



# Minidoka Internment National Monument

ABBREVIATED FINAL General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



June 2006



## Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to release the *Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* in an abbreviated format. Please note that this abbreviated format is not a full reprint of the original draft GMP/EIS. This document provides the revisions that have been made, a summary of public comments received about the draft GMP/EIS, a section that notes implementation suggestions, and our responses to substantive comment letters. Some readers find it convenient to refer to the draft GMP/EIS while reading the abbreviated final GMP/EIS.

We appreciate the active role you have taken in this complex four-year process. During the public comment period for the draft GMP/EIS, approximately 215 individuals attended the public meetings and another 160 provided written comments that were received during the 90-day comment period. Your engagement and comments provided an important contribution to the decision-making process and have helped shape the long-term management decisions for the protection, development, and public use of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The completion of this plan is not the end of a process, but the beginning of the implementation process. The implementation of the plan and its many elements will require your continued support and involvement with the many individual organizations and agencies that participated in the plan development.

Again, thank you for taking an active role in the management decision-making for Minidoka Internment National Monument. Your active participation in the planning process is helping the National Park Service to achieve our mission to preserve these nationally significant resources and to provide for public enjoyment not only for current visitors but also for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Neil Rung".

Superintendent  
Minidoka Internment National Monument

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





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

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## ABBREVIATED FINAL General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

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





*Internees of Block  
7, 1943. Permission  
of the University of  
Washington.*



## Abstract

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

This document is the final general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS) for Minidoka Internment National Monument. The plan is intended to be a useful long-term decision-making tool, providing NPS managers with a logical and trackable rationale for decisions about the protection and public use of the national monument's resources. This GMP examines four possible management strategies, called "alternatives," and the impacts of implementing these alternatives on the national monument. These alternatives address NPS planning requirements and respond to issues identified over the past four years. One of these alternatives, Alternatives C, constitutes the Proposed Action and the Preferred Alternative by the NPS. If approved, it will become the general management plan for the national monument.

Because changes to the draft document were minor and confined primarily to factual corrections which do not modify the analysis, an abbreviated format has been used. Use of this format complies with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1503.4[c]). This abbreviated format requires that the material in this document be integrated with the draft GMP/EIS to describe the final plan, significant environmental impacts, and public comments that have been received and evaluated. Additional copies of the draft are available upon request.

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

The final GMP/EIS includes the results of public involvement, consultation, and coordination during the draft GMP/EIS public review. On June 21, 2005, the draft became available for public review. Public meetings were held in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California during July and August of 2005. The 90-day comment period ended on September 19, 2005 and approximately 375 individuals commented on the draft GMP/EIS in the form of participating in a public workshop or through correspondence.

The release of this final GMP/EIS and published Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* will be followed by a 30-day no-action period after which time the alternative or actions constituting the approved plan will be documented in a Record of Decision. For further information, contact the Superintendent at Minidoka Internment National Monument, P.O. Box 570, Hagerman, ID, 83332-0570 or by phone at (206)220-4157, or online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/miin>

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## Diverse Terminology and Perspectives on the Treatment of Nikkei in the U.S. during WW II

*Many different words have been and continue to be used to describe the U.S. government's wartime policy toward Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry, the events through which the policy was implemented, the facilities that provided for implementation, and the impact on affected individuals, families and communities. Highly charged debates over words and terminology continue to reflect intense passions and diverse perspectives on whether the policy was appropriate and justifiable 60 years ago. To commemorate historic sites, such as Minidoka Internment National Monument, and to fulfill the National Park Service's responsibilities to the public, the National Park Service acknowledges the diversity of perspectives and opinions on the meaning and significance of various words. Instead of selecting certain words or sets of terminology as either "acceptable" or "correct," the National Park Service encourages reflection, education, and discussion about this aspect of American history.*

*A glossary of words and terms appears in the last chapter of this document. It includes terminology used by the government, the media, and various members of the public during World War II, as well as in subsequent and contemporary debates and discussions. The preparers acknowledge that certain words and terms have been used by various individuals, groups, and the government itself for diverse ideological purposes, such as denying the negative results of policy implementation, minimizing the impacts, or exaggerating its consequences.*

*Among the words included in the glossary are: evacuation, exclusion, detention, incarceration, internment, and relocation that have been used to describe the event of forcefully removing people from their homes and communities. The people themselves have been referred to with words such as evacuees, detainees, inmates, internees, nonaliens, and prisoners. Also, the people have been referred to as Japanese, Japanese Americans, Japanese legal resident aliens, Nikkei, and by their generation in the United States — Issei (first generation) and Nisei (second generation). Finally, the facilities used to implement the policy have been called assembly centers, camps, concentration camps, incarceration camps, internment camps, prisons, relocation centers, and War Relocation Centers. This document uses some of these words, depending on the specific context and the sources used and cited. However, for the purposes of this draft general management plan and environmental impact statement, the National Park Service uses the following words most consistently: incarceration, internment, internee, Nikkei, camp, and Minidoka Relocation Center. We acknowledge that readers may not always agree with the use of certain words in specific contexts.*





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

# Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Chapter 1: Corrections and Revisions</b>          | <b>1</b>  |
| General Edits  | 1         |
| Preliminary Pages                                    | 2         |
| Table of Contents                                    | 4         |
| Chapter 1: Background of the National Monument       | 5         |
| Chapter 2: Purpose and Need                          | 6         |
| Chapter 3: Affected Environment                      | 7         |
| Chapter 4: Alternatives                              | 10        |
| Chapter 5: Environmental Consequences                | 19        |
| Chapter 6: Public Involvement and Consultation       | 22        |
| Appendices   | 22        |
| Glossary   | 23        |
| <br>   |           |
| <b>Chapter 2: Public Review of the Draft GMP/EIS</b> | <b>25</b> |
| Summary of Draft GMP/EIS Public Comments             | 26        |
| Comments on Implementation of the Plan               | 31        |
| NPS Responses to Comments from Correspondence        | 37        |



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