

# Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument

General Management Plan  
Newsletter # 1 Public Scoping, Summer 2013



Mary Higuchi, Executive Order 9066, Series 7: Recess Time

## A Message from the Superintendent

**You're Invited to a Workshop!**

See details on page 10

Dear Friends,

You are invited to join us in charting the future of the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument for the next 20 years.

The Tule Lake Unit, in rural Newell, California, preserves a landscape through which the public can discover the impact World War II had on thousands of Japanese Americans, the local community, and our understanding of civil liberties for all Americans. Visitors to Tule Lake are often surprised to discover what occurred here, and some feel a haunting and spiritual connection to this place. Many believe the power of Tule Lake rests with the historical events and personal stories that unfolded here over 70 years ago. Already, the site's designation as a National Historic Landmark is a tribute to the incredible stories of Tule Lake.

The National Park Service is dedicated to preserving the sites and stories of the past so we may continue to learn valuable lessons from them long into the future. While the historic buildings and landscape are evidence of the past, your help is needed in identifying how Tule Lake's history is relevant today and how to share this history with visitors. Breathing life into the historic structures and landscape through first-person accounts, enlightening interpretation, and improved access to the site will enable the public to more fully understand the significance of Tule Lake's history.

As a new unit, there is no comprehensive plan for Tule Lake, and the National Park Service faces many issues and challenges for its future management. The most overarching issues are how to interpret what occurred at Tule Lake and how to ensure that visitors have meaningful experiences at Tule Lake tied to its history. In addition, planning will also address the preservation of the unit's historic features and landscapes, its internal and adjacent boundaries, and how its areas could be developed for greater public access.

We are especially fortunate to be guided in the planning process by the invaluable insight and inspiration of many individuals and groups closely tied to this story. We have communicated with many of you already, and we look forward to engaging new individuals and groups in the development of a comprehensive and long-term plan for Tule Lake.

This is your opportunity to help create a vision for the future of Tule Lake. We are asking for your help and ideas as we develop the general management plan. Starting in June, the National Park Service will host public workshops in California, Oregon, Washington, and online. We sincerely hope you will join us at one of these workshops to meet the planning team and share your ideas, concerns, and thoughts about Tule Lake. If you cannot attend a workshop, this newsletter identifies several other ways to provide comments and participate in the planning process. Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with us at any time.

Your input is essential. Let us all join together in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration as we go forward.

Sincerely,

Mike Reynolds  
Superintendent, Tule Lake Unit, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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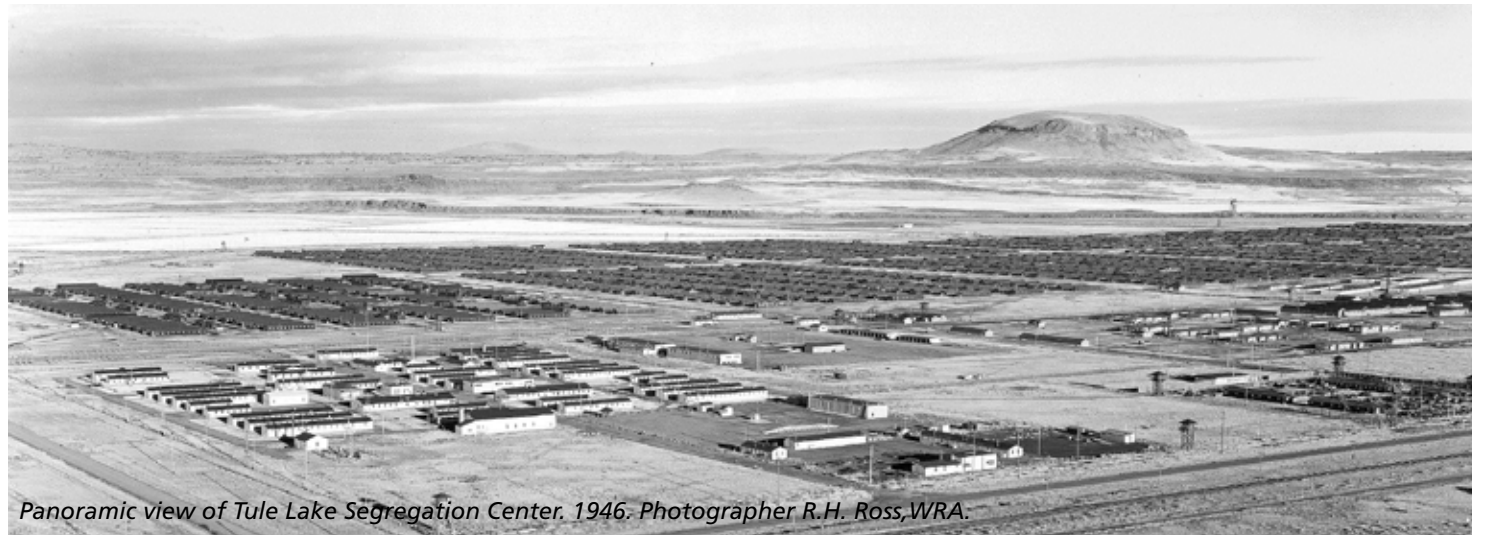
#### GMP Website

For current project information and to provide comments online:  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/tule>

#### Tule Lake Unit Website

For general information about the unit:  
<http://www.nps.gov/tule>

Nikkei : U.S. citizens of Japanese descent and resident immigrants of Japanese ancestry ineligible for American



Panoramic view of Tule Lake Segregation Center, 1946. Photographer R.H. Ross, WRA.

## Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument

World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument was established by presidential proclamation on December 5, 2008 and includes nine historic sites in Hawai'i, Alaska, and California. The monument preserves and interprets the tangible and intangible historical resources and the memories, attitudes, and traditions associated with the December 7, 1941 attack in Hawai'i and the ensuing Pacific War. Eight sites are battle sites between the

United States military and Imperial Japanese military. Five of these sites are located in the Pearl Harbor area of Hawai'i and are largely managed by the National Park Service. Three sites are located in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Tule Lake Unit is the ninth site, located within both Modoc and Siskiyou counties, near Tulelake, CA, and Klamath Falls, OR.

The Tule Lake Unit contains three areas where Nikkei were incarcerated during World War II:

1) a portion of the Tule Lake Segregation Center (44 acres), 2) The Peninsula called "Castle Rock" (1,293 acres), and 3) Camp Tulelake (66 acres). The Tule Lake Segregation Center area is owned and administered by the National Park Service. The Peninsula and Camp Tulelake are owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and co-managed with the National Park Service.

## Sites of the Tule Lake Unit

① The **Tule Lake Segregation Center** area includes the original jail, stockade, and portions of the motor pool and post engineer's yard. These features retain historic integrity and

are essential for conveying the history of Tule Lake. This area is a National Historic Landmark and is owned and managed by the National Park Service.

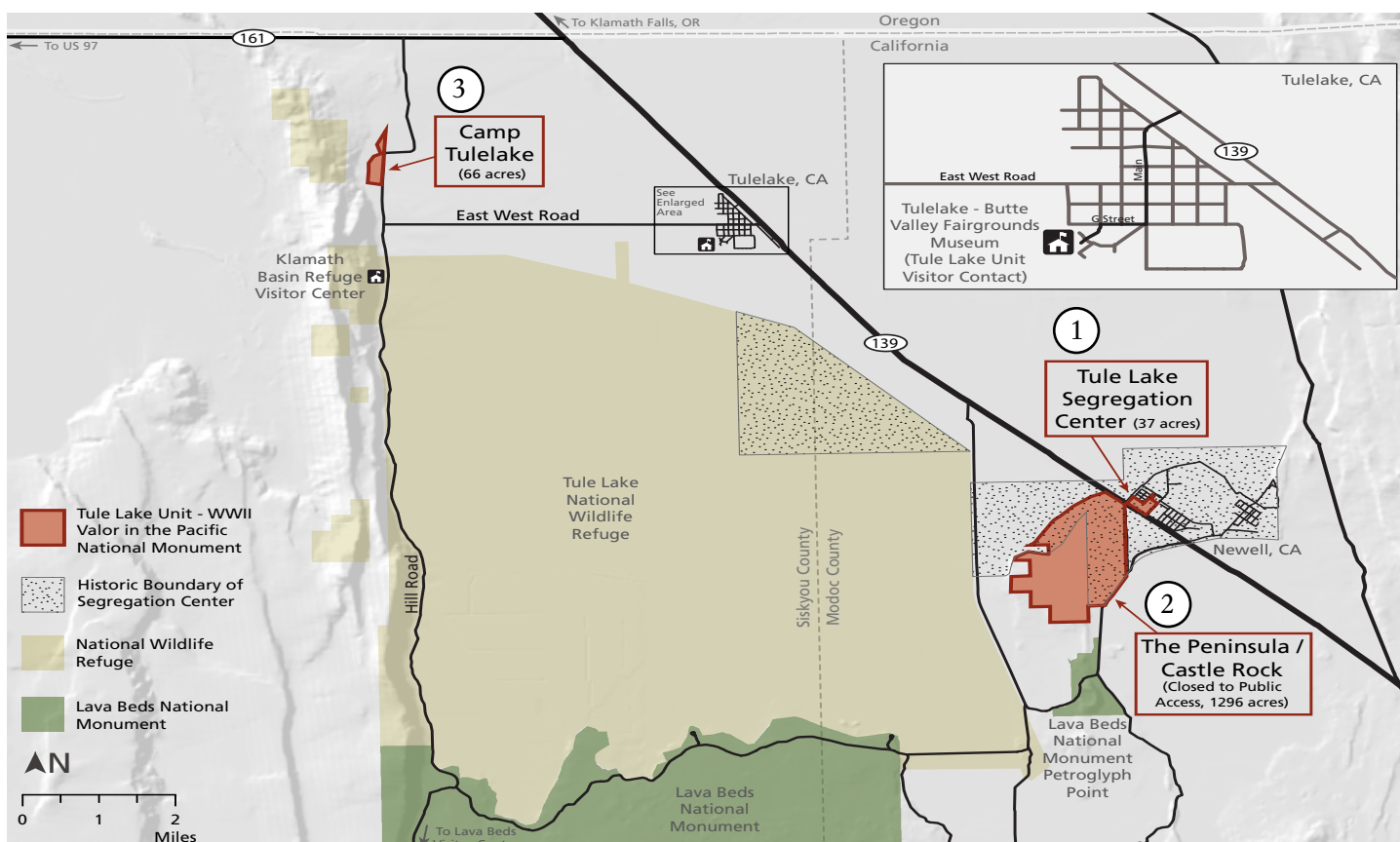
② The **Peninsula** was within the boundary of the historic Tule Lake Segregation Center. Originally an island in Tule Lake, it contains an 800 foot bluff called Castle Rock by

incarcerees. Atop Castle Rock is a replica of the cross that was placed there by Nikkei incarcerated at Tule Lake before it became a segregation center. The Peninsula is managed primarily for raptor and wildlife habitat. It is located in the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge and co-managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is closed to public access.

③ **Camp Tulelake** is a former Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp that was established in the 1930s. During World War II, after the CCC program ended, the camp was used to imprison over 100 Nikkei from Tule Lake who protested and refused to answer the loyalty questionnaire.

It was used again shortly after segregation to house Nikkei strikebreakers brought in from two other WRA camps to harvest the crops. The Tule Lake strikers had demanded better living and working conditions and refused to harvest.

Between 1944 and 1946 the camp housed German and Italian prisoners of war who worked as farm laborers in the Tule Lake Basin.





# Historical Background

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, which allowed the government to forcibly remove more than 110,000 Nikkei from their homes and communities. They were rounded up, transported, and imprisoned in remote areas under primitive and overcrowded conditions.

Tule Lake was one of the ten camps operated by the War Relocation Authority (WRA) from May 27, 1942 to March 20, 1946. It comprised 7,400 acres and contained over 1,700 structures. Tule Lake became the largest of the ten WRA camps, with a peak incarcerated population of 18,789 people, and a total of 29,840 individuals who were incarcerated at Tule Lake over the lifetime of the camp’s operation.

In 1943 the U.S. government developed a “loyalty” questionnaire that was administered to each incarcerated individual over the age of 17, whether born in the United States or Japan. Faced with difficult choices with unknown consequences, each individual’s responses to the loyalty

questionnaire were tempered by a variety of personal and cultural values and factors. Those who refused to answer the questionnaire or answered “no” to the loyalty questions were labeled “disloyal.” However, many of the so-called “disloyals” were protesting the injustice of their forced confinement and denial of civil liberties. At Tule Lake over 40% of respondents were labeled “disloyal,” the highest number of all the camps. As a result, Tule Lake was converted to a high-security “Segregation Center,” beginning on July 15, 1943. Of the ten WRA camps, Tule Lake was also the primary site where 6,000 Japanese Americans renounced their U.S. citizenship.

Tule Lake was the last WRA camp to close, remaining in operation seven months after World War II ended. The administration of the center was returned to the Bureau of Reclamation on May 5, 1946. The dismantling of the segregation center occurred quickly. Little formal preservation occurred on the site until the first organized pilgrimage to Tule Lake by Japanese American survivors and their

descendants in 1974. Thirty-seven acres of the Tule Lake Segregation Center were designated a California State Historical Landmark in 1972. In 1988, the Civil Liberties Act was passed in which the U.S. government formally apologized to each individual incarcerated during World War II. The Tule Lake Segregation Center was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006. Tule Lake survivors and their family members were ostracized and

stigmatized as being “disloyal” by the general public and within Japanese American communities long after World War II. Deep rifts continue today among individuals and organizations within the Japanese American community due to the loyalty questionnaire. There is strong consensus among scholars that Tule Lake’s history is the “untold story” of the incarceration during World War II.



Uichi Imoto Family. 1943. Photographer: R.H. Ross, WRA.

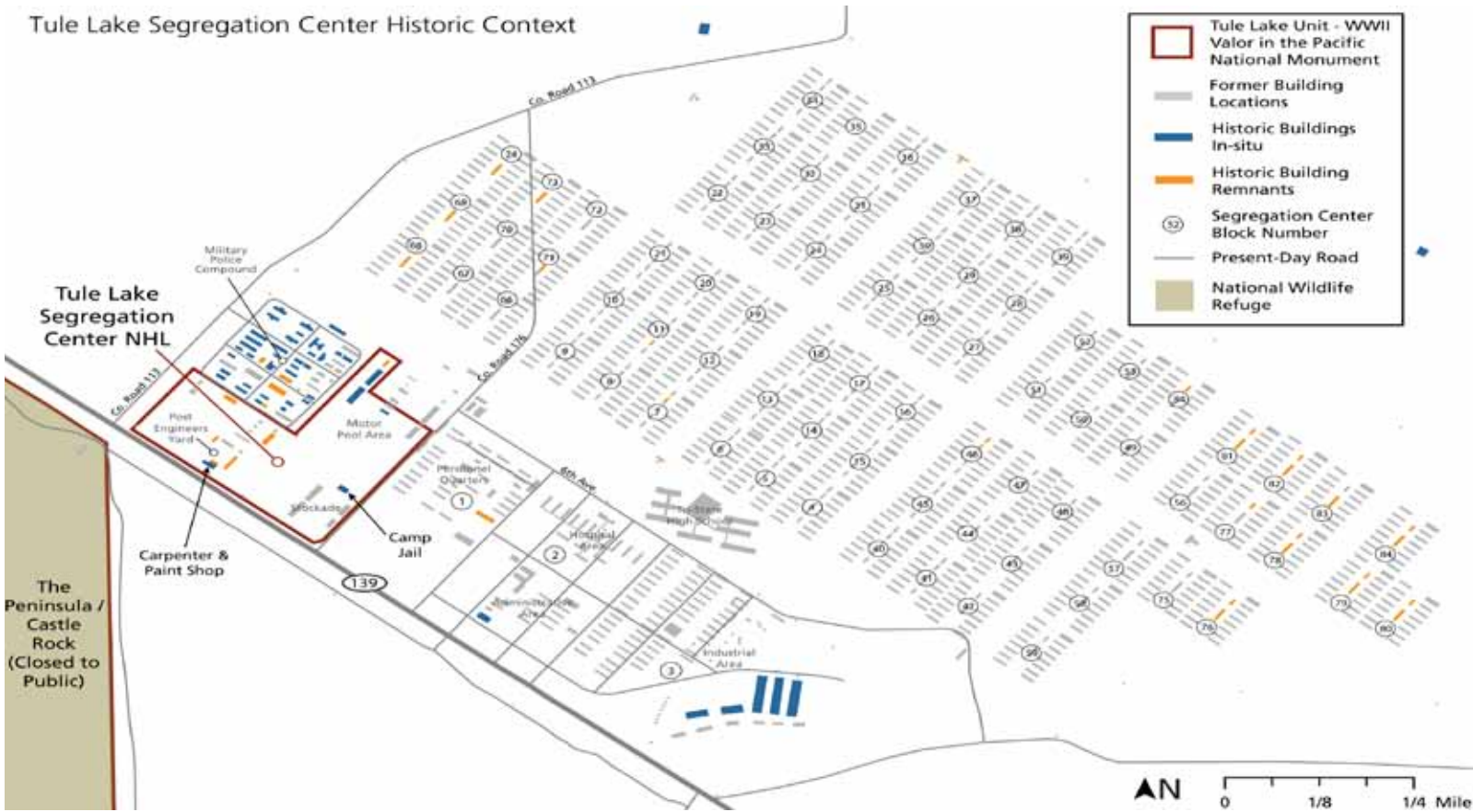
# Terminology

Relocated Residents or Prisoners? What words accurately describe the experience of persons of Japanese descent during World War II? Were Japanese Americans evacuated and

relocated and housed in protective custody, or forcibly removed from their homes and stripped of their freedom as prisoners in American-style gulags?

To inform site visitors and promote understanding of the way language has been used to represent, or misrepresent, the wartime experience of Japanese Americans, we invite you

to visit our website on the topic.  
<http://www.nps.gov/tule/forteachers/suggestedreading.htm>



What is a General Management Plan?

A general management plan (GMP) identifies the overall direction for the future management of a specific unit of the National Park System. GMPs are long-range, broad, conceptual plans, which answer the question, “What kind of place do we want this park unit to be?” A GMP guides managers in making decisions and represents an agreement with the American public about how the unit will be managed in the future.

The GMP for the Tule Lake Unit will describe the general path that the National Park Service (NPS) intends to follow in managing Tule Lake over the next 20 years. The plan will identify desired resource conditions and visitor experiences that would be appropriate for each area of the unit and strategies for achieving those conditions. It also may identify general locations for certain types of development, as well as areas where development would not be appropriate. The GMP will not resolve all the issues facing the unit, nor will it provide detailed facility designs or management actions, or guarantee funding.

The GMP considers the Tule Lake Unit as a part of larger cultural, ecological, and socioeconomic systems. This comprehensive approach includes coordination with Tule Lake’s living survivors,

affected and interested local and national communities, and adjacent public land managers and private landowners to ensure that the decisions made through this process are widely supported and sustained over time.

All concepts, strategies, and actions in a GMP must be consistent with the unit’s purpose and significance and the National Park Service’s Organic Act of 1916, providing for protection of the unit’s natural and cultural resources while inviting appropriate visitor use and enjoyment of the unit.

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and NPS policy, the GMP will include an environmental analysis document, which will either be an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. The GMP will include a reasonable range of management alternatives. An environmental review of the alternatives will analyze the consequences of each of the alternatives identified in the GMP. The environmental review will aid in the identification of the preferred alternative. The public will have the opportunity to review the draft GMP, which will include the preferred alternative. At the end of the planning process, the NPS will issue a final decision document and begin implementation.

Who Will Plan for Tule Lake’s Future?

Planning for the Tule Lake Unit will be conducted by a multidisciplinary team, including staff and planners from the National Park Service and subject matter experts. The team will consult with other knowledgeable people inside and outside the NPS and with the general public.

Public involvement throughout the planning process will play an essential role in the development of this general management plan. Concerns, expectations, and values of all interested individuals and entities will be seriously considered and reviewed for inclusion in the plan. It is likely that most of the ideas that compose the final plan will come directly from public comments.

We want your ideas!



Pilgrimage participants honor the people who were incarcerated at Tule Lake during World War II at the location of the historic cemetery. 2012. NPS Photo.

How Can I Be Involved in Planning for Tule Lake’s Future?

Your involvement in the planning process is critical for the successful completion of the GMP. There are two time periods when you can provide formal comments to the National Park Service; the first public comment period will end in October of 2013. Here are several ways for you to participate through this planning effort:

- Attend a public meeting in 2013 (Scoping) and in 2015 (Draft GMP)
- Access information about the GMP and provide your comments directly online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/tule>
- Sign up for the mailing list to receive publications about the GMP ( [www.nps.gov/tule/parkmgmt](http://www.nps.gov/tule/parkmgmt)). You can choose whether you’d like to receive paper newsletters sent to your mailing address or e-newsletters sent to your e-mail address.
- Complete and mail the response form included in this newsletter
- Send a letter to Mike Reynolds, Superintendent or e-mail your comments to [TULE\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:TULE_Superintendent@nps.gov)
- Telephone the Superintendent at (530) 667-8101

GMP Schedule		
Estimated Time Frame	Planning Activity	Public Involvement Opportunities
2013	Public Scoping—Identify concerns, expectations, values, and ideas related to Tule Lake  * We are currently on this step. See times and dates of meetings on the back page of this newsletter. Submit comments by <b>October 11, 2013</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meet the planning team</li><li>• Review the newsletter</li><li>• Participate in public meetings</li><li>• Send us your ideas and comments</li><li>• Read the summary of scoping comments which will be included in the next newsletter</li></ul>
2014	Preliminary Alternatives—Based on public scoping, develop different possible alternatives for the unit. Analyze impacts of the alternatives. Select a preferred alternative	
2015	Draft General Management plans detail different alternatives, the preferred alternative, and impacts that could result from implementing the alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review draft GMP and summary newsletter</li><li>• Participate in public meetings</li><li>• Send us your comments on the draft GMP</li></ul>
2016	Implement the Approved Plan—Prepare and issue a decision of No Significant Impact and implement the plan as funding allows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with the NPS to implement the plan</li></ul>



# Foundation for the General Management Plan

The general management plan will be based on a foundation for planning and management, called a foundation document. Development of the foundation is the first step in the planning process, which then guides the creation of the GMP. The foundation document comprises the following components and will be a chapter in the GMP:

- Park purpose (why the President established the park unit)
- Park significance statements (why the unit is important within a global, national, regional, and system-wide context)
- Primary interpretive themes (statements that best summarize and describe the key stories of the park unit)
- Fundamental resources and values (the tangible resources and intangible qualities that are critical to achieving the purpose and maintaining significance)

The following purpose, significance, and interpretive themes are in draft form. They were developed by NPS staff, scholars, and several Tule Lake subject matter experts. Please review these statements and provide any suggested revisions, changes, or additions. The full draft foundation document can be accessed at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/tule>.

## Park Purpose

The purpose of the Tule Lake Unit, a part of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, is to preserve, study, and interpret the history and setting of the incarceration and later segregation of Nikkei at Tule Lake during World War II.

**Nikkei : U.S. citizens of Japanese descent and resident immigrants of Japanese ancestry ineligible for American citizenship.**

## Park Significance

### Injustice

The Tule Lake experience represents the injustice of uprooting and imprisoning 110,000 Nikkei by presidential order during World War II. The Tule Lake Unit illustrates the violation of human, civil, and constitutional rights and hardships suffered from forced removal and incarceration. The unit offers a compelling venue for engaging in a dialogue concerning racism and discrimination, war hysteria, failure of political leadership, and the fragility of democracy in times of crisis.

### Loyal or Disloyal

The Tule Lake Unit explores the issues of loyalty and disloyalty in the context of a chaotic and unjust incarceration. The government segregated persons it deemed “disloyal” and subjected them to special hardships that define the Tule Lake experience. Being labeled “disloyal,” stigmatized individuals, families, and their descendants and had long lasting impacts in the Nikkei community.

### Renunciation

The Tule Lake Unit preserves the primary site where almost 6,000 Japanese Americans renounced their U.S. citizenship and examines the context and reasons for their renunciation. The mass renunciation at Tule Lake was the largest renunciation of citizenship in U.S. history.

### Relevancy

The Tule Lake Unit provides opportunities for our nation to examine the history of incarceration during World War II and its lessons for upholding constitutional and human rights.

### Stories and Perspectives

The Tule Lake Unit preserves a mosaic of stories related to Tule Lake War Relocation Center, Tule Lake Segregation Center, and Camp Tulelake told from multiple perspectives.

### Individuals and Communities

The Tule Lake Unit recognizes and interprets the diverse experiences of individuals and communities affected by Tule Lake, including Nikkei incarcerated at Tule Lake, civilian and military personnel who worked at Tule Lake, area residents, and many more people throughout the U.S. and abroad.

### Segregation Center

The Tule Lake Unit preserves the site of the only War Relocation Authority center that was converted to a high security segregation center. After segregation, it became the most populated and militarized of the 10 WRA camps. Tule Lake may be the best example of what President Roosevelt called concentration camps in the United States during World War II.

### Historic Setting and Resources

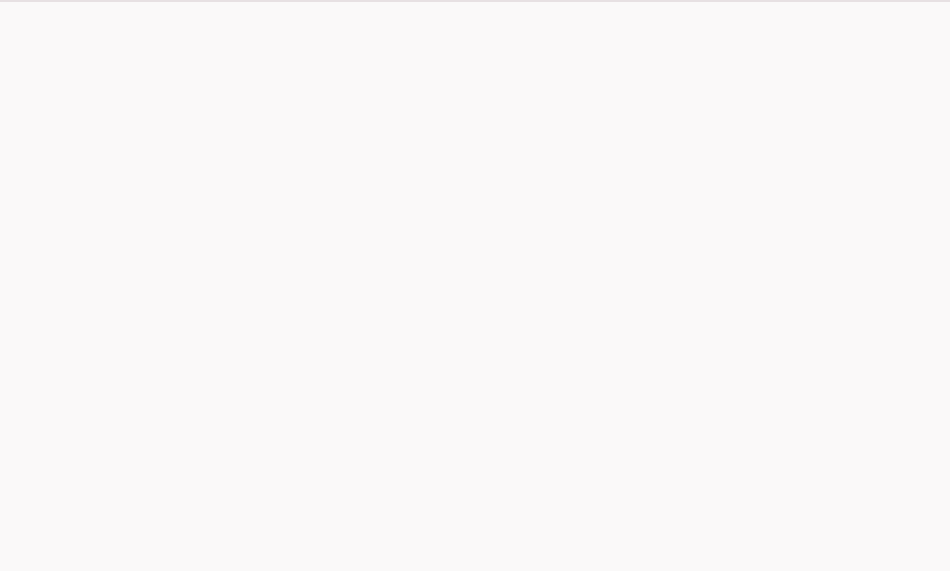
The Tule Lake Basin, including the Tule Lake Segregation Center National Historic Landmark and Camp Tulelake, contains the largest and most diverse collection of buildings and features associated with the incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. The Tule Lake Unit promotes the preservation of the historic fabric and landscape, which provide a greater understanding for present and future generations.

### Tule Lake Landscape

The Tule Lake Segregation Center was set within a remote and unfamiliar setting, and surrounded by distinct land forms and vistas. These environmental conditions contributed to an atmosphere of isolation and harsh living conditions for Nikkei at Tule Lake.

### World War II

The Tule Lake Unit represents a controversial and significant part of the events that took place on the American home front during World War II.



Prisoners resting in the crowded jail. Series of photos stamped with “departure of 200 for Santa Fe.” June 24, 1945. Photographer: R.H. Ross, WRA.



Border guards and WRA wardens remove prisoners from the jail. 1944–1946. Photographer: R.H. Ross, WRA.

# Primary Interpretive Themes

## Injustice

The mass incarceration of Nikkei during World War II resulted from a complex mix of economic, political, and social factors, fueled by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria and a failure of political leadership.

Potential topics to be explored within this theme:

- Racism and prejudice in the pre-war era, including laws, policies, sociopolitical and economic conditions, and their impacts on Nikkei and Asian American communities on the West Coast
- The immediate days and aftermath of Pearl Harbor, including the roundup of Issei (immigrant generation), and a series of government curfews and mandates directed at Nikkei
- Nationwide confusion and fear and the role of mass media and government actions in fomenting wartime hysteria
- Ethnicity and citizenship and the lack of distinctions made by most Americans between Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans
- The few courageous individuals who supported the Japanese American community with acts of good conscience
- Executive Order 9066 and the hasty uprooting of Nikkei from their communities into assembly centers
- Exploitation of Japanese Americans for personal, political, or economic gain
- Sudden and dramatic loss of freedoms, economic livelihoods, and personal dignity experienced by Nikkei
- The temporary detention centers including the mass uprooting of Nikkei, operation of these centers, and move to the WRA camps
- The failure of government officials at all levels to protect the civil rights of Japanese Americans

## Tule Lake War Relocation Center to Segregation Center

Tule Lake was the only War Relocation Authority camp that was converted to a high security segregation center. After segregation, it became the most populated and militarized of the 10 WRA camps.

Potential topics to be explored within this theme:

- Selection and construction of the Tule Lake War Relocation Center in the Tule Lake Basin
- Design and layout of the camp, including barracks, blocks, schools, administration areas, farm areas, military police areas, the stockade, guard towers, and fences
- Conditions and operation of Tule Lake as one of ten WRA centers in the first half of Tule Lake’s history
- The location, environmental conditions, and geologic and landscape features surrounding the camp that created a sense of imprisonment and isolation
- Daily life in camp, including cramped conditions and communal living, and its effects on individuals, families, and communities
- Government and Nikkei roles and jobs in camp, including farming, teaching, administration, and security
- Circumstances leading to Tule Lake having the highest number of “no, no’s” or “disloyals” of the ten WRA centers, and reasons for Tule Lake’s conversion to a segregation center
- The movement of thousands of people to and from Tule Lake to other centers and Tule Lake’s linkages to all of the camps
- The dramatic changes in social climate and security build-up after conversion
- Tule Lake inmates’ mistreatment of each other within the camp, including threats, intimidation, and physical force
- The strikes, demonstrations, shootings, beatings, and riots
- The use of the stockade and jail to hold prisoners in administrative detention without hearings
- The imposition of martial law and its effects on all individuals within the camp
- The layers and roles of government agencies and control, including the War Relocation Authority, Army, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Federal Bureau of Investigations, and Justice Department
- The aftermath of the Tule Lake Segregation Center and the social and economic development of a homesteading community in the Tule Lake Basin

## Stories and Perspectives, Individuals and Communities

The Tule Lake Unit preserves the mosaic of stories about life at Tule Lake War Relocation Center, Tule Lake Segregation Center, and Camp Tulelake told from multiple perspectives. The operation of these camps subjected individuals, families, and communities to short- and long-term impacts.

Potential topics to be explored within this theme:

- The profound emotional, psychological, physical, economic, financial, and social hardships that were inflicted upon Japanese Americans and their lasting impacts
- Nikkei families torn apart, physically, spiritually, culturally, and emotionally
- Cultural values and practices, both Japanese and American, were employed to deal with trying experiences
- The generational divide and the differences in generational responses
- The experiences of people, called “Old Tuleans” who answered “yes, yes” but chose to stay at Tule Lake
- WRA staff experiences of living in and operating the camp
- Conditions of and relations among Nikkei, WRA staff, military police, army personnel, and local residents and each group’s perception of the other
- Military Police and Army personnel’s experiences guarding the camp and trying to maintain order
- Local residents’ experiences and perceptions of the construction, operation, and dismantling of the camp
- The social, cultural, and economic divisions between people living on either side of the fence
- How Camp Tulelake represents national movements, wartime policies, and international agreements on a local scale during the Great Depression and World War II
- How Nikkei strikebreakers from other WRA centers were housed at Camp Tulelake to provide farm labor in 1943
- How Camp Tulelake was upgraded by Italian prisoners-of-war, and eventually housed 800 German prisoners-of-war who provided farm labor from 1944 to 1946
- The differences in government and local residents’ treatment of the European prisoners-of-war at Camp Tulelake and Nikkei at the Tule Lake Segregation Center



National Historic Landmark plaque. 2012. NPS Photo.



## “Loyal” or “Disloyal”

The loyalty questionnaire subjected individuals and families to difficult and unfair decisions about citizenship and national allegiance and instigated many acts of sacrifice and patriotism. Peoples’ rationales for their responses to the loyalty questionnaire varied widely, and the results of their decisions had lasting personal and social impacts. During and after the incarceration, many people questioned the meaning and value of constitutional rights, loyalty, cultural pride, honor, and disgrace.

### Potential topics to be explored within this theme:

- How the government segregated persons it deemed “disloyal” and subjected them to special hardships that define the Tule Lake experience
- The purpose and administration of the deeply flawed loyalty questionnaire and its many unforeseen consequences
- How people were forced to choose allegiance between countries
- The complexities and cultural dynamics of answering the questionnaire depending on citizenship status, family allegiance, religious affiliation, and social pressures from pro-America and pro-Japan organizations
- The segregation of over 100 Nikkei men who refused to answer the loyalty questionnaire and were segregated to Camp Tulelake for several months in 1943
- The rise of pro-Japan cultural and political organizations at Tule Lake, including the Hoshi Dan
- The patriotism and heroism of those serving in the armed forces while families endured incarceration at home
- Japanese Americans served in the Army’s 100th and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps
- After World War II, many Nikkei attempted to “Americanize” and distance themselves from their Japanese heritage because of the shame they felt from their incarceration experiences
- Perception and misconceptions about those who were labeled “disloyal”

## Renunciation

The decision of nearly 6,000 Japanese Americans to renounce their U.S. citizenship resulted from a storm of government policies, community pressures, and personal fears that brewed in the Tule Lake Segregation Center and continue to challenge our understanding of what it means to be a U.S. citizen today.

### Potential topics to be explored within this theme:

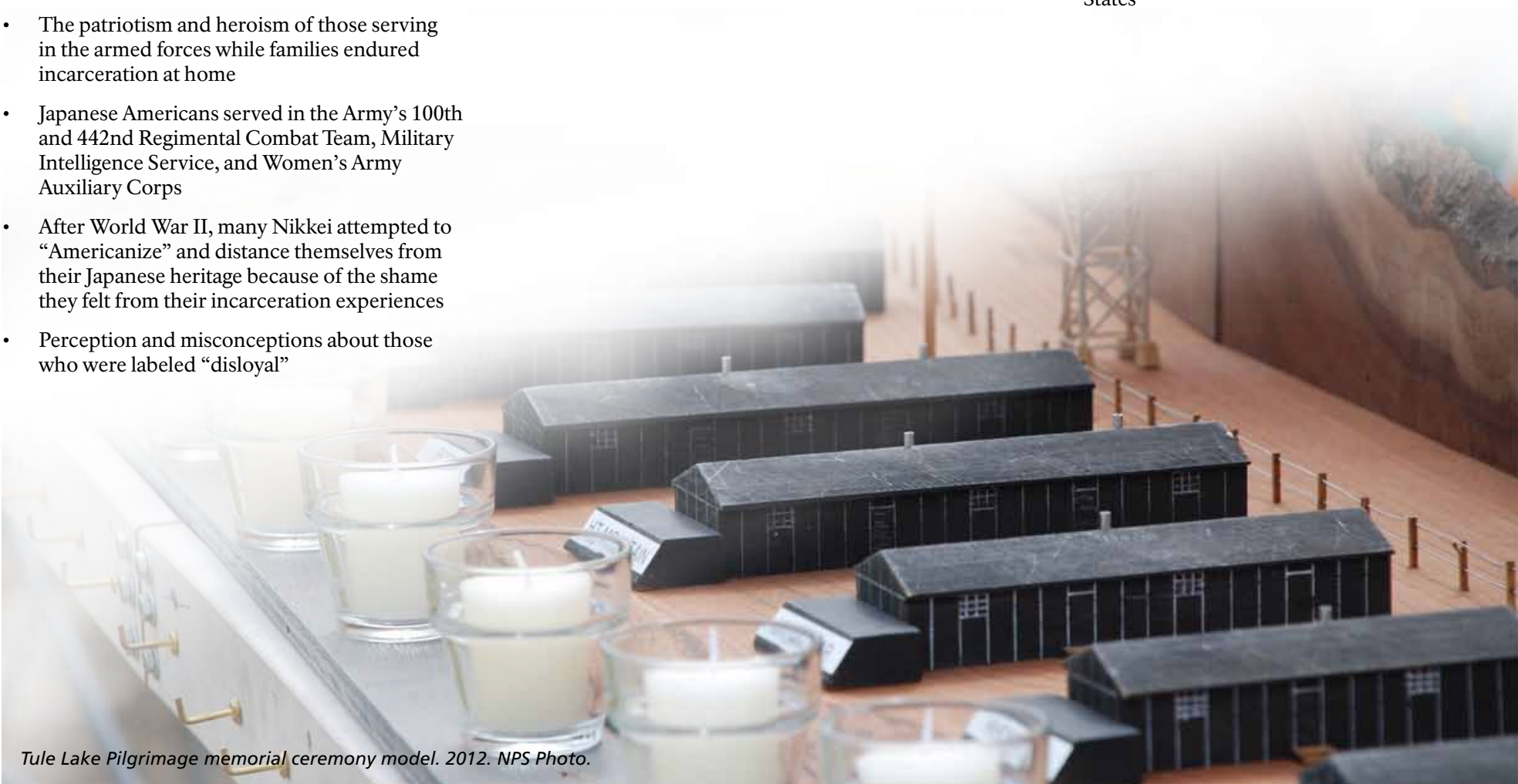
- The passage and purposes of Public Law 405, signed by President Roosevelt in 1944, allowing for the renunciation of citizenship during wartime
- The reasons for and rise of pro-Japan cultural and political organizations in Tule Lake and their effect on the social climate and conditions at Tule Lake Segregation Center
- The mass renunciation events, called “purges”
- The government role in administering renunciation and mistreatment of renunciants within the center and stockade
- The wide range of motivations and rationales for renunciation made under duress
- Renunciants’ departure from Tule Lake Segregation Center to the Department of Justice camps
- Individuals, including renunciants and Japanese legal resident aliens, who requested repatriation to Japan
- The story of Wayne Collins and his decades- long battle to restore citizenship to the renunciants

## Relevancy

The Tule Lake Unit acts as a forum for discussing the meaning of citizenship and justice in the United States. The Tule Lake Unit illustrates the need to be ever diligent in the protection of human and constitutional rights for all Americans.

### Potential topics to be explored within this theme:

- How wartime events were a defining experience for Japanese Americans and continue to impact succeeding generations
- The redress movement and its significance for the recognition of an injustice, and the ongoing need to protect civil rights and liberties for all
- Tule Lake’s history since the 1970s, which has been characterized by the grassroots struggle of Japanese Americans and others to preserve the place, its stories, and its lessons
- The preservation and interpretation of Tule Lake in the context of other American incarceration sites
- Ethnic and racial profiling today
- The role of euphemistic language and propaganda in the context of the incarceration of Nikkei during World War II
- The recognition of parallels between the treatment of Nikkei during WWII and the experiences of Arab and Muslim Americans in the aftermath of September 11, 2001
- Questions about the possibility of whether a similar event could occur again in the United States



Tule Lake Pilgrimage memorial ceremony model. 2012. NPS Photo.



# What Issues Should Be Addressed in a Plan for Tule Lake’s Future?

The Tule Lake Unit faces imminent and significant challenges. The management guidance provided in the GMP will address some of the issues listed below. Because the general management plan is a long-range vision for the unit, the issues are broad and conceptual. It is important that you provide your thoughts and concerns about issues that should be addressed in the plan.

### Resources

The GMP will address the Tule Lake Unit’s lack of direction for the management of its resources, including oral histories, historic structures, and historic features, some of which are highly vulnerable to loss.

### Public Interest about Tule Lake

Opening of a national dialogue about Tule Lake is needed. The NPS will engage the public in a discussion about Tule Lake’s significance, what sets it apart from the other incarceration sites, and how it can be interpreted to the public.

### Partnerships and Interagency Coordination

Because the Tule Lake Unit is officially managed by two federal agencies (National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service) and many of its fundamental resources and values are held by multiple stakeholders, the GMP will define the coordination and partnerships that are especially critical to the proper management of the unit.

### Visitor Experience and Use

Currently, NPS staff provide limited interpretation about Tule Lake history at the Tulelake Fairgrounds, and only on a seasonal basis. Visitors can only learn about Tule Lake when NPS staff are available. A long-term vision is needed to identify where interpretation and interpretive staff will be located as it relates to the Tule Lake visitor experience.

### Interpretation and Education

The Tule Lake Unit is often described as the untold story of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. It is widely accepted that there is a dearth of scholarly work on Tule Lake because of its highly complex and contested history. The NPS will work to sensitively and accurately tell the stories related to Tule Lake.

### Site Planning, Access, Facilities, and Development

The three areas of the Tule Lake Unit are geographically dispersed and discontinuous. Currently, most of the unit is inaccessible to the public. The NPS needs to determine appropriate levels and general locations for visitor and operational facilities.

### Operations and Staffing

Operation of the Tule Lake Unit is hindered by limited funding and staffing. In addition, confusion exists surrounding the unit’s inclusion within the larger World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument and management by Lava Beds National Monument.

### Boundaries, Adjacent Lands and Local Community

Important historic resources within the Tule Lake Unit can only be accessed by crossing private property, creating a myriad of boundary, rights-of-way, and access issues. Other significant resources are located outside of the unit boundaries, including residential and operational areas with intact historic resources. Some of the historic resources have been offered to the NPS, and GMP planning can address the types of resources and lands that are appropriate for NPS management or partnership opportunities.



Walking toward the stockade and historic jail. 2011. NPS Photo.



## How Do I Learn More about Tule Lake?

The National Park Service maintains the following websites on Tule Lake:

Tule Lake Unit: [www.nps.gov/tule](http://www.nps.gov/tule)  
Planning: [www.parkplanning.nps.gov/tule](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/tule)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TuleLakeNPS](http://www.facebook.com/TuleLakeNPS)  
Twitter: [@TuleLakeNPS](https://twitter.com/TuleLakeNPS)

Several organizations offer educational and historical information about Tule Lake:

Tule Lake Committee: [www.tulelake.org](http://www.tulelake.org)  
Densho Project: [www.densho.org](http://www.densho.org)  
National Japanese American Historical Society: [www.njahs.org](http://www.njahs.org)  
Japanese American National Museum: [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org)

## What's Happening at Tule Lake?

Since the designation of the Tule Lake Unit on December 5, 2008, the National Park Service staff based at Lava Beds National Monument and in the Pacific West Region has been working to establish the unit. This includes offering interpretive programs, providing emergency stabilization of historic buildings, and preparing for this large-scale planning effort.

In 2012 the Tule Lake Unit received funding to begin operations for the unit. While there is not enough funding to meet all of the needs of the unit, the funding has enabled the National Park Service to hire seasonal employees and conduct baseline information gathering.

In 2012 the National Park Service held a series of meetings with people who have close connections to Tule Lake. These people included Tule Lake survivors, their descendants, representatives of Japanese American organizations, historic preservation organizations, and local stakeholders. The purpose of these meetings was to begin the process of communicating with the public about Tule Lake and informing them of the larger planning process that would be occurring in 2013.

The results of these meetings and internal planning work resulted in the *Tule Lake Unit Five Year Strategic Plan*. This plan provides immediate direction for establishing a foundation for operations and management while a general management plan is developed through extensive public involvement. It is available on the web at [www.parkplanning.nps.gov/tule](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/tule).

At present, the National Park Service has initiated several projects that focus on saving resources, inventorying existing data, and providing limited visitor access to and interpretation of the Tule Lake Unit sites. The projects include oral history gathering and organization, limited curation of historic artifacts, stabilization of Camp Tulelake structures, restoration of the jail, site tours, historic research, waysides, emergency structural safety projects, assistance to partners involved in historic preservation, and public education projects about Tule Lake.

In April 2013, the National Park Service announced three grants totaling \$390,000 to preserve and interpret the history of Tule Lake. The Tule Lake Committee received \$192,000 for preparation to restore the Tule Lake Segregation Center jail. The National Japanese American Historical Society received \$74,000 for educating teachers about Tule Lake. The ORE-CAL Resource Conservation and Development Area Council received \$124,000 for an art-based travelling exhibit focusing on Tule Lake.



Historic entrance gate in winter. 2012. NPS Photo.

## How Do I Visit Tule Lake?

Guided tours of the Tule Lake Segregation Center area and Camp Tulelake are offered by National Park Service during the summer and by request during the remainder of the year. These areas are closed to public access during all other times. The Peninsula is closed to public access, except by pre-arrangement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A temporary visitor center is located at the Tulelake Fairgrounds at 800 Main St. in Tulelake, CA. The temporary visitor center is staffed Memorial Day–Labor Day from 8:30am–5:00pm. Tours are offered on Saturdays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The 1:00pm tour is of the Tule Lake Segregation Center and Camp Tule Lake. All tours begin at the visitor center.

For more information about tours, including tours offered during the winter, contact the park at (530) 667-8113.



Newsreel cameramen and newspaper cameramen. May 26, 1943. WRA Photo.

## Preserving the History of Japanese Americans during World War II

Three of the ten War Relocation Authority centers are units of the National Park System. Manzanar National Historic Site is located in the Owen's Valley in California and Minidoka National Historic Site is located in south central Idaho. In addition, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial called Nidoto Nai Yoni, is a unit of Minidoka National Historic Site.

The National Park Service administers the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program that provides matching funding for the preservation and interpretation of U.S. confinement sites where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. Since 2009, the program has awarded 93 grants totaling over \$11 million to private nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, state, local, and tribal governments, and other public entities.

The National Park Service was directed by Congress to conduct a special resource study of internment sites in Hawai'i. The ongoing study is focused on the Honouliuli Camp on the island of O'ahu and other associated sites throughout the state. The study will evaluate whether the sites are eligible and suitable to be designated as national park units.

In addition, the National Park Service has been engaged in documenting the incarceration sites and providing technical assistance to support preservation and interpretation efforts. This includes archeological documentation in the award-winning National Park Service study *Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites* and the *Japanese Americans in World War II National Historic Landmarks Theme Study*.



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Pacific West Region  
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## Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument

General Management Plan  
Newsletter # 1 Public Scoping, Summer 2013



## You’re Invited to a Workshop!

Come and meet the planning team, learn more about the general management plan and the planning process, and most importantly, discuss your ideas and concerns for the future of Tule Lake. Please attend one or more of these workshops. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

### Tulelake, CA

Tuesday, June 18, 6–8pm  
Tulelake High School  
850 Main Street

### Klamath Falls, OR

Wednesday, June 19, 6–8pm  
Ross Ragland Cultural Center  
218 North 7th Street

### Portland, OR

Monday, July 1, 6–8pm  
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center  
121 Northwest 2nd Avenue

### Hood River, OR

Tuesday, July 2, 10:30–12:30pm  
Hood River Public Library  
502 West State Street

### Auburn, WA

Tuesday, July 2, 6–8pm  
White River Valley Museum  
918 H Street Southeast

### Seattle, WA

Wednesday, July 3, 4–6pm  
Japanese Community  
Cultural Center  
1414 South Weller Street

### Seattle, WA

Friday, July 5, 10am–12pm  
Speaking Up! Democracy,  
Justice, Dignity Conference  
Sheraton Seattle Hotel  
1400 Sixth Avenue

### Los Angeles, CA

Wednesday, July 24, 6–8pm  
Japanese American Cultural  
& Community Center  
244 South San Pedro Street,  
Suite 505

### Carson, CA

Thursday, July 25, 10am–12pm  
California State University,  
Dominguez Hills  
University Library, South Wing  
1000 East Victoria Street

### San Diego, CA

Friday, July 26, 10am–12pm  
Thornton Theatre San Diego  
History Center  
1649 El Prado

### Los Angeles, CA

Saturday, July 27, 10am–12pm  
Japanese American Cultural  
& Community Center  
244 South San Pedro Street,  
Suite 505

### Virtual Meeting\*

Thursday, September 5,  
10am–12pm

### Sacramento, CA

Tuesday, September 17, 6–8pm  
Sierra II Center  
2791 24th Street

### Berkeley, CA

Wednesday, September 18, 6–8pm  
David Brower Center  
2150 Allston Way

### San Francisco, CA

Thursday, September 19,  
10am–12pm  
Japanese American Com-  
munity Cultural Center of  
Northern California  
1840 Sutter Street

### San Jose, CA

Thursday, September 19, 6–8pm  
Japanese American Museum  
of San Jose  
535 North 5th Street

### Virtual Meeting\*

Tuesday, September 24, 3–5pm

\*Virtual meeting web access  
information will be posted  
on the Tule Lake websites,  
Facebook page, and widely  
announced throughout the  
local areas.

Visit: [www.nps.gov/tule/parkmgmt](http://www.nps.gov/tule/parkmgmt) to sign up for the mailing list and receive electronic updates



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## Next Steps

After receiving public and partner comments and ideas, the next step will be to analyze the comments received, which will be distributed in a newsletter.

The comments will then provide valuable information for the development of possible visions for the future (called alternatives). Evaluating a set of alternatives enables us to compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of one course of action over another and provides a sound approach to decision making, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.