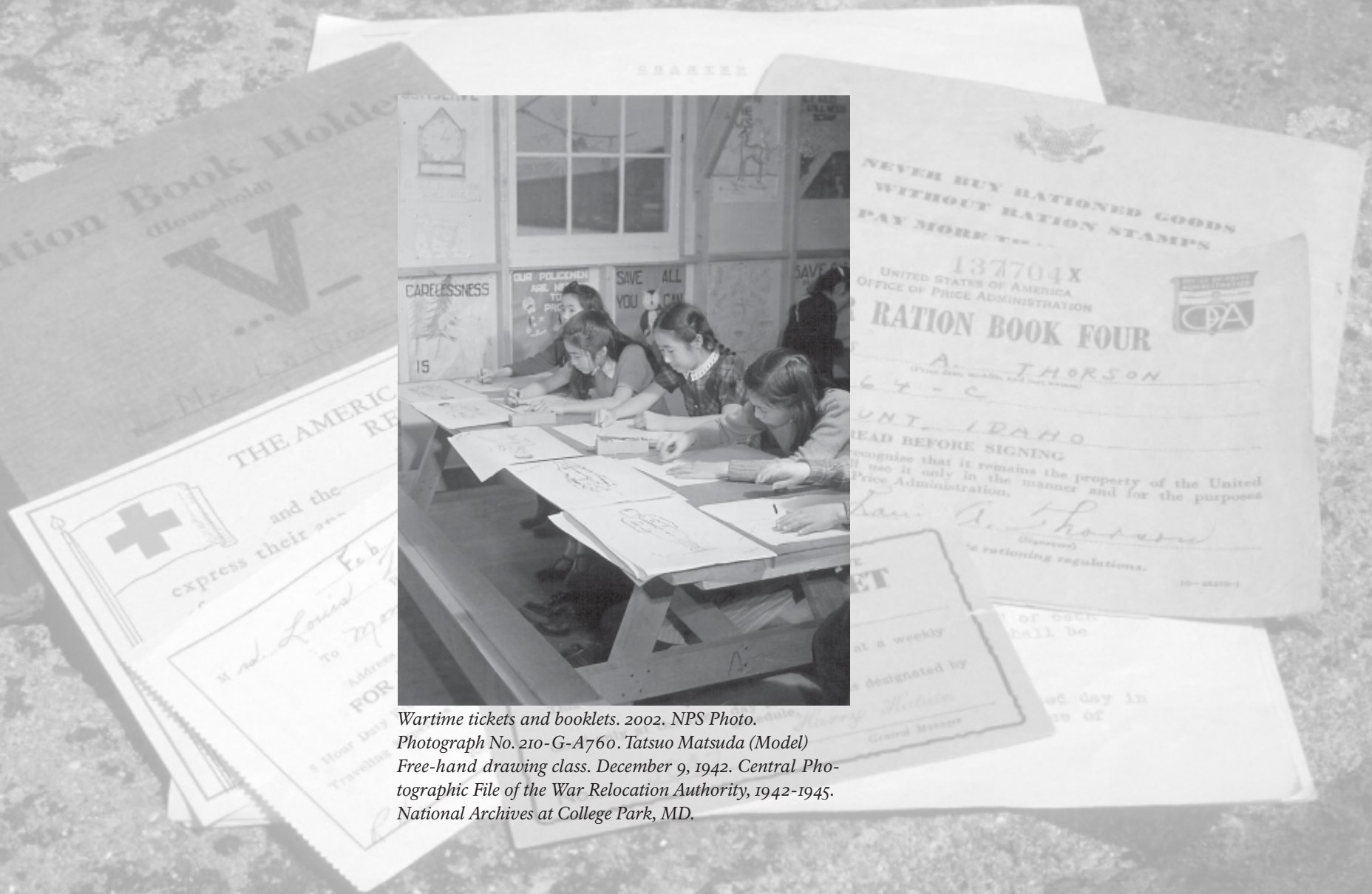


Wartime tickets and booklets. 2002. NPS Photo.
Photograph No. 210-G-A760. Tatsuo Matsuda (Model)
Free-hand drawing class. December 9, 1942. Central Photographic File of the War Relocation Authority, 1942-1945.
National Archives at College Park, MD.



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Chapter 2

Public Review of the Draft GMP/EIS

Throughout the planning process the NPS has diligently engaged the public in the development of the general management plan. Preceding the formal scoping process, the NPS staff in Idaho and Washington conducted informational meetings about the national monument with potential stakeholder groups, organizations, various governmental entities, and individuals during the spring, summer, and early fall of 2002 in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. The first planning newsletter was sent to the public, and nine public workshops were held for scoping in the fall of 2002. Following scoping, a second newsletter was released to the public which summarized the scoping comments. In summer 2003, a third newsletter was sent to the public, and eleven public workshops were held to discuss the draft alternatives. A complete summary of these public involvement stages and a summary of public comments are described in Chapter 6: Public Involvement and Consultation in the draft GMP/EIS. This chapter described public involvement during the third round of public workshops that were held to present and review the Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

The Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement was released to the public on June 21, 2005. The draft GMP/EIS was filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in June 2005. The EPA announced the availability of the draft GMP/EIS for public review and comment, and a notice of availability was published in the *Federal Register* on July 21, 2005 (Vol.70, No.139, pp. 42094-42095). Government agencies and the public were invited to submit public comments by regular mail, e-mail, fax, online, and at public meetings. The formal public comment period closed on September 19, 2005.

The NPS mailed approximately 900 draft GMP/EIS documents to agencies, organizations, and the public who had participated in the planning process, requested a copy, or were identified by the NPS as potentially having an interest in the project. Copies

of the draft GMP/EIS were posted for public review on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/miin>). The document was available at libraries in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Copies of the draft GMP/EIS could also be requested by contacting the NPS.

A fourth newsletter summarizing the draft GMP/EIS was produced and mailed to approximately 2,600 individuals. Another 2,000 newsletters were sent in packets to organizations, libraries, and public locations in the west and to stakeholder groups throughout the U.S. The newsletter provided an overview of the planning process, the four alternatives, and it announced the schedule of public meetings.

Local and regional newspapers and radio stations throughout the planning area were used to dis-

seminate information about the draft GMP/EIS and announce the public meetings. Press releases were mailed on June 21, 2005 by the NPS Pacific West Region-Seattle Office. Press releases were provided to the same print and broadcast media as during the earlier public involvement phases of the project.

Public Meetings

The NPS held ten public meetings in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California in July and August 2005 to provide the public with an opportunity to learn about the draft GMP/EIS and to offer comments. The meetings began with a presentation of the major elements of the draft GMP/EIS. The meeting then transitioned into an open house format or a facilitated group discussion format. Meetings were held in Eden, ID; Twin Falls, ID; Ontario, OR; Bainbridge Island, WA; Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; San Francisco, CA; and Los Angeles, CA. 213 people attended the meetings overall. The following table lists the locations, dates, and number of people who attended each meeting:

Table 1: Public Meetings		
Location	Date	Attendance
Eden, ID		
American Legion Hall	7/06/2005	17
Twin Falls, ID		
KMVT TV Community Room	7/07/2005	17
Ontario, OR		
Four Rivers Cultural Center	7/08/2005	7
Bainbridge Island, WA		
Bainbridge Island Commons	7/12/2005	12
Seattle, WA		
Japanese Baptist Church	7/13/2005	29
Nisei Veterans Hall	7/14/2005	25
Portland, OR		
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center	7/15/2005	36
Oregon Buddhist Temple	7/16/2005	14
San Francisco, CA		
National Japanese American Historical Society	8/09/2005	18
Los Angeles, CA		
National Japanese American Museum	8/10/2005	38
	TOTAL	213

Written Comments

During the public comment period, the NPS received a total of 159 written responses in the form of letters, e-mails, newsletter response forms, and web comments. Of those, nine responses were from government entities and organizations. The majority of written comments were received from Washington, California, and Idaho. Comments were also received from Wyoming, Oregon, Colorado, Florida, and Oklahoma. One comment was received from the following states: Alaska, Arizona, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and one from Canada.

Summary of Draft GMP/EIS Public Comments

The following summary incorporates both the public meeting comments and the written comments received by the NPS through the close of the public comment period. The NPS received comments from approximately 375 individuals and organizations during the public comment period. Substantive comments are those which challenge the accuracy of the analysis, dispute the accuracy of information presented, suggest different viable alternatives, or provide new information that makes a change in the proposal. In other words, they raise, debate, or question a point of fact, policy, or a concept presented in the document. The NPS is required to respond to all substantive comments. Comments in favor or against the proposed action or alternatives or comments that only agree or disagree with policy, while valuable, are not considered substantive, in a formal sense, and therefore do not require an official response. The NPS responses to substantive comments can be found in the Comment and Response section of the abbreviated final GMP/EIS.

The comments received covered a broad range of topics, ideas, and preferences. Many statements or ideas were expressed by several individuals. In this summary, similar comments are stated once along with how often the particular idea or topic was repeated.

The first section summarizes the public's preferences of the four alternatives and the reasons for their selections. The summary is then organized by topics that are addressed in each alternative of the draft general management plan and final general management plan. The topics are: Interpretation, Education, Cultural Resources, Visitor Experience and 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 concern the public are Interpretation, Education, Cultural Resources, and Visitor Experience and Visitor Facilities. The topics that were of moderate concern were Partnerships, Operations and Management, Land Protection and Boundaries, and Access and Circulation. There were only a couple comments on Management Zones, Natural Resources, Scenic Resources, and Carrying Capacity, and did not justify being included in this summary.

Alternatives

Approximately half of the comments received from the public explicitly stated a preference for one of the alternatives over the others. Of those, two thirds of the comments support Alternative C, the NPS Preferred Alternative. The re-establishment of the barracks block is the most common reason for supporting the preferred alternative as well as its educational value. Approximately one quarter of the respondents stated a preference for Alternative A: No Action; approximately half of these respondents think the NPS is misguided in its interpretation and presentation of historical facts related to the incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. The remainder of those

supporting Alternative A indicated their preference for the least expensive of the four alternatives. Only a handful of individuals support Alternatives B and D.

Interpretation

Interpretation of the internment and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II was the most common topic discussed by the public. Several individuals recounted their experiences during World War II, and it is clear their wartime experiences have shaped their perspective and how they want this piece of American history to be interpreted. The people who described their wartime experiences included former internees, former WRA staff, neighbors to the Minidoka camp, and World War II veterans. Many people recounted historical facts related to the internment and incarceration, conditions at Minidoka, and also World War II in the Pacific and European theaters. Some changes to the historical background chapter have been made as a result of public comments. The experiences and ideas expressed by the public all suggest that Minidoka's stories are diverse, and its meaning and relevance to each individual is unique. One particular commenter stated that "no one Nikkei voice or group should control Minidoka's meaning."

Why the internment and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II occurred is a topic that was brought up repeatedly in the public comments. The vast majority of people expressed concurrence with the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians findings that the internment and incarceration of Nikkei "was not determined by military conditions but were the result of race prejudice, war hysteria, and failure of political leadership" (U.S. CWRIC 1997: 194). One commenter stated that "it's not a blame game—it's understanding OUR [American] history."

Several public commenters maintain that the internment and incarceration was justified because some Nikkei posed a threat to national

security, and incarcerating all Nikkei was the best way to ensure the prevention of subversive activities against the U.S. A few people also want it known that thousands of Japanese Americans renounced their citizenship and declared themselves enemies of the U.S., and that Nikkei living outside the exclusion zone were not incarcerated. A couple of commenters also state that the living conditions at Minidoka were equal to those of the military and even better than some people living in southern Idaho at the time.

The vast majority of public comments on interpretation fall under the interpretive themes that have been identified in the draft GMP/EIS. These include interpreting the relationship between Minidoka and civil liberties and constitutional rights, discussing the loyalty questionnaire, and Nikkei contributions to national defense during World War II. The public clearly supports the premise that the lives of internees before, during, and after World War II must be described, together with the hardships, racism, and injustice they endured. Many commenters said that the NPS must interpret the experiences of people related with Minidoka, such as the WRA staff, neighbors, and those who were associated with the event or internees. Interpreting the history and significance of the historic site and its features is important for the majority of commenter. Also determined important by most respondents was for the public to understand how internees and then homesteaders created a community in the desert environment and transformed the landscape into an agricultural area. Finally, many felt that the context of a world at war must be interpreted for the public. While internees experienced profound hardship at Minidoka, millions of people throughout the world experienced war, suffering, and injustice. Overall, the vast majority of people stated that interpretation needs to be authentic, compelling, and relevant.

Terminology continues to be a controversial topic. Some people want the NPS to use the term “concentration camp” in publications and in-

terpretation. A few people want the term “relocation center” to be used to be historically accurate. Some people state that the term “internment camp” is misleading and inaccurate, as the “internment camps” were specifically for enemy aliens run by the Department of Justice. Words to describe the experience, such as internment, detention, relocation, evacuation, and incarceration were all discussed, and no consensus preference emerged for any specific word usage.

Education

Similar to previous public comments on education, the vast majority of the public said that education is the core mission of the national monument. Most desire both on-site and off-site education to reach as many people as possible. Many educational techniques and strategies were proposed to enhance education about the significance and meaning of the Minidoka experience, and most of these comments would be accommodated under the prescriptions of the preferred alternative. These educational tools include engaging and interactive exhibits, a scale model, a website, educational materials, fieldtrips, teacher trainings, and a traveling trunk kit. Many people mentioned that lesson plans should be developed and incorporated into school curricula in numerous states. A few people mentioned that the NPS should allow for research at the site, including a database of internees who were incarcerated similar to Ellis Island. Most people agreed the focus should be a national audience, and some people said that education should begin locally in the southern Idaho area.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources was the third most common topic for public comment. Restoring features in the landscape to World War II era conditions is important to accurately depict the camp. Suggestions, most of which are included in the prescriptions under the preferred alternative, included restoring the garden, honor roll, perimeter barbed

wire fence, guard tower, baseball fields, root cellar, and many of the small scale landscape features. The Minidoka landfill was also recognized as a critical archeological resource for the national monument.

The barracks block was an intriguing and stimulating proposal for many internees and was supported by a large majority of the public comments received. Some people stated it was important to acquire historic barrack buildings to be authentic and accurately portray residential life. A few people said that the mess hall and lavatory/laundry building were necessary to show daily life and the conditions in the camp. Former internees also wanted the barracks to show improvements made to the barracks and camp landscape by internees. A few people want the NPS to ensure that landscape features in the residential area are accurately portrayed, including the ornamental gardens and walkways.

Some people disagree with establishing a barracks block because it could be too costly, and the barracks could be interpreted through other means, such as a scale model. Additionally, a few people want to see more of the historic buildings reconstructed.

Many public meeting attendees cited oral history as an essential component of education, interpretation, and cultural resources. Some members of the public suggested candidates for oral histories in addition to former internees, such as the WRA staff and military police at Minidoka. Many Portlanders also expressed their concern that the oral histories are focused on Seattle Nikkei, and they want more representation of the Portland Nikkei experience.

Visitor Experience and Visitor Facilities

Several people described their recent visits to the site. Many felt a strong sense of place at the site, while others were disappointed that there wasn't much to see. Some people said the high desert and open environment allows for a full appreciation of the physical site.

Several people want the national monument to include places where they can be alone and contemplate, particularly in the residential area. Expressing emotions and healing is important to some former internees and their descendants. They want to actually stand in the residential area and understand the internees' experiences where they happened.

Visitor facilities are an important component to visitor experience. Of those that commented on visitor facilities, the vast majority want them to be authentic to the historic period, wherever possible. Only a couple of people wanted a newly constructed visitor center. Most like the barracks block concept which could serve interpretive functions as well as provide spaces for additional visitor and park needs, such as classrooms, collections storage, park administration, etc.

Several public comments supported the idea of a new memorial at the site. Nisei and subsequent Nikkei generations wish to honor the Issei, as they were the people who suffered the most at Minidoka.

Public comments also reiterate that proper and improved directional signs are necessary along the major routes to Minidoka.

A few people discussed overnight facilities, whether at the site or nearby. Some people think it would be intriguing to provide an overnight experience inside a barracks building for educational purposes. A few people mentioned the need for camping facilities at the site or nearby.

Partnerships and Outreach

Partnerships are an important component of the national monument's educational mission and in implementation and development of the site. Specific organizations were suggested as potential partners, including local Idaho partners, educational institutions, as well as national civil rights organizations. Amtrak was suggested as a potential partner, so visitors could experience the train ride to Eden. It was

also suggested that the NPS should work with local governments and organizations to promote tourism in the area.

Operations and Management

Funding was a frequent concern for the public. Most people wanted to know how the funding process works. A few people suggested that the NPS seek out private funding for specific projects proposed in the GMP. Some people disagreed with spending federal funds on this project, as there are other needs and priorities at this time. A few people suggested using the money to preserve other historic World War II sites.

The proposed name change from Minidoka Internment National Monument to Minidoka National Historic Site was also an issue for many members of the public. Of those who commented on this issue specifically, approximately half agree with the proposed name change, while the other half either oppose it or have suggested additional names. Those who supported the name change reasoned that the term “internment” is technically incorrect and that “national historic site” is more accurate in defining the site than “national monument.” Several people who oppose the name change stated that the word “internment” instantly describes what happened at Minidoka. For a couple of people, the term “monument” is more powerful than “historic site.” Other names that were suggested include: Minidoka National Internment Site and Minidoka Concentration Camp National Historic Site.

Some individuals are concerned about the project’s schedule and state that implementation must begin immediately. They would like the facilities and restoration of historic features to be completed soon so that former internees can see developments at the site while they are still alive.

Staffing was also a concern for a few individuals. They would like to see NPS rangers and volunteers at the site. They commented that it would be a more meaningful visitor experience if some of the staff were former internees or their relatives so that they could provide personal stories of their family experience. A few people are concerned with vandalism at the site, and they want staff there to ensure safety and security.

Land Protection and Boundaries

Overall, acquiring the 128 acre Herrmann property, landfill, and USBR lands is supported by a large majority of the public respondents. People stated that the additional historic lands would benefit the educational mission of the national monument and allow the NPS to preserve these historic areas. A few people mentioned that it is important to acquire the farm-in-a-day property in order to educate the public about the post-camp homesteading era and agriculture in southern Idaho. A few people said that it would be in the interest of the NPS to keep some portions in agricultural use, which is the dominant land use in the area.

Access, Circulation, and Parking

Transportation was a key concern at the public meetings held in Idaho. Some people stated the best solution to traffic problems could be accomplished by improvement and re-routing Hunt Road along E Perrine Road and E 400 S to the south of the national monument. The importance of conducting a transportation study was also voiced.

Within the site, trails, parking, and roads were mentioned. A few people stated that the trails linking portions of the site should be accessible to all people.

Conclusion

Public comments received have been documented, analyzed, and considered in decision-making and incorporated into the final GMP/EIS as appropriate. Comments that presented new data or addressed the adequacy of the document, the alternatives or the analysis are responded to pursuant to NEPA regulations. Comments expressing personal opinion or that had no specific relevance to the adequacy or accuracy of the DGMP/EIS were considered in the decision-making process but were not responded to directly.

Consultation and agency letters on the DGMP/EIS are included at the end of this chapter and contain substantive comments received and responses to those comments. A number of comments provided valuable suggestions on improving the DGMP/EIS. Some comments led to changes reflected in the final GMP/EIS. Other comments resulted in a response to explain NPS policy, to refer readers to information in the EIS, to answer technical questions, to further explain technical issues, or to provide clarification.

The public comment period on the draft GMP/EIS was the culmination of formal public engagement in the planning process for the Minidoka GMP/EIS. Public engagement has occurred over the past three years from public scoping through draft alternatives and public review of the draft GMP/EIS. The widespread support for the package of actions that constitute the preferred alternative affirm that the planning process actively involved the public at all stages of the development of the GMP/EIS.

Comments on Implementation of the Plan

Throughout the public planning process for Minidoka Internment National Monument, the National Park Service received an extraordinary number of comments that offered suggestions about how the national monument should interface with visitors, what specific experiences it should offer, and other facets of its operation. Most of these comments are not specific to any one of the alternatives analyzed in the draft GMP/EIS. Rather, they suggest programs or activities, which could be implemented under several of the action alternatives, to achieve the desired future conditions of the national monument. In addition, many involve specific suggestions that are beyond the level of detail addressed in a general management plan. For the purposes of the EIS, most of these comments are not substantive (see the NPS Responses to Comments section in this chapter) and do not include a direct response in this document.

The NPS recognizes, however, that these comments represent valuable input from a concerned public in support of the purpose of Minidoka Internment National Monument. Therefore, these implementation-level suggestions have been summarized and included here so that future managers of the national monument can consider these comments to help formulate more specific implementation-level plans and programs that are responsive to the public's interests. Such future plans and actions will be subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and may require additional, more-detailed environmental analysis at the time they are proposed. (As provided by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, any NEPA document produced for these efforts would be "tiered" or procedurally connected to this EIS.) These analyses may include additional public involvement, providing opportunities for further comments and suggestions.

Summaries of the implementation-level suggestions provided since the beginning of the public planning process are listed below:

Interpretation

- Minidoka should be conceived as a site for ongoing debate about the issues of civil rights and constitutional history, and the NPS should use this interpretive theme to guide its interpretation and management of the site by foregrounding it in exhibits, interpretive materials, public outreach, its web site, and events at or related to the site.
- Develop interpretation to enable visitors to consider Minidoka from the perspective of and through the experiences of the Issei, Nisei, and WRA staff.
- To be historically accurate, the North Side Canal and the Swimming Hole should be regarded in two distinct lights: 1) in the context of the unjust incarceration, and then separately 2) in the context of what the Nikkei did there, which in this case includes both positive recreation experiences as well as tragic events.
- As NPS staff proceed with implementation of the plan, they must keep in mind the tragic, grave, unjust circumstances of the Minidoka concentration camp that accompany any “improvements” made there.
- “No one Nikkei voice or group should control Minidoka’s meaning. All the fractiousness of military service that still haunts the Japanese American community must be represented in the voices included in exhibits, printed materials, and other interpretations of the site.”
- “Minidoka should not remain fixed in its meaning, but, consistent with the Organization of American Historians’ suggestions in its 2004 report on Teaching Citizenship and Patriotism, it should evolve.”
- “Explore methods of framing individual group experiences in dialogue with other group histories, such as seeing Japanese American history in relation to Native American history. This is a valid exploration, considering that the federal government’s management of Japanese Americans during WWII was directly influenced by its prior experience with Native Americans and vice versa.”
- “Minidoka Internment National Monument should honor the veterans, but it must not forget the draft resisters, the Issei, women, and the younger generations of American Nikkei. It is imperative that the larger public be aware of the fractures within the community that are a manifestation of the internment and incarceration and one of its most distressing legacies.”
- “Minidoka should provide an opportunity for Americans to discuss the different experiences that are often the result of racial or ethnic identity and, hopefully, learn to more fully appreciate the validity of each others’ views.”
- Develop educational programs and materials that include information about the Department of Justice Camps, including describing the experiences of Japanese, Germans, and Italians who were interned in these camps.
- Develop educational programs and materials that include information about other countries (including Mexico and Canada) that had internment and incarceration camps for those of Japanese descent.
- The national monument should include interpretation of the trauma that occurred as a result of having to leave beloved pets behind.

- Explore the use of the instructions or other documents given to the camp guards, detailing their orders and the actions to be taken under various circumstances. This information could be used interpretively to underscore the fact that the internees were being held against their will.
- Use the art and creativity of the internees for interpretive and educational purposes. Include information about internee bands, music, diaries, sketches, architecture, and other forms of art. Examples of such interpretation can be found at the Teresenstadt concentration camp museum in Europe and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- Use the debate over terminology as a topic for active learning.

Education and Interpretation

- Seek and evaluate other sources of information to supplement that which has already been obtained from public meetings. Among others, these sources of information should include:
 - The Densho testimonies and other oral histories that are obtained from personal one-on-one dialogues conducted in an atmosphere conducive to eliciting the maximum amount of frank information.
 - Books about the camps and internment, particularly those that may include accounts taken from former internees shortly after their release.
 - Diaries kept by the former internees would provide very valuable insight into the personal feelings and emotions of the authors recorded when they occurred.
 - Articles published in academic journals. Contemporary articles published in journals in the fields of both history and ethnic American studies are another source of

information. The more contemporary articles are likely to be quite dependable sources of historical information, since all such articles have been peer-reviewed and most of the facts that the U.S. Government possessed on this subject are now openly available.

- Ask former internees who have spoken to classes about student's questions to develop compelling educational programs that will cater to students.
- Related educational organizations and museums, such as the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C., the D-day Museum in New Orleans, and the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

Interpretive Displays

- Present photographs, letters, artifacts, audiovisual programs and documentaries to provide the visitors with the primary interpretive themes of the national monument.
- Update the displays in the interpretive facilities regularly so visitors will be enticed to return to the national monument.
- Incorporate the latest computer simulation and virtual reality capabilities in order to provide a virtual tour of the camp as it existed during WWII.
- Create a dioramic display of the landscape, including the flora and fauna. This display could illustrate how the climatic and environmental conditions affected daily life at Minidoka.
- Create a display showing the names of all those held at Minidoka. List the names according to their barrack address.
- Provide a scale model of the entire camp to enable visitors to see and understand the vastness of the camp, the large population residing within the camp, and the spatial relationship of the national monument to the historic extent of the camp. The scale

model could be in the interpretive facilities or as part of a traveling exhibit.

- Have a registration book available so that visitors can record their reactions to Minidoka, and also provide additional ideas.

Educational Programs and Strategies

- Develop multi-media educational materials such as DVDs, videos, and encourage them to be broadcast on television. Create a real-time media program. It could be a webcam on-site that is displayed on the Minidoka website and at off-site locations, such as Seattle and Portland.
- Develop a multi-disciplinary approach to convey the Minidoka story and leverage the unique power of personal narrative to convey it. Recount biographies in the individual's own words. Personal and emotional connections to history are what most compel interest in historically significant locales. The poems of Mitsuye Yamada are one fine example, especially as they recount her life before, during, and after her time at Minidoka.
- Bring together an advisory group of teachers to guide educational programs.
- Provide teacher training workshops on-site during a two day period. Provide honorarium and credit to teachers for participating in workshop. Encourage teachers both nationally and internationally to participate.
- Maintain a team of traveling teachers to educate about Minidoka in communities throughout the region.
- Develop a speaking or lecture program with a panel of experts or speakers on subjects congruent with the purpose of the national monument.
- Compile a traveling kit for teachers. The kit could include artifacts, teaching plans, and could be a traveling trunk or duffle bag representative of those brought to Minidoka by internees.
- Develop a traveling exhibit that could include films, PowerPoint presentations, and workshops that accompany it. It could be used by school groups, and operated by seasonal staff. It could be based upon the average internee's experience.
- Work locally with the Valley School, Magic Valley Alternative School, and Jerome School District.
- Minidoka educational materials and funding should be made available to the College of Southern Idaho (CSI), to augment their existing facilities and resources. The public could have access to these materials at CSI.
- Partner with the Idaho Council for Social Studies to promote Minidoka at their annual state convention or at a regional event. Need a chapter in the Idaho history books about Minidoka.
- Develop an education component to work with social studies teachers, such as the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS), state departments of public instruction, etc. This should be coordinated with other existing organizations beyond the borders of Idaho.
- Develop a program where students could receive academic credits for participating in national monument activities, such as archeological projects. Educational programs could also be part of "outdoors school" in order to learn civic lessons.
- Create an educational program targeted for the descendants of former internees. This type of program would encourage descendants to keep their families' stories alive.
- Build a curriculum that is simple enough to teach. It should comply with the "No Child Left Behind" standards.

- Create a program for individuals to make commemorative artwork.
- Develop a living history program.
- Provide a bilingual interpretive program (Japanese/ English), as many Japanese nationals have an interest in Minidoka.
- Work with architecture or engineering classes at Idaho universities to build a scale model of the camp and of the water towers.

Off- site Education

- Develop off-site interpretation at the various “assembly center” locations where internees were sent prior to Minidoka and at some of the places where internees leaving camp were relocated.
- Provide educational information at the Eden railroad stop where internees were unloaded. This location could help to provide visitors with sense of the internees’ arrival experience.

Cultural Resources

Collections

- Collect and display artifacts, such as arts and crafts and scrap lumber furniture that internees created at Minidoka.
- Collaborate with museums and other organizations to increase knowledge of and accessibility to artifacts and memorabilia curated and protected by Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Oral History

- Contact the former teachers, military police, and other staff that worked at the Minidoka WRA Center to obtain oral histories and other information that could be used interpretively.

Barracks Block

- George Nakashima, furniture designer and architect, designed and built a “model apartment” for his family at Minidoka. With the help of Nakashima’s descendents, recreate the “model apartment” based on historic photographs and drawings.
- The bathroom, toilet, and laundry room should be authentic: showers with no partitions, toilets with no partitions or with cardboard boxes used for privacy, scrub boards to wash clothes, sheets, and towels by hand, etc. The mess halls should contain the “picnic” tables where meals were eaten with audio of three hundred people eating together.
- To reflect the complexity of historical experience, to express the values of most internees, and to show why relocation was unjust and unnecessary, it is important to balance symbols of incarceration with those of internee life. Perhaps nothing better expresses the culture, the endurance, and the vitality of internee experiences than does a garden. Thus, in addition to Fujitaro Kubota’s entry garden, it would be very effective to recreate one or more of the gardens in front of the residential barracks.
- Restore unpaved pathways and wooden boardwalks that the internees built and used at Minidoka Relocation Center.
- Show the little details-“I remember the satin flags with stars hanging...to represent each family member serving in the military... A gold star was placed by names on the Honor Roll to show that that soldier had died in combat... Pail and brush to clean shoes...”
- Consider restoring recreation areas, including baseball fields, recreation halls, etc.

Natural Resources

- Consider contaminants from the World War II era that may be on-site and at the landfill, including burned coal residue,

arsenic, heavy metals, radioactive isotopes, gas/diesel underground storage tanks, and residue from the historic wastewater treatment system.

Visitor Use and Facilities

- Visitors should be able to experience Minidoka at their own pace and in their own space. There should be no entrance fee or mandatory guided tours.
- Provide space for a bookstore and gift shop. Sell items that reflect the experiences of the internees, similar to the historic canteen items.
- Develop a large outdoor gathering space.
- Construct a picnic area for visitors.
- Provide a classroom and discussion group area.
- Include copies of the *Minidoka Irrigator* newspaper and *Hunt Highlights* at a library that it is open to the public.
- Artists should be involved early in the development of the monument and their work fully integrated into the design.

Partnerships and Outreach

- Consider partnerships with the following organizations:
 - National Organizations: Japanese American Citizens League (specifically chapters located in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Alaska), Asian American Comparative Collection at the University of Idaho, Smithsonian, Nisei Veterans associations, Japanese American churches, state historical societies, Boy and Girl Scouts, Japanese sister city programs, Pearl Harbor Association, universities and schools.

- Idaho Organizations: Friends of Minidoka Inc., Jerome County Historical Society, North Side Canal Company, College of Southern Idaho and the Herrett Center, South-Central Idaho Tourism and Recreational Development Association, chambers of commerce, Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum,
- Oregon Organizations: Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission, Four Rivers Cultural Center,
- Washington Organizations: Wing Luke Asian Museum, Densho Project, University of Washington Department of American Ethnic Studies,
- California Organizations: Japanese American National Museum, National Japanese American Historical Society, Japanese American National Library, University of California at Davis (Japanese American oral history project).

- Keep in continuous contact with Japanese American community, as input is vital for outreach and educational outreach.
- Make connections with churches throughout the nation that provided Christmas gifts to children at Minidoka; outreach to these communities.
- Develop a recreational program related to historic significance of baseball, with teams from across the nation coming to Minidoka to play baseball.
- Encourage the development of an Asian American think tank, race relations research center, conference center for seminars.

Land Protection and Boundaries

- Through cooperative agreements, encourage the protection of prominent topographic and landscape features and the character

of the historic camp landscape. For example, use conservation easements, conservation plans, and scenic conservation easements.

- Develop strategies for creative management and acquisition measures with partners (e.g. non-profit acquisition of land in efforts to preserve or expand national monument boundary). Only consider willing buyer, willing seller for boundary adjustments. Condemnation is not an option.
- Consult with the landowner to explore the remnants of the historic Nitta garden/Wildlife Preserve. Some internees had experiences there as children played there.
- To orient visitors to the site and to indicate the spatial relationship of the present-day national monument to the former Minidoka Relocation Center, work with neighboring properties to mark the historic boundaries, guard towers, and water towers at the camp. Mark these locations with tall slender poles or other indicators that could be color-coded or numbered and referenced to a site plan drawing.

Access and Circulation

- Issues and ideas to consider in the transportation study- re-routing Hunt Road, create turnouts, or construct speed bumps. 400 South should be extended as a paved through roadway, including a bridge over the North Side Canal.
- Consider shuttle or transit service to the national monument with an interpretive guide or tour. This would limit the number of vehicles on the roads in and around the national monument.
- In cooperation with Amtrak, arrange for passenger train service to a stop near Minidoka Internment National Monument. Arriving visitors would then be bussed to the national monument. This could be symbolic of the transportation of arriving internees to the camp by train and bus.

NPS Responses to Comments from Correspondence

The public comments contained numerous helpful comments and suggestions to the GMP. These comments are summarized in the Summary of Public Comments on the draft GMP/EIS found in the Chapter 6 of this document. The following comment and response section only addresses substantive comments, as required by federal law, the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1502.4) and the NPS Director's Order 12 Handbook on Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making. Substantive comments are those which challenge the accuracy of the analysis, dispute the accuracy of information presented, suggest different viable alternatives, or provide new information that makes a change in the proposal. In other words, they raise, debate, or question a point of fact, policy, or a concept presented in the document. The NPS is required to respond to all substantive comments. Comments in favor or against the proposed action or alternatives or comments that only agree or disagree with policy, while valuable, are not considered substantive, and therefore do not require a formal response. They are, however, a part of the public record and are considered along with all other comments both written and verbal.

This section includes reproductions of letters received from government agencies, organizations, and the reproduction of substantive public comments that were received on the draft GMP/EIS during the public comment period (June 21, 2005-September 19, 2005). Specific individualized responses to substantive comments, prepared by the NPS, are also shown. The nature of substantive verbal comments received from the public workshops held in July and August 2005 were similar to substantive written comments. Therefore, the plan-

ning team determined that separate responses to verbal comments were not necessary. Additionally, several individuals raised similar substantive comments. For the purposes of this comment and response section, the NPS selected one of these substantive comments to represent the particular issue, and provided a single response. It is noted in the response when the substantive comment summarizes similar comments.

Letters appear on the left side of each page. Substantive comments are denoted by brackets. The NPS response to each substantive comment appears on the right side of the page.

A full set of public comments throughout the planning process are maintained at the Minidoka Internment National Monument headquarters in Hagerman, Idaho.

Comments

Name: Elizabeth Wedel #17
 Address: 328 Tacoma St.
 City/State/Zip: New Orleans, LA 70124

RECEIVED
 JUL 5 2005
 HAFO

Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005

The NPS invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS). By providing your comments, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The draft GMP/EIS contains four distinct alternatives for the future management of Minidoka. The draft GMP/EIS identifies Alternative C as preferred by the NPS. **Please tell us if you agree with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of any of the alternatives.** You may also provide comments on all sections and elements of the draft GMP/EIS.

We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

Thank you for allowing me to participate in the review of this draft. The Nat. Park Service's Preferred Alternative (C), appears to be the most comprehensive and thoroughly planned of all four offered. The schematic drawings of interpretive facilities help visualize the look of the future demonstration block.

While Alternative C proposes the most actions, it also seems to be the most challenging since it involves bureaucratic steps which will require Congressional approval. This might delay activities considerably (?)

01 *I do not agree with the recommendation for name change. In my perception, the word "Internment" instantly conjures the injustices suffered by a group of Americans during WWII and fits in with the stated interpretive themes.*

Finally, while perusing the themes under Place, it occurred to me that it is important to preserve as much of the desert environment as possible to emphasize the extreme conditions under which the internees lived.

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Responses

Letter 17: Elizabeth Wedel

1 Thank you for your concerned response on the proposed name change from Minidoka Internment National Monument to Minidoka National Historic Site. We received several comments on the name change and are addressing the name change issue in response to your comment. The comments received both supported and did not support the name change, and some individuals offered new names. The NPS strongly considered all of these comments and concluded that the proposed name change is the preferred alternative to be carried into the Final GMP/EIS. There are several reasons the NPS chose to keep the proposed name change, and they are described below.

One primary reason for changing the name is the lack of consensus on the appropriate terms that accurately describe the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. As stated in the "Diverse Terminology and Perspectives on the Treatment of Nikkei in the U.S. during World War II," numerous words have been used to describe the U.S. government's wartime policy toward Nikkei, the events through which this policy was implemented, and the facilities that provided for implementation. The word "internment" is problematic for several historians, scholars, and individuals who assert that the WRA camps were not "internment camps." "Internment camps" were Department of Justice camps generally run by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. They maintain that "internment" is a legal term that describes the imprisonment of civilian enemy aliens during wartime, which is different than imprisoning all Nikkei (Japanese Americans and legal residents of Japanese ancestry). They suggest that the word "internment"

Comments

Responses

(Elizabeth Wedel)

misinterprets what occurred at Minidoka.

The term “national monument” is similarly confusing for some members of the public. One commenter noted that “national monument” conjures large natural landscapes, such as Craters of the Moon National Monument or Mount Saint Helens National Monument. Several people have stated their ideas for the design of a monument or memorial feature, rather than understanding that the national monument is 73 acres of the historic Minidoka camp.

Archeological, built, and landscape features and historic events at Minidoka merit the designation of historic site. In 2001, Minidoka Internment National Monument was designated a national park unit through presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act of 1906. NPS unit names can be changed through legislation. It is therefore appropriate to suggest a name change to Minidoka National Historic Site to be more reflective of the unit’s historic value. National historic sites may or may not describe the historic events or features for which the site was designated in their titles. An example is Manzanar National Historic Site which preserves, protects, and interprets the historic Manzanar War Relocation Authority Center where Japanese Americans were interned and incarcerated during World War II in eastern California.

Comments on the name change varied. Some commenters stated that it is important to keep the word “internment” because it helps to define what occurred at Minidoka. A couple

Comments

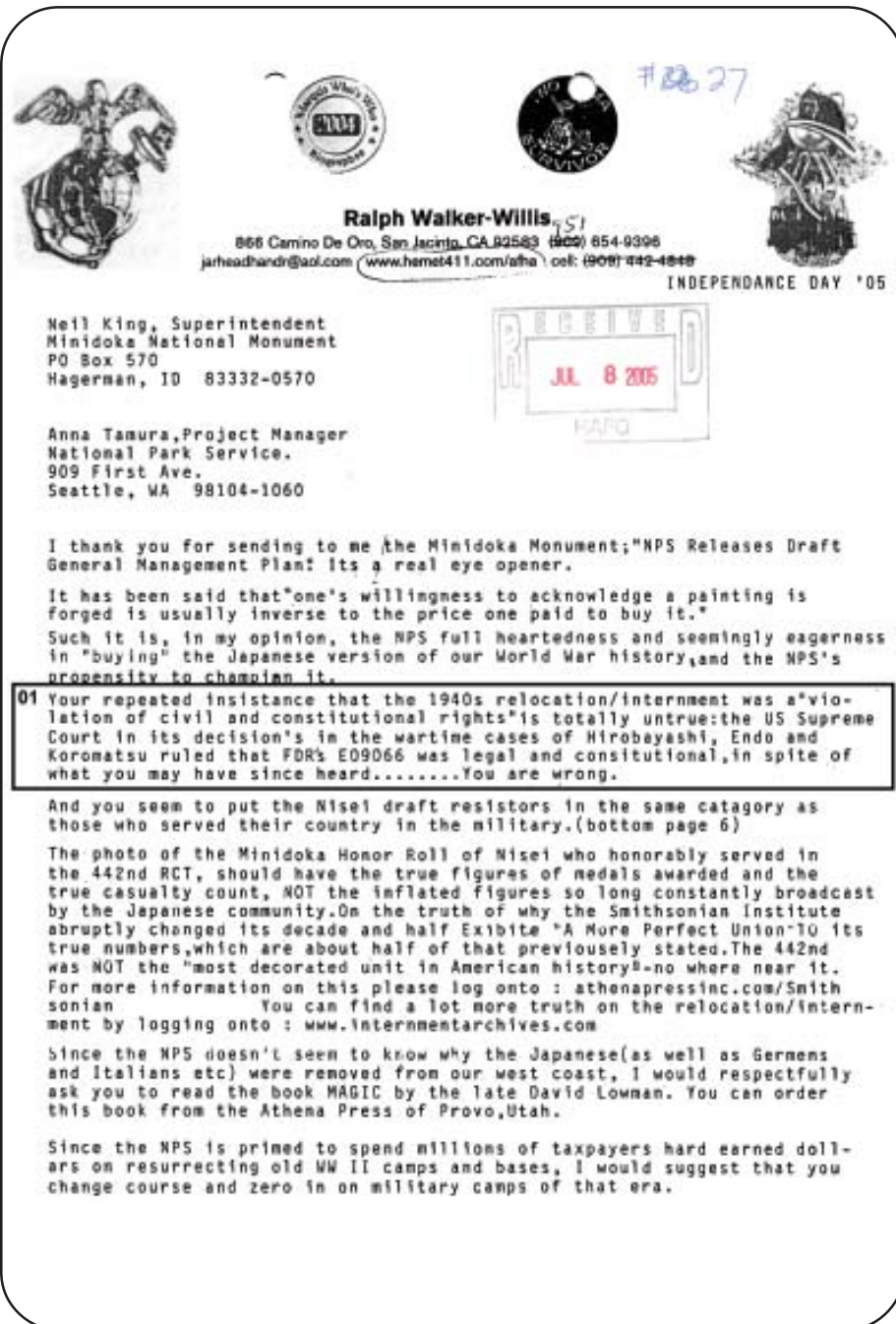
Responses

(Elizabeth Wedel)

individuals suggested new names, such as “Minidoka Concentration Camp National Historic Site” while others were adamant that the term “Relocation Center” was the most historically accurate term that should be used. One term in the NPS unit’s name, whether it is “internment,” “relocation center,” or “concentration camp” does not describe who was interned, by whom, during what time period, for what reasons, nor for how long. It is these questions that the national monument intends to answer for visitors to the site.

Education is the key mission of the national monument, and the terminology subject will be an important component of education and interpretation at the site. Minidoka is intended to present a forum for learning and discussing the primary interpretive themes and issues related to the interment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. Terminology is an important part of this history and the interpretation of it. Therefore, the NPS’s position is to change the name to Minidoka National Historic Site and ensure that the site’s history, including terminology, is accurately and honestly provided at the site.

Comments



Responses

Letter 27: Ralph Walker-Willis

1 The phrase, "a violation of civil and constitutional rights" is presently a widely accepted judgment about the World War II incarceration of persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States. The Supreme Court found Gordon Hirabayashi in 1943 and Fred Korematsu in 1944 guilty for their failure to obey the curfew and exclusion directive created under Executive Order 9066. In 1976 President Gerald R. Ford formally revoked Executive Order 9066 stating, ". . . that [the] evacuation was wrong [and] Japanese-Americans were and are loyal Americans." Thus, Executive Order 9066 is no longer operational. Additionally, other Presidents and Congress have taken actions to acknowledge that the internment and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II was not justified; these actions are described on pages 38-41 of the Draft General Management Plan.

Two researchers in the early 1980s discovered documents showing that the military and the Justice Department had suppressed vital evidence in its proceedings to the Supreme Court in the Korematsu and Hirabayashi cases. Such actions resulted in a rehearing of these cases at their U. S. District Courts in 1983 and 1986 respectively. Their wartime convictions were vacated. In brief, what was decided earlier in 1943 and 1944 has been overturned, and, in essence, invalidated. Mitsuye Endo won her 1943 case at the Supreme Court with the ruling that a decidedly loyal citizen could not be incarcerated or denied the right to return to the West Coast on the basis of her ethnicity. Certainly the Hirabayashi and Korematsu cases are part of our legal history since the Justice Department did not

Comments

There are literally hundreds of these old abandoned camp sites that could keep you busy for many years. A couple of these are two Marine Camps, Elliot and Mathews, both near San Diego. Freeways I-5 runs thru Camp Mathews (at the north end of Rose Canyon) and I-15 which runs thru Camp Elliot.

Just think!--you can erect a plaque at such camp sites which could read as follows : " On this site, in the 1940s sat Marine Camp Elliot, where many thousands of US Marines trained before being shipped (in cattle troop ships) to Pacific battle zones, many never to return.".....Now wouldn't that be a much better advocacy and pastime for the NPS, than to continue catering to the continual whining and everlasting belly-aching of the Japanese. If the NPS could do that for us WW II G.I.s then we too, could make annual pilgrimages to our old camp site. Wouldn't that be just dandy !

Ralph Walker-Willis

cc: Hon. Marv Bono MC

Responses

(Ralph Walker-Willis)

appeal the vacated verdicts and these cases never went up to the 1983 and 1986 U.S. Supreme Court. As legal precedent, however, District Court Judge Patel writes that "it is now recognized as having very limited application" and, District Court Judge Voorhees in 1986 stated that, "It is now considered by almost everyone that the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II was simply a tragic mistake for which American society as a whole must accept responsibility."

Comments

Responses

38-

Name: Robert K. Tsutakawa

Address: 300 Longfellow Lane

City/State/Zip: Columbia, MO 65203

Stamp: JUL 15 2005 HAFO

Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005

The NPS invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS). By providing your comments, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The draft GMP/EIS contains four distinct alternatives for the future management of Minidoka. The draft GMP/EIS identifies Alternative C as preferred by the NPS. Please tell us if you agree with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of any of the alternatives. You may also provide comments on all sections and elements of the draft GMP/EIS.

We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

I think alternative C should be recommended over the other three.

My first concern is that, due to the isolated location, the number of visitors will be very limited.

01

I suggest that the NPS establish a small campground (called Camp Minidoka) in the vicinity to bring in more visitors.

My second concern is that, I am now 75 years old and be unable to visit the completed monument. Hurry up.

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

Comments can also be submitted via e-mail to MINL_GMP@nps.gov

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Letter 38: Robert K. Tsutakawa

1 Early in the planning process, the NPS did consider including a campground as a feature of one of the alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS. Upon review, however, a campground was not considered to be compatible with the purpose of the national monument. In addition, the small size of the monument makes it impractical to properly locate such a facility on-site without disrupting cultural resources, the cultural landscape, or their interpretation. Thus, a campground was eliminated from the alternatives carried forward for analysis.

Comments

Responses

42
Name: Diane Takeuchi
Address: 1685 S.E. Liberty Ave.
City/State/Zip: Gresham, OR 97030-1023
JUL 20 2005
HAFO

Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005

The NPS invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS). By providing your comments, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

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We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

I agree with the preferred alternative C, which recreates the block with its 12 barracks, dining hall, laundry and Sanitary Building and recreation hall. For block #22's location, I too would like to see the acquisition of the land to the north. Of the 4, Alternative C is my choice.

01 Since the internees arrived by train & were bussed to "camp" I would love to see a partnership with Amtrak for service to Shoshone (or whatever station stop is closest) & then a park shuttle bus to the site.
I would like to see off site programs at the various "assembly center" locations, thus connecting staging points to relocation & then off site programs in places where internees were dispersed

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

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Letter 42: Diane Takeuchi

1 Early in the planning process, the NPS did consider providing train and bus transportation for visitors to the national monument. This would be symbolic of the rail and bus transportation of arriving internees and would provide an interpretive experience for visitors. These provisions would almost certainly be developed in partnership with others, as you suggest. Thus, they are implicitly included in the strong off-site educational, interpretive, and outreach programs to be developed through partnerships under alternatives B, C, and D. Your recommendations have been carried forward as implementation-level suggestions. See the new section "Comments on Implementation of the Plan" located in Chapter 2: Public Review of the Draft GMP/EIS located in this Abbreviated Final GMP/EIS document.

Comments

Responses

Name: TOM MUKAI
 Address: 2514 DAVID CT E
 City/State/Zip: FIFE WA 98424



Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005

#46

The NPS invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS). By providing your comments, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

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We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

ALTERNATIVE C IS MY CHOICE IT
COVERS ABOUT ALL I COULD THINK OF TO
PRESERVE THE SITE.

01 FYI THE OUTLINE OF THE CAMP
DEPICTED ON PAGE 2 IS INCORRECT,
BLOCK 2 IS LEFT OUT & I THINK
BLOCK 9 I USED TO LIVE IN BLK 92,
TKS,

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

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Letter 46: Tom Mukai

1 The map on page 2 of Newsletter Number 4, released in June 2005, incorrectly labels some of the residential blocks. However, the map of Minidoka Relocation Center on page 14 of the Draft General Management Plan correctly identifies the proper locations of the residential blocks and other camp features relative to the footprint of Minidoka Internment National Monument. This map is used in the *Abbreviated Final General Management Plan* instead of the map that was included in Newsletter 4.

Comments

Responses

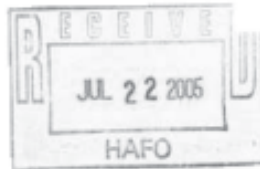
#51



"Rick Just"
<rjust@IDPR.state.id.us>
>
To: <MIIIN_GMP@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Minidoka Internment Management Plan
07/21/2005 09:07 AM
CST

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation supports Alternative C, the preferred alternative, for the management of what would become the Minidoka Nation Historic Site. Our congratulations to the National Park Service for working to preserve this important part of Idaho and US history.

Rick Just
Manager
Comprehensive Planning, Research and Review
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
PO Box 83720
Boise ID 83720-0065
(208)-334-4180, ext. 306
FAX (208)-334-3741
rjust@idpr.state.id.us
Visit our website at www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov



Letter 51: Rick Just, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Comments

Responses



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

July 7, 2005

FILE COPY

Reply To
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 02-029-NPS

Neil King
Superintendent
Minidoka Internment National Monument
P.O Box 570
Hagerman, ID 83332

Dear Mr. King:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the **Minidoka Internment National Monument** (CEQ 20050264) in accordance with our authorities and responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The draft EIS evaluates three alternatives. Alternative A is the no-action alternative or continued management for project area; Alternative B emphasizes outreach, off-site education, resource protection, and minimal new development; Alternative C is the Agency Preferred Alternative and emphasizes on-site education and interpretation, and cultural resource protection through rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction; and Alternative D emphasizes on-site education and interpretation through new facilities.

EPA has assigned a rating of LO (Lack of Objection) to the Preferred Alternative. Our rating and a summary of our comments will be published in the *Federal Register*. We support the Preferred Alternative to protect and enhance cultural resources. However, we have some questions and recommendations regarding disclosing information and impacts more completely.

01 Throughout the EIS it states that increased staffing will reduce impacts to cultural resources. However, the document does not discuss how much extra staffing is needed to protect resources and if there will be funding for additional staffing. Please discuss this in the Final EIS.

02 The EIS discusses some wildlife species (Mule deer, Pronghorn antelope, waterfowl, Red-tailed hawks) in Chapter 3, Affected Environment. The EIS also states that a variety of wildlife can be found on the national monument. We recommend assessing the specific populations that exist in the project area and disclosing that information. Also, in Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences, there is a general discussion of the intensity of effects on wildlife, but there is no information on potential impacts to specific populations or individual species and furthermore, species are not discussed whatsoever in this section. Please discuss what the

Letter 56: Christine Reichgots, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1 Staffing of the national monument under alternatives B (8 employees), C (12 employees), and D (15 employees) is commensurate with the level of development and the anticipated visitation to the national monument for each alternative. These staff include park rangers and cultural resource specialist positions in varying numbers, proportional to the level of development envisioned for each alternative. A comparison of the staffing levels and costs of each alternative are provided on pages 212-213 of the Draft GMP/EIS. Thus, alternatives B, C, and D would each have visitor contact, park protection, and cultural resource expertise to properly manage and safeguard cultural (and other) resources. As such, staffing under each of these alternatives is considered to be sufficient to protect cultural resources to the extent that any adverse effects that might occur would not be sufficient to affect the character or diminish the features that qualify a resource as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Park Service budget, like that of most other Federal agencies, is set each year by the President and requires approval by Congress. Funding for the development and management of the monument over the 15- to 20-year planning horizon of the GMP cannot be known in advance. For the purposes of planning the management of the national monument and for the purposes of analyzing potential impacts of that management, it is assumed that the NPS would have sufficient funding and personnel to implement any one of the alternatives. This assumption is stated at the outset of the analysis of

Comments

02 potential impacts would be from construction and operation to the wildlife populations discussed in Chapter 3, Affected Environment.

03 The EIS states under Alternative C that the name of the site would be changed to Minidoka National Historic Site. We question whether or not this name change would affect the management of the area by reducing it's protective status. Please discuss how the name change would legally affect the project area if at all.

04 There is a section in the EIS titled, "Tribal Interests." This section identifies protecting treaty rights in off-reservation areas with hunting as a critically important issue. However, the impacts to this major concern are not analyzed in the document. We strongly recommend further discussing this issue even though no formal letter has been received from the affected tribes identified in the EIS, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The EIS should clearly state if treaty rights and/or hunting rights and access would be affected and analyzed if necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft EIS. A copy of the rating system used in conducting our review is enclosed for your reference. Please feel free to contact Lynne McWhorter at (206) 553-0205 with any question that you have.

Sincerely,

Christine Reichgott, Manager
NEPA Review Unit

Enclosure

 Printed on Recycled Paper

Responses

(Christine Reichgots)

environmental consequences, on page 215 of the Draft GMP/EIS.

2 No wildlife studies specific to the national monument are known to exist. The information about wildlife presented in the Draft GMP/EIS on pages 117 and 118 was derived from knowledge of the habitat, information about regional wildlife populations, and casual on-site observations. This information is commensurate with the intensity, context, and duration of the potential impacts that could result from the management alternatives analyzed in the EIS.

Analyses of potential environmental consequences on pages 233, 234, 243, 255, 256, and 265 have been revised to include references to specific wildlife species, as suggested in your comment.

3 Regardless of the many names and official designations of the lands that make up the National Park System, the NPS applies the same high level of management and protection, as required by interrelated provisions of the NPS Organic Act of 1916 and the NPS General Authorities Act of 1970, including amendments to the latter law enacted in 1978 ("Redwood amendment"). Specific provisions for protection and management of the units of the National Park System are detailed in the National Park Service's *Management Policies 2001*. Thus, the name change to Minidoka National Historic Site proposed under Alternative C and D would not alter NPS management of the area or reduce its protective status.

Comments

Responses

(Christine Reichgots)

4 The text of the Draft GMP/EIS on pages 141 and 218 has been modified in response to your comments. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes did not provide comment on any interests relative to the presence of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Comments

Responses

Letter 62: Thomas K. Takeuchi, Jr.

Name: Thomas K. Takeuchi Jr. AUG - 8 2005 #62
Address: 601 SW Fourth Street
City/State/Zip: Gresham OR 97080 HAFO
(3pg)

Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005

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We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

Please see attached pages.

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

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Comments

Takeuchi #62
pg. 2

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments and concerns regarding the draft management plan for the Minidoka Internment National Monument. I understand that my comments are open to the public and I ask only that my home address be withheld from the public record.

I would like to share my agenda, so you can understand my thought process. I enjoy the National Parks and feel we need more areas where the land, ecosystem, and natural beauties are preserved. We need these areas to understand nature and learn to respect our world. We also need areas which have historical significance, but only if we can learn from the past to create a healthier and happier future. Because of this I feel the Minidoka Internment is an excellent opportunity to learn from our past. I believe there have been times and places when we needed to learn the significance and importance of historical events, we needed to recognize and perpetuate their teachings, and we did not. Such things as the Hiroshima War Memorial to allow the human race to reflect on whether a nuclear strike is ever necessary and justified; we need the Holocaust Memorial to allow the human race to reflect on injustice and criminal treatment of groups of citizens; and we need the Minidoka Internment to remind the public that prejudice and discrimination which results in the loss of American citizen, freedom, civil liberties and rights should never be sacrificed. We need the Minidoka Internment to prevent future extremists from stealing the rights which our country was founded upon from American citizens because of cultural, financial, racial, religious, or sexual preference/differences.

We need to learn from our mistakes in the past, and to do so means that we need to present an accurate and truthful account of our history. To ignore, to forget, or to re-write the past is a mistake which humans will continue to suffer. I suggest that we stop ignoring, we stop forgetting, we stop re-writing the past, we start learning from the past, and we begin to strive for a better tomorrow.

01

The Minidoka Internment National Monument: is an excellent example of our mistake in the past. In keeping with my stated primary goal of learning from our past, we need to use terms that accurately record our history. Using your glossary of terms for the following words...

As such I do not feel internment is the correct term. Internment was applied because the term was vague enough to misinform the public it's true nature to detain and confine American citizens. "Internment" is defined in your glossary of terms as "the act or state of being detained or confined. A term referring to the imprisonment of civilian enemy aliens during wartime". The individuals being detained and confined were American citizens and not enemy aliens.

Furthermore, detention should not be used because "detention" is defined as "the act or state of keeping in custody or confined, especially during a period of temporary custody while awaiting trial". The American citizens being detained and confined were not awaiting trial.

Furthermore, "relocation" should not be used because the American citizens detained and confined were not in "the act or state of being established in a new place". This seems to be a more accurate term for reservations.

And finally, "evacuation" should not be used because evacuation implies the people agreed and supported "the act or state of withdrawing, departing, or vacating any place or area, especially a threatened area". The term does not correctly convey the historical fact that only these American citizens were forced to move to a place surrounded by barb wire and armed guards. If the area was indeed a threatened area, all American citizens from all walks of life, all ethnic backgrounds, all religious affiliations, and economic abilities should have been withdrawn, departed, and removed.

The most accurate term is a "concentration camp" which is "a place where prisoners of war, enemy aliens, and political prisoners are placed under armed guards". These American citizens were considered by some to be "prisoners of war", by some to be enemy spies, and by others as "political prisoners" under armed guards. These American citizens were placed under armed guard, stripped of their rights, and subjected to the harshest of living accommodations while their properties and possessions were stolen from them.

The second most accurate term is a "prison" where these American citizens were transported to "a place or condition of confinement or forcible restraint". Both these terms, while accurate are politically sensitive and slightly derogatory and as such, I would recommend "incarceration" which is "the act or state of being confined, shut in, or put in prison".

I understand there are political, financial and bureaucratic differences for Historical Site, Monument, National Park,... If that is so, then I would suggest that whatever holds the greatest position in terms of financial and material support be used. If not, I question the term "monument", which from my experience of Monument Valley should apply to large, natural structures rather than a reconditioned wasteland.

Responses

(Thomas K. Takeuchi, Jr.)

1 Thank you for your comments. You raise important points about terminology and the words to describe the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. Terminology continues to be an issue for many members of the public, as the words that are used have various definitions and connotations. The NPS has taken the position of acknowledging the range of opinions and perspectives on terminology, while not singling out particular words as either "correct" or "acceptable." This discussion on terminology called "Diverse Terminology and Perspectives on the Treatment of Nikkei in the U.S. during WWII" is located on page 2 of the Draft GMP/EIS. This section has been moved to the front of the Final GMP/EIS before the Table of Contents, so that the reader can easily find this discussion and understand its importance for interpreting this piece of American history.

Comments

Takeuchi pg 3 #60

I recommend **Alternative C+**. The "+" would be two modifications to your **Alternative C**.
1. I love the plan to relocate one complete residential block with its 12 barracks, dining hall, laundry and sanitation building, and recreation hall. This historical creation of the intact and complete residential block would afford the public the opportunity to witness the Minidoka Internment Camp. This should be as accurate and authentic as possible without the luxury of paved pathways, or wall insulation, or items required to bring a building up to housing code.

Furthermore, I would suggest that one to two barrack should look like what the American citizens saw when they were arrived on the first day. This would be unpainted wood with gapping holes that allows the dust and wind to freely enter the barracks, sagebrush with minimal vegetation, and little if anything which makes a home a home.

I remember some of the older American citizens expressing disgust at the lack of privacy, of the harshness of the environment (especially the rattlesnakes), and the feelings of being locked in under armed guards. I feel this atmosphere needs to be shared to prevent the loss of American civil liberties and rights in the future.

There was a suggestion for having barracks which would accommodate visitors to "Internment life". I feel this would be an interesting situation but feel that using the area for housing would significantly increase the cost of maintenance while not really adding to my agenda of education.

02

Modifications for C+

I would love to see as many of the main or major structures such as the pump house, hospital, post office, fire station, amphitheater, roof cellar, and post office constructed. It need not be in the original locations with the original material but as a historical site for historical reference. Or as in Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark, have a miniaturized scaled version of the camp in the visitor center.

I feel the visitor center (visitor contact facility and maintenance area) should be a new constructed. The reason is that bringing an existing structure up to code would significantly alter the building and thus limit its educational impact and historical value. I would rather have the visitors and students to see the toilet area (and if possible use it) as it was and not something that is "up-to-code".

2. I have some comments on the Common to all of the alternatives.

Cultural Resources: I would highly recommend that the information gathering which has been given the role to "identify and support collaborative endeavors to collect and preserve oral histories of the internees, their families, and people associated with Minidoka" concentrate in the Greater Portland area. From my personal observations and discussions, there are many people in the Greater Portland area who could and should be contacted and have not.

Education and Interpretation: I would recommend that part of the out reach educational program include correcting the errors of omission and commission of the textbooks used in Grade and High Schools. Educating future generations would go a long way in preventing future reoccurrences.

Boundaries and Adjacent Lands: I would recommend that as much of the Minidoka Internment Camp be purchased and transferred to the NPS.

Thank you for the opportunity to state my comments and concerns. To this point, I commend the actions and intent of the people actively working on this project.

Responses

(Thomas K. Takeuchi, Jr.)

2 With reference to your comments about "Modifications for C+," the NPS has explored some of these ideas. The NPS management policy on reconstruction of missing structures has guided our decision-making process on reconstruction at Minidoka. NPS policy on reconstruction is purposefully restrictive because "no matter how well conceived or executed, reconstructions are contemporary interpretations of the past rather than authentic survivals from it." The NPS has proposed reconstruction of key structures at Minidoka, including the perimeter fence, guard tower, and honor roll. The general public and the NPS concur that these features are of absolute importance to accurately interpret the Minidoka landscape and stories. Other buildings in the administration and warehouse area can be interpreted through means other than reconstruction, such as wayside panels with historic photographs or other media. A scale model of the camp could also be an effective educational tool about the layout of the camp.

A newly constructed visitor center is proposed in alternative D on page 195 of the Draft GMP/EIS. Numerous public comments have explicitly stated that new construction would be incongruous with the historic scene. The NPS decision to adaptively use historic buildings, such as those in the warehouse area, was guided by public comments and NPS management policy which describes use of historic structures. The policy states that historic properties should be used to the maximum extent feasible "whenever operationally appropriate and economically prudent. The National Historic Preservation Act also requires each agency to implement alternatives for the adaptive use of historic properties it owns... Therefore,

Comments


Responses

(Thomas K. Takeuchi, Jr.)

compatible uses for structures will be found whenever possible... No administrative or public use will be permitted that would threaten the stability or character of a structure, the museum objects within it, or the safety of its users, or that would entail alternatives significantly compromising its integrity." It is therefore feasible to adaptively use historic structures at Minidoka without limiting their educational and historic value.

Comments

Responses


JAMSj Japanese American Museum of San Jose
 Preserving the history and culture of Santa Clara Valley

#80

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Yosh Uchida

August 16, 2006

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Planning and Compliance Office
909 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Sir/Madam:

Your Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement is very well done and we congratulate you for the work you did.

01 I would like, however, to ask that you make an addition that was omitted on the "Honor Roll" of those who served in the U.S. Army.


You omitted the name, "Mark Hiratsuka." You have, however, correctly placed the name of his brother Frank on the Honor Roll.

My name is Ernest Hiratsuka, first cousin to both Mark and Frank. The three of us came together at Basic Training Camp at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, in 1943. It was a great feeling for all three of us to be together during this period.

Mark Hiratsuka's daughter, Virginia, is buried in Minidoka.

Mark Hiratsuka passed away in December 2004, in Anchorage Alaska, and his brother Frank passed away in 1994, also in Anchorage, Alaska.

Hopefully you will be able to confirm that Mark Hiratsuka did truly enter the service from Minidoka Internment Camp.

Yours very truly,

 Ernest Hiratsuka
 Volunteer at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose

EH:k
 Encl. Copy of the Honor Roll

535 North Fifth Street, San Jose, California 95112 • telephone 408.294.3138 • fax 408.294.1657 • mail@jamsj.org • www.jamsj.org

Letter 80: Ernest Hiratsuka, Japanese American Museum of San Jose

1 Thank you for your comment. Mark Hiratsuka's name did not appear on the central panel of the Minidoka Honor Roll that was built in 1943. In a historic photograph from circa 1945, there are two additional panels with names. At this time the names on the two side panels cannot be discerned due to the range of focus in the historic photographs. Mark Hiratsuka's name may be on one of these panels.

In the WRA Minidoka Roster which listed every Minidoka internee, Mark Hiratsuka is listed as leaving Minidoka on independent employment to Jerome, ID on 4/27/1944. It does not indicate that he left Minidoka for military service.

However, evidence from the National Archives, Japanese American Veterans Association, and news articles supports the fact that he did enter military service on 6/21/1944 and served in the 100th Battalion during World War II.

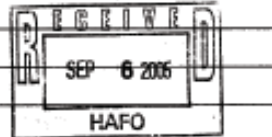
More research will determine if his name is listed on the side panels of the Minidoka Honor Roll before it would be reconstructed.

One of the primary interpretive themes for Minidoka is Nisei military service during World War II. The NPS will interpret this piece of history with recognition of those who served in the military from Minidoka.

Comments

Responses

Name: Steven Goldsmith #94
 Address: 3002 NW 62nd St.
 City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98107



Please Provide Your Comments by September 17, 2005

The NPS invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS). By providing your comments, you can help make the final plan a better plan to guide the future of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The draft GMP/EIS contains four distinct alternatives for the future management of Minidoka. The draft GMP/EIS identifies Alternative C as preferred by the NPS. **Please tell us if you agree with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of any of the alternatives.** You may also provide comments on all sections and elements of the draft GMP/EIS.

We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

I agree with the preferred alternative.

01 *One thing that I didn't see, however, was a component whereby former residents of a particular block and barrack could connect with one another. Ellis Island and other places offer kiosks of this sort. This could be meaningful not only for former internees but also their descendants, historians, etc.*

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

Comments can also be submitted via e-mail to MIIN_GMP@nps.gov

All comments received will become part of the public record and copies of comments, including any names and home addresses of respondents, may be released for public inspection. Individual respondents may request that their home addresses be withheld from the public record, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Requests to withhold names and/or addresses must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comments. Anonymous comments will not be considered. Submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organization or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Please send comments by **July 30, 2005**. Any change in due dates would be published immediately on the NPS Planning website.

Letter 94: Steven Goldsmith

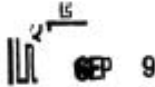
1 Thank you for your suggestion. A database or searchable record of those who were incarcerated at Minidoka is an excellent idea. This record will provide former Minidoka internees, former Minidoka WRA staff, their descendents, and researchers with a tool to search those who were affiliated with Minidoka. This project and interpretive component has been added to alternatives B, C, and D on pages 165 and 180.

Comments

#97

TAKASUMI KOJIMA
2500 CEDAR STREET
BERKELEY, CA 94708
(510) 540-5974

Email takasumikojima@yahoo.com



NEIL KING: SUPERINTENDENT
MINIDOKA INTERNMENT NATIONAL MONUMENT
P. O. BOX 570
221 NORTH STATE STREET
HAGERMAN, IDAHO 83332

Mr. Neil King;

Subject: Minidoka Internment National Monument Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for the two materials on Minidoka archeology. The materials were enlightening and I will be depositing the materials at the Bancroft Library at UC-Berkeley.

Regarding the comments on the draft General Management Plan; the presentation was excellent and the draft report was comprehensive and well documented. The organization and the table of contents explain the relocation movement.

The methodology and the four alternatives were well conceived. I agree with your choice of Alternative C and its details. The establishment of the typical block is a logical way to explain the pattern of activities which took place at the camp. I do not remember going away from Block 29, where I lived, except going to the Stafford Elementary School and the swimming at the North Side Canal.

There are several minor missing descriptions:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 01 | Lack of California residence in the general description of camp inhabitant (page and 9) |
| 02 | 2. Description of Segregation Camp at Tule Lake is not correct – many Nikkei from rural Sacramento Valley refused to move to other camps and remained; they were called Old Tulean and left the camp at first opportunity in early 1945. Our family, who were fatherless during internment, had our choice made by the Block Manager to relocate to Minidoka. Although this move was troublesome, it turned out to be the best choice for our family. |
3. The description of the last phase of camp closing should be expanded as it became chaotic. We were one of the last to leave since we did have our father back from Santa Fe Immigration Detention Center and prior to internment, our family was farm laborers, going from harvest to harvest, and wintering in the Sacramento

Responses

Letter 97: Takasumi Kojima

1 Thank you for your comments. Additional information has been added about California residents incarcerated at Minidoka on page 1 and 9 of the Draft Plan.

2 The description of Tule Lake has been changed on page 28 to include those who chose to remain at Tule Lake even though they had answered “yes, yes” to the loyalty questionnaire. The following sentence has been added to the page 28: “Those that answered “yes, yes” could transfer to other camps. However, several thousand Tule Lake internees who answered “yes, yes” chose to stay at Tule Lake rather than transfer; these internees were often called the “Old Tuleans.”

Comments

pg 2
#97

Valley. During the final phase of closing the mess halls were closed as well as the shower and toilet facilities and we had find the block were there mess hall open and shower facilities open. This was a lot inconvenience since in October the sun had set and walking back after dinner and shower was in the dark.

- 03 4. The route out of the camp (page 93) from Shoshone railway station should include those from California; we took a truck ride to Twin Falls rail station and then to Ogden, Utah where we transferred to the California bound train.
5. At the camp, the guards left in early 1944 and barbed wire fencing were breached. Some of the bachelor left the camp compound and set up shelters outside the fence and came to the blocks for meals and showers. They were called hermits. Several lived outside of Block 29.

The camp experience while dreadful to most families, was a blessing to our family, being fatherless, we could not have survived on the outside. Being transferred to Minidoka was the best thing to happen to our family of four children and a mother. Block 29 -12-C is where we lived with other families from Seattle area. This exposure to the urban families was an eye opener since we were from the rural area of California. One difference was the educational level; we were at least two years behind our classmates even though we were at the same grade. We heard that there were things at college from our fellow students. Looking back, we had our first taste of what should be our goals after camp from staying at Camp Minidoka. The rest is history as all the four children went on to universities and graduate school.

A very warm and sincere thank you to the Park Service and supporters who have dedicated their time, energy and resources to proposing the Minidoka Internment Historical Memorial and believing in its significance.


Sincerely,
Takasumi Kojima

Responses

(Takasumi Kojima)

3 On page 93, the text has been changed to include internees returning to California and Alaska. The sentence now reads, "The train stop at Shoshone was the departing location for most internees leaving Minidoka to relocate outside the Exclusion Zone during World War II and those returning to Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California after the war."

Comments

#103

Response to request for comments on the Minidoka Internment NM, NPS Draft General Management Plan, No.4 dated June 2005.

Currently the site, with some building and other remains, and minimal descriptions, does not adequately educate visitors on what occurred at this American historical site. Unfortunately visitors do not always realize that additional information can be obtained at the NPS office in Hagerman. Those responsible for the Hagerman display have done an excellent job. In summary, there is a definite need to enhance the Minidoka site.

With respect to the reference Management Plan, I have many concerns. First, I highly, let me emphasize - HIGHLY, encourage you not to be political. That is, DO NOT draw conclusions or take a position concerning the events associated with Minidoka. NPS should remain neutral and just present the facts, without bias. Let the public draw their own conclusions (if they want). To be impartial, you must present both sides of any

01 controversy equally. Note: The reference document, and other literature put out by the NPS Hagerman office, make references to injustices, human rights issues, etc.. This wrongly shows an office bias on points that may be arguable. Thus it is a political issue.

Yes, there are books that allow an author a political forum from which to speak their opinion, there are Federal Govt. reports that are always biased to the position of the current Federal administration, thus rendering them useless from a historical point, and finally there is an apology by the Federal Govt., which is always done to gain some political favor, therefore having no historical worth. Note: an apology does not mean the act was wrong. Caution: be careful what you extract from published works. I believe NPS should find the undisputed facts and present them. Where facts are disputed, or in your unbiased judgment as an American, you believe the facts could be disputed, show all points of view without bias to any. You must know that there are always two sides to a story. For example, I can make a strong argument for why internment was the best thing that could have happened to the Japanese people and to the country. Remember, you need only look at the many western coastal defenses to see that the Federal Govt. considered the threat of a Japanese invasion of the US mainland a REAL threat. We can only speculate as to what part the internments might have played if such a "very possible" event had occurred. Note: Japan did attack the US mainland in three different ways: shore bombardment, aircraft bombing, and balloon bombs. There is no way that we now, or the Federal Govt. at the time, could determine the loyalties of the interments, regardless of citizenship. Yes, many fought bravely in military units in Europe. Remember though, many were US citizens and therefore subject to the draft like everyone else. Volunteered? No one knows. It was normal for young men to "volunteer" just before their draft date so they could choose the service they wanted. The camp was a hardship for the residents and that is a good story to tell, just like the stories of the hardships of those on the Oregon trail. I strongly encourage you NOT to address the issue as to whether they should have been taken to Minidoka in the first place. This issue has nothing to do with the history of the site and what was happening in the world at the time. Later events are not relevant to your purpose.

You are lucky that current world events can help you understand the controversy above. After 9/11, what was the attitude of many Americans toward those that even looked

Responses

Letter 103: Peter Schultz

1 See response to comment letter 27.

Comments

middle eastern, regardless of how long they have been in this country or their citizenship? Likewise, there was Pearl Harbor (far worse than 9/11) and a national outcry that lead us into the on-going world war (which involved issues far greater than internment or not). There are many examples in both cases where human rights become secondary to what is believed to be best for the nation. It can be argued that the military draft was a violation of human rights, but where would we have been without it? Issues are seldom simple. So I caution you, do not assume conclusions.

With reference to the Management Plan - I believe Alt. 3, "the most popular alternative", is excessive. I disagree with all alternatives in the plan. I believe proper recognition of

02 this part of American history is appropriate at all primary and secondary sites. I believe the NPS Hagerman plan should be consistent, part of, and in agreement with a master NPS plan for ALL internment sites. I do not believe any one site should have its own plan and priorities over all other sites. Every site should have a plan and be part of the overall NPS plan. The approved NPS plan should not reflect the persuasive powers of any one site. I believe it is important that all sites are consistent with each other and with other American historical sites. Assuming funding will not be available for all sites simultaneously, sites listed by priority, based on importance, seems appropriate. Acquiring all the original land does not seem necessary, unless the land has significant remains. A recreation of some of the buildings (to help understand the site), stating where they would actually have been located (using arrows), is believed sufficient and consistent with many other historical sites. I see no benefit to large amounts of land where there is nothing (unless it has an additional benefit such as being a wild life area), or duplication. The minimal, but sufficient, amount of land required to tell the story seems appropriate. Audio tours are considered excessive. Self guided tours with a pamphlet and signage is consistent with other historical sites. A small museum is appropriate. Space should be made available for Japanese organizations to put memorials, or even gardens (at their own expense). This may be a federal issue, but it is also state and county history, and the state's and county's involvement I believe is essential.

NPS should focus on the site, not our reflections some 60 years later, on the site, or the reasons for its being. Focus should be, where people came from, life at the site, and where they went after it closed. Quotes to help understand life at this site, are appropriate. Yes, there is much more to the story. but I do not believe it is the place of NPS Hagerman, with a single site, to address all the issues. I believe the story ends when the site closed. I am happy to assist with the planning and wording of materials for this undertaking.

Sincerely,
Peter Schultz, 360-621-9346
Retired, full time traveler

Responses

(Peter Schultz)

2 Thank you for your comments. The NPS has not undertaken a comprehensive plan for all internment sites, as the NPS does not own or have management authority over these properties. The NPS only has park planning responsibilities for NPS sites, which include Minidoka and Manzanar.

However, in 1991, Congress authorized the National Park Service to prepare a National Historic Landmark theme study on Japanese Americans during World War II. The purpose of this study is to identify historic places that best exemplify and illustrate the period from 1941 to 1946 when Japanese Americans and Japanese aliens were ordered to be detained, relocated, or excluded pursuant to Executive Order 9066 and other actions. Thirty-seven properties were identified in H.R. 543, the enabling legislation for Manzanar National Historic Site. The theme study, called "Japanese Americans in World War II" is currently underway. The results of the theme study may include recommendations for additional study for possible National Historic Landmark designation or listing in the National Register, rather than as a unit of the National Park System. A draft of the theme study is available on the internet at: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/themes/themes.htm>

The NPS completed a Study of Alternatives/Environmental Assessment to meet the requirements of Public Law 107-363, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study of 2002. The law directed that a special resource study be conducted to examine the national significance of the site at the Eagledale Ferry Dock, Bainbridge Island, Washington, and the suitability and feasibility of designating it as a unit of the National Park

Comments

Responses

(Peter Schultz)

System. The final study report recommends the addition of the Bainbridge Island site to Minidoka Internment National Monument as a satellite site, rather than as a separate new unit of the National Park System. The study is available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/> Search under Pacific West Regional Office and select Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study of Alternatives and Environmental Assessment.

Comments

Responses

Name: David Milholland President Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission
 Address: P.O. Box 3588
 City/State/Zip: *107 Portland, OR 97208-3588

Please Provide Your Comments by **September 17, 2005**



The NPS invites you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS). By providing your comments, you can help make this final plan a better plan to guide the future of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The draft GMP/EIS contains four distinct alternatives for the future management of Minidoka. The draft GMP/EIS identifies Alternative C as preferred by the NPS. **Please tell us if you agree with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of any of the alternatives.** You may also provide comments on all sections and elements of the draft GMP/EIS.

We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us.

It is exciting to see plans going forward for an expanded Minidoka Monument. As the primary destination for the bulk of the Oregon internees during WWII, Minidoka is inevitably part of our state's and region's history.

Your preferred plan (Alternative C) sounds just like, especially if it allows visitors a chance to see an actual residential block just as it existed in the early 1940s. Critical to the success of this center will be tours, videos, an excellent library and bookstore and if possible a traveling team that tells the Minidoka story in locales throughout the NW region.

Our group (OCHC, see above) ^{staged} an excellent presentation on the art in and reflecting the internment experience in the west. We would be pleased to sponsor or co-sponsor presentations by representatives of the Minidoka Monument when such become available.

Please keep us informed of developments.

Thank you

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

Comments can also be submitted via e-mail to MIN_GMP@nps.gov

All comments received will become part of the public record and copies of comments, including any names and home addresses of respondents, may be released for public inspection. Individual respondents may request that their home addresses be withheld from the public record, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Requests to withhold names and/or addresses must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comments. Anonymous comments will not be considered. Submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organization or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Please send comments by July 30, 2005. Any change in due dates would be published immediately on the NPS Planning website.

Letter 107: David Milholland, Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission

Comments

ASIAN AMERICAN COMPARATIVE COLLECTION

Laboratory of Anthropology
University of Idaho
P.O. Box 441111
Moscow, ID 83844-1111
(208) 885-7075; pwegars@uidaho.edu

13 September 2005

#115

Minidoka Internment NM General Management Plan
P. O. Box 570
Hagerman, ID 83332-9900 [sent via e-mail to MIIN_GMP@nps.gov]

Ladies/Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Minidoka Internment National Monument draft general management plan and environmental impact statement. Thanks too, to Neil King and all the others who have worked so hard on this.

I support Alternative C (the Preferred Alternative) because I agree that it is crucial to acquire additional acreage in the former barracks block area and to include a barracks block (original or replicated) for interpretive purposes. I also believe it is necessary to acquire the camp's landfill from the Bureau of Land Management.

- 01 With regard to the proposed name change, I do agree that the name "Minidoka Internment National Monument" should be changed. My main reason for so stating is because the term "internment" should be reserved for the Department of Justice internment camps, run by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, such as the Kooskia Internment Camp which I am currently investigating. That said, I believe the proposed name change, to "Minidoka National Historic Site," is too wishy-washy in that it says nothing about what happened there, and perpetuates a euphemism similar to those of "relocation" and "evacuation." "Minidoka Concentration Camp National Historic Site" would be far more evocative of the experiences endured by the thousands of inmates confined there in violation of the U.S. Constitution. The term "concentration camp" does not detract from the concentration camps in Nazi Germany, which should more accurately be called "death camps."
- 02 Current scholarship advocates the use of the more precise terminology to differentiate between the two types of camps, internment and concentration, and the rejection of euphemisms. Please do read Roger Daniels' important essay, "Words Do Matter: A Note on Inappropriate Terminology and the Incarceration of the Japanese Americans," in Louis Fiset and Gail M. Nomura, editors, *Nikkei in the Pacific Northwest: Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians in the Twentieth Century* (Seattle: Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest in association with University of Washington Press, 2005). The current name "Manzanar National Historic Site" should not be used to justify similar weak terminology for Minidoka.
- 03 In other comments, you could cast a wider net for partners than those mentioned on p. 129. For example, you might include the National Japanese American Historical Society and the Japanese American National Library, both in San Francisco; only the former received a copy of the draft GMP/EIS report. The University of Idaho Library's Special Collections and Archives contains some Minidoka-related materials, but they did not receive a report. The Asian American

Responses

Letter 115: Priscilla Wegers, Ph.D., Asian American Comparative Collection, University of Idaho

- 1 Please see the response to comment letter 17.
- 2 Your comments on terminology have been addressed in the NPS response to comment letter 62 (comment 01).
- 3 Thank you for your comments on partnerships. You make several suggestions about additional partners. The text on page 129 is suggestive rather than definitive, so that future park managers have the discretion to develop partnerships with a wide range of organizations. Your additional potential partners have been added to the Comments on Implementation of the Plan section of the Public Involvement and Consultation chapter.

Comments

03 Comparative Collection, which did receive a report but which is not on the list of partners, contains information on the Kooskia Internment Camp, some of which is also related to former Minidoka inmates. The Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center likewise received a report but is not on your list of partners.

04 Finally, I offer a few technical details for your consideration. Although I did not read every word in the report (but I could, for a fee!) I did find a few typographical errors and other problems worth mentioning. For example:
Table of Contents: Glossary, Abbreviations[,] and Acronyms: says p. 324 but only the Glossary is there. The Abbreviations and Acronyms are on p. 332.
p. 25, paragraph 3, lines 1-2: exasperated should be exacerbated.
p. 36, para. 2, last line: ranchets should be ranchettes.
p. 185, para. 3, lines 7-9: there needs to be a space between The128. Also, page 183, not 181, is where the area is denoted.
p. 307, para. 1, line 1: pubic should be public; you might want to do a global search of the first term to see if there are other mentions of it.
p. 224, Glossary: combine into one alphabet with a code for the wartime policy terms, or put that section first to show its importance.
p. 341, Index: woefully inadequate, for this otherwise-excellent report. However, having just done one for my most recent book, I know how time-consuming it is to do a good one.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the GMP/EIS for Minidoka. I wish you every success in your endeavors.

Best wishes,

Priscilla Wegars, Ph.D.
Volunteer Curator

Responses

(Priscilla Wegars, Ph.D.)

4 Thank you for your careful read of the document, and your suggested changes. All of your changes have been made on pages 25, 36, 185, and 307. The glossary and index have not been changed. Changing the format of the glossary would not add new information. The index includes information that is generally indexed in environmental impact statements.

Comments



September 15, 2005

#119

Neil King
Superintendent
Minidoka Internment National Monument
P.O. Box 570
Hagerman, ID 98882-0570

Dear Neal,

I am writing to endorse Alternative C in the Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. In my capacity as Executive Director of Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project, I have studied the alternatives and find that Alternative C does an excellent job of balancing the preserving of the Minidoka site with the educating and informing of the public of this important chapter in U.S. history.

I am especially supportive of the emphasis on education and interpretation and pledge Densho's cooperation in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Tom Ikeda
Executive Director
Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project

Responses

Letter 119: Tom Ikeda, Densho

Comments

Responses



Our mission is to educate through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of Idaho's cultural heritage.

Dirk Kempthorne
Governor of Idaho

Steve Guerber
Executive Director

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Neil King, Superintendent
Minidoka Internment National Monument
P.O. Box 570
Hagerman, Idaho 98882-0570

RE: Minidoka Internment National Monument— Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Neil:

Thank you for requesting our views on the draft *General Management Plan and EIS for Minidoka Internment National Monument*. After reviewing the document, we found it to be very interesting, comprehensive, and well written. We also appreciate recently receiving the report *The Fate of Things: Archaeological Investigations at the Minidoka Relocation Center Dump, Jerome County, Idaho* by Jeffery C. Burton. This report, like others by the same author, is excellent.

With regard to the draft GMP/EIS, we support the National Park Service's preferred alternative, Alternative C. This proposal will provide the best visitor experience while maintaining the integrity of the historic site. We also support the acquisition of the Bureau of Reclamation parcels, the landfill site (10JE521) located on BLM land, and the 128 acres north of the existing monument. If the landfill site cannot be acquired soon, the NPS should work with the BLM to develop management strategies to protect it.

01 We are pleased that NPS plans to hire cultural resource specialists to assist with management of the site. On pages 188-189, the document should specify that at least one of the specialists meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications for Archaeologist or Historian.

The Minidoka Relocation Center (ISHS #53-11253) stands as one of Idaho's most significant historic properties. We welcome the National Park Service's assistance in preserving and interpreting it for future generations. We would appreciate being consulted regularly as plans for the Monument progress.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 208-334-3847, ext. 107.

Sincerely,
Susan Pengilly Neitzel
Susan Pengilly Neitzel
Deputy SHPO

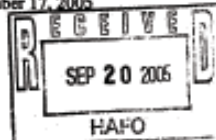
cc: Stephanie Toothman, NPS, Seattle



The Idaho State Historical Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

(#126 original came by mail, earlier)
Aix received earlier

September 17, 2005



Letter 126: Susan Pengilly Neitzel, Idaho State Historical Society

1 Enumerating specific professional qualifications for future staff is beyond the scope of the general management plan. Appropriate qualifications for all positions, including cultural resources specialists, will be determined at the time of staffing. Thank you for your comments.

Comments

September 16, 2005



Minidoka Internment National Monument
P O Box 570
Hagerman Id 93332-0570
Neil King, Superintendent;

Dear Mr. King;

Thanks for your dedicated effort to continue this project to the end to which we would like accomplish.

In the end the visitor to this site should have learned of what had happened here was extreme race hatred and the failure of the leadership of this government which should never have happened and should never happen again.

To accomplish this the project should be interesting and attractive so people will come to visit this project.

Of the plans that have been projected to be approved, I would think that plan "C" would be the one that would accomplish the goal.

I hope we can proceed in this direction "post haste". May I be around to see the finished project.

Sincerely,

Masa Tsukamoto, Chrmn.
Minidoka Recognition Project. 1977
Pocatello Blackfoot JA CL

Responses

**Letter 128: Masa Tsukamoto, Japanese American
Citizens League, Pocatello Blackfoot Chapter**

Comments



"Beth Takekawa"
<btakekawa@wingluke.org>
09/19/2005 07:32 PM
MST
Please respond to
btakekawa

To: "Anna Tamura (E-mail)" <Anna_Tamura@nps.gov>, "Neil King (E-mail)" <Neil_King@nps.gov>, <MIIN_GMP@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: comments on Draft Plan

#131

Dear Anna and Neil,
Congratulations on issuing this significant document! We completed a study and discussions on the draft plan. We have all appreciated being part of reaching out to former Minidoka internees and gaining their input, and being included in this process. Our comments are attached.

Thank you for all you are doing,
Beth for the Wing Luke Asian Museum participants

Beth Takekawa
Associate Director
Wing Luke Asian Museum
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GMP Comments_05-09-19.pdf

Responses

Letter 131: Beth Takekawa, Wing Luke Asian Museum

Statement of Concerns

Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement For Minidoka Internment National Monument

September 19, 2005
Prepared by the Wing Luke Asian Museum
Cassie Chinn, Lily Kodama, Charlene Mano, Yosh Nakagawa, Bob Sato and Beth Takekawa

General Overview

Thank you once again for the opportunity to review the General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Minidoka Internment National Monument. We know you have taken many efforts to engage our community in this lengthy process, and we appreciate your responsiveness to our comments. Upon final review of the GMP/EIS, we would like to reemphasize desires for the Minidoka Internment National Monument and share further concerns that will hopefully inform finalization of the plan as well as its implementation.

As you know, at the start of this process, over 3 years ago, we met with over 50 former Minidoka internees over a series of 9 meetings to find out from them as a group what they desired at the Minidoka Internment National Monument. We have held the outcomes of those meetings as the foundation for our comments.

01 1. Use of "Minidoka Relocation Center." To remain historically accurate, the historic camp should be referred to as "Minidoka concentration camp." The terms "Minidoka Relocation Center," "relocation center" and "relocation camp" were euphemisms used by the U.S. government and others to make the incarceration more palatable, and should definitely not be used without corresponding interpretation. Words such as "concentration camp," "incarceration," "inmates," and "imprisoned" appropriately capture the devastating community-wide as well as personal impact that the incarceration had on Nisei in the United States during World War II. Even today, these words might make us feel uncomfortable – and they rightly should since the unjust incarceration of people in a nation based on freedom and rights should solicit strong, powerful, heart-felt responses. In one of our previous meetings, a former internee shared in essence the following comment, "Do you know what it is like to lose your freedom? No, you do not. It is like having your heart ripped out and never getting it back."

We urge the National Park Service to reconsider its blanket use of the term "Minidoka Relocation Center" throughout the GMP/EIS. The term is used repeatedly, without interpretation, and therefore presented as accurate and acceptable. In doing so, the National Park Service reinforces and approves use of this euphemistic term, used to soften and ease a grave, tragic wrong.

Interpretive Themes stated within the GMP/EIS rightly capture the harsh, tragic, unjust realities of the Minidoka concentration camp. Minidoka emerged from a "long history of race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership" and "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." "Internees at Minidoka were confronted with injustice, the loss of freedom, and profound emotional, psychological, physical, and economic hardships." Although the GMP/EIS states that these are primary interpretive themes, critical to a visitor's understanding of the park, the use of the term "Minidoka Relocation Center" belies these themes.

The current GMP/EIS should be revised to use the term "Minidoka concentration camp." At the very least, the GMP/EIS should refrain from using the terms "Minidoka Relocation Center," "relocation center," and "relocation camp" without appropriate interpretation. While mentioned in the definition for "Relocation", the Glossary

(Beth Takekawa)

1 The NPS acknowledges that this is a complicated and controversial issue, and we acknowledge your disagreement with the use of particular terms in the GMP/EIS. We have addressed how terminology is used for purposes of this document on page 2 of the DGMP/EIS. Terminology will be an important component of interpretative materials for the national monument and can provide thought provoking examples for site visitors to reflect on the experiences of the former internees. Also see response to comment #62-01.

Comments

definition for "Relocation Center" should note that the term was a euphemism that obscures the truth. The stand-alone use of "Relocation Center" and "relocation center" on pages i and 86 should be revised as well.

2. Significance of the unjust incarceration of Nikkei during World War II and the protection of civil and constitutional rights for all peoples in the United States. While educating the public about the story of the unjust incarceration of Nikkei during World War II at the national monument is important, equally important at the national monument is interpreting the story and educating the public about the protection of civil and constitutional rights for all peoples in the United States. The protection of civil and constitutional rights for all peoples in the United States is the significance and legacy of the unjust incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. The two go hand-in-hand, should not be separated, and should receive equal weight at the national monument.

We appreciate the GMP/EIS for specifically identifying this as a Significance for the Minidoka Internment National Monument. We also echo the statement on page 290 regarding the Message. Continued efforts must be taken at events, with publications, with exhibits, with programs and projects associated with Minidoka Internment National Monument to educate about contemporary issues related to constitutional and civil rights, including modern-day violations of these rights, and to take action to protect and ensure these rights. Time and time again, former internees have shared that this is the legacy of their experience during World War II.

02 In light of this, the violation of civil and constitutional rights by the U.S. government against Nikkei during World War II should be more specifically stated in the "History of the Internment and Incarceration of Nikkei," particularly in the section "Nikkei and World War II" which describes the first unwarranted arrests and false suspicions and fears (5-6). The statement that these Issei who were first arrested were the first to suffer violation of their rights must be clearly and directly stated. The bold statement by Nikkei fighting in World War II that they would fight to regain their freedom and rights must be made known through interpretation of the honor roll as well. In this light, then, the text on page 86 which describes the garden at the Entrance Area as a place where visitors can "stop and visit, admire, and remember the young men fighting for the U.S.," should be revised to read, "stop and visit, admire, remember the young men fighting for the U.S., and reflect on the fragility of civil and constitutional rights." The Summary of Management Zones presented in the table on page 153, under "Education and Interpretation" for the "Historic Features Zone" should state that "the loss of freedom and constitutional and civil liberties would be illustrated by the military police building, reception building, sense of remoteness, and historic locations of the fence and guard tower."

As implementation of the GMP/EIS begins, the NPS should pursue partnerships not only to reach out and educate the public about the internment and incarceration, but also its significance, specifically protection of constitutional and civil rights. It is important that the GMP/EIS clearly state this, so that partnerships are not limited to Nikkei organizations but relationships are also established with diverse, multicultural organizations working to ensure constitutional and civil rights. The section on Opportunities for Partnership (page 129) should be amended to include these organizations and to read: "Other cooperative efforts would be established with schools, universities, and local, state, and other federal agencies, as well as other constitutional and civil rights organizations" (2nd to last sentence on page 129).

03 3. Context of racism and discrimination before, during and after World War II. The unjust incarceration of Nikkei during World War II was the product of a long history of anti-Asian racism in the United States. This fact must be made readily apparent at the national monument to most accurately depict history. Racism is another word that might make us uncomfortable, and yet it is a reality of American history. Efforts must be taken within the GMP/EIS and at the Minidoka Internment National Monument to educate about racism in the United States clearly and directly. On page 5, the text reads: "Deep resentment, discrimination, bitterness, and fear of Japanese-born immigrants and their Japanese American descendants living along the West Coast began to surface within the government, media, and general public." Why not include racism in this statement for surely it is the overarching, primary reason for the "deep resentment, discrimination, bitterness, and fear"? Why not also include the term "racism" in the "Glossary of words and terms related to the U.S. government's wartime

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Responses

(Beth Takekawa)

2 We agree that civil and constitutional rights and the unjust internment and incarceration are significant and are linked. This message is explicit in the national monument's significance, interpretive themes, and desired future conditions which form the foundation for the national monument. This text can be found on page 44-51 of the Draft GMP/EIS.

We do not agree that your suggested word changes should be made on pages 5, 6, 86, and 153. This type of interpretation is already expressed in the significance, interpretive themes, and desired future conditions.

On page 129 of the Draft GMP/EIS, the text has been changed to read, "Other cooperative efforts would be established with schools, universities, and local, state, and other federal agencies, as well as other constitutional and civil rights organizations."

3 The NPS agrees that the internment and incarceration of Nikkei was set within a context of racism and discrimination during World War II. This message is explicit in the national monument's significance, interpretive themes, and desired future conditions which form the foundation for the national monument. This text can be found on page 44-51 of the Draft GMP/EIS.

The concepts and acts of racism and discrimination are described throughout the document; and the actual words "racism" and "discrimination" are located where appropriate in the document. Your suggestion to add the phrase "racism and discrimination"

Comments

03 policy toward Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry" for surely racism had been the context for U.S. legal action related to Nikkei leading up to and during World War II, and continued to be a reality in Nikkei life following World War II. Racism should be pointed out for all to see, rather than left lurking under the surface, so that no one can deny its existence and impacts and so that we all can take steps to fight against it.

We note that despite our previous comments to the draft that the following revisions were not incorporated into subsequent drafts, and this represents a weakness in the GMP/EIS:

Page i – "For Nikkei at Minidoka and other War Relocation Authority (WRA) concentration camps, the internment and incarceration was the central event in their community's history; however the experiences of injustice, racism and discrimination, hardship, and endurance illustrate an American story common among millions of immigrants, their descendants, and American Indians."

Page i – "Following the decommission of the camp, the Minidoka concentration camp lands were subdivided and settled. With continuing racism and discrimination, Nikkei were not given the option to remain in the area."

Page 5 – "Deep resentment, racism and discrimination, bitterness, and fear of Japanese-born immigrants and their Japanese American descendants living along the West Coast began to surface within the government, media, and general public."

Page 32 – "With continuing racism and discrimination, generally, Nikkei were then barred from staying in the area and were not allowed to participate in the future land drawings of the former camp lands."

Page 33 – "Internees returning home, rebuilding their lives, or settling in new years of the nation encountered continued racism and discrimination as well as new adversities." (Note: "Racism" and "discrimination" are much stronger words that "prejudice" and better capture the extent of what Nikkei faced as they returned.)

04 4. Issei experience of Minidoka concentration camp. The Issei bore the majority of the weight of shame, loss of freedom, loss of property, loss of livelihood, and in some cases, loss of life, in the unjust incarceration of the Nikkei during World War II. The GMP/EIS rightly states "the Issei generation was most impacted by the internment and incarceration experience" (page 21). As we know, losses were profound on numerous levels yet strength and perseverance were demonstrated by the Issei on all fronts. Attention needs to be given throughout the GMP/EIS and subsequently the Minidoka Internment National Monument to balance both aspects.

We cannot emphasize enough the necessary and primary weight that Minidoka Internment National Monument should give to the Issei experience. While this story, unfortunately, is the most difficult to recover, the NPS should facilitate ways for visitors to the Monument to consider Minidoka from the perspective of the Issei. While stories from the Nisei and others are important – and efforts must be made to preserve and present these stories through the Minidoka Internment National Monument – the NPS must also find ways to share the story and voice of those who through the circumstances of history and the passing of time were not able to speak for themselves.

What did the honor roll mean to the Issei parents who watched their sons valiantly go off to risk their lives for a nation that never accepted them into its arms? What tragic nuances did the swimming hole hold for the Issei parents who had to undergo the wretched experience of burying their own child? In this vein, we question the accuracy of stating that Issei women were "relieved" of some traditional duties and therefore less "burdened" by the incarceration (page 25). Could it be stated instead that "removing them from these traditional duties also stripped them of a sense of purposefulness and significance"? These are the questions that NPS staff working at Minidoka Internment National Monument should continually ask and that ultimately visitors should confront as they walk through the Monument.

Responses

(Beth Takekawa)

to additional locations in the document (pages i, 5, 32, and 33) does not add new information for the reader.

The term "racism" has been added to the glossary of the Final GMP/EIS. It reads, "The belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior to others. Discrimination or prejudice based on race."

4 The preferred alternative has been modified to include the concept of an Issei Memorial. This concept was supported by several other public comments. The NPS will work with partners to develop this important project that focuses on the experiences of the Issei. On page 180 of the Draft GMP/EIS, the text has been changed to read, "The NPS and partners will select a site appropriate for the development of an Issei Memorial on the east end site."

Your questions regarding the term "relieved" with reference to the experience of Issei women are appropriate, insightful, and add sensitivity to understanding the experiences of Issei women at Minidoka. The use of the word "relieved" is defined as releasing from obligation, and in this context, it is appropriate.

Comments

05 5. Preserved and restored environs and conditions at the national monument. The unfertile barrenness and desolation of the historic period of the Minidoka concentration camp has changed dramatically to the present-day irrigated agricultural landscape. Former internees who have visited the site repeatedly mention that it is nearly "unrecognizable" – the muddy ground and storms of dust that they endured at Minidoka have been replaced by thriving green farmland (notably a change that came from the work of their own hands). The NPS has the difficult job of maintaining the wide views and open environment of Minidoka – perhaps best done by maintaining the agricultural environment (which also provides further interpretation opportunities) – while also creating ways for visitors to experience Minidoka as former internees most vividly remember it – as the dusty, barren, formidable, inhospitable environment it was. Balance between these two conditions must be given throughout the GMP/EIS, and efforts must be given at Minidoka Internment National Monument to share with visitors both aspects of the environment. Comments within the GMP/EIS on page 125 noting that "for former internees, the area is often unrecognizable, as they associated the camp landscape more with desolation and barrenness than rolling green fields" rightfully remind us that the current camp landscape can be deceptive from the actual environment faced by internees. The plan stated for Alternative B (page 163) and Alternative C (page 176) for "selective restoration [to] highlight the open, stark, barren landscape first encountered by the internees" is critical for the site and should also be included in Alternative D. Moreover, this "selective restoration" should also be mentioned in the Summary on page x, which currently only mentions protection of vegetation. Also, in the Education and Interpretation section of Planning Issues and Concerns (page 57), as the GMP/EIS makes mention of the challenge for the NPS to enable visitors to understand and appreciate the size of the original site, it should also make mention of the challenge to enable visitors to understand and appreciate the original and historically accurate environmental conditions endured by the internees.

6. Perspectives on the Canal, the Swimming Hole and "improvements" to camp life. In our previous Statement of Concerns, we noted that former internees have described both the Canal and the Swimming Hole in both cheerful and heart-breaking ways. To be historically accurate, the Canal and Swimming Hole should be regarded in two distinct lights: 1) in the context of the unjust incarceration, and then separately 2) in the context of what the Nikkei did there, which in this case includes both positive, recreation experiences as well as tragic events. Subsequent revisions to the GMP/EIS have done well to incorporate this balanced perspective.

As NPS staff proceed with implementation of the plan, they must keep in mind the tragic, grave, unjust circumstances of the Minidoka concentration camp that accompany any "improvements" made there. While we might find sweet moments in the baseball games that were played at Minidoka, how much more sweet would the games have been if played in the context of freedom of the leagues established before World War II and cut short by the incarceration. The overriding message of the Minidoka Internment National Monument must be clear, direct, and unmistakable – the unjust incarceration of Nikkei during World War II by the U.S. government was tragically wrong, Nikkei should never have been imprisoned in the camps in the first place, and we must remain vigilant so that such violation of constitutional and civil rights never happens again.

7. Access to collections and materials. While preservation of the historic site, as particularly emphasized in Alternative C, is valuable towards learning about the Minidoka concentration camp, the Minidoka Internment National Monument's remote location and physical distance from former internees and their families, contemporary concentrations of the Nikkei community, and larger population centers cannot be overlooked. It is imperative that NPS staff seeks ways to outreach to these individuals in order to not only attract them to the historic site but to bring educational resources to them where they are at. The Minidoka Internment National Monument cannot be inwardly focused, but must be outwardly focused as well. Preservation of historic materials, including collecting of materials, must be paired with readily available access to these materials by a

06 broad spectrum of individuals, families, and communities. We encourage NPS staff to collaborate with museums and organizations within contemporary concentrations of the Nikkei community and larger population centers to collect, preserve, and store historic materials. Select materials then can periodically be displayed at the Minidoka Internment National Monument, while the larger collection remains more readily accessible to the larger public on a year-round basis. Statements on page x, along with the Summary of Actions for Collections

THE MINIDOKA INTERMENT NATIONAL MONUMENT | General Management Plan Comments | 9/19/2005

Responses

(Beth Takekawa)

5 Your suggested changes to pages x and 193 have not been made. "Selective restoration" has not been added to page x, since the text you are referring to discusses actions that are common to all alternatives. Under alternative A, the historic vegetation would be "protected" rather than selectively restored. The actions for selective restoration of the historic vegetation are the same under alternatives B, C, and D.

On page 57, the text has been changed to "A variety of interpretive methods and media that enable visitors to understand and appreciate the size and environmental conditions of the original site should be explored."

6 On page 148 and 206, the text has been changed for Common to All Alternatives under Collections to read, "Develop a Scope of Collections Statement in coordination with partner institutions and NPS units. Promote the care, collection, curation, and access of a wide range of artifacts. Collections would meet NPS professional standards."

Comments

06 on page 206, which read, "Collections of historical objects and documents at off-site locations would be made more accessible," (x) and "Explore partnership efforts with others for off-site storage of collections and public access to these collections," (206) capture these sentiments. In the Common to All Alternatives section for Cultural Resources, the statement regarding Scope of Collections needs to be revised in this light to read, "Develop a Scope of Collections Statement for the national monument in coordination with partner institutions and NPS units. Promote the care, collection, curation, and access of a wide range of artifacts and memorabilia" (148). Also, it is noted in the GMP/EIS that items have already come into the possession of the NPS. We urge the NPS to begin collaborations with other museums and/or organizations to increase knowledge of and accessibility to these items.

07 8. "Loyalty questionnaire." Another challenge faced by the NPS is how to balance the many responses Nikkei had to the incarceration. Responses were diverse and on occasion controversial, even within the Nikkei community itself. A central area of conflict occurred in regards to the "loyalty questionnaire." While the GMP/EIS attempts to address the complexities of the "loyalty questionnaire" on pages 26-28, the narrative still positions those who answered "yes" as "loyal citizens" and those who answered "no" as "less than honorable." While 2 paragraphs beginning at the bottom of page 27 address what happened to those who answered "no," there is no mention about their honor, bravery, and courage to stand up to the injustice and hold true to the principles of freedom. Yet in the following 2 paragraphs beginning on page 28 that address what happened to those who answered "yes," the narrative includes mention of the Nisei that "distinguished themselves as loyal citizens." While we agree wholeheartedly with these statements, history will also reveal that those who answered "no" to one or both questions were also "heroes of justice, freedom and peace." We understand from the GMP/EIS that the honor roll will receive particular attention under the preferred alternative. In Table 5, which summarizes Management Zones Proposed within Minidoka Internment National Monument (page 153), the Historic Features Zone mentions "the contradiction of loyal citizens being imprisoned would be embodied in the Honor Roll." Again, while we agree with this approach, we also have concern about how those who answered "no" to the "loyalty questionnaire" will be presented and where will their story and perspective be shared. Ultimately, the question is about balanced representation and the inclusion at the Minidoka Internment National Monument of voices that might not be as readily accessible but which capture the range of responses by the Nikkei community.

9. Experience of Nikkei community following closure of the Minidoka concentration camp. As noted earlier, the Minidoka concentration camp exists in the context of a long history of racism and discrimination. The Nikkei community in the United States experienced racism before, during and after World War II. As we analyze history, we see that this racism is embodied in both stated policies and laws as well as in actions --

08 even though not officially stated. It is important to include in the narrative that Nikkei were excluded from land drawings after the close of the concentration camp right alongside the text that "most drawing applicants were Caucasian World War II veterans, as they had been given a 90-day preference" (page 35). While the narrative does include mention that Nikkei "were not allowed to participate in the future land drawings of former camp lands," it does this 3 pages back on page 32. The direct correlation of inclusion and exclusion based on race is not made and the racism inherent in these actions is not made clear.

10. Historical significance of the cemetery. It is incredibly poignant to know that individuals were born and died in the Minidoka concentration camp -- Nikkei who started their lives in a barren prison, and those who spent their last days denied of their freedom and rights and uncertain about the future of their family, friends, and community. The fact that their bodies were interred, removed and then re-interred also speaks volumes to

09 the violation that Minidoka concentration camp committed upon individual lives and an entire community. While the physical remnants of the cemetery itself may no longer hold historic integrity, the cemetery is historically significant and should be interpreted at the Minidoka Internment National Monument. On page 83, text should be revised to indicate this distinction and read, "Following the decommission of the camp, all of the graves were removed, and the bodies were re-interred at other locations. The NPS determined that, while historically

Responses

(Beth Takekawa)

7 The significance statements and interpretive themes explicitly state that draft resistance is significant and will be interpreted at the national monument alongside those who chose to serve their country in the military. This text can be found on page 45 and 47 of the Draft GMP/EIS.

New text has been added to page 28. It reads, "Several Nisei resisted the draft in order to protest the internment and incarceration. They felt that the injustice of being incarcerated outweighed their duty to serve in the U.S. military. Many "no no boys" would eventually be sent to federal prisons for as much as two years for this choice.

8 Your comment on the exclusion of Nikkei participation in land lotteries on the former Minidoka Relocation Center lands raises the issue of historical accuracy and the lack of documented evidence to support this statement. To date, conclusive documentation that Nikkei were disallowed from participating has not been found.

Positions about allowing Nikkei to lease and purchase land and reside in Idaho evolved between 1942 and 1946. Early in 1942, written evidence illustrates the initial intentions of the Governor of Idaho, Chase Clark, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the War Relocation Authority to prevent Minidoka internees from settling in the local area. As Minidoka was established and internees left the camps for seasonal agricultural labor throughout Idaho, attitudes toward Nikkei became more lenient. During Minidoka's operation, Nikkei assisted in averting agricultural labor crises

Comments

09 significant, the physical cemetery itself does not hold historic integrity and can be interpreted through other means."

11. **Hunt Road.** We urge the NPS to pursue action to re-route Hunt Road from traversing the Minidoka Internment National Monument. The road not only radically disrupts the experience of the site – in regards to both historic accuracy to the primary era of significance for the site but also the contemplative experience of the site for visitors – but poses safety issues for visitors, especially the families with young children and school students, that hopefully will come to the Monument. As written, the GMP/EIS makes allowances for Hunt Road to continue through the Monument and tempers its impact noting, for example, that "by concentrating visitor facilities away from Hunt Road, and clearly defining visitor parking areas, vehicle congestion would be minimized and allow for continued through-traffic" (186). The plan also notes that cooperation with "Hillsdale Highway District will need to be established and maintained to coordinate the maintenance of Hunt Road and

10 the Hunt Bridge as well as potential traffic congestion during special events" (191). The impact of traffic congestion created by visitors to the Monument on surrounding neighbors, along with the impact of the establishment of the Monument itself on surrounding neighbors, needs to be considered. At the same time, however, the impact of traffic congestion created by visitors to the Monument on the experience of the Monument itself, along with the impact of surrounding neighbors on the Monument, must also be addressed.

12. **Current actions as related to boundary expansion and fundraising efforts.** At the beginning of this process, the NPS began a relationship with the Nikkei community, seeking direction and inviting input. Efforts were taken to openly communicate with the Nikkei community and keep actions and steps transparent. As the NPS moves forward with actions related to the GMP/EIS, open communication must be continued.

We are aware of questions within the Nikkei community related to boundary expansion and fundraising efforts. As well, there are questions about the interconnectedness between the Bainbridge Island Eaglesdale Ferry site, Minidoka, and the Issei Memorial. We urge the NPS move forward on these issues with an approach of communication and continued respectfulness for the Nikkei community, so that we can effectively work together to build a team, rather than just responding to individual requests without knowing the larger context.

As implementation of the GMP/EIS proceeds, it must be set in the context of open dialogue, fostering team effort.

Additional Revisions and Corrections

Letter from Superintendent, Abstract, How to Use This Document, and page 175 (first paragraph) – Refers to the experience of "Japanese Americans" at Minidoka rather than "Nikkei." Revise to read "Japanese American citizens and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry."

11 Pages vi, x, 130, 206 – When referring to Nikkei who were imprisoned in the Minidoka concentration camp in the present-day, please refer to them as "former internees" rather than just "internees."

12 Page 1 – In the opening to the History of the Internment and Incarceration of Nikkei section, include that Issei held jobs in railroad construction, along with farming, fishing, and timber. Also note their contribution to helping settle the American West, building key infrastructure and establishing key industries. Their significance stretched beyond just making a living for themselves and establishing their own communities.

13 Page 12 – The caption to the photo from Bancroft Library still incorporates the misnomer "barrack apartments." Revise to read, "barrack living quarters."

Responses

(Beth Takekawa)

throughout southern Idaho. By 1945, the War Relocation Authority, Bureau of Reclamation, and Chase Clark's positions had changed about allowing Nikkei to become residents of Idaho. While the WRA forcibly removed some internees and returned them to the West Coast, hundreds of internees also decided to permanently settle and create new lives in Idaho. Nevertheless, racist attitudes and actions toward Nikkei persisted well beyond the close of World War II.

It is not known at this time whether Nikkei veterans had an interest in applying for the Minidoka homesteads, nor whether they were denied eligibility for reasons of once having been incarcerated there. As more research and information becomes available, a more conclusive understanding of this period will unfold as well as the National Monument's telling of this history.

For the reasons stated above, the last sentence on page 32 has been deleted.

9 Your suggested change to page 83 has been made. It reads, "The NPS determined that, while historically significant, the physical cemetery itself does not hold historic integrity and can be interpreted through other means."

10 The NPS agrees that transportation and potential impacts must be addressed. The preferred alternative calls for a transportation study to research and propose alternative solutions.

Comments

Page 17 – Revise statement “agricultural development and farm work at Minidoka employed hundreds of internees” to read that this employment was at substandard wage rates. As it reads now, it seems like this was a boon rather than pointing out the continued injustice of the situation. Although the narrative gives mention of the wage disparity, it does not do this until 3 pages later. Strengthen the text by stating the wage disparity earlier and then developing it with these concrete details.

14 Page 80 – Text in the second paragraph still incorporates the misnomer “swimming pool.” Revise to read, “swimming hole.”

Page 81 – Acknowledge appropriate reference to the interpretation of the garden as a “designed landscape mixing elements of patriotism with Japanese styling.”

Responses

(Beth Takekawa)

11 through 14 The following editorial changes have been made. Some suggested changes have not been made, as they do not add new information to the document.

Comment 11: “Former internees” have replaced “internees” on the following pages: vi, x, 130, and 206.

Comment 12: A new sentence was added on page 1. It reads, “During this period, Issei contributed to establishing important infrastructure, industries and settling of the American West.”

Comment 13: On page 12, the word “barracks” has replaced “barracks apartments.”

Comment 14: On page 80, the phrase “swimming hole” has replaced “swimming pool.”

Comments

THE CONSERVATION FUND

146

September 19, 2005



Mr. Neil King
Superintendent
Minidoka Internment National Monument
National Park Service
P.O. 570
Hagerman, ID 83332-9900

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of The Conservation Fund, I am writing to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Park Service's draft General Management Plan (GMP) for the Minidoka Internment National Monument and specifically to provide comments in support of Alternative C, the preferred alternative.

Thanks to the outstanding work of the National Park Service (NPS), the draft GMP includes a comprehensive and thoughtful discussion of the events associated with the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II at the Minidoka Relocation Center and outlines a strong vision for the future of the Monument to serve as a focal point for public education and interpretation.

Accordingly, The Conservation Fund (TCF) strongly supports Alternative C, which emphasizes on-site education and interpretation through the restoration of a residential barracks block on its original site at the Monument along with other actions.

Boundary Expansion: TCF supports Alternative C's recommendation to expand the Monument's boundary to include the 128-acre farm and to seek legislation to authorize the NPS to acquire the property on a willing seller basis. The 128-acre privately-owned farm features significant historic resources and would allow the NPS to restore an entire barracks block at its original location. The restoration of a barracks block would enable the NPS to provide the public with an outstanding opportunity to learn about daily life in the camp and to better understand the scale of the camp's operation, which housed over 13,000 internees.

Also, the acquisition of the farm would help the NPS better manage visitors to the site in order to significantly reduce the potential for conflicts with adjacent private landowners and to reduce the likelihood of trespass incidents on adjacent private property. In addition, the acquisition of the farm would allow the NPS to provide the public with information about the farm's significance for homesteading as part of the "Farm-in-a-Day" program and the importance of agriculture in southern Idaho.

Partners in land and water conservation

Post Office Box 1524 • Sun Valley, ID 83353 • (208) 726-4419 • FAX (208) 726-4429



Responses

Letter 146: Mark W. Elsbree, The Conservation Fund

Comments

Mr. Neil King
September 19, 2005
Page two

Name Change: TCF supports Alternative C's recommendation to change the Monument's name to the Minidoka National Historic Site. Currently, there are several different views about the best term to use in describing the forced exclusion, relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Some have proposed internment camps, confinement sites, concentration camps or other terms. In light of the absence of a consensus over the most appropriate term to use, we believe that the NPS should propose to Congress that the word "internment" be dropped from the name, thus one particular term would not be codified in statute.

Because of the strong public recognition for the Manzanar National Historic Site, we support renaming the Monument to Minidoka National Historic Site in order to conform Minidoka's name to the Manzanar National Historic Site. The Manzanar camp is one of the nine other internment camp sites and the only other site that is managed by the NPS as a unit of the National Park System.

Building Restoration at the Gate: TCF also supports Alternative C's recommendation to rebuild buildings and structures located at the former entrance to the camp. In particular, we support the reconstruction of the stone military police building, the stone reception room and the Honor Roll.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to the issuance of the final management plan in the near future and to the opportunity to continue to work in partnership with the NPS on this historic initiative.

Sincerely,


Mark W. Elsbree
Vice President & Northwest Director

cc: The Honorable Larry E. Craig
The Honorable Mike Crapo
The Honorable Michael K. Simpson

Responses

(Mark W. Elsbree)

Comments



JAPANESE AMERICAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM

26

#147

369 East First Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Telephone 213.625.0414
Facsimile 213.625.1770

September 12, 2005

Mr. Neil King, Superintendent
Minidoka Internment National Monument
221 N. State St.
P.O. Box 570
Hagerman, ID 83332-9900

RE: Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan (GMP)

Dear Superintendent King:

On behalf of the leadership of the Japanese American National Museum, we are writing to strongly support the Draft General Management Plan for the Minidoka National Monument. As one of the sites where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II, Minidoka represents a vital part of our Nation's historical legacy and a reminder of the enduring importance of the Constitution even in times of war and national crisis.

The Japanese American National Museum was founded in 1985 to tell the story of Japanese Americans in the United States. The National Museum believes in the fundamental importance of remembering history to better guard against prejudice that can threaten liberty and equality in a democratic society. We seek to provide a world-class forum for people of every age and ethnicity to explore the Japanese American historical experience. By telling the story of our community, the Museum seeks to preserve the past, enrich lives, and look ahead to a more vibrant, diverse, and just America.

The National Park Service (NPS) is to be commended for developing such a thoroughly professional analysis of the incarceration site, its surrounding communities, and the need for extensive interpretation and education, and for developing such a forward looking Preferred Alternative. While the memories are still vivid and the emotions still can run high, we believe it is important that the full story of this troubling episode in American history be fully told in a manner that will reach all Americans for all time.

The Japanese American National Museum strongly supports the NPS Preferred Alternative (C) as presented in the Draft GMP, with the following comments and suggestions.

Minidoka was one of ten centers established during World War II. Over 120,000 Japanese Americans would spend the next three years of their lives confined in isolated camps operated by the War Relocation Authority. Preservation of the remaining historic elements of Minidoka is critical to future understanding of the site and the experience of those who once lived there. It imperative for visitors to fully feel the emotional impact of the incarceration, including seeing restored barracks and historic lands where the rows of barracks once stood.

Responses

Letter 147: Irene Hirano, Japanese American National Museum

Comments



An on-site facility for education and interpretation will help to tell the Minidoka story, attracting visitors, enhancing the visitor's experience, and benefiting the surrounding community. The current national monument does not encompass key elements of the original center. At this time, none of Minidoka's agricultural fields, or, more importantly, its residential areas, is included in the national monument. Thus, we welcome the GMP Preferred Alternative's recommendation to seek authorization to acquire, through transfer and purchase, several modest additions of historic lands that were parts of the concentration camp site. These additions are essential to effective preservation of the historic site and to retelling the full story of incarceration. We urge the legislative actions required to implement the proposed additions, transfers, and the small exchange of lands to assure a manageable and representative boundary.

As is the case with most national parks today, success is dependent on partnerships. The Japanese American National Museum, and many other organizations, stand ready to assist in the work that will be required. The National Museum can play an important role in expanding public education about the World War II camp experience. This is work that is already being provided and would be enhanced by the Minidoka site. Beyond that, local partnerships are essential to preserving to the extent possible the cultural landscape of open farmlands surrounding the monument, so that the historic setting of the site is as accurate as possible.

Additionally, the Japanese American National Museum would support your recommended name change to Minidoka National Historic Site, consistent with the Manzanar National Historic Site. The National Museum uses the term "concentration camp" to refer to the World War II camp sites. We also use the term "incarceration" rather than internment. We believe that these terms are more historically accurate. However, we acknowledge that different terms are used to describe the experience. Given the substantial debate that occurred during the Manzanar designation and final agreements that were reached, we would support consistency of "National Historic Site" to refer to Minidoka.

In order for the full story to be told in a way that will reach the largest number of Americans, it will be important to assure preservation of other historic sites associated with the Japanese American experience of World War II, including not only the War Relocation Authority camp site, but assembly centers, and prisons, as well as the sites where many Japanese Americans trained for active duty military service in World War II, winning medals and commendations for their courage and sacrifice.

For the Minidoka story to be fully told will require appropriate preservation and memorialization of associated sites, including in particular the Eagledale Ferry Dock on Bainbridge Island and the Hashidate-Yu (Panama Hotel) both in Seattle, Washington. In 2002, Congress directed the NPS to conduct a study of the Bainbridge Island site. We commend the Park Service for its work on the Bainbridge Island study and anxiously await its completion. Ultimately, we look forward to an affirmative recommendation by the Interior Department for designation of a National Memorial on this site.

We also appreciate the recent progress on designation of the Hashidate-Yu (in the basement of the Panama Hotel) as a National Historic Landmark. This hotel was a key center of community life for Japanese American before the War, and served as a repository for the

Responses

(Irene Hirano)

Comments



footlockers, trunks, and other baggage of hundreds of internees when they were sent away to the internment camps. The National Park System Advisory Board affirmed the site's national significance in 2003. We understand that the last remaining obstacles to approval of the NHL designation by the Secretary of Interior may shortly be overcome.

We appreciate you and your staff's many efforts thus far to reach out to the Japanese American community, as well as to various other local communities in the development of this plan. The Japanese American National Museum stands ready to assist the National Park Service in the realization of this critically important park planning and implementation action and making. We urge expeditious approval and implementation of the Preferred Alternative.

Sincerely,

Irene Hirano
President & CEO

Responses

(Irene Hirano)

Comments

Responses

Japanese American Citizens League

Pocatello-Blackfoot Chapter

September 20, 2005

Mr. Neil King
Superintendent
Minidoka Internment NM
P.O. Box 570
221 North State Street
Hagerman, ID. 83332



Mr King,

On behalf of the Pocatello-Blackfoot Japanese American Citizen's League, we wish to thank you for the tremendous work you have done on bringing the Minidoka Internment Memorial this far in the long and arduous process of making this dream a reality.

In reviewing the proposed plans, our chapter wishes to endorse Plan C. We feel this provides the most consistent, complete, and cost effective option that provides the best environment for a visitor to experience the Internment and the effect such a place had on so many Japanese Americans.

We are available to support your efforts in anyway we can as this project has such meaning for so many Japanese Americans in this area.

Please feel free to call on us at anytime.

Again, with thanks

Karl Endo
President, Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL
17 Cedar Hills
Pocatello, Idaho 83204
208-233-8293

For a Better American in a Greater America

Letter 149: Karl Endo, Japanese American Citizens League, Pocatello Blackfoot Chapter

Comments

Responses

Japanese American Citizens League #1496

Pocatello-Blackfoot Chapter

September 20, 2005

Mr. Neil King
Superintendent
Minidoka Internment NM
P.O. Box 570
221 North State Street
Hagerman, ID. 83332


SEP 22 2005

HAFO

Mr King,

Per a majority vote, the Pocatello-Blackfoot Japanese American Citizen's League has requested that the suggestion for the signs directing persons to the Minidoka Memorial read "Minidoka Concentration Camp".

Please feel free to call on us at anytime.



Karl Endo
President, Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL
17 Cedar Hills
Pocatello, Idaho 83204
208-233-8293

For a Better American in a Greater America

(Karl Endo)

Comments

Responses

Letter 152: Robert Hayashi



Anna Tamura

09/23/2005 08:48 AM
PDT

To: Evelyn Simon/HAFO/NPS@NPS

cc:

Subject: Fw: Minidoka GMP comments

#152



Robert Hayashi
<rhayashi@charter.net>

09/19/2005 11:32 PM
EST

To: anna_tamura@nps.gov

cc:

Subject: Minidoka GMP comments

Dear Anna,

Thank you for sending me the copy of the Minidoka GMP. My time out in Portland with your colleagues was a wonderful, enlightening experience, and I do hope that I will have the opportunity to continue working with NPS as Minidoka and other related sites move forward.

You may not remember, but I had some correspondence with you years back while I was in graduate school. And I enjoyed reading your MA thesis, to which I refer in my just-about-done book manuscript.

Attached are some ruminations in response to the plan.

Feel free to contact me if there is anything that I can do for you all in the future. Again, it was a really great experience for me meeting the NPS staff out in Portland this summer and please send my regards.

Sincerely,



Robert_gmp_comments_hayashi.doc

Comments

#152

I must admit to having mixed emotions about NPS's plans to develop Minidoka. There was an ineffable power to the site as it existed prior to preservation, the sagebrush and deteriorated buildings bespoke of the absence of the Relocation in our national history, the neglect. And I worry that restoration and development of the site will create a landscape that appears too aesthetically pleasing, one that can too easily leave a viewer with a misperception of the conditions that internees experienced. This is valid given the still present notion that Relocation was, indeed, not so bad, like a long stay at a Holiday Inn, as I once heard someone argue. Therefore, I hope that NPS does include photographs, film, paintings, and personal accounts that faithfully convey the harshness of the landscape as it was during Relocation. I also urge NPS to consider a multi-disciplinary approach in conveying this story and leverage the unique power of personal narrative to convey it. Perhaps, recounting the biographies of a heterogeneous group of individuals through their words is one means by which to do this, for, as articulated by Thelen and Rosenzweig's research, personal and emotional connections to history are what most compels interest in historically significant locales. The poems of Mitsuye Yamada are one fine example that come to mind, especially as they recount her life before, during, and after Relocation to Minidoka.

However, I am most concerned that this history be a part of how Americans conceive of their selves, their history. Therefore, I am appreciative of NPS's efforts to preserve and to interpret the site. Moreover, the GMP's guidelines will provide an opportunity to bring this history to the attention of the public and in a vital fashion. I am impressed with the overall plan and agree with NPS's favored option.

Responses

(Robert Hayashi)

Comments

My greatest concern, however, is how fully the story is told and how adequately it addresses the unsettling questions about American and Japanese American identity that this moment in history represents. This should be conceived as a site for ongoing debate about the issues of civil rights and constitutional history, and I urge NPS to use this interpretive theme to guide its interpretation and management of the site by forefronting it in exhibits, interpretive materials, public outreach, its website, and events at or related to the site. The recent Padilla case demonstrates that this history is not some moment frozen in time, a dusty relic behind glass, but one episode in a continually evolving story, a part of OUR American legal, constitutional, judicial, and even environmental history.

Moreover, the notion of civic engagement can be a useful vehicle by which the controversial, hotly debated aspects of these issues can be incorporated into Minidoka's development and management, so that the recent NPS directive "to ensure all voices are heard, but none dominate" can be accomplished. Therefore, no one Nikkei voice or group should control Minidoka's meaning. All the fractiousness of military service that still haunts the JA community must be represented in the voices included in exhibits, printed materials, and other interpretations of the site. For too long nisei combat service has dominated the establishment of Japanese American public history and represented JA identity itself, as evidenced by the Japanese American National Monument in Washington. NPS has a responsibility to portray the range of experiences that relate to Minidoka so that no one singular experience becomes the dominant or representative one. It must realize how it is a uniquely powerful shaper of public history and of civic identity-- the gatekeeper for a kind of "official story" and therefore with a great responsibility to be honest and inclusive. That means Manzanar or Minidoka must not

Responses

(Robert Hayashi)

Comments

remain fixed in their meanings, but consistent with the Organization of American Historian's suggestions in its 2004 report on Teaching Citizenship and Patriotism, they should evolve.

An individual's visit to such a site may be their only access to that history, the story of some people they know little of. This is especially true in relation to stories that relate to American racial/ethnic minorities at a time when the legacy of racism's impact on contemporary life seems to some Americans obliterated--in our post-civil rights era, where, as some submit, Asian Americans are all model minorities. It is even MORE imperative in this climate that NPS play a provocative role by simply telling an honest history that connects the present to the past and from the perspective of the many. And this includes seeking opportunities to connect histories related to the site, not just to other current or proposed NPS sites like Manzanar or Bainbridge Island, but in relation to other group histories, too. Like Manzanar, Minidoka's larger history also suggests the validity of other frames of understanding the site, for instance, as a place marked by the historic struggle between the powerful and weak for control of the land itself and the dominant role of agricultural development and the "yeoman farmer" mythos in shaping the West. This also invites the possibility of framing individual group experiences in dialogue with other group histories, such as seeing Japanese American history in relation to Native American history: a valid exploration considering that the federal government's management of Japanese Americans during WWII was directly influenced by its prior experience with Native Americans and vice versa. In addition, this can provide a means to bridge the traditionally separate provinces of natural history and cultural history. As historian Patricia Limerick has written, "The complete story of the investment of human

Responses

(Robert Hayashi)

Comments

consciousness in the American landscape requires attention to the whole set of participants . . . With anything less, the meaning of the landscape is fragmented and truncated”

NPS must assume that this will mean unsettling some Americans, and negotiate that responsibly, or don't try at all. It's not a blame game—it's understanding OUR history. Afterall, the other side of that hypen is "American." And ethnic groups must often fashion identities that negotiate the ascribed identity from the larger culture and its institutions ideals of what American is, and this entails a political struggle within groups, one that is usually unknown to the larger public. Yet, that hidden component NPS should include, for it often tells us what being Jewish, Japanese-American, or Cape Verdean-American really means. And we might, for instance, realize that when ethnic identity seems most consistent, connected with American identity, as in the example of JA combat veterans, it has really most powerfully displayed the disconnect.

Afterall, the explicit goal of the WRA was to dissolve Japanese American ethnic identity, and that identity is more than cultural; it also is defined by how JAs relate to, shape, and define their group history, and they do not universally assent to a singular narrative. The debate a few decades ago between JACL chapters over how to commemorate Minidoka is an illustrative example and such moments more adequately and provocatively convey what it has, will, and may mean to be Japanese American: what forces compel them to identify themselves in the public sphere. Yes, we should honor veterans, but we must not forget the draft resisters, the issei, women, and the younger generations of American nikkei. It is imperative that the larger public be aware of the fractures within the community that are a manifestation of Relocation and one of its most

Responses

(Robert Hayashi)

Comments

distressing legacies. Personally, my family remains deeply divided because of events that occurred during the war and my grandfather died at Minidoka. My aunt painfully remains embittered, and even I feel wary in the land of my birth, though I never directly suffered the indignation and injustice of internment. A formal apology and a tax-free \$20,000 check cannot heal what we lost, and I don't want visitors to walk away feeling good about what they learn at Minidoka. This is why, if I had my druthers, this would be known by what it was—a concentration camp.

01 I urge NPS to, at the least, make clear the debates within the community that stem from this history and the subsequent debates about what this site signifies, including the controversy over its terminology. As James Young notes, *"The differences among names*

also explain the great gulfs in understanding between different nations and people, reflecting disparate experiences of the period as well as the different shapes respective national mythologies and ideologies necessarily confer on events. Every language's name thus molds events in the image of its culture's particular understanding of events."

By acknowledging this at Minidoka, NPS will provide an opportunity for Americans to discuss the different experiences that are often the result of racial/ethnic identity and, just maybe, learn to more fully appreciate the validity of each others' views.

I am not suggesting that this will be an easy task. Sadly, we live in a climate where too often historical accuracy and the admission of a plurality of experiences are labeled negative phenomena. But fostering debate is the engine of democratic ideals and I also think that forefronting the notion of civic engagement is a necessary and effective means by which to truly accomplish a broader audience and a more diverse, more accurate presentation of American history. What may be so important about civic

Responses

(Robert Hayashi)

1 Please see responses to comments 17-01 and 62-01 for their discussions on terminology.

Comments

engagement and why it is such an effective means to incite dialogue is that it may be the one connecting point in American identity we can agree on: the core principles and the assumption of individual civic duty they infer. To finally tell the kind of inclusive, truly multi-vocal history that NPS and other public institutions have long denied means shattering the connection to common roots--in culture or historical perspective. For it is when an individual group's history is most in discord with the larger national narrative that the meaning of such an identity, the gap of that hyphen is most keenly felt.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Hayashi

Assistant Professor

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

Responses

(Robert Hayashi)

Comments

#159

Jerome County Planning & Zoning
300 N. Lincoln Run, 307, Jerome, Idaho 83338
Tel. 208-324-9116- Fax 208-324-9263



Arthur R. Brown, Administrator
Nancy Duane, Administrative Assistant
Yvette LeMon, Secretary

Neil King, Superintendent
Minidoka Internment National Monument
PO Box 570
Hagerman, Idaho 83332

March 27, 2006

To Superintendent King,

On March 27, 2006 you met with me and we discussed the requirements of Jerome
01 County Zoning Ordinance. After reviewing the Ordinance, Chapter 5 Chart 5-3 states
that a Special Use Permit is required for a monument. (See attach chart 5-3).

Please contact Jerome County Planning & Zoning Office when we can assist you in
preparing for the Special Use Application.

Sincerely,

Arthur Roy Brown
Planning & Zoning Administrator

Responses

Letter: 159, Arthur Brown, Jerome County Planning and Zoning

1 Thank you for your letter regarding the Jerome County Zoning Ordinance.

At present, Minidoka Internment National Monument is located in the Agricultural Zone A-1. The NPS considers the historically significant resources and purpose of Minidoka Internment National Monument to be most compatible with Jerome County's Preservation Zone. The Preservation Zone is defined as "land which possesses such unique characteristics, benefiting the public at large, that its present unique character should remain undisturbed....Sites of significant historical interest and value should be included in the Preservation Zone if such inclusion is reasonable and possible. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall give careful consideration to the recommendations of the Jerome County Historical Society whenever the Commission is considering the inclusion or the exclusion of a site and/or land area which is presented as being appropriate to this zone" (Jerome County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 4-8).

The purpose of Minidoka Internment National Monument is to protect historic structures and objects that provide opportunities for public education and interpretation of an important chapter of American history - the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Additionally, the site has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1979, and was declared an Idaho Centennial Site in 1990 by the State of Idaho.

Comments

Responses

(Arthur Brown)

The National Park Service respectfully requests the Jerome County Planning and Zoning Commission work with the NPS staff to consider changing the County zoning designation of the area included within the authorized boundaries of the Minidoka Internment National Monument area from “A-1” Agricultural Zone to the “PR” Preservation Zone due to the historical importance and the public preservation purposes of the national monument. National Park Service staff would be pleased to provide the County with any additional information about the national monument at your request. We would of course be available to attend any public hearings on the matter as may come before the Commission.

The following text has been added to the Common to All Alternatives, Land Protection and Boundaries section on page 150: “The NPS will collaborate with Jerome County to initiate a request for the inclusion of Minidoka Internment National Monument lands into the Jerome County Preservation Zone.”

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***A**s the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.*



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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