





# Environmental Consequences

*This chapter describes the environmental consequences or impacts of implementing each of the four management alternatives previously described. Each program or management action that could impact resources or resource uses has been analyzed, and the conclusions of those analyses are described by alternative below. As the alternatives are broad and conceptual in nature, however, the following environmental analysis is necessarily quite general. Many of the action items presented in the document would require additional environmental analysis during the implementation planning phase, typically in the form of environmental assessments, prior to implementation. Many items would also require additional compliance with federal biological and cultural resources laws and regulations.*

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## Planning Assumptions and Guidelines

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The following assumptions and guidelines were used to guide and direct the analysis of environmental consequences:

- Each of the alternatives, if chosen, would be implemented substantially, including actions common to all alternatives.
- The National Park Service would have sufficient funding and personnel to implement any one of the alternatives.
- The planning period for the analysis is the next 15 to 20 years.
- The planning area for the analysis of impacts is composed of the following:
- For all alternatives: lands included in Proclamation 7395 of January 17, 2001, establishing Minidoka Internment National Monument (see map on page 77)

- For all alternatives: the adjoining 3-acre and 9-acre lands (see map on page 77)
- For all alternatives: the Minidoka WRA Center landfill on BLM land (see map on page 70). As it is currently outside the boundaries, including this land as part of the national monument would be contingent upon congressional authorization for a boundary change.
- For alternative C only: a privately owned parcel of land adjoining the national monument that includes the former site of one or more residential blocks. Acquisition of private lands proposed for inclusion in the national monument under alternative C would be contingent on a willing seller and congressional authorization for a boundary change.

For all alternatives: various off-site locations associated with the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II and with Minidoka in particular. Most of these off-site locations would be developed in cooperation with partners, includ-

*Yasusuke Kogita, at left, created this garden in Block 5. Circa 1944. National Archives.*

ing schools and universities, educational and legacy organizations, museums, and others. The NPS would not have jurisdiction over these partner sites. They would be located and developed to provide opportunities for education, interpretation, and research focusing on the primary interpretive themes of the national monument and for protection of historic structures and objects associated with Minidoka. The NPS would conduct a suitability and feasibility study to identify potential off-site facilities. Although few locations have been specifically identified, it is anticipated that the majority of these facilities would be located in areas directly related to Minidoka, such as the Puget Sound area, the Portland metropolitan area, the Ontario, Oregon, area, southern Idaho, and along the route to Minidoka.

The area of analysis for cumulative impacts varies and is described separately for each resource type.

Management of Minidoka Internment National Monument by the National Park Service under any one of the alternatives analyzed herein implies compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The federal requirements that apply to all units of the national park system are listed under the “Pertinent Laws, Policies, and Procedures” section in chapter 2 of this document. These requirements form a set of criteria for good park management and apply to all the alternatives.

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## Impact Topics Considered but Dismissed from Further Evaluation

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A complete list of the issues addressed by this GMP/EIS is included in chapter 2. These issues were identified as important by the public during the scoping process. Impact topics were developed from these issues specific to Minidoka Internment National Monument and also include those required under the National Environmental Policy Act. As explained below, however, the following impact topics, discussed during the planning process, were dismissed from further analysis for the reasons cited.

### Prime Farmland

Within the national monument and the immediate surrounding area, two soil types would be considered prime farmland soils, if they were irrigated with an adequate supply of water. Because the national monument is not irrigated and has no irrigation water rights, these soils within the national monument cannot be classified as prime farmland. Thus, potential impacts to prime farmland will not be further analyzed in this document.

### Threatened and Endangered Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was contacted to identify any endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species or their critical habitat that could be located near and potentially affected by the management of the national monument. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service responded with their letter of February 18, 2004 (SP #14-04-SP-223), indicating that no such listed species are present in the area. The letter also stated that consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, is not needed for this project.

The NPS also contacted the Idaho Conservation Data Center to request a list of plant and animal species of special concern that could be located in or near the national monument. This information indicated that the national monument is within the known range of two species of special concern, the Pygmy rabbit and the greater sage grouse. Pygmy rabbits require areas with deep soils with tall, dense sagebrush, which they use for cover and food. Sage grouse are dependent on large acreages of sagebrush-grassland habitats that have a 15 to 25% sagebrush canopy cover and good grass and forb (flowering herbaceous plants) cover (see chapter 3: Affected Environment). The national monument does not provide suitable habitat for either of these species. Thus, threatened, endangered, or special concern species will not be further analyzed in this document.

## Water Resources, Floodplains, and Wetlands

There is no naturally occurring surface water on the national monument, nor are there any designated floodplains or wetlands. In addition, the presidential proclamation establishing the national monument “does not reserve water as a matter of Federal law nor relinquish any water rights held by the Federal Government.” Therefore, potential impacts to water resources, floodplains, and wetlands will not be analyzed in this document.

## Night Sky

As they are described herein, the management activities, resource protection measures, educational and interpretive programs, and other features of the four alternatives analyzed in this GMP/EIS would not have a reasonably foreseeable impact on the night sky. However, the NPS has begun to address night sky issues nationally and efforts are underway to

- increase awareness of the problem through the development of educational materials

- outline methods for monitoring and protecting night skies
- research, develop, and test various methods for measuring night sky quality
- make design improvements to reduce wasted light inside and outside park boundaries

Thus, several procedures to help avoid future impacts to the night sky are detailed in the “Mitigation Measures” section of this document.

## Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations, focuses federal attention on the environment and human health condition in minority and low-income communities, promotes nondiscrimination in federal programs, and provides access to public information and an opportunity to participate in matters that may affect these populations.

For the purpose of fulfilling Executive Order 12898, in the context of the National Environmental Policy Act, the alternatives addressed in this plan were assessed during the planning process. It was determined that none of these alternatives would result in discernable disproportionately adverse effects on any minority or low-income population or community. The following information contributed to this conclusion:

- Local residents in the area surrounding the national monument may include low-income and minority populations. However, no distinct areas of low-income or minority populations were identified near the national monument.
- The development and actions in the alternatives would not result in any identifiable adverse human health effects. Therefore, there would be no direct or indirect negative or

adverse effects on any minority or low-income population or community.

- The impacts on the natural and physical environment that would occur due to any of the alternatives would not adversely affect any minority or low-income population or community.
- The alternatives would not result in any identified effects that would be specific to any minority or low-income community.

Impacts on the socioeconomic environment due to the alternatives are minor or positive and occur mostly within the local and regional geographic area near the monument. These impacts would not occur at one time, but would be spread over a number of years, this, reducing their effects. Also impacts on the socioeconomic environment are not expected to substantially alter the physical and social structure of the nearby communities.

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## Analysis of Impacts

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The planning team based this impact analysis and the conclusions in this part largely on the review of existing literature and studies and experience gained from the management of other NPS sites and resources. Where data are limited, professional judgment has been used to project environmental impacts. Professional judgment was based, in part, on observation, analysis of conditions, and responses in similar areas.

### Types of Impacts

Effects (impacts) can be beneficial or adverse, direct or indirect, or cumulative. Beneficial effects are those that involve a positive change in the condition or appearance of a resource or a change that moves the resource toward a desired condition. Adverse impacts involve a change that moves the resource away from a desired condition or detract from its appearance or condition. Direct effects are caused by an action and occur at the same time and place as the action. Indirect effects are caused by the action and occur later or farther away but are still reasonably foreseeable. Cumulative effects are the impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a period of time.

Impacts are also described as to their context, intensity, and duration. Context generally refers to the geographic extent of impact (for example, localized or widespread). Impact intensity is the magnitude or degree to which a resource would be beneficially or ad-

versely affected. The criteria that was used to rate the intensity of the impacts for each resource topic is presented later in this section under each topic heading. Impact duration refers to how long an impact would last. For the purposes of this GMP/EIS, the planning team used the following terms to describe the duration of the impacts (unless otherwise stated for any particular resource area). Short-term impacts are those that would occur within 5 years, often during construction or development of a feature. Long-term impacts are those that would occur beyond 5 years, often from operations.

## **Projects that Make up the Cumulative Impact Scenario**

To determine potential cumulative impacts, projects in the area surrounding the national monument were identified. The area of primary concern is roughly identified as Jerome County. Projects outside this area, however, other projects? something missing would be considered if they have the potential to affect resources with broad regional importance. Projects included in this analysis were identified by examining other existing plans and by contacting local, state, and federal government agencies. Projects identified for the purposes of cumulative impact analyses are past actions, plans, or actions that are currently being implemented and reasonably foreseeable future plans or actions. These projects were considered regardless of what agency, organization, or person undertakes them. Projects included in the cumulative impact analysis do not affect all resources equally.

Cumulative impact analyses are presented in this document by resource topic. The projects that make up the cumulative impact scenario were analyzed in conjunction with the impacts of each alternative to determine if they would have any additive or interactive effects on a particular resource. The period of potential cumulative impact is defined as the life of the plan, or 15 to 20 years.

South-Central Idaho Visitor Center. An expanded, multiagency regional visitor center has been proposed along I-84 near Twin Falls. The visitor center would be a cooperative effort of several local and regional organizations and several government agencies. The purpose of the visitor center is to serve as a central point of contact for visitors to learn about regional attractions and points of interest. Over time, it is anticipated that the visitor center would generate additional and longer visits to the south-central Idaho region.

North Rim Project. This planned project will manage approximately 8,000 acres of public land under a Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) lease from the BLM. The project, in Jerome County just north of the Snake River and adjacent to U.S. Highway 93 (U.S. 93), will develop the site for a balance of motorized and nonmotorized recreational activities. Developments will include trails, trailhead staging and parking areas, comfort stations, access roads, and signs. Protection of site resources will focus on natural systems, cultural assets, and scenic viewsheds. The focus of this project is to provide recreational opportunities for local and regional residents.

Northside Tri-Counties Cooperative Weed Management Area. Under the organization of this cooperative, Jerome County and other government agencies work with private and public landowners in efforts to control the introduction of new invasive plants and the spread of noxious weeds. In addition to control treatments, the cooperative includes a program to educate the public about its role in preventing the introduction and spread of invasive weeds.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. This national monument is between the towns of Carey and Arco, about 50 to 75 miles northeast of the national monument. By presidential proclamation, the size of the national monument was greatly expanded in 2000, from roughly 54,000 acres to about 740,000 acres. The proclamation placed the national monument under the joint administration of the BLM and the National Park Service, and these agencies

have recently released a draft plan to guide management decisions for the next 15 to 20 years. The preferred alternative identified in this GMP emphasizes protection and restoration of physical and biological resources and processes, promotes partnerships at existing off-site facilities, and emphasizes the use of outfitters to meet recreation demands. Under this management scenario, visitation to Craters of the Moon, currently about 200,000 visitors per year, is expected to increase 10 to 20%.

**Agricultural Land Use.** The dominant land use in the south-central Idaho region is agricultural production, including farming, ranching, and confined animal feeding operations, particularly dairies. The area immediately surrounding the national monument is zoned for agriculture (A-1) by Jerome County. Most of this land is currently used for farming, but confined animal feeding operations could be permitted in this area. Although there have been and will continue to be technological and market changes that reshape this industry, agriculture is anticipated to remain the dominant land use surrounding the national monument and in the region for the life of the plan.

**Other Sites and Programs Associated with Internment and Incarceration of Nikkei during World War II.** Interpretation of the Nikkei internment and incarceration is at various sites and institutions throughout the U.S. The public strongly supports active partnerships as a fundamental cornerstone to develop and implement future National Park Service objectives for the national monument. Thus, the NPS envisions working cooperatively with many of these institutions (see chapter 3). Although it is not possible to foresee the full development and effects of these other sites and programs, it is reasonable to assume that they will continue to increase public awareness and interest in Nikkei history in general and the national monument in particular.

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## Impairment of National Monument Resources

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In addition to determining the environmental consequences of implementing the alternatives, NPS policy (NPS *Management Policies 2001, Section 1.4*) requires analysis of potential effects to determine whether or not actions would impair the resources and values of the national monument. An evaluation of impairment, mandatory for natural and cultural resources, is not required for topics related to visitor use and experience, land use, or socioeconomic environment.

The fundamental purpose of the national park system, established by the Organic Act and reaffirmed by the General Authorities Act, as amended, begins with a mandate to conserve park resources and values. NPS managers must always seek ways to avoid or to minimize, to the greatest degree practicable, adverse impacts on the national monument's resources and values. However, the laws do give the National Park Service the management discretion to allow impacts on park resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a the park, as long as the impact does not constitute impairment of the affected resources and values. Although Congress has given the National Park Service the management discretion to allow certain impacts within a park unit, that discretion is limited by the statutory requirement that the NPS must leave resources and values unimpaired, unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise.

The prohibited impairment is an impact that, in the professional judgment of the responsible NPS manager, would harm the integrity of the resources and values, including the opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values. An impact to any resource or value may constitute an impairment. However, an impact would be more likely to constitute



impairment to the extent that it affects a resource or value whose conservation is

- necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park
- key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park, or
- identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents

Impairment may result from NPS activities in managing the national monument, visitor activities, or activities undertaken by concessioners, contractors, and others operating in the national monument. In this chapter, a determination about impairment is made at the conclusion of the natural resource and cultural resource sections (no conclusion section – see my comment at beginning of consequences).

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## Incomplete or Unavailable Information

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As mandated by 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1502.22, agencies evaluating reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effects of the human environment in an EIS must identify incomplete or unavailable information, if that information is essential to a reasoned choice among alternatives. This Draft GMP/EIS is based on the best available data for each resource. However, because Minidoka is a new addition to the national park system and has not been subject to consistent resource management, data for many resource areas are limited. For the resources listed below, information was incomplete or unavailable.

**Paleontological Resources:** Most of the planning area has not been surveyed for paleontological resources.

**Vegetation:** Complete data are not available for vegetation composition and condition.

**Wildlife:** Complete data are not available for wildlife species occurrence, habitat use, or habitat condition.

**Soundscape:** No data exist for the soundscape of the monument.

**Night Sky:** No data exist about night sky conditions within the monument .

**Visitor Use:** Data about the amount and type of existing or past visitor use of the national monument are limited to information about specific events.



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## Methodology and Assumptions

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### Effects on Cultural Resources

The following discussion of cultural resources includes analyses of potential impacts to archeological resources, cultural landscape resources, and historic buildings and structures. These three physical components of the cultural resources at the national monument were described separately in chapter 3. However they are discussed together here, because the distinctions between these resources on the national monument are often blurred. For example, the historic structures obviously contribute to the cultural landscape, and the full extent of the archeological resources, many of which also contribute to the cultural landscape, is not yet known. Cultural resources in all areas of the national monument, except the historic open space zone where there are no historic buildings, are composed of all three of these elements. In addition, many of the management actions proposed in the alternatives affect a combination of two and sometimes all three of these resources. Thus, the effects of each alternative on all three types of cultural resources are discussed below.

To analyze the potential effects of the alternatives on archeological resources, cultural landscape resources, and historic buildings and structures, information about these resources on the national monument was compiled. The primary sources of this information are the three recent archeological surveys of Minidoka (Burton et al. 1999, Burton and Farrell 2001 and Burton et al. 2003), research of archival materials, including maps and photographs, and firsthand knowledge of the site gained through numerous site visits. The locations of known cultural resources were compared with each alternative's proposed management actions and developments.

Although knowledge of the national monument's cultural resources has been advanced markedly by these recent studies, there is no comprehensive inventory of such resources at Minidoka. As surface and subsurface testing has been limited, it is likely that many archeological resources have yet to be identified at the national monument.

Archeological sites and historic structures are continually deteriorating due primarily to the effects of weather and gravity. Left alone, these resources will inevitably degrade over time. Impacts from human visitation and use contribute to the effects of natural agents of deterioration, and they can substantially increase the rate of site deterioration. In general, it is not possible to control deterioration caused by natural elements. In contrast, it is possible to control the effects of human impacts through careful planning of activities and new developments, by educating visitors and agency staff, and by limiting or directing locations of human activity in and around archeological sites and historical buildings and structures.

Most impacts resulting from visitor use are relatively minor when considered on an individual basis. However, for the purpose of this plan, it is necessary to consider the effects caused by large numbers of visitors at a given location over the life of this plan. In addition, the effects of deliberate vandalism or artifact collection, although uncommon, must be considered.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on properties listed or eligible for listing on the NRPA. The process begins with identification and evaluation of cultural resources for NRHP eligibility, followed by an assessment of effects on eligible resources. In Idaho, this process includes consultation with the Idaho State Historical Society. If an action could change in any way the characteristics that qualify the resource for inclusion on the NRHP, it is considered to have an effect. No adverse effect means there could be an effect,

but the effect would not be harmful to the characteristics that qualify the resource for inclusion on the NRHP. Adverse effect means the action could diminish the integrity of the characteristics that qualify the resource for the NRHP. For the purposes of this analysis under NEPA and Section 106, the intensity of impacts on cultural resources was defined as follows:

- Negligible: The impact on cultural resources would be at the lowest levels of detection – barely measurable without any perceptible consequences, either beneficial or adverse, to archeological resources, cultural landscape resources, or historic buildings or structures. For purposes of Section 106 of the NHPA, the determination of effect would be no adverse effect.
- Minor: The adverse effect on cultural resources would be measurable or perceptible, but it would be slight and localized within a relatively small area. The action would not affect the character or diminish the features of a NRHP eligible or listed archeological site, cultural landscape, or historic structure and it would not have a permanent effect on the integrity of any such resources. For the purposes of Section 106, the determination of effect would be no adverse effect.
- Moderate: The adverse impact would be measurable and perceptible. The action would change one or more character-defining features of a cultural resource, but it would not diminish the integrity of the resource to the extent that its NRHP eligibility would be entirely lost. For purposes of Section 106, the cultural resources' NRHP eligibility would be threatened, and the determination of effect would be adverse effect.

Major: The adverse impact on cultural resources would be substantial, noticeable, and permanent. For NRHP eligible or listed archeological sites, cultural landscapes, or historic structures, the action would change one or more character-defining features, diminishing the integrity of the resource to the extent that it no longer would be eligible for listing in the NRHP. For purposes of Section 106, NRHP eligibility would be lost, and the determination of effect would be adverse effect.

The relationships between definitions of effects, including beneficial effects, and treatments of cultural resources are analyzed in the impact analysis for each of the alternatives. Levels of beneficial effect are not directly linked to specific types of treatments, rather they depend on the particular treatment of given cultural resources. All treatments proposed under all of the alternatives would be in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's standards for the treatment of historic properties. All treatments proposed under all of the alternatives would have no adverse effect to known cultural resources.

## Effects on Education and Interpretation

Education and interpretation programs and materials provided by the national monument are just beginning to be developed and offered to the public. Additionally, there are no surveys of visitor satisfaction or the effectiveness of these programs or materials at increasing visitor understanding of the national monument. Therefore, professional judgment was used to evaluate the potential impacts on visitor understanding resulting from education and interpretation proposed under each alternative. Additional information regarding education and interpretation was also obtained from public input during the planning process.

For analysis purposes, impact intensities for education and interpre-

tation were defined as follows:

- Negligible: The impact to education or interpretation would be barely detectable, affecting understanding of the national monument's significance for few visitors in the applicable setting.
- Minor: The impact to education or interpretation would be detectable, affecting understanding of the national monument's significance for many visitors in the applicable setting.
- Moderate: The impact to education or interpretation would be readily apparent, affecting understanding of the national monument's significance for the majority of visitors in the applicable setting.
- Major: The impact to education or interpretation would be severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial, affecting understanding of the national monument's significance for nearly all visitors in the applicable setting.

The area of analysis for cumulative impacts to education and interpretation was defined as the western U.S., including other sites that could affect or contribute to visitor understanding of the national monument.

## Effects on Recreation and Tourism

As hard data about the amount of recreation and tourism in the immediate vicinity of the national monument is lacking, this analysis is based on the estimated effects an action would have on the visitors' experience in a given setting.

For analysis purposes, impact intensities for recreation and tourism

were defined as follows:

- Negligible: The impact would be barely detectable, affecting the experience of few visitors in the applicable setting.
- Minor: The impact would be detectable, affecting the experience of many visitors in the applicable setting.
- Moderate: The impact would be readily apparent, affecting the experience of the majority of visitors in the applicable setting.
- Major: The impact would be severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial, affecting the experience of nearly all visitors in the applicable setting.

The area of analysis for cumulative impacts to recreation and tourism was defined as the south-central Idaho region, including Jerome, Gooding, Twin Falls, Minidoka, Lincoln, and Cassia Counties.

## Effects on Natural Resources

### Soils

Information about soils and the response of soils to various actions was compiled from the NRCS (1998) soil survey of Jerome County and other relevant literature. The specific soil types found on the national monument and their characteristics were described in chapter 3 of this document. In particular, the erosion potential or stability and the site productivity or fertility of these soils were examined in relationship to the proposed management actions of each of the alternatives. Any incompatibilities were noted and the potential for impacts was analyzed. The analysis was based on the above reference information, anticipated effects of management actions, and professional judgment.

The intensity of effects to soils is discussed in the analysis using the following threshold criteria:

- Negligible: The effects on soil stability or productivity would be at or below the level of detection.
- Minor: The effects on soil stability or productivity would be small, as would the area affected. If mitigation was needed to offset adverse effects, it would be relatively simple to implement and would likely be successful.
- Moderate: The effects on soil stability or productivity would be readily apparent and result in a change in the soil character over a large portion of the national monument. Mitigating measures probably would be necessary to offset adverse effects and would likely be successful.
- Major: The effect on soil stability or productivity would be readily apparent and long-term and would substantially change the character of the soils over a large area, including lands outside the national monument. Extensive mitigating measures to offset adverse effects would be needed, and their success could not be guaranteed.

The area of analysis for cumulative effects on soils was defined as Jerome County.

## Vegetation

As no systematic inventory of monument vegetation has been completed, information about the general nature of vegetation on the national monument was used in this assessment of effects. The analysis was based on the general information, anticipated effects

of management actions, and professional judgment.

The intensity of effects to vegetation is discussed in the analysis using the following threshold criteria:

- Negligible: No native vegetation would be affected, or adverse impacts to native vegetation would be limited to a few individual plants in small areas outside the historic open space zone. There would be no measurable effect on native plant communities. Historic vegetation dating from the operation of the Minidoka Relocation Center would be unaffected.
- Minor: Individual native plants within the historic open space zone may be affected, but there would be no long-term effect on these plant communities. Areas (less than 10 acres) of vegetation outside the historic open space zone that could contain native plants could be adversely affected. Mitigation to offset such adverse effects would be relatively simple to implement and would likely be successful. Historic vegetation dating from the operation of the camp would be unaffected.
- Moderate: Native plant communities within the historic open space zone could be affected. Large areas of vegetation outside the historic open space zone that could contain native plants could be adversely affected. Mitigation to offset such adverse effects could be extensive but the procedures probably would be successful. Individual historic plants dating from the operation of the camp could be affected.
- Major: Native plant communities within the historic open space zone would be affected. These effects would be readily apparent and result in a change in the



composition and structure of vegetation over a large portion of the national monument. Numerous individual historic plants dating from the operation of the camp would be affected. The extensive use of mitigation measures to offset adverse effects would be necessary, and their success would not be guaranteed.

The area of analysis for cumulative effects on vegetation was defined as the national monument and the area within approximately ½ mile of the boundaries of the national monument.

## Wildlife

The intensity of effects to wildlife, discussed in the following analysis, is based on these threshold definitions:

- Negligible: Wildlife would not be affected or the effects would be at or below the level of detection, and the changes would be so slight that they would not be of any measurable or perceptible consequence to the population of any wildlife species.
- Minor: Effects to wildlife would be detectable, although the effects would be localized, small, and of little consequence to the species' population.
- Moderate: Effects to wildlife would be readily detectable and localized, with consequences at the population level.
- Major: Effects to wildlife would be obvious and would have substantial consequences to the populations in the region.

## Soundscape

No inventory of soundscape conditions, sound sources, or noise lev-

els exists for Minidoka Internment National Monument. Thus, this analysis is based on the estimated effects an action and its resultant sounds would have on the visitors' experience in a given setting.

For analysis purposes, impact intensities for soundscape were defined as follows:

- Negligible: The impact would be barely detectable, affecting the experience of few visitors in the applicable setting.
- Minor: The impact would be detectable, affecting the experience of many visitors in the applicable setting.
- Moderate: The impact would be readily apparent, affecting the experience of the majority of visitors in the applicable setting.
- Major: The impact would be severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial, affecting the experience of nearly all visitors in the applicable setting.

The area of analysis for cumulative effects on soundscape was defined as the national monument and the area within approximately ½ mile of the boundaries of the monument.

## Effects on Scenic Resources

For the purposes of this analysis, scenic resources at the national monument have been divided into two categories. Scenic resources within the national monument include the cultural landscape composed of the gentle topography and remaining features of the Minidoka WRA Center (such as historical structures, buildings, roads, pathways, and vegetation). The second category of scenic resources is composed of natural features and cultural landscape patterns outside the national monument, often in the distance.

Impacts to scenic resources composed of the on-site cultural land-

scape are discussed under Effects on Cultural Resources, above. Impacts to scenic resources outside the national monument, discussed in this section, are based on visitors' access to viewpoints and the estimated effects those views would have on visitor experience.

For analysis purposes, impact intensities for scenic resources were defined as follows:

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|-------------|--|
| Negligible: | The impact would be barely detectable, affecting the experience of few visitors in the applicable setting.                                   |
| Minor:      | The impact would be detectable, affecting the experience of some visitors in the applicable setting.   |
| Moderate:   | The impact would be readily apparent, affecting the experience of the majority of visitors in the applicable setting.                        |
| Major:      | The impact would be severely adverse or exceptionally beneficial, affecting the experience of nearly all visitors in the applicable setting. |

The area of analysis for cumulative impacts to scenic resources was defined as the area containing all features visible from the national monument, generally south-central Idaho and northern Nevada.

## Effects on Socioeconomic Factors

This section identifies the potential impacts on land use and ownership patterns, demographics, employment, social conditions, and the regional economy that could result from implementing each alternative. To assess socioeconomic impacts it was assumed that any effects on the regional economy would result primarily from a long-term (more than 5 years) increase in the number of visitors to the national monument.

For analysis purposes, impact intensities for socioeconomic factors

were defined as follows:

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|-------------|---|
| Negligible: | Changes to socioeconomic indicators (population, employment or unemployment rate, per capita income, property values, poverty level, crime rates, etc.) would be below or at the level of statistical error (about 3%). |
| Minor:      | Changes to socioeconomic indicators would be between 4 and 10% .  |
| Moderate:   | Changes to socioeconomic indicators would be between 10 and 20% .   |
| Major:      | Changes to socioeconomic indicators would be more than 20%.   |

The area of analysis for cumulative impacts to socioeconomic conditions was defined as the south-central Idaho region, including Jerome, Gooding, Twin Falls, Minidoka, Lincoln, and Cassia Counties.

## Effects on Access, Circulation, and Parking

For analysis purposes, impact intensities for access, circulation, and parking were defined as follows:

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|-------------|---|
| Negligible: | No unacceptable traffic conditions would occur. Through traffic would not be delayed, although occasional minor slowing could occur. Although some parking areas would be full, acceptable parking would be available elsewhere on the national monument. |
| Minor:      | Unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through traffic and no available parking spaces in the national monument, would occur on no more than  |

three days per year.

Moderate: Unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through-traffic and no available parking spaces in the national monument, would occur on at least four days and up to nine days per year.

Major: Unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through-traffic and no available parking spaces in the national monument, would occur on 10 or more days per year.

The area of analysis for cumulative impacts to access, circulation, and parking was defined as Jerome County.

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## Impacts from Alternative A

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### Effects on Cultural Resources

#### Analysis of Impacts to Archeological Resources

In fulfillment of Section 106 of the NHPA, the NPS would conduct archeological surveys prior to all proposed development projects to identify and protect archeological features. Long-term beneficial impacts to archeological resources would range from minor to moderate, as defined in the “Methodology” section above)

Under alternative A, NPS staffing of the national monument would be unchanged. Such staffing is inadequate to provide year-round on-site resource protection and maintenance. Under such conditions, some theft and vandalism of archeological resources and historic artifacts is likely to continue. Over time, this degradation could change one or more character-defining features of these resources, resulting in long-term moderate adverse impacts.

Under Alternative A, the NPS would continue to accommodate the existing number of visitors to the national monument. However, as the public learns more about Minidoka, visitation would be expected to increase modestly over the life of the plan. Such an increase in visitation would eventually exceed the staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities of this alternative, resulting in adverse effects to cultural resources. These effects would most likely include minor erosion of archeological resources from increased pedestrian traffic and increased vandalism and theft of archeological resources. Over time, it is probable that these actions would change one or more character-defining features of an NRHP eligible cultural resource, resulting in moderate long-term adverse impacts.

## Analysis of Impacts to Cultural Landscape Resources

The periodic maintenance of existing historic roads by re-grading and graveling would preserve these historic features as well as the cultural landscape to which they contribute. Such action would constitute long-term minor beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape.

Actions under alternative A would protect existing pedestrian circulation, but no new trails would be developed. Maintenance and preservation of existing trails would constitute minor long-term beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape.

The honor roll would be reconstructed under alternative A, as it would be under any of the alternatives. If supporting information was not available and reconstruction would not be feasible, then delineation would occur. Of the other cultural resources in the entrance area, only the historic pathways and rock garden would be rehabilitated. However, such active intervention to preserve and improve the cultural landscape would constitute major long-term benefits.

Maintenance of existing native vegetation, selective rehabilitation of degraded vegetation, and selective removal of nonnative vegetation in the historic open space zone would create minor benefits to the cultural landscape by maintaining the historic character of open spaces on the national monument.

Under alternative A, the swimming hole would be protected in its existing condition, and the open character of the 9-acre site would also be protected. These protections constitute long-term minor beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape.

The existing foundation piers of historic buildings within the administration and staff housing area would be protected under this alternative. In addition, the existing concrete pads and footprints for all buildings and other structures, including the filling station, in the

warehouse area would be protected. These protections would result in minor long-term beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape.

## Analysis of Impacts to Historic Buildings and Structures

As described above, the NPS would continue to accommodate the existing number of visitors to the national monument. However, modest increases in visitation over the life of the plan would eventually exceed the staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities of this alternative, resulting in adverse effects to cultural resources. These effects could include some wear and tear on historic structures from increased pedestrian traffic. Over time, it is probable that these actions would change one or more character-defining features of an NRHP eligible cultural resource, resulting in moderate long-term adverse impacts.

Under this alternative, the existing historic buildings on the 3-acre site – the motor repair and tire shop (Building #5) (historic warehouse), a single-family residence, a duplex residence, and a lavatory (Building #25) – would be stabilized, creating long-term moderate beneficial effects to historic structures.

The stabilized root cellar (Building #42), located in the warehouse area, would continue to be protected, representing a long-term moderate benefit to historic structures.

## Cumulative Impacts on Cultural Resources

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II would continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument.



This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which would exceed the staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities of this alternative, resulting in adverse effects to cultural resources. These effects would most likely include minor erosion of archeological resources, some wear and tear on historic structures from increased pedestrian traffic, and increased vandalism and theft of archeological resources. Over time, it is probable that these actions would change one or more character-defining features of an NRHP eligible cultural resource, resulting in moderate long-term adverse impacts.

### **Impairment to Cultural Resources**

Because there would be no major adverse impacts on a resource or value whose conservation is (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the proclamation establishing Minidoka Internment National Monument; (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the monument or to opportunities for its enjoyment; or (3) identified as a goal in the GMP or other relevant NPS planning documents, the monument's cultural resources or values would not be impaired.

### **Effects on Education and Interpretation**

#### **Analysis of Impacts to Education and Interpretation**

Under alternative A, the NPS would use existing materials and information in interpretive programs, such as pamphlets and the exhibits at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, to depict the living conditions and physical extent of the historic camp. Minimal on-site facilities would be provided to help orient visitors at the national monument. For example, minimal orientation and informational materials at the entry area would be provided, as funding permits.

Under alternative A, the NPS would continue to protect on-site cultural resources through a variety of historic preservation treatments

which could enhance historic features. Experiences gained on-site involving these cultural resources would positively affect understanding of the national monument's significance for many visitors to the national monument, resulting in long-term, minor beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

Under this alternative, identification signs would be limited to boundary markers and signs along the national monument's perimeter, informing visitors about the location and extent of the national monument. These signs would probably improve understanding of the national monument for a number of visitors, resulting in minor long-term beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

Under alternative A, the NPS would continue to accommodate the existing number of visitors to the national monument, and additional park staff for Minidoka would only be hired as funding permitted. Currently, staffing is inadequate to provide year-round on-site resource protection and maintenance. As the public learns more about Minidoka, visitation would be expected to increase modestly over the life of the plan. Such an increase in visitation would exceed the staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities of this alternative. Under such conditions, on-site cultural resources would experience accelerated degradation and, over time, loss of interpretative value. Understanding of the national monument's significance would be adversely affected for many visitors. This would constitute long-term minor adverse impacts to education and interpretation.

Minimal efforts through the use of existing staff would continue to provide limited off-site educational and outreach programs and interpretive materials. Within the limitations of funding, the NPS would maximize the use of partnerships to direct visitors and students to existing educational and legacy organizations and museums to learn about the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. The NPS would seek to build coalitions with former in-

ternees and their descendents to assist in accurate interpretation about the culture of the internees. Similarly, the NPS would seek to build coalitions with communities and individuals that were associated with Minidoka but who were not incarcerated. Under an NPS collaborative museum management plan, collections of historical Minidoka objects and documents, including some at off-site locations, would be more accessible to the public. Through these programs, alternative A would positively affect understanding of the national monument's significance for many people. Depending on the specific programs and the size of the audiences they reach, long-term beneficial impacts to education and interpretation could range from minor to moderate.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Education and Interpretation**

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II would continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which would exceed the staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities of this alternative. Under such conditions, on-site cultural resources would experience accelerated degradation and, over time, loss of interpretive value. Understanding of the national monument's significance would be adversely affected for many visitors. This would constitute long-term minor adverse impacts to education and interpretation.

## **Effects on Recreation and Tourism**

### **Analysis of Impacts to Recreation and Tourism**

Based on previous experience at other sites within the national park system, NPS planners estimate that management of the national monument under alternative A would attract approximately 5,000 visitors to the site per year. This estimate assumes that physically the national monument would remain much the same as it is today, with little additional development. This represents less than 1% of the more than 2 million people that currently visit the south-central Idaho region annually. The regional consequences of this increased visitation would be barely detectable, affecting the experience of relatively few visitors to the region. Long-term impacts on recreation and tourism would be negligible.

The national monument would also create new opportunities for passive recreation, such as walking, bicycling, picnicking, and photography. These opportunities under alternative A would positively affect the experience of many visitors to the national monument, resulting in minor long-term beneficial impacts to recreation.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Recreation and Tourism**

Cumulative impacts to recreation and tourism resulting from management of the national monument under alternative A and other known projects would be negligible.

## **Effects on Natural Resources**

### **Analysis of Impacts to Soils**

Management of the national monument under alternative A would include few site developments. However, some of these actions would involve excavation or other disturbances to the soils. These include archeological excavations, excavation and rehabilitation of

the historic pathways in the entrance area, overflow parking areas, and selective rehabilitation of vegetation in the historic open space zone.

Although these disturbances would disrupt soil structure and expose soils to erosion by wind and water, such adverse impacts are expected to be negligible due to the few small areas disturbed at any given time and the low susceptibility of national monument soils to erosion. In addition, wherever excavation and distinct soil disturbance would occur, best management practices, such as those listed under the “Mitigating Measures” section in chapter 4, would be implemented. For example, topsoil would be set aside and replaced to help retain the structure and fertility of soils and minimize impacts. With the implementation of best management practices, the duration of individual soil impacts would be reduced to less than five years (short-term impacts).

Under alternative A, the NPS would continue to accommodate the existing number of visitors to the national monument, and staffing would remain unchanged. Currently, such staffing is inadequate to provide year-round on-site resource protection and maintenance. As the public learns more about Minidoka, visitation would be expected to increase modestly over the life of the plan. Such an increase in visitation would exceed the staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities of this alternative. Under such conditions, timely measures to prevent or remediate any disturbance or erosion of soil that might occur could not be guaranteed. Resulting long-term adverse soils impacts from increased visitation would be minor.

### Cumulative Impacts to Soils

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II would continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In

addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which would exceed the staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities of this alternative. Under such conditions, timely measures to prevent or remediate any disturbance or erosion of soil that might occur could not be guaranteed. Resulting long-term adverse soils impacts from increased visitation would be minor.

### Analysis of Impacts to Vegetation

Management of the national monument under alternative A would include few site developments. However, some of these actions would involve excavation or other direct disturbances to vegetation. These include archeological excavations, excavation and rehabilitation of the historic pathways in the entrance area, overflow parking areas, and selective rehabilitation of vegetation in the historic open space zone.

Some of the archeological excavation would occur within the historic open space zone, but only small areas and few native plants would be adversely affected. Existing historic vegetation dating from the operation of the camp, protected under this and all alternatives, would not be disrupted by these actions. Wherever management actions involve excavation or other direct disturbance of vegetation in areas not permanently developed or occupied by structures, site rehabilitation, revegetation with native plants, and weed management procedures, such as those listed under the “Mitigating Measures” section in chapter 4, would be implemented. The NPS would control noxious weeds on the national monument in cooperation with the Northside Tri-Counties Cooperative Weed Management Area and as

required by Executive Order 13112. Such mitigation would minimize impacts to vegetation to negligible levels within five years. Resulting short-term adverse impacts to vegetation would be minor.

Under alternative A, the NPS would protect historic and native vegetation in the historic open space zone to favor patterns of vegetation present during the historic period.

Under alternative A, the NPS would continue to accommodate the existing number of visitors to the national monument, and staffing would remain unchanged. Currently, such staffing is inadequate to provide year-round on-site resource protection and maintenance. As the public learns more about Minidoka, visitation would be expected to increase modestly over the life of the plan. Such an increase in visitation would exceed the staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities of this alternative. Under such conditions, timely measures to prevent or remediate any development of social trails or other disturbances to vegetation that might occur could not be guaranteed. Resulting long-term adverse vegetation impacts from increased visitation would be minor.

### Cumulative Impacts to Vegetation

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II will continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which would exceed the staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities of this alternative. Under such conditions, timely measures to prevent or remediate any development of social trails or other disturbances to vegetation that

might occur could not be guaranteed. Resulting long-term adverse vegetation impacts from increased visitation would be minor.

### Analysis of Impacts to Wildlife

Management under alternative A would include a few developments involving excavation or other site disturbances that have the potential to affect wildlife or wildlife habitat on the national monument. The most important of these would be archeological excavations and selective rehabilitation of vegetation in the historic open space zone.

Wherever management actions involve excavation in areas not permanently developed or occupied by structures, site rehabilitation, revegetation with native plants, and weed management procedures, such as those listed under “Mitigating Measures” in chapter 4, would be implemented. The NPS would control noxious weeds on the national monument in cooperation with the Northside Tri-Counties Cooperative Weed Management Area. Over time, such mitigation would increase and improve areas on the national monument dominated by native vegetation, thereby improving wildlife habitat. Depending on the amount of area treated, resulting long-term beneficial impacts would be minor to moderate.

Under alternative A, the NPS would selectively rehabilitate vegetation in the historic open space zone to favor patterns of vegetation present during the historic period. This would include selective removal of invading nonnative plants. Invading vegetation, such as Russian olive trees along the canal, would also be removed to restore historic views to the canal. Loss of these trees would result in long-term minor adverse impacts to birds and other wildlife that currently utilize this habitat. To maintain the open character and to minimize reestablishment of nonnative invasive plants, however, native vegetation would be established along the canal and throughout the historic open space zone. This rehabilitation of native veg-



etation would create new wildlife habitat favorable to other wildlife, especially native sagebrush dependent species. Depending on the amount of area rehabilitated, long-term beneficial impacts to wildlife would range from minor to moderate.

Under alternative A, the NPS would continue to accommodate the existing number of visitors to the national monument, and staffing would remain unchanged. Currently, such staffing is inadequate to provide year-round on-site resource protection and maintenance. As the public learns more about Minidoka, visitation would be expected to increase modestly over the life of the plan. Such an increase in visitation would exceed the staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities of this alternative. Under such conditions, disturbances to wildlife or their habitat could occur, creating short-term minor adverse impacts.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Wildlife**

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II will continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which would exceed the staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities of this alternative. Under such conditions, disturbances to wildlife or their habitat could occur, creating short-term minor adverse impacts.

### **Analysis of Impacts to Soundscape**

Under alternative A, the primary sources of noise on the national monument would continue to be traffic on Hunt Road, farm machin-

ery operating in adjacent fields, and overflights by aircraft. Of these, only traffic on Hunt Road would be expected to deviate noticeably from existing levels. Visitation under this alternative would be expected to increase modestly over the life of the plan, with the monument attracting an estimated 5,000 visitors to the site per year. Traffic and associated automobile noise on Hunt Road would be commensurate with this increased visitation. It is estimated that these sounds would negatively affect the experience of many visitors in some parts of the monument, thus resulting in long-term minor adverse impacts to soundscape.

Some alternative A operations and activities would add to the human-caused sounds within the monument. These include periodic maintenance of historic roads by regrading and graveling, maintenance and preservation of trails, and reconstruction or rehabilitation of the honor roll and other cultural resources, especially those in the entrance area. Although these sounds would be short in duration, they would probably have a negative effect on the experience of many visitors. Thus, adverse impacts would be minor and short-term.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Soundscape**

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II would continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which would increase automobile traffic and noise on Hunt Road, especially during peak visitation. It is anticipated that such conditions would occur infrequently, adversely affecting the experience of a large number of visitors on only a few days each year.

Short-term adverse impacts to the monument's soundscape would be minor to moderate.

### **Impairment to Natural Resources**

Because there would be no major adverse impacts on a resource or value whose conservation is (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the proclamation establishing Minidoka Internment National Monument; (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the monument or to opportunities for its enjoyment; or (3) identified as a goal in the GMP or other relevant NPS planning documents, the monument's natural resources or values would not be impaired.

### **Effects on Scenic Resources**

#### **Analysis of Impacts to Scenic Resources**

As with all the alternatives, historic views to the North Side Canal from within the national monument would be protected, as feasible. Scenic views would be accessible along the northern boundary of the site and from the 3-acre and 9-acre parcels. However, no interpretive overlooks would be developed. These views would highlight the physical extent of the historic residential areas, the North Side Canal, distant mountains, and the farms surrounding the national monument. Accessing these views from the national monument would enhance the experience of some visitors, thereby resulting in long-term minor beneficial impacts to scenic resources.

Under alternative A, exotic Russian olive trees growing along the North Side Canal would not be removed. These trees would limit views of the canal from portions of the national monument. These actions would negatively affect the experience of a few visitors in these settings, resulting in negligible long-term adverse impacts to scenic resources.

Management under this alternative would provide overflow parking

areas at the 3-acre and 9-acre sites. At times of peak visitation, these parking areas would be readily visible and a detriment to the experience of some visitors. Short-term adverse impacts to scenic resources would be minor.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Scenic Resources**

No cumulative impacts to scenic resources would occur.

### **Effects on Socioeconomic Factors**

#### **Analysis of Impacts to Socioeconomic Factors**

The NPS would work cooperatively with monument neighbors and local government to encourage the protection of historic open space and the agricultural character of the area surrounding the national monument. Land use and ownership of private lands surrounding the monument would be unaffected by alternative A.

Based on previous experience at other sites within the national park system, NPS planners estimate that management of the national monument under alternative A would attract approximately 5,000 visitors to the site per year. This estimate assumes that physically, the national monument would remain much the same as it is today, with very little additional development. This represents less than 1% of the more than 2 million people that currently visit the south-central Idaho region annually.

In terms of the regional economy, monument visitors would generate travel-related spending and create additional demand for travel-related services within the region. Such demands would indirectly result in the creation of new travel-related and service jobs. These new jobs would be dispersed throughout the region in a wide variety of visitor support services such as hotels, restaurants, auto service stations, and in services that would support increased business at these facilities. These increases in economic activity would probably

be in proportion to the increase in visitation or less than 1% of the regional total. Although important, this increased stimulus would have a negligible long-term beneficial economic impact.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Socioeconomic Factors**

Cumulative impacts to the regional economy resulting from management of the national monument under alternative A and other known projects would be negligible.

## **Effects on Access, Circulation, and Parking**

### **Analysis of Impacts to Access, Circulation, and Parking**

Based on previous experience at other sites within the national park system, NPS planners estimate that management of the national monument under alternative A would attract approximately 5,000 visitors to the site per year. This estimate assumes that physically, the national monument would remain much the same as it is today, with very little additional development. If this level of visitation was uniform throughout the year, there would be approximately 15 visitors to the national monument each day. It is anticipated that most, if not all of these people would travel by automobile. If the average vehicle occupancy is three people per car, then about five vehicles would be accessing and parking at the national monument on a typical day. Visitation, of course, would not be uniformly distributed throughout the year, but would fluctuate from days when there would be no visitation to popular holiday weekends when there could be three to four times as many visitors as the typical day. Given these assumptions, visitation on such days could reach about 60 people and 20 vehicles. These estimates do not include local and through traffic on Hunt Road that is unrelated to monument visitation.

Additionally, it is estimated that special events held at the national monument, such as a Minidoka Pilgrimage, would be similar in scale to those that took place in 2003 and 2004. These events could involve 500 or more visitors on a single day. Under NPS policy, a special use permit would be required for such visitation. The NPS would work proactively with such groups to ensure that parking, circulation, seating, portable facilities, on-site staffing, and other issues are adequate to provide for these events.

Under the no-action alternative, the NPS would retain the existing access, circulation, and parking system where visitors explore the national monument by car as well as on foot. The two dedicated county roads (Hunt Road and 1400E) that traverse the site would be maintained for circulation for visitors and local residents. Existing pedestrian circulation includes walkways at the entry area and historic pathways in the entrance garden area. No new trails would be developed.

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.

Given the above-described management of the national monument's access, circulation, and parking, it is estimated that unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through-traffic and no available parking spaces, would occur on no more than three days per year. This would result in minor long-term adverse impacts to access, circulation, and parking.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Access, Circulation, and Parking**

Cumulative impacts to access, circulation, and parking resulting from management of the national monument under alternative A and other known projects would be negligible.

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## Impacts from Alternative B

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### Effects on Cultural Resources

#### Analysis of Impacts to Archeological Resources

In fulfillment of Section 106 of the NHPA, inventories to identify cultural resources would be conducted prior to all proposed development projects under this or any of the alternatives. In addition, some proactive Section 110 inventories of cultural resources (i.e., nonproject-related inventory) would be completed to learn more about the site. Long-term beneficial impacts to archeological resources would range from minor to moderate, as defined in Methodology (above).

Additional staffing of the national monument under this alternative, especially the park ranger, cultural resource specialist, and maintenance personnel, and year-round NPS presence on-site would help protect archeological resources, resulting in moderate to major long-term benefits.

Alternative B would focus on providing off-site facilities for education and interpretation with a minimum of new construction at the national monument. Over the life of the plan, however, visitation to the monument would be expected to increase moderately. Such an increase would most likely result in some adverse effects to cultural resources. These effects could include minor erosion of archeological resources from increased pedestrian traffic. Increased vandalism and theft of archeological resources could also accompany the moderate rise in visitation to the national monument. However, increased NPS staffing, protection, maintenance of the national monument, and education of visitors on the importance of archeological resources would be sufficient to minimize these effects. Such minor long-term

adverse impacts are not anticipated to affect the character or diminish the features of any NRHP eligible resources on the national monument.

#### Analysis of Impacts to Cultural Landscape Resources

The honor roll would be reconstructed under alternative B, as it would be under any of the alternatives. If supporting information was not available and reconstruction was not feasible, then delineation would occur. Of the other cultural resources in the entrance area, only the historic pathways and rock garden would be rehabilitated. However, such improvements to these entry area cultural resources would constitute major long-term benefits to the cultural landscape.

The periodic maintenance of existing historic roads by re-grading and graveling would preserve these historic features and the cultural landscape to which they contribute. Such action would constitute long-term minor beneficial impacts to cultural resources.

Under alternative B, the swimming hole would be protected in its existing condition and the open character of the 9-acre site would be protected, resulting in long-term minor beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape.

Maintenance of existing native vegetation, selective rehabilitation of degraded vegetation, and selective removal of nonnative vegetation in the historic open space zone would create minor benefits to the cultural landscape by maintaining the historic character of open spaces on the national monument.

Under this alternative, historic pathways would be rehabilitated and utilized to provide pedestrian circulation, linking significant interpretive areas and viewpoints. Limited new pedestrian trails would also be developed. Major long-term beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape would result.



The foundation piers on all historic buildings within the administration and staff housing area would be delineated, resulting in long-term minor to moderate beneficial impacts to historic structures.

Under alternative B, the existing concrete pads and footprints for all buildings and other structures, including the filling station, in the warehouse area would be protected, and the stabilized root cellar would be protected. These protections would result in minor long-term beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape.

As with alternative A, the existing historic buildings and features on the 3-acre site would be protected and stabilized, creating long-term moderate beneficial effects to the cultural landscape.

### **Analysis of Impacts to Historic Buildings and Structures**

Additional monument staffing and year-round NPS presence on the site, described above, would help protect historic structures resulting in moderate to major long-term benefits.

Over the life of the plan, visitation to the monument under alternative B would be expected to increase moderately. Such an increase would most likely result in some adverse effects to cultural resources, including wear and tear on historic structures from increased pedestrian traffic. However, increased NPS staffing, protection, and maintenance of the national monument would be sufficient to minimize these effects. Such minor long-term adverse impacts are not anticipated to affect the character or diminish the features of any NRHP eligible resources on the national monument.

Management under alternative B would place a strong emphasis on developing cooperative strategies to protect historic structures and features that are located off-site. Depending on the resources involved and the partnerships developed, such protection could include maintenance, preservation, site stabilization, delineation, rehabilitation, or restoration. Resulting long-term beneficial impacts

would range from minor to major.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Cultural Resources**

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II would continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which would result in some adverse effects to cultural resources. These effects would most likely include erosion of archeological resources and some wear and tear on historic structures from increased pedestrian traffic. Increased vandalism and theft of archeological resources could also occur. It is possible that cumulative increases in visitation could exceed the staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities of this alternative. Over time, it is possible that these actions would change one or more character-defining features of an NRHP eligible cultural resource, resulting in moderate long-term adverse impacts.

### **Impairment to Cultural Resources**

Because there would be no major adverse impacts on a resource or value whose conservation is (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the proclamation establishing Minidoka Internment National Monument; (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the monument or to opportunities for its enjoyment; or (3) identified as a goal in the GMP or other relevant NPS planning documents, the monument's cultural resources or values would not be impaired.

## Effects on Education and Interpretation

### Analysis of Impacts to Education and Interpretation

Under alternative B, on-site education and interpretation would be accomplished through a range of self-exploratory visitor experiences. Interpretation and symbolism would be used to educate visitors about on-site historic landscape features and buildings. Materials and information would provide the public with an understanding of the Nikkei's living conditions and the large physical extent of the historic camp. Alternative B would provide self-guided interpretation utilizing the extant historic features at the entry area and, as archeological and historic information becomes available, reconstruction of the honor roll. A variety of historic preservation treatments would be employed to enhance historic features. Under an NPS collaborative museum management plan, collections of historical Minidoka objects and documents would be more accessible to the public. These on-site experiences and interpretation would positively affect understanding of the national monument's significance for most visitors to the national monument, resulting in long-term moderate beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

Directional signs along I-84 and U.S. 93, boundary markers along the national monument's perimeter, and interpretive waysides would be constructed to inform visitors about the location, extent, and history of the national monument. This would make the national monument accessible to more people, enabling the Minidoka education and interpretation programs to reach a wider audience and promoting a better understanding of the significance of the national monument. This would result in moderate long-term beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

Although most of the national monument staff would be located off-site under this alternative, some educational and interpretive staff, such as an education specialist, interpretive specialist, park ranger,

and cultural resource and curatorial specialist, would also be located on-site, for at least a portion of the year. This increased NPS presence on the national monument would greatly improve understanding of the national monument's significance for the majority of visitors. This would constitute long-term moderate beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

A projected moderate increase in visitation over the life of the plan would result in additional pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the national monument under alternative B. At times of peak visitation or during special events at the national monument, it is possible that crowding and increased traffic would limit the effectiveness of educational and interpretive programs and features. It is anticipated that such conditions would occur infrequently, adversely affecting understanding of the national monument's significance for a large number of visitors on only a few days each year. Short-term adverse impacts to education and interpretation would be minor to moderate.

Off-site visitor education and interpretation would be conducted through diverse comprehensive programs developed in cooperation with partners, including school districts, educational and legacy organizations, and museums. Some of these partner sites would be directly related to Minidoka, while others would deal with broader historical or cultural themes. Off-site education would allow the internment and incarceration story to be taught and learned in a diversity of geographic locations and demographic settings. Oral histories would be a vital component of such education. Under an NPS collaborative museum management plan, collections of historical Minidoka objects and documents, including some at off-site locations, would be more accessible to the public. Also, off-site education could encourage higher visitation to the national monument. When fully developed, these programs would reach a broad public audience through a variety of means, dispersing information about

Minidoka and the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II to many people in many areas. Through these programs, alternative B would positively affect understanding of the national monument's significance for many people. Depending on the specific programs and the size of the audiences they reach, long-term beneficial impacts to education and interpretation could range from minor to major.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Education and Interpretation**

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II would continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which would exacerbate crowding and increased traffic during peak visitation, limiting the effectiveness of educational and interpretive programs and features. It is anticipated that such conditions would occur infrequently, adversely affecting understanding of the national monument's significance for many visitors on only a few days each year. Short-term adverse impacts to education and interpretation would be minor to moderate.

### **Effects on Recreation and Tourism**

#### **Analysis of Impacts to Recreation and Tourism**

Based on previous experience at other sites within the national park system, NPS planners estimate that if managed as proposed under alternative B, the national monument would attract up to approximately 40,000 visitors to the site per year. This estimate assumes full development of the visitor facilities and cultural resource manage-

ment proposed under this alternative. Thus, this level of visitation would not be reached until near the end of the General Management Plan's life, or about 20 years. Such an increase in visitation represents less than 2% of the more than 2 million people that currently visit the south-central Idaho region annually. The consequences of this increased visitation would be barely detectable, affecting the experience of few visitors to the region. Long-term impacts on recreation and tourism would be negligible.

Management of the national monument under alternative B would accommodate a moderate increase in the number of on-site visitors. Improved visitor facilities and increased staffing of the national monument would also better provide for a larger number of visitors at Minidoka Pilgrimages. This impact would be readily apparent, affecting the experience of the majority of visitors on the pilgrimages. These moderate beneficial impacts would be short-term.

The national monument would also create new opportunities for passive recreation, such as walking, bicycling, picnicking, and photography. Under alternative B, these opportunities would positively affect the experience of many visitors to the national monument, resulting in minor long-term beneficial impacts to recreation.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Recreation and Tourism**

It is anticipated that some visitors to south-central Idaho who are unfamiliar with Minidoka prior to arrival in the area would probably visit the national monument once they learned about it and were just a short drive away. Conversely, as visitation increases at the national monument, many of these people would be attracted to other tourism opportunities within Jerome County and the region, such as Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. Depending on the sites visited, such increased visitation could affect the experience of few to many visitors. Resulting short- and long-term impacts on recreation and tourism could be adverse or beneficial and would

range from negligible to minor.

## Effects on Natural Resources

### Analysis of Impacts to Soils

Although management of the national monument under alternative B would include a minimum of site construction, various actions would involve excavation or other disturbances to the soils. These include archeological excavations, excavation and rehabilitation of historic pathways for adaptive rehabilitation, development of limited new interpretive trails for improved pedestrian circulation, overflow parking areas, and development of new restroom facilities.

Although these disturbances would disrupt soil structure and expose soils to erosion by wind and water, such adverse impacts are expected to be minor due to the small areas disturbed at any given time and the low susceptibility of monument soils to erosion. In addition, wherever excavation and distinct soil disturbance would occur, best management practices, such as those listed under “Mitigating Measures” in chapter 4, would be implemented. For example, topsoil would be set aside and replaced to help retain the structure and fertility of soils and minimize impacts. With the implementation of best management practices, the duration of individual soil impacts would be reduced to less than five years (short-term impacts).

Under alternative B, the NPS would selectively rehabilitate vegetation in the historic open space zone to favor patterns of vegetation during the historic period. This would include selective removal of invading nonnative plants. Invading vegetation, such as Russian olive trees along the canal, would also be removed to restore historic views to the canal. Manipulation of vegetation would create soil disturbances. However, best management practices and revegetation of disturbed areas would reduce such short-term impacts to negligible levels.

A projected moderate increase in visitation over the life of the plan would result in additional pedestrian traffic throughout the national monument. Experience at other National Park Service sites has shown that, over time, foot traffic causes soil compaction and the formation of social trails. However, such impacts would be minimized under alternative B by establishing new trails or rehabilitating historic pathways to accommodate the additional foot traffic and improve pedestrian circulation throughout the national monument. In addition, increased staffing of the national monument under this alternative, especially the park ranger and maintenance personnel and year-round NPS presence on the site, would enable the early identification and remediation of soil compaction or erosion, thus minimizing any loss of soil productivity. Resulting long-term adverse soils impacts from increased visitation would be minor.

### Cumulative Impacts to Soils

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II will continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above. However, the pedestrian pathways and increased staffing of alternative B would tend to minimize or remediate soil compaction and erosion, thus minimizing any loss of soil productivity. Resulting long-term cumulative adverse soils impacts would be minor.

### Analysis of Impacts to Vegetation

Although management of the national monument under alternative B would include minimal site construction, various actions would involve excavation or other direct disturbances to vegetation. These

include archeological excavations, excavation and rehabilitation of historic pathways for adaptive rehabilitation, development of limited new interpretive trails for improved pedestrian circulation, overflow parking areas, and development of new restroom facilities. Some of the archeological excavation, pathway rehabilitation, and trail development would occur within the historic open space zone, but only small areas and few native plants would be adversely affected. Existing historic vegetation dating from the operation of the camp, protected under this and all alternatives, would not be disrupted by these actions. Wherever management actions involve excavation or other direct disturbance of vegetation in areas not permanently developed or occupied by structures, site rehabilitation, revegetation with native plants, and weed management procedures, such as those listed under “Mitigating Measures” in chapter 4, would be implemented. The NPS would control noxious and other weeds on the national monument in cooperation with the Northside Tri-Counties Cooperative Weed Management Area and as required by Executive Order 13112. Such mitigation would minimize impacts to vegetation to negligible levels within five years. Resulting short-term adverse impacts to vegetation would be minor.

Under alternative B, the NPS would selectively rehabilitate vegetation in the historic open space zone to favor patterns of vegetation during the historic period. This would include selective removal of invading nonnative plants. Invading vegetation, such as Russian olive trees along the canal, would also be removed to restore historic views to the canal. To maintain the open character and to minimize reestablishment of nonnative invasive plants, native vegetation would be established in this area. This rehabilitation of native vegetation would result in long-term moderate beneficial impacts to native plant communities.

A projected moderate increase in visitation over the life of the plan would result in additional pedestrian traffic throughout the national

monument. Experience at other NPS sites has shown that, over time, foot traffic causes soil compaction and the formation of social trails that displace vegetation. However, such impacts would be minimized under alternative B by establishing new trails or rehabilitating historic pathways to accommodate the additional foot traffic and improve pedestrian circulation throughout the national monument. In addition, increased staffing of the national monument under this alternative, especially the park ranger and maintenance personnel and year-round NPS presence on the site, would enable the early detection and elimination of vegetation trampling and the formation of social trails. Resulting long-term adverse impacts to vegetation from increased visitation would be minor.

### Cumulative Impacts to Vegetation

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II would continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above. However, the pedestrian pathways and increased staffing of alternative B would help reduce vegetation trampling and the formation of social trails. Resulting long-term cumulative adverse impacts to vegetation would be minor.

### Analysis of Impacts to Wildlife

Although management of the national monument under alternative B would include minimal site development, various actions would involve excavation or other site disturbances that have the potential to affect wildlife or wildlife habitat on the national monument. The most important of these would be archeological excavations, devel-



opment of limited new interpretive trails for improved pedestrian circulation, and development of new restroom facilities.

Wherever management actions involve excavation in areas not permanently developed or occupied by structures, site rehabilitation, revegetation with native plants, and weed management procedures, such as those listed under “Mitigating Measures” in chapter 4, would be implemented. The NPS would control noxious and other weeds on the national monument in cooperation with the Northside Tri-Counties Cooperative Weed Management Area. Over time, such mitigation would increase and improve areas on the national monument dominated by native vegetation, thereby improving wildlife habitat. Depending on the amount of area treated, resulting long-term beneficial impacts would be minor to moderate.

Under alternative B, the NPS would selectively rehabilitate vegetation in the historic open space zone to favor patterns of vegetation during the historic period. This would include selective removal of invading nonnative plants. Invading vegetation, such as Russian olive trees along the canal, would also be removed to restore historic views to the canal. Loss of these trees would result in long-term minor adverse impacts to birds and other wildlife that currently utilize this habitat. To maintain the open character and to minimize reestablishment of nonnative invasive plants, however, native vegetation would be established along the canal and throughout the historic open space zone. This rehabilitation of native vegetation would create new habitat favorable to other wildlife, especially native sagebrush dependent species. Depending on the amount of area rehabilitated, long-term beneficial impacts to wildlife would range from minor to moderate.

A projected moderate increase in visitation over the life of the plan would result in additional pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the national monument under alternative B. Such increases in the frequency and amount of human presence would displace some wildlife

species found in the national monument. Additionally, increased traffic on Hunt Road and other roads in the national monument would result in an increase of road-killed animals, particularly of small or slow-moving species. These long-term minor adverse impacts are not anticipated to affect wildlife at the population level.

Increased staffing of the national monument under this alternative, especially the park ranger and maintenance personnel, and year-round NPS presence on the site, would improve resource protection and visitor education. Given these improvements, disturbances to wildlife or their habitat would decrease, resulting in long-term minor beneficial impacts.

### Cumulative Impacts to Wildlife

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II would continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above. Increased human presence would displace some wildlife species found in the national monument, and increased traffic on Hunt Road would result in an increase of road-killed animals, particularly of small or slow-moving species. These long-term minor adverse impacts are not anticipated to affect wildlife at the population level.

### Analysis of Impacts to Soundscape

Under alternative B, the primary sources of noise on the national monument would continue to be traffic on Hunt Road, farm machinery operating in adjacent fields, and overflights by aircraft. Of these, only traffic on Hunt Road would be expected to deviate noticeably

from existing levels. Visitation under this alternative would be expected to increase over the life of the plan, with the monument attracting an estimated 40,000 visitors to the site per year. This level of visitation is not expected to be reached until near the end of the General Management Plan's life, or about 20 years. Traffic and associated automobile noise on Hunt Road would be commensurate with this increased visitation. It is estimated that these sounds would negatively affect the experience of many visitors in some parts of the monument. At times of peak visitation, it is possible that traffic noise could affect the experience of the majority of visitors. This would result in long-term, minor to moderate, adverse impacts to soundscape.

Some park operations and activities under alternative B would add to the human-caused sounds within the monument. These include periodic maintenance of existing historic roads by regrading and graveling, maintenance and preservation of existing trails, reconstruction or rehabilitation of the honor roll and other cultural resources in the entrance area, selective delineation, rehabilitation, adaptive rehabilitation and reconstruction of historical buildings and structures, selective restoration of vegetation in the historic open space zone, development of interpretive overlooks, development of limited new interpretive trails, development of overflow parking areas, and development of new restroom facilities. Although sounds associated with these activities would be short in duration, they would probably have a negative effect on the experience of many visitors. Thus, adverse impacts would be minor and short-term.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Soundscape**

As with alternative A, other sites and programs associated with Minidoka or within the nearby region would draw additional visitors to the monument over the life of this plan. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which would in-

crease automobile traffic and noise on Hunt Road, especially during peak visitation. It is anticipated that such conditions would occur infrequently, adversely affecting the experience of a large number of visitors on only a few days each year. Short-term adverse impacts to the monument's soundscape would be minor to moderate.

### **Impairment to Natural Resources**

Because there would be no major adverse impacts on a resource or value whose conservation is (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the proclamation establishing Minidoka Internment National Monument; (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the monument or to opportunities for its enjoyment; or (3) identified as a goal in the GMP or other relevant NPS planning documents, the monument's natural resources or values would not be impaired.

### **Effects on Scenic Resources**

#### **Analysis of Impacts to Scenic Resources**

Under alternative B, historic views to the North Side Canal from within the national monument would be preserved and restored, as feasible. Scenic viewing areas along the northern boundary of the site and interpretive overlooks within the 3-acre and 9-acre parcels would be developed to provide panoramic views. These views would highlight the physical extent of the historic residential areas, the North Side Canal, distant mountains, and the farms surrounding the national monument. The NPS would also collaborate with neighboring landowners to voluntarily assist in the protection of historically significant views to the surrounding areas. Accessing these views from the national monument would enhance the experience of the majority of visitors, thereby resulting in long-term moderate beneficial impacts to scenic resources.

Under this alternative, management of vegetation within the historic

open space zone would include removal of exotic Russian olive trees, thereby restoring and enhancing views of the North Side Canal from the national monument. These actions would positively affect the experience of the majority of visitors in these settings, resulting in moderate beneficial long-term impacts to scenic resources.

Management under this alternative would provide parking areas as feasible and appropriate near key locations throughout the national monument. Individual site planning would determine the location, size, and layout of such parking areas, minimizing the impacts of parking on scenic resources. However, the parking areas would still be visible and a detriment to the experience of a few visitors. Long-term adverse impacts to scenic resources would be negligible.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Scenic Resources**

Other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. Resulting increased visitation and more cars parking on the national monument would be cumulative with that described above. Anticipated long-term adverse cumulative impacts to scenic resources would be negligible.

### **Effects on Socioeconomic Factors**

#### **Analysis of Impacts to Socioeconomic Factors**

The NPS would work cooperatively with monument neighbors and local government to encourage the protection of historic open space and the agricultural character of the area surrounding the national monument. Land use and ownership of private lands surrounding the national monument would be unaffected by alternative B.

Based on previous experience at other sites within the national park

system, NPS planners estimate that if managed as proposed under alternative B, the national monument would attract up to approximately 40,000 visitors to the site per year. This estimate assumes full development of the visitor facilities and cultural resource management proposed under this alternative. Thus, this level of visitation would not be reached until near the end of the general management plan's life, or about 20 years. Such an increase in visitation represents less than 2% of the more than 2 million people that currently visit the south-central Idaho region annually.

In terms of the regional economy, monument visitors would generate travel-related spending and create additional demand for travel-related services within the region. Such demands would indirectly result in the creation of new travel-related and service jobs. These new jobs would be dispersed throughout the region in a wide variety of visitor support services such as hotels, restaurants, auto service stations, and in services that would support increased business at these facilities. Additionally, management of the national monument under alternative B would directly create the equivalent of seven new full time jobs. These increases in economic activity would probably be in proportion to the increase in visitation or about 2 % of the regional total. Although important, this increased stimulus would have a negligible long-term beneficial economic impact.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Socioeconomic Factors**

Cumulative impacts to the regional economy resulting from management of the national monument under alternative B and other known projects would be negligible.

### **Effects on Access, Circulation, and Parking**

#### **Analysis of Impacts to Access, Circulation, and Parking**

As stated under the socioeconomic factors, NPS planners estimate

that if managed as proposed under alternative B, the national monument would attract up to approximately 40,000 visitors to the site per year. This estimate assumes full development of the visitor facilities and cultural resource management proposed under this alternative. Thus, this level of visitation would not be reached until near the end of the General Management Plan's life, or about 20 years. If this level of visitation was uniform throughout the year, there would be approximately 110 visitors to the national monument each day. It is anticipated that most, if not all of these people would travel by automobile. If the average vehicle occupancy is three people per car, then about 35 vehicles would be accessing and parking at the national monument on a typical day. Visitation, of course, would not be uniformly distributed throughout the year, but would fluctuate from days when there would be no visitation to popular holiday weekends when there could be three to four times as many visitors as the typical day. Given these assumptions, visitation on such days could reach about 450 people and 150 vehicles. These estimates do not include local and through traffic on Hunt Road that is unrelated to monument visitation.

Additionally, it is estimated that special events held at the national monument, such as a Minidoka Pilgrimage, could involve as many as 2,000 visitors on a single day. Under NPS policy, a special use permit would be required for such visitation. The NPS would work proactively with such groups to ensure that parking, circulation, seating, portable facilities, on-site staffing, and other issues are adequate to provide for these events

Management of the national monument under alternative B would accommodate a moderate increase in the number of on-site visitors. Minor changes to existing access, circulation and parking would be made to accommodate an increased level of visitors and their vehicles. Both vehicular access and circulation and pedestrian use would be accommodated under this alternative. On-site vehicular

access would be directed to the visitor contact facility in the adaptively rehabilitated warehouse and to specific interpretive locations and parking areas that provide access to the trail system. The NPS would rehabilitate and utilize historic pathways and develop new interpretive trails to link key resource areas and viewpoints.

Existing parking areas would be maintained. Parking at the entry area would be maintained to accommodate approximately 10 vehicles. Adequate parking would be provided to serve the visitor contact function in the adaptively rehabilitated warehouse area. Overflow parking for special events and a small parking area to service an interpretive and scenic overlook would be on the 9-acre parcel.

Given the above-described management of the national monument's access, circulation, and parking, it is estimated that unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through traffic and no available parking spaces, would occur on no more than three days per year. This would result in minor long-term adverse impacts to access, circulation, and parking.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Access, Circulation, and Parking**

Other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. Resulting increased visitation and vehicular traffic on the national monument would be cumulative with that described above. It is anticipated that unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through traffic and no available parking spaces, could occur on four or more days per year. This would result in moderate, long-term, adverse, cumulative impacts to access, circulation, and parking.

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## Impacts from Alternative C (Preferred Alternative)

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Under the preferred alternative, congressional legislation would be required to expand monument boundaries to acquire the site of one or more of the residential blocks of the Minidoka WRA Center and that portion of the root cellar that is outside the national monument. This expansion would be contingent upon a willing seller. It is recommended that legislation also authorize the secretary of the interior to transfer the camp's historic landfill and dump-site from BLM to NPS management, including it as part of the national monument. (See Appendix B: Analysis of Boundary Adjustment and Land Protection Criteria.)

Private property adjacent to and north of the national monument does include the former locations of several residential blocks. Other important cultural resources associated with Minidoka, such as the fire station, water tower foundations, barracks foundations, and the root cellar are also located here. In addition, this area includes agriculture established on former Minidoka Relocation Center land under an Idaho program entitled "A-Farm-In-A-Day." Thus established, farming has continued as the primary occupation and land use of the area.

Following successful expansion of the national monument, a complete residential block would be relocated to an original location by acquiring and returning residential barracks and associated buildings to the site. Under NPS management, those portions of the property not needed for interpretation of Minidoka or for protection of resources would be retained in agriculture. Such use would benefit interpretation of the Minidoka post-camp period, "A-Farm-In-A-Day," and the area's agricultural heritage.

If such an expansion is authorized by Congress, the NPS would amend this GMP to include appropriate management direction for the newly acquired lands. In addition, the amended GMP would include environmental impact analyses of the expansion and associated management in a separate NEPA document. Although such analysis is outside the scope of the current GMP/EIS, some of the more obvious impacts would include benefits to the cultural landscape and historic structures, improved visitor understanding of the national monument, and land protection under the full suite of NPS laws, regulations, and policies. Adverse impacts would include a loss of property tax revenue to Jerome County that would be partially offset by federal payments in lieu of taxes.

If a boundary change was not authorized or a willing seller was not identified, then the NPS would relocate any acquired historic buildings or other structures to the 9-acre site.

### Effects on Cultural Resources

#### Analysis of Impacts to Archeological Resources

In fulfillment of Section 106 of the NHPA, inventories to identify cultural resources would be conducted prior to all proposed development projects under this or any of the alternatives. In addition, some proactive Section 110 inventories of cultural resources (i.e., nonproject-related inventory) would be completed to learn more about the site. Long-term beneficial impacts to archeological resources would range from minor to moderate, as defined in Methodology.

Additional staffing of the national monument under this alternative, especially the park ranger, cultural resource specialist, and maintenance personnel, and year-round NPS presence on-site would help protect archeological resources resulting in moderate to major long-term benefits.



A projected substantial increase in national monument visitation over the life of the plan would most likely result in some adverse effects to cultural resources. These effects could include minor erosion of archeological resources from increased pedestrian traffic. Increased vandalism and theft of archeological resources could also accompany the rise in visitation to the national monument. However, increased NPS staffing, protection, and maintenance of the national monument as well as education of visitors on the importance of these resources would be sufficient to minimize these effects. Such minor long-term adverse impacts are not anticipated to affect the character or diminish the features of any NRHP eligible resources on the national monument.

Management of the 9-acre site under this alternative would include development of an interpretive overlook of the North Side Canal, an overflow parking area, and possibly a Minidoka memorial. As few archeological resources are known to exist in this area, impacts to this resource would be negligible.

### **Analysis of Impacts to Cultural Landscape Resources**

Under alternative C, the NPS would reestablish and manage vegetation in the historic open space zone to be consistent with patterns of vegetation present during the historic period. This would include removal of invading nonnative plants. Such management would create major long-term benefits to the cultural landscape by more accurately resembling the historic character of open spaces on the national monument.

The NPS would reconstruct all or part of the historic perimeter fence along the North Side Canal. Reconstructing this historic feature would constitute a major long-term beneficial impact to the cultural landscape.

Under this alternative, historic pathways would be rehabilitated and

utilized to provide pedestrian circulation, linking significant interpretive areas and viewpoints. New pedestrian trails, including one along the reconstructed historic fence adjacent to the canal, would also be developed. Major long-term beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape would result.

In addition to periodic maintenance of the national monument's existing historic roads, alternative C would include selective rehabilitation of these roads for park use. This would result in long-term major beneficial impacts to these historic features and the cultural landscape to which they contribute.

Under alternative C, the NPS would rehabilitate the cultural landscape features of the entrance area, as described more fully below. This site rehabilitation would constitute major long-term beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape.

The NPS would delineate the existing swimming hole to illustrate its historic significance. Delineating this historic structure and element of the cultural landscape would constitute a moderate long-term beneficial impact.

Management of the 9-acre site under this alternative would include development of an interpretive overlook of the North Side Canal, an overflow parking area, and possibly a Minidoka memorial. Careful site planning would be required to minimize the potential adverse impacts of these developments to the cultural landscape. Such long-term impacts are expected to be minor to moderate.

Depending on their location, construction of maintenance facilities on the national monument, as proposed under this alternative, could detract from the cultural landscape resulting in long-term minor adverse impacts.

Management under this alternative would provide parking areas as feasible and appropriate near key locations throughout the national

monument. Individual site planning would determine the location, size, and layout of such parking areas, minimizing the impacts of parking on the historic setting and character. Any resulting adverse impacts to the cultural landscape would be long term and minor.

The foundation piers on all historic buildings within the administration and staff housing area would be delineated. In addition, the existing concrete pads and footprints for all buildings and other structures, including the filling station, in the warehouse area would be delineated to illustrate their former physical presence. These delineations would result in moderate long-term beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape.

Under alternative C, the existing historic buildings and other structures on the three-acre site would be rehabilitated and adaptively rehabilitated for park needs. Rehabilitation of these historic features would constitute major long-term beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape to which they contribute.

### **Analysis of Impacts to Historic Buildings and Structures**

As described above, additional staffing and year-round NPS presence on the site under this alternative would help protect historic structures resulting in moderate to major long-term benefits.

As described above, a projected substantial increase in monument visitation over the life of the plan would most likely result in some adverse effects to cultural resources. These effects could include wear and tear on historic structures from increased pedestrian traffic. However, increased NPS staffing, protection, and maintenance of the national monument as well as education of visitors on the importance of these resources would be sufficient to minimize these effects. Such minor long-term adverse impacts are not anticipated to affect the character or diminish the features of any NRHP eligible resources on the national monument.

In addition to existing stabilization, the root cellar would be partially restored, generating long-term major beneficial impacts to this historic structure.

Under alternative C, the existing historic buildings and other structures on the three-acre site would be rehabilitated and adaptively rehabilitated for park needs. Rehabilitation of these historic structures would constitute major long-term beneficial impacts.

Where feasible, management under this alternative would develop cooperative strategies to protect historic structures and features that are located off-site. Depending on the resources involved and the partnerships developed, such protection could include maintenance, preservation, site stabilization, delineation, rehabilitation, or restoration. Resulting long-term beneficial impacts would range from minor to major.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Cultural Resources**

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II would continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which could result in some adverse effects to cultural resources. These effects would include minor erosion of archeological resources and some wear and tear on historic structures from increased pedestrian traffic. However, increased NPS staffing, protection, and maintenance of the national monument as well as education of visitors on the importance of cultural resources would be sufficient to minimize any effects. Such minor long-term adverse im-

pacts are not anticipated to affect the character or diminish the features of any NRHP eligible resources on the national monument.

## Impairment to Cultural Resources

Because there would be no major adverse impacts on a resource or value whose conservation is (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the proclamation establishing Minidoka Internment National Monument; (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the monument or to opportunities for its enjoyment; or (3) identified as a goal in the GMP or other relevant NPS planning documents, the monument's cultural resources or values would not be impaired.

## Effects on Education and Interpretation

### Analysis of Impacts to Education and Interpretation

The core mission of alternative C would be education and interpretation, focused both on-site and off-site. 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-guided activities.

The relocation of a historic residential block in an original location and configuration would be the cornerstone of interpretive facilities at the national monument. The residential block would accurately depict the internees living conditions and convey the significance of the internees' experiences at Minidoka. Additionally, it would provide a unique and authentic setting for interactive and comprehensive educational programs related to the national monument's primary interpretive themes. For nearly all visitors, the ability to experience and learn from a relocated residential block would have an exceptionally beneficial effect on visitor understanding of the national monument's significance, resulting in long-term major benefi-

cial impacts.

Alternative C would protect and utilize historic resources for interpretive purposes to convey a better understanding of the history of the national monument. At the entry area, for example, reconstruction of the honor roll, guard tower, and entry gate would complement extant resources of the military police building and reception building. This would help visitors understand and appreciate this entry area as a threshold between freedom and confinement. Building footprints, foundation piers, and concrete pads in the staff housing area, administration area, and warehouse area would be marked and delineated for visitor understanding. The swimming hole would be delineated to illustrate recreational activities within the camp. The historic perimeter barbed wire fence would be reconstructed along the North Side Canal in its original location. Vegetation would be managed and rehabilitated to the historic character of the open spaces throughout the site. Historic roads would be maintained and selectively rehabilitated, and historic pathways would be excavated and rehabilitated for use. The NPS would rehabilitate and adaptively rehabilitation the historic buildings within the BOR 3-acre parcel. The warehouse would be adaptively rehabilitated as a visitor orientation facility with interpretive and educational media. This preservation, rehabilitation, and interpretation of the national monument's historic features under alternative C would allow the NPS to manage the site as a cultural landscape related to the WWII internment and incarceration of Nikkei. For nearly all visitors, this on-site management would have an exceptionally beneficial effect on visitor understanding of the national monument's significance, resulting in long-term major beneficial impacts.

Off-site visitor education and interpretation would be conducted through diverse comprehensive programs developed in cooperation with partners, including school districts, educational and legacy organizations, and museums. Some of these partner sites would be di-

rectly related to Minidoka, while others would deal with broader historical or cultural themes. Off-site education would allow the internment and incarceration story to be taught and learned in diverse geographic locations and demographic settings. Oral histories would be a vital component of such education. Under an NPS collaborative museum management plan, collections of historical Minidoka objects and documents, including some at off-site locations, would be more accessible to the public. Also, off-site education could encourage higher visitation to the national monument. When fully developed, these programs would reach a broad public audience through a variety of means, dispersing information about Minidoka and the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II to many people in many areas. Through these programs, alternative C would positively affect understanding of the national monument's significance for many people. Depending on the specific programs and the size of the audiences they reach, long-term beneficial impacts to education and interpretation could range from minor to major.

Directional signs along I-84 and U.S. 93, boundary markers along the national monument's perimeter, and interpretive waysides would be constructed to inform visitors about the location, extent, and history of the national monument. This would make the national monument accessible to more people, enabling Minidoka education and interpretation programs to reach a wider audience and promoting a better understanding of the significance of the national monument. This would result in moderate long-term beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

Although some of the national monument staff would be located off-site under this alternative, most educational and interpretive staff, such as the education specialist, interpretive specialist, park ranger, cultural resource and curatorial specialists, and seasonal interpretive staff, would be located on-site. This increased year-round NPS presence on the national monument would greatly improve understanding of the national monument's significance for nearly all

visitors. This would constitute long-term major beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

A projected substantial increase in visitation over the life of the plan would result in additional pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the national monument under alternative C. At times of peak visitation or during special events at the national monument, it is probable that crowding and increased traffic would limit the effectiveness of educational and interpretive programs and features. It is anticipated that such conditions would occur infrequently, adversely affecting understanding of the national monument's significance for a large number of visitors on only a few days each year. Short-term adverse impacts to education and interpretation would be minor to moderate.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Education and Interpretation**

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II would continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which would exacerbate crowding and increased traffic during peak visitation, limiting the effectiveness of educational and interpretive programs and features. It is anticipated that such conditions would occur infrequently, adversely affecting understanding of the national monument's significance for a large number of visitors on only a few days each year. Short-term adverse impacts to education and interpretation would be minor to moderate.

## Effects on Recreation and Tourism

### Analysis of Impacts to Recreation and Tourism

Based on previous experience at other sites within the National Park system, NPS planners estimate that if managed as proposed under alternative C, the national monument would attract approximately 20,000- 40,000 annual visitors to the site after 10 years. Assuming full development of the visitor facilities and cultural resource management proposed under this alternative, it is estimated that annual visitation could rise to approximately 80,000 people after 20 years of management (the life of this plan). Such an increase in visitation represents about 4% of the more than 2 million people that currently visit the south-central Idaho region annually. The consequences of this increased visitation would be detectable, affecting the experience of many visitors to the region. Long-term minor impacts on recreation and tourism could be adverse or beneficial.

Management of the national monument under alternative C would accommodate a substantial increase in the number of on-site visitors. Improved visitor facilities and increased staffing of the national monument would also better provide for a larger number of visitors at Minidoka Pilgrimages. This impact would be readily apparent, affecting the experience of nearly all visitors on the pilgrimages. These major beneficial impacts would be short term.

The national monument would also create new opportunities for passive recreation, such as walking, bicycling, picnicking, and photography. Under alternative C, these opportunities would positively affect the experience of many visitors to the national monument, resulting in minor long-term beneficial impacts to recreation.

### Cumulative Impacts to Recreation and Tourism

It is anticipated that some visitors to south-central Idaho who are unfamiliar with Minidoka prior to arrival in the area would probably

visit the national monument once they learn about it and are just a short drive away. Conversely, as visitation increased at the national monument, many of these people would be attracted to other tourism opportunities within Jerome County and the region, such as Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. Depending on the sites visited, such increased visitation could affect the experience of few to many visitors. Resulting short- and long-term impacts on recreation and tourism could be adverse or beneficial and would range from negligible to minor.

## Effects on Natural Resources

### Analysis of Impacts to Soils

Alternative C would include various site developments and modifications that would involve excavation or other disturbances to national monument soils. These include archeological excavations, excavation and rehabilitation of historic pathways for use, development of limited new interpretive trails for improved pedestrian circulation, selective rehabilitation of historic roads for park use, reconstruction of entrance area features, development of an interpretive overlook of the North Side Canal and possibly a Minidoka memorial, restoration of portions of the historic perimeter fence, and development of new restroom facilities. Management under this alternative would also provide parking areas as feasible and appropriate near key locations throughout the national monument, including the entrance area. Individual site planning would determine the location, size, and layout of such parking areas.

Although these disturbances would disrupt soil structure and expose soils to erosion by wind and water, such adverse impacts are expected to be minor due to the small areas disturbed at any given time and the low susceptibility of national monument soils to erosion. In addition, wherever excavation and distinct soil disturbance



occurred, best management practices, such as those listed under “Mitigating Measures” in chapter 4, would be implemented. For example, topsoil would be set aside and replaced to help retain the structure and fertility of soils and minimize impacts. With the implementation of best management practices, the duration of individual soil impacts would be reduced to less than five years (short-term impacts).

Under alternative C, the NPS would reestablish and manage vegetation in the historic open space zone to be consistent with patterns of vegetation present during the historic period. This would include removal of invading nonnative plants. Invading vegetation, such as Russian olive trees along the canal, would also be removed to restore historic views to the canal. Manipulation of vegetation would also create soil disturbances. However, best management practices and revegetation of disturbed areas would reduce such short-term impacts to negligible levels.

A projected substantial increase in visitation over the life of the plan would result in additional pedestrian traffic throughout the national monument. Experience at other National Park Service sites has shown that, over time, foot traffic causes soil compaction and the formation of social trails. However, such impacts would be minimized under alternative C by establishing new trails or rehabilitating historic pathways to accommodate the additional foot traffic and improve pedestrian circulation throughout the national monument. In addition, increased staffing of the national monument under this alternative, especially the site manager, park ranger, and maintenance personnel and year-round NPS presence on the site would enable the early identification and remediation of soil compaction or erosion, thus minimizing any loss of soil productivity. Resulting long-term adverse soils impacts from increased visitation would be minor.

## Cumulative Impacts to Soils

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II will continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above. However, the pedestrian pathways and increased staffing of alternative C would tend to minimize or remediate soil compaction and erosion, thus minimizing any loss of soil productivity. Resulting long-term cumulative adverse soils impacts would be minor.

## Analysis of Impacts to Vegetation

Alternative C would include various site developments and modifications that would involve excavation or other direct disturbances to national monument vegetation. These include archeological excavations, excavation and rehabilitation of historic pathways for use, development of limited new interpretive trails for improved pedestrian circulation, selective rehabilitation of historic roads for park use, reconstruction of entrance area features, development of an interpretive overlook of the North Side Canal and possibly a Minidoka memorial, restoration of portions of the historic perimeter fence, and development of new restroom facilities. Management would also provide parking areas as feasible and appropriate near key locations throughout the national monument, including the entrance area. Individual site planning would determine the location, size, and layout of such parking areas.

Some of the archeological excavation, pathway rehabilitation, trail development, and restoration of the perimeter fence would occur within the historic open space zone. As with alternative B, however,

only small areas and few native plants within this zone would be adversely affected. Those alternative C developments and management actions that would occur in portions of the national monument outside the historic open space zone could directly affect vegetation in areas up to several acres in size. Existing historic vegetation dating from the operation of the camp, protected under this and all alternatives, would not be disrupted by these actions. Wherever management actions involve excavation or other direct disturbance of vegetation in areas not permanently developed or occupied by structures, site rehabilitation, revegetation with native plants, and weed management procedures, such as those listed under “Mitigating Measures” in chapter 4, would be implemented. The NPS would control noxious and other weeds on the national monument in cooperation with the Northside Tri-Counties Cooperative Weed Management Area and as required by Executive Order 13112. Such mitigation would minimize impacts to vegetation within these areas to negligible levels within five years. Thus, resulting short-term adverse impacts to vegetation would be minor.

Under alternative C, the NPS would reestablish and manage vegetation in the historic open space zone to be consistent with patterns of vegetation present during the historic period. This would include removal of invading nonnative plants. Invading vegetation, such as Russian olive trees along the canal, would also be removed to restore historic views to the canal. To maintain the open character and to minimize reestablishment of nonnative invasive plants, native vegetation would be established in this area. This rehabilitation of native vegetation would result in long-term moderate beneficial impacts to native plant communities.

A projected substantial increase in visitation over the life of the plan would result in additional pedestrian traffic throughout the national monument. Experience at other National Park Service sites has shown that, over time, foot traffic causes soil compaction and the

formation of social trails that displace vegetation. However, such impacts would be minimized under alternative C by establishing new trails or rehabilitating historic pathways to accommodate the additional foot traffic and improve pedestrian circulation throughout the national monument. In addition, increased staffing of the national monument under this alternative, especially the site manager, park ranger, and maintenance personnel and year-round NPS presence on the site would enable the early detection and elimination of vegetation trampling and the formation of social trails. Resulting long-term adverse impacts to vegetation from increased visitation would be minor.

### Cumulative Impacts to Vegetation

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II will continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above. However, the pedestrian pathways and increased staffing of alternative C would help reduce vegetation trampling and the formation of social trails. Resulting long-term cumulative adverse impacts to vegetation would be minor.

### Analysis of Impacts to Wildlife

Alternative C would include various site developments and modifications that would involve excavation or other site disturbances that have the potential to affect wildlife or wildlife habitat on the national monument. These include archeological excavations, development of limited new interpretive trails for improved pedestrian circulation, selective rehabilitation of historic roads for park use,

reconstruction of entrance area features, development of an interpretive overlook of the North Side Canal and possibly a Minidoka memorial, restoration of portions of the historic perimeter fence, and development of new restroom facilities. Management under this alternative would also provide parking areas as feasible and appropriate near key locations throughout the national monument, including the entrance area. Individual site planning would determine the location, size, and layout of such parking areas.

Wherever management actions involve excavation in areas not permanently developed or occupied by structures, site rehabilitation, revegetation with native plants, and weed management procedures, such as those listed under “Mitigating Measures” in chapter 4, would be implemented. The NPS would control noxious and other weeds on the national monument in cooperation with the Northside Tri-Counties Cooperative Weed Management Area. Over time, such mitigation would increase and improve areas on the national monument dominated by native vegetation, thereby improving wildlife habitat and resulting in long-term moderate beneficial impacts.

Restoration of portions of the historic perimeter fence could create barriers to wildlife movement across the national monument. However, such adverse impacts are expected to be negligible because the fence would only be constructed along portions of the national monument boundary with the North Side Canal. Most large animals such as mule deer would be able to bypass the fence by going around it, and small animals would be able to safely pass beneath it.

Under alternative C, the NPS would reestablish and manage vegetation in the historic open space zone to be consistent with patterns of vegetation present during the historic period. This would include removal of invading nonnative plants. Invading vegetation, such as Russian olive trees along the canal, would also be removed to restore historic views to the canal. Loss of these trees would result in long-term minor adverse impacts to birds and other wildlife that cur-

rently utilize this habitat. To maintain the open character and to minimize reestablishment of nonnative invasive plants, native vegetation would be established along the canal and throughout the historic open space zone. This rehabilitation of native vegetation would create new habitat favorable to other wildlife, especially native sagebrush dependent species. Depending on the amount of area rehabilitated, long-term beneficial impacts to wildlife would range from minor to moderate.

A projected substantial increase in visitation over the life of the plan would result in additional pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the national monument, under alternative C. Such increases in the frequency and amount of human presence would displace some wildlife species found in the national monument. Additionally, increased traffic on Hunt Road and other roads in the national monument would result in an increase of road-killed animals, particularly of small or slow moving species. These long-term minor adverse impacts are not anticipated to affect wildlife at the population level.

Increased staffing of the national monument under this alternative, especially the site manager, park ranger, and maintenance personnel, and year-round NPS presence on the site would enable improved resource protection and visitor education. Given these improvements, disturbances to wildlife or their habitat would decrease, resulting in long-term minor beneficial impacts.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Wildlife**

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II would continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south-central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument.

This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above. Increased human presence would displace some wildlife species found in the national monument, and increased traffic on Hunt Road would result in an increase of road-killed animals, particularly of small or slow moving species. These long-term minor adverse impacts are not anticipated to affect wildlife at the population level.

### Analysis of Impacts to Soundscape

As with the other alternatives, the primary sources of noise on the national monument would continue to be traffic on Hunt Road, farm machinery operating in adjacent fields, and overflights by aircraft.

Of these, only traffic on Hunt Road would be expected to deviate noticeably from existing levels. Visitation under this alternative would be expected to substantially increase over the life of the plan, with the monument attracting an estimated 80,000 visitors to the site per year. This level of visitation is not expected to be reached until near the end of the GMP's life, or about 20 years. Traffic and associated automobile noise on Hunt Road would be commensurate with this increased visitation. It is estimated that these sounds would negatively affect the experience of most visitors in some parts of the monument, especially at times of peak visitation. This would result in long-term moderate adverse impacts to soundscape.

Some park operations and activities under alternative C would add to the human-caused sounds within the monument. These include periodic maintenance of existing historic roads by regrading and graveling, selective rehabilitation of some of these roads, maintenance and preservation of existing trails, development of new interpretive trails, reconstruction or rehabilitation of the honor roll and other cultural resources in the entrance area, delineation, rehabilitation, adaptive rehabilitation and reconstruction of historical buildings and structures including partial restoration of the root cellar, restoration of vegetation in the open space zone, development of interpre-

tive overlooks and possibly a memorial, development of parking areas, development of new restroom facilities, and relocating a historic residential block. Although sounds associated with these activities would be short in duration, they would probably have a negative effect on the experience of many visitors. Thus, adverse impacts would be minor and short-term.

### Cumulative Impacts to Soundscape

As with alternative A, other sites and programs associated with Minidoka or located within the nearby region would draw additional visitors to the national monument, over the life of this plan. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which would increase automobile traffic and noise on Hunt Road, especially during peak visitation. It is anticipated that such conditions would occur infrequently, adversely affecting the experience of a large number of visitors on only a few days each year. Short-term adverse impacts to the monument's soundscape would be minor to moderate.

### Impairment to Natural Resources

Because there would be no major adverse impacts on a resource or value whose conservation is (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the proclamation establishing Minidoka Internment National Monument; (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the monument or to opportunities for its enjoyment; or (3) identified as a goal in the GMP or other relevant NPS planning documents, the monument's natural resources or values would not be impaired.

## Effects on Scenic Resources

### Analysis of Impacts to Scenic Resources

Under alternative C, historic views to the North Side Canal from within the national monument would be preserved and restored, as feasible. Scenic viewing areas along the northern boundary of the site and interpretive overlooks within the 3-acre and 9-acre parcels would be developed to provide panoramic views. These views would highlight the physical extent of the historic residential areas, the North Side Canal, distant mountains, and the farms surrounding the national monument. The NPS would also collaborate with neighboring landowners to voluntarily assist in the protection of historically significant views to the surrounding areas. Accessing these views from the national monument would enhance the experience of the majority of visitors, thereby resulting in long-term moderate beneficial impacts to scenic resources.

In addition to reestablishing elements of the cultural landscape within the national monument, the relocation of a historical residential block in an original location and configuration under this alternative could provide enhanced views of the vast area formerly occupied by the residential portion of the camp. The majority of visitors would appreciate these views, and these long-term moderate impacts to scenic resources would be beneficial.

Under this alternative, rehabilitated historic pathways and new trails would provide pedestrian circulation, providing visitor access to key viewpoints. In addition, management of vegetation within the historic open space zone would include removal of exotic Russian olive trees, thereby restoring and enhancing views of the North Side Canal from the national monument. These actions would positively affect the experience of the majority of visitors in these settings, resulting in moderate beneficial long-term impacts to scenic resources.

Management under this alternative would provide parking areas as feasible and appropriate near key locations throughout the national monument. Individual site planning would determine the location, size, and layout of such parking areas, minimizing the impacts of parking on scenic resources. However, the parking areas would still be visible and a detriment to the experience of a few visitors. Long-term adverse impacts to scenic resources would be negligible.

### Cumulative Impacts to Scenic Resources

Other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. Resulting increased visitation and more cars parking on the national monument would be cumulative with that described above. Anticipated long-term adverse cumulative impacts to scenic resources would be negligible.

## Effects on Socioeconomic Factors

### Analysis of Impacts to Socioeconomic Factors

Under this alternative, congressional legislation would be required to expand the national monument boundaries to acquire land where one or more historic barracks blocks existed during the period of significance, contingent upon a willing seller. The area proposed for addition to the national monument encompasses approximately 128 acres of farmland and includes significant cultural resources. Visitor interpretation and education within the relocated residential barracks block would be the focal point of this alternative. It is estimated that approximately 60 to 80 acres of this parcel would be required for park uses. The NPS would encourage retaining the remainder of the site in its present agricultural use. This could be accomplished through such strategies as a life estate to the current



owner or leasing the land to continue agricultural practices. Thus, alternative C would directly affect land use and ownership by acquiring about 128 acres of private land and converting 60 to 80 acres from agricultural to park use. Adverse impacts would include a loss of property tax revenue to Jerome County that would be partially offset by federal payments in lieu of taxes. Such long-term adverse impacts to the 270,000-acre agricultural land base of Jerome County would be negligible.

The NPS would work cooperatively with national monument neighbors and local government to encourage the protection of historic open space and the agricultural character of the area surrounding the national monument. Other land use and ownership of private lands surrounding the national monument would be unaffected by alternative C.

Based on previous experience at other sites within the National Park system, NPS planners estimate that if managed as proposed under alternative C, the national monument would attract up to approximately 40,000 annual visitors to the site after 10 years. Assuming full development of the visitor facilities and cultural resource management proposed under this alternative, it is estimated that annual visitation would rise to approximately 80,000 people after 20 years of management (the life of this plan). Such an increase in visitation represents about 4 percent of the more than 2 million people that currently visit the south-central Idaho region annually.

In terms of the regional economy, national monument visitors would generate travel-related spending and create additional demand for travel-related services within the region. Such demands would indirectly result in the creation of new travel-related and service jobs. These new jobs would be dispersed throughout the region in a wide variety of visitor support services such as hotels, restaurants, auto service stations, and in services that would support increased business at these facilities. Additionally, management of the national

monument under alternative C would directly create the equivalent of 12 new full-time jobs. These increases in economic activity would probably be in proportion to the increase in visitation or about 4% of the regional total. Although important, this increased stimulus would only have a minor long-term beneficial economic impact.

### Cumulative Impacts to Socioeconomic Factors

Cumulative impacts to the regional economy resulting from management of the national monument under alternative C and other known projects would be negligible.

## Effects on Access, Circulation, and Parking

### Analysis of Impacts to Access, Circulation, and Parking

Based on previous experience at other sites within the National Park system, NPS planners estimate that if managed as proposed under alternative C, the national monument would attract up to approximately 40,000 annual visitors to the site after 10 years. Assuming full development of the visitor facilities and cultural resource management proposed under this alternative, it is estimated that annual visitation would rise to approximately 80,000 people after 20 years of management (the life of this plan). If this level of visitation was uniform throughout the year, there would be approximately 220 visitors to the national monument each day. It is anticipated that most, if not all of these people would travel by automobile. If the average vehicle occupancy is three people per car, then about 75 vehicles would be accessing and parking at the national monument on a typical day. Visitation, of course, would not be uniformly distributed throughout the year, but would fluctuate from days when there would be no visitation to popular holiday weekends when there could be three to four times as many visitors as the typical day. Given these assumptions, visitation on such days could reach about 900 people and 300 vehicles. These estimates do not include local

and through traffic on Hunt Road that is unrelated to national monument visitation.

Additionally, it is estimated that special events held at the national monument, such as a Minidoka Pilgrimage, could involve as many as 2,000 visitors on a single day. Under NPS policy, a special use permit would be required for such visitation. The NPS would work proactively with such groups to ensure that parking, circulation, seating, portable facilities, on-site staffing, and other issues are adequate to provide for these events.

Management of the national monument under alternative C would accommodate a substantial increase in the number of on-site visitors. Improved visitor facilities, increased staffing of the national monument, and modified parking, access and circulation would better provide for a larger number of visitors and their vehicles. In addition to periodic maintenance of the national monument's existing historic roads, alternative C would include selective rehabilitation of these roads for park use, enabling dispersal and redirection of some Monument traffic. Although vehicular access and circulation would be accommodated, pedestrian use would be emphasized under the preferred alternative. On-site vehicular access would be directed to specific interpretive locations within the national monument and to parking areas that provide access to the trail system. The NPS would rehabilitate and utilize historic pathways and develop new interpretive trails to link key resource areas and viewpoints. Interpretive waysides would be included in the trail system.

Parking areas would be provided as feasible and appropriate near key locations throughout the national monument, to minimize the impacts of parking on access and circulation. The site planning process would determine location, size, and layout of parking areas. Nearby alternative locations would be considered for entry area parking, minimizing intrusions to the historic setting. Adequate parking would be developed to service the visitor contact and orientation

facility in the adaptively rehabilitated warehouse area. This parking would service the relocated residential block and visitor interpretive facilities. Overflow parking for special events and a small parking area to service an interpretive and scenic overlook would be located on the 9-acre parcel.

A shuttle service during peak season would be considered.

The NPS would accommodate all existing private-property access needs.

Given the above-described management of the national monument's access, circulation, and parking, it is estimated that unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through traffic and no available parking spaces, would occur on at least four days and up to nine days per year. Moderate, long-term, adverse impacts to access, circulation, and parking would result.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Access, Circulation, and Parking**

Other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, and the proposed South Central Idaho Visitor Center would raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. Resulting increased visitation and vehicular traffic on the national monument would be cumulative with that described above. It is anticipated that unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through traffic and no available parking spaces, would still be within the range of four to nine days per year. This would result in moderate, long-term, adverse, cumulative impacts to access, circulation, and parking.

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## Impacts from Alternative D

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Under this alternative, the NPS would require congressional legislation to expand national monument boundaries to acquire the portion of the root cellar that is outside the national monument. This expansion would be contingent upon a willing seller. congressional legislation would also authorize the secretary of the interior to transfer Minidoka's historic landfill from BLM to NPS management, including it as part of the national monument. (See Appendix B: Analysis of Boundary Adjustment and Land Protection Criteria.)

If such an expansion is authorized by Congress, the NPS would amend this GMP to include appropriate management direction for the newly acquired lands. In addition, the amended GMP would include environmental impact analyses of the expansion and associated management in a separate NEPA document. Such analysis is outside the scope of the current GMP/EIS.

### Effects on Cultural Resources

#### Analysis of Impacts to Archeological Resources

Management of the national monument under alternative D would include development of a multi-purpose interpretive campus on the 9-acre site. The interpretive campus could include a visitor center, parking area, Minidoka memorial, and other developments. As few archeological resources are known to exist in this area, impacts to this resource would be negligible.

All other impacts to archeological resources would be the same as described under alternative C (preferred alternative).

#### Analysis of Impacts to Cultural Landscape Resources

Management of the national monument under alternative D would include development of a multi-purpose interpretive campus on the 9-acre site that could include relocated historic buildings and other structures. Even with careful site planning, however, the location of these developments on this site would create moderate long-term adverse impacts to the historically open character of the cultural landscape in this area.

Depending on their location, construction of maintenance facilities on the national monument, as proposed under this alternative, could detract from the cultural landscape resulting in long-term minor adverse impacts.

Management under this alternative would provide parking areas as feasible and appropriate near key locations throughout the national monument. Individual site planning would determine the location, size, and layout of such parking areas, minimizing the impacts of parking on the historic setting and character. Any resulting adverse impacts to the cultural landscape would be long-term and minor.

All other impacts to cultural resources would be the same as described under alternative C (preferred alternative).

#### Analysis of Impacts to Historic Buildings and Structures

Additional staffing of the national monument under this alternative and year-round NPS presence on the site, as described above, would help protect historic structures, resulting in moderate to major long-term benefits.

A projected substantial increase in monument visitation over the life of the plan would most likely result in some wear and tear on historic structures from increased pedestrian traffic. However, increased NPS staffing, protection, and maintenance of the national monument as well as education of visitors on the importance of these resources would be sufficient to minimize these effects. Such

minor long-term adverse impacts are not anticipated to affect the character or diminish the features of any NRHP eligible resources on the national monument.

Management of the national monument under alternative D would include development of a multipurpose interpretive campus on the 9-acre site. The interpretive campus could include a visitor center, parking area, Minidoka memorial, and other developments. In addition, as the NPS is able to acquire and rehabilitate historic Minidoka buildings and other structures, they would be relocated to this site. Rehabilitation would constitute major long-term beneficial effects to historical structures.

In addition to existing stabilization, the root cellar would be partially restored, generating long-term major beneficial impacts to this historic structure.

Where feasible, management under this alternative would develop cooperative strategies to protect historic structures and features that are located off-site. Depending on the resources involved and the partnerships developed, such protection could include maintenance, preservation, site stabilization, delineation, rehabilitation, or restoration. Resulting long-term beneficial impacts would range from minor to major.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Cultural Resources**

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II will continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed South Central Idaho Visitor Center would tend to draw additional visitors to south central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described

above, which could result in some adverse effects to cultural resources. These effects would most likely include minor erosion of archaeological resources and some wear and tear on historic structures from increased pedestrian traffic. However, increased NPS staffing, protection, and maintenance of the national monument as well as education of visitors on the importance of cultural resources would be sufficient to minimize any effects. Such minor long-term adverse impacts are not anticipated to affect the character or diminish the features of any NRHP eligible resources on the national monument.

### **Impairment to Cultural Resources**

Because there would be no major adverse impacts on a resource or value whose conservation is (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the proclamation establishing Minidoka Internment National Monument; (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the monument or to opportunities for its enjoyment; or (3) identified as a goal in the GMP or other relevant NPS planning documents, the monument's cultural resources or values would not be impaired.

## **Effects on Education and Interpretation**

### **Analysis of Impacts to Education and Interpretation**

Education and interpretation under alternative D would be accomplished primarily on-site through a new visitor center complex with multimedia presentations, developed on the 9-acre site. Visitors would be provided with opportunities to participate in programmed and self-guided exploratory experiences associated with exhibits, collections, research, interpretive and educational programs and activities. Visitors would be encouraged to participate in creative activities such as writing, creating temporary exhibits, theater, and other forms of self-expression related to the site. For nearly all visitors, these programs and materials would greatly improve understanding of the national monument's significance, resulting in long-

term major beneficial impacts.

Although some of the national monument staff would be located off-site under this alternative, most educational and interpretive staff, such as the education specialist, interpretive specialist, park ranger, cultural resource and curatorial specialists, and permanent and seasonal interpretive staff, would be located on-site. This increased year-round NPS presence on the national monument would greatly improve understanding of the national monument's significance for nearly all visitors. This would constitute long-term major beneficial impacts to education and interpretation.

All other impacts to education and interpretation would be the same as described under alternative C (preferred alternative).

A projected substantial increase in visitation over the life of the plan would result in additional pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the national monument, under alternative D. At times of peak visitation or during special events at the national monument, it is probable that crowding and increased traffic would limit the effectiveness of educational and interpretive programs and features. It is anticipated that such conditions would occur infrequently, adversely affecting understanding of the national monument's significance for a large number of visitors on only a few days each year. Short-term adverse impacts to education and interpretation would be minor to moderate.

### **Cumulative Impacts Education and Interpretation**

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II will continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south central Idaho. Some of

these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above, which would exacerbate crowding and increased traffic during peak visitation, limiting the effectiveness of educational and interpretive programs and features. It is anticipated that such conditions would occur infrequently, adversely affecting understanding of the national monument's significance for a large number of visitors on only a few days each year. Short-term adverse impacts to education and interpretation would be minor to moderate.

## **Effects on Recreation and Tourism**

### **Analysis of Impacts to Recreation and Tourism**

All impacts on recreation and tourism would be the same as described under alternative C (preferred alternative).

### **Cumulative Impacts to Recreation and Tourism**

It is anticipated that some visitors to south-central Idaho who are unfamiliar with Minidoka prior to arrival in the area would probably visit the national monument once they learned about it and were just a short drive away. Conversely, as visitation increases at the national monument, many of these people would be attracted to other tourism opportunities within Jerome County and the region, such as Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. Depending on the sites visited, such increased visitation could affect the experience of few to many visitors. Resulting short- and long-term impacts on recreation and tourism could be adverse or beneficial and would range from negligible to minor.



## Effects on Natural Resources

### Analysis of Impacts to Soils

Management under alternative D would include various site developments and modifications that would affect monument soils. The primary source of soil disturbance under this alternative would be the development of a multi-purpose interpretive campus on the 9-acre site. Although the campus probably would be built a small piece at a time, at full build-out it could occupy the majority of the site. In addition to the 9-acre site, various other actions or developments would involve excavation or other disturbances to the soils. These include archeological excavations, excavation and rehabilitation of historic pathways for use, development of limited new interpretive trails for improved pedestrian circulation, reestablishment of the historic parking area at the entrance to the national monument, restoration of portions of the historic perimeter fence, and development of new restroom facilities. Management under this alternative would also provide other parking areas as feasible and appropriate near key locations throughout the national monument. Individual site planning would determine the location, size, and layout of such parking areas.

Although these disturbances would disrupt soil structure and expose soils to erosion by wind and water, such adverse impacts are expected to be minor due to the small areas disturbed at any given time and the low susceptibility of national monument soils to erosion. In addition, wherever excavation and distinct soil disturbance would occur, best management practices, such as those listed under “Mitigating Measures” in chapter 4, would be implemented. For example, topsoil would be set aside and replaced to help retain the structure and fertility of soils and minimize impacts. With the implementation of best management practices, the duration of individual soil impacts would be reduced to less than five years (short-term impacts).

All other impacts to soils would be the same as described under alternative C (preferred alternative).

### Cumulative Impacts to Soils

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II will continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above. However, the pedestrian pathways and increased staffing of alternative D would tend to minimize or remediate soil compaction and erosion, thus minimizing any loss of soil productivity. Resulting long-term cumulative adverse soils impacts would be minor.

### Analysis of Impacts to Vegetation

Management under alternative D would include various site developments and modifications that would involve excavation or other direct disturbances to monument vegetation. The largest single disruption of vegetation under this alternative would be the development of a multipurpose interpretive campus on the 9-acre site. Although the campus probably would be built a small piece at a time, at full build-out it could occupy the majority of the 9-acre site. In addition to the 9-acre site, various other actions or developments would involve excavation or other disturbances to vegetation. These would include archeological excavations, excavation, and rehabilitation of historic pathways for use, development of limited new interpretive trails for improved pedestrian circulation, reestablishment of the historic parking area at the entrance to the national monument, restoration of portions of the historic perimeter fence, and development of new restroom facilities. Management under this alternative

would also provide other parking areas as feasible and appropriate near key locations throughout the national monument. Individual site planning would determine the location, size, and layout of such parking areas.

Some of the archeological excavation, pathway rehabilitation, trail development, and restoration of the perimeter fence would occur within the historic open space zone. As with alternative B, however, only small areas and few native plants within this zone would be adversely affected. Under alternative D, development of a multipurpose interpretive campus on the 9-acre site and other management actions that could directly affect vegetation in areas up to several acres in size would occur in portions of the national monument outside the historic open space zone. Existing historic vegetation dating from the operation of the camp, protected under this and all alternatives, would not be disrupted by these actions. Wherever management actions involve excavation or other direct disturbance of vegetation in areas not permanently developed or occupied by structures, site rehabilitation, revegetation with native plants, and weed management procedures, such as those listed under “Mitigating Measures” in chapter 4, would be implemented. The NPS would control noxious and other weeds on the national monument in cooperation with the Northside Tri-Counties Cooperative Weed Management Area and as required by Executive Order 13112. Such mitigation would minimize impacts to vegetation within these areas to negligible levels within five years. Thus, resulting short-term adverse impacts to vegetation would be minor.

All other impacts to vegetation would be the same as described under alternative C (preferred alternative).

### **Cumulative Impacts to Vegetation**

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II would

continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above. However, the pedestrian pathways and increased staffing of alternative D would help reduce vegetation trampling and the formation of social trails. Resulting long-term cumulative adverse impacts to vegetation would be minor.

### **Analysis of Impacts to Wildlife**

Under alternative D various site developments and modifications would involve excavation or other site disturbances that have the potential to affect wildlife or wildlife habitat on the national monument. These include the development of a multipurpose interpretive campus on the 9-acre site, archeological excavations, development of limited new interpretive trails for improved pedestrian circulation, selective rehabilitation of historic roads for park use, reconstruction of entrance area features including reestablishment of the historic parking area, restoration of portions of the historic perimeter fence, and development of new restroom facilities. Management under this alternative would also provide parking areas as feasible and appropriate near key locations throughout the national monument. Individual site planning would determine the location, size, and layout of such parking areas.

Wherever management actions involve excavation in areas not permanently developed or occupied by structures, site rehabilitation, revegetation with native plants, and weed management procedures, such as those listed under “Mitigating Measures” in chapter 4 would be implemented. The NPS would control noxious and other weeds on the national monument in cooperation with the Northside

Tri-Counties Cooperative Weed Management Area. Over time, such mitigation would increase and improve areas on the national monument dominated by native vegetation, thereby improving wildlife habitat and resulting in long-term moderate beneficial impacts.

All other impacts to wildlife would be the same as alternative C (preferred alternative).

### **Cumulative Impacts to Wildlife**

Over the life of this plan, other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II will continue to raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. In addition, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and the proposed south central Idaho visitor center would tend to draw additional visitors to south central Idaho. Some of these people would be expected to visit the national monument. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above. Increased human presence would displace some wildlife species found in the national monument, and increased traffic on Hunt Road would result in an increase of road-killed animals, particularly of small or slow moving species. These long-term minor adverse impacts are not anticipated to affect wildlife at the population level.

### **Analysis of Impacts to Soundscape**

All impacts to soundscape would be the same as described under alternative C (preferred alternative).

### **Cumulative Impacts to Soundscape**

Cumulative impacts to soundscape would be the same as described under alternative C (preferred alternative).

## **Impairment to Natural Resources**

Because there would be no major adverse impacts on a resource or value whose conservation is (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the proclamation establishing Minidoka Internment National Monument; (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the monument or to opportunities for its enjoyment; or (3) identified as a goal in the GMP or other relevant NPS planning documents, the monument's natural resources or values would not be impaired.

## **Effects on Scenic Resources**

### **Analysis of Impacts to Scenic Resources**

The development of a new visitor center complex on the 9-acre site could detract from the historic character of the cultural landscape, thereby creating the possibility of negligible impacts on scenic resources.

All impacts to scenic resources would be the same within the national monument site under alternative C (preferred alternative).

### **Cumulative Impacts to Scenic Resources**

Other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. Resulting increased visitation and more cars parking on the national monument would be cumulative with that described above. Anticipated long-term adverse cumulative impacts to scenic resources would be moderate.

## Effects on Socioeconomic Factors

### Analysis of Impacts to Socioeconomic Factors

The NPS would work cooperatively with monument neighbors and local government to encourage the protection of historic open space and the agricultural character of the area surrounding the national monument. In addition, congressional legislation would be required to expand national monument boundaries to acquire the root cellar, contingent upon a willing seller, and to make several minor boundary adjustments to remedy existing conflicts with adjacent landowners. Other land use and ownership of private lands surrounding the national monument would be unaffected by alternative D.

As described in the other alternatives, NPS planners estimate that if managed as proposed under alternative D, the national monument would attract up to approximately 40,000 annual visitors to the site after 10 years. Assuming full development of the visitor facilities and cultural resource management proposed under this alternative, it is estimated that annual visitation would rise to approximately 80,000 people after 20 years of management (the life of this plan). Such an increase in visitation represents about 4% of the more than 2 million people that currently visit the south-central Idaho region annually.

In terms of the regional economy, national monument visitors would generate travel-related spending and create additional demand for travel-related services within the region. Such demands would indirectly result in the creation of new travel-related and service jobs. These new jobs would be dispersed throughout the region in a wide variety of visitor support services such as hotels, restaurants, auto service stations, and in services that would support increased business at these facilities. Additionally, management of the national monument under alternative D would directly create the equivalent of 14.5 new full time jobs. These increases in economic activity would probably be in proportion to the increase in visitation or about

4% of the regional total. Although important, this increased stimulus would only have a minor long-term beneficial economic impact.

### Cumulative Impacts to Socioeconomic Factors

Cumulative impacts to the regional economy resulting from management of the national monument under alternative D and other known projects would be negligible.

## Effects on Access, Circulation, and Parking

### Analysis of Impacts to Access, Circulation, and Parking

It is anticipated that most of the 40,000 visitors per year, if not all of them, would travel by automobile. If the average vehicle occupancy is three people per car, then about 75 vehicles would be accessing and parking at the national monument on a typical day. Visitation, of course, would not be uniformly distributed throughout the year, but would fluctuate from days when there would be no visitation to popular holiday weekends when there could be three to four times as many visitors as the typical day. Given these assumptions, visitation on such days could reach about 900 people and 300 vehicles. These estimates do not include local and through traffic on Hunt Road that is unrelated to national monument visitation.

Additionally, it is estimated that special events held at the national monument, such as a Minidoka Pilgrimage, could involve as many as 2,000 visitors on a single day. Under NPS policy, a special use permit would be required for such visitation. The NPS would work proactively with such groups to ensure that parking, circulation, seating, portable facilities, on-site staffing, and other issues are adequate to provide for these events.

Management of the national monument under alternative D would accommodate a substantial increase in the number of on-site visitors. Improved visitor facilities, increased staffing of the national

monument, and modified parking, access and circulation would better provide for a larger number of visitors and their vehicles. In addition to periodic maintenance of the national monument's existing historic roads, alternative D would include selective rehabilitation of these roads for park use, enabling dispersal and redirection of some monument traffic. Although vehicular access and circulation would be accommodated, pedestrian use would be emphasized under this alternative. On-site vehicular access would be directed to the education and visitor interpretive complex on the east end of the national monument and to specific interpretive locations and parking areas that provide access to the trail system. The NPS would rehabilitate and utilize historic pathways and develop new interpretive trails to link key resource areas and viewpoints. Interpretive waysides would be included in the trail system.

Parking areas would be provided as feasible and appropriate near key locations throughout the national monument, to minimize the impacts of parking on access and circulation. The site planning process would determine location, size, and layout of parking areas. Alternative D would restore the overgrown section of the historic parking lot between the Hunt Bridge and the existing parking lot at the camp entry to augment capacity. Adequate parking would be developed to service the visitor interpretive complex and a scenic overlook on the 9-acre parcel. Parking on the 3-acre parcel would accommodate overflow parking as well as parking for a variety of park uses.

A shuttle service during peak season would be considered.

The NPS would accommodate all existing private-property access needs.

Given the above-described management of the national monument's access, circulation, and parking, it is estimated that 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. Moderate, long-term, adverse impacts to access, circulation, and parking would result.

### **Cumulative Impacts to Access, Circulation, and Parking**

Other sites and programs associated with internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II, the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, and the proposed south-central Idaho visitor center would raise public awareness of and interest in Minidoka. Resulting increased visitation and vehicular traffic on the national monument would be cumulative with that described above. It is anticipated that unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through traffic and no available parking spaces, would still be within the range of four to nine days per year. This would result in moderate, long-term, adverse, cumulative impacts to access, circulation, and parking.





## Summary of Impacts

**Table 14: Summary of Impacts**

<b>Alternative A</b> (No-Action Alternative)	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b> (Preferred Alternative)	<b>Alternative D</b>
<b>Effects on Cultural Resources</b>			
<b><i>Archeological Resources</i></b>			
Archeological surveys conducted prior to development projects. Minor to moderate, beneficial impacts.	Archeological surveys conducted prior to development projects and proactively. Minor to moderate, beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
Without year-round protection, theft and vandalism of archeological resources would continue. Moderate adverse impact.	Additional, year-round NPS staffing would protect archeological resources. Moderate to major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
A modest increase in visitation would exceed staffing, protection, and service capabilities, resulting in minor erosion of archeological resources and increased vandalism and theft. Moderate adverse impacts.	A moderate increase in visitation would result in minor erosion of archeological resources and increased vandalism and theft. Increased NPS staffing, protection, and education would minimize effects. Minor adverse impacts.	A substantial increase in visitation would result in minor erosion of archeological resources and increased vandalism and theft. Increased NPS staffing, protection, and education would minimize effects. Minor adverse impacts.	Same as alternative C.
		Development of an overlook, parking, and possible memorial on the 9-acre site, would affect few archeological resources. Negligible impacts.	Development of a multi-purpose interpretive campus on the 9-acre site would affect few archeological resources. Negligible impacts.
Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors, cumulative with that described above. Moderate adverse impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors, cumulative with that described above. Minor adverse impacts.	Same as Alternative C.
<b><i>Cultural Landscape Resources</i></b>			
The periodic maintenance of historic roads would preserve the cultural landscape. Minor beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Periodic maintenance and selective rehabilitation of historic roads. Major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative C.
Existing trails would be maintained and preserved. Minor beneficial impacts.	Historic pathways would be rehabilitated, and limited new pedestrian trails would be developed. Major beneficial impacts.	Historic pathways would be rehabilitated, and new pedestrian trails would be developed. Major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative C.

<b>Alternative A - No Action</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C - Preferred</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
The Honor Roll would be reconstructed or delineated, and the entrance area pathways and rock garden would be rehabilitated. Major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Historic features of the entrance area would be rehabilitated, reconstructed, or delineated to reestablish their contribution to the cultural landscape. Major beneficial impacts.	The Honor Roll would be reconstructed or delineated. Other entrance area features would be delineated to reestablish their contribution. Major beneficial impacts.
Maintenance of native vegetation, rehabilitation of degraded vegetation, and removal of nonnative vegetation in the historic open space zone would occur. Minor beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Vegetation in the historic open space zone would be restored and managed to be consistent with the historic period. This would include removal of nonnative plants. Major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative C.
The swimming hole would be protected in its existing condition. Minor beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	The swimming hole would be delineated to illustrate its historic significance. Moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative C.
The open character of the 9-acre site would be protected. Minor beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	The 9-acre site would include development of an overlook, parking area, and possible memorial. Minor to moderate adverse impacts.	The 9-acre site would include development of a multipurpose interpretive campus. Moderate adverse impacts.
The existing foundations of historic buildings within the administration and staff housing area would be protected. Minor beneficial impacts.	The foundations on all historic buildings within the administration and staff housing area would be delineated. Minor to moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
Existing footprints for all structures in the warehouse area would be protected. Minor beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Footprints for all structures in the warehouse area would be delineated to reestablish their contribution to the cultural landscape. Moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative C.
The stabilized root cellar would continue to be protected. Minor beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.
Existing historic buildings and features on the 3-acre site would be protected and stabilized. Moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Existing historic buildings and other structures on the 3-acre site would be rehabilitated and adaptively re-used. Major beneficial impacts.	Some administration and staff housing structures on the 3-acre site would be moved back to their original locations, restoring the cultural landscape. Major beneficial impacts.
		The NPS would reconstruct all or part of the historic perimeter fence along the canal. Major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative C.
		Maintenance facilities could detract from the cultural landscape. Minor adverse impacts.	Same as alternative C.
		Parking areas throughout the monument would affect the historic setting and character. Minor adverse impacts.	Same as alternative C.

Alternative A - No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C - Preferred	Alternative D
<b>Historic Buildings and Structures</b>			
	Additional staffing and year-round NPS presence would protect historic structures. Moderate to major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
The Honor Roll would be reconstructed or delineated. Major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Historic features of the entrance area would be rehabilitated, reconstructed, or delineated. Major beneficial impacts.	The Honor Roll would be reconstructed or delineated. Other entrance area features would be delineated. Major beneficial impacts.
The existing foundations of historic buildings within the administration and staff housing area would be protected. Minor beneficial impacts.	The foundations on all historic buildings within the administration and staff housing area would be delineated. Minor to moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
Existing footprints for all structures in the warehouse area would be protected. Minor beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Footprints for all structures in the warehouse area would be delineated to illustrate their former physical presence. Moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative C.
The stabilized root cellar would continue to be protected. Minor beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	The root cellar would be partially restored. Major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative C.
Existing historic buildings and features on the 3-acre site would be protected and stabilized. Moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Existing historic buildings and other structures on the 3-acre site would be rehabilitated and adaptively re-used. Major beneficial impacts.	Some administration and staff housing structures on the 3-acre site would be moved back to their original locations. Major beneficial impacts.
	Cooperative strategies to protect historic structures and features located off-site would be developed. Minor to major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
		As the NPS is able to acquire and rehabilitate historic structures, they would be relocated to the residential block or the 9-acre site. Major beneficial impacts.	As the NPS is able to acquire and rehabilitate historic structures, they would be relocated to the 9-acre site. Major beneficial impacts.
Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors, resulting in wear and tear on historic structures. Moderate adverse impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors. Increased NPS staffing and protection would minimize effects. Minor adverse impacts.	Same as alternative C.
<b>Effects on Education and Interpretation</b>			
The NPS would protect on-site cultural resources and utilize interpretive approaches to convey the historic character of the camp. Minor beneficial impacts.	On-site education and interpretation would be accomplished through a range of self-exploratory visitor experiences. Moderate beneficial impacts.	Preservation, rehabilitation, and interpretation of historic features would allow management as a cultural landscape related to the WWII internment and incarceration of Nikkei. Major beneficial impacts.	Historic resources would be protected and used for interpretive purposes to convey a better understanding of the history of the national monument. Major beneficial impacts.

<b>Alternative A - No Action</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C - Preferred</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
Identification signs would be limited to boundary markers and signs along the national monument's perimeter, informing visitors about the location and extent of the national monument. Minor beneficial impacts.	Directional signs, boundary markers, and interpretive waysides would be constructed to inform visitors about the location, extent, and history of the national monument. Moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
Increased visitation over the life of the plan would exceed NPS staffing, protection, and service capabilities. On-site cultural resources would experience degradation and loss of interpretative value. Minor adverse impacts.	Increased visitation would result in additional pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Peak crowds and traffic would limit the effectiveness of educational and interpretive programs and features. Short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
The NPS would provide limited off-site educational programs and interpretive materials. Partnerships would be used to educate the public about internment and incarceration. Collections of historical objects and documents at off-site locations would be more accessible. Minor to moderate beneficial impacts.	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 off-site locations, would be more accessible. Minor to major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
		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. Major beneficial impacts.	Education and interpretation would be accomplished primarily on-site with multi-media presentations at the interpretive center. Visitors would participate in programmed and self-guided exploration of exhibits, collections, research, interpretive programs, and educational activities. Major beneficial impacts.
	Although most staff would be located off-site, some educational and interpretive staff would be located on-site for at least a portion of the year. Moderate beneficial impacts.	Although some staff would be located off-site, most educational and interpretive staff would be located on-site year-round. Major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative C.
Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors, exceeding staffing, and visitor services capabilities. Minor adverse impacts.	Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors. Peak crowding would limit the effectiveness of educational and interpretive programs. Short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
<b>Effects on Recreation and Tourism</b>			
The monument would attract approximately 5,000 visitors per year. This increased visitation would affect the experience of relatively few visitors to the region. Negligible impacts.	The monument would attract up to 40,000 visitors per year. This increased visitation would affect the experience of relatively few visitors to the region. Negligible impacts.	The monument would attract up to 80,000 visitors per year. This increased visitation would affect the experience of many visitors to the region. Minor adverse or beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative C.



Alternative A - No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C - Preferred	Alternative D
	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 Minidoka Pilgrimages. Short-term moderate beneficial impacts.	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 Minidoka Pilgrimages. Short-term major beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative C.
	As monument visitation increases, many visitors would be attracted to other tourism opportunities within Jerome County and the region. Short- and long-term, negligible to minor, adverse or beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
New opportunities for passive recreation. Minor beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.
<b>Effects on Natural Resources</b>			
<b>Soils</b>			
Archeological work, rehabilitation of historic pathways, development of parking areas, and vegetation rehabilitation would disturb the soil. Disruption of soil structure and exposure to erosion are expected to be negligible, and Best Management Practices would reduce impacts to less than five years. Negligible short-term impacts.	Archeological work, improvements to or development of trails, restrooms, parking areas, and historic features would disturb the soil. Disruption of soil structure and exposure to erosion are expected to be minor, and Best Management Practices would reduce impacts to less than five years. Minor short-term adverse impacts.	Same as alternative B.	The primary source of soil disturbance would be the development of a multipurpose interpretive campus on the 9-acre site. Other soil disturbances would be similar to those of alternative C. Minor short-term adverse impacts.
	Selective removal of invading nonnative vegetation in the historic open space zone would disrupt soils. Best management practices and revegetation of disturbed areas would reduce soil disturbances. Short-term negligible impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
Increased visitation would exceed staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and service capabilities. Under such conditions, timely measures to prevent or remediate any disturbance or erosion of soil that might occur could not be guaranteed. Minor adverse impacts.	Increased pedestrian traffic would create soil compaction and formation of social trails. Rehabilitated historic pathways or new trails would minimize such effects. Increased, year-round NPS staffing would enable the early remediation of soil compaction or erosion, minimizing any loss of soil productivity. Minor adverse impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors. This increase, cumulative with that described above, would exceed staffing, protection, maintenance, and service capabilities. Timely measures to prevent or remediate soil disturbance or erosion could not be guaranteed. Minor adverse impacts.	Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above. However, pedestrian pathways and increased staffing would tend to minimize soil compaction and erosion. Minor adverse impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.

Alternative A - No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C - Preferred	Alternative D
<b>Vegetation</b>			
Some disturbances of a few native plants would occur on small areas within the historic open space zone. Historic vegetation would be protected. Mitigation on areas not permanently developed would include revegetation and weed control. Short-term minor adverse impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Some disturbances of native plants would occur in the historic open space zone. Developments in other zones could directly affect vegetation in areas up to several acres in size. Historic vegetation would be protected. Mitigation on areas not permanently developed would include revegetation and weed control. Short-term minor adverse impacts.	The primary disturbance to vegetation would be the development of a multipurpose interpretive campus on the 9-acre site. Some disturbance of native plants would occur in the historic open space zone. Historic vegetation would be protected. Mitigation on areas not permanently developed would include revegetation and weed control. Short-term minor adverse impacts.
The NPS would rehabilitate 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. Moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Similar to alternative A.	Similar to alternative A.
Visitation, expected to increase modestly over the life of the plan, would exceed staffing, resource protection, maintenance, and visitor services capabilities. Under such conditions, timely measures to prevent or remediate any development of social trails or other disturbances to vegetation could not be guaranteed. Minor adverse impacts.	Increased pedestrian traffic would result in soil compaction and the formation of social trails. Establishment of new trails or rehabilitation of historic pathways would minimize such effects. Increased, year-round NPS staffing would enable the early detection and elimination of vegetation trampling. Minor long-term adverse impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above and would exceed staffing, protection, maintenance, and service capabilities. Timely measures to prevent or remediate disturbance to vegetation could not be guaranteed. Minor adverse impacts.	Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors. This increased visitation would be cumulative with that described above. However, pedestrian pathways and increased staffing would help reduce vegetation trampling and other disturbances. Minor adverse impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
<b>Wildlife</b>			
Archeological excavations would involve site disturbances that could affect wildlife or habitat.	Disturbances that could affect wildlife or habitat include archeological excavations, development of trails, and new restroom facilities.	Disturbances that could affect wildlife or habitat include archeological excavations, new trails, rehabilitation of roads, reconstruction of entrance area features, development of an overlook and memorial, restoration of the perimeter fence, new restrooms and parking areas.	Disturbances that could affect wildlife or habitat include development of a multipurpose interpretive campus, archeological excavations, new trails, rehabilitation of roads, reconstruction of entrance area features, restoration of the perimeter fence, new restrooms and parking areas.
Site rehabilitation, revegetation with native plants, and weed management would increase and improve wildlife habitat. Minor to moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Similar to alternative A.	Same as alternative C.

Alternative A - No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C - Preferred	Alternative D
		Restoration of portions of the historic perimeter fence would have negligible impacts on wildlife movement.	Same as alternative C.
Rehabilitation of the open space zone would include removal of nonnative plants, resulting in minor adverse impacts. Reestablishment of native vegetation in this area would create new habitat for sagebrush dependent wildlife. Minor to moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.
	Increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic would displace some species and increase road kill. Minor adverse impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
Increased visitation would exceed staffing, protection, and service capabilities. Disturbances to wildlife or habitat would be short-term and minor.	Increased year-round NPS staffing would improve resource protection and visitor education, decreasing disturbances to wildlife and habitat. Minor beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract more visitors. This cumulative increase would exceed staffing, maintenance and protection capabilities. Disturbances to wildlife or habitat could occur, some species would be displaced, road kill would increase. Minor adverse impacts.	Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors, cumulative with that described above. Increased human presence would displace some species, and increased traffic would result in more road kill. Minor adverse impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
<b><i>Soundscape</i></b>			
Traffic and associated noise on Hunt Road would increase with visitation to the monument, estimated at about 5,000 visitors per year. Noise would negatively affect visitor experience. Minor adverse impacts.	Traffic and associated noise on Hunt Road would increase with visitation to the monument, estimated at about 40,000 visitors per year. Noise would negatively affect visitor experience. Minor to moderate adverse impacts.	Traffic and associated noise on Hunt Road would increase with visitation to the monument, estimated at about 80,000 visitors per year. Noise would negatively affect visitor experience. Moderate adverse impacts.	Same as alternative C.
Some park operations would add to human-caused sounds, having a negative effect on visitor experience. Short-term minor adverse impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.
Other sites and programs associated with Minidoka or located nearby would attract additional visitors, cumulative with that described above. Increased automobile traffic and noise would affect visitor experience. Short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.

Alternative A - No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C - Preferred	Alternative D
<b>Effects on Scenic Resources</b>			
Views to the canal would be protected. Scenic views of surrounding features would be accessible, but no interpretive overlooks would be developed. Minor beneficial impacts.	Views to the canal would be preserved and restored. Scenic viewing areas and interpretive overlooks would be developed, enhancing visitor experience. Moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
		Reestablishment of a residential block in its original location could provide enhanced views of the former residential portion of the camp, positively affecting visitor experience. Moderate beneficial impacts.	
Exotic Russian olive trees growing along the canal would not be removed, limiting views and negatively affecting visitor experience. Negligible impacts.	Management of vegetation, including removal of exotic Russian olive trees, would restore and enhance views, positively affecting visitor experience. Moderate beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
Overflow parking areas at the 3-acre and 9-acre sites would be visible and a detriment to visitor experience. Short-term minor adverse impacts.	Parking areas would be visible throughout the monument, negatively affecting visitor experience. Negligible impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
	Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors. More cars parking on the monument would be cumulative with that described above. Negligible impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
<b>Effects on Socioeconomic Factors</b>			
The NPS would work with monument neighbors and local government to encourage the protection of historic open space and the agricultural character of the surrounding area. Use and ownership of lands surrounding the monument would be unaffected.	Same as alternative A.	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. Negligible adverse impacts.	The NPS would work with monument neighbors and local government to encourage protection of historic open space and the agricultural character of the surrounding area. NPS would recommend legislation to acquire the root cellar and to make minor boundary adjustments. Other use and ownership of lands around the monument would be unaffected.
The monument would attract approximately 5,000 visitors per year, a less than 1% increase in regional visitation. Visitors would generate travel-related spending and create additional demand for services, resulting in the creation of new travel-related and service jobs. Negligible beneficial impacts.	The monument would attract up to 40,000 visitors per year, a less than 2% increase in regional visitation. Visitors would generate travel-related spending and create additional demand for services, resulting in the creation of new travel-related and service jobs. Management of the monument would directly create the equivalent of 7 new full time jobs. Negligible beneficial impacts.	The monument would attract up to 80,000 visitors per year, about a 4% increase in regional visitation. Visitors would generate travel-related spending and create additional demand for services, resulting in the creation of new travel-related and service jobs. Management of the monument would directly create the equivalent of 12 new full time jobs. Minor beneficial impacts.	Same as alternative C.

Alternative A - No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C - Preferred	Alternative D
<b>Effects on Access, Circulation, and Parking</b>			
On an average day there would be approximately 15 visitors and 5 vehicles at the monument. Peak visitation is estimated at about 60 people and 20 vehicles per day.	On an average day there would be approximately 110 visitors and 35 vehicles at the monument. Peak visitation is estimated at about 450 people and 150 vehicles per day.	On an average day there would be approximately 220 visitors and 75 vehicles at the monument. Peak visitation is estimated at about 900 people and 300 vehicles per day.	Same as alternative C.
Special events held at the monument, such as a Minidoka Pilgrimage, could involve as many as 500 visitors on a single day.	Special events held at the monument, such as a Minidoka Pilgrimage, could involve as many as 2,000 visitors on a single day.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.
The existing access, circulation, and parking system where visitors explore the monument by car and on foot would be retained. The two dedicated county roads (Hunt Road and 1400E) would be maintained for vehicle-oriented circulation for visitors and local residents.	Minor changes to existing access, circulation and parking would be made to accommodate an increased level of visitors and their vehicles. Both vehicular access and pedestrian use would be accommodated.	Improved visitor facilities, increased staffing, and modified parking, access, and circulation would better provide for a substantial increase in the number of visitors and vehicles. Although vehicular access would be accommodated, pedestrian use would be emphasized with access to existing and new trails.	Improved visitor facilities, increased staffing, and modified parking, access and circulation would better provide for a substantial increase in the number of visitors and vehicles. Pedestrian use would be emphasized with access to existing and new trails. Vehicular access would primarily be directed to the education and interpretive complex on the east end of the monument.
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.	Existing parking areas would be maintained. Additional parking would be provided at the adaptively reused warehouse area and the 9-acre parcel.	Parking would be provided throughout the monument to minimize impacts on access and circulation. Adequate parking would be developed for visitor contact in the adaptively reused warehouse area and the reestablished residential block. Additional parking would be located on the 9-acre parcel. The NPS would accommodate all existing private property access needs.	Parking would be provided throughout the monument to minimize impacts on access and circulation. The historic parking lot between the Hunt Bridge and the camp entry would be restored. Adequate parking would be developed for the interpretive complex on the 9-acre parcel. Additional parking would be provided on the 3-acre parcel. The NPS would accommodate all existing private property access needs.
Unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through traffic and no available parking spaces, would occur on no more than 3 days per year. Minor adverse impacts.	Same as alternative A.	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. Moderate adverse impacts.	Same as alternative C.
	Other sites and programs associated with the monument would attract additional visitors and vehicular traffic, cumulative with that described above. Unacceptable traffic conditions, such as delays of through-traffic and no available parking spaces, could occur on four or more days per year. Moderate adverse impacts.	Same as alternative B.	Same as alternative B.