National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

> Minidoka Internment National Monument P.O. Box 570 Hagerman, Idaho 83332-0570

Prepared by: National Park Service Pacific West Region Park Planning and Compliance Office 909 1st Avenue Seattle, WA 98104

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June 2005

Minidoka Internment National Monument



Minidoka Internment National Monument

Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

June 2005



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



A sthe nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

D2 / June 2005

Letter from the Dear Reader, Superintendent It is with great National More

It is with great pleasure that the National Park Service submits to you for review and comment, the *Draft Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. This draft plan presents the proposed management actions for approximately 73 acres of the former Minidoka Relocation Center. As a new park unit, Minidoka Internment National Monument's long-term management and development will be guided by this plan over the next 15-20 years.

This document describes four different alternative strategies for protecting, developing, and managing the Minidoka Internment National Monument. Alternative C has been proposed as the National Park Service's preferred alternative, and this set of actions and programs is intended to become the General Management Plan for the Minidoka Internment National Monument. This document also contains an analysis of the impacts and consequences of implementing each of these alternative strategies. In addition to the planning sections, this document contains a summary of the history of Minidoka and descriptions of the national monument's resources.

Your involvement in the planning process over the past two years has been a critical asset in the creation of this document and the various management strategies. You'll find that many of your ideas from the public workshops and your written comments are represented in the management alternatives and in the National Park Service's preferred alternative for Minidoka. The most common issue that you identified is education and interpretation, and how this important chapter of American history is directly linked to constitutional rights and civil liberties. This document details both the significance of Minidoka and the interpretive themes that will guide the interpretive programs for Minidoka. The preferred alternative has been carefully crafted to address the overwhelming concerns expressed by the majority of comments regarding the need to interpret 'barracks life', and the necessity to address issues with vehicle traffic on Hunt Road.

The preferred alternative makes recommendations about land acquisition and expansion of the national monument's boundaries. The proposed acquisition of 12 acres of Bureau of Reclamation land is essential for operations. The proposed expansion of 128 acres just north of the existing national monument boundary is critical to acquire a barracks block site, which is necessary to carry out the national monument's mandate of telling the full story of the internment and incarceration of Japanese Americans at Minidoka. This proposed expansion also provides the best options to address concerns that impact local life styles and the national monument's neighbors and their living conditions.

I am confident that the preferred alternative provides the best choices for the long term success of the national monument.

Please read this document and provide your comments to the National Park Service. The "How to Use this Document" section provides instructions about how to comment on this document. Your involvement will assist the National Park Service to achieve its mission at Minidoka.

Six gun salute by the Wendell Veterans of Foreign Wars during the Minidoka Pilgrimage. June 2004. Courtesy of Cliff and Jean Dickey ©

Sincerely,

Neil King Superintendent Minidoka Internment National Monument

Rock arrangement by Fujitaro Kubota in the entrance garden area. 2003. NPS Photo.

Minidoka Internment National Monument

DRAFT General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Contact Person: Neil King, Superintendent Minidoka Internment National Monument P.O. Box 570 Hagerman, Idaho 83332-0570 (208)837-4793

Prepared by: U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service Pacific West Region Park Planning and Compliance Division-Seattle 909 First Avenue Seattle, Washington 98104

COVER: Former internees, their family members, and friends each hung a crane under the umbrella as a remembrance of those who were incarcerated at Minidoka during World War II. May Namba, a former Minidoka internee, folded each crane. She stated that the tattered umbrella represents the hardships that were caused by the incarceration experience. The cranes symbolize the internees, their struggles during World War II, and their ability to finally fly away from the situation to find peace and freedom. The umbrella and cranes were left at the national monument by the Minidoka Pilgrimage. June 2004. Courtesy of Cliff and Jean Dickey ©





Abstract

Minidoka Internment National Monument was established on January 17, 2001 (Presidential Proclamation 7395). The national monument encompasses 72.75 acres of the original Minidoka Relocation Center that incarcerated Japanese Americans from the Northwest during World War II. As a new unit of the National Park System and to comply with the Proclamation 7395, the National Park Service (NPS) is required to develop a general management plan for the national monument. The general management plan outlines how the national monument will be developed and managed over the next 15-20 years.

This document examines four possible management strategies, called "alternatives," and the impacts of implementing these alternatives on the national monument. These alternatives address NPS planning requirements and respond to issues identified over the past three years. One of these alternatives, Alternatives C, constitutes the Preferred Alternative by the NPS.

Alternative A: No Action. This alternative describes the existing management of the national monument and serves as a basis for comparing the other alternatives.

Alternative B: Emphasis on outreach, off-site education, resource protection, and minimal new development. Educational and interpretive programs and facilities would be focused off-site in major metropolitan areas along the West Coast. Onsite actions would include the adaptive reuse of historic buildings for visitor and park functions. Key historic features would be delineated, rehabilitated, restored, or reconstructed. There would be minimal new development.

Alternative C: (Preferred Alternative) Emphasis on on-site education and interpretation, and cultural resource protection through rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. The preferred alternative would require congressional legislation to authorize a boundary expansion to relocate a complete residential block to an original location, to administratively transfer the camp's original landfill from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the NPS, and to change the name from *Minidoka Internment National Monument* to *Minidoka National Historic Site*. The residential block would be the cornerstone of interpretive services and facilities. Alternative C would use a variety of preservation techniques, such as delineation, stabilization, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction, to protect and enhance historic resources. Off-site visitor education and interpretation would be conducted through a diversity of comprehensive programs developed in cooperation with partners, including school districts, museums, and educational and legacy organizations and institutions.

Alternative D: Emphasis on on-site education and interpretation through new facilities. The adjacent 9-acre BOR property would be used to develop a new national monument visitor center, education and research facilities, and a new memorial and garden. The NPS would require congressional legislation to administratively transfer the camp's original landfill from the BLM to the NPS and to change the name to *Minidoka National Historic Site*. Alternative D would also use a variety of preservation techniques to protect and enhance historic resources. This alternative would establish formal partnerships for off-site education and outreach programs. Alternative D would be the most expensive alternative to implement.

Internees of Block 7. 1943. Permission of the University of Washington. The public's comments on the Preferred Alternative will assist the NPS in further defining the direction and future of Minidoka. If approved, the preferred alternative will become the general management plan for the national monument. Please refer to the "How to Use this Document" on the following page for comment procedures and addresses.

Placing cranes on the umbrella during the Minidoka Pilgrimage, June 2004, NPS Photo.

How To Use This Document

This Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement is presented in 6 chapters and appendices. The Summary at the beginning of the document provides a condensed version of this document. Chapter 1 sets the stage for the Draft GMP/EIS by describing the history of the internment and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. It also provides the national monument's purpose, significance, interpretive themes and desired future conditions that were developed with public involvement during the three year planning process. Chapter 2 describes the purpose and need for this GMP/EIS. Chapter3 outlines the environment, which could be affected by the decisions contained in the individual management alternatives. Chapter 4 describes four management alternatives including the NPS's preferred alternative. The alternatives represent reasonable sets of management decision that are considered and evaluated in the EIS. Chapter 5 describes the impacts of each alternative on resources. Chapter 6 summarizes public involvement and the consultation process that was an integral part to the creation of this Draft GMP/EIS. Chapter 6 also includes summaries of public comments received by the NPS. The appendices provide more detailed information, including a glossary, which some readers may find helpful when reviewing the main text of the document.

How to Comment on this Document

The public comment period for this Draft GMP/EIS will extend through **September 17, 2005**. We encourage you to review the document and welcome your comments. During the comment period, comments may be submitted using several methods:

A **postage paid comment response form** is included in the General Management Plan Newsletter Number 4: Draft GMP/EIS. You may use this form and attach additional pages as necessary. You can also send a letter to:

Minidoka Internment National Monument P.O. Box 570 Hagerman, Idaho 98882-0570

Submit comments online at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/miin or MIIN_GMP@nps.gov

Finally, comments may be made in person at one of the public workshops that will be conducted in Eden, Idaho: Twin Falls, Idaho; Ontario, Oregon; Bainbridge Island, Washington; Seattle, Washington; and Portland, Oregon. The specific dates and times for these workshops will be announced in local newspapers, in the General Management Plan Newsletter Number 4, and online at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/miin

A limited number of additional copies of this report are available from the address above. In addition, this Draft GMP/EIS is posted on the internet at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/miin

Your comments and contributions have been an invaluable component of this planning process so far, and we look forward to your comments on this Draft GMP/EIS.

Please keep in mind that your comments are public information. If individuals submitting comments request that their names and/or addresses be withheld from public disclosure, this will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently at the beginning of the correspondence and comments. As always, NPS will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Anonymous comments may not be considered.



Summary

Minidoka Internment National Monument was designated the 385th unit of the national park system by presidential proclamation on January 17, 2001. Minidoka Internment National Monument, hereafter referred to as the national monument, was established to preserve the historic features and interpret the history of the former Minidoka Relocation Center, which held 13,000 Nikkei (Japanese American citizens and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry) from Washington, Oregon, and Alaska during World War II. The national monument contains 72.75 acres of the 33,000-acre historic camp.

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m M}$ inidoka Internment National Monument is a nationally significant site related to human and civil rights and American history. Minidoka's unique resources are the thousands of diverse individual stories from people throughout the United States who were forever changed by their experiences at Minidoka. The site still evokes vivid memories and strong emotions from Nikkei who were incarcerated there some 60 years ago. Today, these personal stories present a mosaic of perspectives as to how this stark chapter of American history relates to current events, civil and Constitutional rights, and American ethnic issues. For Nikkei at Minidoka and the other War Relocation Authority (WRA) Centers, the internment and incarceration was the central event in their community's history; however, the experiences of injustice, hardship, and endurance illustrate an American story common among millions of immigrants, their descendents, and Americans Indians. The significance of Minidoka relates to a unique experience during a particular time towards a particular people, as well as to how civil and Constitutional rights must be protected for all Americans across all times.

The stories and cultural landscape of Minidoka Internment National Monument are inextricably tied to Idaho's agricultural history and development. The large-scale reclamation project conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation in the pre-war period was intentionally selected as an ideal location for the camp during World War II. The undeveloped land was cleared and tilled, and irrigation water was brought to the area. During the three-year incarceration, internees effectively transformed the high desert landscape into agricultural lands and rolling greenery. Following the decommission of the camp, the Minidoka Relocation Center lands were subdivided and settled. The homesteading community continues to farm the former Relocation Center lands to this day.

Minidoka Internment National Monument is also a World War II home front site. The unique experiences of Nikkei during World War II at Minidoka illustrate how global events had rippling effects on nations, communities, and individuals throughout the world. The suffering, injustice, and persecution experienced by Nikkei who were forcibly removed from the West Coast and held under military con-

Students studying in the Minidoka Relocation Center high school. 11th grade students painted the mural depicting camp life. January 1944. National Archives.



The railroad that carried internees to Minidoka during World War II. Reflection of a former internee returning to the site during the Pilgrimage. June 2003. NPS Photo

finement at Minidoka and other similar sites is unique; however, the commonality of hardship during wartime can be universally understood. Therefore, the national monument is thematically tied to other WWII sites, such as Manzanar National Historic Site, Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial in California; USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii; Aleutian World War II National Historical Park in Guam; and the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Development of this Document

This document presents a draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS) for Minidoka Internment National Monument. The purpose of this document is to articulate a vision and overall management philosophy for the national monument that will guide decision-making by current and future management teams during the next 15 to 20 years. This document presents management strategies for resource protection and preservation, education and interpretation, visitor use and facilities, land protection and boundaries, and long-term operations and management of the national monument. The plan addresses National Park Service (NPS) responsibilities at the national monument and provides guidance for the development of this new NPS unit.

Planning Process

The formal planning process began in the spring of 2002 with "a notice of intent" to prepare a Draft GMP/EIS for the national monument. The NPS organized an interdisciplinary planning team of NPS professionals and subject matter experts to guide the development of this Draft GMP/EIS throughout the three-year planning process.

An extensive level of public involvement was deemed necessary for the success of this planning project, given the nature and sensitivity of the national monument's history, the speed in which the national monument was established, as well as the national monument's remote location. Public involvement methods included Federal Register notices, news releases, public meetings and workshops, presentations and meetings with interested publics, newsletter mailings, and website postings.



Dorothy Hirai, a former Minidoka internee, and Ron James look through the 1943 Minidoka yearbook. June 2002. NPS Photo.

Preceding the formal planning process, NPS staff conducted informational meetings about the national monument with Nikkei organizations, community organizations, various governmental entities, potential stakeholder groups, and individuals during the spring, summer, and early fall of 2002. Approximately 50 meetings were held in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska during this time, and approximately 1,000 people were contacted. The purpose of these initial meetings was to help characterize the scale and extent of the planning process.

The NPS invited the public to provide comments during two formal public planning stages. The first stage, called Scoping, was intended to identify and define issues, concerns, and suggestions to be addressed during the planning process. Nine public workshops were held in Idaho, Washington and Oregon in November 2002; 250 people provided comments in workshops, and another 225 people provided written comments. The second stage, called Draft Alternatives, was intended to present the public with preliminary draft alternatives and invite comments on these alternatives. These draft alternatives were developed to address the specific issues and concerns that were raised by the public during the Scoping phase. Eleven public workshops were held in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon in July and August 2003. 215 people provided comments in the workshops, and another 50 people provided written comments.

The public's comments and recommendations are

the foundation of this Draft GMP/EIS, represented in the national monument's purpose, significance, interpretive themes, alternatives, and preferred alternative.

Issues Addressed

The major issues identified during the scoping process are addressed in this Draft GMP/EIS. The complete list of issues is described under the "Planning Issues and Concerns" section in chapter two. The foremost issues include:

Cultural Resources

- The number and extent of physical cultural resources on the site is limited, and a range of preservation treatments should be considered.
- Personal histories are intangible cultural resources that need immediate attention.
- Barracks (the internees' living quarters) are significant physical features that accurately depict the internees' experiences at Minidoka. The lack of barracks and their original locations within the national monument is a significant concern.

Education and Interpretation

 Interpretation should be factually accurate and intellectually compelling for all visitors; it should bring to life historical and personal stories related to Minidoka.



Irene and Hiroshi Ito walking along a path in Block 44 at Minidoka. Circa 1944. National Archives.





Kay Endo, a former Minidoka internee, visiting Minidoka during the Pilgrimage. June 2003. NPS Photo. (Top) Visitors at Minidoka during the Pilgrimage. June 2003. NPS Photo. (Bottom)

- The people, events, and sites related to the internment and incarceration of Nikkei are numerous, diverse, and complex. The people directly affected by these events are widespread throughout the United States and abroad.
- There is a wide range of personal experiences, opinions, controversial thought, and information on the subject. Information originates from a diversity of individuals and organizations, including accepted scholarly publications, historical personal accounts, government documents, and written material representing personal opinions. It is not possible to describe a 'typical' experience or perspective.
- Highly charged debates over the rationale and causes of the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II continue to reflect intense passions and diverse perspectives on the subject. There currently exists a body of controversial thought and information that is in conflict with much of what recognized scholars agree as historically accurate in the depiction of the internment and incarceration story.
- Interpreting and experiencing the essence of the entire 33,000-acre historic site on the 72.75- acre monument poses challenges.

Visitor Use and Facilities

- The national monument's remote location, historical significance, and existence is relatively unknown by the general public.
- The NPS needs to determine appropriate levels and general locations of facilities and services.
- The NPS needs to identify ways to provide diverse visitor experiences.

Partnerships and Outreach

• A range of active and sustainable partnerships and outreach strategies need to be considered as integral to every alternative.

Access, Circulation, and Parking

• The NPS is concerned with visitor safety, visitor experience, and traffic flows in relation to Hunt Road's present use and functions. The NPS needs to better understand local access and user needs.

Boundaries and Adjacent Lands

- The national monument does not include any of the internees' residential areas or the camps agricultural fields, and outlying areas.
- The NPS needs to consider the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) adjacent 3 and 9-acre parcels and the American Fall's Reservoir

Irrigation District #2 operations on these lands.

- The national monument's boundary with the North Side Canal poses issues related to potential conflicting land uses, visitor use, and public safety.
- Public and private access issues, such as roads, driveways, and utility rights-of-way need to be addressed.
- The Minidoka Relocation Center landfill contains important cultural resources. It is 1 mile northwest of the national monument on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public land.

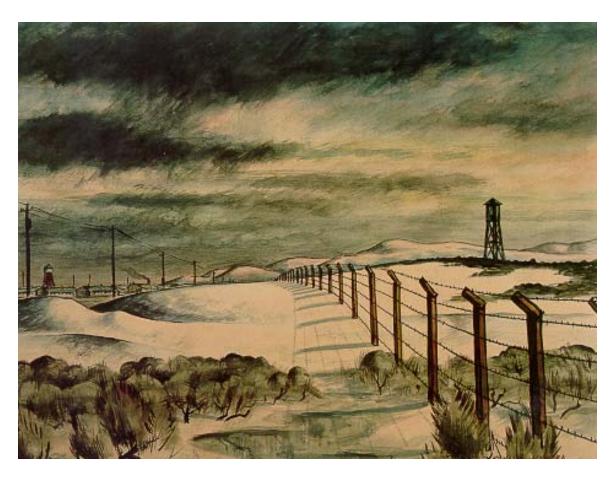
Operations and Management

- Given its isolated location, the national monument will need an on-site presence in the immediate future for the protection of historic resources.
- The NPS should address the lack of local utilities and community services, such as the availability of water, fire protection, and emergency medical services to the national monument.
- The national monument's name, Minidoka Internment National Monument, presents some confusion for the general public.

Alternatives

Four possible visions for the national monument's future, called alternatives, have been developed by an interdisciplinary planning team. These alternatives directly respond to public concerns and issues raised during the public workshops. Additionally, most of the ideas in the alternatives came directly from the public's recommendations. The impacts and consequences of each alternative have been analyzed, and a preferred alternative has been identified.

The fenceline at Minidoka Relocation Center. Circa 1943. Painting by Kenjiro Nomura. Courtesy of George and Betty Nomura.







Superintedent Neil King providing information to the public at Minidoka. June 2002. NPS Photo. (Top) Takako Yoda and Cherry Kinoshita, former Minidoka internees, provide comments during a public workshop. August 2003. NPS Photo.(Bottom)

"I want every school child and every adult to know about the camps. -Public comment

Common to All Alternatives

In addition to the actions suggested in each alternative, several significant actions are common to all alternatives. Management zoning is common to all alternatives, which includes a historic resource zone, historic open space zone, park development zone, and canal zone. (See the complete list of actions common to all alternatives under the "Common to All Alternatives" section in chapter 4). The following significant actions and approaches would be implemented under each alternative:

Cultural Resources

- Protect and preserve cultural resources through a variety of cultural resource strategies, including rehabilitation, restoration, and adaptive rehabilitation. (Since 2001, the NPS has conducted a preliminary cultural landscape inventory, an archeological survey of the site, and an archeological excavation and survey of the entrance area. In 2004, the NPS will map the Minidoka Relocation Center landfill.)(Since 2001, the NPS has conducted a preliminary cultural landscape inventory, an archeological survey of the site, and an archeological excavation and survey of the entrance area. In 2004, the NPS mapped the camp's original landfill.)
- Identify and support collaborative endeavors to collect and preserve oral histories of the internees, their families,

and people associated with Minidoka. (The NPS and the Densho Project entered into a cooperative agreement for the collection of oral histories in 2003. Through this agreement, the Densho Project has conducted eight oral interviews as of July 2004 with plans for additional oral interviews forthcoming.)

Education and Interpretation

- Promote and develop both on-site and offsite educational and outreach programs, especially through partnerships. (The NPS and the Wing Luke Asian Museum entered into a cooperative agreement for outreach and education in 2002. The Wing Luke Asian Museum has assisted with outreach during this planning process. NPS staff has begun conducting educational programs about Minidoka at the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument visitor center. The national monument has also collaborated with Manzanar National Historic Site to develop and promote educational and interpretive programs.)
- Promote public understanding of the legacy and relevance of Minidoka to contemporary and dynamic civil and Constitutional rights issues.

Visitor Use and Facilities

• Provide a range of on-site and off-site

services and facilities in cooperation with partners.

• Develop new directional signage to the national monument and within the national monument.

Partnerships and Outreach

• Develop a range of partnerships and outreach strategies that help fulfill NPS and partner program goals.

Access, Circulation, and Parking

• Conduct a comprehensive transportation study, in cooperation with local, regional and state entities to identify and improve safety and circulation issues.

Boundaries and Adjacent Lands

- Recommend that legislation authorize the Secretary of the Interior to transfer the 3acre and 9-acre sites from the Bureau of Reclamation to the NPS. (See Appendix B: Analysis of Boundary Adjustment and Land Protection Criteria.)
- Recommend that legislation authorize the NPS to exchange one-half of the root cellar that is on private property for an existing irrigation lateral that is on national monument lands. (See Appendix B: Analysis of Boundary Adjustment and Land Protection Criteria.)

Operations and Management

Relocate the American Falls Reservoir
 District No. 2 operational facilities to a new off-site location to be determined. Use the vacated area to establish NPS presence and provide minimal visitor services, as funds are available. (The NPS and BOR have entered into an agreement to move the American Falls Reservoir Irrigation District No. 2 operations to a new site, located outside the national monument's boundary. The NPS has obligated \$250,000 in relocation costs to the BOR to effect the relocation.)

General Descriptions of Alternatives

Alternative A is the no-action alternative and would continue the existing course of action since the national monument's designation in 2001. The no-action alternative provides general management guidance for incremental and minimal changes in park operations, staffing, visitor services, and facilities in order to accommodate visitors. While the historic resources of the site would continue to be protected, only minor additional site work would be anticipated under this alternative. The no-action alternative is the baseline for evaluating the changes and impacts of the other action alternatives.

Alternative B emphasizes the development and extensive use of outreach and partnerships to assist the national monument staff in telling the





Harue Ninomiya and Shea Aoki, former Minidoka internees, visiting Minidoka during the Pilgrimage. June 2003. NPS Photo. (Top)

Joseph Kamikawa and Kennie Namba, World War II veterans and former Minidoka internees, visiting Minidoka during the Pilgrimage. June 2004. Courtesy of Cliff and Jean Dickey © (Bottom) Minidoka story to the American people. Off-site visitor education and interpretation would be conducted through diverse comprehensive programs developed in cooperation with partners, including school districts, museums, and educational and legacy organizations and institutions. Alternative B would focus on identifying off-site facilities for education and interpretation with minimal new development at the national monument site.

Historic structures within the national monument would be adaptively rehabilitated for visitor and park functions and for minimal administrative and operational needs. Key historic features would be delineated, rehabilitated, restored, or reconstructed. On-site education and interpretation would be accomplished through a range of self-exploratory visitor experiences. There would be minimal new construction.

Alternative C (Preferred Alternative) emphasizes on-site visitor education and interpretation and the extensive treatment and use of cultural resources in telling the Minidoka story. On-site education and interpretation would be accomplished through a wide range of visitor experiences, including immersion into the historic scene, interaction with a variety of educational and interpretive media, and participation in creative and self-directed activities.

A variety of preservation techniques, such as delineation, stabilization, restoration, rehabilitation, and reconstruction, would be used to protect and enhance historic resources. These historic resources would be used for interpretive purposes to accurately and authentically convey the history and significance of the national monument. The relocation of one complete residential block in its original location and configuration would be the cornerstone of interpretive services and facilities at the national monument. A visitor contact facility and maintenance area would be developed at the national monument by adaptively rehabilitating the existing historic buildings. There would be minimal new construction.

The preferred alternative would require congressional legislation to authorize a boundary expansion to relocate a complete residential block in its original location. Additionally, the National Park Service would require congressional legislation to administratively transfer the camp's original landfill from the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service.

Off-site visitor education and interpretation would be conducted through a diversity of comprehensive programs developed in cooperation with partners, including school districts, museums, public agencies, and educational and legacy organizations and institutions.

Alternative C would recommend a name change to *Minidoka National Historic Site,* to be more reflective of its historic value. This action would require congressional legislation.

This alternative was selected as the preferred alternative because it represents broad public senti-



Looking down the barracks from Block 34 to Block 44. June 1943. National Archives.



Entrance to Minidoka Relocation Center. Circa 1944. Densho Project. Mitsuoka Collection.

ments about the future of Minidoka, with an emphasis on education and interpretation, cultural resource management, visitor use, and partnerships and outreach. It also responds to concerns about how the national monument would impact the local community and agricultural/commercial vehicle traffic on Hunt Road. The overwhelming majority of public comments support actions contributing to the preferred alternative.

Alternative D proposes several actions that would focus on education and interpretation on-site, specifically through the development of new visitor facilities. The adjacent 9-acre BOR property would be used to develop a new national monument visi-

tor center, education and research facilities, and a new memorial and garden. On-site education and interpretation would be accomplished through a wide range of visitor experiences, including interaction with educational and interpretive media, participation in creative and self-guided activities, and limited access to the historic scene.

Similar to the preferred alternative, alternative D would use a variety of preservation techniques, such as delineation, stabilization, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction, to protect and enhance historic resources. These historic resources would be used for interpretive purposes to accurately and authentically convey the history and sig-



Visitors looking into the stabilized root cellar during the Minidoka Pilgrimage. June 2004. NPS Photo.

nificance of the national monument. Historic structures would be adaptively rehabilitated for park operations.

The establishment of formal partnerships for offsite education and outreach programs would complement the new construction and historic preservation of the site.

Most staff activities would be on-site to manage resources and provide for visitor understanding and appreciation of the national monument.

Alternative D would require congressional legislation to administratively transfer the camp's original landfill from the BOR to the NPS and to change the name of the national monument to *Minidoka National Historic Site.*

Summary of Environmental Consequences

Impacts Common to All Alternatives

Under all alternatives, a recommendation would be made for congressional legislation to transfer the 3-acre and 9-acre Bureau of Reclamation sites to the NPS and to authorize a land exchange to acquire the remainder of the extant root cellar. The American Falls Irrigation District No. 2 operational facilities would be relocated to a new offsite location. The NPS would work in cooperation with the BLM to preserve the historic 26-acre Minidoka landfill site. These actions would further protect cultural resources and provide greater opportunities for education and interpretation, resulting in minor to major beneficial impacts.

Archeological surveys would be conducted prior to all construction and development projects. Identification and protection of these archeological resources would result in minor to moderate beneficial impacts.

The honor roll would be reconstructed or delineated, and the historic pathways and rock garden in the entrance area would be rehabilitated. Such active intervention to preserve and improve the cultural landscape would constitute major longterm benefits.

Under all alternatives, the NPS would provide some off-site educational programs and interpretive materials. Partnerships would be pursued to reach out and educate the public about the internment and incarceration. Collections of historical objects and documents at off-site locations would be made more accessible. The NPS would also identify and support collaborative endeavors to collect and preserve oral histories of the internees, their families, and people associated with the Minidoka. These actions, common to all alternatives, would result in minor to moderate beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

The NPS would protect vegetation in the historic open space zone to favor patterns present during the historic period. This would include removal of nonnative plants. To maintain the open character and to minimize weeds, native vegetation would be established in this area. This would create new habitat for sagebrush dependent wildlife. Beneficial impacts to vegetation and wildlife would be minor to moderate.

The NPS would work with national monument neighbors and local government to encourage the protection of historic open space and the agricultural character of the surrounding area.

Impacts from Alternative A

Without year-round protection, theft and vandalism of archeological resources would continue, leading to moderate adverse impacts.

Traffic and associated noise on Hunt Road would increase with visitation to the national monument, estimated at about 5,000 visitors per year. This increase would negatively affect visitor experience, resulting in minor adverse impacts.

Annual visitation to the national monument would constitute a less than 1% increase in regional visitation. Visitors would generate nominal travel-related spending and create additional demands for services, resulting in the creation of new travel-related and service jobs. Economic benefits to the region would be negligible.

Estimated peak visitation would be about 60 people and 20 vehicles per day. The existing access, circulation, and parking system where visitors explore the national monument by car and on foot would be retained. Parking at the entry area would be maintained to accommodate approximately 10 vehicles. The NPS would continue to provide overflow parking for special events on the 3-acre and 9-acre parcels. Unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through traffic and no available parking spaces, would occur on no more than 3 days per year, resulting in minor adverse impacts.

Impacts from Alternative B

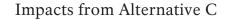
Additional, year-round NPS staffing would enable protection of archeological resources and historic buildings and structures. These protections constitute moderate to major beneficial impacts to cultural resources.

Off-site education and interpretation would be conducted through programs developed in cooperation with many partners. Collections of historical objects and documents, including some at offsite locations, would be more accessible, yielding minor to major beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

Improved visitor facilities and increased staffing would accommodate a moderate increase in the number of visitors. This would positively affect the experience of the majority of participants at special events such as Minidoka Pilgrimages, and result in short-term moderate beneficial impacts.

Traffic and associated noise on Hunt Road would increase with visitation to the national monument. Noise would negatively affect visitor experience, resulting in minor to moderate adverse impacts. The national monument would attract up to 40,000 visitors per year under the full implementation of this alternative, a less than 2% increase in regional visitation. Visitors would generate travelrelated spending and create additional demands for services, resulting in the creation of new travel-related and service jobs. Management of the national monument would directly create the equivalent of 7 new jobs. Economic impacts to the region, though beneficial, would be negligible.

Estimated peak visitation would be about 450 people and 150 vehicles per day. Minor changes to existing access, circulation, and parking would be made to accommodate this increase in the number of visitors and vehicles. Existing parking areas would be maintained, and additional parking would be provided at the adaptively rehabilitated warehouse area and the 9-acre parcel. Unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through traffic and no available parking spaces, would occur on no more than 3 days per year, resulting in minor adverse impacts.



Additional, year-round NPS staffing would enable protection of archeological resources and historic buildings and structures. These protections constitute moderate to major beneficial impacts to cultural resources.

Off-site education and interpretation would be conducted through programs developed in cooperation with many partners. Collections of historical objects and documents, including some at offsite locations, would be more accessible, yielding minor to major beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

The reestablishment of a historic residential block in its original location and configuration would accurately depict the internees living conditions, convey the significance of the internees' experiences, and provide a unique and authentic setting for educational programs. At the residential block, visitors would participate in programmed, multimedia, and self-guided exploration of exhibits, collections, research, interpretive programs, and educational activities. These would constitute major beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

Improved visitor facilities and increased staffing would accommodate a substantial increase in the number of visitors. This would positively affect the experience of nearly all participants at special events such as Minidoka Pilgrimages, and result in short-term major beneficial impacts.

Traffic and associated noise on Hunt Road would increase with visitation to the national monument. Noise would negatively affect visitor experience, resulting in moderate adverse impacts.

The national monument would attract up to 80,000 visitors per year under the full implementation of this alternative, about a 4% increase in regional visitation. Visitors would generate travel-related spending and create additional demands for services, resulting in the creation of new travel-re-



Visitors looking at the memorial plaques in the entrance area. June 2004. NPS Photo.

lated and service jobs. Management of the national monument would directly create the equivalent of 12 new jobs. Though beneficial, economic impacts to the region would be minor.

NPS would recommend legislation to acquire land where historic barracks blocks existed. This would result in a loss of property tax revenue to Jerome County that would be partially offset by federal payments in lieu of taxes. Adverse impacts would be negligible.

Estimated peak visitation would be about 900 people and 300 vehicles per day. Improved visitor facilities, increased staffing, and modified parking, access, and circulation would better provide for this substantial increase in the number of visitors and vehicles. Parking would be provided throughout the national monument to minimize impacts on access and circulation. Unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through traffic and no available parking spaces, would occur on at least 4 days and up to 9 days per year, resulting in moderate adverse impacts.

Impacts from Alternative D

Impacts to archeological resources would be the same as Alternative C.

Impacts to on-site education and interpretation would be similar to Alternative C, however these programs would occur in a newly constructed visitor facility, rather than in historic barrack buildings. This would constitute major beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

Off-site education and interpretation would be similar to that of Alternative C. Resulting beneficial impacts would be the same.

Improved visitor facilities and increased staffing would accommodate a substantial increase in the number of visitors. This would positively affect the experience of nearly all participants at special events such as Minidoka Pilgrimages, and result in short-term major beneficial impacts.

The national monument would attract up to 80,000 visitors per year, about a 4% increase in regional visitation. Impacts to traffic, associated noise, and socio-economic conditions would be the same as those of Alternative C.

Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study Act of 2002

In 2002, the NPS was directed by Congress to conduct a study of alternatives for the long-term management and public use of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial site. 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 might require an amendment to Minidoka's General Management Plan.

View of the entrance area from the garden. 2004. NPS Photo.

10.00

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- 12 Photograph No. ft5z09n9pj. Baggage, belonging to internees who have just arrived from the assembly center at Puyallup, Washington, is sorted and trucked to barrack apartments. Photograph by Francis Stewart. August 17, 1942. Available from the Online Archive of California; http://ark.cdlib.org/ ark:/13030/ft5z09n9pj. Courtesy of The Bancroft Library. University of California, Berkeley
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- 16 Photograph No. 210-CMB-I2-1486. Elderly Issei woman collecting coal at Minidoka. Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, MD.
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- 29 Photograph No. 210-G-15E-738. "Navy students in the Japanese Language school at the University of Colorado learn to write by dictation. Language instructor Grayce Nakasonke (sp) corrects blackboard writing as she dictates Japanese passages. Grayce, a former Los Angeles college student spent several weeks at a War Relocation Center after evacuation from the West Coast defense area." April 22, 1943. Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, MD.
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- 29 "Sogoro Yamasaki, 75, born in Japan but an Oregonian for nearly 50 years, is extremely proud of his three sons, all Purple Heart veterans." November 30, 1946. Oregonian Collection. Permission of Oregon Historical Society.
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- Photograph No, 210-G-151-895. Photographer Hikaru Iwasaki. "With the return of the Terumatsu Yabuki to his greenhouse property at Hunt's point near Bellevue, Washington on May 17, 1945, from Minidoka, the Yabuki family is again reunited on the home place. Left to right: Terumatsu Yabuki; Mother Yabuki; Pfc. Kiyoshi Yabuki and Hideo Yabuki. Kiyoshi, a veteran, returned to the United States last Christmas Day from Italy and France." May 17, 1945. Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, MD.
- Photograph No. 210-CMA-54-3. "Staff Housing." Circa 1943. Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
- 36 These World War II veterans won land lotteries at the former Minidoka Relocation Center site. With the land, they also received surplus materials from the Minidoka Relocation

Center. Circa 1947. Photograph taken by Bureau of Reclamation staff. NPS Photo.

- 36 These World War II veterans won land lotteries at the former Minidoka Relocation Center site. With the land, they also received surplus materials from the Minidoka Relocation Center. Circa 1947. Photograph taken by Bureau of Reclamation staff. NPS Photo.
- 36 Moving a staff housing building to its new site in the warehouse area. Circa 1946. Photograph taken by Bureau of Reclamation staff. NPS Photo.
- 37 A Farm-in-a-Day project advertisement for the Herrmann family farm which ran in the North Side News. The Herrmann farm is located on the site of the former water tower #1, fire station, sewage treatment plant, Blocks 21 and 22, and portions of adjacent blocks. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service), April 17, 1952.
- President Reagan signs HR 442 (Civil Liberties Act) into law in White House ceremony, August 10, 1988. From left to right: Sen. Masayuki "Spark" Matsunaga (D-HI), Rep. Norman Y. Mineta (D-CA), Rep. Pat Saiki (R-HI), Sen. Pete Wilson (R-CA), Rep. Don Young (R-AK), Rep. Robert T. Matsui (D-CA), Rep. Bill Lowery (R-CA) and Harry Kajihara, President of the Japanese American Citizens League. Permission of Smithsonian Museum.
- 44 "Barracks and Recreational Hall." Painting by Kenjiro Nomura. 1942-1945. Courtesy of George and Betty Nomura.
- Photograph No. 210-CMA-A-22. "Mothers of boys killed during World War II being honored on Mother's Day in Twin Falls." Circa 1944. Records of the War Relocation Authority,

Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, MD.

- 45 Sgt. Kay (Keisaaburo) Niguma. Circa 1945. Courtesy of Rose Niguma and the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.
- 45 Chikano Niguma. Circa 1945. Courtesy of Rose Niguma and the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.
- 46 Photograph No. 210-CC-IN-4. "Door of barber shop owned by Andy Hale, in a little desert town of Parker, 15 miles from where is located the Colorado River Relocation Center. Evacuees from the center, who cannot leave its confines without a pass, are discouraged from shopping in Parker, by WRA officials." Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, MD.
- 47 Painting by Fumio Hanaguchi, Minidoka internee. Circa1943. Records of the War Relocation Authority, RecordGroup 210; National Archives at College Park, MD.
- 55 Photograph No. 210-CMB-I1-1274. Internees line up for food in the mess hall. Circa 1944. Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, MD
- 56 Photograph No. 210-CMB-CH1-1753. Buddhist funeral ceremony for fallen Minidoka soldiers. Circa 1944. Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, MD.
- 86 Swimming hole #1 at Minidoka. Circa 1943. Minidoka Interlude.
- 88 Photograph No. 210-CMB-I2-1306. The entrance at Minidoka. Circa 1943. National Archives. Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, MD.

- Photograph No. LC-USF34- 073832-D. 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. Farm Security Administration Office of War Information Photograph Collection. Permission of Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division Washington.
- 97 The Merchant Building. Portland Oregon. ca. 1938. Permission of the Oregon Historical Society.
- Photograph No. 210-CMA-FS-38. "Brush fire midsection of camp." 1945. Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, MD.
- 146 Photograph No. 210-CMA-12-1348. The Honor Roll in the entrance area at Minidoka. The Honor Roll lists approximately 1,000 names of those serving in the military from Minidoka or whose families were incarcerated at Minidoka. Circa 1945. Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, MD.
- 176 Photograph No. SOC506. Mrs. Eizo Nishi in her improved barrack room. December 9, 1942. Photographer: Francis Stewart. Special Collections Division. Courtesy of University of Washington Libraries.
- 198 Painting of the water tower and hospital in the background by Kenjiro Nomura. 1942-1945. Courtesy of George and Betty Nomura.
- 214 Photograph No. 210-CMB-I1- Yasusuke Kogita, at left, created this garden in Block 5. Circa 1944. Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, MD.

- 291 Photograph No. 210-CMB-EX1-1049. Paper flowers made by internees. Circa 1944. Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
- Photograph No. 210-CMB-V1-1252. Mrs. Onodera. Her sons, Ko, Kaun, and Satoru were serving in the military. Satoru died in combat in Italy on July 5, 1944. Circa 1944. Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210; National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.
- Photograph No. 210-CMB-AG1-1120. "Planting celery."
 Records of the War Relocation Authority, Record Group 210;
 National Archives at College Park, College Park, MD.

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PVT. JOHN RVOJI KAWAGUCHI PVT. TOMOYUKI KIKUCHI SGT. FRANCIS TSUKASA KINOSHITA PVT. JOHN HIROSHI KYONO PFC. WILLIAM KENZO NAKAMURA DVT. SATORU ONODERA SGT. GEORGE SAWADA SGT. TAMI TAKEMOTO AATSUSABURO TANAKA