

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

Management Plan

Planning Newsletter # 2 Public Scoping Comment Summary, Spring 2014



Painting of the lighted perimeter fence and guard towers at Tule Lake with Abalone Mountain in the background. Painter unknown. National Archives.

Dear Friends,

I'd like to thank every person and organization who participated in the Tule Lake Unit public scoping process. We asked for your involvement and you shared with us an abundance of insight and direction. As so many of you observed, the Tule Lake Unit embodies thousands of unique, challenging, and inspiring stories, and we could not make these stories known without you.

The National Park Service is dedicated to designing a plan for the Tule Lake Unit that reflects the perspectives of those who feel connected to the site. It is through your cooperation that the Tule Lake Unit will be able to share its valuable lessons with the public and act as a catalyst in spreading this story beyond its current boundaries.

During the scoping process we received hundreds of comments regarding the future of the Tule Lake Unit. Over 550 people attended public meetings and dozens more provided written comments about their concerns and ideas for the site. These comments were heartfelt, impassioned, and instructive.

Your comments will help formulate a vision for the Tule Lake Unit's development, future management, and provide a framework for the park's priorities. As we continue the planning effort at the Tule Lake Unit, the success of the final plan and its implementation is

dependent on your continued involvement. We will stay in contact regarding the planning process and hope this is only the beginning of our conversation about the Tule Lake Unit and its future.

Thank you again for your participation in this scoping process. We look forward to continued collaboration with you.

I invite you to come and visit Tule Lake in person!

Sincerely,

Mike Reynolds, Superintendent
Tule Lake Unit, World War II Valor in the Pacific
National Monument

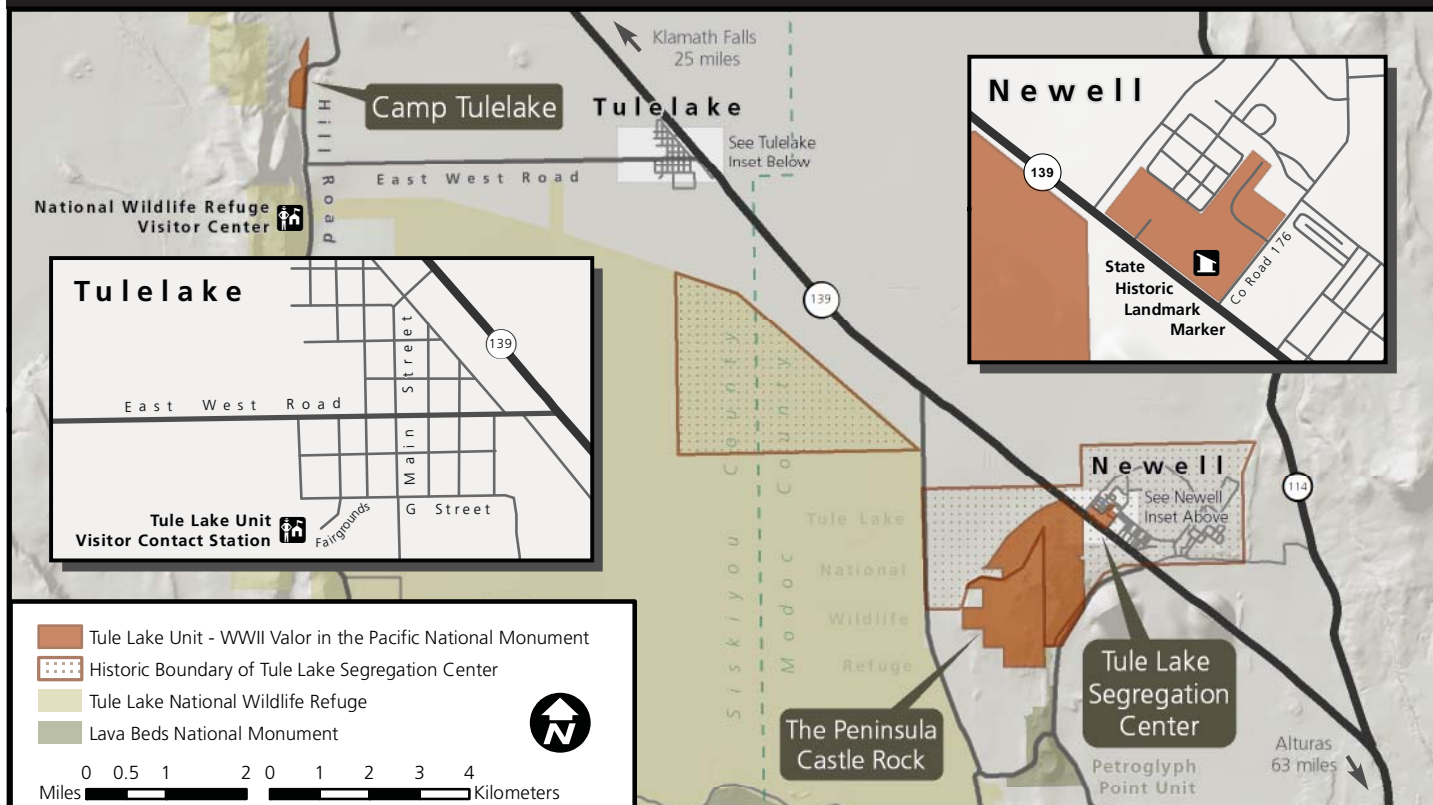
Planning for Tule Lake

This planning effort will result in a long-term comprehensive plan that identifies the overall direction for the future management of the Tule Lake Unit. The plan will take a long-range, broad, and conceptual view. It will provide a framework for managers to use in deciding how to best protect the Tule Lake Unit's resources, what

levels and types of uses are appropriate, what facilities should be developed, and how visitors access the unit. The plan for the Tule Lake Unit will describe the general path that the National Park Service intends to follow in managing the Tule Lake Unit over the next 20 years.

Management Plan Schedule

Estimated Time Frame	Planning Activity	Public Involvement Opportunities
June- October 2013	Public Scoping —Identify concerns, expectations, values, and ideas related to Tule Lake. *Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide your ideas and comments during the scoping period.
2014	Preliminary Alternatives —Based on public scoping, outline different possible futures for the Tule Lake Unit. *We are currently on this step	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review this "Results of Scoping newsletter." • Read the public workshop transcripts online.
2015	Draft Management Plan/ Environmental Analysis - Detail different alternatives, the preferred alternative and impacts that could result from implementing the alternatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review draft plan. • Participate in public workshops. • Send us your comments on the draft plan.
2016	Final Management Plan - Analyze comments, revise draft document, and finalize the plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the final plan.
And Beyond	Implement the Final Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay involved in the implementation of the plan. • Check the Tule Lake website for updates.



What We Heard from You...

Public Scoping

In May 2013, the National Park Service began the “scoping” portion of the planning process to learn what the public believes are the most important issues facing the Tule Lake Unit and how they envision the unit in the future.

Formal public scoping for the development of the Tule Lake Unit occurred between May 31 and October 11, 2013. The National Park Service (NPS) announced the public scoping period and invited public comment through newsletters, correspondence, press releases, public workshops, informal meetings, and the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/tule>. NPS staff produced and mailed Newsletter #1—Public Scoping to approximately 1,600 individuals, organizations, and agencies on the NPS mailing list. Press releases were distributed to local and regional news media. The public was invited to submit comments by mail, e-mail, fax, online, at public workshops, and during virtual meetings.

The ideas expressed by individuals and organizations in this newsletter are presented as a sampling of the public opinions and concerns submitted during the public scoping period. This information informs the planning process by providing an understanding of the range of public comments. All comments received are maintained in the administrative record and are available for inspection.

Public Scoping Meeting Attendance

Location	Date	Attendance
Tulelake, CA	June 18, 2013	29
Klamath Falls, OR	June, 19 2013	27
Portland, OR	July 1, 2013	28
Hood River, OR	July 2, 2013	25
Auburn, WA	July 2, 2013	13
Seattle, WA	July 3, 2013	19
Seattle, WA	July, 5, 2013	62
Los Angeles, CA	July 24, 2013	29
Carson, CA	July 25, 2013	49
San Diego, CA	July 26, 2013	9
Los Angeles, CA	July 27, 2013	30
Virtual Meeting	September 5, 2013	13
Sacramento, CA	September 17, 2013	102
Berkeley, CA	September 18, 2013	36
San Francisco, CA	September 19, 2013	29
San Jose, CA	September 19, 2013	37
Virtual Meeting	September 24, 2013	27
Total		564



Sharing personal stories during Carson public meeting.
NPS photo.

Public Workshops and Written Comments

The NPS held 15 public workshops in California, Oregon, Washington, and two virtual meetings from June through September 2013. The workshops began with a presentation about the Tule Lake Unit and the planning process. The meetings then transitioned into facilitated group discussions during which attendees were invited to offer their ideas, concerns, and aspirations for the future of the Tule Lake Unit.

In addition, the NPS received 80 written responses in the form of letters, e-mails, newsletter response forms, and web comments. In total, the feedback received both in writing and from the public meetings comprises almost 3,000 separate comments.

In addition to the comments from private citizens, comments were also received from the following organizations, affiliates, and elected officials:

Art of Survival Exhibition
Bainbridge Island Historical Society
Buddhist Churches of America
California Department of Transportation
California Office of Historic Preservation
California State Parks
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, Fullerton
Chicago National Japanese American Historical Society
Columbia University
Denshō
Discover Nikkei
Fife History Museum
Japanese American Citizens League
Japanese American Museum of San Jose
Japanese American National Museum
Japanese American Society
Klamath County Chamber of Commerce
Klamath Falls Historical Society
Konko Church of San Francisco
Korematsu Institute
KQED Public Media for Northern California
Little Tokyo Historical Society
Macy's Flying Service, Inc.
Manzanar Committee
Modoc County Board of Supervisors
National Japanese American Historical Society
National Park Foundation
National Parks Conservation Association
National Veterans Society
Nichi Bei Weekly
Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress
Oregon-California Resource Conservation & Development Area Council
Oregon Historical Society
Oregon Institute of Technology
Oregon Nikkei Endowment
Oregon Nonprofit Leaders Conference
Portland State University
Rafu Shimpo
Shaw Historical Library
Shirayami Coffee
The Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation
Tohoku University
Tule Lake Committee
Tulelake City Council
Tulelake Irrigation District
US Representative Juan Varga's Office
United Television Broadcasting
United to End Racism
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Central Missouri
University of Washington
Wing Luke Museum

Summary of Public Comments

The following summary incorporates both the public workshop comments and the written comments received by the NPS through October 2013. All comments received have been reviewed and will be considered for the preparation of the plan.

Interpretation and Education

The vast majority of public comments received—more than one-half of all comments submitted were related to interpretation and history. Almost a third of these highlighted the need to convey a nuanced history of Tule Lake reflecting the diverse stories, perspectives, individuals, and communities associated with the site. When asked what they valued most about Tule Lake, participants noted that they cared most about the unique story of the segregation center and the multiple perspectives embodied therein. In particular, many commenters emphasized the importance of explaining that not everyone held at Tule Lake shared the same



Nursery school children. National Digital Archives.

views or responded the same way or for the same reasons to the loyalty questionnaire.

Several members of the public suggested sharing individual stories about the day-to-day life of prisoners in the segregation center, as well as the perspectives of other groups including the local community, War Relocation Authority (WRA) and military personnel, and the Italian and German prisoners of war at Camp Tulelake. A significant number of people also encouraged the NPS to describe the lasting impacts of the incarceration on Japanese American families, including the loss of their homes and communities, and the psychological and financial hardships they endured.

The need to accurately and honestly tell the story of Tule Lake was consistently cited as one of the most important issues facing the NPS. This was considered particularly important by individuals who stated that

The Loyalty Questionnaire

In early 1943 the War Relocation Authority (WRA) and the army required all detainees, 17 years and older, to respond to two questions about military service and allegiance. Questions number 27 and 28 were part of a questionnaire referred to today as the Loyalty Questionnaire.

Question 27 on military service asked, "Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the U.S.?"

Question 28, on "allegiance," asked, "Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the U.S.A. and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power or organization?"

Responding with a "Yes, Yes" to both questions was difficult. Question 28 was particularly divisive, as parents were generally Japanese citizens while their children were Americans. Japanese immigrants were legally ineligible for US citizenship, therefore answering "Yes" would make them people without a country.

Two thirds of the 120,000 incarcerated were American citizens, and for many, the questions seemed absurd, since most had never even been to Japan. For some Nisei men, answering "Yes" to question 27 was, in essence, volunteering their services for a "suicide squad." Some who answered "No, No" felt the government's questions about loyalty and military service were simply unjust and offensive, given that they were American citizens behind barbed wire without due process of law. Military age men answering "No, No" were coined as "No-No Boys."

Each individual and family struggled with the questions, weighing allegiances to country, family, and moral principles. Finally, those failing to respond and those answering "No" to either or both of the questions were transferred to the Tule Lake Segregation Center. The Tule Lake "Yes-Yes" respondents were scattered to the nine other WRA centers.

the history of Tule Lake is still contentious and should be told carefully. Most people stressed that it is crucial to interpret the complex political, social, and environmental context of Tule Lake and its inhabitants before, during, and after incarceration. Some suggested further emphasizing the larger contextual history of the site by including the perspective of the displaced Modoc Tribe and the history of other injustices in the area. Several commenters indicated that it was important to describe the climate of wartime fear and the failure of political leadership that led to the incarceration.

The public expressed a strong desire for the NPS to clearly communicate the injustice of the incarceration to ensure that such actions never happen again. Commenters frequently stressed that the Tule Lake story is highly significant to future generations and many feel it is important to focus interpretive efforts on youth. Several individuals underscored the relevance of Tule Lake to politics and civil liberties today, observing that parallels can be drawn between the violation of civil rights that occurred at Tule Lake and acts that took place against Arab and Muslim Americans in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Many noted that the Tule Lake story is relevant to all Americans and that it illustrates the constant vigilance that is required to uphold constitutional rights.

Many people wished to highlight the specific history of Tule Lake within the context of the other WRA centers. Tule Lake was unique among the 10 WRA centers due to its conversion to a segregation center, level of militarization, and the stigma associated with segregation. In addition to emphasizing the diversity of responses to the loyalty questionnaire, people wanted to ensure that interpretation about the questionnaire explain the divisions it created within the Japanese American community both during and after segregation. Several

commenters also underscored the need to tell the story of the almost 6,000 Japanese Americans who renounced their US citizenship at Tule Lake and the complex reasons for and outcomes of their renunciation.

Though commenters in general stated that they feel the unit's purpose, significance statements, and interpretive themes capture its essence, some advocated for a greater emphasis on the site's significance to questions of justice and citizenship, stating that these themes are likely to resonate most with future generations. Others suggested that care be taken to prioritize and clearly explain the key messages that the NPS shares with the public.

The need to convey the physical scale of the site, degrading physical conditions, and unfamiliar environment was stressed by several people. A few observed that this key aspect of the Tule Lake story would be challenging to demonstrate given the absence of most of the original structures and the small portion of the original segregation center under NPS ownership. However, many suggested that the scale could be depicted by staking or otherwise physically delineating the original boundaries. Some proposed reconstructing the perimeter fence and others suggested that the size of the segregation center could best be illustrated using digital simulation, which would not require the acquisition or use of additional land.

Several commenters felt that it was crucial that the NPS use accurate language and terminology to describe the incarceration instead of the euphemistic terms used by the government during World War II. Several people referred to Tule Lake as a concentration camp and felt that "concentration camp" is the most appropriate term to describe the camp. Some suggested incorporating the production of a glossary into planning efforts for the unit.



This flower brooch made of shells and wood was generously donated by Reiko Yamashita to the NPS during a public meeting in Los Angeles, 2013. Catalog Numbers LABE 2013 M-001 through 012. NPS photo.

Some people requested that the NPS make a greater effort to connect interpretation between the segregation center and Camp Tulelake, noting that the geographical separation of the two sites makes it challenging to interpret their interconnected roles in the history and evolution of the landscape.

A few people expressed a desire to be able to undertake research at the unit relating to individuals who were incarcerated at Tule Lake. Some proposed a database or other means of locating incarcerated individuals and the barracks in which they were held. This was of particular interest to families who were permanently displaced from their homes to other regions of the United States or abroad.

Resources

Tule Lake was described as a unique cultural resource, distinct from other WRA incarceration camps, embodying a story that is important to the political context of our times. This was reflected by the high volume of comments submitted relating to the unit's cultural resources.

Recording the oral histories of living incarcerated individuals was consistently identified as a significant, time-sensitive priority. The majority of the resource-related responses focused on oral histories and stressed that the NPS should focus immediately on collecting as many oral histories as possible. The public requested access to these oral histories in order to share these stories and perspectives with a wide audience.

The scoping process also provided an invaluable opportunity for survivors of Tule Lake to share their

personal stories. They recounted their experiences of life at Tule Lake, often focusing on details about the setting and specific hardships they faced, day-to-day activities, the self-sufficiency of the prisoners, and the response of parents and elder family members to imprisonment and discrimination. Some shared stories they had heard from others who had experienced incarceration, and members of the local community described life in the vicinity of Tule Lake, both during the war and today.

Many stories were shared about artwork and other crafts created by prisoners at the camp. Some people suggested that the display of these items could demonstrate how individuals coped with the harsh conditions of Tule Lake. Comments regarding collections were numerous and expressed a desire for historic photographs and other artifacts to be exhibited in order to connect the site to people and their stories. Several individuals described personal or family belongings relating to the camp that they would be willing to donate to the NPS, and others noted that many of the local residents of Tulelake and surrounding towns have items from the camp. Commenters felt that it was important to locate these artifacts and house them on-site.

Commenters advocated the return to Tule Lake of original barracks and other structures currently spread throughout the local area. People suggested that this would be the most effective way to accurately depict the living conditions of the segregation center. Comments strongly supported the preservation of remaining historic structures. Several people requested that these structures be re-used whenever possible, whereas others suggested that some of the vacant buildings may better tell the story if left empty. In the case of missing structures, some

Hike up Castle Rock, Tule Lake Pilgrimage 2012. NPS photo.



recommended installing a marker to illustrate where buildings once stood. Others advocated reconstruction, particularly of the barracks, guard tower, and perimeter fence to illustrate the imprisonment and the feeling of being under guard. Some participants also wished to see an entire block re-created.

A number of individuals described the guard tower and fence as iconic features that powerfully convey the story of the camp and should be reconstructed. In particular, the fence and guard tower were viewed as potent symbols of the camp's conversion to a militarized segregation center and the tanks and armed guards that accompanied its transformation. However, some noted that the unit's current boundary configuration—which does not comprise the full footprint of the segregation center—would make reconstruction of the fence difficult.

Many consider the jail to be the most important historic feature at Tule Lake. They would like to see the jail preserved, restored, and interpreted for its significant and unique role in the incarceration history. Commenters noted that the park should continue to seek funding opportunities for this specific preservation effort.

For historic landscape resources, many people strongly supported the preservation of views across the site that illustrate the vast scale of the camp. Several individuals indicated that this should be taken into account in the planning of any new facilities. Some expressed strong feelings about what they described as the insensitive treatment of the cemetery in the past and emphasized the importance of respectfully interpreting the site in the future. Numerous comments advocated revising the boundary of the unit to include the cemetery, as well as clearly identifying on site those who died while incarcerated at Tule Lake. A few commenters identified the need to undertake archeological excavations within the historic boundary of the camp, particularly in the cemetery.

Some comments expressed a desire for continued historic preservation efforts at Camp Tulelake. Others stressed that they would like to see greater emphasis placed on the segregation center. Castle Rock (Peninsula) and Abalone Mountain were additionally cited as important features that merit preservation.

Visitor Experience and Use

Public sentiment was overwhelmingly in favor of an immersive visitor experience at Tule Lake. “Don’t sugar-coat it,” was a common request. Many people expressed a desire to create an emotional connection for visitors, especially youth, through an authentic physical experience of the segregation center. This experiential quality was particularly significant to some, who noted that the topic of incarceration is difficult to put into words. Diverse suggestions were offered for how best to achieve this, such as recreating barracks to accurately reflect life in the camp; replicating lavatory and mess hall conditions; recreating the harsh environmental experience of Tule Lake by offering tours in all seasons; asking visitors to respond to the loyalty questionnaire; and staging tanks and armed guards on site.

Several people observed the importance of creating an interactive experience for visitors and suggested that the NPS provide audio devices for tours or offer driving and walking tours that include Camp Tulelake as well as the segregation center. While some stated that park ranger-led tours would be a critical aspect of the visitor experience, others observed that a quiet, reflective environment would be most suitable for the unit and expressed concern that too much interaction might detract from the solemnity of the site.

The Tule Lake Pilgrimage was described as a highly significant event and commenters requested that access to the site for the pilgrimage be preserved. Some suggested offering additional programs that would allow

further interaction between members of the Japanese American community and other visitors to the unit, for example stories shared by those who have personal associations with the camp.

Many people called for an increased use of technology and other media, including art, to convey important messages about the unit. Several people observed that virtually accessible information would be particularly helpful for teachers and students nationwide who are learning about Tule Lake but unable to travel to the site. Some stated that digital media at the site could help visitors understand the scale of the camp, its historic character, and the experience of incarceration. A few participants suggested that the NPS explore more imaginative and artistic methods to interpret the story, including haiku poetry and stone markers.

Development and Visitor Facilities

The most frequent comment relating to development was the need for an orientation facility to provide an introduction to Tule Lake and its history before visiting the unit. Public comments noted the importance of seeing exhibits featuring personal items, memorabilia, family photos, original film footage, and other artifacts in order to better understand the experience of incarcerated at Tule Lake. People additionally suggested including an orientation film, scale model or aerial photographs, living history programs, and art exhibits. Several commenters asked that Japanese American artists be engaged in designing an installation for the site.

Interpretive facilities at Manzanar were cited by some as successful examples. A small number of participants proposed that facilities such as a bookstore or a research center could be located within the visitor center. A few people stated that funding efforts should be focused on a visitor facility over other areas of the plan.

Some expressed a desire for visitors to feel comfortable on site, with access to bathrooms and a place to get out of the cold and heat. Others suggested that facilities allow for a somewhat uncomfortable visitor experience, which could approximate the original conditions of the camp. For example, re-created latrines were proposed by some commenters, and many underscored the importance of physically experiencing unfamiliar environmental conditions.

Several members of the public requested that the NPS avoid making too many changes to the site. Some feel that the current degradation of Tule Lake is an important component of its story and that to re-create too much of it would overshadow the governments' attempt to cover up the history of what happened there. A number of comments were submitted regarding development around the site, requesting that the NPS prevent nearby development from diminishing the integrity of the unit.

Land Use and Management

It was acknowledged by many that any boundary modification of the unit is a sensitive issue and several individuals requested that the National Park Service remain aware of this in planning efforts. Of those who commented on land use and management, the majority supported a boundary modification to protect

resources currently outside the boundary and include more or all of the original camp to better tell the story of the segregation center. Some people expressed concern, however, that changes to the current boundary could have an adverse impact on local businesses.

Several commenters also noted that the story could be told without the entirety of the site. A number of individuals also stated that building preservation efforts and the construction of a visitor center should take precedence over changes to the present boundary. Others did not want to see the purchase of more land because it may redirect funds from oral history efforts.



Conversation during San Diego public meeting. NPS photo.

Access

A substantial number of participants expressed concerns about attracting visitors to the site given its remote location. Many consider this issue to be closely connected to a general need to raise awareness about Tule Lake and reach a national audience beyond those who are able to visit the site in person. Numerous suggestions were offered to elevate the profile of the unit and share information. Suggestions included proposals relating both to digital and physical accessibility. Enhanced digital resources were widely recommended, specifically for students and educators. To encourage additional visitors to explore the unit itself, some suggested collaborating with other local attractions such as Lava Beds National Monument and sites associated with Modoc history. A few members of the public proposed that the NPS establish a presence for the unit in major urban areas, whether through traveling park rangers and exhibits or through a permanent presence in selected cities. Comments in this category stated that the Tule Lake story was too nationally significant to be confined to a single site and emphasized that it should be made accessible to those—particularly youth—who are unable to travel.

Access to resources within the unit itself was also a concern for some people. They requested that the entirety of the unit be made accessible to the public throughout the year. Currently the segregation center parcel and Camp Tulelake can only be accessed by visitors who join an NPS ranger-led tour. Some areas, such as Castle Rock, are not open to the public even though they are located within the unit boundary. Commenters were generally supportive of providing access to Castle Rock, specifically by allowing visitors to walk up of the bluff to view the entire site.

Several people felt that Tule Lake-associated resources should be accessible whether on NPS property or outside the boundary through the use of driving tours or walking trails. This includes original structures located within the historic boundary of the segregation center but excluded from the current unit boundary, as well as structures that were sold after the war and moved offsite. A few members of the public suggested that the NPS could partner with private landowners to identify and interpret significant resources that currently exist outside of the unit boundary.

Improved directional signage and ease of circulation were concerns cited by many. It was noted that the segregation centers' residential context currently makes the camp challenging to navigate and that better signage is needed to direct visitors to the unit's accessible areas. Several commenters also indicated that there should be a better-defined connection between the segregation center and Camp Tulelake. Some suggested that a more organized tour route between the two would encourage visitation of both sites and greater interpretive cohesion. Many members of the public would like the NPS to provide interpretive driving and walking routes within and around the segregation center.

Several commenters recommended that audio devices be provided to narrate such tours, and some proposed installing interpretive waysides at key locations.



Accessible ramp construction at Camp Tulelake. NPS photo.

Tule Lake Municipal Airport Fence

The proposed construction by the Federal Aviation Administration of a fence around the Tule Lake Municipal Airport, on lands outside NPS jurisdiction, received a great deal of attention during the public scoping process. Comments addressed this concurrent project despite its location outside the boundary of the unit. Strong opinions were voiced both against and in favor of the planned construction of the fence around the airport, which is located within the historic boundaries of the segregation center. The proposed fence would be constructed around the entire airport area in order to prevent intrusion by wildlife and feral animals.

The majority of comments submitted about the airport fence requested that it not be constructed. Questions were raised regarding the feasibility of mov-

ing the airport, and whether or not this could be addressed in the NPS plan for Tule Lake. A few individuals were concerned about the adequacy of the archeological assessment undertaken by Modoc County in the location of the proposed fence. Several people felt that a fence would interfere with the sense of isolation and vastness that is currently experienced on the site. Some raised concerns that a fence would degrade the historic integrity of the Tule Lake site and its importance to visitors. A few suggested that the airport fence could be constructed to resemble the historical perimeter barbed wire fence.

Other individuals stressed that the airport is very important to the local economy for transportation and agricultural needs and that it is crucial to allow this facility to remain in opera-

tion. Questions were raised by local community members regarding airport access and whether this would be assured by the NPS. Several individuals were concerned about impacts to the local economy should the NPS consider expanding the unit boundary to include the airport.

Some who support the fence stated that its creation would be accompanied by infrastructural and circulation improvements that would also benefit the unit. Supporters of the fence emphasized that neither the City of Tulelake nor Modoc County are trying to exclude the public from the site by building a fence and are trying to be inclusive and welcoming to site visitors. Rather, they noted, that compliance with Federal Aviation Administration regulations is the primary impetus behind the proposed project.



Japanese Americans at Tule Lake crafted wood, shells, metal, paint, and sourced materials to create beautiful pins and brooches. Donated by Reiko Yamashita, 2013. Catalog Numbers LABE 2013 M-001 through 012. NPS photo.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Those who commented on partnerships and collaboration stressed that the NPS should continually build strong relationships with all involved communities. Most people highlighted the importance of engaging local residents and the Japanese American community. Several participants recommended soliciting the help of Japanese Americans to share the story of Tule Lake with the country at large.

The majority of commenters on the subject of local support and involvement suggested encouraging and increasing community participation in the unit. Individuals offered suggestions for ways to achieve this, including hosting additional meetings in the community and touring similar sites, such as Manzanar, with community leaders.

Many local community members expressed support for the unit. Some recommended mobilizing neighbors to support the development of facilities, including a visitor center. A few suggested making connections with local farmers and other landowners to encourage the donation of original structures or to permit access to original structures on private lands. Many also stressed the importance of an economic partnership between the unit and the local area, citing the economic benefits of tourism. Some emphasized the importance of collaboration between the unit and local businesses, in particular the airport. It was noted that many area residents are already telling the story of Tule Lake and have been doing so for years, and it was suggested that the unit partner with these individuals. Some local residents expressed concern that they are currently not viewed as supportive of the unit and its historical significance.

Though most people feel that Tule Lake's unique history as a segregation center should be reflected in its interpretation, several commenters suggested active collaboration and coordination among the NPS units associated with the incarceration history, namely Manzanar and Minidoka, to ensure consistency in interpretive efforts. Others suggested that the NPS partner (or continue to partner) with specific organizations including the Tule Lake Committee, Denshō, the Japanese American National Museum, Discover Nikkei, the scholarly and academic communities, military stakeholders, California State Parks, and conservation agencies. A few suggested that the unit connect with local tribes, including the Modoc Tribe, as well as with the local farming community.



Conversation during Carson public meeting. NPS photo.

Operations

A lack of budgetary support was often cited as one of the most significant issues facing the unit. Commenters feel that additional financial support is necessary and that the NPS should work with partners to seek funding. Private fundraising was presented as an option to augment the NPS budget for the Tule Lake Unit. Some comments emphasized the importance of telling the story over using those funds to expand the size of the unit.

Many also stated their concerns about staffing constraints at the unit, noting that additional staff would be required to effectively interpret Tule Lake's history. A small number requested that Tule Lake be managed separately from Lava Beds National Monument. Others emphasized the value of involving both the local citizenry and the Japanese American community as volunteers for the unit, citing the importance of building future stewards and a conservation ethic for the Tule Lake site.

A small number of people commented on concessions and commercial services, observing that they would be helpful in attracting visitors to the unit and ensuring their comfort. A few people suggested that lodging and food be easily accessible in the vicinity. Some identified a bookstore as desirable. The NPS was also asked whether it would make an effort to support the local economy by employing local people and buying local products.

Designation

Many members of the public questioned the official designation and name of the unit: the Tule Lake Unit of WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument. The name was described as overly long and confusing, and it was noted by some that the association suggested between the incarceration and sites of wartime valor is inappropriate and even offensive. Many strongly believe that Tule Lake should be detached from WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

Planning Process

Members of the public who commented specifically on the planning process expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share their thoughts about the future development of Tule Lake. The NPS received positive feedback for the level of outreach initiated during the scoping phase, and several individuals acknowledged the complexity of planning for a site like Tule Lake.

Several comments encouraged the NPS to embrace the process broadly and generously, both in terms of public outreach and future visions for the unit. A number of comments requested that planners aim high and think outside the box in imagining the future of Tule Lake. A few urged the NPS to expedite planning for the unit, as many of the former incarcerated are in their twilight years. A small number of people asked that the NPS strive to

make an efficient use of time and resources throughout the process. Some advocated a survey of planning efforts at similar park service units, such as Manzanar and Minidoka, to gain a better understanding of what has worked well at these sites and what has not.

Some participants suggested that those with a personal connection to Tule Lake be more closely involved in planning efforts. In general commenters felt it was necessary to continue to involve as many people as possible in the planning process to ensure that the unit and its interpretation reflect a diversity of stories, perspectives, and interests. Moreover, local support and involvement in the planning process were consistently described as key factors in the future success of the unit. It was noted by several people that the planning process is an excellent opportunity to build a supportive community to guide the evolution of the unit.



Group discussion at Klamath Falls public meeting. NPS photo.

Tule Lake Unit Happenings

It continues to be busy at the Tule Lake Unit! Lots of new projects were started in 2013, and we welcomed over 3,500 visitors to the site.

One of our primary projects in 2013 was meeting with you, the public, to discuss the long-term future of Tule Lake. During these meetings park staff enjoyed connecting with over 500 attendees and learned a great deal from the many perspectives and experiences shared during the meetings.

In 2013 NPS staff completed a five year strategic plan, which set priorities for the Tule Lake Unit over the next 5 years. The plan provided us with much needed guidance while the long-term management plan is being prepared. Over the next five years, we will focus on working collaboratively with partners, collecting oral histories, gathering data on resources to inform decisions, and stabilizing historic structures and resources so that they do not degrade. We will also provide basic visitor services so that Tule Lake's history is shared with the visiting public.

There are great partnerships in the works with local groups and entities throughout the western United States. Many of these partnerships are with organizations that have received grants through the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. They include:

- Tule Lake Committee is working to restore the jail building. They have awarded a contract to Architectural Resources Group, Inc. for design, structural engineering, and completing environmental compliance.
- Ore-Cal is creating an exhibit on the art of Tule Lake and is progressing under the reigns of local artist Madeleine Graham Blake. The exhibit will be on public display this summer at the Favell Museum in Klamath Falls.
- CyArk is completing work on a new website featuring 3D digital recreations of the site. This project will be the centerpiece of our new media stations installed at the Tule Lake visitor center later this year.
- San Francisco Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League brought the Bridging Communities program to Tule Lake for the second time. The group of inspiring young adults from the Japanese American and Arab American communities learned about Tule Lake and its relevancy to current events today.
- Densho hosted a teacher training workshop focused on the use of primary sources held in Klamath Falls.

New agreements are in place with the Tulelake Fire Department for structural and wildland fire protection. We also enjoyed hosting visits from Priscilla Ouchida, Executive Director of the Japanese American Citizens League, and representatives from Senator Dianne Feinstein's and Congressman Doug LaMalfa's offices.



Tule Lake Clean-up Crew finishes work on the "ditch rider house," fall 2013. NPS photo.

We've stabilized and cleaned historic structures within the Unit. The Camp Tulelake barracks and shop building were successfully stabilized and protected from collapse. A portion of the roof blew off the blue colored segregation center motor pool building in fall 2013, and a new roof was installed as winter arrived. New wayside exhibits that interpret the many layered stories at Camp Tulelake are in their final review and will be installed at the site soon. The pending land transfer of the "ditch rider house" from the Bureau of Reclamation was assessed for cultural resources, and the property was cleaned by 25 park staff during an all employee cleanup day.

Behind the scenes, historic documentation and surveying of primary documents continues and funding requests are being developed. The oral history plan is progressing with a better assessment of the existing documentation. Recently donated historic artifacts are being accessioned into the NPS collection. Although we are dramatically short on adequate storage space, we are working to improve this situation by upgrading additional storage

locations at the segregation center. A Teacher Ranger project contracted a local teacher to draft curriculum for Tule Lake Education Kits targeting elementary and high school levels to support our efforts to bring the Tule Lake story to the next generation. Hanako Wakatsuki was hired as a management assistant in October and has already made great headway organizing the various projects and helping park staff as they juggle multiple priorities. Look for regular Tule Lake Unit updates from Hanako!

This summer at the Tule Lake Unit will be busier than ever as more visitors come to more about Tule Lake and its story. The visitor center at the Tulelake Butte Valley Fairgrounds Museum will be open this summer. Ranger led tours of the segregation center and Camp Tulelake are offered on Saturdays. As always, tours are available upon request year round, staff permitting.

We look forward to the biennial Tule Lake Pilgrimage this July and hope many of you will come to visit Tule Lake!



Newly built access ramp to historic Camp Tulelake structure. NPS photo.



View of the Tule Lake Segregation Center at night 1943-45. National Archives.

Next Steps

Your ideas provide the basis for the next step in the planning process.

This next step will be the development of possible visions (called alternatives) for the future of Tule Lake. Evaluating a set of alternatives enables us to compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of one course of action over another and provides a sound approach to decision making, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft plan will be available for your review, and we will hold another round of public meetings to present the draft plan to you. Following the review, the final plan will be completed. Park management will begin implementation of the plan which will guide the unit's development and management over the next 15-20 years.

For More Information

You can access more information about this planning effort by visiting:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/tule>

Available information includes:

- Complete transcripts of all the public scoping workshops held from June through September 2013
- Frequently asked questions about management of the Tule Lake Unit
- Downloadable versions of the planning newsletters

The general Tule Lake Unit website, www.nps.gov/tule, contains information about visiting the Tule Lake Unit, the history of Tule Lake, and resources for teachers.

Your continued involvement, in the planning process is critical for the successful completion of the plan. There will be another formal comment period for the development of the plan when the NPS presents the draft plan to the public. In addition, you can always write or call us to express your concerns or insights or to check in on the planning process.

Here are several ways for you to participate in this planning effort:

- Attend public meetings and workshops
- Sign up for the mailing list at www.nps.gov/tule/parkmgmt/planning to receive publications about the Tule Lake Unit. You can choose whether you'd like to receive paper newsletters sent to your mailing address or e-newsletters sent to your e-mail address.
- Send a letter to the superintendent
- E-mail your comments to: Tule_Superintendent@nps.gov

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You can access more information about this long-range planning effort for the Tule Lake Unit by visiting:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/tule>

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



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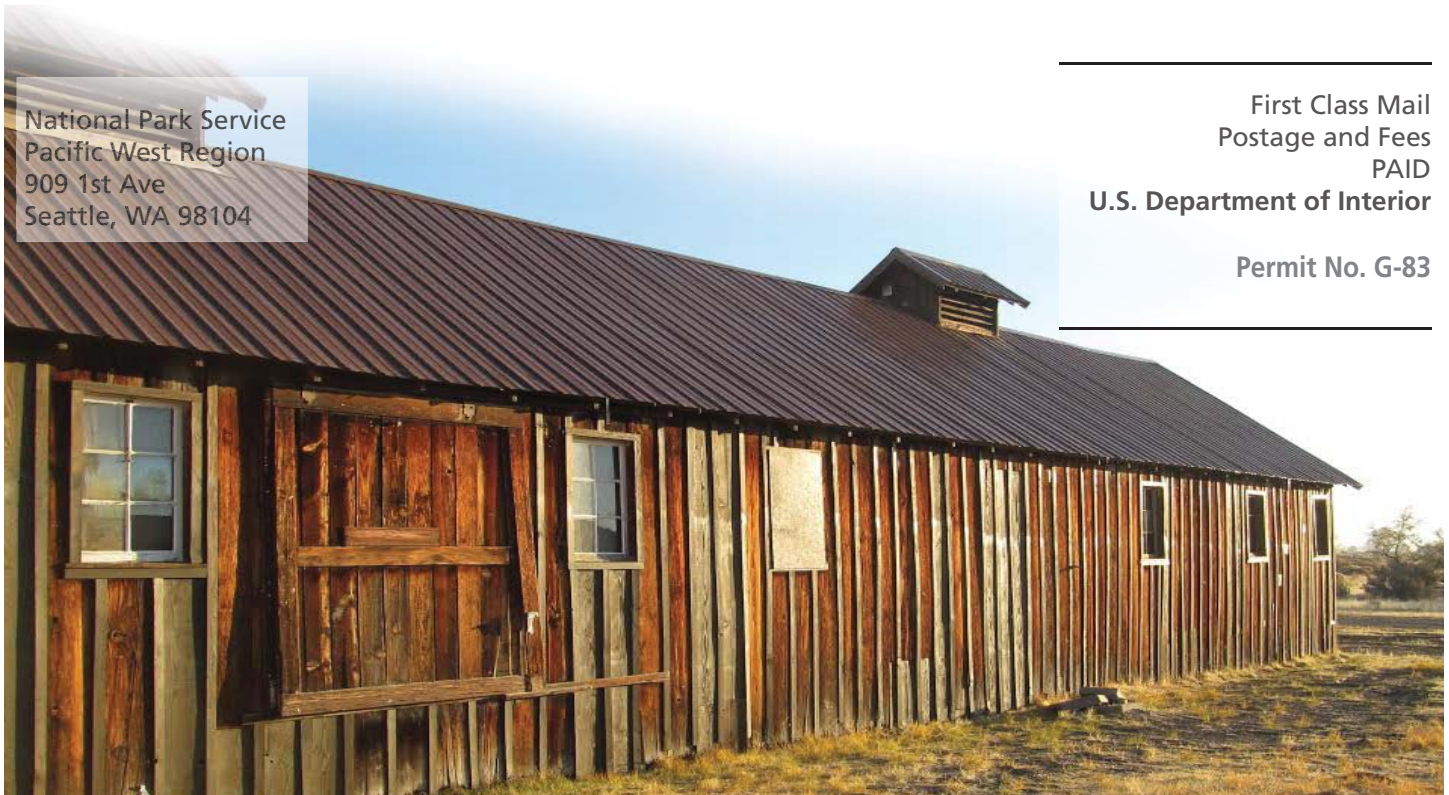
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