



# The Minidoka Monument

## Minidoka Relocation Center Becomes a National Monument!

The Minidoka Internment National Monument, in Jerome County, Idaho, is one of the newest additions to the system of parks managed by the National Park Service. The purpose of this National Monument is to preserve and protect the historic structures, objects, and the historic landscape. It will provide opportunities for public education and interpretation about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The Minidoka Relocation Center, also known as Hunt Camp, encompassed 33,000 acres and held over 13,000 internees during its occupation from 1942 to 1945. The Monument consists of 73 acres and contains building foundations, the historic landscape, and remnant features such as the entry guard station and waiting room. Today, the site is a rural, sparsely populated agricultural community, all developed in the post-war period.



The entrance to Hunt Camp, 1943

*Wing Luke Asian Museum*



The entrance station and waiting room, 2002

*National Park Service*

On January 17, 2001, the "Hunt Camp" became the 385th unit of the National Park System—Minidoka Internment National Monument. The National Park Service is charged with the grave responsibilities for protecting the site, and to tell the stories of what happened, and how it impacted the lives of the individuals that lived this chapter of America's history.

It has been said that history is like looking into a mirror—it is a reflection of our own image. Those images constitute our national heritage and define the legacies that we will pass on to future generations.

Over the next several months, you can play an important role in helping to develop a long-term management plan that will tell those stories and define how visitors will use the site. Our work must be accurate and comprehensive, to ensure that our children's children will have the opportunity to appreciate and understand these significant and life-defining events.

Please share your time and ideas to help formulate the best strategies possible to ensure that Minidoka Internment National Monument will play an important role in helping all people to better understand this American story.

*Neil King  
Superintendent*

# Your Help is Needed

The National Park Service has been directed to develop a General Management Plan (GMP) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) within the next few years. The plan will set forth the basic management philosophy for the Minidoka Internment National Monument. It will provide strategies for addressing issues and achieving identified management objectives for the Monument, thus serving as a “blueprint” to guide protection and management of cultural and natural resources, visitor use and services, educational programs, and administration and operational actions during the next 15 to 20 years.

Public participation is vital to the success of this planning effort. The Minidoka Internment National Monument commemorates the stories of Japanese American internment and incarceration during a time of national crisis. In order to tell the stories accurately and to preserve the Monument’s resources, the National Park Service needs active involvement from all interested people.

A planning team has been established to work closely with the public to develop the plan. The team consists of individuals with expertise in areas such as Japanese American studies, US history, archeology, landscape architecture, education and park management. Several Japanese Americans, including



Sharing stories at Minidoka, 2002

National Park Service

community activists, scholars, and former internees, are members of the planning team. The planning process involves meeting with the general public, focus groups, museums, organizations and individuals with a variety of perspectives about the Monument. Through these meetings the National Park Service will develop a responsive plan.

Please remember you can communicate with the Monument’s contact people at any time.

## Opportunities for Your Participation in the Planning Process

### 1. Gather Data/Establish Desired Future or Goals

- Establish purpose of Monument
- Participate in public workshops
- Identify Monument’s significance, issues, primary stories
- Submit comment sheet from newsletter

*Winter 2002*

### 2. Suggest Draft Alternatives

- Suggest range of alternatives to meet goals, address issues, express primary stories
- Participate in public workshops
- Submit comment sheet from newsletter

*Spring 2003*

### 3. Develop Draft GMP/EIS

- Analyze environmental impacts for each alternative
- Attend public workshops
- Review draft GMP/EIS
- Develop concept plans for Monument
- Submit comments
- Distribute draft GMP/EIS for public review/comment

*Summer 2004*

### 4. Revise Draft and Publish Final GMP/EIS

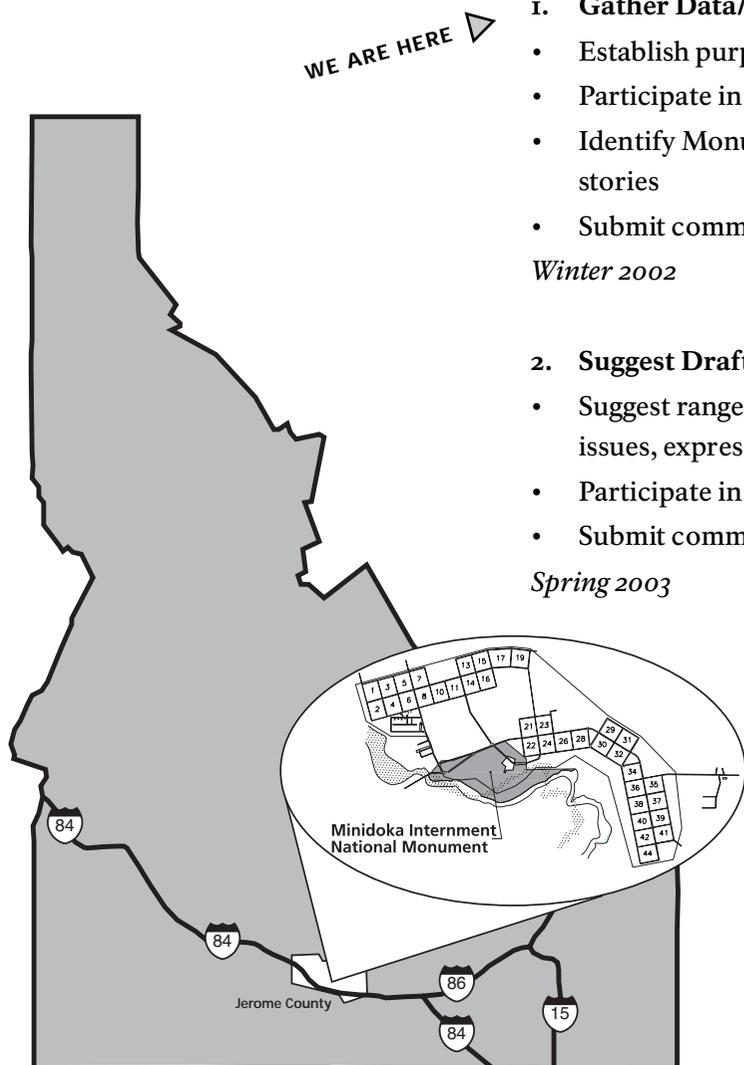
- Develop final GMP/EIS based on public response
- Distribute final GMP/EIS to the public

*Winter 2004*

### 5. Begin Implementation

- Work with individuals, organizations, agencies, and communities on partnership activities
- Work on partnership activities
- Request funds for capital improvements

*Ongoing*



# Steps Toward the Future of the Monument

The first step in the planning process is to develop statements that describe the Monument's purpose, significance, and issues. These statements explain why the monument was established, why the site is important, and the public's issues and concerns. They shape the long-term actions and activities that will determine how the site will be protected and managed.

Your participation in the development of these statements will establish the foundation for building a successful plan. The following examples are preliminary ideas and concepts for you to think about. We encourage you to make changes and additions and to write down your own thoughts for future discussion and refinement.

## Public Involvement Opportunities

### Informal Discussions with Groups and Organizations

Throughout the planning process team members will meet with interested individuals, groups, agencies and organizations in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere. The purpose of these informal discussions is to engage participants to gather and generate ideas, and to inform the public of the plan's progress in a relaxed setting.

### Public Workshops

As a follow-up to numerous informal meetings, public workshops will take place in selected Pacific Northwest locations that have been suggested by members of the Japanese American community and the general public. These workshops will provide an opportunity for the National Park Service to inform the public of the plan's progress and will feature the development of specific components of the plan. These meetings will focus on listening to recommendations from all interested parties in the context of facilitated work groups. Announcements regarding the dates and places for these workshops will be widely advertised through local media. **Please refer to the workshop dates on Page 4 for a workshop near you.**

### Newsletters and Website

Newsletters will be distributed periodically throughout the planning process. For the most up-to-date information, you will be able to access the Minidoka Internment National Monument web site at [www.nps.gov/miin](http://www.nps.gov/miin) at any time.

## Draft Purpose

- *The purpose of the Minidoka Internment National Monument is to provide opportunities for public education and interpretation about the internment and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The Monument manages and protects resources related to the Minidoka Relocation Center.*



Block 21 group photograph, 1943

Minidoka Interlude

## Draft Significance

- *Internment and incarceration at Minidoka had a profound and lasting impact on the Japanese American community. The traumatic events at Minidoka dramatically changed people's lives.*
- *The Minidoka camp was a densely populated, hastily constructed, large-scale, temporary facility that housed over 13,000 Japanese Americans from its inception to its closing.*

## Draft Issues

- *How to tell the stories of Japanese American internment and incarceration at Minidoka and elsewhere.*
- *To what extent should the site be developed.*
- *How to create a viable experience on a monument site of 73 acres that was once 33,000 acres.*



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Minidoka Internment National Monument

### Park Headquarters

PO Box 570  
Hagerman, Idaho 83332-0570  
208 837-4793

You may also contact the following individuals by telephone, email, or in writing:

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Mapping the entrance garden, 2002

National Park Service



Swimming hole, 1943

Minidoka Interlude



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Minidoka Internment National Monument  
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# Initial Public Workshops

Each of the initial public meetings will focus on obtaining information on the Monument's purpose, significance, issues, primary education stories, and desired future conditions.

- Eden, Idaho  
Senior Citizen Center  
210 East Wilson  
4:30 P.M. Open House, 6:00 P.M. Workshop  
Tuesday, November 12, 2002
- Twin Falls, Idaho  
Shields Building  
College of Southern Idaho  
4:30 P.M. Open House, 6:00 P.M. Workshop  
Wednesday, November 13, 2002
- Ontario, Oregon  
Four Rivers Cultural Center  
676 Southwest 5th Avenue  
4:30 P.M. Open House, 6:00 P.M. Workshop  
Thursday, November 14, 2002
- Bainbridge Island, Washington  
Bainbridge Island Commons  
370 Brian Drive  
4:30 P.M. Open House, 6:00 P.M. Workshop  
Monday, November 18, 2002
- Seattle, Washington  
Nisei Veterans Hall  
1212 South King Street  
9:00 A.M. Open House, 9:30 A.M. Workshop  
Tuesday, November 19, 2002
- Seattle, Washington  
Husky Union Building, Room 106 B  
University of Washington  
4:30 P.M. Open House, 6:00 P.M. Workshop  
Tuesday, November 19, 2002
- Seattle, Washington  
Japanese Baptist Church  
160 Broadway  
4:30 P.M. Open House, 6:00 P.M. Workshop  
Wednesday, November 20, 2002
- Seattle, Washington  
Seattle Buddhist Church  
1427 South Main Street  
4:30 P.M. Open House, 6:00 P.M. Workshop  
Thursday, November 21, 2002
- Portland, Oregon  
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center  
117 Northwest 2nd Avenue  
4:30 P.M. Open House, 6:00 P.M. Workshop  
Friday, November 22, 2002

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

# Questions for You to Respond To

Based on your reading of the preliminary purpose and significance statements above and your own thoughts, please respond to the following questions in terms of revised or additional statements of purpose, significance, or issues:

- What do you think a visitor should remember about Minidoka?

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- What is the best way for a visitor to learn about the internment and incarceration stories?

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- What do you think the site should look like 20 years from now?

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- What are the most important aspects of Minidoka to preserve? Why?

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- What are your issues and concerns about Minidoka?

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- Please identify major points of importance to you in any or all of these questions, but also elaborate on your descriptions of issues, concerns, desired futures, and interpretive themes that need to be addressed and considered from your own point of view.

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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 an/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 organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. **Please send comments by December 31, 2002**, or no later than 60 days following the date of the EPA notice of filing in the Federal Register, whichever is later. Any change in due dates would be published immediately on the NPS Planning website.

TAPE, PLEASE DON'T STAPLE

**Instructions for mailing**

Please fold this form in half, enclose additional sheets of comments if necessary, seal it with tape (do not staple), and mail to the pre-printed address.

SEND COMMENTS BY: **December 31, 2002**

Do you want to remain on our mailing list?

...for future planning newsletters? YES NO

...for future park activities? YES NO

Please print your name and address below if you are not already on the mailing list and wish to be added:

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

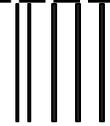
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