

Letter from the Superintendent

It is with great pleasure that the National Park Service presents this general management plan that will serve as the master document to guide the management and development of Minidoka Internment National Monument for the next couple of decades. However, it is more than just a 'plan' – as it characterizes the collective vision of the hundreds of individuals that have opened their hearts and minds and have shared their personal feelings. These shared thoughts and stories have provided meaningful insights into one of America's darkest chapters in the mass violation of civil liberties and denial of constitutional rights. In many aspects it is a model plan since the very framework of these management strategies was created in direct response to the concerns and issues that were identified through a rigorous public planning process.

The important question now is what will be the role of the Minidoka site? How will this plan help shape the desired outcomes? Twenty years from now, when the next generations visit the site in Idaho, what do we want them to learn? What will they tell their neighbors about what they experienced? *What will Minidoka's legacy be?*

Since Minidoka Internment National Monument was established in 2001, the National Park Service has learned much about our national heritage and this American Story, and we understand that the story continues to have relevance today. The people that we have met and worked with, and the hundreds of stories that we have heard during the planning process have been truly remarkable and inspirational. I am certain that this document captures the national significance of the site and the importance for telling those powerful stories. I am equally confident that the management strategies that we have developed through this intense collaborative effort can achieve our long term goals – that is, to provide a forum for learning and understanding of past mistakes, set within the historical context of the mass internment and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Now we face the challenge of implementing this plan in order to achieve our mutual goals.

I am often asked, "How can we accomplish all of the things that are in the general management plan?" The answer is that we must all continue to remain engaged, with each other and through groups, such as the Friends of Minidoka, the private sector, and other partners to accomplish, together, what is not possible alone. But most importantly, it is through the power of personal commitments of individuals like you that will continue forward movement to accomplish our objectives.

I believe that the *Minidoka Legacy* will be our collective voices – the voices of and for the Nikkei and our American heritage, to ensure that every person that is touched by the Minidoka story will begin to understand and appreciate what happened. You and I must be those voices! I believe that the legacy will be voices that speak to future generations – for they are the ones that will truly decide if history will repeat itself – or not.

I want to sincerely thank you all for sharing your time, your stories and for working to make Minidoka a place where historic resources are preserved and the compelling stories are captured and shared with new generations. The keystone of this plan clearly states that education is the overarching goal in the name of achieving understanding and conveying the meanings of our historic lessons.

You must stay engaged. You must listen and then you must act. I look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,



Neil King

Superintendent

Minidoka Internment National Monument

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



*Placing cranes on
the umbrella during
the Mimidoka
Pilgrimage, June
2004. NPS Photo.*

Minidoka Internment National Monument

General Management Plan

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





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

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

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

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

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





*Yasusuke Kogita, at
left, created this
garden in Block 5.
Circa 1944.
National Archives.*