



“When we first arrived here we almost cried, and thought that this is the land God had forgotten. The vast expanse of nothing but sagebrush and dust, a landscape so alien to our eyes, and a desolate, weebegone feeling of being so far removed from home.”

-Incarceree at Minidoka Relocation Center, 1942

**JOIN THE EFFORT TO
PROTECT MINIDOKA
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**



Preserve the Landscape of Minidoka National Historic Site



Unconstitutional Incarceration at Minidoka

■ **125,284 Japanese Americans were unjustly incarcerated during World War II by the federal government.** Over 13,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese nationals from Alaska, Oregon, Washington, and California were incarcerated without due process at the historic Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho for nearly 4 years because of wartime hysteria, racial discrimination, and failure of political leadership.

■ **Forced removal, economic exploitation, cultural erasure.** Entire communities were given one to two weeks to hastily sell their hard earned property or were forced to abandon them. Across the West Coast, “Nihonmachi” or Japantowns disappeared, and cultural institutions were dismantled.

■ **Isolation, confinement, disbursement.** Men, women, and children arrived in the desolate and hostile high desert plain of south central Idaho to a hastily built concentration camp on land owned by the Bureau of Land Reclamation. Surrounded by barbed wire, survivors describe the isolation and desolate landscape as their prison. When released from Minidoka, incarcerated were encouraged by the government to disperse and not return to the West Coast.

Minidoka Today: Lessons in Civil Liberties and Fragility of Democracy

■ Minidoka National Historic Site (NHS) was established as a unit of the National Park Service in 2001. It is a crucial lesson in the violation of civil liberties and the fragility of democracy and is a site of solemnity, reflection, and healing for our nation. Visitors from all over the world learn about this story through Minidoka’s immersive experience – the sense of isolation and remoteness due to the sweeping vistas of surrounding lands and distant mountains.

■ Today, Minidoka survivors and descendants visit the site to confront the pain their community endured – violation of civil liberties, loss of dignity, and unjustly labeled traitors.

Support Long Term Protections for Minidoka

Threat to Minidoka's Viewshed

- LS Power, a private equity company, has proposed the Lava Ridge wind project on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land surrounding Minidoka National Historic site. The proposal could place 340 massive towers up to 740 feet tall in the Minidoka viewshed (the view of an area from a specific vantage point), including 12 towers directly on the historic Minidoka War Relocation Center footprint.
- The viewshed from Minidoka NHS spans over 50 miles. Currently, visitors stand at significant and poignant sites like the Visitor Center, Military Honor Roll, the historic Barrack and Mess Hall and feel the loss, indignity, and humiliation that incarcerated people experienced when being dropped in the isolated and desolate landscape behind barbed wire.
- Placing large structures such as wind turbines in the viewshed severely desecrates this reflective and immersive visitor experience. If these turbines are installed, the viewshed will be flooded with development, and visitors will no longer experience the park in the same way. It is vital to the visitor experience at Minidoka that the viewshed – the landscape that can be viewed, night or day, from the site -- be kept as unsullied as possible.

Creating Long Term Protections

- Friends of Minidoka submitted a nomination to BLM to designate Minidoka National Historic Site's viewshed as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). If accepted by the BLM, the ACEC requires the agency to protect the Minidoka viewshed and amend its Monument Resource Management Plan.
- The Greater Minidoka ACEC proposes to protect approximately 237,000 acres of BLM lands surrounding the Minidoka National Historic Site and the historic footprint. The ACEC proposes to maintain the current contemporary traditional uses and to protect significant cultural and natural resources.
- The National Park Service's General Management Plan for Minidoka, which emphasizes the importance of its "immersive setting" and "historical views" recognizes the importance of the surrounding landscape.
- The Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service, both agencies of the Department of Interior, have a responsibility to adhere to their visual resource standards and have a duty to protect the Greater Minidoka viewshed.

To learn more and read the Greater Minidoka ACEC nomination, visit minidoka.org/lava-ridge.



SUPPORT LONG TERM PROTECTIONS

ACTION ITEM

Please consider writing an email to the Idaho BLM State Director, Karen Kelleher, at kkelleh@blm.gov. Let them know you support the Greater Minidoka Area of Critical Environmental Concern nomination. Please send a copy to info@minidoka.org.



Friends of Minidoka

Friends of Minidoka engages in and supports education, research and historic preservation of the WWII incarceration experience.

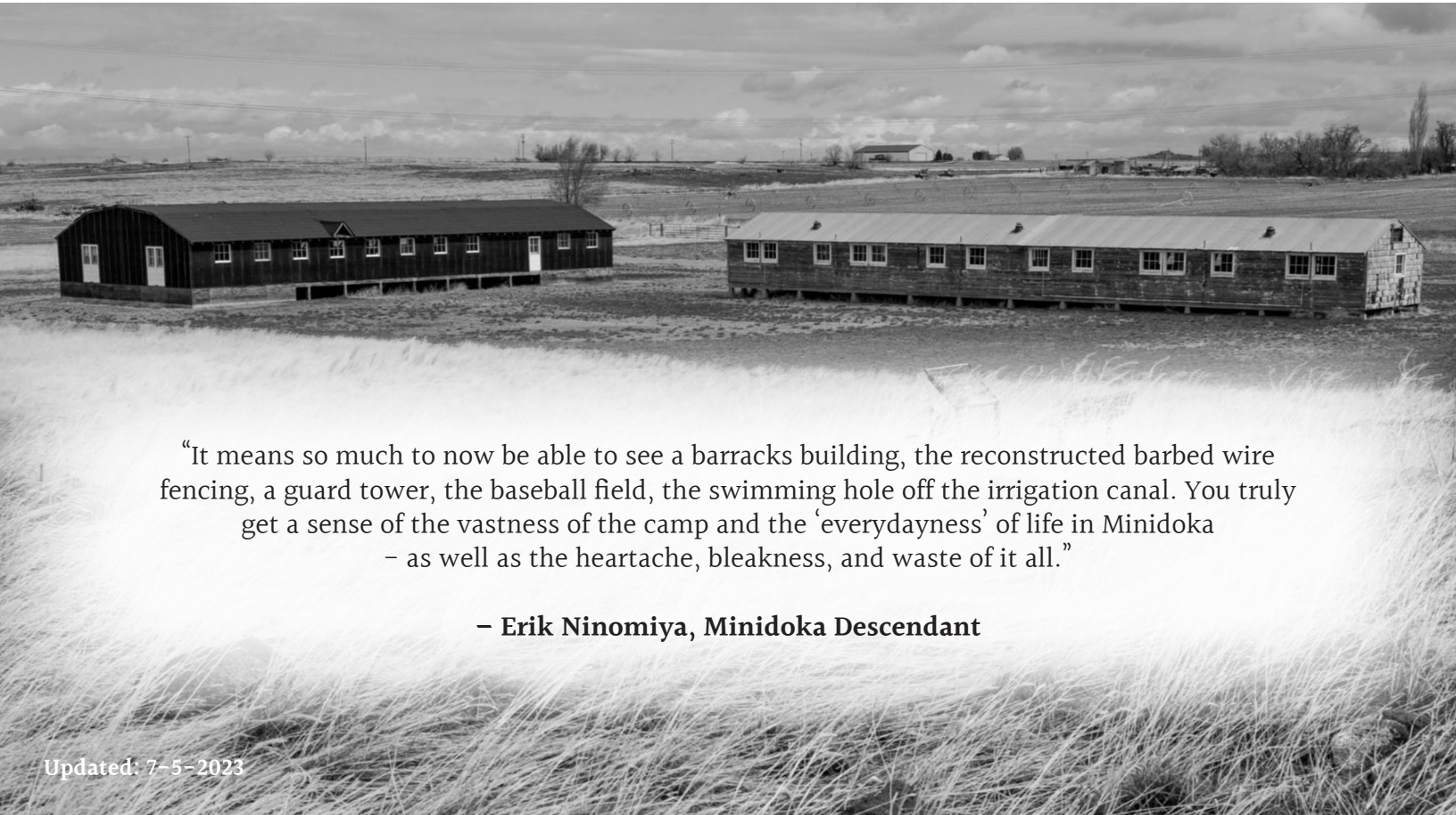
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National Park Conservation Association

Protecting and enhancing America's National Park System for present and future generations.

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“It means so much to now be able to see a barracks building, the reconstructed barbed wire fencing, a guard tower, the baseball field, the swimming hole off the irrigation canal. You truly get a sense of the vastness of the camp and the ‘everydayness’ of life in Minidoka – as well as the heartache, bleakness, and waste of it all.”

– Erik Ninomiya, Minidoka Descendant