



Wrapping Up 2014 at the Tule Lake Unit

This year, the Tule Lake Unit increased visitation, participated in several events, and continued to work on long-term projects and planning.

Nearly 5,000 people visited the site during 2014, up from 3,700 in 2013. Rangers conducted 36 tours of the segregation center and Camp Tulelake, as well as ten on-site education programs, and the site's social media pages now reach almost 5,000 people. The largest event of the year was the biennial Tule Lake Pilgrimage, organized by the Tule Lake Committee. This event, which took place July 4-7, included over 350 participants and centered on the theme, *Criminalizing Dissent: The Tule Lake Jail*. Events at the site included a hike up Castle Rock, a memorial service, several tours of the segregation center and Camp Tulelake, behind-the-scenes tours, and activities at the Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairground.

In September, the Tule Lake Unit participated in the annual Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair. Rangers at the site's booth talked with visitors about the history of the Tule Lake Segregation Center and presented educational activities aimed at encouraging younger visitors to think more deeply about the incarceration experience. The Tule Lake Unit booth included a 1/3 scale guard tower, which was made and donated by Jimi Yamaichi, and rangers contacted over 700 visitors during the course of the fair.



Photo of the Tule Lake Unit booth at the Tulelake-Butte Valley fair. (NPS Photo)

During the year, staff from the Tule Lake Unit attended conferences and events at other sites, including the Minidoka Pilgrimage, Heart Mountain Pilgrimage, Manzanar Reunion, and the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) national convention. Several members of the Tule Lake staff also visited Minidoka National Historic Site so staff from both sites could learn from one another and

develop a broader understanding of shared resources and possible challenges as the parks continue to grow and develop.

Throughout the year, the Tule Lake Unit continued to work on long-range planning and collect public feedback. The park held two General Management Plan workshops this year, one in the spring and another in the fall. Subject matter experts and National Park Service staff from regional and national



The Tule Lake Segregation Center Jail (NPS Photo)

offices joined the Tule Lake Unit to develop preferred alternatives for the long-term management plan for the site. The NPS is currently reviewing this plan, and the Tule Lake Unit will present it to the public for feedback in the next year.

Additionally, in partnership with the Tule Lake Committee, the park moved forward in developing plans for the restoration of the segregation center jail. Feedback from previous public scoping meetings identified the jail restoration as one of the most important developments for the site. In July and August, the Tule Lake Unit requested

and received public input on how to proceed with the restoration plan, which was reviewed jointly by the National Park Service staff and the Tule Lake Committee. In December, the National Park Foundation selected the restoration of the Tule Lake jail as one of its Centennial Projects, making it one of the high-priority fundraising efforts for the centennial of the National Park Service. Chosen from hundreds of submissions and representing one of only a handful of projects from the Pacific West Region, the jail restoration will have exciting new opportunities for national fundraising through the joint effort of the Tule Lake Committee and the National Park Foundation.

This year also brought improvements at Camp Tulelake. In the summer, four new waysides were installed outside the restored barrack. These interpretive displays tell the story of the site from its years as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp through the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans and German and Italian prisoners of war. The Tule Lake Unit also completed an initial stabilization of the foundation of the mess hall, one of the few buildings remaining at the site. Additionally, this year Camp Tulelake was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.



The Camp Tulelake Mess Hall before stabilization (NPS Photo)

The Tule Lake Unit museum collection continued to grow through several very generous donations of personal objects and belongings related to Tule Lake. This year also included the creation and adoption of an *Oral History and Public History Research Strategy*, which contains detailed

recommendations for the establishment of an oral history program at the Tule Lake Unit. Tule Lake Unit employee Larisa Proulx began conducting interviews and collecting stories for the oral history program this fall. More detailed information about this program will appear in an upcoming newsletter.

In the fall, the Tule Lake Unit said goodbye to Hanako Wakatsuki, who served as the Management Assistant for more than a year. Hanako played an integral role in the daily management and long-term planning for the site, including the establishment of this monthly newsletter, and she created lasting connections with the Japanese American community. Hanako received a significant promotion and permanent job as the education specialist at the United States Navy Seabee Museum, where she is building an education program from the ground up and assisting in the development of interpretive programs.

Each year, the Tule Lake Unit continues to develop its resources and expand visitor services through formal interpretive programs, public outreach, and social media. Thank you for your continued interest in the park, and best wishes for 2015.

The Tule Lake Unit is still accepting requests for tours of the Segregation Center and Camp Tulelake through the winter months. If you would like to schedule a tour, please call the Lava Beds Visitor Center at (530) 667-8113 at least two weeks in advance.



Lava Beds/Tule Lake Unit Staff, Summer 2014 (NPS Photo)