



## Tule Lake Unit Staff Participate in Accessibility Workshop

This month, the Tule Lake Unit and Lava Beds National Monument hosted an accessibility workshop with a multidisciplinary team of servicewide leaders. The goal of the project was to evaluate core park experiences, priority park areas, and the services and programs associated with these areas in order to develop a plan for improvements. From November 3-7, park staff met with NPS accessibility leadership from regional and national offices, as well as with employees from the National Center on Accessibility.

The workshop analyzed eight areas at the Tule Lake Unit, including the jail, carpenter's shop, Camp Tulelake barrack, segregation center grounds, and possible sites for a future visitor center. The park's facilities, media, and publications were assessed for their current and potential accessibility and were compared to universal accessibility standards.

As a result of the workshop, the Tule Lake Unit has begun to identify ways to make current facilities and future projects more accessible to more people. The workshop emphasized that parks need to be cognizant of all types of accessibility concerns, beyond physical mobility limitations. For example, based on feedback from the workshop, the Tule Lake Unit has enlarged and reprinted a section of a wayside display at Camp Tulelake, so that it can be passed around to visitors and read more easily. Park staff will also expand the availability of alternative publication formats and improve communication about the physical challenges present at each area so that visitors can plan their visits accordingly.



In 2013, NPS staff constructed a handicap accessible ramp at the Camp Tulelake barrack. (NPS Photo)

The Tule Lake Unit strives to be as accessible as possible for all visitors, recognizing that the average visitor tends to be older and may have more physical limitations. As a new park, this is a unique

opportunity to emphasize new accessibility standards as the visitor services are developed. Every project is designed with visitors in mind and with the goal of creating a culture of inclusion. Previous improvements include the 2013 construction of a handicap accessible ramp at the entrance of the Camp Tulelake barrack, as well as handrails along the stairs.

The National Park Service is committed to making all practicable efforts to ensure that NPS facilities, programs, services, information, employment, and meaningful work opportunities are accessible and usable by all people. The Tule Lake Unit shares this goal and will continue to seek ways to improve accessibility.



**Finished handicap accessible ramp constructed at the Camp Tulelake barrack in 2013. (NPS Photo)**