacity” section:*

~~The vast majority of the public has indicated that partnerships and outreach are an integral component to the national monument. Therefore, the preferred alternative would balance outreach efforts and related funding with on-site interpretative and educational programming needs.~~

Page 187, *Column one, paragraph two, line one:*

Under the preferred alternative, 128 acres of the historic landscape would be added to the national monument and would be zoned in the historic features and historic open space zone.

Page 188, *Column two, paragraph two, line one:*

~~More~~ Visitor services would be provided, primarily on-site.

Page 189, *Column one, line three:*

The following positions would be included in this alternative: ~~site manager~~ superintendent...

Page 189, *Column one, paragraph two, last sentence:*

Park staff facilities would be located in adaptively rehabilitated historic buildings on the acquired visitor services area 3-acre parcel, after the American Falls Reservoir District No. 2 operations were relocated off-site.

Page 189, *Figure caption:*

Visitors at the IFARM during the Minidoka Pilgrimage. June 2003. Courtesy of Jane Devenport. NPS Photo.

Page 190, *Column one, bullet two:*

Long-Range Interpretive Plan/Wayside Exhibit Plan

Page 201, *Column two, paragraph four:*

Assessment of wildlife populations specific to Minidoka Internment National Monument will be conducted as part of any future NPS management of the site. As more detailed information becomes available, it will be used in future environmental analyses conducted as part of implementation level planning and project development, subordinate to the general management plan.

Page 203, *Column one, paragraph one, line five:*

Reestablishment~~oration~~ of a residential block would fulfill broad public opinions about the need to accurately depict the experiences of some 13,000 internees who were incarcerated at Minidoka.

Page 204, *Delete boxes around text*

Page 204, *Column two, paragraph two, sentence six:*

However, compared with alternative C, alternative D does not propose to add historic lands nor does it reestablish~~ocate~~ a

historic block, thereby limiting the extent of cultural resource preservation and educational and interpretive opportunities in an authentic setting.

Page 204, *Insert the following new section at the end of the page:*

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines for implementing NEPA require federal agencies to analyze all “reasonable” alternatives that substantially meet the purpose and need for the proposed action. The purpose of the general management plan is to articulate a vision for Minidoka Internment National Monument that will guide decision making by current and future management teams during the next 15 to 20 years. In addition to meeting the requirements of pertinent laws, regulations, and policies, the management strategies put forth in the general management plan must support the purpose and significance of the national monument while striving to achieve the identified desired future conditions. (This information is detailed in Chapter 2: Purpose and Need for the Plan.)

The National Park Service took a broad look at a wide range of ideas suggested by the public to formulate the alternatives analyzed in the GMP/EIS.

Early in this process, the planning team developed a conceptual alternative that included provisions for overnight accommodations for visitors to the national monument. This alternative was developed in response to public comments about the lack of nearby lodging or camping. Various concepts were considered including camping facilities and barracks lodging. The planning team also analyzed various train and bus transportation scenarios for visitors to the national monument. This

concept, developed in response to public comments, would be symbolic of the rail and bus transportation of internees arriving during WWII, would facilitate visitation to the remotely located national monument, and would provide an interpretive experience for visitors.

Upon further review, however, camping facilities and an elaborate transportation system were not considered to be compatible with the purpose of the national monument, which is to provide opportunities for public education and interpretation of the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during WWII. In addition, the small size of the national monument makes it impractical to properly locate such facilities on the site without disrupting cultural resources, the cultural landscape, or their interpretation. Thus, this conceptual alternative was not carried forward for detailed analysis in the EIS.

Page 206, "Oral History" under "Common to All" box:

Identify and support collaborative endeavors to collect and preserve oral histories of ~~the~~ former internees, their families, and people associated with ~~the~~ Minidoka Relocation Center.

Page 206, "Collections" box:

~~Collections (cont.)~~

Page 206, "Collections" under "Common to All" box, sentence two:

Promote the care, collection, ~~and~~ curation and access to ~~of~~ a wide range of artifacts.

Page 207, "Education and Interpretation" section, "On-site" under "Alternative A" box:

Existing minimal level of on-site education and interpretation is ~~inadequate and will~~ would increase only as additional staff/

funding is becomes available.

Page 207, "Commemoration" under "Alternative C-Preferred" box:

~~Same as Alternative A PLUS the NPS and partners will select a site appropriate for the development of an Issei memorial on the east end site. explore the feasibility and suitability of establishing a new memorial in the park development zone.~~

Page 207, "Off-site" under "Alternative C – Preferred" box:

~~Same as Alternative B ALTHOUGH funding for off-site programs would be balanced with on-site programs.~~

Page 208, "Visitor Facilities on nine-acre site" under "Alternative C" box:

Establish an interpretive overlook of the North Side Canal and overflow parking area for buses and special events. The NPS and partners will select a site appropriate for the development of an Issei memorial on the east end site.

Page 209, "Contaminants" box:

~~Contaminants (cont.)~~

Page 209, "Contaminants" under "Alternative A" box, following the existing sentence, add:

Remove contaminants and remediate affected areas, as required.

Page 210, "Roads" under "Alternative D" box:

~~HOWEVER no study of removal or re-routing of Hunt Road.~~

Page 210, "Parking" under "Alternative B" box:

Same as Alternative A PLUS provide adequate parking to serve the visitor contact function ~~on~~ in the ~~three-acre and nine-acre sites~~ visitor services area and east end site.

Page 211, “Bureau of Land Management-Minidoka Landfill” under “Alternative C-Preferred” box:

Recommend congressional legislation to transfer a ~~40-acre~~ up to an 80-acre parcel, which includes the historic 26-acre Minidoka landfill site, from the BLM to the NPS.

Page 212, “Staffing” under “Alternative A” box:

~~Current staffing is inadequate.~~ Hire staff as funding permits.

Page 212, “Administrative and Maintenance Facilities” box:

~~Administrative and Maintenance Facilities (cont.)~~

Page 213, “Boundary Adjustments” under “Alternative C” box:

~~200,000-250,000~~ 500,000

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## Chapter 5: Environmental Consequences

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Page 218, Column one, add new subsection entitled “Tribal Trust Resources”:

The NPS has consulted with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The tribes have not commented on any interests relative to the presence of Minidoka Internment National Monument. In addition, NPS analysis of the completed transfer of a limited number of acres of public land from management by the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management to the NPS for the purposes of the national monument finds no effect on either off-reservation treaty rights of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes or their use of this historically agricultural area for the purpose of off-reservation hunting of game animals. Thus, potential impacts to tribal trust resources will not be further analyzed in this document.

Page 222, Column two, paragraph four, first sentence:

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on properties listed or eligible for listing on the ~~NRPA~~ National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Page 233, Column two, paragraph two, last two sentences:

Over time, such mitigation would increase and improve areas on the national monument dominated by native sagebrush steppe vegetation, thereby improving wildlife habitat. Depending on the amount of area treated, resulting long-term beneficial impacts would be minor to moderate. Wildlife species that utilize or depend on such vegetation would benefit from this improved habitat. Species known to be associated with the national monument that would be beneficially affected include mule deer and, rarely, pronghorn antelope. Resulting long-term beneficial impacts would be minor.

Page 233, Column two, paragraph three, sentence four:

Loss of these trees would result in long-term minor adverse impacts to birds, such as Swainson’s hawks and great horned owls, and other wildlife that currently utilize this habitat.

Page 234, Column one, paragraph one, add to the end of the paragraph:

Wildlife species associated with the national monument that could be so affected include, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, mallards, gadwalls, cinnamon teal, red-tailed hawks, Swainson’s hawks, and great horned owls.

Page 234, Column one, paragraph two, last sentence:

Under such conditions additional disturbances to wildlife or

their habitats associated with the national monument could occur, creating short-term minor adverse impacts.

Page 243, Column one, paragraph one, last two sentences:

Over time, such mitigation would increase and improve areas on the national monument dominated by native sagebrush steppe vegetation, ~~thereby improving wildlife habitat. Depending on the amount of area treated, resulting long-term beneficial impacts would be minor to moderate.~~ Wildlife species that utilize or depend on such vegetation would benefit from this improved habitat. Species known to be associated with the national monument that would be beneficially affected include mule deer and, rarely, pronghorn antelope. Resulting long-term beneficial impacts would be minor.

Page 243, Column one, paragraph two, sentence four:

Loss of these trees would result in long-term minor adverse impacts to birds, such as Swainson's hawks and great horned owls, and other wildlife that currently utilize this habitat.

Page 243, Column one, paragraph three, sentence two:

Such increases in the frequency and amount of human presence would tend to displace some wildlife species associated with found in the national monument, such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, mallards, gadwalls, cinnamon teal, red-tailed hawks, Swainson's hawks, and great horned owls.

Page 243, Column two, paragraph two, sentence five:

Increased human presence would tend to displace some wildlife species associated with found in the national monument, such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, mallards, gadwalls, cinnamon teal, red-tailed hawks, Swainson's hawks, and great horned owls. ~~and~~ Increased traffic on Hunt Road would re-

sult in an increase of road-killed animals, particularly of small or slow-moving species.

Page 247, Column two, paragraph three, sentence one:

Following successful expansion of the national monument, a complete residential block would be ~~reestablished~~located to an original location by acquiring and returning residential barracks and associated buildings to the site.

Page 250, Column two, paragraph three, sentence one:

The ~~reestablishment~~location of a historic residential block in an original location and configuration would be the cornerstone of interpretive facilities at the national monument.

Page 250, Column two, paragraph three, sentence four:

For nearly all visitors, the ability to experience and learn from a ~~reestablished~~located residential block would have an exceptionally beneficial effect on visitor understanding of the national monument's significance, resulting in long-term major beneficial impacts.

Page 255, Column one, paragraph one, last two sentences:

Over time, such mitigation would increase and improve areas on the national monument dominated by native sagebrush steppe vegetation, ~~thereby improving wildlife habitat. Depending on the amount of area treated, resulting long-term beneficial impacts would be minor to moderate.~~ Wildlife species that utilize or depend on such vegetation would benefit from this improved habitat. Species known to be associated with the national monument that would be beneficially affected include mule deer and, rarely, pronghorn antelope. Resulting long-term beneficial impacts would be minor to moderate.

Page 255, *Column one, paragraph three, sentence four:*

Loss of these trees would result in long-term minor adverse impacts to birds, such as Swainson's hawks and great horned owls, and other wildlife that currently utilize this habitat.

Page 255, *Column two, paragraph one, sentence two:*

Such increases in the frequency and amount of human presence would tend to displace some wildlife species associated with ~~found in~~ the national monument, such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, mallards, gadwalls, cinnamon teal, red-tailed hawks, Swainson's hawks, and great horned owls.

Page 256, *Column one, sentence two:*

Increased human presence would tend to displace some wildlife species associated with ~~found in~~ the national monument, such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, mallards, gadwalls, cinnamon teal, red-tailed hawks, Swainson's hawks, and great horned owls. ~~and~~ Increased traffic on Hunt Road would result in an increase of road-killed animals, particularly of small or slow-moving species.

Page 256, *Column two, line two:*

...development of new restroom facilities, and reestablishing~~locating~~ a historic residential block.

Page 257, *Column one, paragraph two, sentence one:*

In addition to reestablishing elements of the cultural landscape within the national monument, the reestablishment~~location~~ of a historical residential block in an original location and configuration under this alternative could provide enhanced views of the vast area formerly occupied by the residential portion of the camp.

Page 257, *Column two, paragraph three, sentence three:*

Visitor interpretation and education within the reestablished~~located~~ residential barracks block would be the focal point of this alternative.

Page 259, *Column two, line one:*

This parking would service the reestablished~~located~~ residential block and visitor interpretive facilities.

Page 265, *Column one, sentence one:*

Over time, such mitigation would increase and improve areas on the national monument dominated by native sagebrush steppe vegetation, ~~thereby improving wildlife habitat and resulting in long-term moderate beneficial impacts.~~ Wildlife species that utilize or depend on such vegetation would benefit from this improved habitat. Species known to be associated with the national monument that would be beneficially affected include mule deer and, rarely, pronghorn antelope. Resulting long-term beneficial impacts would be minor to moderate.

Page 265, *Column one, paragraph two, sentence five:*

Increased human presence would tend to displace some wildlife species associated with ~~found in~~ the national monument, such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, mallards, gadwalls, cinnamon teal, red-tailed hawks, Swainson's hawks, and great horned owls. ~~and~~ Increased traffic on Hunt Road would result in an increase of road-killed animals, particularly of small or slow-moving species.

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## Chapter 6: Public Involvement and Consultation

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Page 281, *Figure caption:*

NPS Photo.

Page 285, *Figure captions:*

Reverse captions.

Page 307, *Column one, paragraph one:*

The public is moderately concerned with operations and management, and some of the public thinks the NPS is capable of determining how the national monument should be operated and managed.

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## Appendices

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Page 318, *Column two, paragraph one:*

Alternative C, the preferred alternative, calls for a boundary addition to the national monument encompassing four parcels of land totaling ~~166-180~~ approximately 164-218 acres.

Page 318, *Column two, last line:*

See the boundary modifications map located in this abbreviated final for the 2.31-acre and 7.87-acre sites. map on page 77 for the BOR 3-acre and 9-acre sites.

Page 319, *Column one, paragraph one, line 4:*

The estimated size of the landfill is approximately 26 acres contained within ~~a 40-acre parcel~~ two quarter quarter sections totaling approximately 80 acres.

Page 319, *Column one, paragraph one, second to last sentence:*

With the actual landfill site determined to be approximately 26 acres in size, it is anticipated that the total amount of land to be considered for transferred to the NPS would not exceed ~~40~~ approximately 80 acres or two quarter quarter sections; however other cultural and natural resource values may warrant additional contiguous lands being considered and proposed for inclusion in the national monument. In July 2005, a NPS archeological report on the historic landfill, *The Fate of Things: Archeological Investigations at the Minidoka Relocation Center Dump, Jerome County, Idaho*, recommended the 80-acre parcel addition. See the boundary modifications map located in this abbreviated final for the location of the historic map on page 69 for Minidoka Relocation Center landfill.

Page 319, *Column one, paragraph two, line three:*

See the boundary modifications map located in this abbreviated final. (See page 181).

Page 319, *Column two, line one:*

A significant portion of the parcel could be retained in agricultural use ~~either through a life or term estate, or some sort of lease back arrangement managed by the NPS or or sellback with conservation easements applied.~~ The minimum amount of lands necessary to accomplish the goals of the national monument would be used for NPS purposes. Authorization for the "fee simple" acquisition of the property would require

congressional approval, a revision to the national monument boundary, and an appropriation of funds adequate to cover the purchase price and related expenses.

Page 319, *Column two, last sentence before "1. Significant Resources or Opportunities..."*:

See the boundary modifications map located in this abbreviated final map on page \_\_\_ for the 128-acre site.

Page 320, *Column one, paragraph one, sentence one:*

The 128-acre privately owned site adjoining the national monument to the north ~~adjacent to the north of the monument boundary~~ is critical and essential to the implementation of the preferred alternative.

Page 320, *Column two, sentence two:*

It is the desire of NPS that much of the irrigated cropland on the parcel should be retained as open space, primarily through continued agricultural use ~~production~~. This goal could be achieved through cooperative ~~some sort of creative approaches and leases, such as a life or term estate, or a sellback or leaseback with accompanying conservation easements retained by the NPS.~~

Page 320, *Column two, paragraph four, sentence one:*

However, the time and cost of easement management of these additional parcels taken in context to the entire national monument Reserve area would be expected to be nominal.

Page 321, *Column one, paragraph two, sentence two:*

The total size of all three parcels is relatively small (~~166-180~~ approximately 164-218 acres).

Page 321, *Column one, paragraph three, sentence one:*

The 128-acre adjacent farm property, including a potential conservation easement, ~~life or term estate or leaseback arrangement~~ on the property that is proposed for addition to the national monument is ~~also very~~ very feasible for the NPS to administer. Good neighbor relationships are maintained with the landowner. Therefore the addition of the proposed land areas to the national monument Reserve boundary would be feasible to administer.

Page 321, *Column two, paragraph two, sentence five:*

If a ~~life or term estate, or lease or sellback with~~ conservation easements are ~~is accomplished as~~ proposed, some of the useable agricultural land on the private parcel would remain productive agricultural land and continue to contribute to the local agricultural economy.

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## Glossary

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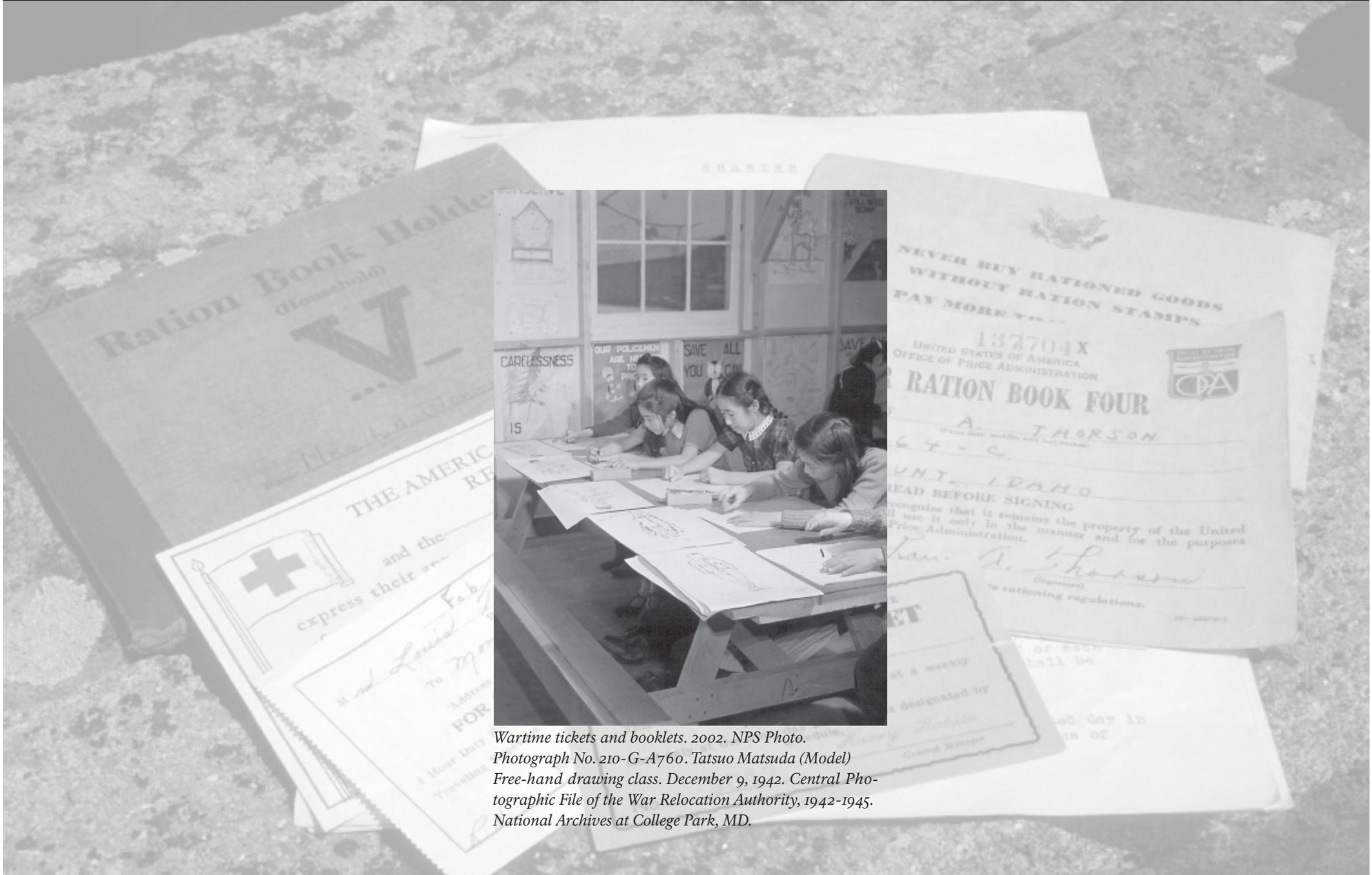
Page 331, *Column one, after "Prison" definition, add:*

**Racism** - The belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior to others. Discrimination or prejudice based on race.

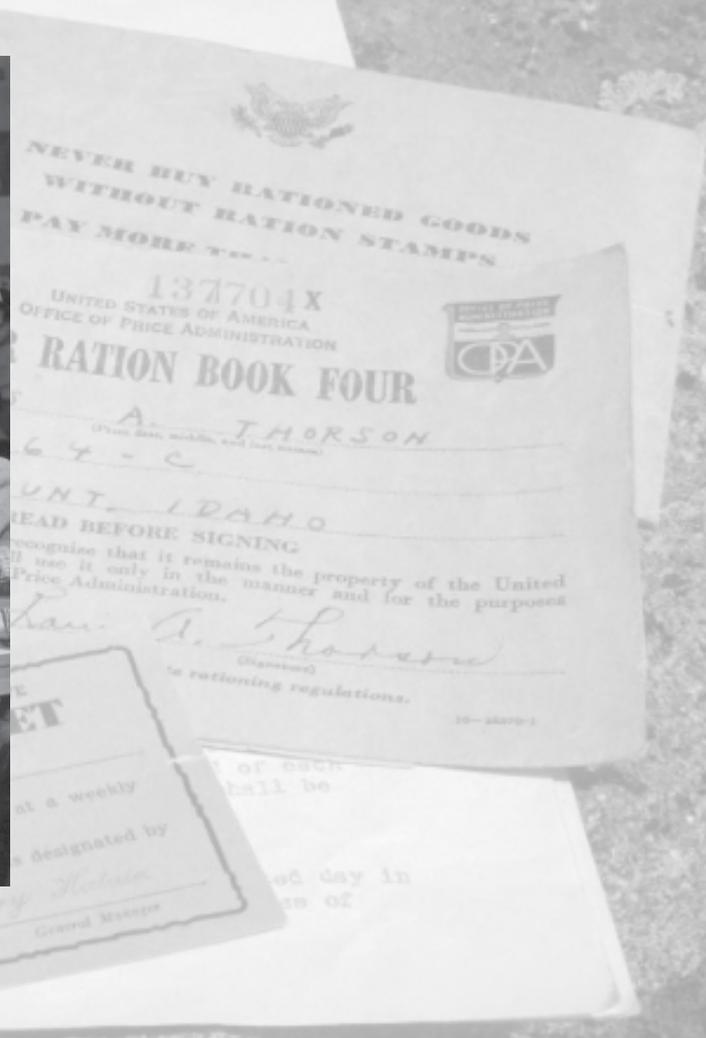
Page 331, *Column two, "Relocation Center" definition:*

**Relocation Center** – the ~~A~~ term used by the U.S. Government to define the places administered by the War Relocation Authority where Japanese Americans and legal residents of Japanese ancestry were confined during World War II.

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Wartime tickets and booklets. 2002. NPS Photo.  
Photograph No. 210-G-A760. Tatsuo Matsuda (Model)  
Free-hand drawing class. December 9, 1942. Central Photographic File of the War Relocation Authority, 1942-1945.  
National Archives at College Park, MD.



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## Chapter 2

### Public Review of the Draft GMP/EIS

*Throughout the planning process the NPS has diligently engaged the public in the development of the general management plan. Preceding the formal scoping process, the NPS staff in Idaho and Washington conducted informational meetings about the national monument with potential stakeholder groups, organizations, various governmental entities, and individuals during the spring, summer, and early fall of 2002 in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. The first planning newsletter was sent to the public, and nine public workshops were held for scoping in the fall of 2002. Following scoping, a second newsletter was released to the public which summarized the scoping comments. In summer 2003, a third newsletter was sent to the public, and eleven public workshops were held to discuss the draft alternatives. A complete summary of these public involvement stages and a summary of public comments are described in Chapter 6: Public Involvement and Consultation in the draft GMP/EIS. This chapter described public involvement during the third round of public workshops that were held to present and review the Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.*

The *Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement* was released to the public on June 21, 2005. The draft GMP/EIS was filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in June 2005. The EPA announced the availability of the draft GMP/EIS for public review and comment, and a notice of availability was published in the *Federal Register* on July 21, 2005 (Vol.70, No.139, pp. 42094-42095). Government agencies and the public were invited to submit public comments by regular mail, e-mail, fax, online, and at public meetings. The formal public comment period closed on September 19, 2005.

The NPS mailed approximately 900 draft GMP/EIS documents to agencies, organizations, and the public who had participated in the planning process, requested a copy, or were identified by the NPS as potentially having an interest in the project. Copies

of the draft GMP/EIS were posted for public review on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/miin>). The document was available at libraries in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Copies of the draft GMP/EIS could also be requested by contacting the NPS.

A fourth newsletter summarizing the draft GMP/EIS was produced and mailed to approximately 2,600 individuals. Another 2,000 newsletters were sent in packets to organizations, libraries, and public locations in the west and to stakeholder groups throughout the U.S. The newsletter provided an overview of the planning process, the four alternatives, and it announced the schedule of public meetings.

Local and regional newspapers and radio stations throughout the planning area were used to dis-

seminate information about the draft GMP/EIS and announce the public meetings. Press releases were mailed on June 21, 2005 by the NPS Pacific West Region-Seattle Office. Press releases were provided to the same print and broadcast media as during the earlier public involvement phases of the project.

## Public Meetings

The NPS held ten public meetings in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California in July and August 2005 to provide the public with an opportunity to learn about the draft GMP/EIS and to offer comments. The meetings began with a presentation of the major elements of the draft GMP/EIS. The meeting then transitioned into an open house format or a facilitated group discussion format. Meetings were held in Eden, ID; Twin Falls, ID; Ontario, OR; Bainbridge Island, WA; Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; San Francisco, CA; and Los Angeles, CA. 213 people attended the meetings overall. The following table lists the locations, dates, and number of people who attended each meeting:

**Table 1: Public Meetings**

| Location   | Date         | Attendance |
|--|--------------|------------|
| Eden, ID<br>American Legion Hall                                   | 7/06/2005    | 17         |
| Twin Falls, ID<br>KMVT TV Community Room                           | 7/07/2005    | 17         |
| Ontario, OR<br>Four Rivers Cultural Center                         | 7/08/2005    | 7          |
| Bainbridge Island, WA<br>Bainbridge Island Commons                 | 7/12/2005    | 12         |
| Seattle, WA<br>Japanese Baptist Church                             | 7/13/2005    | 29         |
| Nisei Veterans Hall  | 7/14/2005    | 25         |
| Portland, OR<br>Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center                        | 7/15/2005    | 36         |
| Oregon Buddhist Temple   | 7/16/2005    | 14         |
| San Francisco, CA<br>National Japanese American Historical Society | 8/09/2005    | 18         |
| Los Angeles, CA<br>National Japanese American Museum               | 8/10/2005    | 38         |
|  | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>213</b> |

## Written Comments

During the public comment period, the NPS received a total of 159 written responses in the form of letters, e-mails, newsletter response forms, and web comments. Of those, nine responses were from government entities and organizations. The majority of written comments were received from Washington, California, and Idaho. Comments were also received from Wyoming, Oregon, Colorado, Florida, and Oklahoma. One comment was received from the following states: Alaska, Arizona, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and one from Canada.

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## Summary of Draft GMP/EIS Public Comments

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The following summary incorporates both the public meeting comments and the written comments received by the NPS through the close of the public comment period. The NPS received comments from approximately 375 individuals and organizations during the public comment period. Substantive comments are those which challenge the accuracy of the analysis, dispute the accuracy of information presented, suggest different viable alternatives, or provide new information that makes a change in the proposal. In other words, they raise, debate, or question a point of fact, policy, or a concept presented in the document. The NPS is required to respond to all substantive comments. Comments in favor or against the proposed action or alternatives or comments that only agree or disagree with policy, while valuable, are not considered substantive, in a formal sense, and therefore do not require an official response. The NPS responses to substantive comments can be found in the Comment and Response section of the abbreviated final GMP/EIS.

The comments received covered a broad range of topics, ideas, and preferences. Many statements or ideas were expressed by several individuals. In this summary, similar comments are stated once along with how often the particular idea or topic was repeated.

The first section summarizes the public's preferences of the four alternatives and the reasons for their selections. The summary is then organized by topics that are addressed in each alternative of the draft general management plan and final general management plan. The topics are: Interpretation, Education, Cultural Resources, Visitor Experience and Visitor Facilities, Access and Circulation, Land Protection and Boundaries, Operations and Management, Partnerships and Outreach, Natural Resources, Scenic Resources, Management Zones, and Carrying Capacity.

The topics that most concern the public are Interpretation, Education, Cultural Resources, and Visitor Experience and Visitor Facilities. The topics that were of moderate concern were Partnerships, Operations and Management, Land Protection and Boundaries, and Access and Circulation. There were only a couple comments on Management Zones, Natural Resources, Scenic Resources, and Carrying Capacity, and did not justify being included in this summary.

## Alternatives

Approximately half of the comments received from the public explicitly stated a preference for one of the alternatives over the others. Of those, two thirds of the comments support Alternative C, the NPS Preferred Alternative. The re-establishment of the barracks block is the most common reason for supporting the preferred alternative as well as its educational value. Approximately one quarter of the respondents stated a preference for Alternative A: No Action; approximately half of these respondents think the NPS is misguided in its interpretation and presentation of historical facts related to the incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. The remainder of those

supporting Alternative A indicated their preference for the least expensive of the four alternatives. Only a handful of individuals support Alternatives B and D.

## Interpretation

Interpretation of the internment and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II was the most common topic discussed by the public. Several individuals recounted their experiences during World War II, and it is clear their wartime experiences have shaped their perspective and how they want this piece of American history to be interpreted. The people who described their wartime experiences included former internees, former WRA staff, neighbors to the Minidoka camp, and World War II veterans. Many people recounted historical facts related to the internment and incarceration, conditions at Minidoka, and also World War II in the Pacific and European theaters. Some changes to the historical background chapter have been made as a result of public comments. The experiences and ideas expressed by the public all suggest that Minidoka's stories are diverse, and its meaning and relevance to each individual is unique. One particular commenter stated that "no one Nikkei voice or group should control Minidoka's meaning."

Why the internment and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II occurred is a topic that was brought up repeatedly in the public comments. The vast majority of people expressed concurrence with the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians findings that the internment and incarceration of Nikkei "was not determined by military conditions but were the result of race prejudice, war hysteria, and failure of political leadership" (U.S. CWRIC 1997: 194). One commenter stated that "it's not a blame game—it's understanding OUR [American] history."

Several public commenters maintain that the internment and incarceration was justified because some Nikkei posed a threat to national

security, and incarcerating all Nikkei was the best way to ensure the prevention of subversive activities against the U.S. A few people also want it known that thousands of Japanese Americans renounced their citizenship and declared themselves enemies of the U.S., and that Nikkei living outside the exclusion zone were not incarcerated. A couple of commenters also state that the living conditions at Minidoka were equal to those of the military and even better than some people living in southern Idaho at the time.

The vast majority of public comments on interpretation fall under the interpretive themes that have been identified in the draft GMP/EIS. These include interpreting the relationship between Minidoka and civil liberties and constitutional rights, discussing the loyalty questionnaire, and Nikkei contributions to national defense during World War II. The public clearly supports the premise that the lives of internees before, during, and after World War II must be described, together with the hardships, racism, and injustice they endured. Many commenters said that the NPS must interpret the experiences of people related with Minidoka, such as the WRA staff, neighbors, and those who were associated with the event or internees. Interpreting the history and significance of the historic site and its features is important for the majority of commenter. Also determined important by most respondents was for the public to understand how internees and then homesteaders created a community in the desert environment and transformed the landscape into an agricultural area. Finally, many felt that the context of a world at war must be interpreted for the public. While internees experienced profound hardship at Minidoka, millions of people throughout the world experienced war, suffering, and injustice. Overall, the vast majority of people stated that interpretation needs to be authentic, compelling, and relevant.

Terminology continues to be a controversial topic. Some people want the NPS to use the term “concentration camp” in publications and in-

terpretation. A few people want the term “relocation center” to be used to be historically accurate. Some people state that the term “internment camp” is misleading and inaccurate, as the “internment camps” were specifically for enemy aliens run by the Department of Justice. Words to describe the experience, such as internment, detention, relocation, evacuation, and incarceration were all discussed, and no consensus preference emerged for any specific word usage.

## Education

Similar to previous public comments on education, the vast majority of the public said that education is the core mission of the national monument. Most desire both on-site and off-site education to reach as many people as possible. Many educational techniques and strategies were proposed to enhance education about the significance and meaning of the Minidoka experience, and most of these comments would be accommodated under the prescriptions of the preferred alternative. These educational tools include engaging and interactive exhibits, a scale model, a website, educational materials, fieldtrips, teacher trainings, and a traveling trunk kit. Many people mentioned that lesson plans should be developed and incorporated into school curricula in numerous states. A few people mentioned that the NPS should allow for research at the site, including a database of internees who were incarcerated similar to Ellis Island. Most people agreed the focus should be a national audience, and some people said that education should begin locally in the southern Idaho area.

## Cultural Resources

Cultural resources was the third most common topic for public comment. Restoring features in the landscape to World War II era conditions is important to accurately depict the camp. Suggestions, most of which are included in the prescriptions under the preferred alternative, included restoring the garden, honor roll, perimeter barbed

wire fence, guard tower, baseball fields, root cellar, and many of the small scale landscape features. The Minidoka landfill was also recognized as a critical archeological resource for the national monument.

The barracks block was an intriguing and stimulating proposal for many internees and was supported by a large majority of the public comments received. Some people stated it was important to acquire historic barrack buildings to be authentic and accurately portray residential life. A few people said that the mess hall and lavatory/laundry building were necessary to show daily life and the conditions in the camp. Former internees also wanted the barracks to show improvements made to the barracks and camp landscape by internees. A few people want the NPS to ensure that landscape features in the residential area are accurately portrayed, including the ornamental gardens and walkways.

Some people disagree with establishing a barracks block because it could be too costly, and the barracks could be interpreted through other means, such as a scale model. Additionally, a few people want to see more of the historic buildings reconstructed.

Many public meeting attendees cited oral history as an essential component of education, interpretation, and cultural resources. Some members of the public suggested candidates for oral histories in addition to former internees, such as the WRA staff and military police at Minidoka. Many Portlanders also expressed their concern that the oral histories are focused on Seattle Nikkei, and they want more representation of the Portland Nikkei experience.

## Visitor Experience and Visitor Facilities

Several people described their recent visits to the site. Many felt a strong sense of place at the site, while others were disappointed that there wasn't much to see. Some people said the high desert and open environment allows for a full appreciation of the physical site.

Several people want the national monument to include places where they can be alone and contemplate, particularly in the residential area. Expressing emotions and healing is important to some former internees and their descendants. They want to actually stand in the residential area and understand the internees' experiences where they happened.

Visitor facilities are an important component to visitor experience. Of those that commented on visitor facilities, the vast majority want them to be authentic to the historic period, wherever possible. Only a couple of people wanted a newly constructed visitor center. Most like the barracks block concept which could serve interpretive functions as well as provide spaces for additional visitor and park needs, such as classrooms, collections storage, park administration, etc.

Several public comments supported the idea of a new memorial at the site. Nisei and subsequent Nikkei generations wish to honor the Issei, as they were the people who suffered the most at Minidoka.

Public comments also reiterate that proper and improved directional signs are necessary along the major routes to Minidoka.

A few people discussed overnight facilities, whether at the site or nearby. Some people think it would be intriguing to provide an overnight experience inside a barracks building for educational purposes. A few people mentioned the need for camping facilities at the site or nearby.

## Partnerships and Outreach

Partnerships are an important component of the national monument's educational mission and in implementation and development of the site. Specific organizations were suggested as potential partners, including local Idaho partners, educational institutions, as well as national civil rights organizations. Amtrak was suggested as a potential partner, so visitors could experience the train ride to Eden. It was

also suggested that the NPS should work with local governments and organizations to promote tourism in the area.

## Operations and Management

Funding was a frequent concern for the public. Most people wanted to know how the funding process works. A few people suggested that the NPS seek out private funding for specific projects proposed in the GMP. Some people disagreed with spending federal funds on this project, as there are other needs and priorities at this time. A few people suggested using the money to preserve other historic World War II sites.

The proposed name change from Minidoka Internment National Monument to Minidoka National Historic Site was also an issue for many members of the public. Of those who commented on this issue specifically, approximately half agree with the proposed name change, while the other half either oppose it or have suggested additional names. Those who supported the name change reasoned that the term “internment” is technically incorrect and that “national historic site” is more accurate in defining the site than “national monument.” Several people who oppose the name change stated that the word “internment” instantly describes what happened at Minidoka. For a couple of people, the term “monument” is more powerful than “historic site.” Other names that were suggested include: Minidoka National Internment Site and Minidoka Concentration Camp National Historic Site.

Some individuals are concerned about the project’s schedule and state that implementation must begin immediately. They would like the facilities and restoration of historic features to be completed soon so that former internees can see developments at the site while they are still alive.

Staffing was also a concern for a few individuals. They would like to see NPS rangers and volunteers at the site. They commented that it would be a more meaningful visitor experience if some of the staff were former internees or their relatives so that they could provide personal stories of their family experience. A few people are concerned with vandalism at the site, and they want staff there to ensure safety and security.

## Land Protection and Boundaries

Overall, acquiring the 128 acre Herrmann property, landfill, and USBR lands is supported by a large majority of the public respondents. People stated that the additional historic lands would benefit the educational mission of the national monument and allow the NPS to preserve these historic areas. A few people mentioned that it is important to acquire the farm-in-a-day property in order to educate the public about the post-camp homesteading era and agriculture in southern Idaho. A few people said that it would be in the interest of the NPS to keep some portions in agricultural use, which is the dominant land use in the area.

## Access, Circulation, and Parking

Transportation was a key concern at the public meetings held in Idaho. Some people stated the best solution to traffic problems could be accomplished by improvement and re-routing Hunt Road along E Perrine Road and E 400 S to the south of the national monument. The importance of conducting a transportation study was also voiced.

Within the site, trails, parking, and roads were mentioned. A few people stated that the trails linking portions of the site should be accessible to all people.

## Conclusion

Public comments received have been documented, analyzed, and considered in decision-making and incorporated into the final GMP/EIS as appropriate. Comments that presented new data or addressed the adequacy of the document, the alternatives or the analysis are responded to pursuant to NEPA regulations. Comments expressing personal opinion or that had no specific relevance to the adequacy or accuracy of the DGMP/EIS were considered in the decision-making process but were not responded to directly.

Consultation and agency letters on the DGMP/EIS are included at the end of this chapter and contain substantive comments received and responses to those comments. A number of comments provided valuable suggestions on improving the DGMP/EIS. Some comments led to changes reflected in the final GMP/EIS. Other comments resulted in a response to explain NPS policy, to refer readers to information in the EIS, to answer technical questions, to further explain technical issues, or to provide clarification.

The public comment period on the draft GMP/EIS was the culmination of formal public engagement in the planning process for the Minidoka GMP/EIS. Public engagement has occurred over the past three years from public scoping through draft alternatives and public review of the draft GMP/EIS. The widespread support for the package of actions that constitute the preferred alternative affirm that the planning process actively involved the public at all stages of the development of the GMP/EIS.

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## Comments on Implementation of the Plan

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Throughout the public planning process for Minidoka Internment National Monument, the National Park Service received an extraordinary number of comments that offered suggestions about how the national monument should interface with visitors, what specific experiences it should offer, and other facets of its operation. Most of these comments are not specific to any one of the alternatives analyzed in the draft GMP/EIS. Rather, they suggest programs or activities, which could be implemented under several of the action alternatives, to achieve the desired future conditions of the national monument. In addition, many involve specific suggestions that are beyond the level of detail addressed in a general management plan. For the purposes of the EIS, most of these comments are not substantive (see the NPS Responses to Comments section in this chapter) and do not include a direct response in this document.

The NPS recognizes, however, that these comments represent valuable input from a concerned public in support of the purpose of Minidoka Internment National Monument. Therefore, these implementation-level suggestions have been summarized and included here so that future managers of the national monument can consider these comments to help formulate more specific implementation-level plans and programs that are responsive to the public's interests. Such future plans and actions will be subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and may require additional, more-detailed environmental analysis at the time they are proposed. (As provided by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, any NEPA document produced for these efforts would be "tiered" or procedurally connected to this EIS.) These analyses may include additional public involvement, providing opportunities for further comments and suggestions.

Summaries of the implementation-level suggestions provided since the beginning of the public planning process are listed below:

## Interpretation

- Minidoka should be conceived as a site for ongoing debate about the issues of civil rights and constitutional history, and the NPS should use this interpretive theme to guide its interpretation and management of the site by foregrounding it in exhibits, interpretive materials, public outreach, its web site, and events at or related to the site.
- Develop interpretation to enable visitors to consider Minidoka from the perspective of and through the experiences of the Issei, Nisei, and WRA staff.
- To be historically accurate, the North Side Canal and the Swimming Hole should be regarded in two distinct lights: 1) in the context of the unjust incarceration, and then separately 2) in the context of what the Nikkei did there, which in this case includes both positive recreation experiences as well as tragic events.
- As NPS staff proceed with implementation of the plan, they must keep in mind the tragic, grave, unjust circumstances of the Minidoka concentration camp that accompany any “improvements” made there.
- “No one Nikkei voice or group should control Minidoka’s meaning. All the fractiousness of military service that still haunts the Japanese American community must be represented in the voices included in exhibits, printed materials, and other interpretations of the site.”
- “Minidoka should not remain fixed in its meaning, but, consistent with the Organization of American Historian’s suggestions in its 2004 report on Teaching Citizenship and Patriotism, it should evolve.”
- “Explore methods of framing individual group experiences in dialogue with other group histories, such as seeing Japanese American history in relation to Native American history. This is a valid exploration, considering that the federal government’s management of Japanese Americans during WWII was directly influenced by its prior experience with Native Americans and vice versa.”
- “Minidoka Internment National Monument should honor the veterans, but it must not forget the draft resisters, the Issei, women, and the younger generations of American Nikkei. It is imperative that the larger public be aware of the fractures within the community that are a manifestation of the internment and incarceration and one of its most distressing legacies.”
- “Minidoka should provide an opportunity for Americans to discuss the different experiences that are often the result of racial or ethnic identity and, hopefully, learn to more fully appreciate the validity of each others’ views.”
- Develop educational programs and materials that include information about the Department of Justice Camps, including describing the experiences of Japanese, Germans, and Italians who were interned in these camps.
- Develop educational programs and materials that include information about other countries (including Mexico and Canada) that had internment and incarceration camps for those of Japanese descent.
- The national monument should include interpretation of the trauma that occurred as a result of having to leave beloved pets behind.

- Explore the use of the instructions or other documents given to the camp guards, detailing their orders and the actions to be taken under various circumstances. This information could be used interpretively to underscore the fact that the internees were being held against their will.
- Use the art and creativity of the internees for interpretive and educational purposes. Include information about internee bands, music, diaries, sketches, architecture, and other forms of art. Examples of such interpretation can be found at the Teresenstadt concentration camp museum in Europe and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- Use the debate over terminology as a topic for active learning.

## Education and Interpretation

- Seek and evaluate other sources of information to supplement that which has already been obtained from public meetings. Among others, these sources of information should include:
  - The Densho testimonies and other oral histories that are obtained from personal one-on-one dialogues conducted in an atmosphere conducive to eliciting the maximum amount of frank information.
  - Books about the camps and internment, particularly those that may include accounts taken from former internees shortly after their release.
  - Diaries kept by the former internees would provide very valuable insight into the personal feelings and emotions of the authors recorded when they occurred.
  - Articles published in academic journals. Contemporary articles published in journals in the fields of both history and ethnic American studies are another source of

information. The more contemporary articles are likely to be quite dependable sources of historical information, since all such articles have been peer-reviewed and most of the facts that the U.S. Government possessed on this subject are now openly available.

- Ask former internees who have spoken to classes about student's questions to develop compelling educational programs that will cater to students.
- Related educational organizations and museums, such as the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C., the D-day Museum in New Orleans, and the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

## Interpretive Displays

- Present photographs, letters, artifacts, audiovisual programs and documentaries to provide the visitors with the primary interpretive themes of the national monument.
- Update the displays in the interpretive facilities regularly so visitors will be enticed to return to the national monument.
- Incorporate the latest computer simulation and virtual reality capabilities in order to provide a virtual tour of the camp as it existed during WWII.
- Create a dioramic display of the landscape, including the flora and fauna. This display could illustrate how the climatic and environmental conditions affected daily life at Minidoka.
- Create a display showing the names of all those held at Minidoka. List the names according to their barrack address.
- Provide a scale model of the entire camp to enable visitors to see and understand the vastness of the camp, the large population residing within the camp, and the spatial relationship of the national monument to the historic extent of the camp. The scale

model could be in the interpretive facilities or as part of a traveling exhibit.

- Have a registration book available so that visitors can record their reactions to Minidoka, and also provide additional ideas.

## Educational Programs and Strategies

- Develop multi-media educational materials such as DVDs, videos, and encourage them to be broadcast on television. Create a real-time media program. It could be a webcam on-site that is displayed on the Minidoka website and at off-site locations, such as Seattle and Portland.
- Develop a multi-disciplinary approach to convey the Minidoka story and leverage the unique power of personal narrative to convey it. Recount biographies in the individual's own words. Personal and emotional connections to history are what most compel interest in historically significant locales. The poems of Mitsuye Yamada are one fine example, especially as they recount her life before, during, and after her time at Minidoka.
- Bring together an advisory group of teachers to guide educational programs.
- Provide teacher training workshops on-site during a two day period. Provide honorarium and credit to teachers for participating in workshop. Encourage teachers both nationally and internationally to participate.
- Maintain a team of traveling teachers to educate about Minidoka in communities throughout the region.
- Develop a speaking or lecture program with a panel of experts or speakers on subjects congruent with the purpose of the national monument.
- Compile a traveling kit for teachers. The kit could include artifacts, teaching plans, and could be a traveling trunk or duffle bag representative of those brought to Minidoka by internees.
- Develop a traveling exhibit that could include films, PowerPoint presentations, and workshops that accompany it. It could be used by school groups, and operated by seasonal staff. It could be based upon the average internee's experience.
- Work locally with the Valley School, Magic Valley Alternative School, and Jerome School District.
- Minidoka educational materials and funding should be made available to the College of Southern Idaho (CSI), to augment their existing facilities and resources. The public could have access to these materials at CSI.
- Partner with the Idaho Council for Social Studies to promote Minidoka at their annual state convention or at a regional event. Need a chapter in the Idaho history books about Minidoka.
- Develop an education component to work with social studies teachers, such as the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS), state departments of public instruction, etc. This should be coordinated with other existing organizations beyond the borders of Idaho.
- Develop a program where students could receive academic credits for participating in national monument activities, such as archeological projects. Educational programs could also be part of "outdoors school" in order to learn civic lessons.
- Create an educational program targeted for the descendants of former internees. This type of program would encourage descendants to keep their families' stories alive.
- Build a curriculum that is simple enough to teach. It should comply with the "No Child Left Behind" standards.

- Create a program for individuals to make commemorative artwork.
- Develop a living history program.
- Provide a bilingual interpretive program (Japanese/ English), as many Japanese nationals have an interest in Minidoka.
- Work with architecture or engineering classes at Idaho universities to build a scale model of the camp and of the water towers.

### Off-site Education

- Develop off-site interpretation at the various “assembly center” locations where internees were sent prior to Minidoka and at some of the places where internees leaving camp were relocated.
- Provide educational information at the Eden railroad stop where internees were unloaded. This location could help to provide visitors with sense of the internees’ arrival experience.

## Cultural Resources

### Collections

- Collect and display artifacts, such as arts and crafts and scrap lumber furniture that internees created at Minidoka.
- Collaborate with museums and other organizations to increase knowledge of and accessibility to artifacts and memorabilia curated and protected by Minidoka Internment National Monument.

### Oral History

- Contact the former teachers, military police, and other staff that worked at the Minidoka WRA Center to obtain oral histories and other information that could be used interpretively.

## Barracks Block

- George Nakashima, furniture designer and architect, designed and built a “model apartment” for his family at Minidoka. With the help of Nakashima’s descendents, recreate the “model apartment” based on historic photographs and drawings.
- The bathroom, toilet, and laundry room should be authentic: showers with no partitions, toilets with no partitions or with cardboard boxes used for privacy, scrub boards to wash clothes, sheets, and towels by hand, etc. The mess halls should contain the “picnic” tables where meals were eaten with audio of three hundred people eating together.
- To reflect the complexity of historical experience, to express the values of most internees, and to show why relocation was unjust and unnecessary, it is important to balance symbols of incarceration with those of internee life. Perhaps nothing better expresses the culture, the endurance, and the vitality of internee experiences than does a garden. Thus, in addition to Fujitaro Kubota’s entry garden, it would be very effective to recreate one or more of the gardens in front of the residential barracks.
- Restore unpaved pathways and wooden boardwalks that the internees built and used at Minidoka Relocation Center.
- Show the little details-“I remember the satin flags with stars hanging...to represent each family member serving in the military... A gold star was placed by names on the Honor Roll to show that that soldier had died in combat... Pail and brush to clean shoes...”
- Consider restoring recreation areas, including baseball fields, recreation halls, etc.

## Natural Resources

- Consider contaminants from the World War II era that may be on-site and at the landfill, including burned coal residue,

arsenic, heavy metals, radioactive isotopes, gas/diesel underground storage tanks, and residue from the historic wastewater treatment system.

## Visitor Use and Facilities

- Visitors should be able to experience Minidoka at their own pace and in their own space. There should be no entrance fee or mandatory guided tours.
- Provide space for a bookstore and gift shop. Sell items that reflect the experiences of the internees, similar to the historic canteen items.
- Develop a large outdoor gathering space.
- Construct a picnic area for visitors.
- Provide a classroom and discussion group area.
- Include copies of the *Minidoka Irrigator* newspaper and *Hunt Highlights* at a library that it is open to the public.
- Artists should be involved early in the development of the monument and their work fully integrated into the design.

## Partnerships and Outreach

- Consider partnerships with the following organizations:
  - National Organizations: Japanese American Citizens League (specifically chapters located in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Alaska), Asian American Comparative Collection at the University of Idaho, Smithsonian, Nisei Veterans associations, Japanese American churches, state historical societies, Boy and Girl Scouts, Japanese sister city programs, Pearl Harbor Association, universities and schools.

- Idaho Organizations: Friends of Minidoka Inc., Jerome County Historical Society, North Side Canal Company, College of Southern Idaho and the Herrett Center, South-Central Idaho Tourism and Recreational Development Association, chambers of commerce, Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum,
- Oregon Organizations: Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission, Four Rivers Cultural Center,
- Washington Organizations: Wing Luke Asian Museum, Densho Project, University of Washington Department of American Ethnic Studies,
- California Organizations: Japanese American National Museum, National Japanese American Historical Society, Japanese American National Library, University of California at Davis (Japanese American oral history project).

- Keep in continuous contact with Japanese American community, as input is vital for outreach and educational outreach.
- Make connections with churches throughout the nation that provided Christmas gifts to children at Minidoka; outreach to these communities.
- Develop a recreational program related to historic significance of baseball, with teams from across the nation coming to Minidoka to play baseball.
- Encourage the development of an Asian American think tank, race relations research center, conference center for seminars.

## Land Protection and Boundaries

- Through cooperative agreements, encourage the protection of prominent topographic and landscape features and the character

of the historic camp landscape. For example, use conservation easements, conservation plans, and scenic conservation easements.

- Develop strategies for creative management and acquisition measures with partners (e.g. non-profit acquisition of land in efforts to preserve or expand national monument boundary). Only consider willing buyer, willing seller for boundary adjustments. Condemnation is not an option.
- Consult with the landowner to explore the remnants of the historic Nitta garden/Wildlife Preserve. Some internees had experiences there as children played there.
- To orient visitors to the site and to indicate the spatial relationship of the present-day national monument to the former Minidoka Relocation Center, work with neighboring properties to mark the historic boundaries, guard towers, and water towers at the camp. Mark these locations with tall slender poles or other indicators that could be color-coded or numbered and referenced to a site plan drawing.

## Access and Circulation

- Issues and ideas to consider in the transportation study- re-routing Hunt Road, create turnouts, or construct speed bumps. 400 South should be extended as a paved through roadway, including a bridge over the North Side Canal.
- Consider shuttle or transit service to the national monument with an interpretive guide or tour. This would limit the number of vehicles on the roads in and around the national monument.
- In cooperation with Amtrak, arrange for passenger train service to a stop near Minidoka Internment National Monument. Arriving visitors would then be bussed to the national monument. This could be symbolic of the transportation of arriving internees to the camp by train and bus.

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## NPS Responses to Comments from Correspondence

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The public comments contained numerous helpful comments and suggestions to the GMP. These comments are summarized in the Summary of Public Comments on the draft GMP/EIS found in the Chapter 6 of this document. The following comment and response section only addresses substantive comments, as required by federal law, the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1502.4) and the NPS Director's Order 12 Handbook on Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making. Substantive comments are those which challenge the accuracy of the analysis, dispute the accuracy of information presented, suggest different viable alternatives, or provide new information that makes a change in the proposal. In other words, they raise, debate, or question a point of fact, policy, or a concept presented in the document. The NPS is required to respond to all substantive comments. Comments in favor or against the proposed action or alternatives or comments that only agree or disagree with policy, while valuable, are not considered substantive, and therefore do not require a formal response. They are, however, a part of the public record and are considered along with all other comments both written and verbal.

This section includes reproductions of letters received from government agencies, organizations, and the reproduction of substantive public comments that were received on the draft GMP/EIS during the public comment period (June 21, 2005-September 19, 2005). Specific individualized responses to substantive comments, prepared by the NPS, are also shown. The nature of substantive verbal comments received from the public workshops held in July and August 2005 were similar to substantive written comments. Therefore, the plan-

ning team determined that separate responses to verbal comments were not necessary. Additionally, several individuals raised similar substantive comments. For the purposes of this comment and response section, the NPS selected one of these substantive comments to represent the particular issue, and provided a single response. It is noted in the response when the substantive comment summarizes similar comments.

Letters appear on the left side of each page. Substantive comments are denoted by brackets. The NPS response to each substantive comment appears on the right side of the page.

A full set of public comments throughout the planning process are maintained at the Minidoka Internment National Monument headquarters in Hagerman, Idaho.

## Comments

## Responses

Name: Elizabeth Wedel #17  
Address: 328 Tacoma St.  
City/State/Zip: New Orleans, LA 70124

REC'D  
JUL 5 2005  
HAFO

### Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005

The NPS invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS). By providing your comments, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The draft GMP/EIS contains four distinct alternatives for the future management of Minidoka. The draft GMP/EIS identifies Alternative C as preferred by the NPS. **Please tell us if you agree with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of any of the alternatives.** You may also provide comments on all sections and elements of the draft GMP/EIS.

We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

*Thank you for allowing me to participate in the review of this draft. The Nat. Park Service's Preferred Alternative (C), appears to be the most comprehensive and thoroughly planned of all four offered. The schematic drawings of interpretive facilities help visualize the look of the future demonstration block.*

*While Alternative C proposes the most actions, it also seems to be the most challenging since it involves bureaucratic steps which will require Congressional approval. This might delay activities considerably (?)*

01 *I do not agree with the recommendation for name change: In my perception, the word "internment" instantly conjures the injustices suffered by a group of Americans during WWII and fits in with the stated interpretive themes.*

*Finally, while perusing the themes under Place, it occurred to me that it is important to preserve as much of the desert environment as possible to emphasize the extreme conditions under which the internees lived.*

Comments can also be submitted via e-mail to [MIIN\\_GMP@nps.gov](mailto:MIIN_GMP@nps.gov)

All comments received will become part of the public record and copies of comments, including any names and home addresses of respondents, may be released for public inspection. Individual respondents may request that their home addresses be withheld from the public record, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Requests to withhold names and/or addresses must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comments. Anonymous comments will not be considered. Submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organization or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Please send comments by July 30, 2005. Any change in due dates would be published immediately on the NPS Planning website.

### Letter 17: Elizabeth Wedel

1 Thank you for your concerned response on the proposed name change from Minidoka Internment National Monument to Minidoka National Historic Site. We received several comments on the name change and are addressing the name change issue in response to your comment. The comments received both supported and did not support the name change, and some individuals offered new names. The NPS strongly considered all of these comments and concluded that the proposed name change is the preferred alternative to be carried into the Final GMP/EIS. There are several reasons the NPS chose to keep the proposed name change, and they are described below.

One primary reason for changing the name is the lack of consensus on the appropriate terms that accurately describe the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. As stated in the "Diverse Terminology and Perspectives on the Treatment of Nikkei in the U.S. during World War II," numerous words have been used to describe the U.S. government's wartime policy toward Nikkei, the events through which this policy was implemented, and the facilities that provided for implementation. The word "internment" is problematic for several historians, scholars, and individuals who assert that the WRA camps were not "internment camps." "Internment camps" were Department of Justice camps generally run by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. They maintain that "internment" is a legal term that describes the imprisonment of civilian enemy aliens during wartime, which is different than imprisoning all Nikkei (Japanese Americans and legal residents of Japanese ancestry). They suggest that the word "internment"

## Comments

## Responses

### **(Elizabeth Wedel)**

misinterprets what occurred at Minidoka.

The term “national monument” is similarly confusing for some members of the public. One commenter noted that “national monument” conjures large natural landscapes, such as Craters of the Moon National Monument or Mount Saint Helens National Monument. Several people have stated their ideas for the design of a monument or memorial feature, rather than understanding that the national monument is 73 acres of the historic Minidoka camp.

Archeological, built, and landscape features and historic events at Minidoka merit the designation of historic site. In 2001, Minidoka Internment National Monument was designated a national park unit through presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act of 1906. NPS unit names can be changed through legislation. It is therefore appropriate to suggest a name change to Minidoka National Historic Site to be more reflective of the unit’s historic value. National historic sites may or may not describe the historic events or features for which the site was designated in their titles. An example is Manzanar National Historic Site which preserves, protects, and interprets the historic Manzanar War Relocation Authority Center where Japanese Americans were interned and incarcerated during World War II in eastern California.

Comments on the name change varied. Some commenters stated that it is important to keep the word “internment” because it helps to define what occurred at Minidoka. A couple

## Comments

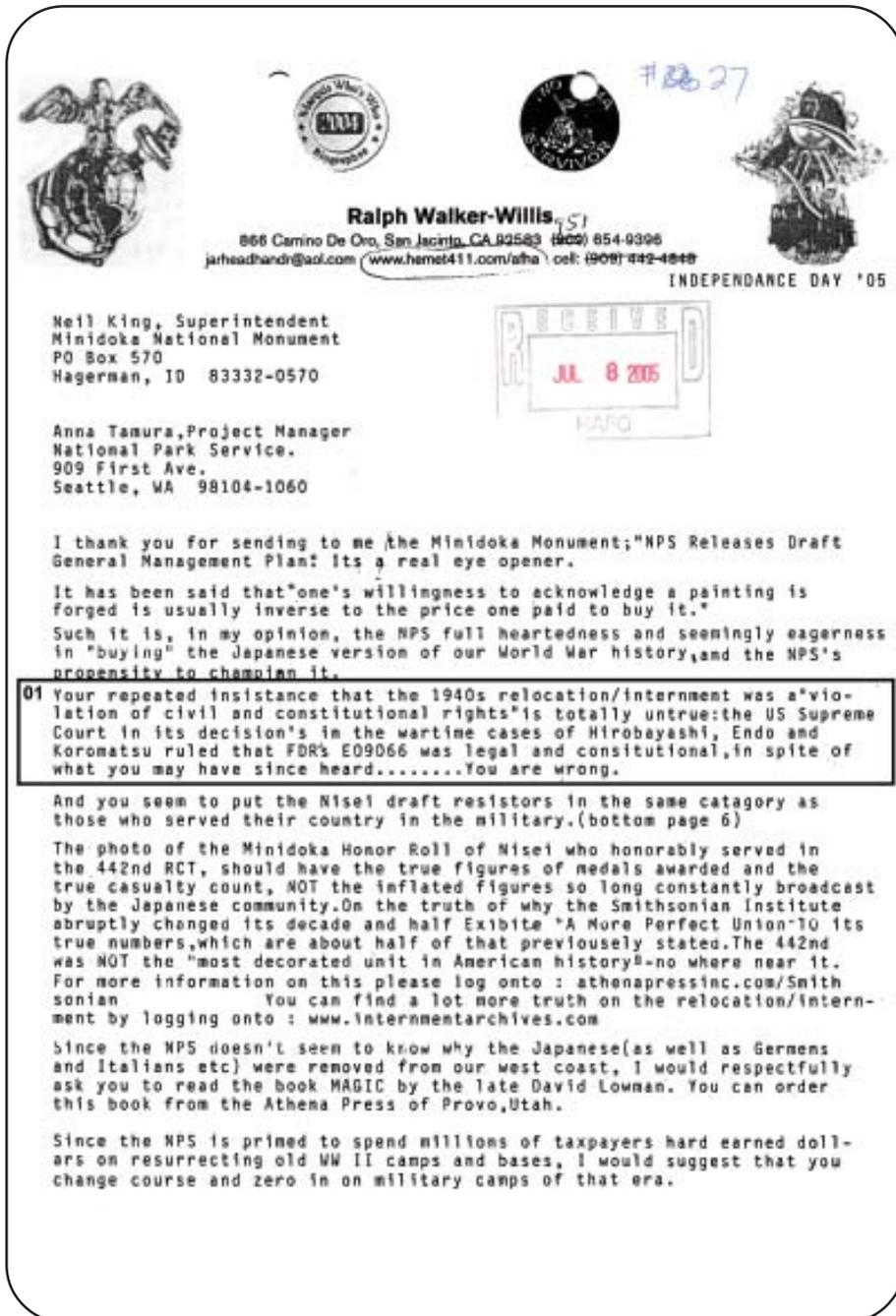
## Responses

### **(Elizabeth Wedel)**

individuals suggested new names, such as “Minidoka Concentration Camp National Historic Site” while others were adamant that the term “Relocation Center” was the most historically accurate term that should be used. One term in the NPS unit’s name, whether it is “internment,” “relocation center,” or “concentration camp” does not describe who was interned, by whom, during what time period, for what reasons, nor for how long. It is these questions that the national monument intends to answer for visitors to the site.

Education is the key mission of the national monument, and the terminology subject will be an important component of education and interpretation at the site. Minidoka is intended to present a forum for learning and discussing the primary interpretive themes and issues related to the interment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. Terminology is an important part of this history and the interpretation of it. Therefore, the NPS’s position is to change the name to Minidoka National Historic Site and ensure that the site’s history, including terminology, is accurately and honestly provided at the site.

## Comments



## Comments

There are literally hundreds of these old abandoned camp sites that could keep you busy for many years. A couple of these are two Marine Camps, Elliot and Mathews, both near San Diego. Freeways I-5 runs thru Camp Mathews(at the north end of Rose Canyon) and I-15 which runs thru Camp Elliot.  
Just think!--you can erect a plaque at such camp sites which could read as follows : " On this site, in the 1940s sat Marine Camp Elliot, where many thousands of US Marines trained befor being shipped (in cattle troop ships) to Pacific battle zones, many never to return."....Now wouldn't that be a much better advocation and passtime for the NPS, than to continue catering to the continual whining and everlasting belly-aching of the Japanese. If the NPS could do that for us WW II G.I.s then we too, could make annual pilgrimages to our old camp site. Wouldn't that be just dandy !

*Ralph Walker-Willis*

cc: Hon. Marv Bono MC

## Responses

### (Ralph Walker-Willis)

appeal the vacated verdicts and these cases never went up to the 1983 and 1986 U.S. Supreme Court. As legal precedent, however, District Court Judge Patel writes that "it is now recognized as having very limited application" and, District Court Judge Voorhees in 1986 stated that, "It is now considered by almost everyone that the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II was simply a tragic mistake for which American society as a whole must accept responsibility."

## Comments

# 38

Name: Robert K. Tsutakawa  
Address: 300 Longfellow Lane  
City/State/Zip: Columbia, MO 65203

**Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005**

The NPS invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS). By providing your comments, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The draft GMP/EIS contains four distinct alternatives for the future management of Minidoka. The draft GMP/EIS identifies Alternative C as preferred by the NPS. **Please tell us if you agree with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of any of the alternatives.** You may also provide comments on all sections and elements of the draft GMP/EIS.

We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

I think alternative C should be recommended over the other three.

My first concern is that, due to the isolated location, the number of visitors will be very limited.

01 I suggest that the NPS establish a small campground (called Camp Minidoka) in the vicinity to bring in more visitors.

My second concern is that, I am now 75 years old and be unable to visit the completed monument. Hurry up.

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

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## Responses

### Letter 38: Robert K. Tsutakawa

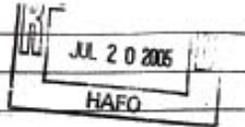
1 Early in the planning process, the NPS did consider including a campground as a feature of one of the alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS. Upon review, however, a campground was not considered to be compatible with the purpose of the national monument. In addition, the small size of the monument makes it impractical to properly locate such a facility on-site without disrupting cultural resources, the cultural landscape, or their interpretation. Thus, a campground was eliminated from the alternatives carried forward for analysis.

## Comments

Name: Diane Takeuchi

Address: 1685 S.E. Liberty Ave.

City/State/Zip: Gresham, OR 97080-1023



### Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005

The NPS invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS). By providing your comments, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

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We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

I agree with the preferred alternative C, which recreates the block with its 12 barracks, dining hall, laundry and Sanitary Building and recreation hall. For block #22's location, I too would like to see the acquisition of the land to the north. Of the 4, Alternative C is my choice.

01 Since the internees arrived by train & were bussed to "camp" I would love to see a partnership with Amtrak for service to Shoshone (or whatever station stop is closest) & then a park shuttle bus to the site.

I would like to see off site programs at the various "assembly center" locations, thus connecting staging points to relocations & then off site programs in places where internees were dispersed

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

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## Responses

### Letter 42: Diane Takeuchi

1 Early in the planning process, the NPS did consider providing train and bus transportation for visitors to the national monument. This would be symbolic of the rail and bus transportation of arriving internees and would provide an interpretive experience for visitors. These provisions would almost certainly be developed in partnership with others, as you suggest. Thus, they are implicitly included in the strong off-site educational, interpretive, and outreach programs to be developed through partnerships under alternatives B, C, and D. Your recommendations have been carried forward as implementation-level suggestions. See the new section "Comments on Implementation of the Plan" located in Chapter 2: Public Review of the Draft GMP/EIS located in this Abbreviated Final GMP/EIS document.

## Comments

## Responses

Name: TOM MUKAI  
Address: 2514 DAVID CT E  
City/State/Zip: FIFE WA 98424



Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005

# 46

The NPS invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS). By providing your comments, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The draft GMP/EIS contains four distinct alternatives for the future management of Minidoka. The draft GMP/EIS identifies Alternative C as preferred by the NPS. Please tell us if you agree with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of any of the alternatives. You may also provide comments on all sections and elements of the draft GMP/EIS.

We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

ALTERNATIVE C, MY CHOICE. I  
CONCERN ABOUT ALL I COULD THINK OF TO  
PRESERVE THE SITE.

01 FYI: THE OUTLINE OF THE CAMP  
DEPICTED ON PAGE 2 IS INCORRECT,  
BLOCK 2 IS LEFT OUT & I THINK  
BLOCK 9 I USED TO LIVE IN BLK 9.  
TKS,

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

Comments can also be submitted via e-mail to [MIN\\_GMP@nps.gov](mailto:MIN_GMP@nps.gov)

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### Letter 46: Tom Mukai

1 The map on page 2 of Newsletter Number 4, released in June 2005, incorrectly labels some of the residential blocks. However, the map of Minidoka Relocation Center on page 14 of the Draft General Management Plan correctly identifies the proper locations of the residential blocks and other camp features relative to the footprint of Minidoka Internment National Monument. This map is used in the *Abbreviated Final General Management Plan* instead of the map that was included in Newsletter 4.

## Comments

## Responses

# 51

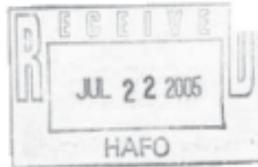


"Rick Just"  
<rjust@IDPR.state.id.us  
>  
07/21/2005 09:07 AM  
CST

To: <MIIN\_GMP@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Minidoka Internment Management Plan

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation supports Alternative C, the preferred alternative, for the management of what would become the Minidoka Nation Historic Site. Our congratulations to the National Park Service for working to preserve this important part of Idaho and US history.

Rick Just  
Manager  
Comprehensive Planning, Research and Review  
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation  
PO Box 83720  
Boise ID 83720-0065  
(208)-334-4180, ext. 306  
FAX (208)-334-3741  
[rjust@idpr.state.id.us](mailto:rjust@idpr.state.id.us)  
Visit our website at [www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov](http://www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov)



### Letter 51: Rick Just, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

## Comments

 **UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

July 7, 2005

Reply To  
Attn Of: ETPA-088

**FILE COPY**  
Ref: 02-029-NPS

Neil King  
Superintendent  
Minidoka Internment National Monument  
P.O. Box 570  
Hagerman, ID 83332

Dear Mr. King:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the **Minidoka Internment National Monument** (CEQ 20050264) in accordance with our authorities and responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The draft EIS evaluates three alternatives. Alternative A is the no-action alternative or continued management for project area; Alternative B emphasizes outreach, off-site education, resource protection, and minimal new development; Alternative C is the Agency Preferred Alternative and emphasizes on-site education and interpretation, and cultural resource protection through rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction; and Alternative D emphasizes on-site education and interpretation through new facilities.

EPA has assigned a rating of LO (Lack of Objection) to the Preferred Alternative. Our rating and a summary of our comments will be published in the *Federal Register*. We support the Preferred Alternative to protect and enhance cultural resources. However, we have some questions and recommendations regarding disclosing information and impacts more completely.

**01** Throughout the EIS it states that increased staffing will reduce impacts to cultural resources. However, the document does not discuss how much extra staffing is needed to protect resources and if there will be funding for additional staffing. Please discuss this in the Final EIS.

**02** The EIS discusses some wildlife species (Mule deer, Pronghorn antelope, waterfowl, Red-tailed hawks) in Chapter 3, Affected Environment. The EIS also states that a variety of wildlife can be found on the national monument. We recommend assessing the specific populations that exist in the project area and disclosing that information. Also, in Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences, there is a general discussion of the intensity of effects on wildlife, but there is no information on potential impacts to specific populations or individual species and furthermore, species are not discussed whatsoever in this section. Please discuss what the

## Responses

### Letter 56: Christine Reichgots, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**1** Staffing of the national monument under alternatives B (8 employees), C (12 employees), and D (15 employees) is commensurate with the level of development and the anticipated visitation to the national monument for each alternative. These staff include park rangers and cultural resource specialist positions in varying numbers, proportional to the level of development envisioned for each alternative. A comparison of the staffing levels and costs of each alternative are provided on pages 212-213 of the Draft GMP/EIS. Thus, alternatives B, C, and D would each have visitor contact, park protection, and cultural resource expertise to properly manage and safeguard cultural (and other) resources. As such, staffing under each of these alternatives is considered to be sufficient to protect cultural resources to the extent that any adverse effects that might occur would not be sufficient to affect the character or diminish the features that qualify a resource as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Park Service budget, like that of most other Federal agencies, is set each year by the President and requires approval by Congress. Funding for the development and management of the monument over the 15- to 20-year planning horizon of the GMP cannot be known in advance. For the purposes of planning the management of the national monument and for the purposes of analyzing potential impacts of that management, it is assumed that the NPS would have sufficient funding and personnel to implement any one of the alternatives. This assumption is stated at the outset of the analysis of

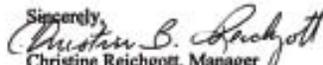
## Comments

**02** potential impacts would be from construction and operation to the wildlife populations discussed in Chapter 3, Affected Environment.

**03** The EIS states under Alternative C that the name of the site would be changed to Minidoka National Historic Site. We question whether or not this name change would affect the management of the area by reducing it's protective status. Please discuss how the name change would legally affect the project area if at all.

**04** There is a section in the EIS titled, "Tribal Interests." This section identifies protecting treaty rights in off-reservation areas with hunting as a critically important issue. However, the impacts to this major concern are not analyzed in the document. We strongly recommend further discussing this issue even though no formal letter has been received from the affected tribes identified in the EIS, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The EIS should clearly state if treaty rights and/or hunting rights and access would be affected and analyzed if necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft EIS. A copy of the rating system used in conducting our review is enclosed for your reference. Please feel free to contact Lynne McWhorter at (206) 553-0205 with any question that you have.

Sincerely,  
  
Christine Reichgott, Manager  
NEPA Review Unit

Enclosure

 Printed on Recycled Paper

## Responses

**(Christine Reichgots)**

environmental consequences, on page 215 of the Draft GMP/EIS.

**2** No wildlife studies specific to the national monument are known to exist. The information about wildlife presented in the Draft GMP/EIS on pages 117 and 118 was derived from knowledge of the habitat, information about regional wildlife populations, and casual on-site observations. This information is commensurate with the intensity, context, and duration of the potential impacts that could result from the management alternatives analyzed in the EIS.

Analyses of potential environmental consequences on pages 233, 234, 243, 255, 256, and 265 have been revised to include references to specific wildlife species, as suggested in your comment.

**3** Regardless of the many names and official designations of the lands that make up the National Park System, the NPS applies the same high level of management and protection, as required by interrelated provisions of the NPS Organic Act of 1916 and the NPS General Authorities Act of 1970, including amendments to the latter law enacted in 1978 ("Redwood amendment"). Specific provisions for protection and management of the units of the National Park System are detailed in the National Park Service's *Management Policies 2001*. Thus, the name change to Minidoka National Historic Site proposed under Alternative C and D would not alter NPS management of the area or reduce its protective status.

## Comments

## Responses

**(Christine Reichgots)**

**4** The text of the Draft GMP/EIS on pages 141 and 218 has been modified in response to your comments. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes did not provide comment on any interests relative to the presence of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

## Comments

Name: Thomas K. Takeuchi Jr. AUG - 8 2005 #62  
Address: 601 SW Fourth Street  
City/State/Zip: Gresham OR 97080  
HAFO  
(3pg)

### Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005

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We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

Please see attached pages.

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

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## Responses

### Letter 62: Thomas K. Takeuchi, Jr.

## Comments

Takeuchi pg. 2 #122

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments and concerns regarding the draft management plan for the Minidoka Internment National Monument. I understand that my comments are open to the public and I ask only that my home address be withheld from the public record.

I would like to share my agenda, so you can understand my thought process. I enjoy the National Parks and feel we need more areas where the land, ecosystem, and natural beauties are preserved. We need these areas to understand nature and learn to respect our world. We also need areas which have historical significance, but only if we can learn from the past to create a healthier and happier future. Because of this I feel the Minidoka Internment is an excellent opportunity to learn from our past. I believe there have been times and places when we needed to learn the significance and importance of historical events, we needed to recognize and perpetuate their teachings, and we did not. Such things as the Hiroshima War Memorial to allow the human race to reflect on whether a nuclear strike is ever necessary and justified; we need the Holocaust Memorial to allow the human race to reflect on injustice and criminal treatment of groups of citizens; and we need the Minidoka Internment to remind the public that prejudice and discrimination which results in the loss of American citizen, freedom, civil liberties and rights should never be sacrificed. We need the Minidoka Internment to prevent future extremists from stealing the rights which our country was founded upon from American citizens because of cultural, financial, racial, religious, or sexual preference/differences.

We need to learn from our mistakes in the past, and to do so means that we need to present an accurate and truthful account of our history. To ignore, to forget, or to re-write the past is a mistake which humans will continue to suffer. I suggest that we stop ignoring, we stop forgetting, we stop re-writing the past, we start learning from the past, and we begin to strive for a better tomorrow.

01 **The Minidoka Internment National Monument:** is an excellent example of our mistake in the past. In keeping with my stated primary goal of learning from our past, we need to use terms that accurately record our history. Using your glossary of terms for the following words...  
As such I do not feel internment is the correct term. Internment was applied because the term was vague enough to misinform the public it's true nature to detain and confine American citizens. "Internment" is defined in your glossary of terms as "the act or state of being detained or confined. A term referring to the imprisonment of civilian enemy aliens during wartime". The individuals being detained and confined were American citizens and not enemy aliens.  
Furthermore, detention should not be used because "detention" is defined as "the act or state of keeping in custody or confined, especially during a period of temporary custody while awaiting trial". The American citizens being detained and confined were not awaiting trial.  
Furthermore, "relocation" should not be used because the American citizens detained and confined were not in "the act or state of being established in a new place". This seems to be a more accurate term for reservations.  
And finally, "evacuation" should not be used because evacuation implies the people agreed and supported "the act or state of withdrawing, departing, or vacating any place or area, especially a threatened area". The term does not correctly convey the historical fact that only these American citizens were forced to move to a place surrounded by barb wire and armed guards. If the area was indeed a threatened area, all American citizens from all walks of life, all ethnic backgrounds, all religious affiliations, and economic abilities should have been withdrawn, departed, and removed.  
The most accurate term is a "concentration camp" which is "a place where prisoners of war, enemy aliens, and political prisoners are placed under armed guards". These American citizens were considered by some to be "prisoners of war", by some to be enemy spies, and by others as "political prisoners" under armed guards. These American citizens were placed under armed guard, stripped of their rights, and subjected to the harshest of living accommodations while their properties and possessions were stolen from them.  
The second most accurate term is a "prison" where these American citizens were transported to "a place or condition of confinement or forcible restraint". Both these terms, while accurate are politically sensitive and slightly derogatory and as such, I would recommend "incarceration" which is "the act or state of being confined, shut in, or put in prison".

I understand there are political, financial and bureaucratic differences for Historical Site, Monument, National Park,... If that is so, then I would suggest that whatever holds the greatest position in terms of financial and material support be used. If not, I question the term "monument", which from my experience of Monument Valley should apply to large, natural structures rather than a reconditioned wasteland.

## Responses

(Thomas K. Takeuchi, Jr.)

1 Thank you for your comments. You raise important points about terminology and the words to describe the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. Terminology continues to be an issue for many members of the public, as the words that are used have various definitions and connotations. The NPS has taken the position of acknowledging the range of opinions and perspectives on terminology, while not singling out particular words as either "correct" or "acceptable." This discussion on terminology called "Diverse Terminology and Perspectives on the Treatment of Nikkei in the U.S. during WWII" is located on page 2 of the Draft GMP/EIS. This section has been moved to the front of the Final GMP/EIS before the Table of Contents, so that the reader can easily find this discussion and understand its importance for interpreting this piece of American history.

## Comments

Takeuchi pg 3 #60

I recommend **Alternative C+**. The "+" would be two modifications to your **Alternative C**.

1. I love the plan to relocate one complete residential block with its 12 barracks, dining hall, laundry and sanitation building, and recreation hall. This historical creation of the intact and complete residential block would afford the public the opportunity to witness the Minidoka Internment Camp. This should be as accurate and authentic as possible without the luxury of paved pathways, or wall insulation, or items required to bring a building up to housing code.

Furthermore, I would suggest that one to two barrack should look like what the American citizens saw when they were arrived on the first day. This would be unpainted wood with gapping holes that allows the dust and wind to freely enter the barracks, sagebrush with minimal vegetation, and little if anything which makes a home a home.

I remember some of the older American citizens expressing disgust at the lack of privacy, of the harshness of the environment (especially the rattlesnakes), and the feelings of being locked in under armed guards. I feel this atmosphere needs to be shared to prevent the loss of American civil liberties and rights in the future.

There was a suggestion for having barracks which would accommodate visitors to "Internment life". I feel this would be an interesting situation but feel that using the area for housing would significantly increase the cost of maintenance while not really adding to my agenda of education.

02 **Modifications for C+**

I would love to see as many of the main or major structures such as the pump house, hospital, post office, fire station, amphitheater, roof cellar, and post office constructed. It need not be in the original locations with the original material but as a historical site for historical reference. Or as in Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark, have a miniaturized scaled version of the camp in the visitor center.

I feel the visitor center (visitor contact facility and maintenance area) should be a new constructed. The reason is that bringing an existing structure up to code would significantly alter the building and thus limit its educational impact and historical value. I would rather have the visitors and students to see the toilet area (and if possible use it) as it was and not something that is "up-to-code".

2. I have some comments on the Common to all of the alternatives.

**Cultural Resources:** I would highly recommend that the information gathering which has been given the role to "identify and support collaborative endeavors to collect and preserve oral histories of the internees, their families, and people associated with Minidoka" concentrate in the Greater Portland area. From my personal observations and discussions, there are many people in the Greater Portland area who could and should be contacted and have not.

**Education and Interpretation:** I would recommend that part of the out reach educational program include correcting the errors of omission and commission of the textbooks used in Grade and High Schools. Educating future generations would go a long way in preventing future reoccurrences.

**Boundaries and Adjacent Lands:** I would recommend that as much of the Minidoka Internment Camp be purchased and transferred to the NPS.

Thank you for the opportunity to state my comments and concerns. To this point, I commend the actions and intent of the people actively working on this project.

## Responses

(Thomas K. Takeuchi, Jr.)

2 With reference to your comments about "Modifications for C+," the NPS has explored some of these ideas. The NPS management policy on reconstruction of missing structures has guided our decision-making process on reconstruction at Minidoka. NPS policy on reconstruction is purposefully restrictive because "no matter how well conceived or executed, reconstructions are contemporary interpretations of the past rather than authentic survivals from it." The NPS has proposed reconstruction of key structures at Minidoka, including the perimeter fence, guard tower, and honor roll. The general public and the NPS concur that these features are of absolute importance to accurately interpret the Minidoka landscape and stories. Other buildings in the administration and warehouse area can be interpreted through means other than reconstruction, such as wayside panels with historic photographs or other media. A scale model of the camp could also be an effective educational tool about the layout of the camp.

A newly constructed visitor center is proposed in alternative D on page 195 of the Draft GMP/EIS. Numerous public comments have explicitly stated that new construction would be incongruous with the historic scene. The NPS decision to adaptively use historic buildings, such as those in the warehouse area, was guided by public comments and NPS management policy which describes use of historic structures. The policy states that historic properties should be used to the maximum extent feasible "whenever operationally appropriate and economically prudent. The National Historic Preservation Act also requires each agency to implement alternatives for the adaptive use of historic properties it owns... Therefore,

## Comments

## Responses

**(Thomas K. Takeuchi, Jr.)**

compatible uses for structures will be found whenever possible... No administrative or public use will be permitted that would threaten the stability or character of a structure, the museum objects within it, or the safety of its users, or that would entail alternatives significantly compromising its integrity." It is therefore feasible to adaptively use historic structures at Minidoka without limiting their educational and historic value.

## Comments

## Responses

 **JAMSj** Japanese American Museum of San Jose  
Preserving the history and culture of Santa Clara Valley

#80

August 16, 2006

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Planning and Compliance Office  
909 First Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 19 2006  
HAFO

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Rev. Mariellen Savada Nozima  
Esau Shiroiizu  
Yosh Uchida

Dear Sir/Madam:

Your Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement is very well done and we congratulate you for the work you did.

**01** I would like, however, to ask that you make an addition that was omitted on the "Honor Roll" of those who served in the U.S. Army.

You omitted the name, "Mark Hiratsuka." You have, however, correctly placed the name of his brother Frank on the Honor Roll.

My name is Ernest Hiratsuka, first cousin to both Mark and Frank. The three of us came together at Basic Training Camp at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, in 1943. It was a great feeling for all three of us to be together during this period.

Mark Hiratsuka's daughter, Virginia, is buried in Minidoka.

Mark Hiratsuka passed away in December 2004, in Anchorage Alaska, and his brother Frank passed away in 1994, also in Anchorage, Alaska.

Hopefully you will be able to confirm that Mark Hiratsuka did truly enter the service from Minidoka Internment Camp.

Yours very truly,  
*Ernest Hiratsuka*  
Ernest Hiratsuka  
Volunteer at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose

EH:k  
Encl. Copy of the Honor Roll

535 North Fifth Street, San Jose, California 95112 • telephone 408.294.3138 • fax 408.294.1657 • mail@jamsj.org • www.jamsj.org

### Letter 80: Ernest Hiratsuka, Japanese American Museum of San Jose

1 Thank you for your comment. Mark Hiratsuka's name did not appear on the central panel of the Minidoka Honor Roll that was built in 1943. In a historic photograph from circa 1945, there are two additional panels with names. At this time the names on the two side panels cannot be discerned due to the range of focus in the historic photographs. Mark Hiratsuka's name may be on one of these panels.

In the WRA Minidoka Roster which listed every Minidoka internee, Mark Hiratsuka is listed as leaving Minidoka on independent employment to Jerome, ID on 4/27/1944. It does not indicate that he left Minidoka for military service.

However, evidence from the National Archives, Japanese American Veterans Association, and news articles supports the fact that he did enter military service on 6/21/1944 and served in the 100th Battalion during World War II.

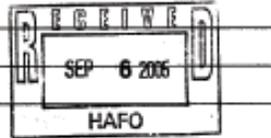
More research will determine if his name is listed on the side panels of the Minidoka Honor Roll before it would be reconstructed.

One of the primary interpretive themes for Minidoka is Nisei military service during World War II. The NPS will interpret this piece of history with recognition of those who served in the military from Minidoka.

## Comments

## Responses

Name: Steven Goldsmith #94  
Address: 3002 NW 62<sup>nd</sup> St.  
City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98107



### Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005

The NPS invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS). By providing your comments, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The draft GMP/EIS contains four distinct alternatives for the future management of Minidoka. The draft GMP/EIS identifies Alternative C as preferred by the NPS. **Please tell us if you agree with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of any of the alternatives.** You may also provide comments on all sections and elements of the draft GMP/EIS.

We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

I agree with the preferred alternative.

01 One thing that I didn't see, however, was a component whereby former residents of a particular block and barrack could connect with one another. Ellis Island and other places offer kiosks of this sort. This could be meaningful not only for former internees but also their descendants, historians, etc.

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

Comments can also be submitted via e-mail to [MIIN\\_GMP@nps.gov](mailto:MIIN_GMP@nps.gov)

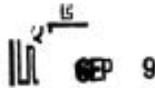
All comments received will become part of the public record and copies of comments, including any names and home addresses of respondents, may be released for public inspection. Individual respondents may request that their home addresses be withheld from the public record, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Requests to withhold names and/or addresses must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comments. Anonymous comments will not be considered. Submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organization or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Please send comments by **July 30, 2005**. Any change in due dates would be published immediately on the NPS Planning website.

### Letter 94: Steven Goldsmith

1 Thank you for your suggestion. A database or searchable record of those who were incarcerated at Minidoka is an excellent idea. This record will provide former Minidoka internees, former Minidoka WRA staff, their descendents, and researchers with a tool to search those who were affiliated with Minidoka. This project and interpretive component has been added to alternatives B, C, and D on pages 165 and 180.

## Comments

#97



TAKASUMI KOJIMA  
2500 CEDAR STREET  
BERKELEY, CA 94708  
(510) 540-5974

Email [takasumikojima@yahoo.com](mailto:takasumikojima@yahoo.com)

NEIL KING: SUPERINTENDENT  
MINIDOKA INTERNMENT NATIONAL MONUMENT  
P. O. BOX 570  
221 NORTH STATE STREET  
HAGERMAN, IDAHO 83332

Mr. Neil King:

Subject: Minidoka Internment National Monument Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for the two materials on Minidoka archeology. The materials were enlightening and I will be depositing the materials at the Bancroft Library at UC-Berkeley.

Regarding the comments on the draft General Management Plan; the presentation was excellent and the draft report was comprehensive and well documented. The organization and the table of contents explain the relocation movement.

The methodology and the four alternatives were well conceived. I agree with your choice of Alternative C and its details. The establishment of the typical block is a logical way to explain the pattern of activities which took place at the camp. I do not remember going away from Block 29, where I lived, except going to the Stafford Elementary School and the swimming at the North Side Canal.

There are several minor missing descriptions:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 01 | Lack of California residence in the general description of camp inhabitant (page and 9)   |
| 02 | 2. Description of Segregation Camp at Tule Lake is not correct – many Nikkei from rural Sacramento Valley refused to move to other camps and remained; they were called Old Tulean and left the camp at first opportunity in early 1945. Our family, who were fatherless during internment, had our choice made by the Block Manager to relocate to Minidoka. Although this move was troublesome, it turned out to be the best choice for our family. |
3. The description of the last phase of camp closing should be expanded as it became chaotic. We were one of the last to leave since we did have our father back from Santa Fe Immigration Detention Center and prior to internment, our family was farm laborers, going from harvest to harvest, and wintering in the Sacramento

## Responses

### Letter 97: Takasumi Kojima

1 Thank you for your comments. Additional information has been added about California residents incarcerated at Minidoka on page 1 and 9 of the Draft Plan.

2 The description of Tule Lake has been changed on page 28 to include those who chose to remain at Tule Lake even though they had answered “yes, yes” to the loyalty questionnaire. The following sentence has been added to the page 28: “Those that answered “yes, yes” could transfer to other camps. However, several thousand Tule Lake internees who answered “yes, yes” chose to stay at Tule Lake rather than transfer; these internees were often called the “Old Tuleans.”

## Comments

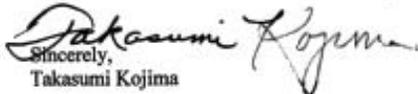
pg 2  
#97

Valley. During the final phase of closing the mess halls were closed as well as the shower and toilet facilities and we had find the block were there mess hall open and shower facilities open. This was a lot inconvenience since in October the sun had set and walking back after dinner and shower was in the dark.

- 03
4. The route out of the camp (page 93) from Shoshone railway station should include those from California; we took a truck ride to Twin Falls rail station and then to Ogden, Utah where we transferred to the California bound train.
  5. At the camp, the guards left in early 1944 and barbed wire fencing were breached. Some of the bachelor left the camp compound and set up shelters outside the fence and came to the blocks for meals and showers. They were called hermits. Several lived outside of Block 29.

The camp experience while dreadful to most families, was a blessing to our family, being fatherless, we could not have survived on the outside. Being transferred to Minidoka was the best thing to happen to our family of four children and a mother. Block 29 -12-C is where we lived with other families from Seattle area. This exposure to the urban families was an eye opener since we were from the rural area of California. One difference was the educational level; we were at least two years behind our classmates even though we were at the same grade. We heard that there were things at college from our fellow students. Looking back, we had our first taste of what should be our goals after camp from staying at Camp Minidoka. The rest is history as all the four children went on to universities and graduate school.

A very warm and sincere thank you to the Park Service and supporters who have dedicated their time, energy and resources to proposing the Minidoka Internment Historical Memorial and believing in its significance.

  
Sincerely,  
Takasumi Kojima

## Responses

### (Takasumi Kojima)

3 On page 93, the text has been changed to include internees returning to California and Alaska. The sentence now reads, "The train stop at Shoshone was the departing location for most internees leaving Minidoka to relocate outside the Exclusion Zone during World War II and those returning to Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California after the war."

## Comments

#103

Response to request for comments on the Minidoka Internment NM, NPS Draft General Management Plan, No.4 dated June 2005.

Currently the site, with some building and other remains, and minimal descriptions, does not adequately educate visitors on what occurred at this American historical site. Unfortunately visitors do not always realize that additional information can be obtained at the NPS office in Hagerman. Those responsible for the Hagerman display have done an excellent job. In summary, there is a definite need to enhance the Minidoka site.

With respect to the reference Management Plan, I have many concerns. First, I highly, let me emphasize - HIGHLY, encourage you not to be political. That is, DO NOT draw conclusions or take a position concerning the events associated with Minidoka. NPS should remain neutral and just present the facts, without bias. Let the public draw their own conclusions (if they want). To be impartial, you must present both sides of any

01 controversy equally. Note: The reference document, and other literature put out by the NPS Hagerman office, make references to injustices, human rights issues, etc.. This wrongly shows an office bias on points that may be arguable. Thus it is a political issue.

Yes, there are books that allow an author a political forum from which to speak their opinion, there are Federal Govt. reports that are always biased to the position of the current Federal administration, thus rendering them useless from a historical point, and finally there is an apology by the Federal Govt., which is always done to gain some political favor, therefore having no historical worth. Note: an apology does not mean the act was wrong. Caution: be careful what you extract from published works. I believe NPS should find the undisputed facts and present them. Where facts are disputed, or in your unbiased judgment as an American, you believe the facts could be disputed, show all points of view without bias to any. You must know that there are always two sides to a story. For example, I can make a strong argument for why internment was the best thing that could have happened to the Japanese people and to the country. Remember, you need only look at the many western coastal defenses to see that the Federal Govt. considered the threat of a Japanese invasion of the US mainland a REAL threat. We can only speculate as to what part the internments might have played if such a "very possible" event had occurred. Note: Japan did attack the US mainland in three different ways: shore bombardment, aircraft bombing, and balloon bombs. There is no way that we now, or the Federal Govt. at the time, could determine the loyalties of the interments, regardless of citizenship. Yes, many fought bravely in military units in Europe. Remember though, many were US citizens and therefore subject to the draft like everyone else. Volunteered? No one knows. It was normal for young men to "volunteer" just before their draft date so they could choose the service they wanted. The camp was a hardship for the residents and that is a good story to tell, just like the stories of the hardships of those on the Oregon trail. I strongly encourage you NOT to address the issue as to whether they should have been taken to Minidoka in the first place. This issue has nothing to do with the history of the site and what was happening in the world at the time. Later events are not relevant to your purpose.

You are lucky that current world events can help you understand the controversy above. After 9/11, what was the attitude of many Americans toward those that even looked

## Responses

### Letter 103: Peter Schultz

1 See response to comment letter 27.

## Comments

middle eastern, regardless of how long they have been in this country or their citizenship? Likewise, there was Pearl Harbor (far worse than 9/11) and a national outcry that lead us into the on-going world war (which involved issues far greater than internment or not). There are many examples in both cases where human rights become secondary to what is believed to be best for the nation. It can be argued that the military draft was a violation of human rights, but where would we have been without it? Issues are seldom simple. So I caution you, do not assume conclusions.

With reference to the Management Plan - I believe Alt. 3, "the most popular alternative", is excessive. I disagree with all alternatives in the plan. I believe proper recognition of

02 this part of American history is appropriate at all primary and secondary sites. I believe the NPS Hagerman plan should be consistent, part of, and in agreement with a master NPS plan for ALL internment sites. I do not believe any one site should have its own plan and priorities over all other sites. Every site should have a plan and be part of the overall NPS plan. The approved NPS plan should not reflect the persuasive powers of any one site. I believe it is important that all sites are consistent with each other and with other American historical sites. Assuming funding will not be available for all sites simultaneously, sites listed by priority, based on importance, seems appropriate. Acquiring all the original land does not seem necessary, unless the land has significant remains. A recreation of some of the buildings (to help understand the site), stating where they would actually have been located (using arrows), is believed sufficient and consistent with many other historical sites. I see no benefit to large amounts of land where there is nothing (unless it has an additional benefit such as being a wild life area), or duplication. The minimal, but sufficient, amount of land required to tell the story seems appropriate. Audio tours are considered excessive. Self guided tours with a pamphlet and signage is consistent with other historical sites. A small museum is appropriate. Space should be made available for Japanese organizations to put memorials, or even gardens (at their own expense). This may be a federal issue, but it is also state and county history, and the state's and county's involvement I believe is essential.

NPS should focus on the site, not our reflections some 60 years later, on the site, or the reasons for its being. Focus should be, where people came from, life at the site, and where they went after it closed. Quotes to help understand life at this site, are appropriate. Yes, there is much more to the story. but I do not believe it is the place of NPS Hagerman, with a single site, to address all the issues. I believe the story ends when the site closed. I am happy to assist with the planning and wording of materials for this undertaking.

Sincerely,  
Peter Schultz, 360-621-9346  
Retired, full time traveler

## Responses

(Peter Schultz)

2 Thank you for your comments. The NPS has not undertaken a comprehensive plan for all internment sites, as the NPS does not own or have management authority over these properties. The NPS only has park planning responsibilities for NPS sites, which include Minidoka and Manzanar.

However, in 1991, Congress authorized the National Park Service to prepare a National Historic Landmark theme study on Japanese Americans during World War II. The purpose of this study is to identify historic places that best exemplify and illustrate the period from 1941 to 1946 when Japanese Americans and Japanese aliens were ordered to be detained, relocated, or excluded pursuant to Executive Order 9066 and other actions. Thirty-seven properties were identified in H.R. 543, the enabling legislation for Manzanar National Historic Site. The theme study, called "Japanese Americans in World War II" is currently underway. The results of the theme study may include recommendations for additional study for possible National Historic Landmark designation or listing in the National Register, rather than as a unit of the National Park System. A draft of the theme study is available on the internet at: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/themes/themes.htm>

The NPS completed a Study of Alternatives/Environmental Assessment to meet the requirements of Public Law 107-363, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study of 2002. The law directed that a special resource study be conducted to examine the national significance of the site at the Eagledale Ferry Dock, Bainbridge Island, Washington, and the suitability and feasibility of designating it as a unit of the National Park

## Comments

## Responses

**(Peter Schultz)**

System. The final study report recommends the addition of the Bainbridge Island site to Minidoka Internment National Monument as a satellite site, rather than as a separate new unit of the National Park System. The study is available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/> Search under Pacific West Regional Office and select Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study of Alternatives and Environmental Assessment.

## Comments

## Responses

Name: David Milholland President Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission  
Address: P.O. Box 3588  
City/State/Zip: \*107 Portland OR 97208-3588

### Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005

The NPS invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS). By providing your comments, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The draft GMP/EIS contains four distinct alternatives for the future management of Minidoka. The draft GMP/EIS identifies Alternative C as preferred by the NPS. **Please tell us if you agree with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of any of the alternatives.** You may also provide comments on all sections and elements of the draft GMP/EIS.

We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

It is exciting to see plans going forward for an expanded Minidoka Monument. As the primary destination for the bulk of the Oregon internees during WWII, Minidoka is inevitably part of our state's and region's history.

Your preferred plan (Alternative C) sounds just like, especially if it affords visitors a chance to see an actual residential block just as it existed in the early 1940s. Critical to the success of this center will be tours, videos, an excellent library and bookstore and if possible a traveling team that tells the Minidoka story in locales throughout the NW region.

Our group (OCHC, see above) <sup>stays</sup> had an excellent presentation on the west in and reflecting the internment experience on the west. We would be pleased to sponsor or co-sponsor presentations by representatives of the Minidoka Monument when such become available.

Please keep us informed of developments.

Thank you

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

Comments can also be submitted via e-mail to [MIN\\_GMP@nps.gov](mailto:MIN_GMP@nps.gov)

All comments received will become part of the public record and copies of comments, including any names and home addresses of respondents, may be released for public inspection. Individual respondents may request that their home addresses be withheld from the public record, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Requests to withhold names and/or addresses must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comments. Anonymous comments will not be considered. Submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organization or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Please send comments by July 30, 2005. Any change in due dates would be published immediately on the NPS Planning website.

### Letter 107: David Milholland, Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission

## Comments

### ASIAN AMERICAN COMPARATIVE COLLECTION

Laboratory of Anthropology  
University of Idaho  
P.O. Box 441111  
Moscow, ID 83844-1111  
(208) 885-7075; pwegars@uidaho.edu

13 September 2005

#115

Minidoka Internment NM General Management Plan  
P. O. Box 570  
Hagerman, ID 83332-9900 [sent via e-mail to MIIN\_GMP@nps.gov]

Ladies/Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Minidoka Internment National Monument draft general management plan and environmental impact statement. Thanks too, to Neil King and all the others who have worked so hard on this.

I support Alternative C (the Preferred Alternative) because I agree that it is crucial to acquire additional acreage in the former barracks block area and to include a barracks block (original or replicated) for interpretive purposes. I also believe it is necessary to acquire the camp's landfill from the Bureau of Land Management.

- 01 With regard to the proposed name change, I do agree that the name "Minidoka Internment National Monument" should be changed. My main reason for so stating is because the term "internment" should be reserved for the Department of Justice internment camps, run by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, such as the Kooskia Internment Camp which I am currently investigating. That said, I believe the proposed name change, to "Minidoka National Historic Site," is too wishy-washy in that it says nothing about what happened there, and perpetuates a euphemism similar to those of "relocation" and "evacuation." "Minidoka Concentration Camp National Historic Site" would be far more evocative of the experiences endured by the thousands of inmates confined there in violation of the U.S. Constitution. The term "concentration camp" does not detract from the concentration camps in Nazi Germany, which should more accurately be called "death camps."
- 02 Current scholarship advocates the use of the more precise terminology to differentiate between the two types of camps, internment and concentration, and the rejection of euphemisms. Please do read Roger Daniels' important essay, "Words Do Matter: A Note on Inappropriate Terminology and the Incarceration of the Japanese Americans," in Louis Fiset and Gail M. Nomura, editors, *Nikkei in the Pacific Northwest: Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians in the Twentieth Century* (Seattle: Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest in association with University of Washington Press, 2005). The current name "Manzanar National Historic Site" should not be used to justify similar weak terminology for Minidoka.
- 03 In other comments, you could cast a wider net for partners than those mentioned on p. 129. For example, you might include the National Japanese American Historical Society and the Japanese American National Library, both in San Francisco; only the former received a copy of the draft GMP/EIS report. The University of Idaho Library's Special Collections and Archives contains some Minidoka-related materials, but they did not receive a report. The Asian American

## Responses

### Letter 115: Priscilla Wegers, Ph.D., Asian American Comparative Collection, University of Idaho

- 1 Please see the response to comment letter 17.
- 2 Your comments on terminology have been addressed in the NPS response to comment letter 62 (comment 01).
- 3 Thank you for your comments on partnerships. You make several suggestions about additional partners. The text on page 129 is suggestive rather than definitive, so that future park managers have the discretion to develop partnerships with a wide range of organizations. Your additional potential partners have been added to the Comments on Implementation of the Plan section of the Public Involvement and Consultation chapter.

## Comments

## Responses

**03** Comparative Collection, which did receive a report but which is not on the list of partners, contains information on the Kooskia Internment Camp, some of which is also related to former Minidoka inmates. The Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center likewise received a report but is not on your list of partners.

**04** Finally, I offer a few technical details for your consideration. Although I did not read every word in the report (but I could, for a fee!) I did find a few typographical errors and other problems worth mentioning. For example:  
Table of Contents: Glossary, Abbreviations[,] and Acronyms: says p. 324 but only the Glossary is there. The Abbreviations and Acronyms are on p. 332.  
p. 25, paragraph 3, lines 1-2: exasperated should be exacerbated.  
p. 36, para. 2, last line: ranchets should be ranchettes.  
p. 185, para. 3, lines 7-9: there needs to be a space between TheI28. Also, page 183, not 181, is where the area is denoted.  
p. 307, para. 1, line 1: pubic should be public; you might want to do a global search of the first term to see if there are other mentions of it.  
p. 224, Glossary: combine into one alphabet with a code for the wartime policy terms, or put that section first to show its importance.  
p. 341, Index: woefully inadequate, for this otherwise-excellent report. However, having just done one for my most recent book, I know how time-consuming it is to do a good one.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the GMP/EIS for Minidoka. I wish you every success in your endeavors.

Best wishes,

Priscilla Wegars, Ph.D.  
Volunteer Curator

**(Priscilla Wegars, Ph.D.)**

**4** Thank you for your careful read of the document, and your suggested changes. All of your changes have been made on pages 25, 36, 185, and 307. The glossary and index have not been changed. Changing the format of the glossary would not add new information. The index includes information that is generally indexed in environmental impact statements.

## Comments



September 15, 2005

#119

Neil King  
Superintendent  
Minidoka Internment National Monument  
P.O. Box 570  
Hagerman, ID 98882-0570

Dear Neal,

I am writing to endorse Alternative C in the Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. In my capacity as Executive Director of Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project, I have studied the alternatives and find that Alternative C does an excellent job of balancing the preserving of the Minidoka site with the educating and informing of the public of this important chapter in U.S. history.

I am especially supportive of the emphasis on education and interpretation and pledge Densho's cooperation in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Tom Ikeda  
Executive Director  
Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project

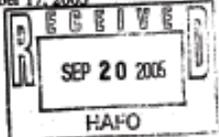
## Responses

Letter 119: Tom Ikeda, Densho

## Comments

(#126 original came by mail, earlier)  
Ax received, earlier)

September 17, 2005





**IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
FOUNDED IN 1949

Our mission is to educate through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of Idaho's cultural heritage.

**Dirk Kemphorne**  
Governor of Idaho

**Steve Guerber**  
Executive Director

**Administrative**  
1109 Main Street, Suite 210  
Boise, Idaho 83702-0942  
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**Archaeological Survey**  
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**Capital Education Center**  
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**Historical Museum and Education Program**  
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**Historic Preservation Office**  
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Fax: (208) 334-2779

**Historic Sites Office**  
2441 Old Posternory Road  
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**Library/Heritorial and Genealogical Collection**  
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**Publishing**  
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Office: (208) 334-2428  
Fax: (208) 334-3798

**State Archaeologist's Office**  
2305 Old Posternory Road  
Boise, Idaho 83712-4210  
Office: (208) 334-2428  
Fax: (208) 334-2424

Neil King, Superintendent  
Minidoka Internment National Monument  
P.O. Box 570  
Hagerman, Idaho 98882-0570

RE: *Minidoka Internment National Monument – Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*

Dear Neil:

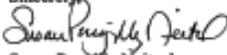
Thank you for requesting our views on the draft *General Management Plan and EIS for Minidoka Internment National Monument*. After reviewing the document, we found it to be very interesting, comprehensive, and well written. We also appreciate recently receiving the report *The Fate of Things: Archaeological Investigations at the Minidoka Relocation Center Dump, Jerome County, Idaho* by Jeffery C. Burton. This report, like others by the same author, is excellent.

With regard to the draft GMP/EIS, we support the National Park Service's preferred alternative, Alternative C. This proposal will provide the best visitor experience while maintaining the integrity of the historic site. We also support the acquisition of the Bureau of Reclamation parcels, the landfill site (10JE521) located on BLM land, and the 128 acres north of the existing monument. If the landfill site cannot be acquired soon, the NPS should work with the BLM to develop management strategies to protect it.

01 We are pleased that NPS plans to hire cultural resource specialists to assist with management of the site. On pages 188-189, the document should specify that at least one of the specialists meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications for Archaeologist or Historian.

The Minidoka Relocation Center (ISHS #53-11253) stands as one of Idaho's most significant historic properties. We welcome the National Park Service's assistance in preserving and interpreting it for future generations. We would appreciate being consulted regularly as plans for the Monument progress.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 208-334-3847, ext. 107.

Sincerely,  
  
 Susan Pengifly Neitzel  
 Deputy SHPO

cc: Stephanie Toothman, NPS, Seattle 

The Idaho State Historical Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Responses

### Letter 126: Susan Pengifly Neitzel, Idaho State Historical Society

1 Enumerating specific professional qualifications for future staff is beyond the scope of the general management plan. Appropriate qualifications for all positions, including cultural resources specialists, will be determined at the time of staffing. Thank you for your comments.

## Comments

September 16, 2005



Minidoka Internment National Monument  
P O Box 570  
Hagerman Id 93332-0570  
Neil King, Superintendent;

Dear Mr. King;

Thanks for your dedicated effort to continue this project to the end to which we would like accomplish.

In the end the visitor to this site should have learned of what had happened here was extreme race hatred and the failure of the leadership of this government which should never have happened and should never happen again.

To accomplish this the project should be interesting and attractive so people will come to visit this project.

Of the plans that have been projected to be approved, I would think that plan "C" would be the one that would accomplish the goal.

I hope we can proceed in this direction "post haste". May I be around to see the finished project.

Sincerely,

Masa Tsukamoto, Chmn.  
Minidoka Recognition Project. 1977  
Pocatello Blackfoot JA CL

## Responses

**Letter 128: Masa Tsukamoto, Japanese American  
Citizens League, Pocatello Blackfoot Chapter**

## Comments



"Beth Takekawa"  
<btakekawa@wingluke.org>  
09/19/2005 07:32 PM  
MST  
Please respond to  
btakekawa

To: "Anna Tamura (E-mail)" <Anna\_Tamura@nps.gov>, "Neil King (E-mail)" <Neil\_King@nps.gov>, <MIIN\_GMP@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: comments on Draft Plan

#131

Dear Anna and Neil,  
Congratulations on issuing this significant document! We completed a study and discussions on the draft plan. We have all appreciated being part of reaching out to former Minidoka internees and gaining their input, and being included in this process. Our comments are attached.

Thank you for all you are doing,  
Beth for the Wing Luke Asian Museum participants

Beth Takekawa  
Associate Director  
Wing Luke Asian Museum  
407-7th Ave S  
Seattle, WA 98104  
www.wingluke.org  
206-623-5124 ext 101  
206-623-4559 fax  
btakekawa@wingluke.org



GMP Comments\_05-09-19.pdf

## Responses

### Letter 131: Beth Takekawa, Wing Luke Asian Museum

# Comments

## Statement of Concerns

### Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement For Minidoka Internment National Monument

September 19, 2005  
Prepared by the Wing Luke Asian Museum  
Cassie Chinn, Lily Kodama, Charlene Mano, Yosh Nakagawa, Bob Sato and Beth Takekawa

#### General Overview

Thank you once again for the opportunity to review the General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Minidoka Internment National Monument. We know you have taken many efforts to engage our community in this lengthy process, and we appreciate your responsiveness to our comments. Upon final review of the GMP/EIS, we would like to reemphasize desires for the Minidoka Internment National Monument and share further concerns that will hopefully inform finalization of the plan as well as its implementation.

As you know, at the start of this process, over 3 years ago, we met with over 50 former Minidoka internees over a series of 9 meetings to find out from them as a group what they desired at the Minidoka Internment National Monument. We have held the outcomes of those meetings as the foundation for our comments.

**01** 1. Use of "Minidoka Relocation Center." To remain historically accurate, the historic camp should be referred to as "Minidoka concentration camp." The terms "Minidoka Relocation Center," "relocation center" and "relocation camp" were euphemisms used by the U.S. government and others to make the incarceration more palatable, and should definitely not be used without corresponding interpretation. Words such as "concentration camp," "incarceration," "inmates," and "imprisoned" appropriately capture the devastating community-wide as well as personal impact that the incarceration had on Nikkei in the United States during World War II. Even today, these words might make us feel uncomfortable – and they rightly should since the unjust incarceration of people in a nation based on freedom and rights should solicit strong, powerful, heart-felt responses. In one of our previous meetings, a former internee shared in essence the following comment, "Do you know what it is like to lose your freedom? No, you do not. It is like having your heart ripped out and never getting it back."

We urge the National Park Service to reconsider its blanket use of the term "Minidoka Relocation Center" throughout the GMP/EIS. The term is used repeatedly, without interpretation, and therefore presented as accurate and acceptable. In doing so, the National Park Service reinforces and approves use of this euphemistic term, used to soften and ease a grave, tragic wrong.

Interpretive Themes stated within the GMP/EIS rightly capture the harsh, tragic, unjust realities of the Minidoka concentration camp. Minidoka emerged from a "long history of race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership" and "provides a forum for discussing the violation of U.S. constitutional rights and the redress movement, which resulted in an apology from the United States government." "Internees at Minidoka were confronted with injustice, the loss of freedom, and profound emotional, psychological, physical, and economic hardships." Although the GMP/EIS states that these are primary interpretive themes, critical to a visitor's understanding of the park, the use of the term "Minidoka Relocation Center" belies these themes.

The current GMP/EIS should be revised to use the term "Minidoka concentration camp." At the very least, the GMP/EIS should refrain from using the terms "Minidoka Relocation Center," "relocation center," and "relocation camp" without appropriate interpretation. While mentioned in the definition for "Relocation", the Glossary

# Responses

## (Beth Takekawa)

**1** The NPS acknowledges that this is a complicated and controversial issue, and we acknowledge your disagreement with the use of particular terms in the GMP/EIS. We have addressed how terminology is used for purposes of this document on page 2 of the DGMP/EIS. Terminology will be an important component of interpretative materials for the national monument and can provide thought provoking examples for site visitors to reflect on the experiences of the former internees. Also see response to comment #62-01.

## Comments

definition for "Relocation Center" should note that the term was a euphemism that obscures the truth. The stand-alone use of "Relocation Center" and "relocation center" on pages i and 86 should be revised as well.

2. Significance of the unjust incarceration of Nikkei during World War II and the protection of civil and constitutional rights for all peoples in the United States. While educating the public about the story of the unjust incarceration of Nikkei during World War II at the national monument is important, equally important at the national monument is interpreting the story and educating the public about the protection of civil and constitutional rights for all peoples in the United States. The protection of civil and constitutional rights for all peoples in the United States is the significance and legacy of the unjust incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. The two go hand-in-hand, should not be separated, and should receive equal weight at the national monument.

We appreciate the GMP/EIS for specifically identifying this as a Significance for the Minidoka Internment National Monument. We also echo the statement on page 290 regarding the Message. Continued efforts must be taken at events, with publications, with exhibits, with programs and projects associated with Minidoka Internment National Monument to educate about contemporary issues related to constitutional and civil rights, including modern-day violations of these rights, and to take action to protect and ensure these rights. Time and time again, former internees have shared that this is the legacy of their experience during World War II.

02 In light of this, the violation of civil and constitutional rights by the U.S. government against Nikkei during World War II should be more specifically stated in the "History of the Internment and Incarceration of Nikkei," particularly in the section "Nikkei and World War II" which describes the first unwarranted arrests and false suspicions and fears (5-6). The statement that these Issei who were first arrested were the first to suffer violation of their rights must be clearly and directly stated. The bold statement by Nikkei fighting in World War II that they would fight to regain their freedom and rights must be made known through interpretation of the honor roll as well. In this light, then, the text on page 86 which describes the garden at the Entrance Area as a place where visitors can "stop and visit, admire, and remember the young men fighting for the U.S.," should be revised to read, "stop and visit, admire, remember the young men fighting for the U.S., and reflect on the fragility of civil and constitutional rights." The Summary of Management Zones presented in the table on page 153, under "Education and Interpretation" for the "Historic Features Zone" should state that "the loss of freedom and constitutional and civil liberties would be illustrated by the military police building, reception building, sense of remoteness, and historic locations of the fence and guard tower."

As implementation of the GMP/EIS begins, the NPS should pursue partnerships not only to reach out and educate the public about the internment and incarceration, but also its significance, specifically protection of constitutional and civil rights. It is important that the GMP/EIS clearly state this, so that partnerships are not limited to Nikkei organizations but relationships are also established with diverse, multicultural organizations working to ensure constitutional and civil rights. The section on Opportunities for Partnership (page 129) should be amended to include these organizations and to read: "Other cooperative efforts would be established with schools, universities, and local, state, and other federal agencies, as well as other constitutional and civil rights organizations" (2<sup>nd</sup> to last sentence on page 129).

03 3. Context of racism and discrimination before, during and after World War II. The unjust incarceration of Nikkei during World War II was the product of a long history of anti-Asian racism in the United States. This fact must be made readily apparent at the national monument to most accurately depict history. Racism is another word that might make us uncomfortable, and yet it is a reality of American history. Efforts must be taken within the GMP/EIS and at the Minidoka Internment National Monument to educate about racism in the United States clearly and directly. On page 5, the text reads: "Deep resentment, discrimination, bitterness, and fear of Japanese-born immigrants and their Japanese American descendants living along the West Coast began to surface within the government, media, and general public." Why not include racism in this statement for surely it is the overarching, primary reason for the "deep resentment, discrimination, bitterness, and fear"? Why not also include the term "racism" in the "Glossary of words and terms related to the U.S. government's wartime

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## Responses

(Beth Takekawa)

2 We agree that civil and constitutional rights and the unjust internment and incarceration are significant and are linked. This message is explicit in the national monument's significance, interpretive themes, and desired future conditions which form the foundation for the national monument. This text can be found on page 44-51 of the Draft GMP/EIS.

We do not agree that your suggested word changes should be made on pages 5, 6, 86, and 153. This type of interpretation is already expressed in the significance, interpretive themes, and desired future conditions.

On page 129 of the Draft GMP/EIS, the text has been changed to read, "Other cooperative efforts would be established with schools, universities, and local, state, and other federal agencies, as well as other constitutional and civil rights organizations."

3 The NPS agrees that the internment and incarceration of Nikkei was set within a context of racism and discrimination during World War II. This message is explicit in the national monument's significance, interpretive themes, and desired future conditions which form the foundation for the national monument. This text can be found on page 44-51 of the Draft GMP/EIS.

The concepts and acts of racism and discrimination are described throughout the document; and the actual words "racism" and "discrimination" are located where appropriate in the document. Your suggestion to add the phrase "racism and discrimination"

## Comments

**03** policy toward Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry” for surely racism had been the context for U.S. legal action related to Nikkei leading up to and during World War II, and continued to be a reality in Nikkei life following World War II. Racism should be pointed out for all to see, rather than left lurking under the surface, so that no one can deny its existence and impacts and so that we all can take steps to fight against it.

We note that despite our previous comments to the draft that the following revisions were not incorporated into subsequent drafts, and this represents a weakness in the GMP/EIS:

Page i – “For Nikkei at Minidoka and other War Relocation Authority (WRA) concentration camps, the internment and incarceration was the central event in their community’s history; however the experiences of injustice, racism and discrimination, hardship, and endurance illustrate an American story common among millions of immigrants, their descendants, and American Indians.”

Page i – “Following the decommission of the camp, the Minidoka concentration camp lands were subdivided and settled. With continuing racism and discrimination, Nikkei were not given the option to remain in the area.”

Page 5 – “Deep resentment, racism and discrimination, bitterness, and fear of Japanese-born immigrants and their Japanese American descendants living along the West Coast began to surface within the government, media, and general public.”

Page 32 – “With continuing racism and discrimination, generally, Nikkei were then barred from staying in the area and were not allowed to participate in the future land drawings of the former camp lands.”

Page 33 – “Internees returning home, rebuilding their lives, or settling in new years of the nation encountered continued racism and discrimination as well as new adversities.” (Note: “Racism” and “discrimination” are much stronger words than “prejudice” and better capture the extent of what Nikkei faced as they returned.)

**04** 4. Issei experience of Minidoka concentration camp. The Issei bore the majority of the weight of shame, loss of freedom, loss of property, loss of livelihood, and in some cases, loss of life, in the unjust incarceration of the Nikkei during World War II. The GMP/EIS rightly states “the Issei generation was most impacted by the internment and incarceration experience” (page 21). As we know, losses were profound on numerous levels yet strength and perseverance were demonstrated by the Issei on all fronts. Attention needs to be given throughout the GMP/EIS and subsequently the Minidoka Internment National Monument to balance both aspects.

We cannot emphasize enough the necessary and primary weight that Minidoka Internment National Monument should give to the Issei experience. While this story, unfortunately, is the most difficult to recover, the NPS should facilitate ways for visitors to the Monument to consider Minidoka from the perspective of the Issei. While stories from the Nisei and others are important – and efforts must be made to preserve and present these stories through the Minidoka Internment National Monument – the NPS must also find ways to share the story and voice of those who through the circumstances of history and the passing of time were not able to speak for themselves.

What did the honor roll mean to the Issei parents who watched their sons valiantly go off to risk their lives for a nation that never accepted them into its arms? What tragic nuances did the swimming hole hold for the Issei parents who had to undergo the wretched experience of burying their own child? In this vein, we question the accuracy of stating that Issei women were “relieved” of some traditional duties and therefore less “burdened” by the incarceration (page 25). Could it be stated instead that “removing them from these traditional duties also stripped them of a sense of purposefulness and significance”? These are the questions that NPS staff working at Minidoka Internment National Monument should continually ask and that ultimately visitors should confront as they walk through the Monument.

## Responses

**(Beth Takekawa)**

to additional locations in the document (pages i, 5, 32, and 33) does not add new information for the reader.

The term “racism” has been added to the glossary of the Final GMP/EIS. It reads, “The belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior to others. Discrimination or prejudice based on race.”

**4** The preferred alternative has been modified to include the concept of an Issei Memorial. This concept was supported by several other public comments. The NPS will work with partners to develop this important project that focuses on the experiences of the Issei. On page 180 of the Draft GMP/EIS, the text has been changed to read, “The NPS and partners will select a site appropriate for the development of an Issei Memorial on the east end site.”

Your questions regarding the term “relieved” with reference to the experience of Issei women are appropriate, insightful, and add sensitivity to understanding the experiences of Issei women at Minidoka. The use of the word “relieved” is defined as releasing from obligation, and in this context, it is appropriate.

## Comments

**05** 5. **Preserved and restored environs and conditions at the national monument.** The unfertile barrenness and desolation of the historic period of the Minidoka concentration camp has changed dramatically to the present-day irrigated agricultural landscape. Former internees who have visited the site repeatedly mention that it is nearly "unrecognizable" – the muddy ground and storms of dust that they endured at Minidoka have been replaced by thriving green farmland (notably a change that came from the work of their own hands). The NPS has the difficult job of maintaining the wide views and open environment of Minidoka – perhaps best done by maintaining the agricultural environment (which also provides further interpretation opportunities) – while also creating ways for visitors to experience Minidoka as former internees most vividly remember it – as the dusty, barren, formidable, inhospitable environment it was. Balance between these two conditions must be given throughout the GMP/EIS, and efforts must be given at Minidoka Internment National Monument to share with visitors both aspects of the environment. Comments within the GMP/EIS on page 125 noting that "for former internees, the area is often unrecognizable, as they associated the camp landscape more with desolation and barrenness than rolling green fields" rightfully remind us that the current camp landscape can be deceptive from the actual environment faced by internees. The plan stated for Alternative B (page 163) and Alternative C (page 175) for "selective restoration [to] highlight the open, stark, barren landscape first encountered by the internees" is critical for the site and should also be included in Alternative D. Moreover, this "selective restoration" should also be mentioned in the Summary on page x, which currently only mentions protection of vegetation. Also, in the Education and Interpretation section of Planning Issues and Concerns (page 57), as the GMP/EIS makes mention of the challenge for the NPS to enable visitors to understand and appreciate the size of the original site, it should also make mention of the challenge to enable visitors to understand and appreciate the original and historically accurate environmental conditions endured by the internees.

**6. Perspectives on the Canal, the Swimming Hole and "improvements" to camp life.** In our previous Statement of Concerns, we noted that former internees have described both the Canal and the Swimming Hole in both cheerful and heart-breaking ways. To be historically accurate, the Canal and Swimming Hole should be regarded in two distinct lights: 1) in the context of the unjust incarceration, and then separately 2) in the context of what the Nikkei did there, which in this case includes both positive, recreation experiences as well as tragic events. Subsequent revisions to the GMP/EIS have done well to incorporate this balanced perspective.

As NPS staff proceed with implementation of the plan, they must keep in mind the tragic, grave, unjust circumstances of the Minidoka concentration camp that accompany any "improvements" made there. While we might find sweet moments in the baseball games that were played at Minidoka, how much more sweet would the games have been if played in the context of freedom of the leagues established before World War II and cut short by the incarceration. The overriding message of the Minidoka Internment National Monument must be clear, direct, and unmistakable – the unjust incarceration of Nikkei during World War II by the U.S. government was tragically wrong, Nikkei should never have been imprisoned in the camps in the first place, and we must remain vigilant so that such violation of constitutional and civil rights never happens again.

**7. Access to collections and materials.** While preservation of the historic site, as particularly emphasized in Alternative C, is valuable towards learning about the Minidoka concentration camp, the Minidoka Internment National Monument's remote location and physical distance from former internees and their families, contemporary concentrations of the Nikkei community, and larger population centers cannot be overlooked. It is imperative that NPS staff seeks ways to outreach to these individuals in order to not only attract them to the historic site but to bring educational resources to them where they are at. The Minidoka Internment National Monument cannot be inwardly focused, but must be outwardly focused as well. Preservation of historic materials, including collecting of materials, must be paired with readily available access to these materials by a

**06** broad spectrum of individuals, families, and communities. We encourage NPS staff to collaborate with museums and organizations within contemporary concentrations of the Nikkei community and larger population centers to collect, preserve, and store historic materials. Select materials then can periodically be displayed at the Minidoka Internment National Monument, while the larger collection remains more readily accessible to the larger public on a year-round basis. Statements on page x, along with the Summary of Actions for Collections

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## Responses

**(Beth Takekawa)**

**5** Your suggested changes to pages x and 193 have not been made. "Selective restoration" has not been added to page x, since the text you are referring to discusses actions that are common to all alternatives. Under alternative A, the historic vegetation would be "protected" rather than selectively restored. The actions for selective restoration of the historic vegetation are the same under alternatives B, C, and D.

On page 57, the text has been changed to "A variety of interpretive methods and media that enable visitors to understand and appreciate the size and environmental conditions of the original site should be explored."

**6** On page 148 and 206, the text has been changed for Common to All Alternatives under Collections to read, "Develop a Scope of Collections Statement in coordination with partner institutions and NPS units. Promote the care, collection, curation, and access of a wide range of artifacts. Collections would meet NPS professional standards."

## Comments

**06** on page 206, which read, "Collections of historical objects and documents at off-site locations would be made more accessible," (x) and "Explore partnership efforts with others for off-site storage of collections and public access to these collections," (206) capture these sentiments. In the Common to All Alternatives section for Cultural Resources, the statement regarding Scope of Collections needs to be revised in this light to read, "Develop a Scope of Collections Statement for the national monument in coordination with partner institutions and NPS units. Promote the care, collection, curation, and access of a wide range of artifacts and memorabilia" (148). Also, it is noted in the GMP/EIS that items have already come into the possession of the NPS. We urge the NPS to begin collaborations with other museums and/or organizations to increase knowledge of and accessibility to these items.

**07** 8. "Loyalty questionnaire." Another challenge faced by the NPS is how to balance the many responses Nikkei had to the incarceration. Responses were diverse and on occasion controversial, even within the Nikkei community itself. A central area of conflict occurred in regards to the "loyalty questionnaire." While the GMP/EIS attempts to address the complexities of the "loyalty questionnaire" on pages 26-28, the narrative still positions those who answered "yes" as "loyal citizens" and those who answered "no" as "less than honorable." While 2 paragraphs beginning at the bottom of page 27 address what happened to those who answered "no," there is no mention about their honor, bravery, and courage to stand up to the injustice and hold true to the principles of freedom. Yet in the following 2 paragraphs beginning on page 28 that address what happened to those who answered "yes," the narrative includes mention of the Nisei that "distinguished themselves as loyal citizens." While we agree wholeheartedly with these statements, history will also reveal that those who answered "no" to one or both questions were also "heroes of justice, freedom and peace." We understand from the GMP/EIS that the honor roll will receive particular attention under the preferred alternative. In Table 5, which summarizes Management Zones Proposed within Minidoka Internment National Monument (page 153), the Historic Features Zone mentions "the contradiction of loyal citizens being imprisoned would be embodied in the Honor Roll." Again, while we agree with this approach, we also have concern about how those who answered "no" to the "loyalty questionnaire" will be presented and where will their story and perspective be shared. Ultimately, the question is about balanced representation and the inclusion at the Minidoka Internment National Monument of voices that might not be as readily accessible but which capture the range of responses by the Nikkei community.

**9. Experience of Nikkei community following closure of the Minidoka concentration camp.** As noted earlier, the Minidoka concentration camp exists in the context of a long history of racism and discrimination. The Nikkei community in the United States experienced racism before, during and after World War II. As we analyze history, we see that this racism is embodied in both stated policies and laws as well as in actions –

**08** even though not officially stated. It is important to include in the narrative that Nikkei were excluded from land drawings after the close of the concentration camp right alongside the text that "most drawing applicants were Caucasian World War II veterans, as they had been given a 90-day preference" (page 35). While the narrative does include mention that Nikkei "were not allowed to participate in the future land drawings of former camp lands," it does this 3 pages back on page 32. The direct correlation of inclusion and exclusion based on race is not made and the racism inherent in these actions is not made clear.

**10. Historical significance of the cemetery.** It is incredibly poignant to know that individuals were born and died in the Minidoka concentration camp – Nikkei who started their lives in a barren prison, and those who spent their last days denied of their freedom and rights and uncertain about the future of their family, friends, and community. The fact that their bodies were interred, removed and then re-interred also speaks volumes to

**09** the violation that Minidoka concentration camp committed upon individual lives and an entire community. While the physical remnants of the cemetery itself may no longer hold historic integrity, the cemetery is historically significant and should be interpreted at the Minidoka Internment National Monument. On page 83, text should be revised to indicate this distinction and read, "Following the decommission of the camp, all of the graves were removed, and the bodies were re-interred at other locations. The NPS determined that, while historically

## Responses

(Beth Takekawa)

**7** The significance statements and interpretive themes explicitly state that draft resistance is significant and will be interpreted at the national monument alongside those who chose to serve their country in the military. This text can be found on page 45 and 47 of the Draft GMP/EIS.

New text has been added to page 28. It reads, "Several Nisei resisted the draft in order to protest the internment and incarceration. They felt that the injustice of being incarcerated outweighed their duty to serve in the U.S. military. Many "no no boys" would eventually be sent to federal prisons for as much as two years for this choice.

**8** Your comment on the exclusion of Nikkei participation in land lotteries on the former Minidoka Relocation Center lands raises the issue of historical accuracy and the lack of documented evidence to support this statement. To date, conclusive documentation that Nikkei were disallowed from participating has not been found.

Positions about allowing Nikkei to lease and purchase land and reside in Idaho evolved between 1942 and 1946. Early in 1942, written evidence illustrates the initial intentions of the Governor of Idaho, Chase Clark, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the War Relocation Authority to prevent Minidoka internees from settling in the local area. As Minidoka was established and internees left the camps for seasonal agricultural labor throughout Idaho, attitudes toward Nikkei became more lenient. During Minidoka's operation, Nikkei assisted in averting agricultural labor crises

## Comments

09 significant, the physical cemetery itself does not hold historic integrity and can be interpreted through other means.”

11. **Hunt Road.** We urge the NPS to pursue action to re-route Hunt Road from traversing the Minidoka Internment National Monument. The road not only radically disrupts the experience of the site – in regards to both historic accuracy to the primary era of significance for the site but also the contemplative experience of the site for visitors – but poses safety issues for visitors, especially the families with young children and school students, that hopefully will come to the Monument. As written, the GMP/EIS makes allowances for Hunt Road to continue through the Monument and tempers its impact noting, for example, that “by concentrating visitor facilities away from Hunt Road, and clearly defining visitor parking areas, vehicle congestion would be minimized and allow for continued through-traffic” (186). The plan also notes that cooperation with “Hillsdale Highway District will need to be established and maintained to coordinate the maintenance of Hunt Road and

10 the Hunt Bridge as well as potential traffic congestion during special events” (191). The impact of traffic congestion created by visitors to the Monument on surrounding neighbors, along with the impact of the establishment of the Monument itself on surrounding neighbors, needs to be considered. At the same time, however, the impact of traffic congestion created by visitors to the Monument on the experience of the Monument itself, along with the impact of surrounding neighbors on the Monument, must also be addressed.

12. **Current actions as related to boundary expansion and fundraising efforts.** At the beginning of this process, the NPS began a relationship with the Nikkei community, seeking direction and inviting input. Efforts were taken to openly communicate with the Nikkei community and keep actions and steps transparent. As the NPS moves forward with actions related to the GMP/EIS, open communication must be continued.

We are aware of questions within the Nikkei community related to boundary expansion and fundraising efforts. As well, there are questions about the interconnectedness between the Bainbridge Island Eagledale Ferry site, Minidoka, and the Issei Memorial. We urge the NPS move forward on these issues with an approach of communication and continued respectfulness for the Nikkei community, so that we can effectively work together to build a team, rather than just responding to individual requests without knowing the larger context.

As implementation of the GMP/EIS proceeds, it must be set in the context of open dialogue, fostering team effort.

### Additional Revisions and Corrections

Letter from Superintendent, Abstract, How to Use This Document, and page 175 (first paragraph) – Refers to the experience of “Japanese Americans” at Minidoka rather than “Nikkei.” Revise to read “Japanese American citizens and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry.”

11 Pages vi, x, 130, 206 – When referring to Nikkei who were imprisoned in the Minidoka concentration camp in the present-day, please refer to them as “former internees” rather than just “internees.”

12 Page 1 – In the opening to the History of the Internment and Incarceration of Nikkei section, include that Issei held jobs in railroad construction, along with farming, fishing, and timber. Also note their contribution to helping settle the American West, building key infrastructure and establishing key industries. Their significance stretched beyond just making a living for themselves and establishing their own communities.

13 Page 12 – The caption to the photo from Bancroft Library still incorporates the misnomer “barrack apartments.” Revise to read, “barrack living quarters.”

## Responses

### (Beth Takekawa)

throughout southern Idaho. By 1945, the War Relocation Authority, Bureau of Reclamation, and Chase Clark’s positions had changed about allowing Nikkei to become residents of Idaho. While the WRA forcibly removed some internees and returned them to the West Coast, hundreds of internees also decided to permanently settle and create new lives in Idaho. Nevertheless, racist attitudes and actions toward Nikkei persisted well beyond the close of World War II.

It is not known at this time whether Nikkei veterans had an interest in applying for the Minidoka homesteads, nor whether they were denied eligibility for reasons of once having been incarcerated there. As more research and information becomes available, a more conclusive understanding of this period will unfold as well as the National Monument’s telling of this history.

For the reasons stated above, the last sentence on page 32 has been deleted.

9 Your suggested change to page 83 has been made. It reads, “The NPS determined that, while historically significant, the physical cemetery itself does not hold historic integrity and can be interpreted through other means.”

10 The NPS agrees that transportation and potential impacts must be addressed. The preferred alternative calls for a transportation study to research and propose alternative solutions.

## Comments

Page 17 – Revise statement “agricultural development and farm work at Minidoka employed hundreds of internees” to read that this employment was at substandard wage rates. As it reads now, it seems like this was a boon rather than pointing out the continued injustice of the situation. Although the narrative gives mention of the wage disparity, it does not do this until 3 pages later. Strengthen the text by stating the wage disparity earlier and then developing it with these concrete details.

**14** Page 80 – Text in the second paragraph still incorporates the misnomer “swimming pool.” Revise to read, “swimming hole.”

Page 81 – Acknowledge appropriate reference to the interpretation of the garden as a “designed landscape mixing elements of patriotism with Japanese styling.”

## Responses

**(Beth Takekawa)**

**11 through 14** The following editorial changes have been made. Some suggested changes have not been made, as they do not add new information to the document.

Comment 11: “Former internees” have replaced “internees” on the following pages: vi, x, 130, and 206.

Comment 12: A new sentence was added on page 1. It reads, “During this period, Issei contributed to establishing important infrastructure, industries and settling of the American West.”

Comment 13: On page 12, the word “barracks” has replaced “barracks apartments.”

Comment 14: On page 80, the phrase “swimming hole” has replaced “swimming pool.”

## Comments

### THE CONSERVATION FUND

# 146

September 19, 2005



Mr. Neil King  
Superintendent  
Minidoka Internment National Monument  
National Park Service  
P.O. 570  
Hagerman, ID 83332-9900

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of The Conservation Fund, I am writing to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Park Service's draft General Management Plan (GMP) for the Minidoka Internment National Monument and specifically to provide comments in support of Alternative C, the preferred alternative.

Thanks to the outstanding work of the National Park Service (NPS), the draft GMP includes a comprehensive and thoughtful discussion of the events associated with the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II at the Minidoka Relocation Center and outlines a strong vision for the future of the Monument to serve as a focal point for public education and interpretation.

Accordingly, The Conservation Fund (TCF) strongly supports Alternative C, which emphasizes on-site education and interpretation through the restoration of a residential barracks block on its original site at the Monument along with other actions.

Boundary Expansion: TCF supports Alternative C's recommendation to expand the Monument's boundary to include the 128-acre farm and to seek legislation to authorize the NPS to acquire the property on a willing seller basis. The 128-acre privately-owned farm features significant historic resources and would allow the NPS to restore an entire barracks block at its original location. The restoration of a barracks block would enable the NPS to provide the public with an outstanding opportunity to learn about daily life in the camp and to better understand the scale of the camp's operation, which housed over 13,000 internees.

Also, the acquisition of the farm would help the NPS better manage visitors to the site in order to significantly reduce the potential for conflicts with adjacent private landowners and to reduce the likelihood of trespass incidents on adjacent private property. In addition, the acquisition of the farm would allow the NPS to provide the public with information about the farm's significance for homesteading as part of the "Farm-in-a-Day" program and the importance of agriculture in southern Idaho.

*Partners in land and water conservation*

Post Office Box 1524 • Sun Valley, ID 83353 • (208) 726-4419 • FAX (208) 726-4429



## Responses

Letter 146: Mark W. Elsbee, The Conservation Fund

## Comments

Mr. Neil King  
September 19, 2005  
Page two

Name Change: TCF supports Alternative C's recommendation to change the Monument's name to the Minidoka National Historic Site. Currently, there are several different views about the best term to use in describing the forced exclusion, relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Some have proposed internment camps, confinement sites, concentration camps or other terms. In light of the absence of a consensus over the most appropriate term to use, we believe that the NPS should propose to Congress that the word "internment" be dropped from the name, thus one particular term would not be codified in statute.

Because of the strong public recognition for the Manzanar National Historic Site, we support renaming the Monument to Minidoka National Historic Site in order to conform Minidoka's name to the Manzanar National Historic Site. The Manzanar camp is one of the nine other internment camp sites and the only other site that is managed by the NPS as a unit of the National Park System.

Building Restoration at the Gate: TCF also supports Alternative C's recommendation to rebuild buildings and structures located at the former entrance to the camp. In particular, we support the reconstruction of the stone military police building, the stone reception room and the Honor Roll.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to the issuance of the final management plan in the near future and to the opportunity to continue to work in partnership with the NPS on this historic initiative.

Sincerely,  


Mark W. Elsbree  
Vice President & Northwest Director

cc: The Honorable Larry E. Craig  
The Honorable Mike Crapo  
The Honorable Michael K. Simpson

## Responses

(Mark W. Elsbree)

## Comments



JAPANESE AMERICAN  
NATIONAL MUSEUM

September 12, 2005

Mr. Neil King, Superintendent  
Minidoka Internment National Monument  
221 N. State St.  
P.O. Box 570  
Hagerman, ID 83332-9900

RE: Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan (GMP)

Dear Superintendent King:

On behalf of the leadership of the Japanese American National Museum, we are writing to strongly support the Draft General Management Plan for the Minidoka National Monument. As one of the sites where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II, Minidoka represents a vital part of our Nation's historical legacy and a reminder of the enduring importance of the Constitution even in times of war and national crisis.

The Japanese American National Museum was founded in 1985 to tell the story of Japanese Americans in the United States. The National Museum believes in the fundamental importance of remembering history to better guard against prejudice that can threaten liberty and equality in a democratic society. We seek to provide a world-class forum for people of every age and ethnicity to explore the Japanese American historical experience. By telling the story of our community, the Museum seeks to preserve the past, enrich lives, and look ahead to a more vibrant, diverse, and just America.

The National Park Service (NPS) is to be commended for developing such a thoroughly professional analysis of the incarceration site, its surrounding communities, and the need for extensive interpretation and education, and for developing such a forward looking Preferred Alternative. While the memories are still vivid and the emotions still can run high, we believe it is important that the full story of this troubling episode in American history be fully told in a manner that will reach all Americans for all time.

The Japanese American National Museum strongly supports the NPS Preferred Alternative (C) as presented in the Draft GMP, with the following comments and suggestions.

Minidoka was one of ten centers established during World War II. Over 120,000 Japanese Americans would spend the next three years of their lives confined in isolated camps operated by the War Relocation Authority. Preservation of the remaining historic elements of Minidoka is critical to future understanding of the site and the experience of those who once lived there. It is imperative for visitors to fully feel the emotional impact of the incarceration, including seeing restored barracks and historic lands where the rows of barracks once stood.

RECEIVED  
SEP 26 2005

#147  
369 East First Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Telephone 213.625.0414  
Facsimile 213.625.1770

## Responses

Letter 147: Irene Hirano, Japanese American National Museum

## Comments



An on-site facility for education and interpretation will help to tell the Minidoka story, attracting visitors, enhancing the visitor's experience, and benefiting the surrounding community. The current national monument does not encompass key elements of the original center. At this time, none of Minidoka's agricultural fields, or, more importantly, its residential areas, is included in the national monument. Thus, we welcome the GMP Preferred Alternative's recommendation to seek authorization to acquire, through transfer and purchase, several modest additions of historic lands that were parts of the concentration camp site. These additions are essential to effective preservation of the historic site and to retelling the full story of incarceration. We urge the legislative actions required to implement the proposed additions, transfers, and the small exchange of lands to assure a manageable and representative boundary.

As is the case with most national parks today, success is dependent on partnerships. The Japanese American National Museum, and many other organizations, stand ready to assist in the work that will be required. The National Museum can play an important role in expanding public education about the World War II camp experience. This is work that is already being provided and would be enhanced by the Minidoka site. Beyond that, local partnerships are essential to preserving to the extent possible the cultural landscape of open farmlands surrounding the monument, so that the historic setting of the site is as accurate as possible.

Additionally, the Japanese American National Museum would support your recommended name change to Minidoka National Historic Site, consistent with the Manzanar National Historic Site. The National Museum uses the term "concentration camp" to refer to the World War II camp sites. We also use the term "incarceration" rather than internment. We believe that these terms are more historically accurate. However, we acknowledge that different terms are used to describe the experience. Given the substantial debate that occurred during the Manzanar designation and final agreements that were reached, we would support consistency of "National Historic Site" to refer to Minidoka.

In order for the full story to be told in a way that will reach the largest number of Americans, it will be important to assure preservation of other historic sites associated with the Japanese American experience of World War II, including not only the War Relocation Authority camp site, but assembly centers, and prisons, as well as the sites where many Japanese Americans trained for active duty military service in World War II, winning medals and commendations for their courage and sacrifice.

For the Minidoka story to be fully told will require appropriate preservation and memorialization of associated sites, including in particular the Eagledale Ferry Dock on Bainbridge Island and the Hashidate-Yu (Panama Hotel) both in Seattle, Washington. In 2002, Congress directed the NPS to conduct a study of the Bainbridge Island site. We commend the Park Service for its work on the Bainbridge Island study and anxiously await its completion. Ultimately, we look forward to an affirmative recommendation by the Interior Department for designation of a National Memorial on this site.

We also appreciate the recent progress on designation of the Hashidate-Yu (in the basement of the Panama Hotel) as a National Historic Landmark. This hotel was a key center of community life for Japanese American before the War, and served as a repository for the

## Responses

(Irene Hirano)

## Comments



footlockers, trunks, and other baggage of hundreds of internees when they were sent away to the internment camps. The National Park System Advisory Board affirmed the site's national significance in 2003. We understand that the last remaining obstacles to approval of the NHL designation by the Secretary of Interior may shortly be overcome.

We appreciate you and your staff's many efforts thus far to reach out to the Japanese American community, as well as to various other local communities in the development of this plan. The Japanese American National Museum stands ready to assist the National Park Service in the realization of this critically important park planning and implementation action and making. We urge expeditious approval and implementation of the Preferred Alternative.

Sincerely,

Irene Hirano  
President & CEO

## Responses

(Irene Hirano)

## Comments

## Responses

### *Japanese American Citizens League* #149a

*Pocatello-Blackfoot Chapter*

September 20, 2005

Mr. Neil King  
Superintendent  
Minidoka Internment NM  
P.O. Box 570  
221 North State Street  
Hagerman, ID. 83332



Mr King,

On behalf of the Pocatello-Blackfoot Japanese American Citizen's League, we wish to thank you for the tremendous work you have done on bringing the Minidoka Internment Memorial this far in the long and arduous process of making this dream a reality.

In reviewing the proposed plans, our chapter wishes to endorse Plan C. We feel this provides the most consistent, complete, and cost effective option that provides the best environment for a visitor to experience the Internment and the effect such a place had on so many Japanese Americans.

We are available to support your efforts in anyway we can as this project has such meaning for so many Japanese Americans in this area.

Please feel free to call on us at anytime.

Again, with thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl Endo".

Karl Endo  
President, Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL  
17 Cedar Hills  
Pocatello, Idaho 83204  
208-233-8293

*For a Better American in a Greater America*

**Letter 149: Karl Endo, Japanese American Citizens League, Pocatello Blackfoot Chapter**

## Comments

## Responses

*Japanese American Citizens League* #149b

*Pocatello-Blackfoot Chapter*

September 20, 2005

Mr. Neil King  
Superintendent  
Minidoka Internment NM  
P.O. Box 570  
221 North State Street  
Hagerman, ID. 83332

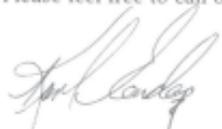
SEP 22 2005

HAFO

Mr King,

Per a majority vote, the Pocatello-Blackfoot Japanese American Citizen's League has requested that the suggestion for the signs directing persons to the Minidoka Memorial read "Minidoka Concentration Camp".

Please feel free to call on us at anytime.



Karl Endo  
President, Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL  
17 Cedar Hills  
Pocatello, Idaho 83204  
208-233-8293

(Karl Endo)

*For a Better American in a Greater America*

## Comments



Anna Tamura  
09/23/2005 08:48 AM  
PDT

To: Evelyn Simon/HAFO/NPS@NPS  
cc:  
Subject: Fw: Minidoka GMP comments



Robert Hayashi  
<rhayashi@charter.net>  
09/19/2005 11:32 PM  
EST

To: anna\_tamura@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Minidoka GMP comments

#152

Dear Anna,

Thank you for sending me the copy of the Minidoka GMP. My time out in Portland with your colleagues was a wonderful, enlightening experience, and I do hope that I will have the opportunity to continue working with NPS as Minidoka and other related sites move forward.

You may not remember, but I had some correspondence with you years back while I was in graduate school. And I enjoyed reading your MA thesis, to which I refer in my just-about-done book manuscript.

Attached are some ruminations in response to the plan.

Feel free to contact me if there is anything that I can do for you all in the future. Again, it was a really great experience for me meeting the NPS staff out in Portland this summer and please send my regards.

Sincerely,



Robert\_gmp-comments\_hayashi.doc

## Responses

### Letter 152: Robert Hayashi

## Comments

#152

I must admit to having mixed emotions about NPS's plans to develop Minidoka. There was an ineffable power to the site as it existed prior to preservation, the sagebrush and deteriorated buildings bespoke of the absence of the Relocation in our national history, the neglect. And I worry that restoration and development of the site will create a landscape that appears too aesthetically pleasing, one that can too easily leave a viewer with a misperception of the conditions that internees experienced. This is valid given the still present notion that Relocation was, indeed, not so bad, like a long stay at a Holiday Inn, as I once heard someone argue. Therefore, I hope that NPS does include photographs, film, paintings, and personal accounts that faithfully convey the harshness of the landscape as it was during Relocation. I also urge NPS to consider a multi-disciplinary approach in conveying this story and leverage the unique power of personal narrative to convey it. Perhaps, recounting the biographies of a heterogeneous group of individuals through their words is one means by which to do this, for, as articulated by Thelen and Rosenzweig's research, personal and emotional connections to history are what most compels interest in historically significant locales. The poems of Mitsuye Yamada are one fine example that come to mind, especially as they recount her life before, during, and after Relocation to Minidoka.

However, I am most concerned that this history be a part of how Americans conceive of their selves, their history. Therefore, I am appreciative of NPS's efforts to preserve and to interpret the site. Moreover, the GMP's guidelines will provide an opportunity to bring this history to the attention of the public and in a vital fashion. I am impressed with the overall plan and agree with NPS's favored option.

## Responses

(Robert Hayashi)

## Comments

My greatest concern, however, is how fully the story is told and how adequately it addresses the unsettling questions about American and Japanese American identity that this moment in history represents. This should be conceived as a site for ongoing debate about the issues of civil rights and constitutional history, and I urge NPS to use this interpretive theme to guide its interpretation and management of the site by forefronting it in exhibits, interpretive materials, public outreach, its website, and events at or related to the site. The recent Padilla case demonstrates that this history is not some moment frozen in time, a dusty relic behind glass, but one episode in a continually evolving story, a part of OUR American legal, constitutional, judicial, and even environmental history.

Moreover, the notion of civic engagement can be a useful vehicle by which the controversial, hotly debated aspects of these issues can be incorporated into Minidoka's development and management, so that the recent NPS directive "to ensure all voices are heard, but none dominate" can be accomplished. Therefore, no one Nikkei voice or group should control Minidoka's meaning. All the fractiousness of military service that still haunts the JA community must be represented in the voices included in exhibits, printed materials, and other interpretations of the site. For too long nisei combat service has dominated the establishment of Japanese American public history and represented JA identity itself, as evidenced by the Japanese American National Monument in Washington. NPS has a responsibility to portray the range of experiences that relate to Minidoka so that no one singular experience becomes the dominant or representative one. It must realize how it is a uniquely powerful shaper of public history and of civic identity-- the gatekeeper for a kind of "official story" and therefore with a great responsibility to be honest and inclusive. That means Manzanar or Minidoka must not

## Responses

(Robert Hayashi)

## Comments

remain fixed in their meanings, but consistent with the Organization of American Historian's suggestions in its 2004 report on Teaching Citizenship and Patriotism, they should evolve.

An individual's visit to such a site may be their only access to that history, the story of some people they know little of. This is especially true in relation to stories that relate to American racial/ethnic minorities at a time when the legacy of racism's impact on contemporary life seems to some Americans obliterated--in our post-civil rights era, where, as some submit, Asian Americans are all model minorities. It is even MORE imperative in this climate that NPS play a provocative role by simply telling an honest history that connects the present to the past and from the perspective of the many. And this includes seeking opportunities to connect histories related to the site, not just to other current or proposed NPS sites like Manzanar or Bainbridge Island, but in relation to other group histories, too. Like Manzanar, Minidoka's larger history also suggests the validity of other frames of understanding the site, for instance, as a place marked by the historic struggle between the powerful and weak for control of the land itself and the dominant role of agricultural development and the "yeoman farmer" mythos in shaping the West. This also invites the possibility of framing individual group experiences in dialogue with other group histories, such as seeing Japanese American history in relation to Native American history: a valid exploration considering that the federal government's management of Japanese Americans during WWII was directly influenced by its prior experience with Native Americans and vice versa. In addition, this can provide a means to bridge the traditionally separate provinces of natural history and cultural history. As historian Patricia Limerick has written, "The complete story of the investment of human

## Responses

(Robert Hayashi)

## Comments

consciousness in the American landscape requires attention to the whole set of participants . . . With anything less, the meaning of the landscape is fragmented and truncated”

NPS must assume that this will mean unsettling some Americans, and negotiate that responsibly, or don't try at all. It's not a blame game—it's understanding OUR history. Afterall, the other side of that hypen is "American." And ethnic groups must often fashion identities that negotiate the ascribed identity from the larger culture and its institutions ideals of what American is, and this entails a political struggle within groups, one that is usually unknown to the larger public. Yet, that hidden component NPS should include, for it often tells us what being Jewish, Japanese-American, or Cape Verdean-American really means. And we might, for instance, realize that when ethnic identity seems most consistent, connected with American identity, as in the example of JA combat veterans, it has really most powerfully displayed the disconnect.

Afterall, the explicit goal of the WRA was to dissolve Japanese American ethnic identity, and that identity is more than cultural; it also is defined by how JAs relate to, shape, and define their group history, and they do not universally assent to a singular narrative. The debate a few decades ago between JAACL chapters over how to commemorate Minidoka is an illustrative example and such moments more adequately and provocatively convey what it has, will, and may mean to be Japanese American: what forces compel them to identify themselves in the public sphere. Yes, we should honor veterans, but we must not forget the draft resisters, the issei, women, and the younger generations of American nikkei. It is imperative that the larger public be aware of the fractures within the community that are a manifestation of Relocation and one of its most

## Responses

(Robert Hayashi)

## Comments

distressing legacies. Personally, my family remains deeply divided because of events that occurred during the war and my grandfather died at Minidoka. My aunt painfully remains embittered, and even I feel wary in the land of my birth, though I never directly suffered the indignation and injustice of internment. A formal apology and a tax-free \$20,000 check cannot heal what we lost, and I don't want visitors to walk away feeling good about what they learn at Minidoka. This is why, if I had my druthers, this would be known by what it was—a concentration camp.

01 I urge NPS to, at the least, make clear the debates within the community that stem from this history and the subsequent debates about what this site signifies, including the controversy over its terminology. As James Young notes, "*The differences among names*

*also explain the great gulfs in understanding between different nations and people, reflecting disparate experiences of the period as well as the different shapes respective national mythologies and ideologies necessarily confer on events. Every language's name thus molds events in the image of its culture's particular understanding of events.*"

By acknowledging this at Minidoka, NPS will provide an opportunity for Americans to discuss the different experiences that are often the result of racial/ethnic identity and, just maybe, learn to more fully appreciate the validity of each others' views.

I am not suggesting that this will be an easy task. Sadly, we live in a climate where too often historical accuracy and the admission of a plurality of experiences are labeled negative phenomena. But fostering debate is the engine of democratic ideals and I also think that forefronting the notion of civic engagement is a necessary and effective means by which to truly accomplish a broader audience and a more diverse, more accurate presentation of American history. What may be so important about civic

## Responses

**(Robert Hayashi)**

1 Please see responses to comments 17-01 and 62-01 for their discussions on terminology.

## Comments

engagement and why it is such an effective means to incite dialogue is that it may be the one connecting point in American identity we can agree on: the core principles and the assumption of individual civic duty they infer. To finally tell the kind of inclusive, truly multi-vocal history that NPS and other public institutions have long denied means shattering the connection to common roots--in culture or historical perspective. For it is when an individual group's history is most in discord with the larger national narrative that the meaning of such an identity, the gap of that hyphen is most keenly felt.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Hayashi

Assistant Professor

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

## Responses

(Robert Hayashi)

## Comments

#159

Jerome County Planning & Zoning  
300 N. Lincoln Bldg. 307, Jerome, Idaho 83338  
Tel. 208-324-9116 Fax 208-324-9263



Arthur R. Brown, Administrator  
Nancy Duane, Administrative Assistant  
Yvette LeMon, Secretary

Neil King, Superintendent  
Minidoka Internment National Monument  
PO Box 570  
Hagerman, Idaho 83332

March 27, 2006

To Superintendent King,

On March 27, 2006 you met with me and we discussed the requirements of Jerome  
01 County Zoning Ordinance. After reviewing the Ordinance, Chapter 5 Chart 5-3 states  
that a Special Use Permit is required for a monument. ( See attach chart 5-3).

Please contact Jerome County Planning & Zoning Office when we can assist you in  
preparing for the Special Use Application.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Arthur Roy Brown in cursive.

Arthur Roy Brown  
Planning & Zoning Administrator

## Responses

### Letter: 159, Arthur Brown, Jerome County Planning and Zoning

1 Thank you for your letter regarding the Jerome County Zoning Ordinance.

At present, Minidoka Internment National Monument is located in the Agricultural Zone A-1. The NPS considers the historically significant resources and purpose of Minidoka Internment National Monument to be most compatible with Jerome County's Preservation Zone. The Preservation Zone is defined as "land which possesses such unique characteristics, benefiting the public at large, that its present unique character should remain undisturbed....Sites of significant historical interest and value should be included in the Preservation Zone if such inclusion is reasonable and possible. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall give careful consideration to the recommendations of the Jerome County Historical Society whenever the Commission is considering the inclusion or the exclusion of a site and/or land area which is presented as being appropriate to this zone" (Jerome County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 4-8).

The purpose of Minidoka Internment National Monument is to protect historic structures and objects that provide opportunities for public education and interpretation of an important chapter of American history - the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Additionally, the site has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1979, and was declared an Idaho Centennial Site in 1990 by the State of Idaho.

## Comments

## Responses

### **(Arthur Brown)**

The National Park Service respectfully requests the Jerome County Planning and Zoning Commission work with the NPS staff to consider changing the County zoning designation of the area included within the authorized boundaries of the Minidoka Internment National Monument area from "A-1" Agricultural Zone to the "PR" Preservation Zone due to the historical importance and the public preservation purposes of the national monument. National Park Service staff would be pleased to provide the County with any additional information about the national monument at your request. We would of course be available to attend any public hearings on the matter as may come before the Commission.

The following text has been added to the Common to All Alternatives, Land Protection and Boundaries section on page 150: "The NPS will collaborate with Jerome County to initiate a request for the inclusion of Minidoka Internment National Monument lands into the Jerome County Preservation Zone."

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*As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.*



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Minidoka Internment National Monument  
P.O. Box 570  
Hagerman, Idaho 83332-0570

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