



# The Minidoka Monument



*Minidoka Pilgrimage monument. June 2004. NPS Photo.*

## NPS Releases Draft General Management Plan

Dear Reader,

It is with great pleasure that the National Park Service offers to you for review and comment, the *Draft Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. This draft plan presents the proposed management actions for approximately 73 acres of the former Minidoka Relocation Center.

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

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

I am confident that the preferred alternative provides the best choices for the long term success of the national monument. Please read this summary newsletter, the draft plan, and provide your comments to the National Park Service. Your involvement will assist the National Park Service to achieve its mission at Minidoka.

Sincerely,

Neil King, Superintendent

Minidoka Internment National Monument



# Draft General Management Plan is Available for Public Review

The National Park Service (NPS) has just published the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The purpose of plan is to articulate a vision and overall management philosophy for the Minidoka Internment National Monument that will guide decision-making by current and future management teams during the next 15 to 20 years. The plan presents management strategies for resource protection and preservation, education and interpretation, visitor use and facilities, land protection and boundaries, and long-term operations and management of the national monument. The plan provides guidance for the development of this new NPS unit.

This newsletter summarizes the draft GMP and the four management approaches that were considered during the planning process. These alternatives were initially presented to the public as draft alternatives in the summer of 2003 and have been further developed and refined in this draft GMP. All of the alternatives are reasonable, viable, and conform to NPS guiding laws, regulations, and policies. Additionally, the NPS has selected a preferred alternative, which the NPS considers as the best package of actions and approaches that fulfill the purpose and long-term goals for Minidoka.

The Draft GMP/EIS document is now available for review. The document contains information about the background and history of Minidoka; the purpose, significance, and interpretive themes for the national

monument; the purpose and need for the plan; a conditions assessment of the national monument and its affected environment; the alternative management strategies, preferred alternative, and management zones; impacts that could result from implementing any of these alternatives; a summary of public involvement and public comments; and numerous historical and contemporary photographs and maps.

Copies of the document are available for review on the Internet at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/miin>. Copies can also be obtained by calling the NPS at (206)220-4157, e-mailing the NPS at [MIIN\\_GMP@nps.gov](mailto:MIIN_GMP@nps.gov), or by requesting a copy on the enclosed business reply comment form.

The public comment period closes on September 17, 2005.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Minidoka Internment National Monument

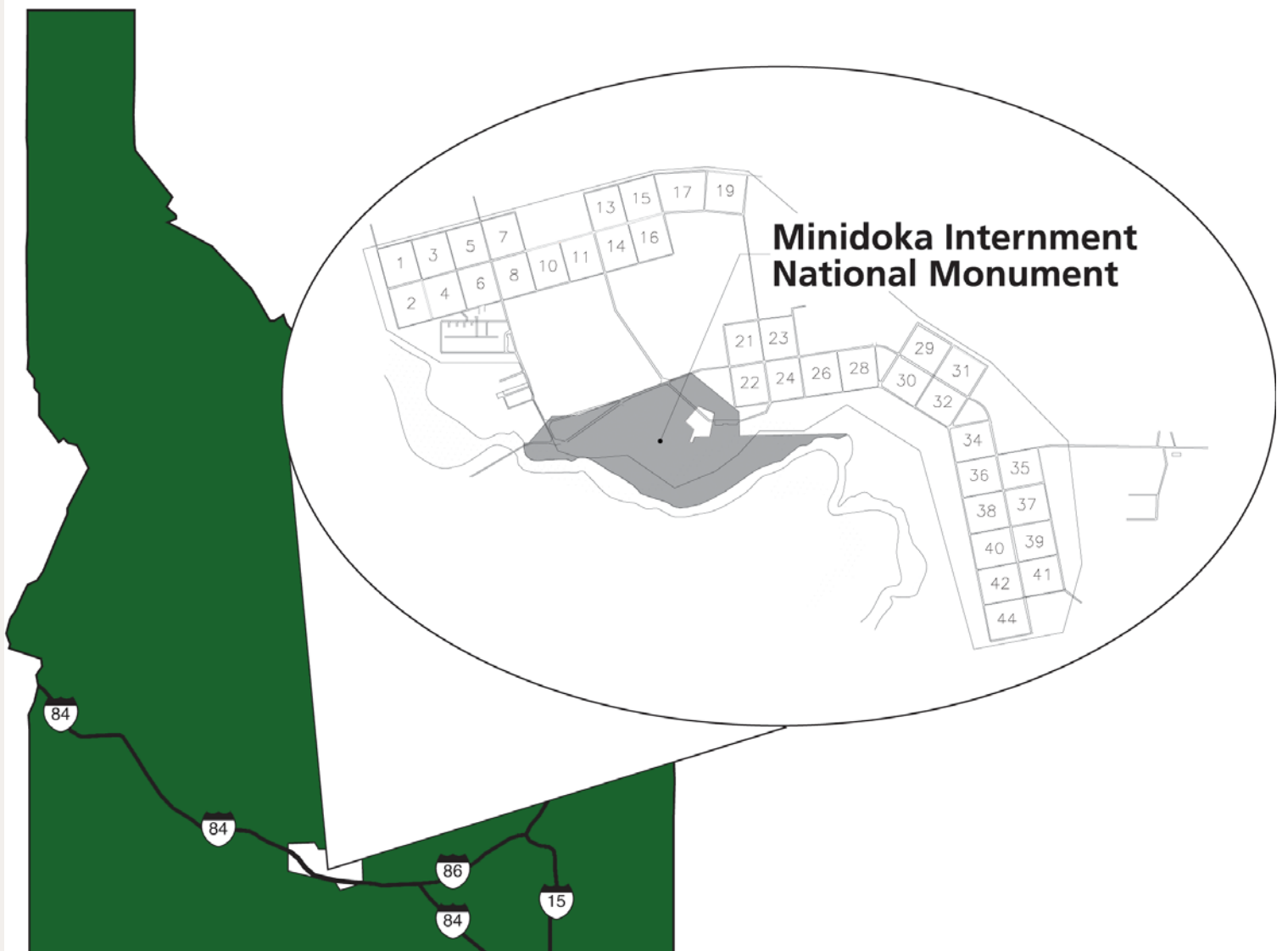
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For general park information, please see our website at [www.nps.gov/miin](http://www.nps.gov/miin). You may also contact the following individuals by telephone, email, or in writing:

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



# Planning Process

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

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

Preceding the formal planning process, NPS staff conducted informational meetings about the national monument with Japanese American organizations, community organizations, various governmental entities, potential stakeholder groups, and individuals during the

spring, summer, and early fall of 2002. Approximately 50 meetings were held in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska during this time, and approximately 2,000 people were contacted. The purpose of these initial meetings was to help characterize the scale and extent of the planning process.

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

The public’s comments and recommendations are the foundation for this Draft GMP/EIS. They are represented in the national monument’s purpose, significance, interpretive themes, alternatives, and preferred alternative.

## Alternatives

Four possible visions for the national monument’s future, called alternatives, have been developed by the interdisciplinary planning team. These alternatives directly respond to public concerns and issues raised during the public workshops. Additionally, most of the ideas in the alternatives came directly from the public’s recommendations. The impacts and consequences of each alternative have been analyzed, and a preferred alternative has been identified. The following description is a summary of the alternatives. A full description of the alternatives is available in the Draft GMP/EIS.

### Common to All Alternatives

In addition to the actions suggested in each alternative, several significant actions are common to all alternatives. Management zoning is common to all alternatives, which includes a historic resource zone, historic open space zone, park development zone, and canal zone. The following significant actions and approaches would be implemented under each alternative.

#### Cultural Resources

- Protect and preserve cultural resources through a variety of cultural resource strategies, including rehabilitation, restoration, and adaptive rehabilitation. (Since 2001, the NPS has conducted a preliminary cultural landscape inventory, an archeological survey of the site, and archeological excavations and surveys of the entrance area and the Minidoka Relocation Center landfill.)
- Identify and support collaborative endeavors to collect and preserve oral histories of the internees, their families, and people associated with Minidoka. (The NPS and the Densho Project entered into a cooperative

agreement for the collection of oral histories in 2003. Through this agreement, the Densho Project has conducted eight oral interviews with plans for additional oral interviews forthcoming.)

#### Education and Interpretation

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



*Minidoka Internment National Monument public meetings. 2003 and 2004. NPS Photos.*



*Minidoka Pilgrimages. 2003 and 2004. NPS Photos.*



Visitor Use and Facilities

- Provide a range of on-site and off-site services and facilities in cooperation with partners.
- Develop new directional signage to the national monument and within the national monument.

Partnerships and Outreach

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

Access, Circulation, and Parking

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

Boundaries and Adjacent Lands

- Recommend that legislation authorize the Secretary of the Interior to transfer the 3-acre and 9-acre sites from the Bureau of Reclamation to the NPS.
- Recommend that legislation authorize the NPS to exchange one-half of the root cellar that is on private property for an existing irrigation lateral that is on national monument lands.

Operations and Management

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

General Descriptions of Alternatives

The following descriptions are summaries of the alternatives. Please review the Draft GMP/EIS for a complete description of the alternatives.

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

**Alternative B** emphasizes the development and extensive use of outreach and partnerships to assist the national monument staff in telling the Minidoka story to the American people. Off-site visitor education and interpretation would be conducted through a diversity of comprehensive programs developed in cooperation with partners, including school districts, museums, and educational and legacy organizations and institutions. Alternative B would focus on identifying off-site facilities for education and interpretation with minimal new development at the national monument site.

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



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



*Minidoka barrack located north of the national monument. 2003. NPS Photo.*



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

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

The preferred alternative would require congressional legislation to authorize a boundary expansion to include 128 acres of historic lands where barracks buildings once stood. This action would provide historic lands to relocate a complete residential block to an original location. Additionally, the National Park Service would require congressional legislation to administratively transfer the camp's original landfill from the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service.

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

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



Entrance garden in winter. 2003. NPS Photo.

This alternative was selected as the preferred alternative because it represents broad public sentiments about the future of Minidoka, with an emphasis on education and interpretation, cultural resource management, visitor use, and partnerships and outreach. It also responds to concerns about how the national monument would impact the local community and agricultural/commercial vehicle traffic on Hunt Road. The overwhelming majority of public comments to date have supported actions contributing to the preferred alternative.

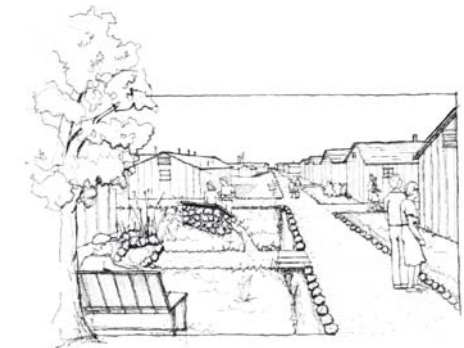
**Alternative D** proposes several actions that would focus on education and interpretation on-site, specifically through the development of new visitor facilities. The adjacent 9-acre property would be used to develop a new national monument visitor center, education and research facilities, and a new memorial and garden. On-site education and interpretation would be accomplished through a wide range of visitor experiences, including interaction with educational and interpretive media, participation in creative and self-guided activities, and limited access to the historic scene.

Similar to the preferred alternative, alternative D would use a variety of preservation techniques, such as delineation, stabilization, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction, to protect and enhance historic resources. These historic resources would be used for interpretive purposes to accurately and authentically convey the history and significance of the national monument. Historic structures would be adaptively rehabilitated for park operations.

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

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

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



Schematic drawing of the demonstration block for Alternative C. Drawing by Amanda Roberson. 2003.



Schematic drawing of interpretive facilities. Drawing by Amanda Roberson. 2003.



Schematic drawing of interpretive facilities. Drawing by Amanda Roberson. 2003.



# Purpose of Minidoka Internment National Monument

The National Park Service Organic Act of 1916 established management criteria for all units of the national park system. The stated purpose of the National Park Service is “...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

The purpose of the Minidoka Internment National Monument is to provide opportunities for public education and interpretation of the internment and incarceration of Nikkei (Japanese American citizens and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry) during WWII. The national monument protects and manages resources related to the Minidoka Relocation Center.



## Significance of Minidoka Internment National Monument

Through public scoping and planning team workshops the significance of the national monument has been determined to be the following:

### Civil and Constitutional Rights

- The national monument is a compelling venue for engaging in a dialogue concerning the violation of civil and constitutional rights, the injustice of forced removal and incarceration, the history of racism and discrimination in the United States, and the fragility of democracy in times of crisis.
- The national monument offers a unique setting to reflect on the internment and incarceration experience and the relationship of this experience to contemporary and future political and social events.
- The national monument provides a forum for understanding how internees expressed citizenship and patriotism through individual choices. Choices reflected a range of responses, including serving valiantly in the military and draft resistance. Both choices affected families and communities, as well as the individuals who made them.

### People

- Minidoka Relocation Center dramatically changed the lives of those incarcerated and had a dramatic and lasting impact on the Nikkei community.
- The establishment of the Minidoka Relocation Center during WWII had a profound effect on the social and economic fabric of neighboring southern Idaho communities.

### Place

- The setting and location of Minidoka, with its isolation, openness, and distance from the Pacific Coast, are characteristic of the WRA's site selection criteria. The camp was a hastily constructed, large-scale temporary facility that became densely populated with over 9,000 people at one time. It was typical of WRA camps constructed during World War II.
- The national monument contains unique historic and archeological resources, many of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### WWII

- The Minidoka Relocation Center represents a significant part of World War II and American history.



*Top. Internees of Block 7. 1943. Minidoka Interlude.*

*Left. “Planting celery” on the Minidoka project farms. Circa 1943. National Archives.*

*Right. Mothers of soldiers killed during World War II are honored on Mother’s Day in Twin Falls. Circa 1944. National Archives.*





# Interpretive Themes for Minidoka Internment National Monument

Primary interpretive themes are those ideas or concepts that every visitor should understand. Interpretive themes are developed to guide the interpretive program over the next 20 years. They are intentionally broad to encompass a diversity of stories, facts, interpretations, and related events. The themes do not include everything the NPS may wish to interpret but rather the ideas that are critical to a visitor’s understanding of a park’s significance.

A long-range interpretive plan will be developed to outline the many stories that will be told at the national monument and off-site. Many of the publics’ concerns about interpretation will be incorporated into this more detailed long-range interpretive plan.

## Civil and Constitutional Rights

- The internment and incarceration of American citizens and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry was the product of a long history of race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.
- The loyalty questionnaire designed by the U.S. government was administered only to internees and required that every internee over the age of 17 declare their loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America. Minidoka internees overwhelmingly affirmed their loyalty (97%) and helped to refute the government’s assumption that the Nikkei population on the West Coast was a threat to national security.
- Nikkei contributions to national defense and draft resistance both add to an understanding of patriotism, heroism, and civil rights during World War II.
- Minidoka provides a forum for discussing the violation of U.S. constitutional rights and the redress

movement, which resulted in an apology from the United States government. It also provides an opportunity for understanding the need to protect civil rights and liberties for all Americans, regardless of gender, race, religion, or national origin.

## People

- Internees at Minidoka were confronted with injustice, the loss of freedom, and profound emotional, psychological, physical, and economic hardships, and they responded in various ways with distinctive combinations of Japanese and American cultural practices, values, and perseverance.
- Minidoka is a complex mosaic that pieces together the experience of thousands of internees and their extensive social, cultural, and economic interactions with communities and organizations throughout the U.S. before, during, and after the internment and incarceration.
- Minidoka provides an opportunity for understanding how Nikkei rebuilt their lives and communities on the West Coast and elsewhere throughout the United States after World War II.

## Place

- The setting and location of Minidoka, with its isolation, openness, and distance from the Pacific Coast, are characteristic of the War Relocation Authority’s site selection criteria. The camp was a hastily constructed, large-scale temporary facility that became densely populated with over 9,000 people at one time. It was typical of War Relocation Authority camps constructed during World War II.
- Internees were forcibly removed from their homes, businesses, and communities in the lush environment of the Pacific Coast and created a community in a desert environment characterized by extreme temperatures and harsh living conditions.
- Internees transformed undeveloped arid land into irrigated agricultural fields in and around the Minidoka Relocation Center. The present-day agricultural character of the Hunt area is the legacy of internees’ labor during World War II.
- Post war settlement and agricultural development of the site by World War II veterans and others is reflected in present-day land use patterns in and around the national monument.

## World War II

- Minidoka Relocation Center was set within a world at war, characterized by national and personal sacrifice and hardship experienced by all Americans.



Vandalism on a Nikkei home in Seattle. 1945. Permission of Museum of History & Industry.

The honor roll of Minidoka soldiers. Circa 1945. National Archives.





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Minidoka Internment National Monument  
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Minidoka Pilgrimage. June 2003. NPS Photo.

Planning Activity Schedule

Winter 2002

I

**Gather Data/Establish Future or Goals**

- Establish the national monument’s purpose, significance, issues, and primary stories
- Participate in public workshops and/or submit written comments
- Analyze and summarize public scoping comments

Summer 2003

2

**Suggest Draft Alternatives**

- Develop range of alternatives to meet goals, address issues, and express primary stories
- Participate in public workshops and/or submit written comments
- Analyze and summarize public draft alternatives comments

Summer 2005

3

**Develop Draft GMP/EIS**

- Refine alternatives, analyze environmental impacts, and select a preferred alternative
- Develop, publish, and distribute draft GMP/EIS to the public
- Participate in public workshops and/or submit written comments
- Analyze public comments, respond to substantive comments

Summer 2006

4

**Revise Draft and Publish Abbreviated Final GMP/EIS and Presentation Plan**

- Develop a design concept plan
- Develop, publish and distribute abbreviated final GMP/EIS and presentation plan to the public

Ongoing

5

**Implementation**

- Work with individuals, organizations, agencies, and communities on partnership activities
- Request funds for capital improvements

Public Open House Schedule *(This will be the last series of meetings during the public planning process for the Minidoka Internment NM General Management Plan)*

Eden, Idaho	Seattle, Washington
Wednesday, July 66-8 p.m. American Legion Hall 185 East Wilson Street	Thursday, July 1410 a.m.–12p.m. Nisei Veterans Hall 1212 South King Street
Twin Falls, Idaho	Portland, Oregon
Thursday, July 74-6 p.m. KMVT-TV Community Room 1100 Blue Lakes Boulevard North	Friday, July 156-8 p.m. Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center 121 Northwest 2nd Avenue
Ontario, Oregon	Saturday, July 1610a.m.–12 p.m. Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 Southeast 34th Avenue
Bainbridge Island, Washington	San Francisco, California
Tuesday, July 126-8 p.m. Bainbridge Island Commons 370 Brian Drive	Tuesday, August 96-8 p.m. National Japanese American Historical Society 1684 Post Street
Seattle, Washington	Los Angeles, California
Wednesday, July 136-8 p.m. Japanese Baptist Church 160 Broadway	Wednesday, August 107-9 p.m. Japanese American National Museum Nerio Education Center 369 East First Street