

Chapter 5

Affected Environment

The purpose of the “Affected Environment” chapter is to describe the cultural, educational, natural, recreational, and scenic resources of Minidoka Internment National Monument. It describes contemporary visitor use and facilities and existing developments, programs, and operations. This chapter also describes socioeconomic conditions. The topics discussed in this chapter are those identified as important issues by the public during the scoping process as well as those that are required under the National Environmental Policy Act for an Environmental Impact Statement.

Location and Setting

The national monument is located in Jerome County, covering 72.75 acres of the original 33,000-acre Minidoka WRA Center.

Jerome County is in south-central Idaho near the town of Twin Falls. The county is surrounded by Cassia County and Minidoka County to the east, Twin Falls County to the south, Gooding County to the west, and Lincoln County to the north. Jerome County is on the north side of the Snake River and is within the Snake River Plain. The majority of the county is moderately level with gentle slopes, primarily to the south towards the Snake River Canyon.

The closest population centers to the national monument are Eden, 6 miles to the east; Jerome, 21 miles to the west; and Twin Falls, 17 miles to the southwest. Traveling to the site along highways and county roads, the setting is characterized by rolling hills of sagebrush, rural farms and irrigated fields, and a labyrinth of irrigational canals

and ditches. A railroad line traverses Jerome County from east to west, and distant views of the Albion Mountains to the south can be seen on clear days.

Today, the majority of the historic 33,000-acre camp is covered with fields of alfalfa, corn, barley, rye, and potatoes. There are intermittent farmhouses, outbuildings, and cattle pastures surrounded by trees and agricultural fields. Farmsteads average approximately 100-200 acres in size. Farmers still use the camp’s original irrigation canals, some of the wells and roads, and many of the original barracks and outbuildings.

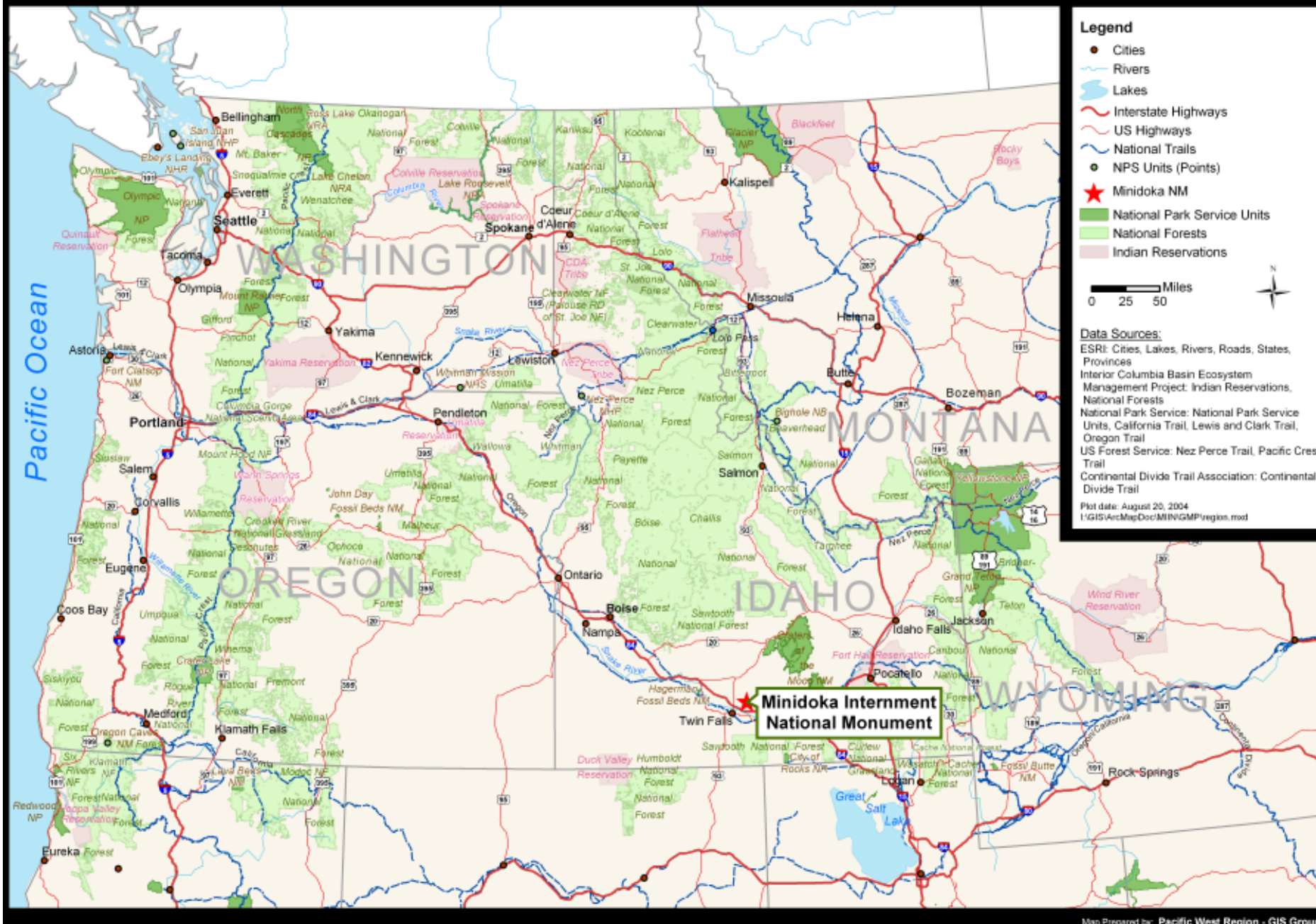
The national monument is within Idaho’s Second Congressional District.

The Origin, Meaning, and Uses of the Words *Minidoka* and *Hunt*

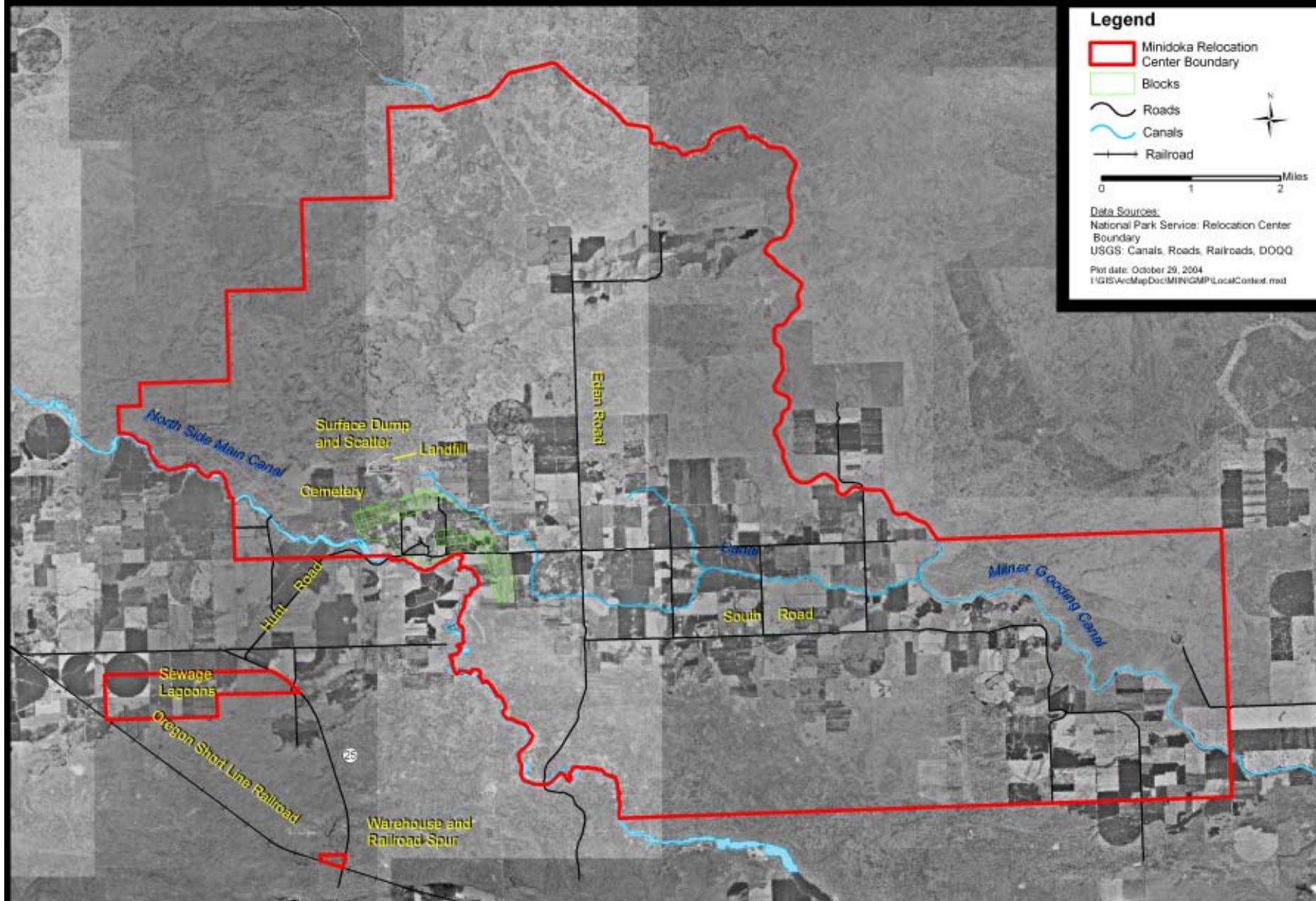
In 1942 the War Relocation Authority selected acreage within and near the Minidoka Irrigation Project, primarily under the control of the federal Bureau of Reclamation, as the site for construction of a relocation center. The irrigation project had been authorized by the Secretary of the Interior in April 1904 as the first federal irrigation project in

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

Regional Map



Local Context



Map Prepared by: Pacific West Region - GIS Group

Idaho and construction of the Minidoka Dam, the North Side Canal and spillway was completed in October 1906 (BOR 2002: 23, 31). Although the dam is about 36 miles east of what the WRA called the Minidoka Relocation Center, a segment of the North Side Canal ultimately formed the southern boundary of the historic camp and present-day national monument.

Minidoka was an accepted Idaho place name when the decision was made to have the Reclamation Service of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) contract for the construction of a dam across the Snake River at Minidoka Rapids. The Reclamation Service was a predecessor of both the first independent Reclamation agency dating to 1906 and the Bureau of Reclamation that resulted from reorganization in 1923 (BOR 2002: 8). Just as Reclamation borrowed the name of the rapids and a little town some 8 or 9 miles north of the Snake River, so too did the WRA in 1942. But, where did the name Minidoka come from?

In September 1918 a Mr. E. P. Vining of Brookline, Massachusetts, responded to a letter of inquiry from a Mr. John E. Rees, President of the Lemhi Historical Society in Salmon, Idaho, dated July 8, 1918. Vining wrote that he began to study “the various dialects of the aborigines of America in 1863” and that he had more than 3,000 books on the topic in his personal library by the 1880s. He then mentions that a Chief Engineer Blickensderfer was in charge of building the Oregon Short Line and had contacted him to select

American Indian language names for places in unsettled areas through which the railroad was being built west of American Falls. Vining refers specifically to six names that were selected. Only one, Shoshone, was from the language of local Indians of the Snake River area. Vining recalled that the other five, including Minidoka, were taken from a book edited by Reverend S. R. Riggs that was published in 1852 (Vining 1918).

In the course of preparing his response to Rees, Mr. Vining consulted his copy of Riggs to confirm the meanings or translations of the five Dakota or Sioux language words. He had no problem with four of the five Dakota words, but ran into a problem with Minidoka. He concluded that

“Minidoka is certainly a Dakota word, Mini (more usually spelled “Minne”) meaning “water”. Neither minideka [sic] or doka occurs in the above mentioned dictionary, and we must have taken the term from another authority: from which one I can not now say. I have a faint impression that it means “Singing[sic] water”. These were evidently connected with Mr. Blickensderfer’s remembrance of the place.”

Mr. Vining wrote those words in 1918, some 35 years after he and Chief Engineer Blickensderfer selected five Dakota language words and one Shoshoni language word to use as place names for “sidings” along the route of the Oregon Short Line to the west of American Falls. Apparently, Vining didn’t consult the alphabet that appears on pages

3 and 4 of Riggs' dictionary and grammar or simply forgot that the original spelling of "Minidoka" was "mi'-ni-hdo-ka" (Riggs 1852: 139) or that the spelling of "doka" appeared as "hdo'ka" (Riggs 1852: 73). The word "mi'-ni" meaning water appears on the same page as "mi-ni-hdo-ka." The word "hdo'ka" means "a hole." The compound word means "a fountain or spring of water, a well" and the spelling of the Dakota language word was modified slightly by dropping one letter to arrive at "Minidoka."

Confusion about the name Minidoka afflicted both the WRA and the Japanese Americans who were forced to reside in the relocation center. However, the confusion was for different reasons. Local WRA officials soon recognized that there was a separate community named Minidoka located some 50 miles or so east by road travel and that it was in a county of same name (established in 1913). On the other hand, the WRA camp was in Jerome County (established in 1919). To facilitate mail delivery a camp post office was established, and the unique name selected by the WRA was Hunt. Its namesake was Wilson Price Hunt, a businessman who had led an expedition through the area from Astoria, Oregon to St. Louis, Missouri in 1812. The name Hunt was commonly used by Nikkei who were incarcerated at the camp, and it continues to be used by residents of the local area.

While the WRA sought to simply distinguish the camp from the community of Minidoka located to

the east, some Japanese Americans apparently thought of the camp's official name as either ironic or amusing. Martha Inouye Oye was one resident of the camp who commented on the name Minidoka:

"I don't know what it means. However, to the Japanese it sounds similar to the phrase, 'Mina do ka?' which translates, 'How is everyone?' Evacuees all thought that was a big joke . . . 'How is Everyone Relocation Center'" (Tuschida 1994: 292, as quoted in Hayashi 2002: 106).

The Cultural Environment

This section provides information related to the cultural history of the Minidoka Relocation Center. Archeological resources, cultural landscape resources, and buildings and structures are land-based aspects of material culture that are amenable to documentation and study on the Minidoka Internment National Monument. A fourth type of cultural resource includes various sources of documentation, including published materials and archives as well as objects and artifacts that will assist in telling the story of the national monument. A plan to manage archives and museum collections will assist the NPS in developing detailed documentation and interpretation.

Another type of cultural resource that the NPS has addressed in recent years is ethnographic resources.

In part it focuses on the relationships between people who represent living cultures and aspects of material culture. Given the nature of this national monument and the direct involvement of Nikkei and others who have first-hand knowledge, the concept of a separate category of ethnographic resources is redundant. The site is about people and the impact of events during World War II on those people. Japanese Americans and others have been directly involved in this GMP planning process, the identification of information related to the national monument, and the creation of new documentation such as oral histories.

1942 to 1945 is considered the historic period of significance for the national monument.

Pre-History and Early History of Minidoka Internment National Monument Environs

Archeological evidence for a prehistoric human presence, commonly referred to as the paleo-indian culture known to have moved into the new world during the late Pleistocene and early Holocene (13,000 – 8,000 years Before Present [BP]), has been identified across the Snake River Plain. This area has great research value for archeologists because all periods of the paleo-indian culture (Clovis, Folsom, and Plano) are represented on the Plain (Plew 2000). One of the earliest paleo-indian sites with sporadic human occupation beginning about 13,000 BP is Wilson Butte Cave approximately 15 miles from the national monument

on BLM public land. The Wilson Butte Cave was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and was first excavated in 1959-1960 by the Idaho State University. Another site, the Buhl burial, dates to 10,675 BP and is approximately 45 miles from the national monument. The Buhl burial site was comprised of well preserved human remains from a woman in her late teens as well as a stemmed biface, bone needle fragment, two fragments of a bone awl, and a badger baculum, “which appeared to be an intentionally interred object” (Plew 2000). Kelvin’s Cave to the northwest and Wasden/Owl Cave to the east also have evidence of human occupation during the early Holocene.

During the Archaic Periods the regional climate warmed and became drier resulting in a substantial shift in prehistoric subsistence practices and a seemingly more diverse material culture that included a variety of use tools as well as decorative and “trade” items. Semi-subterranean structures were also constructed for shelter. While evidence from the Early Archaic (8,000 – 5,000 years BP) suggest that people still hunted larger game (modern bison and bighorn sheep) using points similar to Late Plano points and had seasonal settlements, the Middle Archaic (5,000 – 2,000 years BP) reveals a shift to greater utilization of the landscape including fishing stations and workshop locations (Plew 2000). Ice caves were also used for food storage on the Eastern Snake River Plain and there was a growth of habitation sites. The Late Archaic (2,000 – 250 years BP) is characterized by another

shift in material culture that reflects more economic diversity. Some of the great technology changes include the introduction of the bow and arrow, ceramic technology, and small side and corner-notched points indicative of small game hunting.

American Indians of South-Central Idaho from 1700 to the Reservation Period

The native people who primarily occupied the area that includes the national monument during the 1700s and early 1800s were known as the Northern Shoshone. Their language was classified as part of the Central Numic branch of the Uto-Aztecan language family (Goddard 1996: 7). Ethnographic reconstruction for the period from AD 1700 to 1750 identified numerous geographically localized groups in terms of the foods they primarily ate and the subsistence strategies that were used to procure food (Walker 1993: 139-144). There was one such group in the area that includes the national monument and two others to the north.

The national monument is within an area referred to as the home of Sturgeon Eaters. The area included land to the north and south of the Snake River for distances of 20 miles or so, and ran along the Snake River for about 100 miles. Fishing played a major role in the subsistence strategy in this area. To the north of the Sturgeon Eaters were other Northern Shoshones referred to as Camas Eaters. The area used by groups here was on the northern reaches of the Snake River Plain and in-

cluded the Camas Prairie. In this expansive area that ranged from 20 miles or so north of the national monument, north to the mountains in what are now the Sawtooth and Challis National Forests, the people primarily gathered camas roots by digging. To the north of the Camas Eaters, other groups were referred to as Mountain Sheep Eaters. Those groups were primarily hunters. It is unlikely that either the geographical areas or the peoples who inhabited them were as discrete as this model suggests. Indeed, it is more likely that group of people interacted extensively and engaged in seasonal migrations to take advantage of the different kinds of food resources just described in vastly different natural environments.

The reality of tribal life ways and interactions became increasingly complex with the acquisition of horses and other factors in 1700 (Shimkin 1986, Walker 1971: 71, Walker 1993: 154). As part of this process another group of Numic speakers, the Northern Paiute or Bannock who had previously lived in what became Oregon, moved eastward into Northern Shoshone Country and increasingly developed a unified social system. Shoshone-Bannock contact with Euro-Americans moved from being episodic in the early 1800s to the point that the native people were increasingly displaced by settlers who wanted to establish homes and communities in south-central Idaho. Conflicts emerged and two massacres took place in the region during 1863. One was the infamous Bear River Massacre near Preston, Idaho (Madsen 1985). Another was much closer to the national monument, but near

Salmon Falls on the Snake River in what is now known as Hagerman, Idaho (Deur 2004: 56). Ultimately the United States entered into several treaties with various Shoshones and Bannocks in the 1860s, and the Fort Hall Indian Reservation was initially established in 1867 for groups from Boise and Bruneau (Murphy and Murphy 1986: 302).

The Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 and two separate Executive Orders in 1867 and 1868 resulted in having Shoshone and Bannock people move to the Fort Hall Reservation rather than a separate reservation on the Camas Prairie or elsewhere (Royce 1899:856-861). Many Shoshones and Bannocks began to move to Fort Hall, but others remained in areas they used prior to the creation of the reservation for as long as they could. During the 1880s and 1890s there were many reports of tribal members returning to Salmon Falls for fishing (Deur 2004: 65-71). In contrast to information available on Shoshone-Bannock use of the Salmon Falls and other resource rich areas, historical documentation or archeological evidence has not been found for tribal use and occupancy of the national monument during the 1800s. The potential for such information to exist is low.

Early Euro-American Settlement of South-Central Idaho

In the 1850s, Euro-American settlers bypassed the Snake River Plain while traveling along two routes of the Oregon Trail. One alignment hugged the Snake River, while the other, called the Goodale's Cutoff, skirted the northern edge of the Snake River Plain. As a vast, desolate, and secluded area, pioneering activities did not begin until the turn of the century.

In 1884, the construction of the Oregon Short Line (OSL) Railroad and its branch lines provided Euro-American settlers with access to the area from Wyoming and Oregon. Farming communities were established, and the OSL transported their harvests to consumer markets in the Northwest and inner west. By 1912, the North Side Branch Line, connecting Gooding through Rupert to Minidoka, passed 2½ miles south of the site, which would become Minidoka Relocation Center. It was by this rail line that materials and eventually the internees arrived at the camp.

The second wave of settlement and land development resulted from the Carey Act of 1894. The Carey Act was a federal-state cooperative system in which private developers funded and constructed irrigation canals and then sold the irrigable land and water rights to farmers. Projects in the area began in 1900. In 1902, the Department of the Interior created the U.S. Reclamation Service, and the Hunt area fell under its jurisdiction.

In 1904, the BOR established the Minidoka Reclamation Project as part of a government initiative to build dams and irrigation canals for agricultural development. The area, which was later to become Minidoka Relocation Center, was situated on the Snake River Slope of the Gooding Division of the Minidoka Reclamation Project. Between 1927 and 1932, the BOR funded and managed the construction of the Milner-Gooding Canal, which runs for 70 miles from the Milner Dam on the Snake River to the Big Wood River northwest of Shoshone (BOR Minidoka Annual Project History 1942). In 1933, the American Falls Reservoir Irrigation District #2 became a managing partner of the canal.

The North Side Canal Company, which was one of the largest mutual irrigation companies in Idaho, constructed the North Side Canal in 1909. Irrigation water from the north side of the Snake River at Milner Dam, near Twin Falls, Idaho was diverted into the North Side Canal, supplying irrigation water to thousands of acres of farmland along an 80-mile stretch of the Snake River. In later years, the North Side Canal became a hallmark, defining the transition of the central Idaho Snake River Plain from sagebrush grasslands to productive farmlands. Today, the North Side Canal Company is considered one of the most successful and innovative irrigation projects in the intermountain region.

Archeological Resources

The archeological resources that have been identified at the national monument are comprised primarily of features and artifacts associated with the period of camp operation from 1942 to 1945. While objects that postdate the camp's closure were noted during the archeology survey at the historic site, no artifacts predating the camp were identified (Burton 2001). This could be due to the ground disturbance that was caused during the construction of the camp although the probability of a significant prehistoric site in the immediate area is low. The most likely prehistoric artifacts to be encountered at the national monument and surrounding area are isolated stone tools or stone flakes or debris from making stone tools.

The methods that were employed during the survey met the Idaho State Standards for an intensive survey level since the spacing was 15 or less meters



NPS archeologist excavating in the entrance area. 2002. NPS Photo.



NPS archeologists mapping the garden area. 2002. NPS Photo.

and the terrain was open with good ground visibility but there has been limited sub-surface testing. Consequently, it is possible that some archeological resources have yet to be identified at the national monument.



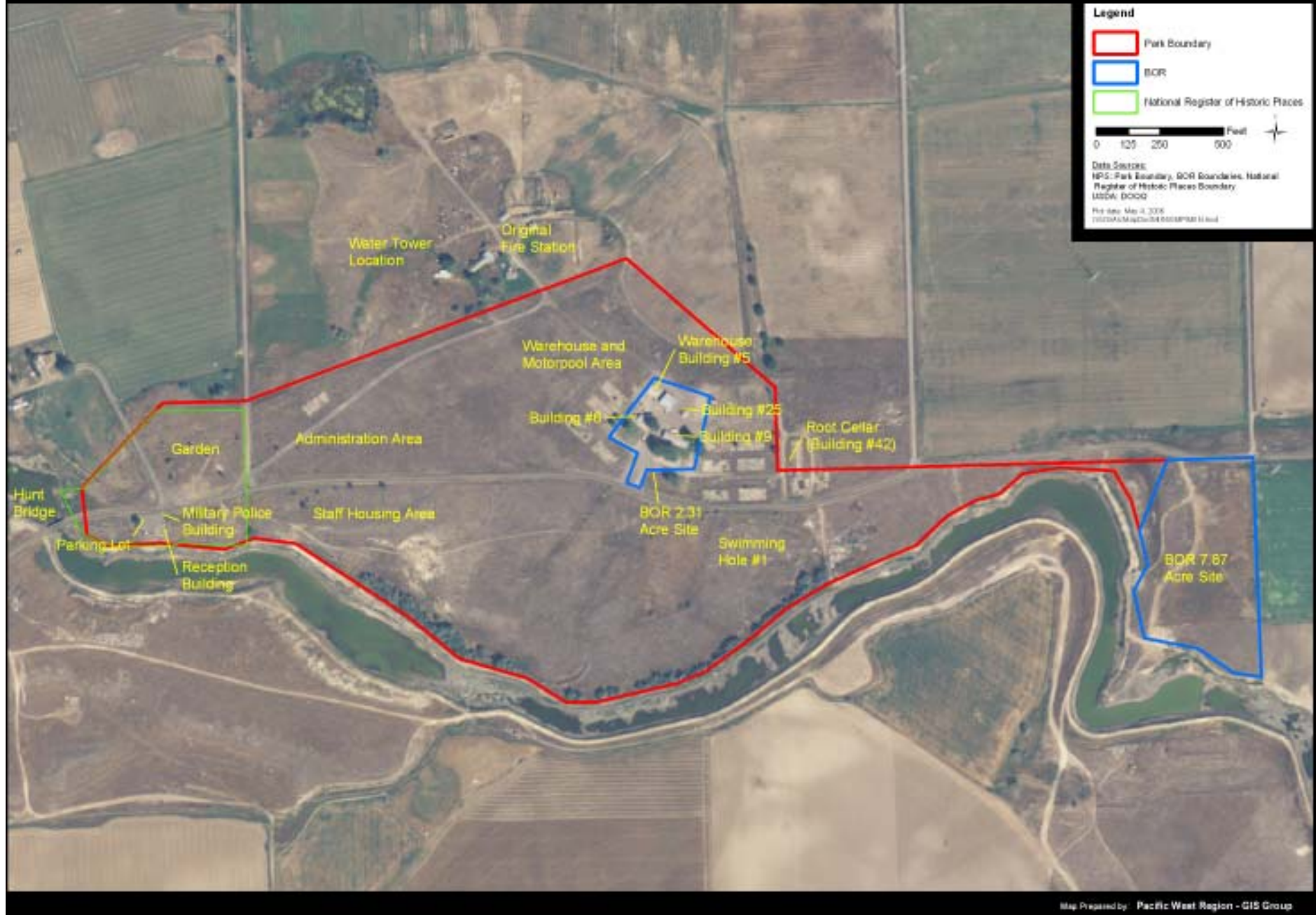
NPS archeologist and volunteers excavating the walkways in the entrance garden. 2002. NPS Photo.

Prior to its transfer to the NPS, the national monument had not been surveyed for archeological resources. A reconnaissance visit was completed by Jeff Burton in 1999 followed by the first systematic surface survey and documentation field work in May 2001. The systematic survey's stated goals were to conduct an intensive survey aimed at documenting the remaining features from the historic period as well as any other archeological objects identified, photographing the site and features, and completing a site assessment. A less intensive survey was also slated for the area surrounding the national monument so that associated and contributing features to the camp could also be recorded to provide a more comprehensive assessment of the national monument.

Archival materials, including maps and photographs, were used to guide the archeological work and assess the integrity of the historic features. Minidoka was known to have a unique layout that deviated from the strict plans of the nine other camps because of the uneven terrain and serpentine alignment of the North Side Canal. Rather than a grid alignment, the housing areas were separated into two groups forming a crescent shape to the north and east of the North Side Canal.

More than 200 features were recorded during the 2001 survey, and over half those features date to the historic period, while the other features and most of the artifacts postdate the camp's operation (Burton et al. 2001). The 2001 survey was di-

Minidoka Internment National Monument





NPS archaeologist and volunteers excavating the walkways in the entrance garden. 2002. NPS Photo.

vided 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 hole, and perimeter security fence. This survey was supplemented by testing at the entrance area in 2002.

Entrance

The approach and entrance to the national monument remains relatively intact compared with photographs and plans from the World War II era. The remains of the reception building and the military police building are the two primary standing relics from the historic period; they were constructed from basalt cobbles and concrete. During the 2001 survey, features such as low-lying stone walls, pathways and gardens were recorded; however, they did not appear on the 1945 blueprint. Low rock walls below and west of the current parking area were documented. Additionally, there are other entrance features shown on the 1945 blueprint that are no longer evident, including a basalt and concrete wall on the north side of Hunt Road as well as the guard tower.

In 2002, archeological excavations were conducted in the vicinity of the extant basalt entrance buildings to locate other buildings, the gate house and gate building that were evident on the 1945 blueprint. Structural artifacts and features attest to the presence of the building just east of the military police building.

Archeological investigations conducted subsurface tests to locate remnants of the former guard tower. Using 1942 and 1945 blueprints, historical photographs, and oral histories, the location of the former guard tower was determined to be on the western edge of the existing parking lot. Some features, such as an 8 ½-foot-square area of small cobbles and a skeleton key, may be associated with the guard tower. However, no definitive evidence of the guard tower foundation was found. It may be buried deeper, or the foundation may be beneath the new asphalt parking lot. "If the guard tower is to be reconstructed, more extensive excavations...would be necessary to accurately determine its location" (Burton 2003:33).

In summer 2002 further archeological investigations in the entrance area uncovered and mapped historic features in the entrance garden, including earthen mounds, pathways, rock clusters and a small depression. During the investigation, the area surrounding the historic honor roll was scraped by hand to locate evidence of the honor roll support posts. While various holes and pits could be discerned, there was no apparent pattern that could be matched to the honor roll support posts. Additionally, the estimated location of the historic flagpole was excavated, and associated artifacts and pit were found indicating its exact location. The pathways running through the garden were fully uncovered and mapped, revealing two pathways forming a "V" and stepping stones leading up to the honor roll forming a "T." No indications of constructed water features in the garden



Pile of flattened tin cans from the Minidoka Relocation Center, located to the south of the root cellar. 2002. NPS Photo.

were found. While no historic photographs or plans of the entrance garden have been located to date, the archeological evidence illustrates a designed landscape mixing elements of patriotism with Japanese styling.

North Administration Area

Of the eight buildings constructed in the north administration area, most building sites were identified and documented by mapping remnants such as slab foundations (building 35 – *warehouse office*), footings (buildings 30 and 31 – *administration*, building 32 – *Post Office*, building 34 – *garage*), and pathways with trees (building 29 – *welfare office*). Building 33 – *personnel office* and building 36 – *garage* did not have any remaining features attributable to their construction.



Building footing in the staff housing area. 2003. NPS Photo.

Central Administration and Staff Housing Area

During the 2001 survey it was noted that there were no intact features remaining from the 12 buildings in this area. The buildings in the central administration and staff housing area included building 41 – *relocation leave section*; buildings 42 through 44 – *legal division and evacuee property, relocation offices, statistics and appointed personnel store*; building 45 – *men's dormitory*; building 46 – *women's dormitory*; buildings 47 and 48 – *mess hall and recreation hall*; and buildings 49 through 52 were all *women's dormitories*. The building locations could be deduced from remaining pathways and trees. Impacts that compromised the buildings in this area are attributed to new roads being constructed over the site, general agricultural use, and the removal of water, sewer,



Overgrown path in the administration area. 2001. NPS Photo. (Top)



Garage foundation in the administration area. 2003. NPS Photo. (Bottom)



Minidoka Relocation Center landfill, located one mile north of the national monument. 2002. NPS Photo by Richard Lord. (Top)

Japanese ceramic at the landfill. 2002. NPS Photo by Richard Lord. (Bottom)

and electric lines that created debris mounds and uneven terrain.

South Staff Housing Area

Remnants from five of the 10 building locations are discernable. Buildings 60, 61, 63, 67, 69 – *staff apartments* had at least some of the concrete footings intact. Hunt Road, however, passed over buildings 65, 66, and 69 while another graded road passed over building 38 – *pumphouse*. The stepping stone paths as well as the stone lined pathways leading to and around the buildings were noted at most of the building sites.

Warehouse and Motor Pool

There are significant building features in this area, and most of the original warehouse foundation slabs are intact. The relatively good preservation of the building foundations is attributed to the fact that the roads built after the camp closed did not cross this area. During the camp's operation, the number of buildings in the warehouse area grew from nineteen to thirty-six. Of these buildings, two-thirds had some recognizable features remaining. The buildings associated with this area include building 2 – *property office and receiving warehouse*; buildings 3, 4, 8, 15, 16 – *storage warehouse*; building 5 – *motor repair and tire shop*; buildings 6 and 7 – *steward's storage warehouse*; building 9 – *refrigerated warehouse*; building 10 – *steward's office and receiving warehouse*; buildings 11 and 12 – *storage warehouse and co-op warehouse*; buildings 14 and 18 – *motor repair*

shop; building 19 – *engineer's warehouse*; building 20 – *carpenter, plumber, and electrician Shops*; buildings 21 and 22 – *worker's mess hall and sign shop*; building 23 – *gas station*; building 25 – *lavatory*; building 29 – *building material shed*; building 42 – *root cellar*. Fourteen buildings were not discernable during the 2001 survey, including *guard tower #4* and the *fuel oil storage tank*.

Swimming Hole

The swimming hole was built by internees during the historic period. It is shown on the WRA maps as being kidney-shaped, and a National Archives photograph notes that it was roughly 6 feet deep. Currently, there is a dry depression in the terrain fitting the descriptions on the blueprints and photographs. Burton noted, however, that other features in this area did not match their exact loca-



Historic fishpond, constructed by internees, along Hunt Road to the east of the national monument. 2003. NPS Photo.

tion on the map and were consistently west of their plotted positions (Burton 2001). Therefore, the discrepancy noted during the ground-truthing survey was not considered a concern. Within the swimming hole's depression, a collection of ceramic and metal fragments from the historic period were found.

Perimeter Fence

One feature that may have acted as a retaining wall for the perimeter fence was identified just east of the entrance buildings. This wall had concrete-reinforced post holes and a 90-foot-long basalt rock alignment that ran parallel to the North Side Canal and along a similar line as the fence. In general, there are only a few remnants of the security fence, including one standing fence post and a cluster of posts lying on the ground that may have been from the original perimeter fence.

Features outside the National Monument's Boundary

Associated features outside of the national monument were documented so that a more complete inventory of the historic remnants could be obtained. In the land parcels surveyed outside the national monument, there were 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 historic Minidoka Relocation Center landfill, the

railroad siding and warehouse, 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.

Today, the historic cemetery is located in a privately owned agricultural field. 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 significant, the physical cemetery itself does not retain historical significance or integrity.

Post World War II Alterations

Archeological evidence throughout the national monument indicates the site has been disturbed and modified since it was decommissioned. Jumbled rock clusters, concrete and litter piles, fences, depressions, and mounds are considered, for the most part, noncontributing elements to the archeological record. Artifacts, such as recovered glass and can fragments, have diagnostic maker's marks that range in life span from before and after the camp era, thereby making it difficult to attribute those artifacts directly to camp use. In Burton's 2001 report, it is noted that, "only those at a large can dump (Feature C-7) appear to be significant" to the camp era. Once the camp was closed most of the buildings were moved for use by local farmers who were granted land rights or torn down leaving only remnants of the built envi-

*Historic perimeter
fence post. 2002.
NPS Photo.*





An adaptively reused barrack building, which now functions as a barn and stable at a nearby farmstead. 2003. NPS Photo.

ronment. Currently most of the historic camp and its outlying areas are under cultivation; however there are still numerous significant features eligible for listing on the national register (Burton 2001).

In addition to the known historical archeological resources, it is possible that a variety of prehistoric and historic archeological resources will be encountered within the national monument in the future. The National Park Service has an obligation to document and evaluate all such resources even if they are not directly related to the events of World War II and the history of the camp. Based on review of previously documented archeological sites on file at the Western Repository for the Archaeological Survey of Idaho in Boise, there is a dearth of previously recorded prehistoric archeological sites within the national monument. The historic sites are primarily associated with the occupation of the camp in the 1940s. Site records for a six township area did not yield any major paleoindian sites such as those summarized by Yohe and Woods (2002). The closest one is Wilson Butte Cave, as noted earlier in this section. There are a dozen or so relatively small lithic scatters about 8 miles southwest of the national monument, near Interstate 84. It is possible that sites such as these and subsurface materials may be found in the future despite the amount of land disturbance that took place with the construction of the camp, its removal, and subsequent agricultural use.

Cultural Landscape Resources

The national monument encompasses only a small portion of the historic Minidoka WRA Center, including the historic entrance area, administration area, staff housing area, warehouse area, the swimming hole, root cellar, and beach area along the North Side Canal. Much of this land was fenced off after the camp was decommissioned, limiting the types and degree of physical modification to the camp. Since the historic period, the lands have remained open and unused, except for cattle grazing in areas adjacent to the North Side Canal.

The existing cultural landscape within the national monument has been severely compromised by the removal of historic buildings and structures as well as the construction of Hunt Road, which bisects



Historic rose and lilac bushes in the staff housing area. 2002. NPS Photo.

the site. However, despite this overall loss, the national monument retains fragmentary portions of some landscape characteristics. The most common types of historic landscape resources are building foundations, road alignments, parking areas, walkways, vegetation, and remnants of buildings and structures. These resources provide clues to the spatial organization, land use, cultural traditions, circulation, and vegetation that existed during the historic period.

Entrance Area

The entrance area, including 6.06 acres listed on the National Register of Historic Places, contains the most intact collection of historic features, including the military police building, reception building, parking lot, and Japanese-style garden remnants. As the single entrance into Minidoka, every internee, visitor, and camp staff was checked by military officers upon entering and exiting Minidoka, however the implications for this security check were significantly different for internees. It was one of the busiest and most heavily guarded areas within the 33,000-acre camp. Just beyond



*Entrance garden.
2004. NPS Photo.*



Swimming hole #1 at Minidoka. Circa 1943. Minidoka Interlude. (Top)



Location of the swimming hole #1. 2004. NPS Photo. (Bottom)

the military police building into Minidoka was the honor roll, listing the names of some 1,000 Nisei serving in the U.S. military from Minidoka. The honor roll was set within a Japanese style garden, designed by a famous Seattle garden designer, Fujitaro Kubota. Today, the honor roll, guard tower, and perimeter fence no longer exist. Despite these alterations, the remaining features in the entrance areas still provide a sense of the entrance sequence and conflicting symbols of confinement, patriotism, and cultural heritage.

The entrance garden at Minidoka is the most evocative landscape feature related to Nikkei cultural traditions within the national monument's boundaries. Earthen mounds, lava boulders, locust trees, stepping stones, and rock-lined pathways are evidence of the garden's design and use. Historically, the combination of the honor roll and Japanese-style garden were powerful symbols representative of the incarcerated Nikkei, and they were strategically located between the guarded entrance and the WRA administration buildings. The combination of the honor roll board and Japanese style garden encouraged visitors to stop and visit, admire, and remember the young men fighting for the U.S., and then stroll and reflect within the Japanese style garden. The ornamental garden retains integrity of design, workmanship, materials, location, feeling, and association.

Swimming Hole

Along the North Side Canal, internees developed a swimming hole after the tragic drowning of a young boy in the North Side Canal. The swimming hole provided respite from the intense summer heat and was a popular recreational spot for the Nisei. It measured 20 ft wide by 200 ft long by 5-9 feet deep. Today, the large hole is still clearly evident, although there is no water, and the entire pool has been overgrown with grasses.

North Side Canal

The North Side Canal served as the southern boundary of the relocation center, and its shoreline along the national monument retains its historic curvature. This extensive man-made feature provided a distinct physical border as well as contributing to the overall physical layout and charac-



North Side Canal. 2003. NPS Photo.

ter of the camp. During the historic period, the North Side Canal contained water year-round; however, today it only runs during the agricultural seasons. It is the size of a swift-flowing western river and creates an important water element in an otherwise dry and arid environment. As the only major physical features adjacent to the camp, the canal played a significant role in the lives of many internees, encompassing both recreational experiences and tragic events. In recent years, the North Side Canal Company constructed a service road along the northern edge of the canal. Despite this new roadway, the North Side Canal is a constructed water feature that contributes to the spatial organization and feeling and association of the cultural landscape.

Cultural Landscape Features Off-site

The national monument does not contain any portion of the extensive residential areas where internees lived and carried out their daily lives during the center's years of operation, nor does it contain agricultural lands that were developed by internees. These areas are in private ownership and have been used for farming and grazing since the period of significance.

Original homesteads, that are today productive private farms, are situated within the historic residential areas of the former camp. They were able to use existing utilities, roads, and cleared lands. The following homesteads and associated farmlands contain remnants of Minidoka's cultural landscape. One homestead is on the former military

police area; another one is situated in the former fire station/water tower #2 and sewage treatment plant area. The American Falls Reservoir Irrigation District #2 offices and residences 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.

Historic Buildings and Structures

Of the more than 600 structures once located at the original 33,000-acre Minidoka Relocation Center, only six remain on the national monument and visitor services area site. Of these six, four are in their original location.

Entrance Area: Military Police Building and Reception Building

Today, the most recognized structures at the national monument are the remains of the military police building and reception building. Originally where all access and egress from the camp was controlled and monitored, the military police building portion of the structure consists of two rooms. The southern most room is constructed of thick, un-coursed basalt walls that are approximately 10½ ft high. Its exterior perimeter dimensions are approximately 5 ft square. The north room, sometimes referred to as the anteroom, is a 9-ft square at the exterior and is constructed of waist-high, less massive stone walls than those of the south room. Both rooms have concrete slab floors. The flagstone entrance porch is on the north wall.

When in use, the north room had a band of wood windows on three sides with vertical log-slab siding that met a shed roof that sloped to the north. A higher shed roof that sloped in the opposite direction rested on the stone walls of the south room.

The reception building consisted of a rectangular room that measured 14 ft by 31 ft. What remains today are low, approximately 3 ft-high walls of mortared and un-coursed basalt stone. A fireplace and 16-ft high chimney of the same basalt stone is centered in the east wall of the room. The entry is

located in the western part of the north wall. The floor is concrete slab. Historic photographs show that the upper walls of the room were of board-and-batten construction covered with a low-pitched gable roof. The room served visitors and internees waiting for buses to nearby towns.

Some modern features have been constructed near this building to accommodate visitors and to provide interpretation. A paved parking area is on the west side of the structure. Concrete sidewalks east of the parking area lead to the doors of the military police building and reception building, as



*The entrance at
Minidoka. Circa
1943. National
Archives.*

well as to an area south where interpretive signs are located.

Warehouse Area: Warehouse Building #5

What remains on the 112 ft by 48 ft concrete slab foundation of warehouse building #5, also known as the Motor Repair and Tire Shop, is likely a portion of that original building that measures 48 ft by 48 ft. Based on photographic evidence showing original windows and doors that remain today, and the fact that the building's post-and-frame construction rests on original concrete footings, it seems evident that the rest of the building was either disassembled and moved to another location or dismantled for building materials. Like other buildings of this type in the warehouse area, it was originally sided with tar paper secured with wood battens. Today it is sided with corrugated metal. A small enclosed room is found in the north-



Warehouse Building #5. 2002. NPS Photo by Rickard Lord.

east corner of the building. Other than the cast-iron stove that dates from the historic period, all other artifacts in and around the structure appear to be contemporary and still in use.

Warehouse Area: Single Family Residence on the Foundation of Steward's Storage Warehouse Foundation (Building #6)

The steward's storage warehouse rested on a concrete slab foundation that remains on site today and is the same dimensions as the motor repair and tire shop. Its historical exterior appearance was the same as well. Today, a single family house with dimensions of approximately 31 ft by 84 ft rests on a brick foundation centered on this foundation slab. Based on building dimensions and roof type and slope, it is believed that the structural frame is that of a barracks building. The building has been highly altered on the interior and exterior, most recently in the late 1990s, to accommodate a modern, single family use.

Warehouse Area: Duplex Residence on the Foundation of the Refrigerated Warehouse (Building #9)

A duplex residence rests on the foundation remains of the refrigerated warehouse on a brick foundation of approximately 31 ft by 94 ft. The original foundation dimensions of this warehouse are the same as the motor repair and tire shop and the steward's storage warehouse. Examination of historic photographs and careful site inspection, particularly of the interior of the west unit, give



Potbelly stove from the Minidoka Relocation Center, located in warehouse building #5. 2002. NPS Photo.



Duplex residence, which is a former staff housing building from the Minidoka Relocation Center, on the foundation of the refrigerated warehouse (Building #9). 2003. NPS Photo.

strong indication that this structure was a shed-roofed staff housing unit (4-plex) that has been moved to this location. An addition to the back of the structure and the installation of a gabled roof over the entire structure partially surround this original long and narrow housing unit. Original interior finishes of the west-most unit are still intact though in poor condition. Many windows and doors, though not original materials, are in their original locations.

Warehouse Area: Lavatory (Building #25)

The lavatory building that served the warehouse area of the camp likely remains in its original location just east of the motor repair and tire shop. Though covered in corrugated metal today, this conclusion can be drawn from historic photographs and the window and door locations of the structure that remain intact.

Warehouse Area: Root Cellar (Building #42)

Documented to have been built by internees in 1943, the root cellar represented a typical agricultural facility of the time for storing potatoes and other root crops. This building type is gradually being replaced by new technology. Construction of the cellar began with the excavation of a long trough, a couple of feet deep by 50 ft wide and over 100 ft long. A log frame, with six rows of log posts was constructed within the excavation. Each row has 18 log posts, generally 12 ft apart, set on concrete footings. Posts along the sides of the excavated area are shorter than the posts near the

center, so that the interior height is more than 12 ft in the center and about 5 ft at the sides. These posts support log beams, or rafters, which are notched at each end to meet over posts. The rafters are partially covered with milled roofing material, which in turn are covered with a single layer of hay bales. Over the hay is a layer of tar paper, and above that, a layer of earth that supports thick grasses. A number of the original ceramic roof vents remain in place. Entry structures of milled lumber are found on each end of the structure. Both have double-door entries. The south has a low-pitched gable roof; the north entry has a flat roof. This structure has recently been stabilized by an NPS preservation crew from North Cascades National Park.



Root cellar. NPS Photo.

Archival and Museum Collections

Most of the physical remains of Minidoka are fragmentary, and the only way to fully understand the events that occurred there is from the people directly involved. This is a slender resource that is rapidly disappearing. The human aspects of the history need to be preserved, and the NPS has joined others to work on this preservation through the collection of oral histories, papers, photographs, and objects that people have retained, documenting their experiences at Minidoka. This knowledge is best preserved in museum collections as archives and relevant objects related to the national monument. By systematically collecting, documenting, and preserving individual items and associated information, this knowledge may be made available to the staff for resource manage-

ment, to scholars and students for research, and to future generations for study and understanding of Minidoka and its history.

The NPS is legally mandated to acquire and preserve museum collections. These mandates are contained in a series of federal laws, dating from the Antiquities Act of 1906 to the present, and in *NPS Management Policies* (see chapter 2). Within this framework, the NPS has developed an Interim Scope of Collection Statement specific to Minidoka Internment National Monument to provide guidance in developing these collections. The Scope of Collection Statement defines the scope of present and future museum collection holdings of Minidoka Internment National Monument as those that contribute directly to the understanding and interpretation of the park's purpose, themes



Children's chairs constructed of scrap lumber by Minidoka internees during World War II. They are located at the Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum. 2003. NPS Photo.



Wartime tickets and booklets. 2002. NPS Photo.

and resources, as well as those objects that the NPS is legally mandated to preserve. It is designed to ensure that the museum collections are clearly relevant to the national monument.

The national monument acquires objects for its museum collections by gift, purchase, exchange, transfer, field collection, and loan. Museum objects must be acquired, accessioned, and cataloged in accordance with the NPS Museum Handbook, Part II, Museum Records. Acquisition of museum objects is governed by the park's ability to manage, preserve, and provide access to them as stipulated in *NPS Management Policies* (2001), Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998), Cultural Resource Management Guideline (1997), Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collections Management, and the NPS Museum Handbook.

The Minidoka collection is limited to cultural holdings. The purpose of this collection is to:

- increase knowledge and inspiration among present and future generations through exhibits, research, and interpretive programs
- support research, resource management and education
- provide baseline data of park cultural resources
- document changes that these resources are undergoing because of internal park conditions and external effects

- guarantee the protection of important objects whose in-situ preservation cannot be assured

Currently, the collection is located at and managed by the staff of Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. As of June 2006, this collection consisted of accessions that include original furniture made by internees at Minidoka, an original WRA-issued cot, personal items of internees from Minidoka, and paper items that have been donated to the national monument. The remainder consists of archeological items that have been recovered during surveys or other work within the national monument.

In addition to those of the NPS, some archival and museum collections related to Minidoka are at the Jerome County Historical Society, in Jerome, Idaho. The Twin Falls County Library and College of Southern Idaho also have material, mostly archives, relating to Minidoka. Other sources for materials related to Minidoka include: the University of Washington, Wing Luke Asian Museum, Japanese American National Museum, Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, and the National Archives. Other potential sources of Minidoka-related material may exist with other organizations, elsewhere. To properly document and care for such collections, as well as provide public access to the collection, the NPS is pursuing mutually beneficial partnerships with the appropriate parties and organizations.

There is a strong probability that fairly extensive collections of archival and museum materials related to Minidoka will be made available to the NPS. Members of the planning staff have been approached by numerous individuals expressing interest in donating materials to the National Park Service for use in association with Minidoka Internment National Monument. Some of these potential donors have indicated a desire for their collections to remain connected and accessible to former internee families and communities.

In addition, the NPS is generating other materials that will become part of the national monument collections. These include books related to the history of Nikkei during World War II, park planning and resource management records, and other items collected during the course of park management activities.

Sites Associated with Minidoka Internment National Monument

Many sites associated with the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II are found throughout the U.S. The following list provides a general summary of sites related to the national monument, highlighting those sites with direct relevance to Minidoka and those that have been designated historic properties. *Confinement and Ethnicity* (Burton et al., 1999) provides a complete and detailed description of sites associated with the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II.

Idaho

Eden train stop was the arrival point for Minidoka's internees. Most arrived in 1942 and boarded buses from Eden to Minidoka. 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, Oregon, California, and Alaska after the war.

Kooskia Internment Camp in north-central Idaho interned 265 Nikkei internees from the western states, Alaska, Hawaii, and some Japanese Latin Americans from Peru, Mexico, and Panama. The Kooskia internees volunteered as transfers from other Department of Justice camps to work on the construction of U.S. Highway 12. Over 20 internees transferred from Kooskia to Minidoka during World War II.

Labor camps at Twin Falls, Rupert, Shelley, and Caldwell housed hundreds of Minidoka internees working as farm laborers during the agricultural seasons. These locations were often former Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) complexes with barrack-style buildings similar to those at Minidoka or mobile tent camps.

Prisoner of war (POW) camp at Rupert housed German and Italian POWs during World War II, who provided labor and assistance at Minidoka in 1945 with the closure of the camp.



Japanese American farm labor camp at Rupert, Idaho administered by the Farm Security Administration. The camp was a civilian conservation corps camp before World War II. July 1942. Photographer: Lee Russell. Library of Congress.

Washington

Eagledale Ferry Dock at Bainbridge Island is the location of the first forced removal of Nikkei from their homes under Executive Order 9066. On March 30, 1942, 227 individuals were escorted by armed soldiers onto the Kehlokan ferry at Eagledale Ferry Dock. The Bainbridge Island Nikkei were then sent directly to Manzanar in southern California. In 1943, most Bainbridge Island Nikkei requested and were granted transfer to Minidoka where they could be among Nikkei from the northwest. The development of a Bainbridge Island World War II Nikkei Internment and Exclusion Memorial is now being planned by the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community in collaboration with the City of Bainbridge Island and other partners.

In 2002, the NPS was directed by Congress to con-



Memorial to Bainbridge Island's Japanese Americans incarcerated during WWII located near the site of the Eagledale Ferry Dock. 2003. NPS Photo.

duct 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. The NPS is in the process of completing this study. Any action taken by Congress as a result of the study findings that would affect Minidoka Internment National Monument would require an amendment to Minidoka's General Management Plan.

Seattle Nihonmachi (Japantown) is in the Chinatown-International District southeast of downtown. Beginning in the 1890s up to World War II, the Seattle Nihonmachi served immigrants arriving from Japan and working in Washington State. By the 1920s, the Nihonmachi was the organizational center of a thriving Nikkei community, where Nikkei could buy Japanese and American products, obtain legal advice, and find medical and dental services. The Nihonmachi included dry good

and grocery stores, restaurants, laundries, bath-houses, dentists, physicians, barber shops, dance studios, hotels, and insurance companies. As the community expanded, community institutions and churches were constructed on the eastern edge of the Nihonmachi. Nikkei living in the Seattle Nihonmachi were sent to Minidoka during World War II. Seattle's Chinatown-International District became a Seattle historic district in 1973, and a smaller section, called the Seattle Chinatown Historic District, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

Pike Place Market has served Seattle residents for over 100 years. Nikkei farmers sold their produce in the Pike Place Market beginning at the turn of the century. They comprised nearly three-quarters of the produce stalls at its height just before World War II. Executive Order 9066 had a dramatic and devastating impact on the market, resulting in a loss of more than half its farmers. Most of these farmers were incarcerated at Minidoka. Pike Place Public Market was designated a national historic district in 1970 and a Seattle historic district in 1971.

Nippon Kan Hall, located at 622 South Washington Street, was a Nikkei community theater and cultural institution dating back to its construction begun in 1907. In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, Nippon Kan was hastily closed and did not re-open until four decades later. Nippon Kan was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978

and is under consideration for designation as a national historic landmark.

Hashidate -Yu was a Japanese bath house in the basement of the Panama Hotel at 6th and Main Street built in 1910. During World War II, Hashidate-Yu was transformed into a storage unit for extra belongings that could not be carried to Camp Harmony and Minidoka. In 1985, the luggage and trunks were discovered untouched since 1942. Hashidate-Yu is under consideration for national historic landmark designation.

Old Main Street School, constructed in 1903, is in the heart of Seattle's Nihonmachi at 307 South 6th Avenue. In the pre-war period, the school served the Nikkei community almost exclusively. Old Main Street School is a Seattle historic landmark designated in 1977 and a contributing property to the Seattle Chinatown Historic District.

Kokugo Gakko was the first Japanese school established in the U.S., opening in 1902. In 1913, the operation was moved to its existing location at 1414 South Weller Street. In the days following Pearl Harbor, the school administrators and instructors were arrested and sent to Department of Justice internment camps. Their affiliation with a cultural Japanese institution was considered suspect and potentially dangerous by the FBI. The school was promptly closed, and later its students and their families were sent to Minidoka. Kokugo Gakko, or Nihongo Gakko, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.



Kokugo Gakko, or Nihongo Gakko in Seattle. September 2004. NPS Photo.



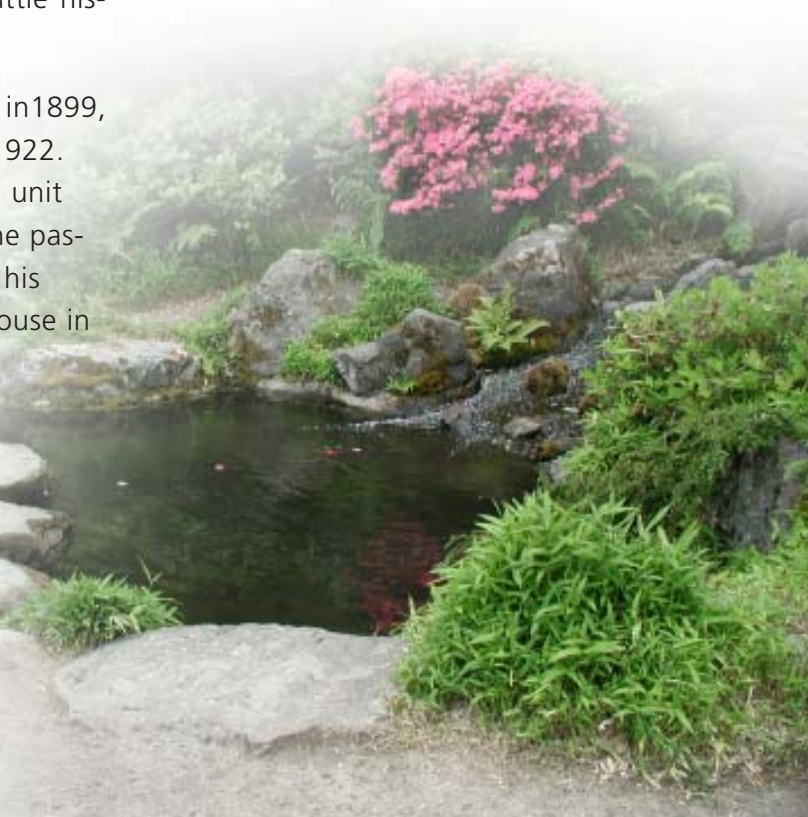
Seattle Buddhist Temple. September 2004. NPS Photo.

Seattle Buddhist Temple was completed in 1941 just two months before Pearl Harbor at its third location at 1427 South Main Street in the heart of the Nikkei civic area just east of Seattle's Nihonmachi. The temple was designed by Kichio Allen Arai who was Seattle's first Asian American architect to design buildings under his own name. Kichio Allen Arai, along with his family members, was incarcerated at Minidoka. During World War II, temple members stored their belongings in the gymnasium for the duration of their incarceration at Minidoka. The building was also rented to the U.S. Maritime Commission from 1942 to 1946. Internees returned to their temple in 1946 to find it heavily vandalized. It was designated a Seattle historic landmark in 1976.

Japanese Baptist Church was established in 1899, and its church building was constructed in 1922. The church was transformed into a storage unit for its congregation during World War II. The pastor, Reverend Emory Andrews, moved with his congregation to Idaho, setting up a large house in Twin Falls, Idaho to serve internees. Andrews made 56 round-trips between Seattle's Baptist Church and Minidoka during the war to transport belongings and provide representation to the incarcerated congregation members.

Additional church properties affiliated with Minidoka internees during World War II are found throughout the Seattle Central District. During the war, these buildings gener-

ally served as storage units for their congregation's belongings and then as places of refuge for returning families. St. Peter's Episcopal Parish at 16th and King Street was established as a Japanese Episcopal church in 1908 and constructed its building in 1932. Seattle's Nichiren Buddhist Church was designed by Kichio Allen Arai and completed in 1929 at 10th and Weller Street. Blaine Memorial Methodist Church, located on Beacon Hill in south Seattle, served the Japanese Methodist community. Other churches affiliated with Nikkei who were incarcerated at Minidoka include Seattle Koyasan Church, Konko, Japanese Congregational Church, and Japanese Presbyterian Church.



Kubota Gardens in south Seattle. 2001. NPS Photo.

Kubota Gardens, at Renton Avenue and 55 Avenue South, encompasses 20 acres of hills, valley, streams, and carefully designed and maintained Japanese style gardens as well as Fujitaro Kubota's family home. Kubota first established the nursery and display garden in 1927, and it grew and evolved over many decades. Kubota was incarcerated at Minidoka during World War II and built the Japanese-style garden at the entrance to Minidoka. Kubota Gardens was designated a Seattle historic landmark in 1981 and became a Seattle park in 1987.

Lake View Cemetery, on Capitol Hill in Seattle, is the resting place for many Nikkei who were incarcerated at Minidoka. The Japanese section near the entrance to the cemetery cites their names, and some of the tombstones state their incarceration at Minidoka. There is a 20-foot-high monument dedicated to the 60 Nikkei soldiers from Minidoka and Seattle who died in service to their country in World War II.

Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery in Seattle, at 111th and Aurora North, is a burial ground for Nikkei incarcerated at Minidoka. Many of Minidoka's soldiers who were killed in action are buried at this cemetery, including William Kenzo Nakamura who received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his bravery during World War II and in whose name the Seattle United States Courthouse was renamed in 1991.

Puyallup Assembly Center, also known as Camp Harmony, was at the Western Washington Fair-

grounds approximately 35 miles south of Seattle. Approximately 7,600 Nikkei were confined there from western Washington and Alaska between April 28, 1942, and September 12, 1942. From the Puyallup Assembly Center, the majority of internees were transferred to Minidoka. Today, the site bears witness to its history as Camp Harmony with a sculpture by George Tsutakawa and commemorative plaques.

Oregon

Portland New Chinatown-Japantown Historic District is bounded by NW Glisan, NW 3rd Avenue, W Burnside, and NW 5th Avenue. Portland Nihonmachi (Japantown), which encompassed 10-12 blocks in Northwest Portland, and the Southwest Portland Nikkei community were the economic and cultural hubs for Japanese immigrants working in lumber companies, canneries, railroads, and farms in Oregon, Wyoming, and Idaho. Portland Nihonmachi was home to more than 100 Nikkei run businesses. Nikkei living in the Portland Nihonmachi were sent to Minidoka during World War II. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989.

Portland Buddhist Church, at 312 NW Tenth Avenue, was the Nikkei community's first Buddhist church in Oregon owned by the congregation. It was constructed in 1910 and served the community until 1965, when the building was sold and a new church was built in southeast Portland. During World War II, the church was closed for three years while its members were incarcerated at



Portland Buddhist Church. Photographer: Amy McFeeters-Krone. National Register Collection.



The Merchant Building, Portland Oregon. ca. 1938. Permission of the Oregon Historical Society.



The Japanese section of the Rose City Cemetery, Portland. 2003. NPS Photo.

Minidoka and other camps. The Portland Buddhist Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

Merchant Hotel in the historic Portland Nihonmachi at 2nd Avenue and Davis Street was constructed in 1885 as a luxury hotel. It is one of the few remaining examples of Victorian Italianate cast iron architecture on the West Coast. In the pre-war period, Nikkei used the Merchant Hotel for a variety of businesses, including the Teikoku Japanese Merchandise Company, a publisher, laundry, bathhouse, and barbershop. Preceding World War II, Nikkei used the building for a variety of businesses. Today, it is the new home of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Oregon Nikkei history.



Public art, created by Valerie Otani, commemorating the site of the Portland Assembly Center at the Portland Expo light rail station. 2003. NPS Photo.

Japanese American Historical Plaza, in Portland's Tom McCall Waterfront Park, is dedicated to the memory of the World War II internment and incarceration of Oregon Nikkei at Minidoka and other camps. The plaza was designed by Bob Murase, funded by the Oregon Nikkei Endowment and completed in 1990.

Rose City Cemetery, at 56th and NE Fremont in Portland, is the final resting place for the majority of Portland Issei and Nisei, most of whom were incarcerated at Minidoka. Among those buried in the Japanese section is Reverend Terakawa, who was the pastor of the Oregon Buddhist Temple, served the Buddhist community at Minidoka, and died at Minidoka on November 12, 1944. The cemetery also contains numerous headstones of Nikkei many of which were vandalized during World War II.

Portland Assembly Center was at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition Pavilion adjacent to the Columbia River. It held approximately 4,300 people primarily from Oregon and Washington from May 2, 1942, to September 10, 1942. Half of the internees were sent to Minidoka, while the other half were sent to Tule Lake and Heart Mountain. Today, the site is called the Portland Exposition Center and contains a historical marker describing the history of the site during World War II. The Interstate light-rail system has a station stop at the Expo Center featuring a large-scale public art piece commemorating the Nikkei who were incarcerated at the assembly center during World War II.



Soul consoling tower in the cemetery at Manzanar National Historic Site. 2003. NPS Photo.

Alaska

Stedman-Thomas Historic District in Ketchikan, Alaska, was home to Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos, and Native Alaskans working in southeast Alaska's fishing industry in the pre-war era. During World War II, 42 Nikkei were forcibly removed from Ketchikan's Stedman-Thomas District. Most Issei men were sent to Department of Justice camps, while their families were sent to the Puyallup Assembly Center and then to Minidoka. This government policy eventually broke the backbone of the Stedman-Thomas business community. The historic district was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.

California

Manzanar National Historic Site was designated to preserve historic resources related to the World



The stockade at Tule Lake Segregation Center. July 2002. NPS Photo.

War II incarceration of Nikkei at Manzanar and to provide opportunities for public education about this historical event. Manzanar is directly related to Minidoka via its 227 individuals from Bainbridge Island who were initially sent to Manzanar and then to Minidoka. The historic site contains 814 acres of the historic camp, including the historic gymnasium, cemetery monument, locations of residential areas, and numerous historic landscape features. Manzanar was designated a California state historic landmark in 1972, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, designated a national historic landmark in 1985, and finally designated a national historic site and unit of the national park system in 1992. The interpretive center in the adaptively re-used historic gymnasium opened in 2004.

Tule Lake opened on May 27, 1942, as a WRA center. It was later designated a segregation center by the WRA in 1943 for those who answered “no” to one or both of the loyalty questions. A total of 328 internees from Minidoka were sent to Tule Lake as a result of the loyalty questionnaire. Nearly 2000 internees who answered “yes-yes” at Tule Lake were transferred to Minidoka in 1943. At present, the Tule Lake site is being considered for national historic landmark designation.

Sites throughout the United States

Small numbers of internees at Minidoka were also transferred from the Santa Anita, Tanforan, and Tulare Assembly Centers in California. Some internees were also transferred to and from other WRA camps at Topaz in Utah, Granada in Colorado, Gila River and Poston in Arizona, Heart Mountain in Wyoming, and Jerome and Rohwer in Arkansas. For a complete list of transfers, refer to the Minidoka Relocation Center Final Accountability Roster 1945.

Nearly 200 internees were transferred to Minidoka from Department of Justice internment camps, generally to join their families who were being confined at Minidoka. More than half were transferred from Santa Fe, New Mexico, many of whom originated from Alaska. Others were transferred from Kooskia, Idaho; Fort Missoula, Montana; Lordsburg, New Mexico; Ellis Island, New York; Fort Lincoln, Nebraska; Sharp Park, California; and McNeil Island, Washington. Almost 70 individuals voluntarily trans-

ferred to the internment camp at Crystal City, Texas, to join family members. Less than a dozen internees from Minidoka were forcibly transferred to Department of Justice camps.

NPS Involvement with Sites Associated with Internment and Incarceration of Nikkei during World War II

The National Park Service is conducting a theme study of sites related to the World War II internment and incarceration of Nikkei. Table 9 lists sites that have been designated as federally recognized historic sites.

Education and Interpretation

On-site education and interpretation at the national monument includes four wayside panels installed in 1990 at the entrance. The panels include information about the listing of the site on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, its designation as an Idaho Centennial Project, the Minidoka soldiers who were killed during World War II, and a map of the former camp. These interpretive waysides are part of a memorial that was established through the efforts of private citizens and businesses, and local, state, and federal government actions in 1990 as an official Idaho state event during the Idaho Centennial Celebration.

Education and interpretation programs conducted by NPS staff include presentations to school and in-

terested groups. Educational materials used in these programs and made available to the public include a pamphlet and map. In addition, the Minidoka Internment National Monument website provides a digitized version of the pamphlet and a link to the chapter on Minidoka in *Confinement and Ethnicity* (Burton et. al. 1999). The visitor center at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument has an exhibit, AV materials, as well as a variety of reference materials related to Minidoka.

Minidoka is interpreted at other southern Idaho locations, including an Idaho state historical marker near the national monument at the intersection of S.R.25 and Hunt Road. The Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum located at the intersection of I-84 and U.S. 93 has a partially restored barrack with historical artifacts and interpretive panels. The Jerome County Historical Society in Jerome contains an exhibit about Minidoka and an extensive collection of artifacts and documents related to Minidoka.

“The living legacy of the national monument resides in the personal experiences and memories of those who experienced Minidoka and related historical events from a firsthand perspective.”

-Public Comment

Table 9: Federally Designated Sites Related to the Internment and Incarceration of Nikkei during WW II

Designation	Date
National Park Unit	
Manzanar National Historic Site	March 3, 1992
Minidoka Internment National Monument	January 17, 2001
National Historic Landmark	
Manzanar Relocation Center	February 1985
Rohwer Relocation Center- cemetery	July 6, 1992
Heart Mountain Relocation Center	June 9, 2006
Tule Lake Segregation Center	February 17, 2006
National Register of Historic Places	
Fort Missoula Internment Center	April 29, 1987
Granada Relocation Center	May 18, 1994
Heart Mountain Relocation Center	December 19, 1985
Manzanar Relocation Center	July 30, 1976
Minidoka Relocation Center	July 19, 1979
Moab Isolation Center	May 2, 1994
Rohwer Relocation Center- cemetery	July 30, 1974
Topaz Relocation Center	January 2, 1974



Current exhibit for Minidoka at Hagerman Fossil Beds visitor center. 2003. NPS Photo.

Minidoka Internment National Monument Interpretive Themes

The primary interpretive themes for Minidoka Internment National Monument were developed by the planning team and through extensive public review. They are listed in the “Background of the National Monument” section.

Southern Idaho Interpretive Themes

Regional interpretive themes relate to cultural, historical, and natural resources in southern Idaho. A primary theme is the geologic history of the area, related to significant natural features in southern Idaho and extensive volcanology. This includes massive lava flows and lava tubes, hot springs, the Snake River Plain, the Thousand Springs aquifer system, and Shoshone Falls. Another primary theme



Former Minidoka internees visit the Four Rivers Cultural Center exhibit in Ontario, Oregon on the Minidoka Pilgrimage. June 2003. NPS Photo.

is the irrigation and settlement of the West. Large-scale irrigation projects during the first half of the 20th century established the agricultural community and character of the area, naming it the Magic Valley. These themes are interpreted at historic sites, interpretive areas, and geologic sites throughout southern Idaho.

These interpretive themes provide a regional framework for understanding the national monument's history within the context of southern Idaho. For example, one factor in siting Minidoka was the WRA's intention to provide cheap labor for land development, which directly relates to irrigation and settlement of the West. Internees cleared desert vegetation, built irrigation canals, and effectively transformed the area from an arid high desert into a productive agricultural landscape. Today, this agricultural landscape is the legacy of internee labors during World War II. Additionally, the area's volcanic geology with its basalt ridges and outcroppings determined the camp's layout, size, and extent. Basalt rock was used in the construction of the entrance buildings, as well as in landscape projects throughout the camp. Thus, internees interacted with both the geology of the area, as well as provided a significant contribution to the area's agricultural history.

Educational and Interpretive Programs at Related Historic Sites and Institutions

The history of Nikkei internment and incarceration is interpreted at various sites and institutions

throughout the U.S. Each exhibit has a unique focus, and the supporting institutions provide a variety of educational programs. Permanent exhibits are at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon, the Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle, the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Oregon, the National Japanese American Historical Society in San Francisco, Japanese American Museum of San Jose, the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, Manzanar National Historic Site Interpretive Center in eastern California, and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington D.C. Each former camp also provides some historical information about the site and its history, generally on panels and historical markers. In addition to the institutions above, educational programs about the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II are developed and distributed by a wide variety of organizations. These include: the Densho Project in Seattle, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community, the Seattle Japanese Language School- known as Kokugo Gakko, the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Go For Broke Educational Foundation, the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, the California Digital Library Online and Archive, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., as well as Nisei veterans organizations, Nikkei religious institutions, and major universities throughout the U.S.

Ongoing Partnership Programs

Partnerships have been developed through cooperative agreements with the following educational organizations: the Densho Project in Seattle, the Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle, and the Friends of Minidoka.

In 2002, the NPS and the Wing Luke Asian Museum entered into a cooperative agreement. The Wing Luke Asian Museum has assisted the NPS with outreach and communication with former internees and the Nikkei community during the planning process.

The NPS and the Densho Project entered into a cooperative agreement in 2003 to capture oral histories and develop educational materials. Through this agreement, oral histories have been conducted with surviving internees, persons related to the national monument's historical events, and persons related to contemporary civil and Constitutional rights issues. The NPS and the Densho Project are collaborating on the development of a website that will contain information on all sites related to the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II.

The Friends of Minidoka incorporated in 2003 and is beginning to collaborate with the NPS for education, outreach, and historic preservation projects. They have a comprehensive website about Minidoka at www.minidoka.org

A variety of partnership opportunities exist with nonprofit organizations who are already devoted



Plaques at Minidoka in the entrance area. 2003. NPS Photo.

to Asian American history and civil rights issues. Organizations that offer opportunities for partnerships geared toward education and interpretation are: Manzanar National Historic Site, Friends of Minidoka Inc., Wing Luke Asian Museum, Japanese American National Museum, Jerome County Historical Society, Densho Project, University of Washington Department of American Ethnic Studies, College of Southern Idaho and the Herrett Center, Japanese American Citizens League, the Smithsonian, Bainbridge Island Historical Society, Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Four Rivers Cultural Center, and others. Additional cooperative efforts could be established with schools, universities, and local, state, and other federal agencies.

Visitor Use and Recreation

Visitor Use Patterns and Trends

Visitor use patterns and trends are analyzed at four scales: state, region, county, and the local area surrounding the national monument.

Idaho State

The travel industry is a major component of Idaho's economy. Visitors spent approximately \$1.7 billion in Idaho in 1997. Retail sales account for 24% (\$403 million) of that total, with 23% (\$392 million) for ground transportation, 17% (\$289 million) for eating and drinking at restaurants and clubs,

16% (266 million) for overnight accommodations, and the rest being spent fairly equally for outdoor recreation activities and purchases at food stores.

In 1990-2000, almost 64 million visitors came to Idaho. The number of visitors is fairly equally dispersed in the spring, summer, and winter, but there are fewer visitors in the fall. Almost 17 million people visited during the summer months (June 15 - September 6) while a little over 16 million visited in the spring (March 16 - June 14) and winter (December 1 - March 15). During the fall approximately 14.2 million people visited the state (University of Idaho, 1999-2000 Travel Study Data).

While travel spending is significant statewide, the nature of the travel industry varies by region.

South-Central Region

Travelers visit local attractions during their stay in the region and en route to other recreation destinations. For example, regional attractions near Jerome include Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, the Snake River Canyon, Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum, Shoshone Falls, Sun Valley, and City of Rocks National Reserve.

The south-central region receives fewer visitors than the other regions within the state; however, tourism is still a major part of the region's economy. As part of a U.S. Department of Commerce study, in 1993 the University of Idaho conducted a traveler survey to determine the economic importance of tourism to rural communities.

Results showed that a substantial number of tourists (over 2 million) visited Region IV (Jerome, Cassia, Gooding, Minidoka, Lincoln, and Twin Falls counties) in 1993 and spent \$97 million.

In a 1997 study, the southwestern region (Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, Washington) received 31% of visitors, the north (Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone) 20%, the central (Blaine, Butte, Camas, Custer, Lemhi) 14%, the eastern (Bonneville, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton) 10%, the southeastern (Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, Power) 9%, and both the north-central (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce) and south-central area (Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Twin Falls) regions received 8% of the visitors to the state.

The number of visitors to the region in spring (1,393,899) and winter (1,388,099) are higher than they are in summer (1,223,961) and fall (1,219,597). For facilities similar to Minidoka Internment National Monument, however, the majority of visitors come during the summer. For example, at Craters of the Moon National Monument, the highest visitation is in July and August and the lowest in December and January.

Of these visitors, the majority traveled for pleasure (43.7%) or as part of their daily activities (49.3%). Only 7% of the visitors traveled to the region for business. Almost 62% of the visitors are residents



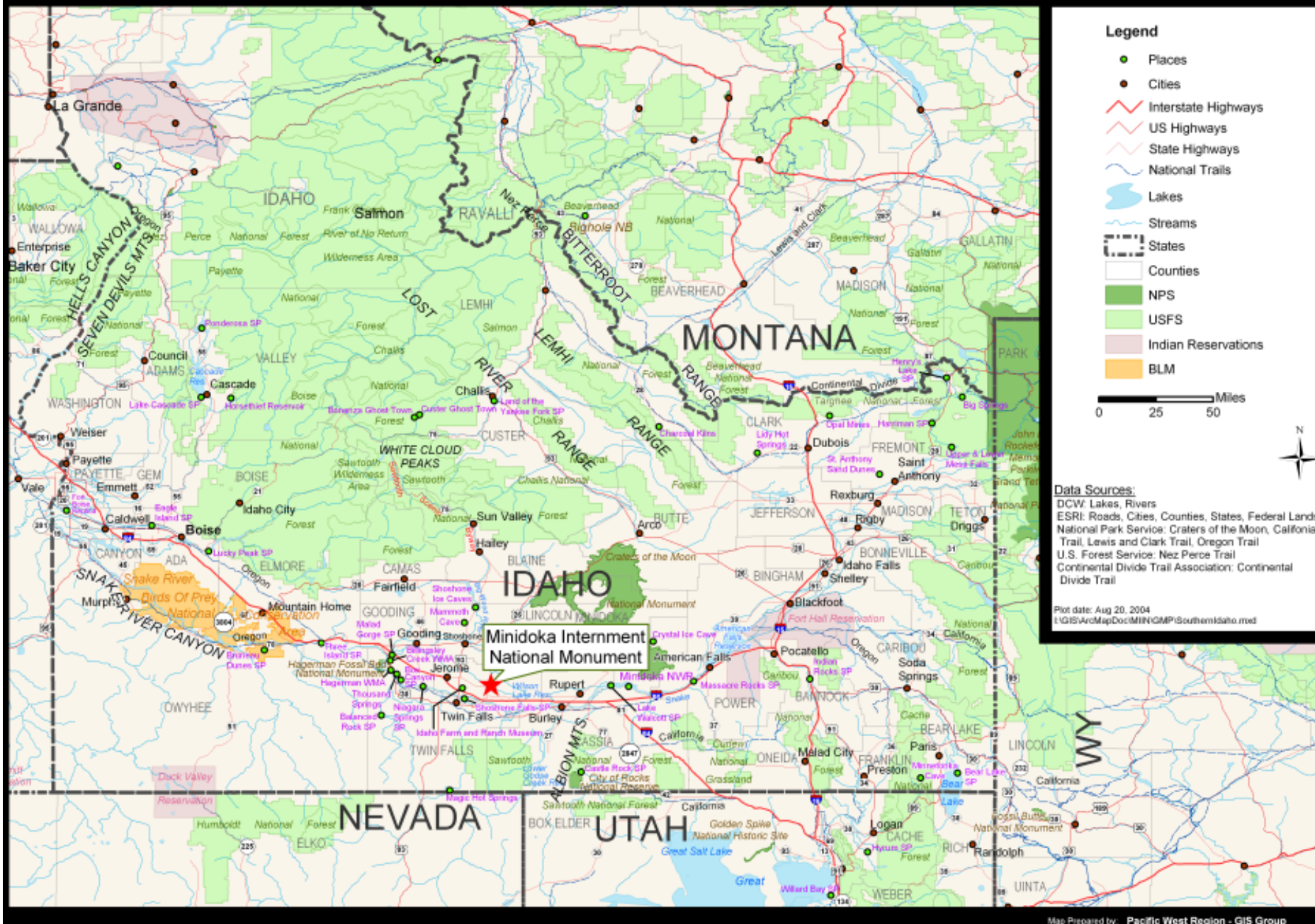
Pontoon boat rides on the Snake River near Twin Falls. 2004. NPS Photo.

of the region who are traveling within the region, traveling to another region, or simply passing through on their way to another destination. That leaves approximately 38% of the visitors as non-residents who are either visiting within the region, or who are traveling through on their way to another destination (University of Idaho 1999-2000 Travel Study Data).

Jerome County

Limited data is available on the number of visitors to Jerome County, but tourism is noticeably increasing in the Magic Valley. Features such as Twin Falls and Shoshone Falls, the Perrine Bridge,

Southern Idaho



winter skiing, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and several national recreation areas all contribute to making the county an attractive place for tourists. As tourism increases within the county, some of those visitors who may not know much about Minidoka prior to arrival in the area may be tempted to visit once they find out about the national monument and are just a short drive away. Conversely, as tourism increases at the national monument, many of these visitors may be attracted to other tourism opportunities within Jerome County.

Minidoka Internment National Monument and Environs

Formal research has not yet been conducted to determine the exact number of visitors to Minidoka. Visitation is low, primarily because there are no facilities at the national monument. Also, there has not been much publicity since the recent designation of Minidoka as a national monument. Currently there is no way to keep track of the number of visitors to the national monument, so there are no solid estimates regarding visitation. An NPS staff person has estimated that on average between 1 and 10 people visit the site per day, but this estimate is rough at best. This number is probably low because of the number of visits by school groups and by organizations interested in Minidoka's history. During the Minidoka Pilgrimages in 2003, 2004, and 2005, for example, there were several hundred people who attended a remembrance ceremony on the site.

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument is used for visitation comparisons. This national monument is a 4,351-acre landscape that protects the world's richest known fossil deposits from a time period called the late Pliocene epoch, 3.5 million years ago. Hagerman Fossil Beds is on the Snake River of south-central Idaho, approximately 15 miles south of I-84 and 30 minutes west of Twin Falls. Facilities include interpretive and hiking trails, picnic areas, fossil grounds, viewing areas, and a visitor center/office complex that is in the town of Hagerman, roughly 2 miles from the national monument site. Visitation in 2003 numbered approximately 14,500 people. After signage was installed along SR-30 and I-84 and educational programs were initiated, visitation increased 200%. Between January and July 2004, visitation was at 14,300 and visitation is expected to increase.

Recreation Trends

Idaho State

Idaho is a renowned haven for outdoor recreation enthusiasts. The northern portion of the state has the greatest concentration of lakes in the West, and deep, evergreen forests surround these lakes. The Salmon River bisects the rugged Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness and provides some of the best whitewater kayaking and rafting in the world. The beautiful Sawtooth Wilderness Area and the majestic White Cloud peaks provide additional opportunities for recreation. World-famous Sun Valley is nearby, and Hells Canyon, the deep-



Hagerman Fossil Beds NM. Hagerman, Idaho. NPS Photo.



Box Falls, Box Canyon State Park. Hagerman, Idaho. Photo courtesy of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.



Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. NPS Photo.

est river gorge in North America, lies on the state's western border, overlooked by the Seven Devils Mountains. The Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area, near Kuna, hosts the largest concentration of nesting raptors in North America. The tallest sand dunes on the continent are in the southwestern corner of Idaho and in the southeast is the Craters of the Moon National Monument. Five historic pioneer trails, including the Oregon Trail, Lewis and Clark Trail, and the California Trail, cross the state. Idaho has 16 alpine ski areas, over 200 miles of nordic trails, 823 square miles of water mass, 464,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs, 26,000 miles of fishing streams, 2,433 miles of floatable rivers, 26 state parks, and 15 national forests. Idaho is home to five national park units: City of Rocks National Reserve, Craters of the Moon National Monument, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, Minidoka Internment National Monument, and Nez Perce National Historical Park.

South-Central Region

The south-central region offers abundant recreational opportunities. The region is known for its unique and scenic landscapes, as well as its interesting historic and cultural sites. Some of the sites that offer recreational opportunities and may be influential in attracting tourists to the area include the following:

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

The national monument contains the world's richest known fossil deposits from the late Pliocene epoch dating to 3.5 million years ago.

Thousand Springs Scenic Byway - This 68-mile route traverses the Hagerman Valley, known for its fish hatcheries, fossil beds and a "Thousand Springs" that cascade from cliff walls above the Snake River near Hagerman.

Niagra Springs State Park – Niagra Springs is a national natural landmark and part of the world-famous Thousand Springs complex along the Snake River.

Box Canyon State Park – The 350-acre Snake River canyon is the site of the 11th largest spring in North America and hosts several wildlife and fish species.

Fort Hall Shoshone/Bannock Reservation- This American Indian Reservation is located north of Pocatello and includes a museum and casino. There is also a natural history museum at Idaho State University in Pocatello that contains material on the Shoshone-Bannock peoples.

Malad Gorge State Park – This 652-acre park offers views of spectacular canyons along the Malad River, which cuts through a 250-foot gorge on its way to the Snake River.

City of Rocks National Reserve – The City of Rocks National Reserve is nestled amidst the mountain peaks of the Albion Mountain Range and is known for its historical, geological, and scenic resources. Recreational activities include hiking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, rock climbing, backpacking, skiing, photography, and horseback riding.

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.

Sawtooth National Forest — This 2.1 million-acre forest provides a variety of year-round recreational opportunities, including skiing, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and all-terrain vehicle riding.

Sawtooth National Recreation Area — The 754,000-acre area contains approximately 750 miles of trails, 40 peaks rising over 10,000 feet, and over 300 mountain lakes.

Sawtooth Scenic Byway — The 115-mile scenic byway travels up Highways 93 and 75, climbing from the high desert to the Sawtooth Mountains, and provides access to a number of recreation sites.

Oregon Trail National Historic Trail — This historic pioneer migration route runs parallel to the Snake River along the south bank.

Three Island Crossing State Park — This site was one of the most famous river crossings on the historic Oregon Trail, and remnants can be seen from highway rest areas at either end of the park. There is also information at the visitor's center about American Indians in southern Idaho.

Lake Walcott State Park — The 65-acre park is used primarily for camping, fishing, and picnicking, and also serves as a convenient base from which to explore the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge.

Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge — This 20,721-acre wildlife refuge extends upstream for 25 miles along the Snake River and includes all of Lake Walcott. Concentrations of up to 100,000 waterfowl may be seen in the fall.

Wildlife Management Areas — Wildlife management areas (WMA), such as Billingsley Creek WMA and Hagerman WMA, provide wildlife viewing opportunities.

Hagerman Valley Historical Museum — The museum contains fossils of prehistoric animals unearthed from Hagerman Fossil Beds. The museum also presents regional family histories, pictorial and historic news records.

Cassia County Historic Museum — The museum presents local American Indian artifacts, prehistoric fossils, farming exhibits, and pioneer history.

Herrett Center for Arts and Science — The Herrett Center on the College of Southern Idaho campus features a planetarium, ancient South American arts, and contemporary arts.

Other sites that offer recreational opportunities in the region include the Lower Goose Creek Reservoir, Crystal Ice Cave, Wilson Butte Cave, Balanced Rock, Shoshone Ice Caves, and state and federal fish hatcheries near Hagerman.



City of Rocks National Reserve, Almo, Idaho. NPS Photo.



Sawtooth Mountains. South Central Idaho. Photo courtesy of USDA Forest Service.



Oregon Trail. Register Cliff, Wyoming. NPS Photo.



Herrett Center in Twin Falls, Idaho. 2004. NPS Photo.



Francis Egbert, of the IFARM, giving a tour of the restored Minidoka barrack during the Pilgrimage. June 2004. NPS Photo.



Restored Minidoka barrack at the IFARM. 2003. NPS Photo.

Festivals and events also attract local residents and tourists to the region. Annual festivals held in the region include Hagerman Fossil Days (held at Hagerman City Park in May) and the Thousand Springs Festival (held at the Thousand Springs Preserve in September). Several Twin Falls events are held: NASCAR Racing (held April through September), Western Days (June); Jazz in the Canyon (June); Kids' Art in the Park (July); Hispanic Fiesta (August); and Oktoberfest (October).

Jerome County

Jerome County is a small agricultural county where formal recreational opportunities are limited. The sites that offer recreational opportunities and may be influential in attracting tourists to the area include the following:

Wilson Lake Reservoir – 600-acre Wilson Lake is southeast of the national monument, and offers fishing, boating, and camping opportunities.

The Snake River – The dramatic Snake River offers myriad opportunities for scenic viewing, fishing, boating, hiking, picnicking, and state park camping.

Thousand Springs – Water emerges from the Snake River Aquifer, forming countless natural springs that gush from the steep Snake River canyon walls and cascade into the river below. Guided boat tours bring visitors to the many springs and waterfalls in the area.

Shoshone Falls – Located just outside the town of Twin Falls, 212' Shoshone Falls is the largest and most dramatic of all the waterfalls along the Snake River.

Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum – A project of the Jerome County Historical Society, the "I Farm" is being developed to preserve the agricultural heritage of south-central Idaho. It offers special tours and Live History Days and features artifacts and two original barracks that were once at Minidoka.

Jerome County Historical Museum – The museum presents the history and artifacts of the Jerome area. Exhibits include the Minidoka (Hunt) camp displays and North Side Irrigation displays.

Jerome Country Club – Located near Jerome, the facility provides an 18-hole golf course.

Festivals and events held annually in Jerome County include the Jerome County Fair & Rodeo (held in Jerome late July).

Minidoka Internment National Monument and Environs

There are no formalized recreational opportunities on the site of Minidoka Internment National Monument or in the immediate vicinity. The national monument is open to the traveling public, but there are only minimal facilities for interpreting the site's history and significance. Interpretive panels at the entry gate area provide a brief overview. Furthermore, there are no road signs to direct travelers

to the site, nor is there an entrance sign to mark the national monument. Thus visitors to the site tend to be people who deliberately seek out the site due to personal interest.

Table 10: Driving Distances between Minidoka Internment National Monument and Regional Recreation Sites

Regional Recreational Site:	Distance:
Wilson Lake Reservoir	8 miles
Snake River	10 miles
The Oregon Trail	11 miles
Thousand Springs Scenic Byway	13 miles
Shoshone Falls	17 miles
Sawtooth National Forest	27 miles
Sawtooth Scenic Byway	28 miles
Niagra Springs State Park	29 miles
State & Federal Fish Hatcheries	30 miles
Box Canyon State Park	38 miles
Malad Gorge State Park	40 miles
Lake Walcott State Park	42 miles
Hagerman Fossil Beds NM	43 miles
Shoshone Ice Caves	47 miles
Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge	48 miles
Balanced Rock	49 miles
Crystal Ice Cave	64 miles
Three Island Crossing State Park	77 miles
City of Rocks National Reserve	80 miles

Pilgrimages

Pilgrimages to the camps by former internees, their families, and friends began in the late 1960s. Pilgrimages have been a formal way for those to remember the events, honor those who experienced them, educate the younger participants about what happened during World War II, and reflect on the significance of the internment and incarceration as it relates to civil and constitutional rights today. Past Pilgrimages have particularly honored the Issei and the Nisei, who died in military service for the United States during World War II.

Preceding the designation of the site as an NPS unit, pilgrimages to Minidoka coincided with the site's listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and designation as an Idaho Centennial Project in 1990. During these pilgrimages, groups of former internees and their families from Idaho, Washington, and Oregon participated in ceremonies to commemorate the site and its significance during World War II.

In 2003, 2004, and 2005, pilgrimages to Minidoka occurred in June with the cooperation of the National Park Service. The pilgrimages were organized by a consortium of organizations, including Nikkei organizations from Seattle, Portland, and Twin Falls and veterans groups from Idaho and Washington. The pilgrimages included tours of the national monument property, visits to the Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum to see the barracks building, storytelling and educational sessions, and ceremonies in the historic entrance garden. Each



The Pilgrimage buses en route from Seattle to Minidoka. June 2004. NPS Photo.



Minidoka Pilgrimage. June 2003. NPS Photo.



Minidoka Pilgrimage. June 2003. NPS Photo.



Minidoka Pilgrimage. June 2005. NPS Photo.

pilgrimage attracted approximately 200 individuals from around the country for the three day event.

It is likely that pilgrimages to Minidoka could occur on an annual or biennial schedule in the future. Special-use permits and close communication with the national monument staff would ensure that these events provide a meaningful experience for the participants.

Heritage Tourism

According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, cultural heritage tourism is “traveling to experience the places, artifacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present. It includes cultural, historic and natural resources.”



Minidoka Pilgrimage. June 2006. NPS Photo.



Akio Yanagihara and Massie Tomita, former Minidoka internees, visiting Minidoka during the Pilgrimage. June 2003. NPS Photo.

Minidoka Internment National Monument qualifies as a site that represents a significant chapter of American history and would be of interest to the general public. Within south-central Idaho, there are other noteworthy areas of cultural heritage interest, such as the Oregon and California Trails; various early stagecoach routes; turn-of-the-century Chinese gold mining sites; American Indian sites and interpretive centers; early agricultural development projects; local and county museums; the Ann Frank Memorial, the Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum; the Herrett Center and Museum; and various prehistoric and early settlement sites.

The Natural Environment

Environmental and Physiographic Context

Minidoka Internment National Monument is in south-central Idaho on the Snake River Plain, which is bounded by the Camas Prairie to the west, the Snake River to the south and east, and Craters of the Moon National Monument and the Lost River, Lemhi and Bitterroot Ranges to the north. This region is part of the Columbia Plateau physiographic province, also known as the Columbia Intermontane province (U.S. Forest Service 1994). The national monument is situated in an area dominated geologically by basaltic lava flows, called the Snake River Basalts section. It is charac-

terized by nearly horizontal sheets of basalt laid down in the Snake River drainage to form a plain. Lava flows range from less than 100 feet thick to several thousand feet thick. Block-faulted mountains are also included in this section. The basalts are mainly two ages: the older flows are of the Miocene and Pliocene epoch (2 to 25 million years old); the younger lavas are Pliocene (less than 10 millions years old) through recent times. The section is about 60 miles wide and is essentially flat; however, the eastern portions of the section are much higher in elevation. The surface is a youthful lava plateau with a thin wind-blown and stream-deposited soil layer covering it. In the vicinity of the national monument, the most prominent surface features of this volcanism are squeezed-up lava ridges (U.S. Forest Service 1994).

The Snake River Plain is a high desert that naturally supports steppe vegetation: a mosaic of dominant shrubs interspersed with open areas occupied by perennial grasses and other understory vegetation. The predominant potential natural vegetation is sagebrush steppe composed of big sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp) and wheatgrass (*Agropyron* spp) (Kuchler 1964). Few large blocks of this natural vegetation remain, however, having been replaced by agriculture, depleted by overgrazing of livestock, altered by an increase in fire frequency and intensity, and invaded by non-native, annual grasses.

In winter, the average daily minimum temperature (Jerome, Idaho) is approximately 20 degrees Fahr-

enheit, and the lowest recorded temperature was -24 degrees. The average daily maximum in the summer is about 87 degrees, with the highest recorded temperature of 106 degrees. The average rainfall is about 10 inches per year (Natural Resources Conservation Service 1998).

The national monument's topography is almost flat, ranging about 30 feet from the highest to the lowest points. The average elevation is about 3,960 feet above sea level.

National Monument lands occupy portions of the following four sections: T. 8 S., R. 19 E. Sections 32 and 33, and T. 9 S., R. 19 E. Sections 4 and 5.

Soils

Soils within Jerome County have been mapped and classified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (1998). As shown in this survey, the vast majority of the national monument is composed of the Barrymore–Starbuck soils complex on slopes of 1 to 4%. These soils, composed of silt



North Side Canal in wintertime. 2003. NPS Photo.

loam, are typically shallow to moderate in depth: fractured bedrock may be encountered at about 18 to 25 inches beneath the surface. Within the county, these soils are typically used for rangeland or irrigated cropland, with the primary management considerations being the lack of precipitation and the shallow depth to bedrock. The risk of water erosion on these soils is slight.

Small portions of the national monument, especially areas near the periphery of the site, are composed of other soils. The most prevalent of these is Power silt loam, found along the northern boundary of the national monument. This very deep soil with good water holding capacity is well suited to irrigated agriculture, the principal land use on the privately owned properties adjoining the national monument.

Minor inclusions of other soils and basalt rock outcrops may also be present on and immediately surrounding the national monument.

Prime farmland is one of several kinds of important farmland defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is of major importance in meeting the nation's short and long-range needs for food and fiber. Because the supply of high-quality farmland is limited, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes that responsible levels of government, as well as individuals, should encourage and facilitate the wise use of our nation's prime farmland. Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for pro-

ducing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pasture land, forest land, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil qualities, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied.

Within the national monument and the immediate surrounding area, the Barrymore–Starbuck soils complex and the Power silt loam soil are considered prime farmland soils, if they are irrigated with an adequate supply of water. Because the national monument is not irrigated and has no irrigation water rights, these soils within the national monument cannot be classified as prime farmland.

Vegetation

The present-day vegetation of the national monument is a mosaic of remnant native plants, scattered trees and shrubs that were planted by internees during World War II and non-native invasive species, including noxious weeds. Although no systematic inventory of vegetation on the national monument has been completed, examples of each of these types are readily observed.

In terms of native vegetation, the national monument is a highly disturbed site. Virtually every part of the national monument has been altered by human activity at least once and often several times

in the past. The most significant disturbance to the natural vegetation of the site was the development and operation of the Minidoka WRA Center.

Native vegetation remaining on the site is a small remnant of the vast sagebrush steppe plant communities that once existed on the Snake River Plain. Sagebrush, including both basin big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*) and Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*) can be found scattered throughout the national monument, especially in the historic open space south of Hunt Road. Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp.), a native shrub that is quick to occupy disturbed sites, can also be found on the national monument. Grasses and forbs characteristic of the native sagebrush steppe vegetation are still found on the site in varying degrees. These include bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber needlegrass,



Sagebrush in the national monument. June 2004. NPS Photo.

Sandberg bluegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, Indian ricegrass, phlox, arrowleaf balsamroot, and others.

A few live trees and shrubs planted during the historic period of the Minidoka Relocation Center are still found on the site. Scattered historic black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) trees exist in the entrance area, administration area, and staff housing area. In addition, a few ornamental shrubs still survive in the administration and staff housing area.

Much of the vegetation present on the national monument is not native to the Snake River Plain. Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) an exotic annual grass that displaces native vegetation is well established throughout the national monument, as it is in much of the region. In addition to cheatgrass, 11 other species of weeds have been documented on the national monument by an NPS Exotic Plant Management Team (see table 3). Seven of these species are classified as noxious weeds by the state of Idaho. Not only are these weeds problematic to management of the national monument, but they pose a potential risk to adjacent agricultural lands if not contained or controlled.

Various other plants not native to the site are found growing on the national monument. Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) trees have colonized relatively moist habitats along portions of the North Side Canal. Other water-loving plant species that are typically found in riparian zones are now established along portions of the canal. These include willows (*Salix* spp.) and sedges (*Carex* spp.), among others. Shade and ornamental vegetation,



Historic tree in the staff housing area. June 2003. NPS Photo.

including cottonwood (*Populus* spp.) and elm (*Ulmus* spp.) trees and turf grass, have been cultivated on the three-acre site.

Virtually all the land surrounding the national monument is in some form of agricultural production, much of it irrigated. Crops, the primary vegetation on these areas, include alfalfa hay, corn, barley, rye, potatoes, sugar beets, wheat, and dry beans.

Wildlife

Although no systematic inventory of wildlife species on the national monument has been completed, knowledge of the habitat, information about regional wildlife populations, and casual on-

site observations provide a general understanding of this resource.

Mule deer are the largest and most easily recognized wildlife species found in and around the national monument. Most of Idaho’s mule deer populations are migratory, commonly traveling long distances (20 to 100 miles) between distinct summer and winter ranges. Large populations of mule deer typically summer in the mountains north of the Snake River Plain, migrating south with the onset of winter and the accumulation of snow. Mule deer use of the big game management unit that includes the national monument (IDFG unit 53) is typically for winter range (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2002). In most years, the area of

Table 11: Problematic Weeds Documented at Minidoka Internment National Monument in 2003

Scientific Name	Common Name	Type of Weed	Relative Abundance
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	Noxious	Abundant
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	prickly sowthistle	Common	Occasional
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	common mullein	Common	Occasional
<i>Arctium minus</i>	burdock	Common	Few
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	bull thistle	Common	Occasional
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	field bindweed	Noxious	Occasional
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle	Noxious	Few
<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Russian knapweed	Noxious	Locally abundant
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	musk thistle	Noxious	Occasional
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	yellow starthistle	Noxious	Locally abundant
<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	rush skeletonweed	Noxious	Occasional
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	cheatgrass or downy brome	Common	Abundant

greatest winter use is located 15 or more miles north of the national monument on large tracts of land managed by the BLM. During severe winter years, deep snows can force mule deer farther south into the marginal habitat of the national monument and surrounding agricultural lands.

In addition to the migratory populations, a small scattered resident population of mule deer is probably present in the vicinity of the national monument during most of the year (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2002), and mule deer may be seen on the national monument or on the surrounding agricultural lands. Although some agricultural crops do serve as a source of food for mule deer, the predominantly non-native vegetation found on the national monument provides little in the way of browse or cover for these large mammals.

Pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) also migrate south onto the Snake River Plain during the winter. However, the winter range for this species is even farther north than that of mule deer, and they would rarely be found as far south as the national monument.

Although not a naturally occurring habitat, the North Side Canal does provide the only significant source of surface water in the vicinity of the national monument.

Although limited in extent, moist terrestrial habitats found along the periphery of the canal may provide habitat suitable to some species of reptiles

and amphibians. Additional studies will be needed to determine their presence.

Even though water only flows through the canal during a portion of the year, typically April through October, some wildlife, such as waterfowl, are attracted to this resource. Although mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), gadwalls (*Anas strepera*), and cinnamon teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) have been observed on the site, the canal is of limited value in sustaining populations of these species, because of the marginal riparian habitat, the poor quality nesting and rearing areas, and the absence of wintering habitat.

Red-tailed hawks have been observed on the national monument, and other birds of prey probably occur on the site at various times of the year. Two such species, Swainson's hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*) and great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) may use the Russian olive trees found along a portion of the canal.

The agricultural land in Jerome County has historically been popular for hunting of ring-necked pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*), but the numbers of birds and opportunities to hunt them have declined greatly in the last 20 years. This is largely due to a reduction of suitable habitat accompanying increases in the efficiency of irrigation and agricultural practices. Hunting is prohibited on the national monument.

Due to the lack of surface water, there are no fish on the national monument. Oral histories of former

Minidoka internees indicate that the North Side Canal did contain fish during the historic period. At that time, Snake River water was diverted through the canal year-round. Modern operation of the canal limits diversion to the growing season and requires the use of fish screens and other methods to prevent the entrainment of fish into the canal. For these reasons, fish are rarely, if ever, present in the North Side Canal.

A variety of other wildlife species can be found on the national monument at various times of the year. The national monument is included in the NPS natural resource inventory and monitoring program. Thus, additional data about the site's wildlife will be collected in the upcoming years.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was contacted to identify any endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species or their critical habitat that could be near and potentially affected by the management of the national monument. The Fish and Wildlife Service responded with their letter of February 18, 2004 (SP #1-4-04-SP-223), indicating that no such listed species are present in the area. The letter also stated that consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, is not needed for this project.

The NPS also contacted the Idaho Conservation Data Center to request a list of plant and animal species of special concern that could be located in or near the national monument. The Conservation

Data Center collects and maintains data about the occurrence of plant and animal species considered important to Idaho's biological diversity. This information indicated that the national monument is within the known range of the Pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*). This Idaho species of special concern is ranked by the BLM as imperiled rangewide (Type 2) due to loss of critical habitat. Pygmy rabbits are generally limited to areas on deep soils with tall, dense sagebrush which they use for cover and food (Green and Flinders 1980). Individual sagebrush plants in areas inhabited by pygmy rabbits are often 6 feet or more in height (Flath 1994). Although within the range of the Pygmy rabbit, the national monument does not provide suitable habitat and is therefore highly unlikely to support populations of this species.

The national monument is also located within the historical range of the greater sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*); a species that has been petitioned for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act and that is designated by the BLM as a sensitive species. Many populations of this species have declined dramatically in last few decades. However, sage grouse are dependent on large acreages (i.e., hundreds of thousands of acres) of sagebrush-grassland habitats that have a 15 to 25% sagebrush canopy cover and good grass and forb cover (flowering herbaceous plants) (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 1997). Thus, the national monument does not provide suitable habitat for this species.

Water Resources

There is no naturally occurring surface water on the national monument. In addition, the presidential proclamation establishing the national monument “does not reserve water as a matter of Federal law nor relinquish any water rights held by the Federal Government.”

The North Side Canal, the primary surface water feature in the area, is immediately outside the national monument, forming its southern boundary. During the growing season, typically from April through October, water is flowing through the canal to provide irrigation to approximately 170,000 acres of south-central Idaho agriculture. The canal is not operated during the late fall and winter. During this time, the canal is dry other than a few shallow pools of water that may linger after the irrigation season or appear briefly following heavy precipitation.

Water used by the American Falls Reservoir District No. 2 staff at the BOR visitor services area is supplied by an on-site domestic well. In addition to domestic use, water is used to irrigate the lawn and trees on a portion of the parcel. Waste water is disposed of in a septic tank.

Air Quality

Sources of air pollutants are both local and regional. Emission sources within the national monument are few: automobile exhaust, smoke from wood stoves at the visitor services area site, and wind-blown dust. Regional sources of air pollutants

include wind-blown dust especially that generated by agricultural activities, smoke from seasonal agricultural burning and periodic wildland fires, and scattered point sources principally associated with the food processing industry. Quantitative information specific to the air quality at the national monument does not exist.

Air quality is protected under the Clean Air Act, passed in 1963 by Congress and amended several times. This law requires the Environmental Protection Agency to, among other things, identify and publish a list of common air pollutants that could endanger public health or welfare. These are referred to as “criteria pollutants,” and the Environmental Protection Agency has established for each of them a maximum concentration above which adverse effects on human health may occur. These threshold concentrations are called National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Areas that have violated the National Ambient Air Quality Standards are federally designated as “nonattainment” areas. In southern Idaho, the only nonattainment areas are northern Ada County (carbon monoxide) and portions of Bannock and Power counties (particulate matter) (State of Idaho, Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality). Both of these areas are located more than 100 miles from the national monument.

Soundscape

The soundscape or ambient sound environment of Minidoka Internment National Monument is that of

a rural agricultural landscape. Although it is a relatively quiet environment, it is not without some human-caused background noise. The primary sources of noise on the national monument are traffic on Hunt Road, farm machinery operating in adjacent fields, and overflights by aircraft. “Natural quiet” refers to the state of having only natural sources of sound, for example wind, rustling leaves, and water. Those portions of the national monument adjoining the North Side Canal are influenced by such natural sources of sound. However, due to the presence of Hunt Road in the center of the national monument and nearby agricultural activities, virtually all parts of the national monument are frequently subject to these sources of noise. Thus, the national monument only exhibits natural quiet for short periods of time.

No inventory of soundscape conditions, sound sources, or noise levels exists for Minidoka Internment National Monument. Such inventories must be conducted to understand the relationship between the natural soundscape, cultural soundscape, and other appropriate sources of sound and the human component of the existing ambient soundscape. This information would (1) make it possible to better understand the resource that needs to be protected and the appropriate and inappropriate sound sources; (2) enable the NPS to establish acoustic objectives and associated standards for different management zones within the national monument; (3) provide a structure for evaluating existing and proposed activities and their impacts; and (4) suggest where management

actions can most effectively contribute to protecting park resources and improving the visitor experience consistent with park purposes. Such inventories, objectives, and actions must be conducted in accordance with NPS Director’s Order #47: Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management.

Night Sky

Night sky is considered an increasingly important resource within the national park system. The parks, especially many in the western United States, have traditionally been thought of as places where pristine views of the night sky abound. Yet, over the last three or four decades, this resource has been rapidly degraded in many parks by the widespread growth of light pollution, an unintended byproduct of human population and land development. As light scatters in the atmosphere, it diminishes the view of the night sky, including the stars and planets, an important and inspirational part of the national park experience for many.

A central problem in protecting night skies is the widespread lack of data about impacts on this resource. Although hundreds of national park areas suffer from the effects of light pollution, only a handful have any data whatsoever to assess their situation. No such data exist for Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Despite its location in a relatively sparsely populated area, various sources of artificial light do affect the national monument. Primary sources of this

light are “yard lights” used to illuminate the areas around many of the houses, barns, and driveways on private lands surrounding the national monument. Automobile headlights also contribute to light pollution on the national monument.

To address night sky issues nationally, the NPS Night Sky Team was formed to:

- increase awareness of the problem through the development of educational materials
- outline methods for monitoring and protecting night skies
- research, develop, and test various methods for measuring night sky quality
- assist parks in reducing wasted light inside and outside park boundaries

Although no data exist, night sky conditions at the national monument should be documented by capturing images that can be used for analyzing brightness, identifying sources of light pollution, and establishing scientific monitoring strategies. Sky brightness measurements establish a baseline from which future resource degradation or improvement can be accurately determined. Not only do the data stand as a benchmark, but the photographs and visual estimation methods are also powerful tools for interpreting and communicating the issue. Expertise from the NPS Night Sky Team should also be used to consult with park staff and review any facility lighting planned for the national monument.

Hazardous Materials

At the time it was in operation, the Minidoka Relocation Center included a motor pool, warehouses, a sewer system, a sewage treatment plant, a gasoline station, oil storage, coal storage, and various other facilities related to its operation and maintenance. Many of the buildings and materials associated with these facilities were removed from the site for salvage after the closure of the camp. Concrete rubble and other material from cleared building foundations can now be found pushed to the perimeter of the roads and fields that now occupy their former locations. Archeological surveys of articles found on the surface of the national monument have begun to document these resources (Burton and Farrell 2001). However, a proper inventory of subsurface materials does not exist. If they are still remaining on site, some of the materials used and wastes generated by the camp could pose the threat of environmental hazards. In addition, existing facilities and the past and ongoing operations of the American Falls Reservoir District No. 2 on the visitor services area site could include hazardous materials.

One of the primary concerns about hazardous materials is the possibility that underground storage tanks remain on the national monument. The concrete island where the camp’s gasoline pumps were located still exists, but it is not known if the tanks were removed. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality maintains a database of known underground storage tanks (UST) and leak-

ing underground storage tanks (LUST) (State of Idaho, Dept. of Environmental Quality, Waste Management and Remediation). However, the database contains no records of any such tanks existing on the site. In addition, there are no known reports of ground water contamination in the vicinity of the national monument.

Fire and Fire Management

The Bureau of Land Management (1984) compiled information about the frequency and types of wildfires that have occurred in the region surrounding Minidoka Internment National Monument. BLM's Monument Planning Area encompasses over 2 million acres north of the Snake River in south-central Idaho, including all of Jerome and Minidoka counties and portions of five other counties. Over half of this land area is public land administered by the BLM. Within this 2 million-acre area, an average of more than 80 wildfires burn over 34,000 acres each year. The actual acreage burned each year varies greatly from a few hundred acres to more than 300,000 acres. Ignition sources are 70% man-caused and 30% lightning-caused, with most of the man-caused fires occurring near highways and railroads. The length and timing of the fire season is highly dependent on annual weather and fuel conditions. Generally, the season can extend from mid-May through mid-October.

Fire plays a key role in determining the diversity and condition of vegetation communities. Throughout much of southern Idaho, large tracts of sage-

brush have been lost due to extensive wildfires, and repeated burns have perpetuated exotic annual grasslands dominated by cheatgrass (National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management 2004). The BLM's Monument Resource Management Plan (1984) identifies a large portion of that planning area, including the portion in which Minidoka Internment National Monument is located, as dominated by cheatgrass. Accordingly, this area also has a high fire frequency, burning at least once every 15 years. These fires have resulted in adverse impacts to wildlife habitat, soil erosion, and livestock grazing.

A large portion of the BLM land covered by the Monument Resource Management Plan (1984) is under a limited suppression fire management plan. The purpose of this plan is to more efficiently use fire suppression funds. However, since the plan-



A brushfire at Minidoka in the vicinity of a water tower. 1945. National Archives.

ning area is subject to large fires, limited suppression would only occur when the burning index is below 22. This would typically require full suppression during July and August. This management is designed to reduce the occurrence of large, repeated fires and their effects on wildlife habitat and soils.

For BLM lands managed by the Shoshone Field Office, the suppression policy is to extinguish fires with the least amount of surface disturbance possible. Whenever burning conditions and terrain are such that direct attack is not feasible, the suppression strategy is to burn out from existing natural barriers and established control points, such as roads (BLM 1984).

Visual and Scenic Resources

Introduction

In this section visual and scenic resources are evaluated at four spatial-political scales: state, region, county, and Minidoka Internment National Monument. General visual character is discussed at the state and regional scales without reference to historic visual quality. However, at the county and site scales, the contemporary visual character is compared to historic visual character because these local scales strongly relate to the historic spatial context of the Minidoka camp. For example, visual quality of lands surrounding the na-

tional monument is an important consideration because the 73-acre national monument is a small fraction of the original camp. The local scales (site or county) are also within the National Park Service's purview, and the visual and scenic character of these areas directly affects visitor experience.

Idaho State

Idaho's varied topography, landforms, geologic formations, vegetative communities, and historic sites provide a rich setting for diverse visual and scenic resources. The state is comprised of spectacular mountain ranges, extensive coniferous forests, crystal lakes, deep river canyons, high deserts, and open grasslands. Most of Idaho (63%) is in public ownership, and this status helps protect the state's natural and scenic resources. In addition to Idaho's natural scenic wonders, the state's extensive farmlands and agricultural enterprises offer a distinctive visual experience based on an agrarian landscape character. Idaho's different regions are visually distinct, with each region providing a unique scenic opportunity for visitors. Open grasslands, high desert landscapes, and unusual geologic formations like the City of Rocks and Craters of the Moon characterize the southern region.

South-Central Region

The south-central region is characterized by an open, high plains desert landscape dominated by the forms and patterns of agricultural land use. The area is one of the most productive farmland regions in the country. Many miles of pastures,

fields, farms, irrigation canals, secondary roads, and small towns comprise this rural setting, and collectively they visually organize the large landscape scale into more discrete units.

Natural systems, indigenous vegetation, and unusual geologic features also create the unique scenic character of the local area. Steppe-shrub and sagebrush grasslands represent the predominant native plant community types and occur on high desert soils not in agriculture use. The openness of the high desert landscape has often led to a perception and characterization of the land as being “barren” although it is rich in species diversity.

The region hosts impressive geological and paleontological formations, including the Snake River Canyon, the Malad Gorge, Shoshone Falls, the Thousand Springs waterfall series, Hagerman Fossil Beds, and City of Rocks. The public can enjoy these scenic resources at various visitor facilities and viewpoints. Additionally, three scenic byways (Thousand Springs, Sawtooth, and City of Rocks Scenic Byways) traverse the south-central region, linking visual and scenic resources in a journey sequence that encourages public visitation and tourism.

Jerome County

The primary change to the region’s scenic character since the 1940s is the conversion of the dry sagebrush steppe landscape to irrigated, green farmlands, which gives the appearance of a lush landscape. Additionally, infrastructure has increased

in the area, including interstate highways, large animal feeding operations, and other agricultural developments. Still, the scenic character of Jerome County is relatively consistent with the historic condition of the landscape in the 1940s. Key visual qualities, such as the vast open space, farming land use, and regional vegetation and geologic features, are important characteristics that carry over from the historic period. The land is not built up with major population centers or developments and retains the remote feel and openness of a high plains desert and extensive farmlands. The county’s working farms and irrigated agriculture lands are visible products of Nikkei labor during World War II.

The forms, organization, and patterns on the land today are fairly coherent as compared to the historic landscape which helps visitors visualize the regional landscape at the time of the interment and incarceration. Landscape scale has changed very little since the 1940s, and contributes to the visual experience of vast, uninterrupted views. Sizeable farms averaging nearly 500 acres organize the landscape into fairly large units of scale. Irrigation canals divert Snake River water to these farms. Numerous two-lane county roads criss-cross the county in a grid pattern and connect the towns of Jerome, Eden, and Hazelton. These small towns were in existence during the historic period and have not significantly changed in spatial layout or population. The railroad bed is also an important extant feature in the landscape because Nikkei internees arrived in the area via rail transportation.



View of the landscape surrounding the national monument. 2004. NPS Photo.

Minidoka Internment National Monument and Environs

Visually and physically, the national monument is markedly changed from the state of the Minidoka WRA Center during the historic period. The built forms, organization, and original spatial extents of the camp no longer exist. Most of the original camp lands are now farmland, and nearly all of the camp buildings were relocated off-site during the decommissioning of the camp. For former internees, the area is often unrecognizable, as they associated the camp landscape more with desolation and barrenness than rolling green fields.

The 72.75 acres that comprise the national monument are just a fraction of the original 33,000-acre camp. The national monument boundary does not include any of the land on which residential blocks were situated. The barracks that were constructed in these blocks were removed, and there is little if any physical evidence of where they were located. As a result of the loss of both structures and land that the camp covered, it is difficult for visitors to visualize the form and spatial organization of the historic camp.

In the surrounding environs, some visual and scenic qualities of the landscape are consistent with the historic rural landscape character during World War II. Visual integrity is supported by the lack of development, which fits the historic context of Minidoka and allows uninterrupted views of the surrounding agrarian landscape. Today, the surrounding area is a patchwork of farms, agricultural

fields, sagebrush and basalt outcroppings, divided by roads and irrigation canals.

Currently there is no development adjacent to the national monument that is out of character or otherwise disrupts the long views of the surrounding landscape. Views to farms, geological features, and distant mountains still exist from the national monument. These views are significant because they are the views that internees had of the landscape beyond the confines of the camp during World War II.

Visual resources are described below according to specific areas in the national monument and surrounding environs. Many of the visual resources are physical resources that were evaluated in the archeological study of Minidoka (Burton and Farrell 2001).

Entry Area

The west entrance to the national monument is in the original location of the camp entrance during World War II. The visual cue that one is entering the national monument is the Hunt Bridge, which spans the North Side Canal.

Although most of the entry's original structures are gone, the most visible and perhaps most significant remains of the national monument are still standing. These remnants include the military police building and the reception building. Located across Hunt Road, and within view of the historic entry buildings, are the remains of an elaborate land-



Property adjacent to the entrance area. 2003. NPS Photo.



Looking north from the entrance area. The house in the foreground was constructed of barrack buildings on the location of Minidoka's military police area. 2003. NPS Photo.



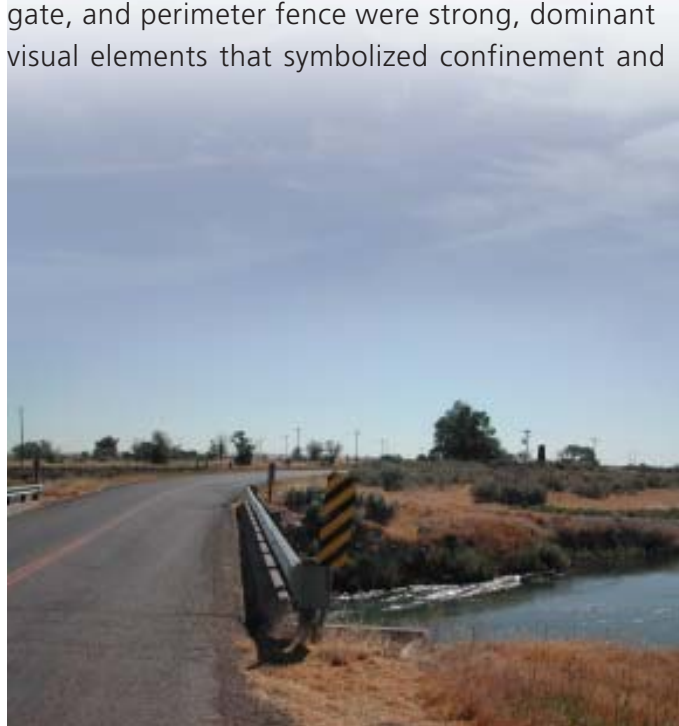
View of the administration area. 2003. NPS Photo.

scaped garden. The garden is a visually evocative feature that symbolizes many themes, including the internees' adaptation to harsh living environment, cultural creativity, and patriotism. Together these remnant features and structures at the entry create a powerful presence in the landscape that sets the stage for telling the story of Minidoka. The sparseness and simplicity of forms help create an aesthetic and visual character that fits with the educational and interpretative purpose of the national monument. The partial decomposition of the structures suggests poignancy and a sense of time passed.

During the historic period, the guard tower, entry gate, and perimeter fence were strong, dominant visual elements that symbolized confinement and



View of the administration area. 2002. NPS Photo.



View of the entrance to the national monument from Hunt Bridge. 2003. NPS Photo.

loss of freedom. Today these visually strong elements are not present, and the sense of confinement is not equally conveyed.

Administration and Staff Housing Area

Today, none of the historic structures in the administration and staff housing area are still standing in their original locations. Visually the landscape appears open and undeveloped, and it is difficult to comprehend the historic organization of the area. Building footings, concrete pads, and basalt pathways are the only remains, and they are not strong enough to visually convey how the area was spatially organized.

Warehouse and Motor Pool Area

Most of the original structures that comprised the warehouse and motor pool area have been demolished. However, some features remain that visually delineate the spatial organization of the area, including four historic structures, warehouse slab foundations, and historic vegetation.

Situated on the main road through the national monument, the root cellar is a prominent artifact that references both the camp's daily life and the region's agricultural heritage. The organic form of the root cellar contrasts with the utilitarian forms of other structures.

This area provides the best views of the vast area formerly occupied by the residential blocks. A slight ridge in the distance delineates the geologic

boundary that directly influenced the crescent-shaped layout of the residential area. In the absence of actual buildings or barracks blocks, this geologic landform is a significant visual landscape cue that helps visitors understand the full extent of the core 950-acre developed area of the camp.

Open Space (including Swimming Hole)

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 the camp, except for a kidney-shaped swimming hole used by internees and the perimeter fence. This open space was an important area for some internees because it was unstructured space that offered recreational and social opportunities as well as near contact with nature within the camp borders.

Today the area retains its character as an open landscape. Within view of Hunt Road, the swimming hole is visible in the form of a deep depression about an acre in size. Other features in the vicinity include several basalt rock piles, a can dump, and portions of the perimeter fence. Both native and non-native vegetation grows in the area. The open landscape character, the former swimming hole, and miscellaneous artifacts convey the visual qualities that historically occurred on site.

North Side Canal

The North Side Canal delineates the southern border of the national monument, just as it historically comprised the southern edge of the camp. Some former internees have related the role of the canal as an important visual and scenic resource during their incarceration. Some have also stated both the positive and negative experiences of accessing the canal, encompassing both recreational experiences and tragic events. The canal boundary signified the edge between confinement and autonomy. It also formed the edge between the built environment and "nature." The presence of moving water adjacent to the camp provided a calming force for some internees.

Visually, the canal retains the same basic characteristics as it had during the historic period. It has the same approximate alignment and water volume, and it perpetuates its historic function of diverting Snake River water to irrigate local farm fields. There are some differences, however. More vegetation, such as Russian olive trees, has grown up along its banks. During drawdown periods (generally during winter), the irrigation canal is dry, which gives it a markedly different appearance.

BOR East End Site Parcel

Historically the BOR east end site parcel next to the canal was not developed and did not include any major structures or buildings. Today the area is still undeveloped and grown over with native (and some exotic) vegetation. Visual access to the irrigation canal is still available to the south and west.

This area offers striking views of the canal and good views of the distant mountains. It also provides views of the vast land expanse that was occupied by the residential blocks, particularly on the east side.

Partnerships, Outreach, and Neighbors

Opportunities for Partnership

The use of partnerships is already helping to accomplish goals for the national monument. During public meetings, overwhelming support was expressed that active partnerships should remain a fundamental cornerstone to develop and implement future NPS objectives for the national monument. Effective partnerships with various institutions and organizations are key to long-term goal achievement and educational outreach programs.

A primary resource for the national monument is peoples' stories: sharing individual's experiences and perspectives. Today, most former internees and their families reside in communities outside Idaho. Because these geographic areas of critical interest are distant (Washington, Oregon, and Alaska), exploring and constructing partnerships approaches will be vital to making the national monument relevant and meaningful to these people.



An oral history interview with Judy Kusakabe, a former Minidoka internee during the Minidoka Reunion. August 2003. NPS Photo.

As the national monument develops and as the public becomes more aware of the site and the related activities, many opportunities will present unforeseen prospects to establish relationships for achieving mutual goals. Some of the more obvious and known organizations that offer opportunities for partnerships are: Friends of Minidoka Inc., Wing Luke Asian Museum, Japanese American National Museum, Jerome County Historical Society, Densho Project, University of Washington Department of American Ethnic Studies, North Side Canal Company, College of Southern Idaho and the Herrett Center, South-Central Idaho Tourism and Recreational Development Association, and Japanese American Citizens League (specifically chapters located in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Alaska). Other cooperative efforts would be established with schools, universities, and local, state and other federal agencies, as well as other civil and constitu-

tional rights organizations. The South-Central Idaho Tourism and Recreational Development Association could offer a partnership geared toward heritage tourism.

North Side Canal

The North Side Canal Company is one of the largest mutual irrigation companies in Idaho. The company diverts water from the north side of the Snake River at Milner Dam, near Twin Falls, Idaho. The North Side Canal Company has been a leader in the irrigation enterprise business community for many years. The company struggled in the early years, until the American Falls Reservoir was completed in the late 1920s, with the assistance of the BOR. Today, the North Side Canal Company is considered one of the most successful and innovative irrigation projects in the intermountain region.

The canal was constructed in 1909 and is a hallmark of the transition of the central Idaho Snake River Plain from sagebrush grasslands to productive farmlands. The company serves 170,000 acres of farmland along an 80-mile stretch of the Snake River.

The southern boundary of the Minidoka Relocation Center was the North Side Canal. This extensive man-made feature provided a distinct physical border as well as contributing to the overall physical layout and character of the camp. During the historic period, the North Side Canal contained water year-round; however, today it only runs during the agricultural seasons. It is the size of a swift-flow-

ing western river and creates an important water element in an otherwise dry and arid environment. As the only major physical features adjacent to the camp, the canal played a significant role in the lives of many internees. Many former internees still have memories of their experiences along the canal.

As described in the establishing proclamation, the southern boundary of the national monument is the North Side Canal. The NPS contracted with the BLM, Cadastral Survey, to conduct a formal lands survey to establish the legal boundaries of the national monument. Land survey monuments were placed to denote the boundary-line, and each individual marker was agreed upon between the North Side Canal Company and the NPS. The NPS will continue to work in a cooperative relationship with the North Side Canal Company to ensure the canal company can maintain and operate the canal system to accomplish its mission.

Selected vegetation along the canal boundary-line may be managed by the National Park Service to control exotic vegetation and in certain conditions to recapture the setting of the 1940s historic period.

Coordination with the North Side Canal Company will continue to ensure visitor safety while experiencing the national monument. Those efforts may require the installation of safety barriers, such as fencing. Specific areas along the canal may be suitable for visitors to experience the canal and the effect that water had on the historic setting.

Access, Circulation, Roads, and Parking

Access to the national monument is along Hunt Road from the intersection with State Highway 25, about 2 miles to the south or from Eden along Hunt Road from the east.

The current circulation system within the national monument follows the historic roads and paths of the original camp in some places but deviates considerably in others. Most of the new roads were constructed in the 1950s to serve the Hunt area. The existing roads, constructed after the camp closed, bisect former building sites. Hunt Bridge over the North Side Canal dates to the camp era; however it has been rebuilt and resurfaced. There is no public transportation to the site.

Four roads are within the national monument boundaries. Hunt Road is the only paved thoroughfare and runs along an east-west corridor through the site for approximately 2/3 mile. Hunt Road runs along the historic alignment of the original Minidoka WRA Center road from Hunt Bridge through the historic entrance and former administration area, then deviates from its historic alignment and cuts through what used to be the administration area and staff housing area, progresses along the southern edge of the old warehouse area and root cellar, and continues just north of the North Side Canal turn. The historic remainder of

Hunt Road within the national monument was converted to an unpaved farmstead driveway, which heads northeast from the administration area to the former site of the water tower and fire station, now on private property. This road measures approximately 1,425 feet. The historic northbound roadway to the military police building, hospital, and area #1 has been slightly altered to the west, and is currently being used as a 275-foot private unpaved driveway. Road 1400 East (1400E) heads north from the former administration area. The 300-foot-long unpaved road cuts through the historic administration area. On the visitor services area site, unpaved roads and driveways total approximately 500 feet.

Parking within the national monument is limited to about 10 cars at the entrance and another 15 ve-



Hunt Road within the national monument. 2003. NPS Photo.



Road 1400E runs north through the former administration area. 2003. NPS Photo.

hicles on the visitor services area site. The historic entrance parking lot has been resurfaced since the historic period and is the only official parking area on the site.

Park Boundary and Land Protection

The 72.75-acre national monument is an irregular shaped site that spans ¼ mile in height north to south by nearly 1 mile in width east to west. The national monument shares borders with five different landowners. In 2003, the National Park Service contracted with the Bureau of Land Management, Cadastral Survey unit, to conduct a formal lands survey to establish the legal boundaries of the national monument. Land survey monuments were placed to denote the boundary-line.

The national monument is bounded by the North Side Canal on its southern border. The Presidential Proclamation 7395, which established the Minidoka Internment National Monument on January 17, 2001, specifically addressed the North Side Canal as follows:

The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights, provided that nothing in this proclamation shall interfere with the operation and maintenance of the Northside Canal to the extent that any such activities, that are not valid existing rights,

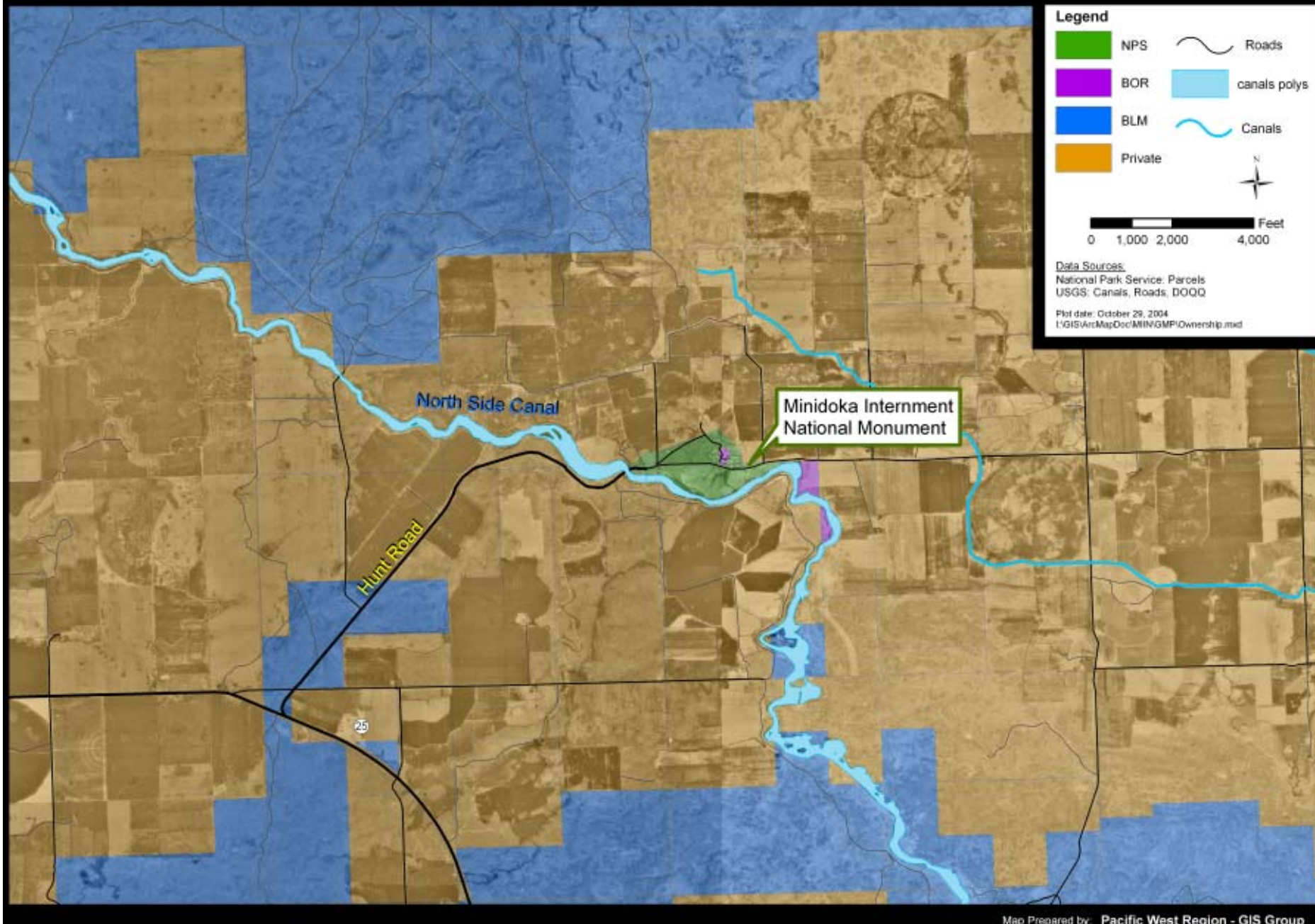
are consistent with the purposes of the proclamation.

The NPS and North Side Canal Company agreed upon the placement of each individual marker along the North Side Canal. The NPS will continue to work in a cooperative relationship with the North Side Canal Company to ensure that the canal company can maintain and operate the canal system to accomplish their mission while protecting national monument resources and public access.

The national monument's northern, eastern, and western borders are shared with three private landowners. Two of these landowners access their properties along rights-of-way within the national monument. The NPS has negotiated access agreements with these landowners, so that they may retain their rights-of-way.

Two parcels retained by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) are the visitor services center parcel surrounded by the national monument, which is used by the American Falls Reservoir Irrigation District No. 2 for operational use, and the east end site parcel on the east side of the national monument and along the North Side Canal, which is unused open space.

Land Ownership



Park Operations and Management

Operations

Existing administration and operations for the national monument are currently based out of the Hagerman Fossil Bed National Monument facility 40 miles from the Minidoka site in Hagerman, Idaho. Hagerman Fossil Beds staff provides minimal support to the national monument for administration and operations, planning efforts, minimal grounds upkeep, a seasonal port-a-potty, occasional on-site presence, intermittent interpretive activities by special request only, some vegetation management to control noxious weeds, and emergency wildlands fire suppression. Most resources are to sustain management oversight for planning, developing programmatic requests for future operations and projects, and administrative support.

The only visitor facilities at the national monument include the parking lot at the entrance and a small commemorative area featuring four wayside panels about Minidoka Relocation Center and a seasonal portable toilet that is universally accessible.

Requests for personal interpretive services currently exceed capacity. Until an increase in funds for program development and operations are provided, little will change.

Signs and Information

When people who live outside the southern Idaho region relate their experiences about visiting the national monument, usually their story begins with a tale of the difficulties they experienced in finding the national monument, as there are no directional signs along major interstates or highways. The only directional sign is at the intersection of Highway 25 and Hunt Road, 2.2 miles to the south of the national monument. At the national monument, there are small markers that delineate the boundary-line.

Information for the national monument is available at the headquarters for Hagerman Fossil Beds NM in Hagerman, on the NPS website, on the Friends of Minidoka website, and at the Jerome County Historical Society Museum.

Utility Systems

Several electrical and transmission rights-of-way traverse the national monument. Electricity in the



Seasonal visitor facilities at the national monument. 2004. NPS Photo.



Historical markers for a 10,000 year old archeological site and the former Minidoka WRA Center. The markers are located at the intersection of highway 25 and Hunt Road. 2003. NPS Photo. (Top

area is provided by Idaho Power. At present, there are no facilities on the national monument property that require electricity. As per the enabling proclamation, all such existing valid uses and access points will be maintained.

On the visitor services area BOR site, an on-site domestic well provides water to the American Falls Irrigation District facilities. Sewage is treated in an on-site septic tank.

Socioeconomic Factors

Location

The national monument is on the Snake River slope of the Gooding Division of the Minidoka Reclamation Project. The reclamation project was part of a government program to build dams and irrigation canals in Idaho in an effort to expand agricultural land uses. A major reason for selecting this site for the historic camp was that it was rather secluded and remote.

Roads and Highways

Idaho

Idaho's roadway transportation system is comprised of more than 70,000 centerline miles of road and about 4,000 bridges. These roads are managed by federal, state, and highway jurisdictions.

South-Central Region

Primary access to the south-central region is via Interstate Highway 84 (I-84) and I-86 for east-west traffic, and along SR-93 and SR-75 for north-south traffic.

Jerome County

The predominant form of transportation in Jerome County is the automobile. I-84 is the only interstate highway traversing Jerome County. It traverses the county from west to east, passing through the southern third of the county, and has six exits that provide access into the county. U.S. Highway 93 serves as the principal north-south route. Three state highways – SH 25, SH 79, and SH 50 – run through Jerome County. SH 25 serve as the principal connections for the cities of Jerome, Eden, and Hazelton. SH 79 is a major north-south connection to the city of Jerome, and it connects I-84 to SH 25. SH 50 is a short north-south stretch that intersects with SH 25 about 3 miles west of Eden. Other public roads within the county are on a 1-mile grid that follows the section lines of each township and range. There are also roads that make up the urban patterns of Jerome, Eden, and Hazelton, and approximately 200 public roads exist within platted subdivisions.

Land Use and Ownership Patterns

Idaho

Idaho has more public land than any state in the lower 48 except for Nevada, with 63.1% of the

land within the state being managed by the federal government. Of the remaining land, 31.6% is privately owned, 5.1% is state owned, and the remaining .2% is city or county owned. Most public lands managed by federal and state land management agencies have open-door policies and are available for hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking, and other activities. The vast majority of the state (79.7%) is either rangeland or forestland. Agricultural uses account for 14.5% of the land, while barren land accounts for another 3.8%. Only .4% of the land within the state is urban or built-up land (Idaho Department of Commerce, Idaho Facts 2002).

South-Central Region

The predominant land use in the region is farming. For the most part, the region is rural in nature and more of the land is privately owned than in the northern part of the state. There are a few small towns scattered throughout the region, and Twin Falls, which is only 12 miles from the national monument, is the largest city.

Jerome County

Within Jerome County, 72.1% of the land is privately owned, 25.1% is managed by the federal government, 2.1% is state owned, and the remaining .7% is county or municipal land. Jerome county is rural, and most of the land in the county (70.6%) is either agricultural or rangeland. In addition, 28% of the land is classified as barren and

only .8% of the land is urban. (Idaho Department of Commerce, Idaho Facts 2002)

The closest federal land to the national monument is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Minidoka Internment National Monument and Environs

Surrounding the national monument, land is privately owned by local farmers for agricultural use and grazing. The North Side Canal is owned by the North Side Canal Company.

Demographics - Population Trends; Racial & Ethnic Composition

Idaho

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the state of Idaho had an estimated population of 1,321,006 in 2001. From 1990 to 2000, Idaho experienced a 28.5% increase in population, more than double the average across the U.S. This growth increase made Idaho the third fastest growing state in the U.S. during that time. The Census Bureau projects that by the year 2025, Idaho will have a population of between 1,739,000 and 2,008,000.

In 2000, 91% of the population within the state was white, .4% were black or African American, 1.4% were American Indian and Alaska Native, 0.9% were Asian, 7.9% were of Hispanic or Latino origin, and 0.1% were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. In addition, 4.2% were of some other race. (U.S. Bureau of the Census 2001)

South-Central Region

Population within the region grew from 53,580 in 1990 to 64,284 in 2000, which is an increase of approximately 20%. The largest increases in total population were in Twin Falls and Jerome Counties. (U.S. Bureau of the Census 2001)

Racial and ethnic composition, as compiled by the Census Bureau, is not broken down into regions, but the racial and ethnic composition of the region is expected to be similar to that of the state as a whole.

Jerome County

Jerome County has experienced a steady increase in population over the years, having grown from 10,253 in 1970 to 18,449 in 2000. From 1980 to 1990, however, growth in the county was minimal; the population of the county increased by only 298 in this decade. All three of largest towns in the county – Eden, Hazelton, and Jerome – experienced a decline in population between 1980 and 1990. This decline in population seems to have abated, however, and there were steady population growths from 1990 to 2000 for both the county and the towns. (Idaho Department of Commerce, Idaho Facts 2002)

The population in Jerome County is expected to continue to grow at a fairly steady rate over the next 10 years. According to Intermountain Demographics, the population is projected to be 23,480 in 2010 and 26,204 in 2015.

In 2000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 87% of county residents were white, 17.2% were of Hispanic or Latino origin, 1.9% reported to be of two or more races, 0.7% were of American Indian and Alaska Native origin, 0.3% were Asian, and 9.8% were of some other race.

Contemporary Japanese Americans

For the purposes of this Draft GMP/EIS, statistical and demographic information about Japanese Americans will be provided along with limited descriptions of contemporary Japanese American issues. It must be noted that the following demographic information does not describe Japanese American history, differentiate among individuals and their personal backgrounds, discuss discrimination, or provide explanations or reasoning for data. These relationships are highly complex and not within the scope of this Draft GMP/EIS, however, the National Park Service encourages readers to conduct their own research on this topic.

Today, the Japanese American community is extraordinarily diverse and dispersed throughout the United States. Eiichiro Azuma, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, describes the contemporary Japanese American community as less about ethnic identity and more about individual situations and choices. He writes,

“Lately, being a Japanese American is not solely an issue of “racial” or physiological characteristics, and shared “cultural” elements are no longer a central binding force

either. For most people, being Japanese American has increasingly become a matter of heart, self-identity, and individual commitment... In the era of multiculturalism and globalization, the Japanese American community constantly reshapes itself in accordance with the transformations of the larger American society and of the world at large”(Azuma 2002: 291-292).

In light of differences in economics, religion, politics, generational characteristics, and the increasing number of multiethnic Japanese Americans, it is problematic to describe the Japanese American community as being intact or homogeneous. The one unifying commonality among Japanese Americans is ancestral origin in Japan.

Japanese Americans often define themselves in terms of their generations relative to departure from Japan, the establishment of residency in the U.S., and country of birth. The generations include: Issei (pre-war immigrants from Japan, known as

the first generation in the United States), Nisei (American born children of the Issei, known as second generation), Sansei (children of the Nisei and third generation), Yonsei (children of the Sansei and fourth generation), Gosei (children of the Yonsei and fifth generation), and so on. These generations are based on the pre-war wave of Japanese immigration between 1885 and 1924, and therefore the generations are categorized into relatively distinct age groups.

Japanese who immigrated to the U.S. after World War II beginning in the 1950s are sometimes referred to as Shin-Issei, Shin-Nisei, and Shin-Sansei, with Shin meaning “new.” The experiences of these two immigrant groups are noticeably different. The earlier immigrant group often encountered personal and institutionalized racism and dis-

Table 12: Terminology Associated with Japanese American Heritage

No.	Japanese Translation	Generation
1	Ichi	Issei
2	Ni	Nisei
3	San	Sansei
4	Si/Yon	Yonsei
5	Go	Gosei
6	Roku	Rokusei



Yasutake family portrait at Minidoka during the Pilgrimage. The three elders, Joe Yasutake, Tosh Yasutake, and May Yamada (Yasutake) were incarcerated at Minidoka during World War II. June 2004. NPS Photo.



George Azumano, a former Minidoka internee, visiting the IFARM during the Pilgrimage. June 2003. NPS Photo.

crimination, experienced the wartime incarceration and its aftermath, and developed their own unique Japanese American culture. The latter group is composed of more recent immigrants with stronger ties to Japan and Japanese culture.

In the 2000 U.S. census, 1,148,932 people listed their ethnicity as Japanese or multiethnic Japanese. Japanese Americans composed .4% of the total American population and less than 10% of the Asian American population. Additionally, over 30% of Japanese Americans identified themselves as multiethnic Japanese, which is the highest rate of multiethnic people of any Asian American group. In 2000, roughly 50% of Japanese Americans lived in the West, 25% in Hawaii, and the other 25% were dispersed in the East, Midwest, and South. In 1990, roughly 30% of Japanese Americans were born in Japan, and Japanese



Osame Doi, former internee, and her granddaughter Lisa Ferrier visiting the IFARM during the Minidoka Pilgrimage. June 2004. NPS Photo.

Americans had the highest median age of Asian Americans at 36.6 years old. In 1990, the average American family numbered 3.2; the average Japanese American family was 3.1, the lowest of any Asian American group. In 1990, 35% of Japanese Americans had completed a bachelor's degree, compared with the national average of 20%. In 1990, the national per capita income was \$14,143; Japanese American per capita income was \$19,373 and the highest among Asian American groups. New immigrants from Japan numbered 67,900 between 1991 and 2000, composing the lowest number of immigrants among other Asian countries. All information in this paragraph is from the U.S. Census Bureau (1993, 2000).

Japanese Americans both reflect and expand on the diversity of the present-day United States. They are members of numerous religious organizations and various social, cultural and political organizations as well. Buddhism, Christianity, and Shintoism are religions that are practiced most widely, for example. The Japanese American Citizens League and Nisei Veterans are examples of major national organizations that have local chapters throughout the country. Members of the community also participate extensively in both Japanese American cultural institutions such as the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Portland, Oregon, and the National Japanese American Historical Society in San Francisco, as well as local, multiethnic institutions such as the Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle. Politically oriented organizations include the National Japanese American Political Action

Committee. Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II and their descendents are also members of various camp groups, such as the Manzanar Committee, the Poston Restoration Project, and the Topaz Museum, whose goal is to preserve the historic sites and the legacy of the incarceration during World War II. In the course of the National Park Service's outreach for the planning process, the NPS has endeavored to communicate with and involve members of the highly diverse Japanese American community to the fullest extent possible.

Contemporary Local Community

The contemporary local community surrounding Minidoka Internment National Monument on the north side of the North Side Canal is predominantly rural and agricultural. It was established on federal land in and around the former camp in the immediate post World War II period of the late 1940s and early 1950s.

The nature of the agricultural economy that was established around 1950 in the vicinity of the national monument and along State Highway 25 that connects Eden on the east with State Highway 93 and Jerome on the west has changed in accord with larger social and economic forces of the region during recent decades. Even those farm families who were among the early homesteaders have also come to depend on wage income from sources other than their farms. Some of the farms are leased by original owners to agribusinesses,

and there has been a shift from crops such as potatoes and sugar beets to alfalfa and corn. The shift in crops reflects a growing market for feeding dairy cattle that is related to the development of large-scale dairy production and operations throughout the tri-county area of Gooding, Jerome, and Twin Falls.

The presence of the national monument will undoubtedly affect the immediate neighbors and those residents and agriculturally based businesses in the surrounding area that use State Highway 25 and Hunt Road in particular, which runs east/west through the heart of the 73-acre site. It is difficult to fully assess how the future development of the national monument will impact the Eden/Hazelton community, but certainly changes in traffic will take place and some economic benefits will evolve. See the "Socioeconomic Factors" section, for a discussion of these issues.

Tribal Interests

The national monument is within the ceded lands of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, which is closer to the national monument than any other. In addition to meeting with tribal staff concerning Minidoka Internment National Monument, the NPS has consulted with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes concerning City of Rocks National Reserve, Craters of the Moon National Monument, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and Yellowstone National Park. A major concern of the tribes continues to be protecting

treaty rights in off-reservation areas, with hunting consistently presented as a critically important issue. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes did not provide comment on any interests relative to the presence of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Labor Force, Employment, and Employers

Idaho

Traditionally, the economy of Idaho has been a couple of steps behind that of the nation, regardless of whether the nation's economy rises or drops. In the past, the state's economy was dependent largely on traditional resource industries such as mining, agriculture, and timber. In the late 1990s, however, those industries experienced a lull in part because of environmental concerns as well as competition and pressures from other uses. Today, Idaho's top production industries include high-tech manufacturing, agriculture/food processing, and wood products, and its leading service industries are retail trade, travel and tourism, and health and business services. (Idaho Division of Financial Management. 2005 Idaho Economic Forecast)

One of the most dramatic changes in the state's economic base is the rise of the high-technology sector. Virtually nonexistent in the 1970s, this sector achieved critical mass in the 1990s, and high tech jobs increased 57% between 1990 and 2000. Currently, the high tech industry is the state's larg-

est manufacturing employer. In 2000, science and technology industries accounted for 30% (\$11.1 billion) of Idaho's economy. In 2001 and 2002, high-tech manufacturing declined, but the industry is expected to turn around and to grow in upcoming years (Idaho Economic Forecast).

South-Central Region

The economic base within the region is predominantly agricultural. Farming and agricultural jobs have declined slightly in recent years as manufacturing and service oriented jobs in urban areas such as Twin Falls become more prevalent. South-central Idaho is the number one trout producing area in the country, with processors in Gooding and Twin Falls Counties. Gooding, Jerome, and Twin Falls Counties are home to the largest concentration of dairy production in the state. Twin Falls is the regional retail hub for all of south-central Idaho and northern Nevada, and is home to the College of Southern Idaho. In 2002, the total number of jobs in the region was just over 62,500.

Jerome County

The economic base for Jerome County, just like that of the region, is agriculturally oriented. There was an increase of 2,300 jobs in Jerome County from 1970 to 1980, with manufacturing gaining the largest employment. Farming and agriculture employment has declined over the last few decades, but it is still the largest employment sector with more than 30% of the total workers in the county. Farming and agriculture activities also pro-

vide approximately 45% of all the wages in the county (Idaho State Planning Association 1991).

Forecasts predict that employment in Jerome County will increase from 7,651 employees in 1995 to more than 12,000 by 2015, which will be a 60% increase. The largest employment gains are expected to be in wholesale trade, retail trade, and services. Farming is expected to continue a small decline, although overall agricultural services employment is expected to increase (Intermountain Demographics).

Minidoka Internment National Monument Site Agreements

South-Central Idaho Wildland Fire Cooperative.

As one of the five federal wildland fire management agencies, the National Park Service is a partner in the nationwide Fire Program Analysis (FPA) initiative. The FPA project is designed to develop a common, interagency system for wildfire preparedness analysis, planning, and budgeting. The South-Central Idaho Wildland Fire Cooperative is an FPA Preparedness Module Charter that specifically includes Minidoka Internment National Monument. In addition to the National Park Service, this interagency charter includes the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and Idaho Department of

Lands. The objectives of this charter are as follows:

- Develop interagency planning partnerships between federal, state, and local cooperators.
- Develop or refine resource management objectives relative to fire, and the full suite of fire management objectives, constraints, and restrictions.
- Develop and refine the required data inputs for FPA.
- Provide a reality check on model outputs for both costs and fire resources.
- Participate as subject matter experts.

South-Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center Annual Operating Plan.

Agencies participating in this plan include the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and Idaho Department of Lands. The plan is linked with the South-Central Idaho Wildland Fire Cooperative Interagency Charter and provides for coordination of dispatch operations and wildland fire, aviation, and nonfire logistical services within the bounds of Minidoka Internment National Monument. The plan is renewed annually.

NPS Vital Signs Charter. This charter provides for the NPS's ongoing Natural Resource Inventory and Monitoring Program, organized by networks of parks. The intent of the program is to verify existing natural resource inventory information, supple-

ment park programs to obtain complete inventory data, and sustain those data with a long-range monitoring program. Inventory and monitoring programs for Minidoka Internment National Monument are developed and implemented through the NPS Upper Columbia Basin Network (UCBN).

NPS Exotic Plant Management Team. This program is managed through the NPS Washington, D.C., Office, and the Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) based at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve (CRMO). The team provides program guidance, training, and field operations for the control of exotic plants within the bounds of Minidoka Internment National Monument and the other units of the national park system in southern Idaho.

Craters of the Moon Natural History Association. This partnership and cooperative agreement allows for the sale of subject-related books and other items to the public through the NPS visitor center at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. The partnership supplements special funded interpretive projects related to both Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and Minidoka Internment National Monument. This agreement is regulated by NPS Director's Order #32.

Land Use Documents, Related Plans, and Programs

Jerome County's Comprehensive Plan of 1996 was developed to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the community. The plan is divided into the following sections: Setting and Private Property Rights, Existing Conditions, Population, Natural Resources, Hazardous Areas, Public Facilities and Services, Land Use and Future Growth, and Implementation.

The **Jerome County Zoning Ordinance** was created in accordance with the comprehensive plan. According to the zoning ordinance, the national monument is in the agricultural zone (A-1). "The agriculture zone is characterized by farms and ranches engaged in the production of food, fiber, and animal products and in the raising of various kinds of livestock" (Amended 4-14-86; 1-21-99). These activities are considered appropriate land uses and are expected to continue. Agricultural operations in the agricultural zone may be reduced, expanded, or changed at the will of the operator. Specific land use changes, for example the siting and development of a dairy, would require a conditional use permit. Urbanization in A-1 zones is considered incompatible. In the agricultural zone, public parks are permitted.

Manzanar National Historic Site General Management Plan was completed in 1996. The historic

site was established in 1992 “to provide for the protection and interpretation of historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II...” (Public Law 102-248). Manzanar National Historic Site and Minidoka Internment National Monument are similar in their purpose, significance, and types of desired future conditions and resources.

A **Japanese Americans in World War II National Historic Landmark Theme Study** prepared by the NPS is underway. This theme study was authorized by Congress under the same legislation that designated Manzanar National Historic Site. The study will provide information about the historic context, associated property types, geographical data, a summary of identification and evaluation methods, and recommendations for federal action. A draft study was completed in 2005.

The National Park Service 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.

