



Public Involvement and Consultation

Public involvement and consultation efforts were ongoing throughout the process of preparing this GMP/EIS. Public involvement methods included Federal Register notices, news releases, public meetings and workshops, invited presentations at special interest group meetings, individual meetings with interested publics, newsletter mailings, and website postings. An extensive level of public involvement was deemed necessary for the success of the planning project.

A “notice of intent” to prepare a draft environmental impact statement / general management plan for Minidoka Internment National Monument was published in the *Federal Register* on April 24, 2002 (Volume 67, Number 79, page 20163). In the spring of 2002, the NPS organized an interdisciplinary planning team consisting of staff at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, staff at the NPS Pacific West Region, and subject area experts from Idaho and Washington to begin the first general management plan for the national monument.

Preceding the formal planning process, NPS staff in Idaho and Washington conducted informational meetings about the national monument with potential stakeholder groups, organizations, various government entities, and individuals during the spring, summer, and early fall of 2002. This extra level of public involvement was deemed necessary given the nature and sensitivity of the national monument’s history, the speed in which the national monument was established, and the national monument’s remote location. Additionally, former internees and their families live in numerous cities and towns throughout Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. The NPS determined it was necessary to

outreach to these geographically diverse communities, because they wanted to hear from the people that were the principal subjects of the national monument. The NPS also conducted informal meetings with local and adjacent landowners as well as local and federal government officials. Approximately 50 meetings were held in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska during this time, and a total of approximately 1000 people were contacted.

The majority of people who attended these meetings were former internees and their family members from the Nikkei community. Meetings were held in local meeting halls, churches, and locations familiar and convenient for community members. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce the NPS to these groups, describe the national monument’s conditions and how it became an NPS unit, discuss the GMP/EIS process, and develop relations with these community groups and individual stakeholders. Through these meetings, the NPS was able connect with large numbers of people who were directly and indirectly impacted by Minidoka during World War II. Additionally, community members provided suggestions about when and where to hold the formal public scoping work-

A former internee returning to Minidoka during the Pilgrimage. June 2004. NPS Photo.

“Your story should be told in every classroom and remembered in the halls of government in every generation. Your story reminds us of the mistakes of the past so that we do not repeat them. But it also reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. It reminds us that we are one people. . . all Americans—regardless of color, religion, or ethnic background. And it reminds us of the freedoms and opportunities that we must always cherish.” - Idaho Governor, Dirk Kempthorne, declaring February 19 an Idaho Day of Remembrance

shops, so as to attract a wide variety of interested individuals. These informational meetings established an invaluable foundation for the formal public planning process.

An additional step in the formal planning process was the implementation of draft alternatives public workshops and comment period held in July and August of 2003. The meetings were designed to introduce the draft alternatives to the public and receive public comments to assist the NPS in refining the alternatives.

Public Scoping

The official public process began in October 2002 when the NPS produced and mailed Newsletter Number 1 to approximately 2,000 people on the national monument’s mailing list. Another 2,500 newsletters were sent in packets to organizations, libraries, and public locations in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, California and at potential stakeholder groups in cities throughout the U.S. The newsletter announced the establishment of the national monument, the function of the GMP/EIS, and an outline of the planning steps including dates, time, and locations for the public workshops. The primary purpose of the newsletter was to encourage participation and comment on critical issues that should be addressed in the GMP/EIS. The newsletter contained a business reply questionnaire that asked six questions related to the

national monument’s purpose, significance, interpretive themes, desired future conditions, and general issues and concerns. Information about the planning process, scoping, and opportunities for involvement were posted on the NPS website (www.nps.gov/miin).

Local and regional newspapers and radio stations throughout the planning area were used to disseminate information on the GMP/EIS, planning process and the draft alternatives. A *Federal Register* notice, dated November 19, 2002 extended the scoping period until December 31, 2002 due to the extent of public interest. Ads were placed in the following newspapers: *Argus Observer*, Ontario, Oregon; *Bainbridge Island Review*, Bainbridge Island, Washington; *Oregonian*, Portland, Oregon; *Post-Intelligencer*, Seattle, Washington; *Seattle Times*, Seattle, Washington; *Times-News*, Twin Falls, Idaho, and *Yuuyake Shimbun*,



Public scoping workshop in Eden. November 2002. NPS Photo.

Portland, Oregon. Short articles were published in the following community newsletters: Buddhist Temple, Seattle, Washington; Japanese Baptist Church, Seattle, Washington; Nisei Veterans Committee, Seattle, Washington; Japanese American Citizens League, Portland Chapter, Oregon; and the Wing Luke Asian Museum, Seattle, Washington. Press releases were prepared and mailed on October 21, 2002, by the NPS, Pacific West Region- Seattle Office. Press releases were provided to the following print and broadcast media:

Table 14: Media Organizations on the Minidoka Internment NM Mailing List

IDAHO STATE MEDIA

KORR Radio	American Falls
Power Con. Press	American Falls
Arco Advertiser	Arco
KCVI Radio	Blackfoot
KECN/KLCE Radio	Blackfoot
KICN Radio	Blackfoot
The Morning News	Blackfoot
KIVI Television	Boise
KBOI/KQFC Radio	Boise
KLCI Radio	Boise
KGEM/KJOT Radio	Boise
KQXR Radio	Boise
KANR Radio	Boise
KTIK Radio	Boise
KXLT/KCIX Radio	Boise
KARO Radio	Boise

KBCI Television
 KTVB Television
 The Idaho Statesman
 KSPD/KBXL Radio
 KKIC/KJHY Radio
 KIDO 580 Newsradio
 KBSU Radio
 KAID Television
 Buhl Herald
 KBAR/KZDX Radio
 South Idaho Press
 KBGN Radio
 KTSY Radio
 KHDT Television
 Gooding Co. Leader
 Lincoln Co. Journal
 Wood River Journal
 KFTZ/KOSZ Radio

Boise
 Boise
 Boise
 Boise
 Boise
 Boise
 Boise
 Buhl
 Burley
 Burley
 Caldwell
 Caldwell
 Caldwell
 Gooding
 Gooding
 Hailey
 Idaho Falls



Planning team members, Lilly Kodama and Rene Senos, at Minidoka during wintertime. November 2003. NPS

Post Register
 KUPI Radio
 KIDK Television
 KIFI Television
 KID Radio
 KART/KMXV Radio
 North Side News
 Idaho Press Tribune
 KTRV Television
 Idaho State Journal
 KOUU/KXBB Radio
 KPVI Television
 KSEI/KMGI Radio
 KWIK/KPKY Radio
 KISU Television
 KBBK/KKTV Radio
 Minidoka Co. News

Idaho Falls
 Idaho Falls
 Idaho Falls
 Idaho Falls
 Idaho Falls
 Jerome
 Jerome
 Nampa
 Nampa
 Pocatello
 Pocatello
 Pocatello
 Pocatello
 Pocatello
 Rupert
 Rupert

KCIR Radio
 KKVI Television
 KMTV Television
 KTFI Radio
 KAWZ Radio
 KEZJ/KLIX Radio
 Twin Falls Times-News
 KWEI Radio
 Weiser American Signal

Twin Falls
 Twin Falls
 Twin Falls
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 Twin Falls
 Twin Falls
 Weiser
 Weiser

WASHINGTON STATE MEDIA

KAGT Radio	Anacortes
Anacortes American	Anacortes
Bainbridge Review	Bainbridge Is.
Daily Journal-American	Bellevue
Northshore Citizen	Bellevue
KGMI Radio	Bellingham
KVOS-TV	Bellingham
KPUG Radio	Bellingham
The Herald	Bellingham
Bremerton Sun	Bremerton
Dispatch	Eatonville
The Herald	Everett
Friday Harbor Journal	Friday Harbor
Peninsula Gateway	Gig Harbor
Daily News-Journal	Kent
The Valley Newspapers	Kent
Chinook Observer	Long Beach
The Enterprise	Lynnwood
Globe	Marysville
Reporter	Mercer Island



Public scoping workshop at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Portland. November 2002. NPS Photo.



Planning team member, Ron James, participating in a team meeting. Number 2003. NPS Photo.

Monroe Monitor	Monroe	North American Post	Seattle
KAPS Radio	Mount Vernon	KJR/KUBE Radio	Seattle
KBRC Radio	Mount Vernon	The Seattle Times	Seattle
Skagit Valley Herald	Mount Vernon	KIRO-TV	Seattle
Daily Olympian	Olympia	Post-Intelligencer	Seattle
Kitsap County Herald	Paulsbo	KUOW Radio	Seattle
KONP Radio	Port Angeles	KMITT AM-FM Radio	Seattle
Port Angeles Daily News	Port Angeles	KCTS-TV	Seattle
Channels 3 and 10	Port Angeles	KOMO Radio	Seattle
Independent	Port Orchard	KIRO Radio Inc	Seattle
Leader	Port Townsend	KING Radio	Seattle
Pierce County Herald	Puyallup	KING-TV	Seattle
KTACAM-FM	Seattle	West Seattle Herald	Seattle
KRAB Radio	Seattle	KCIS/KCMS	Seattle
KOMO-TV	Seattle	Everett News Tribune	Snohomish
International Examiner	Seattle	Valley Record	Snoqualmie
Northwest Asian Weekly	Seattle	KHQ Radio	Spokane
		KHQ-TV	Spokane
		KXLY Radio	Spokane
		KXLY-TV	Spokane
		KSAPS-TV	Spokane
		Spokesman-Review	Spokane
		KGA Radio	Spokane
		Tacoma Daily Index	Tacoma
		KTPS-TV	Tacoma
		Morning News Tribune	Tacoma
		The Columbian	Vancouver
		Beachcomber	Vashon
		Union-Bulletin	Walla Walla
		Kenmore Northlake News	Woodinville
		Weekly	Woodinville

OREGON STATE MEDIA

KAST Radio	Astoria
Daily Astorian	Astoria
KVAS FM	Astoria
Record-Courier	Baker
Times (Tigard)	Beaverton
Valley News	Beaverton
Clackamas County News	Estacada
Register Guard	Eugene
News-Times	Forest Grove
Gresham Outlook	Gresham
Argus	Hillsboro
News	Hood River
Herald and News	Klamath Falls
KFLS Radio	Klamath Falls
KOTI-TV	Klamath Falls
KAGO Radio	Klamath Falls
West Linn Tidings	Lake Oswego
Daily Argus Observer	Ontario
The Asian Reporter	Portland
Yuuyake Shimbun	Portland
Oregonian	Portland
Associated Press	Portland
Willamette Week	Portland
KATU-TV	Portland
KPTV-TV	Portland
Portland Observer	Portland
KGW-TV	Portland
KINK Radio	Portland
KOIN-TV	Portland
Daily Journal of Commerce	Portland

Statesman-Journal
Post
Appeal Tribune
The Dalles Chronicle

Salem
Sandy
Silverton
The Dalles

NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN MEDIA

Genki Publishing	Boston, MA
Epic World	Tokyo, Japan
The Florida News	Miami, FL
J Desk International	Hartland, WI
Midamerica Guide	Chicago, IL
Chicago Shimpo	Chicago, IL
Radio KZOO	Honolulu, HI
East West Journal	Honolulu, HI
Hawaii Hocht	Honolulu, HI
OCS America	Long Island City, NY
TV-JAPAN	New York, NY
Plaza Tsushin	New York, NY
U.S. Nippon Communications	New York, NY
U.S. Frontline News	New York, NY
Nihon Keizai Shimbun	New York, NY
Asahi Shimbun	New York, NY
Japanese Daily Sun	New York, NY
Japan Media Productions	New York, NY
Yomiuri American (NY)	New York, NY
Tokyo TV Broadcasting	Brisbane, CA
Kempo Television Network	Diamond Bar, CA
Gateway USA	Los Angeles, CA
Rafu Shimpo	Los Angeles, CA

Nihon Keizai Shimbun	Los Angeles, CA
Japan Television Network	San Francisco, CA
Radio Mainichi	San Francisco, CA
Hokubei Mainichi	San Francisco, CA
Nichi Bei Times	San Francisco, CA
Fax Mainichi USA	Santa Monica, CA
BRIDGE U.S.A.	Torrance, CA
Radio Pacific Japan	Torrance, CA
Yomiuri America	Torrance, CA

Workshops

The NPS held nine public scoping workshops in Idaho, Washington and Oregon in November 2002. Approximately 250 people participated in the public workshops and provided oral comments during the nine workshops. The NPS received input from a diverse group of people including former internees, their friends and families, former camp staff, students, and the surrounding Eden and Twin Falls communities. The NPS also received feedback from interested individuals from around the country, most of whom had neither been to the site nor had any connection to the internment and incarceration story.

The first workshop was held on November 12, 2002, at the Senior Citizen Center in Eden, Idaho. 10 people attended the workshop from the local Eden area, including neighboring landowners, indi-

viduals associated with the history of the national monument, and local Eden officials.

The second workshop was held on November 13, 2002, at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, Idaho. Twenty-three people attended the workshop. Some of the organizations represented included the following: Jerome County Historical Society, Japanese American Citizens League, and Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce.

The third workshop was held on November 14, 2002, at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon. Ten people attended, including representatives of the Japanese American Citizens League.

The fourth workshop was held on November 18, 2002, at the Bainbridge Island Commons on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Twenty-four people attended the workshop, including representatives of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community and Bainbridge Island local government.

The fifth workshop was held on November 19, 2002, at the Nisei Veterans Hall in Seattle, Washington. Forty-two people attended the workshop, including representatives of the Nisei Veterans Committee, Wing Luke Asian Museum, Densho Project, Japanese American Citizens League, and local Nikkei churches.

The sixth workshop was held on November 19, 2002, at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. Twelve people attended including



Public scoping workshop on Bainbridge Island. November 2002. NPS Photo. (Top)

Public scoping workshop in Twin Falls. November 2002. NPS Photo. (Bottom)

faculty and students from the University of Washington and representatives of the Consul General of Japan.

The seventh workshop was held on November 20, 2002, at the Japanese Baptist Church in Seattle, Washington. Twenty-six people attended including representatives from the local Nikkei Christian churches.

The eighth workshop was held on November 21, 2002, at the Seattle Buddhist Temple in Seattle, Washington. Thirty-three people attended including representatives of the Seattle Buddhist Temple, Japanese American Citizens League, and University of Washington.

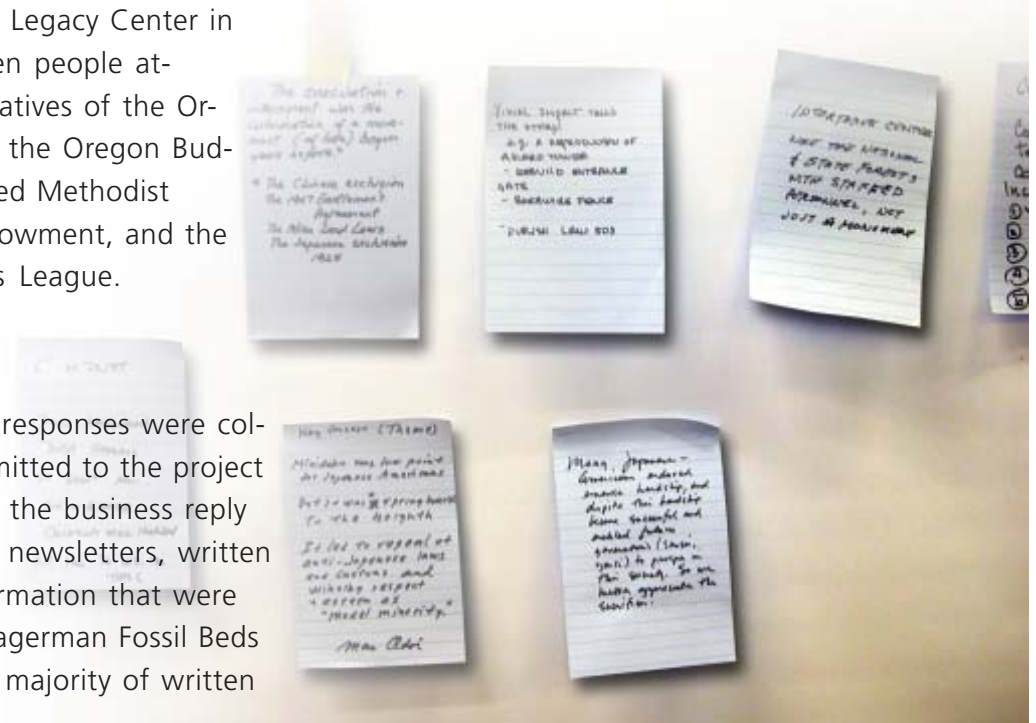
The ninth workshop was held on November 22, 2002, at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Portland, Oregon. Fifty-seven people attended, including representatives of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, the Oregon Buddhist Temple, Epworth United Methodist Church, Oregon Nikkei Endowment, and the Japanese American Citizens League.

Written Comments

Approximately 225 written responses were collected through e-mails submitted to the project Inbox: MIIN_GMP@nps.gov, the business reply questionnaire inserts in the newsletters, written letters, and packets of information that were mailed to the NPS at the Hagerman Fossil Beds NM headquarters. The vast majority of written

comments were received from Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Additionally, comments were received from throughout the U.S., including 27 from California; 16 from New York; 8 from Texas; 6 from Ohio; 5 each from Arizona, Maryland, and Pennsylvania; 4 each from Illinois, Florida, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin; 3 each from Kansas, Massachusetts, and Utah; 2 each from Colorado, Indiana, Louisiana, MI, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Carolina, Vermont, and Virginia, and 1 each from Alaska, Georgia, Kentucky, Montana, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, and Tennessee.

*Public comments at a scoping workshop.
November 2002.
NPS Photo.*



Summary of Scoping Comments

The following summary of comments was published in the second newsletter that was produced and mailed to the public in March 2003. The purpose of this newsletter was to summarize both the written and verbal comments received during the scoping period and that should be addressed in the GMP/EIS planning process.

The comments received covered a broad range of issues, concerns, personal experiences, and recommendations for the national monument. When compiled, over 120 different comments or ideas were represented. Because various statements or ideas were mentioned repeatedly, similar comments are stated once, but the number of times a particular point was made has been tabulated. This method highlights the comments that people stated were most important and needed to be addressed at the national monument. However, each comment was recorded and an attempt was made to incorporate all concerns and ideas into the public scoping summary. All the input was very useful to the planning team and will be utilized in the development of the GMP.

The following summary provides a description of the public comments received by the NPS during the scoping phase of the planning project.

"I hope Minidoka will be a place where people find another story of the war and broaden their points of view."

-Public Comment

Issues and Concerns

Interpretation of the Internment and Incarceration Story

The vast majority of comments relate to how the Minidoka internment and incarceration story should be interpreted and presented to the public. Most of the public thinks the national monument is an important piece of America's history that must be effectively interpreted. Many of the respon-

dents feel there are misconceptions and a general lack of understanding on behalf of the public regarding the internment and incarceration story.

The overriding sentiment highlights the national monument's importance of conveying the mes-

sage that internment and incarceration was a mistake and a major violation of constitutional and civil rights. The majority of respondents feel the site should provide an accurate depiction of the plight of Nikkei and resident aliens during this period in American history. Commenters think Minidoka should be portrayed as it was – an internment camp or concentration camp, not a summer camp. Many feel Minidoka was a concentration camp, while others believe that term was inaccurate. Regardless, most agree Minidoka was a place where lives were forever changed as a result of racism, prejudice, politics, economics and wartime hysteria.

"Liberty and freedom are not to be taken for granted; there must be constant vigilance in safe-guarding civil liberties."

-Public Comment

"Minidoka is not only concerned with Japanese American people but also with all American people."-Public Comment

"The significance statements must emphasize the historic context of the internment, that it was found constitutional by a misguided legal system, that these cases were subsequently overturned, that the entire Japanese American community is vitally concerned that it would never happen to another group again and how ultimately, the Congress and the President saw fit to apologize and provide restitution."-Public Comment

“The site should preserve all threads that made the site what it was- governmental, moral, ethical, cultural, social, etc. and should be interpreted in an honest way without sacrificing or sparing the visitor of any crucial emotional or political aspects.”

-Public Comment

“Try to include information about the nation’s perceptions of Japanese Americans; you must balance the need of explaining the mindset that allowed internment without seeming to excuse or justify it.”

-Public Comment

“The stories of the so-called, ‘No No Boys’ should not be overlooked. They represent some very courageous and principled young adults who suffered a second layer of injustice for their questioning the definition of ‘loyalty.’”

-Public Comment

The public consistently mentions that interpretation must provide insight into the Nikkei experience before, during and after internment and incarceration. They want it made clear that prior to internment and incarceration these were hard-working people – the majority of whom were American citizens. Many had made significant contributions to their communities and their country over many decades. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, they were forced to abandon all they had worked for and were incarcerated in an unfamiliar and desolate place.

Many from the public state it is important for the national monument to explain the Nikkei culture and to convey why they reacted the way they did. Former internees describe how they were raised in a culture where authority was not questioned. At the time, no one suspected the internment and incarceration ordeal would be as trying or long lasting. As a result of internment and incarceration, many families suffered significant financial losses.

Internees think the NPS should accurately describe how internment and incarceration affected people in different ways. Many express that it is important for people to understand that for *Issei* (Japanese immigrants) and *Nisei* (American born) generations, the internment and incarceration experience was wrought with hopelessness and uncertainty. They describe how internment and in-

“Minidoka was part of my childhood, I would like to see my grandkids understand what happened there, not have it forgotten.”

-Public Comment

carceration resulted in the deterioration of the family unit. Their daily lives and routines were altered. Meals were not eaten together. Many recall the psychological impact that the decline of traditional mother/father roles had on their parents. However, some of the former internees describe the experience as some of the best days of their lives, where the breakdown of family structure provided ample opportunity for socializing and fun. Many people state that the camps brought Nikkei together.

The public often mentions how internees made the most of a difficult situation. In the camps a variety of art forms flourished including literature, painting, crafts, and furniture-making. Internees also made significant ad-

vancements in farming and agricultural practices and aided local farmers. Some refer to the cleared land and agriculture seen at the site today as the legacy of the camp’s internees.

Comments convey that in spite of their circumstances, the vast majority of internees remained patriotic Americans. Many of the respondents think it is very important the Minidoka story include the contributions of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and Nikkei in the Women’s Army Corps. They cite the fact that the 442nd is the most decorated unit in American military history, for its size and length of service. Compared to other camps, disproportion-

ately large numbers of Minidoka men and women volunteered for military.

Others think it is important that the federal government's loyalty questionnaires and the story of the "No-No" boys be presented. The public consistently states the impact the questionnaires (questions 27 and 28) had on internees. The confusion, misunderstanding and differences of opinions associated with the questionnaires resulted in the separation of families and removal of many Minidoka internees to Tule Lake Segregation Center in northern California.

Several respondents believe there is a need for the Minidoka story to include all who were impacted by internment and incarceration, including camp staff, their families, military personnel, area farmers and the outlying community. Several people re-



Public scoping workshop at the Nisei Veterans Hall in Seattle. November 2002. NPS Photo.

call how sympathetic Caucasians and Nikkei who were not in the camps helped the internees. Others state it is important to tell the story of what happened to the camp buildings and land after the camp was abandoned.

Many think it is important to convey how after the internment and incarceration, Nikkei went on to lead successful and productive lives. Some internees mention that internment and incarceration actually opened up new opportunities for Nikkei, and that it had positive affects as well. Other internees want the NPS to express the sacrifices that this generation of Nikkei made for the betterment of future generations. Several people suggest the internment and incarceration story include the presidential apology and Redress.

Many members of the public feel strongly that the national monument and the internment and incarceration story must also include many perspectives presented in the context of World War II. Some individuals express concern that interpretation fully describes the historical context of the internment and incarceration, including the rationale and justification that the federal government used during the historic period. Some individuals also believe that the internment and incarceration was fully justified, stating that it was necessary for the protection of the Nikkei community and to ensure national security during wartime.

A few people feel strongly that there should be no monument at all. They state that numerous World

"The site should be paved over with no markers or plaques, just like all the old abandoned military camps." -Public Comment

"Don't forget to tell the stories of the area's residents and how they viewed Hunt and the Japanese. An 'outside looking in' aspect is important to discover and interpret." -Public Comment

"Future generations are stronger if they know and understand what happened in the past." -Public Comment

"Please consider how the site will serve future generations and will be able to adapt to changing times beyond our lifetime." -Public Comment

“The area surrounding the site looks so lush and green with irrigation and prosperous crops. It didn’t look like that when my people came.”-Public Comment

“My greatest concern would be to make sure the history and the stories are captured.”-Public Comment

“A provocative and vigorous education program should be undertaken by the National Park Service to impress the public, particularly those living in the greater Pacific Northwest, and school administrators, that Minidoka is a place worth visiting... and a place for reflective education.”-Public Comment

War II camps and bases have not received the same recognition.

The Message

Of utmost importance to the public is the need for the internment and incarceration story to relate to modern day issues of individual freedom and civil rights. Many state that Minidoka should stand in testament to how critical it is for all Americans to uphold the ideals that form the foundation of our democracy and to understand the fragility of democracy. Numerous respondents express concern that if the nation isn’t vigilant, America could very easily repeat the same mistake. Parallels are drawn between the experiences of Nikkei during World War II and those of Muslim and Arab Americans today.



Public scoping workshop at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Portland. November 2002. NPS Photo.

Recollections of the Minidoka Relocation Center

Even after the passage of some 60 years, there are many images that remain vivid in the minds of former internees. When asked to recall significant aspects of the camp, barbed wire fencing, guard towers, barracks, and armed guards are the elements of everyday life that they most remember. Others recall less ominous elements of the camp such as the canal and the swimming hole. Several people describe how normal aspects of everyday life continued despite incarceration, including births, marriages, and deaths. Others describe how community and school activities played a major role in people’s lives. Sports, music, dances, theatrical performances and community government were common activities.

Cultural Resources

Many of the former internees refer to the site as hallowed ground, where the need to protect existing resources is of great importance. Time and time again, the public states how important it is to capture oral histories while there is still time.

Visitor Experience

The public recognizes that the site’s remote location presents unique challenges. First and foremost, those that have visited Minidoka agree that the signage and way finding to the site needs significant improvement. In addition, the public thinks the NPS should define how it is going to draw

people to visit the site. Several respondents mention the lack of nearby lodging or camping for potential visitors.

The public consistently states the need to provide a variety of educational experiences for visitors of all ages. Most think education and learning should be the primary mission of the national monument. Others feel the national monument should be a place of emotional healing.

Former internees suggest that modern improvements – including roads and buildings not present at the camp during internment and incarceration – make the camp unrecognizable. Others think the 72.75 acres is insufficient to properly portray the camp and to interpret the national monument.

A few of the respondents don't want the site to change at all. They think the landscape and monument is appropriate, as it presently exists.

“Every person should feel he’s worthwhile and productive. No person should be shackled with a feeling of guilt without reason.”

-Public Comment



Paper flowers made by internees. Circa 1944. National Archives.

“As one not of Japanese descent, but someone who cherishes history... the preservation of historical artifacts and documentation would be the top on my ‘must be done’ list.”

-Public Comment

“It may also makes sense to replicate certain significance elements of the original camp that may no longer exist.”

-Public Comment

“I like the idea of having on-site interpretive staff to explain what happened to us during the war years.”

-Public Comment

“You need to be aware there will be big expenses to start and several years of struggles. Southern Idaho could use such a site. Need good signs and pamphlets to draw visitors.”
-Public Comment

Facilities

The size and design of the potential new monument facilities are of concern to several respondents. They think it is important that the building(s), site improvements and parking facilities should be appropriate for the site and not intrude upon or impact the remains of the camp.

Several members of the community express concerns about how the national monument might impact their life styles or inconvenience the adjacent residents. They are particularly concerned about any potential changes to existing access and traffic generated by the national monument. Specifically, respondents do not want the flow of traffic restricted for area residents living around the national monument, as well as agricultural traffic that uses Hunt Road.

Collections

Former internees mention that they have artifacts and memorabilia to donate. Some of these potential donors have indicated a desire for their collections to remain connected and accessible to former internee families and communities. Some think the national monument should establish a plan for artifact preservation, and what should be exhibited and used for interpretation. (An Interim Scope of Collections Plan was approved in June 2004.)

Connections Off-Site

A number of people think it is important to make the connection between Minidoka and the other camps and assembly centers so people understand the whole story. Another issue is how to tell the story off-site in Seattle, Portland and other parts of the country where people were heavily affected by internment and incarceration.

Environmental Issues

The public raises questions regarding water quality, water sources, the historic, present and future use of water, and the rights associated with surface water and groundwater at the site. It is suggested that historic uses or activities may have included underground fuel storage, chemical storage, coal disposal, septic and wastewater treatment, and dumping. Inquiries are also made concerning potential contaminants and the environmental impacts historic uses had on groundwater and soil at the site.

Operations/Management

There is general concern over how to protect the site's resources. Many think the national monument should have a full-time onsite staff to watch over the property and perform routine maintenance. Several people express concern over vandalism and defacing the national monument.

Area residents emphasize the lack of utilities and community services available in the area. The availability of water, fire protection and emer-

gency medical services are particularly worrisome.

Other less frequently mentioned issues range from the need to advertise the national monument to concern over adequate funding to develop and maintain the facility. Several people suggest that a coordinated effort to preserve all the camps should be initiated so that individual internment and incarceration sites will not compete for funding and political capital.

Residents in eastern Jerome County and adjacent landowners expressed concerns about impacts that the national monument will have on their property, life style and community. Several adjacent landowners are especially concerned that any significant increase in visitation and development at the site will create conflicts between visitors, their private property, agricultural activities, vehicular traffic, and a general negative impact on their existing way of life. Some stated that they already experience trespass from visitors onto their property and those conflicts and divergent uses will only increase as the national monument becomes developed.

Partnerships

Some people express concern over how the national monument will cooperate with and impact the Jerome County Historical Society and the Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum.

Suggestions

The public has many suggestions about how the Minidoka internment and incarceration story should be presented at the national monument. These suggestions range from broad management proposals to specific ideas for programming and displays. Almost all agree that a visit to Minidoka should be a memorable and educational experience.

Visitor Experience

Time and time again, we hear how the Minidoka story should personalize the experience of the internees. Some state they want to be sure the visitor is emotionally impacted by what they learn during their visit.

Several people suggest the internees' arrival experience should be replicated for the visitor utilizing buses. People feel the gated entry should be clearly expressed to the visitor. The remains of the camp check-in (military police building and reception building) could be restored and used as part of the arrival experience.

Most people think the national monument should provide a diversity of visitor experiences, including self guided interpretive trails, and walking, bus, and driving tours. A visitor center, a partial reconstruction of the camp, interpretive signage and memorials are also frequently suggested. Some of

“My concern is that it was truly a concentration camp and not to be labeled just a relocation center.”

-Public Comment

“The site should represent in some way the original structures, boundaries, and environment, perhaps through partial reconstruction based on archives.” -Public Comment

“Physical objects such as barracks ,guard structures, wire fences, communal bath house, community dining halls, and the barren setting in which they were set should be preserved as a reminder that it is more than just a story.” -Public Comment

“There is no doubt that visual elements will have the most profound impact on visitors.” -Public Comment

“There has to be a careful balance to have Minidoka a place of interest and education without being boring or too somber.” -Public Comment

“I think the rock garden/honor roll area is key in the site development/redesign. That was the thing that most struck me in being there for the Pilgrimage.”-Public Comment

“Camp Minidoka’s entrance should have the honor roll restored, and should have the names of all the men and women who served in the military.”-Public Comment

“Erect a monument or wall with each family’s names inscribed.”-Public Comment

“Commission Maya Lin, NOW! Minidoka will 100% enhance as a travel destination with Maya Lin involved.”-Public Comment

the respondents want the national monument to provide a living history component.

A few individuals want the ‘complete story’, which is typically a reference to the arguments that support the internment and incarceration actions.

Some people request that information be provided in Japanese as well as English.

Visitor Center

The vast majority of respondents state it is important that the national monument include a year-round visitor center. The public’s vision for the visitor center is quite diverse and includes facilities common and uncommon to national monuments. Some of the suggested facilities include a museum, a library, a conference center, a race relations research center or an Asian American think-tank.

Specific recommendations for the center include artifact displays, photographs, interpretive exhibits, audio-visual programs (documentaries), and a scale model of the camp. The public suggests the interpretive programs be updated regularly so visitors will want to return. Some want a website created to obtain information from former internees. Several people suggest the visitor center incorporate the latest computer simulation and virtual reality capabilities – possibly providing a virtual tour

“Fill up a barracks room with five cots, straw-filled mattress bags, our clothing, and have them see how much living space was left.”-Public Comment

of the camp as it existed during WWII, complete with howling winds and frigid temperatures.

Camp Reconstruction

Most of the public agrees the national monument visitor should get a sense of the physical size and look of Minidoka without complete reconstruction of the entire 33,000-acre camp. However, there is an array of reconstruction ideas for the 72.75-acre site. The public thinks that the facilities should be appropriate for the site, nonintrusive, and not impact the remains of the camp.

The vast majority of comments address how important it is for the visitor to get a feel for the camp as it existed during the historic period. Many feel the need for an authentic experience where the visitor gets an accurate understanding of the day-to-

day life and routines in the camp, including the methods used to create a semblance of normalcy, cramped conditions, schools, and poor medical attention. Many of the internees recall the food with particular disdain, saying their diet consisted of foods (Vienna sausages, mutton) that were unfamiliar to Nikkei.

Time and time again, the respondents express the importance of having a barrack or even a complete reconstruction of a block of barracks to depict the typical living conditions. They feel the barrack(s) should be complete with a potbellied

stove, cots, clotheslines, and cracks between the tar paper walls and plank flooring. In addition to the barracks, many describe the crude communal restroom facilities as a critical component to the depiction of camp living.

Many people make suggestions for additional uses of the reconstructed barracks. These uses include NPS staff housing, guest housing, conference housing, and a Boy Scout camp.

Significant Camp Features to be Restored

Many of the former internees recall features or aspects of the camp that were significant and which they felt should be considered at the national monument. These features included the guard towers, root cellar, swimming hole, water tower, and the barbed wire fence.

Honor Roll, Garden and Cemetery

Of importance to the public was the reconstruction of the honor roll in its original location. Others feel the national monument should include a memorial listing all who were incarcerated at Minidoka. Example monuments suggested include the Japanese American Historical Plaza in Portland and the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. The public also feels it is important to reconstruct the garden and to establish a place for quiet reflection and meditation. Another recommenda-

tion is that the national monument permanently displays an American flag at half-staff.

Monument Facilities

The public suggests a variety of facilities they want to include at or near the national monument. Many think it is important to provide overnight lodging nearby such as motels or RV/tent campsites. A few respondents suggest the national monument include a gift shop, restaurant and outdoor picnic area. Some people disagree, saying they don't want the site commercialized with vending or other amusements.

"It is important to preserve a sense of imprisonment-fencing, guard towers, barracks living, and stories." -Public Comment

Partnerships and Outreach

Many of the respondents make suggestions for possible partnership opportunities. Suggested partners include the Wing Luke

Asian Museum, Densho Project, Japanese American National Museum, Jerome County Historical Society and Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum, Four River's Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, University of Washington and University of California at Davis. The public repeatedly states how little younger generations of Americans know about the internment and incarceration story and the existence of the camps. They emphasize how important it is to bring the internment and incarceration story to the classroom, not only for school children near the national monument, but as an essential component of the curriculum of all American children.

Draft Alternatives Public Process

The Draft Alternatives public process was an additional step to ensure the public fully comprehended the range of draft alternatives and was able to comment effectively on these draft alternatives. A primary purpose of this additional formal public process was to understand the public's concerns and preferences with regard to the range of draft alternatives and to assist the planning team in refining the draft alternatives and selecting a preferred alternative.

The official draft alternatives public process began in July 2003 when the NPS produced and mailed Newsletter Number 3 to approximately 2,500 people on the national monument's mailing list. Another 2500 newsletters were sent in packets to organizations, libraries, and public locations in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, California and at potential stakeholder groups in cities throughout the U.S. Information about the planning process, the draft alternatives, and opportunities for involvement were posted on the NPS website (www.nps.gov/miin).

The newsletter fully outlined the concepts and actions in the draft alternatives, actions in the common to all draft alternatives, and proposed management zones. The newsletter also contained draft statements on the national monument's purpose, significance, and interpretive themes. A planning schedule including dates, time, and loca-

tions for the public workshops invited public participation and comments on the range of draft alternatives. The newsletter contained a business reply questionnaire that asked the public to comment on the four draft alternatives.

Local and regional newspapers and radio stations throughout the planning area were used to disseminate information on the GMP/EIS, planning process and the draft alternatives. Press releases were prepared and mailed on July 7, 2003, by the NPS, Pacific West Region- Seattle Office. Press releases were provided to the same print and broadcast media as during the scoping process. Ads were placed in the following newspapers: *Argus Observer*, Ontario, Oregon; *Bainbridge Island Review*, Bainbridge Island, Washington; *International Examiner*, Seattle, Washington; *North American Post*, Seattle, Washington; *Oregonian*, Portland,



Public draft alternatives workshops at the Minidoka Reunion in SeaTac. August 2003. NPS Photo.

Oregon; *Post-Intelligencer*, Seattle, Washington; and *Seattle Times*, Seattle, Washington. Short articles were published in the following community newsletters: Nisei Veterans Committee, Seattle, Washington; Japanese American Citizens League, Seattle Chapter, Washington; and the Oregon Buddhist Temple, Portland, Oregon.

Workshops

The NPS held eleven draft alternatives public scoping workshops in Idaho, Washington and Oregon in July and August 2003. Approximately 215 people participated in the public workshops and provided oral comments, with nearly a half attending the two public workshops held at the Minidoka Remembered Reunion in SeaTac, Washington. The NPS received input from a diverse group of people including former internees, their friends and fami-



Public draft alternatives workshop at the Minidoka Reunion in SeaTac. August 2003. NPS Photo.

lies, former camp staff, students, and the surrounding Eden and Twin Falls communities.

During the workshops, we asked the public seven questions about their ideas and issues related to the contents of four preliminary alternatives. The seven questions were:

- How should we focus education and outreach efforts?
- What level of visitor services do we want to provide?
- What facilities are necessary for visitor use, e.g., buildings, exhibits, trails?
- To what degree do we rehabilitate or reconstruct on-site historic features?
- Do you support protecting, acquiring, and rehabilitating off-site cultural resources?
- How do we manage car, foot, and commercial traffic?
- How can we work with the county and local landowners to protect the rural landscape?

The discussions were led by a facilitator in small groups, aided by posters listing each question and how each alternative responded to the question. For example, Question #1 was "How should we focus education and outreach efforts?" Underneath the question, Alt. A read, "Continue existing level of education and outreach. Increase efforts as funding allows." Alt. B read, "Focus on off-site education. Provide minimal on-site education and

outreach." Alt. C read, "Focus on on-site education. Provide some off-site education and outreach." Alt. D read, "Intensively focus on on-site education. Provide some outreach and off-site education." This method assisted discussions by providing conceptual information about the alternatives; it also helped participants develop their own individual ideas about the alternatives.

The first workshop was held on July 28, 2003, at the Senior Citizen Center in Eden, Idaho. Twelve people attended the workshop from the local Eden area, including neighboring landowners, individuals associated with the history of the national monument, and local Eden officials.

The second workshop was held on July 29, 2003, at the KMVT-TV Community Room in Twin Falls, Idaho. Eleven people attended the workshop. Some of the organizations represented included the following: Jerome County Historical Society, Japanese American Citizens League, and staff members from the Idaho congressional delegation.

The third workshop was held on July 30, 2003, at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon. Fourteen people attended, including representatives of the Japanese American Citizens League.

The fourth and fifth workshops were held on August 1 and 2, 2003, at the Minidoka Remembered Reunion at the SeaTac Doubletree Hotel in SeaTac, Washington. One hundred and ten people attended the workshop, including former internees, their family members, and interested individuals

from throughout the U.S.

The sixth workshop was held on August 4, 2003 at the Bainbridge Island Commons on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Ten people attended including representatives of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community and Bainbridge Island local government.

The seventh workshop was held on August 5, 2003, at the Nisei Veterans Hall in Seattle, Washington. Fourteen people attended the workshop, including representatives of the Nisei Veterans Committee, Friends of Minidoka, Wing Luke Asian Museum, Densho Project, Japanese American Citizens League, and local Nikkei churches.

The eighth workshop was held on August 6, 2003, at REI in Seattle, Washington. Two people attended the workshop.



Public draft alternatives workshops at the Minidoka Reunion in SeaTac. August 2003. NPS Photo.

The ninth workshop was held on August 7, 2003, at the Seattle Buddhist Temple in Seattle, Washington. Eleven people attended including representatives of the Seattle Buddhist Temple, and University of Washington.

The tenth workshop was held on August 14, 2003, at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Portland, Oregon. Sixteen people attended, including representatives of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Epworth United Methodist Church, Oregon Nikkei Endowment, and the Japanese American Citizens League.

The eleventh workshop was held on August 15, 2003, at the Oregon Buddhist Temple in Portland, Oregon. Seventeen people attended, including representatives of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center and the Oregon Buddhist Temple.



Public draft alternatives workshops at the Minidoka Reunion in SeaTac. August 2003. NPS Photo.

Written Comments

Approximately 50 written responses were collected from e-mail messages sent to the project Inbox: MIIN_GMP@nps.gov, newsletter questionnaires, and letters that were sent to the NPS at the Hagerman Fossil Beds NM headquarters. The vast majority of written comments were received from Idaho, Washington, Oregon. Additionally, comments were received from throughout the U.S., including 8 from California, and 1 each from Alaska, Arizona, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Texas, and Virginia.

A significant component of the written comments was developed by a University of Washington preservation planning graduate class called the "Planning for the Preservation of Minidoka Internment National Monument Summer Studio 2003." The students conducted a site visit to Minidoka and studied the history of Minidoka and the range of alternatives. They produced a booklet that included their analyses, schematic drawings and plans for the monument. Their comments are included as part of the public record and are included in the following summary of public comments

"People should be made aware that innocent people were interned in Minidoka based solely on their Japanese ancestry."

-Public Comment

"We were at war, and there was real fear that Japan would attack the west coast of the United States. Some Japanese Americans were outspoken about their allegiance to their motherland."

-Public Comment

"I am asking you to ensure that the history of the relocation of ethnic Japanese is correctly portrayed. I have researched declassified documents relating to MAGIC interceptions made available through the late Dr. D. Lowman and find it disconcerting that the public is entirely ignorant to this history."

-Public Comment

Summary of Draft Alternatives Public Comments

The comments on the draft alternatives covered a broad range of topics, issues, and recommendations for the national monument. When compiled, over 375 different comments or ideas were repre-

sented, with a total of 1,600 individual comments provided overall. Because various statements or ideas were mentioned repeatedly, similar comments are stated once, but the number of times a particular point was made has been tabulated. This method highlights the comments that people stated were most important and needed to be addressed at the national monument. However, each comment was recorded and an attempt was made



Mrs. Onodera. Her sons, Ko, Kaun, and Satoru were serving in the military. Satoru died in combat in Italy on July 5, 1944. Circa 1944. National Archives.

to incorporate all concerns and ideas into this summary.

The following summary is organized by topics that have been addressed for each alternative in the Draft GMP/EIS. The topics are: Education and Outreach, Cultural Resources, Visitor Facilities, Access and Circulation, Land Protection and Boundaries, Operations and Management, Partnerships and Outreach, Natural Resources, Scenic Resources, Management Zones, and Carrying Capacity.

The topics that most concerned the public were education and outreach, cultural resources, visitor facilities, and access and circulation. The topics that were of moderate concern were land protection and boundaries, partnerships and outreach, and operations and management. The topics that were of least concern were management zones, natural resources, scenic resources, and carrying capacity.

Education and Outreach

Education and outreach is a key concern for the public, and the vast majority of people prefer education on the Minidoka site. They say that on-site education provides an authentic and unique educational experience. Viewing and learning about the site's historic features, experiencing its remoteness, and learning through a wide range of interpretive and reflective means would be the most

effective educational experience. Developing the site into a visitor destination is also important to the public; they want to attract visitors to the site by providing a rich experience with a diversity of educational activities.

The public suggests a variety of educational techniques and programs that the national monument could implement at the site. Interactive exhibits, a scale model, traveling exhibit, and website are the most popular educational tools recommended by

the public. Several people mention other educational tools such as creative learning activities, real time media programs, kiosks, tours, and films. Many of these educational activities would take place in a visitor center on the site. Some people also mention commemoration as being an im-

portant component at the site; they suggest commemorative plaques, artwork, and pilgrimages as respectful ways to reflect on the past and the people who experienced life at Minidoka. Some people mention that the site has drastically changed since they were at Minidoka. They say that its value is in its educational potential, rather than its cultural resources or archeological sites.

The majority of the public feels strongly that on-site education should be complemented by off-site education, and that working through partnerships is the best way to reach a diverse audience. Many people say that off-site education should be the

“Providing an overall story of the internment is of absolute importance, yet there must be a fine balance struck between the larger context and the Minidoka story.”

-Public Comment



An oral history interview with Brooks Andrews at the Minidoka Reunion. Brooks Andrews is the son of Pastor Emery Andrews, who moved to Twin Falls to assist his congregation of Baptist Nikkei at Minidoka during World War II. August 2003. NPS Photo.

“I believe the best way to present the internment and incarceration stories is with visuals and personal stories of the internees themselves.”

-Public Comment

“A detailed exhibit of the ‘Farm-in-a-Day’ program that took place at this site in the 1950’s should be a part of the Hunt story.”-Public Comment

“The site should have restoration or reconstruction of a sample of each of the important types of structures.”-Public Comment

“Whatever happens at the site make it something everyone that comes to it goes home with a new outlook on what happened at the camp.”-Public Comment

focus, as the site is far away, on-site development funding is limited, and attracting people to the site is difficult. They suggest that off-site education could be accomplished by developing a variety of outreach materials to be located and distributed from local, regional, and national partners.

Interpretation

The public continues to be concerned with interpretation about Minidoka and the Nikkei experience during World War II. Of most concern is why it happened; and the public raised a diversity of comments related to this question. Some people cited the constitutional story, fragility of democracy, racism, wartime hysteria, and violation of civil rights. Some people stated that it was necessary given the military and political climate. A few see the internment and incarceration as protecting the Nikkei, and as necessary for national security during World War II. Some do not support the creation or development of the national monument.

Many people want the public to understand the internees’ experience at Minidoka. This includes how the Nikkei adapted to new and harsh living conditions, as well as the sociological issues created by the experience and their day to day struggles and activities. Also, they want the public to understand the various site features and their significance to the internees.

“Add a block- 12 barracks- to WRA specifications, and as close to 1942-1945 as possible.”

-Public Comment

Some people think that the national monument should present Nikkei history, including before and after World War II. Some consider Minidoka as sacred ground, and the stories of Minidoka and the incarceration should be a legacy for the future. The greenery and farms that surround the national monument were identified as a visual legacy created by the internees. The military contributions by Nikkei are important to the public, and some people think they should be prominently featured at the national monument.

Cultural Resources

It was widely recognized that the number and size of significant historic features at Minidoka is limited. The vast majority of people think that historic buildings should be returned to the site or reconstructed in order to provide for a compelling visitor experience. These buildings and historic features could give the visitors an authentic understanding of the camp conditions, how the internees adapted to life at Minidoka, as well as a broader understanding of the layout and extent of the camp itself. The sense of place and landscape character is also important to the public. They think the site should be maintained to evoke a sense of desolation, remoteness, and Spartan look, just as it did during World War II.

The entry into the national monument is of special concern to the public. They state that the entry’s

collection of historic and nonextant resources gives the visitor a strong sense of arrival, confinement, cultural traditions, and patriotism. Elements such as the guard tower and fence should be reconstructed to complement the Military Police Building in illustrating confinement and imprisonment. The garden should be rehabilitated to show Nikkei cultural traditions. The honor roll should be reconstructed to recognize and honor the military experiences of Minidoka internees, just as it did during World War II.

Some of the public mentioned the swimming hole, canal area, and historic administrative area. People who mentioned the swimming hole say that it should be preserved and interpreted as a popular place for recreational activities as well as a remembrance of tragic events within the camp.

Those who commented on the canal think some access should be maintained. The public rarely mentioned the historic administrative and staff housing area, except to note that the staff housing buildings could be used to contrast with the internees living facilities. Most former internees suggest that attention should be focused on areas that were evocative of the majority of people living there, namely the internees' living quarters.

Cultural resources and locations off-site are a significant concern to the public, in particular resources related to the internees' experiences at Minidoka. Barracks are of utmost concern; the public wants historic barracks to be acquired and returned to Minidoka, preferably an entire block in its original location. Reconstruction of the barracks is a back-up preference if historic barracks are un-



*The entrance garden
in wintertime. 2003.
NPS Photo. (Below)*

available. The block and barracks should accurately depict living conditions, such as how the barracks were when the internees arrived, and how they were made livable. Some people also want recreational fields to be reconstructed; some of them would like to see a baseball field.

Oral histories continue to be a significant concern for the public. Oral histories must be captured while there are still living people who experienced Minidoka, and this can be done best in collaboration with Nikkei and historical organizations. The public says that oral histories are a unique and authentic tool for educating the public.

Artifacts and memorabilia are important for some people. They say collections should be managed in cooperation with other southern Idaho NPS units and other institutions. Collections could be located on-site or at other locations that can provide archival space and public access. Some people want the NPS to explore and source out artifacts related to Minidoka. They say these artifacts should be displayed at the site.

Visitor Facilities

For the public, the overriding issue related to visitor use is developing permanent on-site facilities to provide for a rich educational experience. There should be a wide range of services to attract visitors and accommodate year round visitation. At a minimum, there should be clean restrooms, water, and shelter for visitors. Some of the public thinks that development should be sensitive to the set-

ting and sense of place; development should not impede the understanding of the history nor the site.

The public consistently mentions that a visitor center should be located at the national monument. Ideally, the visitor center could be an adaptive reuse of a historic building. The visitor center can house a diversity of programs, exhibits, and activities related to learning about

Minidoka and the World War II experiences of Nikkei. Many people think that a visitor center is not enough to provide for a rich visitor experience, and they suggest that additional facilities should be provided. Some people think it should not be too large, while others think that there should be no visitor center at all.

Some respondents would like overnight facilities and vending. Overnight facilities could be located in historic barracks for educational purposes. Vending could include beverages and be located in the historic mess halls. Some people think that overnight facilities and vending is incompatible with the educational goals of the national monument.

Several respondents think trails are an excellent way to guide on-site pedestrian experience while providing an educational and reflective experience. The public wants a trail along the historic perimeter fence and near the canal. Additionally, some of these trails could be restored historic pathways.

Some people think that visitor facilities should be provided off-site. They suggest that facilities could be provided in “hubs” where internees and their families still live. Some people say that a visitor’s center off-site would be more convenient and realistic, and it would not interfere with the site’s desolate character.

Access, Circulation, and Parking

Roads and vehicular circulation are the most important issues in this category for the majority of public. They are concerned about visitor experience, safety, and ease of access to the national monument and within the national monument’s boundaries. Many people think the county road that bisects the national monument needs to be re-routed. They think the road is dangerous and detracts from the historic scene and visitor experience. Only some people think the exact historic road system should be reconstructed. Many respondents express their concerns over parking; they emphasize that parking lots need to be accessible and large enough to accommodate visitor vehicles.

Most local property owners are concerned with maintaining their rights-of-way and how increased visitation and new or rerouted roads will impact their quality of life. Many area residents express their concern for the realities of rerouting the county road. They have questions about where it could be relocated, how a reroute could affect vehicular circulation and throughway commercial

traffic. Also, they are very concerned about visitors trespassing on to their land.

Directional signage is an important issue for the vast majority of the public, particularly those who have tried and failed to find the site. They suggest placing signs along Interstate 84, and directional signage out to the site. Many people suggest that interpretive or interactive signage could be constructed off-site as well as on-site, so that visitors can learn about Minidoka even before they arrive at the national monument.

Many people suggest that a shuttle could provide transportation from a local hub out to the national monument. The transit service could coordinate with tour groups, and provide a guided interpretive tour at the site. Many respondents reason that a transit service could control access to the site, thereby protecting it from overuse. Also, some people suggest that the number of visitors should be limited to create a more “personal approach” to visiting the site.

Most people agree that the pedestrian experience must be an integral part of visiting Minidoka. Many former internees suggest that pedestrian circulation should be emphasized, as it mirrors the internees’ mode of transportation while they were confined at Minidoka. Trails, according to respondents, need to be accessible to people with disabilities. Signage should provide way finding as well as educational information about Minidoka.

“Over the next 20 years it would be good to look for opportunities to acquire more acreage. With reaching out in friendship where possible to people who own surrounding acreage, in time there may be the possibility of people donating or allowing purchase of additional acreage.”-Public Comment

***“The term ‘internment’ bothers me. Its use in this instance [Minidoka Internment National Monument] seems so innocuous, naïve, and undesigning. Why not be frank, honest, open and call the internment for what it really was, ‘concentration.’”
-Public Comment***

***“Change name to ‘Minidoka National Historic Site’- ‘Monument’ is a dead word; ‘National’ and ‘Historic’ are now-see-this!”
-Public Comment***

Land Protection and Boundaries

The single most repeated comment about land protection and boundaries is cultivating and maintaining positive relations with adjacent landowners and related government agencies, such as the BLM and BOR.

Many people think the national monument should acquire more land, as the national monument’s current acreage does not include historical residential areas, nor some significant cultural resources related to the camp. These people would like to see barracks returned to their original locations; these barracks could be a centerpiece for interpretation about the internees’ daily experiences at Minidoka. However, some people are opposed to enlarging the national monument; particular those who think the size is too large already.

Several people suggest that the historic boundaries of the camps should be marked to give visitors a sense of the camps historic size and layout. These markers could be vertical elements on the historic locations of the eight guard towers. Also, marking the national monument’s boundaries is a significant concern for the local landowners as they want to prevent visitors from straying on to their land. (Boundaries were marked with monuments along the perimeter of the national monument in summer 2004).

***“Alternative C is my first choice, if money can be found to preserve and develop the area. I see it leading to a site interesting enough to draw people off the freeway.”
-Public Comment***

Many of the respondents would like to see the rural character and prominent landscape features of the surrounding landscape protected, particularly within the historic camp limits. Protection could be encouraged through cooperative agreements, such as conservation easements, conservation plans, and scenic conservation easements. Conversely, some people are opposed and/or not willing to enter into these types of agreements with the NPS.

Partnerships and Outreach

The public unanimously supports the idea of developing and maintaining partnerships for education, outreach, and to accomplish the national monument’s purpose. The public suggests the NPS could partner with organizations, schools, government agencies, historical societies, museums, and archives to promote public education about the internment and incarceration. Nikkei organizations, other significant sites related to the Nikkei experience during World War II, as well as civil rights groups could be potential partners. Equally, the public supports local partnerships to attract visitors and volunteers and to provide visitor services.

Operations and Management

The public is moderately concerned with operations and management, and some of the public thinks the NPS is capable of determining how the national monument should be operated and managed. The most popular concern under this category is the need for knowledgeable staff on-site and site protection. Some people would also like to see administrative and maintenance facilities on the site to support staff and upkeep of the national monument.

Another important topic for the public is the name of the national monument. More people support a name change to "Minidoka National Historic Site" than keeping its current name. They say "historic site" is more accurate than "monument." Some people would like to see "concentration camp" in the name. Some people like the word "internment," while others do not. Also, some of the public wants "Hunt" to be in the name, as the site is locally known.

Some people are concerned with funding for the national monument. They say that lobbying could ensure that the national monument's development and maintenance is funded. Some people want to be guaranteed that the national monument will not charge entrance fees.

Management Zones

Management zones were of little concern to the public. They indicate that the NPS has done an effective job at analyzing, categorizing, and describing the management zones.

Natural Resources

The public widely recognizes that the national monument's focus does not feature natural resources. However, when natural resources were discussed there were a few key points that some people suggested. They say that natural resources should be protected through erosion control, fire management, minimizing conflicts with cultural resource protection, and hazardous material mitigation. Some people are uncomfortable with restricting wildlife movement through the site, while others approve of it.

Scenic Resources

Very few people are concerned with scenic resources. Their only concern is that the extent of the historic camp can be viewed from the national monument.

Alternatives

The public reviewed the alternatives and provided general comments on the alternatives. Alternative C is the most supported alternative, as it is considered by many as the most authentic and appropriate to the national monument's purpose. Many people also support a mixture of elements in

"Alternative A is not acceptable."-Public Comment

"Alternative C: cannot beat 'visually' seeing how the Minidoka experience was for the people. Alternative D: do not get the actual feeling of what happened to us."-Public Comment

"Alternative C: This alternative seems to provide the most for the money."

"I would support Alternative D with new facilities and interactive media in conjunction with the preservation or recreation of much of the original historic site and facilities."
-Public Comment

"Alternative D would not add to a visitor's experience and would require unnecessary funds."
-Public Comment

alternatives C and D. Alternative D is the second most supported alternative. Supporters of alternative D favor more intensive on-site development and a higher level of interactive educational tools, such as the interpretive campus concept. Few people support alternatives A or B, however some are partial to the outreach efforts featured in alternative B.

Many people are concerned with the implementation of the plan, and what is the best strategy to develop and manage the site. Many people indicate that it is a good idea to begin with adaptive reuse of historic buildings while funding is limited. Others suggest that the national monument should focus on publicity now, and when interest increases then the national monument should begin investing in development.

Agency Consultation and Coordination

The following sections document the consultation and coordination efforts undertaken by the NPS during the preparation of this Draft GMP/EIS. Consultation is an ongoing effort throughout the entire process of developing the Final GMP/EIS. Appendix C contains copies of letters exchanged during the agency consultation process. Copies of other communications with local government are in the project files.

Consultation with Native American Tribes

In keeping with the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act- Section 106 process, the NPS Pacific West Region- Seattle Office established opportunities for interaction with tribal officials. Shoshone-Bannock Tribes were consulted for this project, however no formal response has been received to date.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

The State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) must be consulted concerning any resource management proposals that might affect a cultural property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); 6.06 acres in the entrance area at Minidoka were listed on the NRHP in 1979. Since the nature of the project concerned stakeholders and related sites in neighboring states, the NPS consulted with the SHPO in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, as well as the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Formal responses concerning the alternatives have not been received to date.

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended, directs every federal agency to ensure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out

is not likely to jeopardize the existence of any listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat (50 CFR 400). The ESA authorizes federal agencies to enter into early consultation with the USFWS to make those determinations. Formal consultation with the USFWS under Section 7b of the ESA was conducted in February 2004.

Coordination with other Agencies, Organizations, and Groups

The FLPMA, Title II, Section 202, provides guidance for coordinating planning efforts with American Indian tribes, other federal departments, and agencies of the state and local governments. All local governments, tribal governments, and federal and state agencies with resource management responsibilities or interest in the planning area were informed of the planning effort and encouraged to participate.

List of Draft GMP/EIS Recipients

Paper copies of the Draft GMP/EIS were sent to the following recipients. Additionally, newsletters with summary information were sent to the mailing list of approximately 2,000 individuals and organizations. A mail-back post card was included in the newsletter for paper copies or a CD of the complete Draft GMP/EIS. Additionally, the Draft GMP/EIS is available on the Internet at www.nps.gov/miin

Table 14: List of Draft GMP/EIS Recipients

Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Western Office of Project Review, Lakewood, CO

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Farm Service Agency, Idaho State Office, Boise, ID

Farm Service Agency, Jerome, ID

Forest Service, Mountain Region Number 4

Forest Service, Boise, ID

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Regional Director, Portland, OR

Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Director, Boise, ID

Bureau of Land Management, Shoshone Field Office, Shoshone, ID

Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Office, Boise and Burley

Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Director, Portland, OR

Geological Survey, Regional Director, Seattle, WA

National Park Service

Alaska Region

Aleutian World War II National Historic Area, Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, AK

City of Rocks National Reserve, Almo, ID

Craters of the Moon National Monument, Arco, ID

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, Hagerman, ID

Klondike Gold Rush - Seattle Unit National Historical Park,

Seattle, WA

Manzanar National Historic Site,
Independence, CA

Pacific West Region - Seattle

Pacific West Region - Oakland

Pacific West Region - Honolulu

Rosie the Riveter WWII Home
Front National Historical Park,
Richmond, CA

USS Arizona Memorial,
Honolulu, HI

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway
Administration, Boise, ID

Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Director,
Seattle, WA

Congressional Delegations

Idaho

Senator Larry E. Craig

Senator Mike Crapo

Representative C.L. “Butch” Otter

Representative Mike Simpson

Alaska

Senator Lisa Murkowski

Senator Ted Stevens

Representative Don Young

Oregon

Senator Gordon Smith

Senator Ron Wyden

Representative David Wu

Representative Greg Walden

Representative Earl Blumenauer

Representative Peter A. DeFazio

Representative Darlene Hooley

Washington

Senator Maria Cantwell

Senator Patty Murray

Representative Jay Inslee

Representative Rick Larsen

Representative Brian Baird

Representative Doc Hastings

Representative Cathy McMorris

Representative Norman D. Dicks

Representative Jim McDermott

Representative David G. Reichert

Representative Adam Smith

California

Representative Michael Honda

Hawaii

Senator Daniel Inouye

Senator Daniel Akaka

Representative Neil Abercrombie

Representative Ed Case

State Government

Idaho

Governor Dirk Kempthorne

Senator Dean L. Cameron

Senator Charles Coiner

Senator Clint Stennett

Representative Leon Smith

Representative Sharon Block

Representative Wendy Jaquet

Representative Donna Pence

Representative John A. “Bert” Stevenson

Representative Maxine T. Bell

Department of Parks and Recreation
 Department of Agriculture
 Department of Commerce
 Department of Transportation
 Department of Water Resources
 State Historic Preservation Officer
 Alaska
 Governor Frank H. Murkowski
 Oregon
 Governor Ted Kulongoski
 Historic Preservation Officer
 Washington
 Governor Christine Gregoire
 Historic Preservation Officer
Local Government
 Cities of Eden, Jerome, and Twin Falls, Idaho; Seattle,
 Washington; Portland, Oregon
 Chambers of Commerce for all of the above cities
 Mayor, Eden, Idaho
 City Council, Eden, Idaho
 Mayor, Jerome, Idaho
 Mayor, Twin Falls, Idaho
 Mayor Seattle, Washington
 Mayor, Portland, Oregon
 Jerome County, ID
 Chairman, County Commissioner Veronica
 Lierman
 County Commissioner Alvin Chojnacky
 County Commissioner John Elorrieta
 County Clerk
 Planning and Zoning Administrator Art Brown

Twin Falls County, ID
 Chairman, County Commissioner Gary Grinstaff
 County Commissioner William Brockman
 County Commissioner Tom Mikesell
 County Clerk
 Public Library
 Twin Falls Public Library, ID
 Multnomah County Library, OR- Central Library
 King County Library, WA- Central Library
 King County Library, WA- Beacon Hill Branch

Native American Tribes

Shoshone - Bannock Tribes

Organizations and Businesses

Idaho

Asian American Comparative Collection,
 University of Idaho, Moscow, ID
 Department of History, Boise State University,
 Boise, ID
 Craters of the Moon Natural History Association,
 Arco, ID
 Eden Senior Citizens' Center, Eden, ID
 Friends of Minidoka, Twin Falls, ID
 Hagerman Fossil Council, Hagerman, ID
 Idaho Conservation League, Boise, ID
 Idaho Environmental Council, Boise, ID
 Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, ID
 Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple, Ontario, OR
 Japanese American Citizens' League- Sawtooth
 Chapter, ID
 Japanese American Citizens' League- Pocatello
 Chapter, ID
 Jerome County History Museum, Jerome, ID

Jerome Historical Society and Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum, Jerome, ID

Washington

Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community, WA

Blaine Memorial Methodist Church, Seattle, WA

Consulate General of Japan, Seattle, WA

Densho: Japanese American Legacy Project, Seattle

Department of American Ethnic Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Department of Comparative Ethnic Studies, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

Japanese American Citizens League, Seattle Chapter, WA

Japanese American Citizens League Pacific Northwest District, Seattle, WA

Japanese Baptist Church, Seattle, WA

Japanese Language School, Seattle, WA

Japanese Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA

Museum of History and Industry, Seattle, WA

National Parks and Conservation Association, Seattle, WA

Nikkei Concerns, Seattle, WA

Nisei Veterans Committee, Seattle, WA

North American Post Publishing Company, Seattle, WA

Panama Hotel, Seattle, WA

Seattle Buddhist Church, Seattle, WA

Seattle Keiro, Seattle, WA

Spokane Buddhist Church, Spokane, WA

St. Peters Episcopal Church, Seattle, WA

Tacoma Buddhist Temple, WA

Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma, WA

Washington State History Museum, Tacoma, WA

White River Buddhist Temple, Auburn, WA

White River Valley Museum, Auburn, WA

Wing Luke Asian Museum, Seattle, WA

Oregon

Department of Ethnic Studies- Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Department of Ethnic Studies- University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Epworth United Methodist Church, Portland, OR

Four Rivers Cultural Center, Ontario, OR

Ikoi-No-Kai Terrace, Senior Citizens Residence, Portland, OR

Japan-American Society of Oregon, Portland, OR

Japanese American Citizens League- Ontario Chapter, OR

Japanese American Citizens League, Portland Chapter, OR

Japanese International Baptist Church, Portland, OR

Konko Church of Portland, OR

Nichiren Buddhist Church, Portland, OR

Oregon Buddhist Temple, Portland, OR

Oregon Historical Society, Portland, OR

Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Portland, OR

California

Japanese American Citizens League National Headquarters, San Francisco, CA

National Japanese American Historical Society, San Francisco, CA

Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA

Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA

Tule Lake Committee, Sacramento, CA

Manzanar Committee, Los Angeles, CA

Other States

Alaska Historical Society, Anchorage, AK

Amache Preservation Society, Granada, CO

Department of History, University of Arkansas at
Little Rock

Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska,
Fairbanks, AK

Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, Powell,
WY

Japanese American Citizens League, Alaska
Chapter, Anchorage, AK

National Asian Pacific American Legal
Consortium, Washington D.C.

Poston Preservation Project, Parker, AZ

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, UT

Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Studies,
Washington D.C.

Topaz Museum, Delta, UT

*Wendell Veterans of
Foreign Wars
during the
Minidoka
Pilgrimage
ceremony. June
2003. NPS Photo.*

