

Appendix A:  
*Minidoka  
Internment National  
Monument  
Proclamation  
January 17, 2001*



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58 (0120)

APR 6 2001

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Pacific West Region  
From: Acting Director   
Subject: Activation; Presidential Proclamation 7395 to establish the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

On January 17, 2001, President Clinton established by proclamation the Minidoka Internment National Monument in the State of Idaho, consisting of approximately 72.75 acres of Federal lands currently administered by the Bureau of Reclamation.

The proclamation directed the Secretary to transfer administration of the monument to the National Park Service. Upon completion of the transfer, the monument will become a unit of the National Park System. In order to carry out the purposes of the proclamation and to interpret the relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, the National Park Service must prepare a management plan by January 17, 2004.

The President's proclamation cites the monument's unique and irreplaceable historical resources. It recognizes valid existing rights within the monument and states that nothing in the proclamation shall interfere with the operation and maintenance of the Northside Canal to the extent that any such activities, that are not valid existing rights, are consistent with the purposes of the proclamation.

On March 28, 2001, Secretary Gail Norton sent letters to the Governors in each state where a new monument was established by presidential proclamation during the last two years of the previous Administration. Letters were also sent to the congressional delegation, and state and local officials, asking them to work with the Secretary in determining the future of the monument. In particular, the Secretary asked for any recommended boundary adjustments, special uses that should be allowed, and unique environmental or historical characteristics to be protected within the monument. She also asked for their participation in the general management planning process for each monument.

A copy of the proclamation and a copy of a letter the Secretary sent to one of the county commissioners are attached.

Responsibility: Regional Director, Pacific West Region

*"Planting celery" on  
the Minidoka  
project farms. Circa  
1943. National  
Archives.*

## Presidential Documents

Proclamation 7395 of January 17, 2001

### Establishment of the Minidoka Internment National Monument

By the President of the United States of America

#### A Proclamation

The Minidoka Internment National Monument is a unique and irreplaceable historical resource which protects historic structures and objects that provide opportunities for public education and interpretation of an important chapter in American history—the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the Secretary of War and military commanders to designate military areas from which “any or all persons may be excluded” and to “provide for residents of any such area who are excluded therefrom, such transportation, food, shelter, and other accommodations as may be necessary.”

Starting in early 1942, military authorities began designating military exclusion areas in the States of California, Washington, Oregon, and Arizona, and the territory of Alaska. Following the signing of Executive Order 9066, American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry living in the designated exclusion areas were ordered to evacuate their homes and businesses and report to temporary assembly centers located at fairgrounds, horse racetracks, and other make-shift facilities.

To provide more permanent accommodations for the evacuees, President Roosevelt established the War Relocation Authority (WRA) in March 1942. The WRA oversaw the construction of ten relocation centers on Federally owned lands in remote areas of six western States and Arkansas, including the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho. Alaskan Native residents of the Aleutian and Pribiloff Islands and members of other ethnic and religious groups were also relocated or interned during the course of the war.

Established in August 1942, the Minidoka Relocation Center, also known as the Hunt Site, was located on Federal lands in Jerome County, in south central Idaho. During its operation from August 1942 to October 1945, the population reached a peak of 9,397 Japanese Americans from Washington State, Oregon, and Alaska. The Center included over 33,000 acres of land with administrative and residential facilities located on approximately 950 acres. The Center had more than 600 buildings including administrative, religious, residential, educational, mess, medical, manufacturing, warehouse, security, and other structures.

Living conditions at Minidoka and the other centers were harsh. Internees were housed in crude barracks and cramped quarters, and they shared communal facilities. Internees engaged in irrigated agriculture, livestock production, and light manufacturing to produce food and garments for the camp. Approximately 1,000 internees from Minidoka served in the U.S. military. Fifty-four Japanese American servicemen from Minidoka were killed in action.

Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic

landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of lands, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

WHEREAS it appears that it would be in the public interest to reserve such lands as a national monument to be known as the Minidoka Internment National Monument:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, U.S.C. 431), do proclaim that there are hereby set apart and reserved as the Minidoka Internment National Monument for the purpose of protecting the historic structures and objects of historic interest contained therein, all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the United States within the boundaries of the area described on the map entitled "Minidoka Internment National Monument" attached to and forming a part of this proclamation. The Federal lands and interests in land reserved consist of approximately 72.75 acres, which is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the structures and objects to be protected.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land or other Federal laws, including but not limited to withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

The Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to legal authorities, shall manage the monument and shall transfer administration of the monument to the National Park Service to implement the purposes of this proclamation.

To carry out the purposes of this proclamation and to interpret the relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, shall prepare a management plan for the monument within 3 years of this date.

This proclamation does not reserve water as a matter of Federal law nor relinquish any water rights held by the Federal Government existing on this date. The Secretary shall work with appropriate State authorities to ensure that any water resources needed for monument purposes are available.

The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights, provided that nothing in this proclamation shall interfere with the operation and maintenance of the Northside Canal to the extent that any such activities, that are not valid existing rights, are consistent with the purposes of the proclamation.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the rights of any Indian tribe.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however the national monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the

Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

*William J. Clinton*

Billing code 2500-01-9

## Appendix B:

### *Record of Decision, Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*RECORD OF DECISION*

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Minidoka Internment National Monument

Jerome County, Idaho

#### INTRODUCTION

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), has prepared this Record of Decision (ROD) on the *Abbreviated Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* for Minidoka Internment National Monument, Idaho. This ROD includes a statement of the decision made, synopses of other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, a description of the environmentally preferred alternative, a discussion of impairment of resources or values, a listing of measures to minimize environmental harm, and an overview of public involvement in the decision-making process.

#### DECISION (SELECTED ACTION)

The National Park Service will implement the preferred alternative (alternative C) as described in the *Abbreviated Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* issued in June 2006. The selected action is largely unchanged from the preferred alternative as presented in the draft GMP/EIS. It emphasizes on-site education and interpretation and the extensive treatment and use of cultural resources in telling the Minidoka story. On-site education and interpretation will be accomplished through



a wide range of visitor experiences, including immersion into the historic scene, interaction with a variety of educational and interpretive media and personal services, and participation in creative and self directed activities. Off-site visitor education and interpretation will be conducted through diverse programs developed in cooperation with partners, including school districts, museums, and educational and legacy organizations and institutions.

The selected action will use various preservation techniques to protect and enhance historic resources, such as delineation, stabilization, restoration, rehabilitation, and limited reconstruction. These historic resources will be used for interpretive purposes to accurately and authentically convey the history and significance of the national monument. The establishment of one complete barracks block exhibit in its original location and configuration will be the cornerstone of interpretive services and facilities at the national monument, essential for understanding and appreciation of the incarceration experience and the significance of the national monument. A visitor contact facility and maintenance area will be developed by adaptively reusing existing historic buildings. There will be minimal new development.

The selected action requires Congressional legislation to authorize a boundary adjustment to include areas where barracks historically stood in order to reestablish a complete residential block in an original historic location. Additionally, the NPS will request congressional legislation to transfer the historic Minidoka Relocation Center landfill, located 1 mile north of the national monument, from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the NPS and transfer of 10.18 acres of historic lands from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to the NPS. Under the selected action, the NPS will recommend a name change to Minidoka National Historic Site, to be more reflective of its historic value.

Future construction projects, such as development of visitor contact facilities or adaptive re-use of historic structures and other implementation-level projects envisioned under the selected action, may require site-specific design and analysis. 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 will be "tiered" or procedurally connected to this EIS. These analyses will also include additional opportunities for public review and involvement.

## OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Three other alternatives for managing Minidoka Internment National Monument were evaluated in the draft and final environmental impact statements. Alternative A, the "no action" alternative, is the baseline for evaluating and comparing the changes and impacts of the three "action" alternatives. The "no action" alternative would continue current management practices, maintaining general management guidance for incremental and minimal changes in operations, staffing, visitor services, and facilities to accommodate visitors. While the historic resources of the site would continue to be protected, only minor additional site work would be anticipated.

Alternative B emphasizes the development and extensive use of outreach and partnerships to assist NPS staff in telling the Minidoka story to the American people. Off site visitor education and interpretation would be conducted through diverse comprehensive programs developed in cooperation with partners, including school districts, museums, and educational and legacy organizations and institutions.

Alternative B would focus on identifying off site facilities for education and interpretation with minimal new development at the national monument site. Historic structures would be adaptively reused for visitor and monument functions and for minimal administrative and operational needs. Key historic features would be delineated, restored, or rehabilitated. On site education and interpretation would be accomplished through a range of self exploratory visitor experiences.

Alternative D identifies several actions that would focus on education and interpretation on site, specifically through the development of new visitor facilities. The east end site would be used to develop

new facilities and to provide space for a new visitor center, education and research functions, along with a new Issei memorial. On site education and interpretation would be accomplished through a wide range of visitor experiences, including interaction with a variety of educational and interpretive media, participation in creative and self guided activities, and limited access of the historic scene. Visitor education programs, adaptive use of historic structures for park use, and the establishment of formal partnerships for education and outreach purposes would complement the new construction. Alternative D would focus on sound cultural resource management through preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of certain historic features. Several actions would provide for the protection and enhancement of natural and scenic resources. Other actions would establish administrative and operational capabilities in terms of facilities and staffing. Most national monument staff activities would be on site to manage resources and provide for visitor understanding and appreciation of the national monument. However, some off site educational programs would complement the on site programs through partnerships.

#### **BASIS FOR DECISION**

The Organic Act established the National Park Service in order to "promote and regulate the use of parks...." The Organic Act defined the purpose of the national parks as "to conserve the scenery and natural and historic objects and wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The Organic Act provides overall guidance for the management of Minidoka Internment National Monument.

In reaching its decision to select the preferred alternative, the National Park Service considered the purposes for which Minidoka Internment National Monument was established, and other laws and policies that apply to lands in the national monument, including the Organic Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the *NPS Management Policies*. The National Park Service also sought and carefully considered the public's comments during the extensive planning process.

All of the alternatives were evaluated with a variety of criteria and considerations to determine which management alternative could provide the greatest advantages to the public and to the NPS. Alternatives were evaluated to determine how well they:

- support the national monument's purpose, significance, and desired future conditions
- maximize education and interpretation of the national monument's interpretive themes
- maximize protection of cultural and natural resources
- provide a high quality visitor experience
- maximize partnership opportunities
- develop efficient operations
- limit effects on the national monument's neighbors and local community
- attain the public's vision for the national monument

Compared to all of the alternatives considered for management of the monument, the preferred alternative (selected action) best represents broad public sentiments about the future of Minidoka, with an emphasis on education and interpretation, cultural resource and site protection, visitor use, and partnerships and outreach. A core component and distinguishing feature of the selected action, restoration of a complete block of residential barracks, will fulfill broad public opinions about the need to accurately depict the experiences of some 13,000 internees who were incarcerated at Minidoka. A restored barracks block will provide highly effective interpretive and educational opportunities focused on the historic character of the site, while remaining more cost effective than constructing a new visitor center that would introduce a discordant modern structure onto the landscape, as envisioned under alternative D.

Adaptive use of the barracks will enable a variety of interpretive, educational, administrative, and operational functions for the park, while providing necessary flexibility in the ultimate use of each



building. Structures will be adaptively used and renovated as public use demands and as funds become available. Thus, the selected action provides greater flexibility in meeting both the public's desires and the NPS' needs for management of the monument than any of the other alternatives.

The selected action will also greatly focus efforts on the educational purpose of the monument, educating the public about Minidoka and the internment and incarceration of Nikkei (Japanese American citizens and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry). This will be done both through on-site interpretive exhibits of the historic landscape (such as reconstruction of the honor roll, guard tower, flagpole, and barbed wire fence) and the experiences of the internees (oral histories, for example) as well as through off-site interpretive programs, outreach, and exhibits in partnership with other organizations. Thus, more than any of the other alternatives, the selected action provides education and interpretation using the advantage of off-site cooperative efforts and the power of the site itself.

In addition, the selected action is unique in that it proposes Congressional legislation to authorize a boundary expansion to include areas where barracks historically stood in order to reestablish a complete residential block. This area also includes the "Farm-in-a-Day" project, which may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and represents an important connection between the Minidoka Relocation Center, how the land parcels were distributed following the decommissioning of the camp, and the development of agriculture in southern Idaho. The selected action will also recommend Congressional legislation to transfer the historic Minidoka landfill site from the BLM to the NPS for inclusion in the monument and transfer of 10.18 acres of historic lands from the BOR to the NPS.

The selected action responds to concerns about how the national monument would impact the local community and agricultural and commercial vehicular traffic on Hunt Road. The NPS will work with neighboring landowners and the Hillsdale Highway District to develop recommendations that will address concerns about the national monument's impacts on local traffic and concerns about visitor safety. This

transportation study will analyze existing roads, access, and safety issues related to the national monument and propose alternative management strategies for transportation and circulation. It may also consider the feasibility of rerouting the section of Hunt Road that traverses the national monument. Finally, the selected action provides this full range of measures in a manner that is cost-effective for the public and the NPS.

#### **ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

Records of decision are required under Council on Environmental Quality regulations to identify the environmentally preferred alternative. Environmentally preferred is defined as "the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy as expressed in §101 of the National Environmental Policy Act. Section 101 states that "...it is the continuing responsibility of the Federal Government to...

- (1) fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- (2) assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- (3) attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
- (4) preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage, and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
- (5) achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- (6) enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources."

The "environmentally preferred" alternative is the NPS selected action (alternative C in the *Minidoka Internment National Monument Abbreviated Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact*

*Statement*). The selected action provides management strategies that are environmentally responsible, ensuring that future generations will be able to enjoy its resources. This alternative will create opportunities for a wide range of visitor experiences and avenues for learning about the interpretive themes, both on-site and off-site. Appropriate cultural landscape treatments will enhance, rather than degrade, the cultural resources for both long-term historic preservation and visitor understanding and appreciation. The addition of lands directly associated with the national monument's cultural landscape will ensure the preservation of essential cultural resources related to the national monument's history. This action will also provide research, educational, and visitor use opportunities. The selected action will adaptively rehabilitate historic buildings and landscape features for visitor use, minimizing new construction throughout the site. This alternative will ensure restoration and revegetation of disturbed areas, removal of invading nonnative plants, and reestablishment of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, weed management, and on-site protection of natural resources. Thus, the selected action will satisfy all six national goals to a high degree.

The selected action surpasses the other alternatives in realizing the full range of national environmental policy goals in section 101. By continuing existing courses of action, the no-action alternative would effectively limit resource preservation efforts, provide only bare minimum visitor services, and could create potential risks on the site. Protecting and preserving the national monument's resources could not be sustained over the long term if management and funding continued at current levels. Additionally, the NPS could not provide adequate education and interpretation of the history and significance of the national monument to the American people. Therefore, the no-action alternative would not fulfill any of the goals listed above.

Alternative B, which focuses on outreach, resource protection, and minimal new construction, would fulfill national environmental goals 1 and 2 to a high degree. Alternative B would ensure preservation of cultural and natural resources on the site and limit new construction, as well as educate the American

people about the national monument's interpretive themes. However, the focus on outreach and education at off-site locations would not provide a wide range of beneficial uses on the national monument site. While resources would be preserved, only minimal preservation treatments would be employed, thereby limiting the public's use, understanding, and appreciation of the site's resources. Although visitor facilities would adaptively rehabilitate historic buildings and landscape features, the quantity and quality of visitor services would not promote a wide range of visitor experiences. Thus, alternative B would fulfill goals 3, 4, 5, and 6 to only a satisfactory level.

Alternative D, which emphasizes on-site education and interpretation through new facilities, would fulfill many of the national environmental goals to a high degree, including goals 1, 2, 4, and 6. Successive generations would benefit from the preservation and enhancement of the cultural resources on-site. Appropriate cultural landscape treatments would enhance, rather than degrade, the cultural resources for both long-term historic preservation and visitor understanding. Alternative D would create opportunities for learning about the interpretive themes, both onsite and off-site. This alternative would also ensure restoration and revegetation of disturbed areas, removal of invading nonnative plants, reestablishment of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, weed management, and on-site protection of natural resources. However, compared with the selected action, alternative D does not propose to add historic lands nor does it relocate a historic barracks block, thereby limiting the extent of cultural resource preservation and educational and interpretive opportunities in an authentic setting. Alternative D's focus on new facilities would likely be incongruous with the historic scene and would make it the most costly alternative to implement. Therefore, alternative D would fulfill goals 3 and 5 to only a satisfactory level.

#### **FINDINGS ON IMPAIRMENT OF PARK RESOURCES AND VALUES**

The National Park Service may not allow the impairment of park resources and values unless directly and specifically provided for by legislation or proclamation establishing the park. Impairment that is prohibited by the NPS Organic Act and the General Authorities Act is an impact that, in the professional



judgment of the responsible NPS manager, would harm the integrity of park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values. In determining whether an impairment would occur, park managers examine the duration, severity and magnitude of the impact; the resources and values affected; and direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the action. According to NPS policy, "An impact would be more likely to constitute an impairment to the extent that it affects a resource or value whose conservation is: a) Necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park; b) Key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park; or c) Identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents."

This policy does not prohibit all impacts to park resources and values. The National Park Service has the discretion to allow impacts to park resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park, so long as the impacts do not constitute an impairment. Moreover, an impact is less likely to constitute an impairment if it is an unavoidable result, which cannot be further mitigated, of an action necessary to preserve or restore the integrity of park resources or values.

After analyzing the environmental impacts described in the *Abbreviated Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* and public comments received, the NPS has determined that implementation of the selected action will not constitute an impairment to Minidoka Internment National Monument's resources and values. Provisions in the selected action are intended to protect and enhance the monument's cultural and natural resources, and provide for high-quality visitor experiences. Overall, the selected action will have beneficial effects on such resources as historic buildings and structures, archeological resources, cultural landscapes, vegetation, and wildlife habitat.

No major adverse impacts to the national monument's resources or the range of visitor experiences and no irreversible commitments of resources are expected. While the selected action will have some adverse

effects on the monument's resources, most of these impacts will be site-specific, minor to moderate or short-term impacts. None of the impacts of the selected action will adversely affect resources or values to a degree that will prevent the National Park Service from fulfilling the purposes of the national monument, threaten the natural integrity of the monument, or eliminate current or future opportunities for people to enjoy the national monument.

#### **MEASURES TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL HARM**

The National Park Service has investigated all practical measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts that could result from the selected action. Measures to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been identified and incorporated into the selected action as described in the *Abbreviated Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. Key measures to minimize environmental harm include: conducting surveys for archaeological resources; siting projects and facilities to avoid unintended disturbance of cultural resources; designing additional project-specific mitigation measures for cultural resources in coordination with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Idaho State Historical Preservation Officer when appropriate; applying temporal and spatial restrictions on construction and maintenance activities; monitoring construction activities; when possible, siting projects and facilities in previously disturbed locations; employing best management practices to minimize impacts to soils and vegetation; restoring habitats using native plant materials, where appropriate; weed control measures to minimize introduction and spread of undesirable invasive species; and inventory and monitoring of natural and cultural resources.

#### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The National Park Service provided a number of opportunities for the public to participate in the Minidoka Internment National Monument general management planning process.

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 approximately 50 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 NPS conducted this extra level of public involvement, reaching out to the geographically diverse communities of former internees and their families, because they wanted to hear from the people that were the principal subjects of the national monument. Approximately 1000 people were contacted through this effort.

The first planning newsletter was sent to the public, and nine public workshops were held for scoping in the fall of 2002. The newsletters were mailed to about 2,000 people, and an equal number were made available through organizations, libraries, and other public locations. Following scoping, a second newsletter was released to the public which summarized the scoping comments that were received from the 250 meeting participants and from the approximately 225 written responses. In summer 2003, a third newsletter was sent to the public, and eleven public workshops were held in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to discuss the draft alternatives and solicit additional concerns and preferences to help refine the draft alternatives and identify a preferred alternative.

The Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement document was released to the public in June, 2005. The Environmental Protection Agency published the notice of availability in the Federal Register on July 1, 2005. The NPS mailed approximately 900 draft GMP/EIS documents to agencies, organizations, and the public, inviting comments on the plan. The draft GMP/EIS was posted for public review on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website, and the document was available at libraries in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. 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 and the four alternatives, it announced the schedule of public meetings, and it asked for comments on the draft.

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. A total of 213 people attended these meetings. In addition, the NPS received a total of 159 written responses in the form of letters, e-mails, newsletter response forms, and web comments during the public comment period, which formally closed on September 19, 2005. All written correspondence and notes from public meetings are maintained in the administrative record, for both the scoping phase and in response to the Draft EIS. After carefully considering the public comments received on the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, the NPS concluded that only minimal changes to the draft GMP/EIS were necessary (and these were of minor nature and confined primarily to factual corrections which did not modify the original analysis). Therefore, an abbreviated format to the final GMP/EIS was used, in compliance with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1503.4[c]). The notice of availability for the final environmental impact statement was published in the July 28, 2006 *Federal Register*. The 30-day "no action" period ended on August 27, 2006.

During the planning process, the NPS consulted with various tribal, federal, state, and local government agencies. Although the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes were consulted for this project, no formal response has been received by the NPS. Correspondence with the US Fish and Wildlife Service determined that no threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats are present in the area. The Service agreed that further consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act was not needed for this project. As the national monument involves the 6-acre entrance area listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as stakeholders and related sites in neighboring states, the State Historic Preservation Offices in



Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation were all consulted during preparation of the GMP/EIS. The NPS also consulted with Jerome County Planning and Zoning, and will continue to collaborate with Jerome County to initiate a request for the inclusion of Minidoka Internment National Monument lands into the Jerome County Preservation Zone.

Organizations engaged in the development of the general management plan include the Japanese American Citizens League, Jerome County Historical Society, Hagerman Fossil Council, Friends of Minidoka, Wing Luke Asian Museum, Nisei Veterans, South Central Idaho Tourism and Recreation Development Association, Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Densho Project, Japanese American National Museum, Japanese American Historical Society, and Idaho State Historical Society.

Throughout the planning process, the public's comments and recommendations have provided the foundation for the new GMP, represented in the national monument's purpose, significance, interpretive themes, alternatives, and particularly as incorporated in the selected action.

#### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS NOT INCLUDED IN THE FINAL EIS**

The Conservation Fund and The Friends of Minidoka conducted a real estate appraisal on the Farm-In-A-Day property, which determined the fair market value of the 128-acre parcel adjoining the national monument. On June 19, 2006, The Conservation Fund purchased the property from the owner. The property will be held by The Conservation Fund and managed under a cooperative agreement with The Friends of Minidoka to benefit Minidoka Internment National Monument according to the management elements defined in the Final General Management Plan. The long term strategy is that The Conservation Fund and The Friends of Minidoka would hold and manage the property until such time as Congress may authorize a boundary expansion for the national monument that would include the 128-acre parcel. Upon such authority for a boundary expansion, NPS would pursue options to purchase all, or a portion of the Farm-In-A-Day property, in accordance with legislative authorization.

In 2002, the NPS was directed by Congress to conduct a study of alternatives for the long-term management and public use of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial in Kitsap County, WA. The law directed that a special resource study be conducted to examine the national significance of the site of the Eagledeale Ferry Dock, and the suitability and feasibility of designating it as a unit of the National Park System. The final study report, which was transmitted to Congress in May, 2006, recommends the addition of the Bainbridge Island, Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial to Minidoka Internment National Monument as a satellite site, rather than as a separate new unit of the National Park System. Any action taken by Congress as a result of the study findings that would affect Minidoka Internment National Monument might require an amendment to Minidoka's general management plan.

On July 17, 2006, Congressman Jay Inslee (D) WA., and Congressman Mike Simpson (R) ID introduced a bill, H.R. 5817, to adjust the boundary of Minidoka Internment National Monument to include the Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial. This 8-acre site, owned by the City of Bainbridge Island, would thus be a unit of Minidoka Internment National Monument, managed under a formal Agreement with the City of Bainbridge Island, the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park Recreational District, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community Memorial Committee, and the Bainbridge Island Historical Society. Minidoka Internment National Monument would have primary responsibility to develop interpretive and educational materials and programs in cooperation with the above partners and with Manzanar National Historic Site, California.

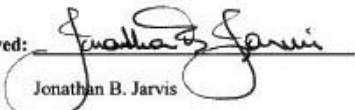
On December 16, 2005, Senator Mike Crapo (R) ID and Senator Larry Craig (R) ID introduced a Bill, S. 2129, which would transfer two parcels of Bureau of Reclamation lands, a total of 10.18 acres, to the NPS to be managed as part of Minidoka Internment National Monument. On June 21, 2006, Congressman Mike Simpson (R) ID introduced H.R. 5665 in the House which is identical to S. 2129.



## CONCLUSION

Among the alternatives considered, the selected action best protects monument resources while also providing highly effective educational and interpretive visitor experiences focused on Minidoka's historic significance, meets NPS goals for managing the national monument, and meets national environmental policy goals. The selected action will not result in the impairment of the monument's resources and values. The official primarily responsible for implementing the new GMP is the Superintendent, Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Date: 9/6/2006

Approved:   
Jonathan B. Jarvis  
Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service