

Oral History Interview

Narrator: Dan Sakura

Interviewer: Camille Daw

September 15, 2022.

Camille Daw: Alright. So we have got that. So, thank you again for agreeing to meet with me again. I really appreciate it. So we'll just get started. Just for official purposes, this is an oral history interview with Dan Sakura and the date is September 15th 2022. But Dan if you wouldn't mind, I'm really interested in your experience working with the National Park Service, then you know, the different, I guess groups you've worked with. So, if you wouldn't mind, just very briefly describing your experience, especially working with the National Park Service.

Dan Sakura, You mean Minidoka? Do you want me to focus on Minidoka?

CD: Yeah, Minidoka. But then any other additional experience that you have would be, you know, very useful, very beneficial to understand.

DS: Sure. Well, I work with the National Park Service on a lot of different projects. Literally dozens of projects across the country over the last thirty years. So maybe what I'd do is talk a little bit about- just focus on Minidoka, then maybe, you know if there is a specific, you know, like -- So why don't I just focus on Minidoka?

CD: That works. If you think it's going to be too much to talk about everything. But I mean if there are other confinement sites like Manzanar, and if you've been involved at all with Amache, that would also be very helpful.

DC: Well first off, I've I had -- grateful for the National Park Service at Minidoka, going back to over twenty years, and it goes back to, you know, a couple of key individuals who played critical roles in the development of the site. First, I would say that John Reynolds, who was the National Park Service Regional Director. I think we may have talked about this before -- the Pacific West Region in 2000, late 2001. He provided, you know, critical support for the project at the parks of this level, you know, building on the work that the Park Service did at Manzanar, in terms of, you know, that park was established. And it was, authorized in 1992.

And so in that region, John had experience working on Manzanar, and I think that flowed directly into Minidoka. Neil King, obviously, the first superintendent at the time. He was the superintendent of Hagerman Fossil Beds. And, um, you know, he -- both before and after the designation, did a tremendous work, really, with very little support. There was another gentlemen, who I worked close with, was Destry Jarvis, who was the political appointee during the Clinton administration, at the Park Service, and he worked on the legislative report.

So in November of 2000, President Clinton sent a memo to Secretary Babbitt, and there was a team that worked on the report and Destry was familiar with this area, based on some work that he had done around the North Rim Project and the Devil's Coral Area in Jerome County, north of the Snake River.

So, um, a couple of other people we're really grateful for their involvement; Anna Tamura, who is out of Pacific West Region. The planning -- she did really incredible work- developed-- worked with Neil and the local stakeholders, to develop the general management plan. The plan, the Park Service went above and beyond, um, in terms of its community outreach, both in Idaho and also on the Pacific Coast. On the West Coast of Oregon, Washington.

Most notably, I would also like to acknowledge the work that the Park Service did with regard to Bainbridge Island Special Resource Study. That was a concurrent process going forward. I have a copy of that -- really excellent job. I think there were people like Keith Dunbar who was the Pacific West Regional Planning Chief involved in that. So obviously, you know, is an important part of the Minidoka story, the Bainbridge Island removal. So you had kind of that. Those efforts, the General Management Plan, GMP, the Bainbridge Island Special Resource Study.

Wendy Janssen, the superintendent, the CAFO, was, you know. We were looking at that, you know, the concentrated animal feed operation on the Big Sky property. Rick Wagner, who was, at the time the Regional Realty Chief out of Seattle -- he's unfortunately passed on, but Rick played a really critical role.

I think Barb Holyoke, also in the region, regional office, worked on Minidoka. There was some land issues around the Hermann Farm Acquisition. Congress authorized that. And obviously, John Jarvis, who is the Pacific West Regional Director at the time. He-he signed a record decision for the General Management Plan. so he had been up, and I think it was on Craters of

the Moon, so he sort of knew Idaho before, earlier in his career, before he became, regional director. So John was really key. And really at every step in the process, you know, the Park Service, was very, um, respective, respectful of the Japanese American story.

Um, Judy Geniac, superintendent before Wade Vagis, doing a really excellent job. I really enjoyed working with him. Very committed to the mission, currently- obviously on board more recently. So, you know, it's been a really great, we're really grateful, I mean, I'm grateful for their hard work.

You know, that we're excited about the funding we got for the Robinson Project. You know, the Great American Outdoors Act for southern Idaho parks, I mean, that's great work. I don't know, so it's been very positive. I'm hopeful that the National Park Service will continue to fulfill its mission and ensure that the park is preserved unimpaired for the benefit of future generations. And you know, I'm hopeful that the park leadership in Washington, well, you know, stand up for the statutory requirement to preserve the park.

So that's kind of the Minidoka story.

Camille Daw: If you could expand it out, so of more to the other camps, that would be very helpful, so I guess, really quickly, My question, kind of going off that, is if you wouldn't mind expanding, perhaps, on your involvement, if any, with the Bainbridge Island Resource Study and any other involvement, you know. Just very briefly.

You know, that you may have mentioned, like the Hermann, the Hermann Farm acquisition. I know we discussed a little bit about that, but, especially Bainbridge Island and then the community planning process with the GMP. Those two would be very helpful.

Dan Sakura: Yeah, so Congress authorized Senator Patty Murray from Washington state to authorize -- secured legislation, I think. Congressman Jay Inslee was there at the time, he may have come in later, but he represented Bainbridge Island, Washington. She passed legislation to authorize the Bainbridge Island Special Resource Study.

I actually worked for Senator Cantwell for a bit, and you know, was very involved working with the National Park Service to help keep that study going forward. You know that Congress has authorized a lot of special research studies, and sometimes, you know, without congressional or public involvement or engagement, the studies lag a little bit. But the Park Service, Warren Brown who's Chief of Planning in Washington, I know he was engaged on the, the project. A really strong support, obviously, from the Bainbridge Island community -- Clarence Moriwaki -- He's now with the City Council, Bainbridge Island Council.

Interestingly, there was a project. There was a Congressional earmark that was needed for the Pritchard property for the Pritchard Park. That was a property owned by the White Cough. The landowner was like off. The Bainbridge Island Memorial includes the memorial itself, but also the Pritchard Park adjacent the-

So there was, I think it was -- I want to say it was the fiscal year 2004 Commerce, just the State Appropriations Bill, there was some funding that needed to go through NOAA, the Coastal Historian, land conservation program to help to purchase. It was a grant to the State of Washington to purchase that property. So, this is back in the day of earmarks, you know, the good old days. And I remember reaching out to the committee. They promised just the State Appropriations Committee, and really fighting, you know, letting people know how important it was for our Senator. She was obviously a huge champion of our community and we're- we're grateful for her leadership.

So I worked on keeping that study going, and then, securing the funding for the Pritchard Park-land acquisition. Which compliments the Memorial, and then I went to work at the Conservation Fund in Washington. I headed up their government relations program and I worked very closely with the Conservation Fund in Idaho, at the time. It is then, Neil King, he was moving forward with the General Management Plan.

You know, if you look at the original monument, it was seventy-three acres, and it was just a portion of the administrative site, so it had none of the barracks blocks, and so the community and then Neil King felt that it was important- that it was important for the park to include a barracks block. So the Hermann Farm, Mr. Hermann -- he was quite elderly. He would pass during the course of the project.

He wanted to see the park -- that the Hermann Farm added to the, the Park Service did not have the acquisition authority, so the Conservation Fund purchased the Hermann property. There was

really strong support from the community, you know, in terms of fundraising, to raise the property. Then the Conservation Fund bought it and then we worked with an outside lobbyist who did a great job. Well, yeah, who helped to work with Senator Craig and Senator Crapo and Senators Campbell and Murray. There was a House bill, in the, Senate Bill. Congressman Simpson and Mr. Inslee, Jay Inslee from Washington, a Democrat, actually, worked together.

So, that bill passed as part of a larger omnibus Lands Bill in 2008. So, I think it was called like the Consolidated Public Lands Bill of 2008. And what that did is to authorize the park boundary, to be authorized as an expansion of the park boundary. And then the Conservation Fund was able to sell the property to the National Park Service and recur its investment in the property, and as you know it's now part of the park.

It's- and I think we talked before, but we worked on the Robison property, which is one hundred acres at the park entrance. Again, working with Neil on that project. We're really fortunate to have a partnership, excellent partnership, with Dean Dimond, local farmer who the conservation fund bought the property, one hundred acres. The subdivided Park Service didn't need the whole thing. They-they got about eight acres of land, and then there was a conservation easement on the balance about ninety acres. So it, the Robison property, advanced the goal of the General Management Plan, which is to preserve the viewshed- the immersive setting, the feeling of isolation. So that was a great project.

And then we- I don't know if I mentioned it before, we had heard, there was another property that became available -- that might becoming available on a willing seller basis on the east side.

And that's when we were trying to get legislation in 2009 and we included, we were grateful for the support from Congressmen Norman Dicks and Representative Mike Simpson on the House Interior of Appropriations Committee. We were able to include legislation in the House version of the bill, but then LS Power came along. Lobbyists and -- stop that and block that.

Our effort to realize the vision of the General Management Plan, and preserve additional lands, you know, view shed conservation easements to prevent incompatible development that would undermine the fundamental resources- values of the park. So that legislation did not go forward, so anyways, that's where we are today. I hope that -- I hope that's helpful in answering your questions.

Camille Daw: Yeah, Yeah, no that is extremely helpful. Excuse me, helpful. I didn't know LS Power was the one that -- or lobbyists I should say, from LS Power, were the ones that essentially blocked the additional acquisition of that land. And what part of the original camp would that be?

Dan Sakura: It was over on the east side of the camp. Let me just- up here with two east of the Hermann Farm.

Camille Daw: So basically, it would be --

Dan Sakura: The Hermann Farm was Block Twenty-One, Twenty-Two portion of Block Twenty-Three, Twenty-Four. And then the -- This other property, east of the park, would have

included the balance. The remainder of Block Twenty-Three, Block Twenty-Four, Block Twenty-Six. And it would -- It's squared off the park. There's kind of -- the park is a funny shape. It's got, you know, the big block in the middle of the square, it's got two squiggly parts coming out. And it would have sort of squared out East Side really far. So we were hopeful that Congress would expand the boundary, but unfortunately the company's lobbyists blocked that effort to implement the GMP. Yeah, to you know, acquire additional property for the park.

Camille Daw: And, and was there a specific reason or purpose as to why they would have blocked that? Or why they were, you know, not really wanting that for it. I can't really see what they're thinking is, however.

Dan Sakura: You know, they were trying to move, get approval for the swift line, and at the National Park Service, the Conservation Fund purchase of the Robison Property, the legislation was drafted initially as an amendment to the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program.

The law authorized land acquisition for several parks. Minidoka was not included as one of the parks, because it was a National Park. Well, it was not, it was not included in the authorization for land acquisition. So, so the language of the amendment, the initial amendment in the House Bill was to authorize land acquisition grants. Yeah, Minidoka, and that -- Heart Mountain, Heart Mountain provision stayed and was enacted as part of the final deal. But the Minidoka provision was dropped out.

So, there hasn't been any effort to expand the boundary by legislation.

Camille Daw: Interesting. Well, I guess that does certainly answer my question regarding that. But you know, talking, going back, probably several decades from that. Talking about designation. I know we've spoken before about that specific process, but why exactly was Minidoka designated earlier? You know, some of the sites that we're seeing now, like Amache, why was Minidoka, I guess, designated earlier? Or perhaps, maybe, you can explain why you feel as if it's important that Minidoka is designated. Obviously, it does talk about a lot, or it does speak to, the American story, that I would argue, for most of my educational life, has gone unspoken. And as of recently, due to efforts from the Japanese American community is being spoken about and discussed. But um, maybe you could talk about you know information.

Dan Sakura: So, there's two ways to designate a National Park. One is administratively by the Antiquities Act to preserve, authorizing, which authorizes the President to proclaim National Monuments on lands owned- under government control. But to preserve objects of historic or scientific interest. So, the other approach is a legislative approach. So, back in November of 2000, the President, President Clinton, sent a memorandum to Secretary Babbitt, asking him to prepare a record and engage with local communities to solicit input about Japanese American camp preservation. And there was a series of like outreach sessions and meetings. And if you look at the ten campsites- so Manzanar was already a unit of the National Park System. So Manzanar's off. The two Arizona sites are located on Indian reservations, Gila River and Poston. And so those are off the table. The two Arkansas sites. There's very little left, and I don't believe any of that is federally owned. And so that was okay.

And so what was left was Topaz, which was privately owned by the Topaz Museum. So not federal. You had Heart Mountain which has been on Federal land. But there's the Never Again law in Wyoming that says that you can't use the Antiquities Act to proclaim National Monuments in Wyoming, and it was a result of the Grand Teton Fight. Which was designated by proclamation by FDR, and then later Congress came along, but the President does not have the authority to proclaim National Monuments in Wyoming.

Camille Daw: Oh Wow.

Dan Sakura: So that basically, the process of elimination. Remember, this is November of 2000. Okay, this is after the election. And there were only two; this is before the Honouliuli effort even got started. So in Hawaii. So you basically had two- two sites that had Federal Land. One was Minidoka and one was Tule Lake. And we were likely only to get one because of the timing. There was very few days left in the administration and I was working on it and we already were looking at a proposal for a National Monument in Idaho, Southwest Idaho. So we were sort of thinking Idaho, and then- at least my thinking, for Tule Lake, not to advance. It was Tule Lake, located in California, there's a very large Japanese American community in California.

There's not a big community in Idaho, so we that in the future, truly like, could it be designated because of the support from the community, Japanese American community, and fortunately, actually John Jarvis was the Regional Director in the 2000s, and led the effort to have Tule Lake proclaimed as a National Monument in 2008. It's part of Valor in the Pacific. And I actually

worked on that. It was a National Historic Landmark designation process, working with- then Lava Bed Superintendent Craig Doorman. That, and working with- working with Stephanie Toothman from the Park Service Seattle was involved in that- in Tule Lake. So, so anyway. We ended up doing Minidoka, and that's why it got done in- in 2000, January 2001.

Camille: Yeah, and so, Okay you had two months too?

Dan Sakura: Yeah.

Camille Daw: And was it? Was it longer for Tule Lake that you had or what was that?

Dan Sakura: It's there for a while. Tule Lake was a little bit different process because what happened was demands in our legislation that authorized the establishment of the Manzanar National Historic Site also had a requirement for the- for a theme study. Japanese American World War II theme study, so it was a Congressionally directed theme study. And as part of that, the National Park Service put together *Confinement and Ethnicity*. Which was Jeff Burton, et cetera. I think Mary Farrell, others worked on that. They did the comprehensive archaeological work.

And then accompanying the- so that- that was the base layers that was sort of the- the reach to find the resources, and then the theme study recommended national, sort of, landmark designations, for all the other sites. So all the other big sites -- So there was the Tule Lake so

they're at the same time there was an effort to Topaz National Historic Landmark. Amache was actually kind of going about the same time as Tule Lake.

Camille Daw: Oh, okay.

Dan Sakura: There was efforts at Poston, and I don't think there's any designation at Gila River because it's Tribal land. Think Poston, maybe a National Historic District, or something. I don't know, but you know, one of the Arkansas camps, I think maybe Rohwer, was already a National Landmark. So there was a local effort, to the Tule Lake Committee. Barbara Takei, John Floyd Mori, Japanese American Citizen's League. There, there was a lot of conversations to advance the National Historic Landmark, which is a finding of national significance. It was up in Modoc County, California, which is a pretty rural county. And there were good conversations with Modoc County Commissioners. I remember talking to one former Forest Service employee was on the Commission. It was the Congressional district of John Dolittle, Republican, who was a leader in the House of Representatives. He was in the Republican Conference, or something, but he was in House leadership at the time. I want to say this is 2006, or 2007, and 2008.

And then, there were a couple, and Stephanie Toothman might be a better person to talk to because she worked on this or Barbara Takei. But there was Bureau of Reclamation. I believe it was the old, like warehouse, It was on federally-owned land. It was Bureau of Reclamation, but there was also Cal trans owned land or managed land. Some stuff there, and then there was the jail itself, you know, the jail within the email they had on the property. So it was really sort of by

proxy, the National Landmark was sort of by proxy for what do you do- what do you do with Tule?

[Pause]

Can you hear me? Or

Camille Daw: Yes, yes. I can hear you.

Dan Sakura: Let me get up and get something.

[leaves at 27:25 and returns at 27:42]

Dan Sakura: So, so what John Jarvis did was he got, or somehow, I don't know how this happened, but he, President Bush sent a memo to the Secretaries of Defense and Interior to develop recommendations relating to World War II Pacific Sites.

Camille Daw: Okay.

Dan Sakura: And, it was, I know that it was 2008, there was a lot of work that John led to and there was like, submarines, Japanese submarines. Right, and there was stuff on the Aleutian Islands, I believe, and there was just all kinds of stuff. There was stuff on my- and so on. December 2008, right, December the 28th, President Bush proclaimed Valor in the Pacific

National Monument. And we had it. There was an interesting back and forth about the name. There were people that wanted to name it like victory in the Pacific National Monument. And, obviously, you know that our community just didn't sound exactly right. So Floyd Mori who was the head of the JACL at the time, he worked on that and I worked on that. We- fortunately, the final name was Valor in the Pacific. Yeah for a monument.

So that was designated in 2008, it was managed as part of Lava Beds, I believe, it's a National Monument. And Craig Dorman was the first superintendent, and I think Anna Tamura and Hanako Wakatasuki worked on the Tule Lake, standing that up. But early on they had a big fight over the airport because there's a crop duster, small commercial airport, located on the shore, but right on Tule Lake. So there's been issues there with FAA, and you know just -- it's been an ongoing sort of management headache, and Barbara Takei with Tule Lake Committee has been more involved with that. We're very involved in that effort to preserve the Tule Lake Site. Fast forward, I believe the General Management Plan called for it to be an independent unit. So, rather than be Valor in the Pacific. So Congress, 2019, as part of what was called a Dingle Act, sort of ratified it, and kind of made it its own unit.

They'll kind of separate it -- it out. So it kind of -- it put Tule Lake on par with Minidoka and Manzanar.

Camille Daw: Yeah, that makes sense, that, that sounds like a much, like a much more compli -- Oh I don't know. That's hard. I don't want to say more complicated, but a little bit more of a lengthy history. But you did mention there were efforts from the local community, and then

obviously the JACL with preserving Tule Lake. Did you find any of that with Minidoka before designation? Or did a lot more come after designation?

Dan Sakura: Yeah, so at Minidoka, there was some really great work that Hero Shiosaki and the local chapter- I think we talked a little bit about this -- in fact, Lisa Olsen, who's with the JACL, she's got a lot of that information that would be really -- maybe you should talk to her or have you seen her?

Camille Daw: Briefly, I, I of course don't want to take from her resources necessarily because I understand that she is a teacher, but I have spoken to her very briefly about talking about her uncle.

Dan Sakura: Yeah, he did remarkable work. He kept the flame alive. He actually, I think he fought Idaho Power, which was the initial powerline right over the middle of the entrance to the park. So I think he was involved, maybe, and there was 1979 National Register nomination. Also there was an Idaho Centennial 1990. The plaque there, it was identified. And Lisa, I think, has a lot of like documents related to that effort. So I mean that, they really can't. He kept the flame alive. I mean, there was also some local folks around the Twin Falls area that were involved.

Nowadays parks require like a reconnaissance survey or a special study, but back in that, you know, there's no requirement for the Antiquities Act. All you need to have is objects of historic or scientific interest, and that work on *Confinement and Ethnicity*, you know that chapter on

Minidoka documented a lot of the historic resources. So there was plenty of objects of historic interest.

Camille Daw: Yeah, yeah. So were you involved at all in the- the Idaho Centennial? Or was that just other community members here locally? Because that's where I think, you know, a big gap in my understand is of the significance of the Idaho Centennial was, because it's-it's brought up constantly by -- that's where I have a big gap in my --

Dan Sakura: Yeah -- I, I, heard that the papers of Richard Stallings, you know, the former member of Congress, and I heard that he was involved. And there's a woman who's written about this, for the Idaho Capitol Sun, or something. It's, I might have access to that. That information. Richard Stallings, it was a Congressman, or I'm sorry, Senator, and sometimes their papers, I forget if you Google, it might show up.

Camille Daw: Thank you.

Dan Sakura: '90 dedication. So, I don't know who that was. I wasn't involved in Minidoka back then, and in that timeframe. There was a lot of work, then soon thereafter there's a, the pilgrimage just started like after the monument was proclaimed, and there was, a, there's a Youtube from last January, the 20th, January 21st, so you may have seen that, and I wasn't involved in the pilgrimages, that was somebody else.

Camille Daw: Were you involved at all, you know, either establishing or supporting the Friends of Minidoka group at all, because I know, that you know, especially in recent years, that group has been, you know extraordinary, with assisting the National Park Service with a lot of their fundraising abilities and then preservation.

Dan Sakura: Yeah, I was on the board, but I was not an actor. I wasn't very active for the board. I did get involved in the Honouliuli designation. So that in 2009, [pause] Senator Inouye had become the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. He had asked his staff, had asked me to put together a package of recommendations for Japanese American confinement sites. And so actually, a part of that package was a special resource legislation, to authorize a special resource study on the Honouliuli, on the jail, and the confinement sites on the Hawaiian Islands. So actually, it was the same bill, it was the same bill as Minidoka. We were trying to move it on, the special resource study, it was the Appropriations Bill. It moved, so, so Congress authorized the Park Service to do a special resource study of Honouliuli when I was at the Conservation Fund. When we got grants for folks to do the archaeological work.

The Park Service did the Special Resource Study, and then John Jarvis became the director of the National Park Service during the Obama Administration. I believe that was 2009. And then he, he actually led the effort to "call to action." It was the lead up to the National Park Service Centennial call to action. Item number one was to fill in "critical gaps" in the National Parks system. And that was basically a strategic plan, and so based on that call to action, you know, Honouliuli came in. It was a land donation, a National Monument designation, by President Obama in 2015 as part of the system. Then I worked as a consultant on the, first as a volunteer,

then as a consultant on the Amache legislation, which was passed into law, was enacted- which Congress passed earlier this year 2022 and was signed into law in 2022.

And the Park Service is now working to acquire manageable unit of land, a donation from this, that- the community of Grenada, to establish the park. So we basically have five parks that tell the story, hopefully soon, of the Japanese American incarceration. You've got Manzanar, Minidoka, Bainbridge Island, Tule Lake, Honouliuli, that's five. And six, once the Park Service acquired Amache that's six. And I've been involved in five of the six of those.

Camille Daw: Okay, so what was your involvement with, I was -- which ones were you not- I should rephrase this.

Dan Sakura: The 2008 Minidoka legislation authorized the Park Service to acquire the Hermann farm, "Farm-in-a-Day" and to expand the boundary to the Bainbridge Island. So we worked, actually Tom Ikeda came back and testified. We did a lot of lobbying when I was with the Conservation Fund to move that 2008 legislation, both to expand and redesignate Minidoka, but also at the Eagledale Ferry Dock site on Bainbridge Island to Minidoka. So that- that was a part of that legislation in 2008.

So I was involved in that, I was involved in Tule Lake, mostly advocacy here in Washington with Floyd Mori. And I was involved in the Honouliuli legislation and especially for staff. Everybody initially, we kicked things off and then Amache. It signed to pass House in 2021 and then it passed in the Senate in 2022. And then it was en-signed into law, here this spring.

Camille Daw: Okay, and essentially with Amache, what they would need to do, moving forward, is acquire land for the unit? Okay.

Dan Sakura: Yes, yeah. The legislation that authorizes the Park Service to acquire land from the local town Grenada. They're currently working through- the Park Service is doing due diligence, and once the Park Service acquires the property, that is deemed a manageable unit. That's what the statute authorizes. Then the Secretary can certify that their parks are required to manage, and then it will become a full-on unit of the National Park Service. Like you'll have the arrow-arrowhead, and you know, everything over time. You'll see -- you know, everything, you see at a National Park. So, so yeah.

So Amache is going forward there. I also helped the Topaz Museum acquire some critical properties in Utah, at the Topaz site, while working at the Conservation Fund. To basically reassemble that, that was mostly in private ownership, but there was- but now the Topaz Museum has most of the former site. I think it was six hundred and forty acres total. So --

Camille Daw: That's -- that's mostly land --

Dan Sakura: Private land. It's all privately owned. It's now owned by the Topaz Museum, so the local nonprofit.

Camille Daw: That's a huge, that is a very large expansion because I remember it- from what I'd read, it wasn't much in the early 2000s. So, unless you have anything else you have to add, I do just have one last question. And of course, if you have anything else to add, definitely feel free to do so, but my last question is asking about, essentially, you had visited Minidoka before it was designated. And what are some of the differences that you see from designation to how the site is managed now?

Dan Sakura: So I visited the site in January, first visited Minidoka in January of 2001. I actually have some pictures of the site visit and the, you know, at the time, there really wasn't much. I mean, there was the historic objects, so you have, you know the basalt, the entries, the waiting room, the guard station, and you had a lot of that, you know, that archaeology, the footprint. There was the foundations of some of the warehouses, things like that. At the time, the irrigation district, I think it was American Falls, occupied the buildings in the middle. The initial monument had a cherry stem in it, so it sort of carved out the irrigation district, but then in 2008, the Park Service acquired that. Or Congress authorized them to acquire that.

So there wasn't much, but now, you know, we have the reconstructed guard tower, and we have reconstructed Honor Roll. You know, the barbed wire that, the interpretation. Hermann Farm is now protected, you've got the new visitor center and the barracks have been restored. There's some of them, you know, down Block Twenty- I believe it's Twenty-two. So the park now has the dump, you know, eighty acres northwest of the park. So, it's- you know, the old fire station, it's part of the Hermann- initially part of the Hermann farm, now that's part of the park. So I mean, I would like to see more that more barracks, as envisioned in the original management

plan to reconstruct an entire barracks block. But I know that requires a lot of people, budget, management. But I think it's, you know, an incredible resource for healing, for learning, you know. I'm hoping to get back at some point when we don't have that concerns related to the Lava Ridge Wind Project. Now that- that obviously is a high priority for our community right now to preserve the site, the distant view of the mountains, the immersive setting, you know, the scenic values without, you know, four hundred, seven hundred and forty foot tall wind turbines spinning with, you know, the- on the sort of foot, including some of the historic footprint of the park. So.

Camille Daw: Yeah, yeah. Well, because, definitely, I remember my first visit, and it was that sense of remoteness that you've talked about. It really felt like you were, you know, in the middle of nowhere, and that was-that was without even the barracks and all the dust that incarcerated experienced.

Dan Sakura: Right, right.

Camille Daw: So is there anything else you'd like to touch on and add. I have no other questions, unless there's --

Dan Sakura: No, no, I just thank you for your time and for your interest in this story and for your work. If you have any more follow-up questions, please feel free to reach out.

Camille Daw: Yeah, definitely! I really appreciate it again. This is a very important story to tell and, also tell the story of the National Park Service and how it continues to preserve the landscape and preserve this story and teach this story for future generations to come.

I'm going to go ahead and --

Dan Sakura: Actually, if I could just add something. So I read a book, it's called Ashley Sack, by Tia Miles. It's about a slave woman who was separated from her daughter, very young, and selling the sack. And it talks about telling the story of from victim to witness. And our community, the Japanese American community, we were victims of racial hate, prejudice, betrayal by our own government. And World War II, failure of all the democratic -- of our democratic institutions. Executive branch, Congress, courts. And so we were victims. But we've turned a corner to witness, and through oral histories, through art, plays, storytelling, preserving Minidoka, and other historic sites that were witness to it, to the crime. It was a crime that was committed against our families. When we may even beyond that, to where we see parks such as Minidoka and the other incarceration sites as really part of the front line in the fight for racial justice, because in order for our country to move forward on- towards our highest ideals, we need to preserve it, so that people can't come along with, you know, nonfactual interpretations, that this didn't exist, or it wasn't bad, or whatever.

And so, ensuring that this story is told, like, for example, fighting Asian American hate crimes. People need to understand, and I know a lot of people do, that anti-Asian hate and prejudice goes back over one hundred and fifty years. And Minidoka was one of those key, you know, Chinese

exclusion acts, there were race riots against Chinese immigrants, you know, on the West Coast, there were acts of violence against Chinese miners and railroad workers. And you know, even up to this day. And so, you know, in order for our country to advance and achieve these ideals, we have to ensure that these lessons are told.

Unfortunately, with this, you know, Trump and the COVID hate crimes, we've gone back to being victims again. And with the proposed BLM Lava Ridge Wind Project, you know, this is our sacred ground, and you know our country -- our government is looking, I mean we consider the BLM decision to permit the Lava Ridge Wind Project as a second betrayal. America's second betrayal and so we are going to fight. We're the community -- our community, the Asian American community, we're -- we're not going to be victims. And we're hopeful that this administrations will not victimize us again. And it will allow us to protect Minidoka as sacred ground and a place for healing. Racial trauma, without, you know, industrial wind projects over the horizon.

Camille Daw: Yeah, yeah.

Dan Sakura: Great to see you, and let's just- we'll stay in touch going forward. So you-

Camille: Thank you, I -- I really appreciate it, and I, again, think, you know, you definitely touched on some really important things with your comments and, you know the significance of Minidoka today. So I really, I really appreciate it and recognizing its importance. And it's, you know, continued significance as a place for healing and historic commemoration and,

recognizing, you know, those injustices. So I really appreciate your time, and then you know, your reflections as well. So we we definitely stay in touch. But I will go ahead and stop the recording.