

Public Law 109-441: Preservation of Japanese American Confinement Sites

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Photos courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

On December 21, 2006, President George W. Bush signed into law a bill that authorizes up to \$38 million for the preservation and interpretation of confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II. The law directs the National Park Service (NPS) to administer this grant program, once funds are available. Former internees, their families, and numerous Japanese American organizations and preservation groups were instrumental in the passage of P.L. 109-441, as well as in earlier efforts to preserve and interpret these important historic sites.

Seeking Public Comment

Through a series of public listening sessions, the NPS is seeking your comments to help us develop criteria for the grant program. We would like to hear your concerns and ideas, and meet with you to discuss guidelines for the new grant program, the eligibility requirements, and criteria that will be used to fund projects. Your involvement is critical to make this program successful.

Preservation of Confinement Sites Continues to Resonate

The NPS first became involved in the identification, recognition and preservation of these confinement sites in the mid-1980's to determine which site would be suitable as a national park unit. In 1992, Congress directed the

agency to conduct a thematic survey of sites associated with the confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II. The resulting publication of *Confinement and Ethnicity* and the completion of the thematic National Historic Landmarks study "Japanese Americans in World War II" provided a list of properties and a framework for evaluating related sites.

Grassroots support for the preservation of these properties and for their recognition as sites of national significance led to the establishment of Manzanar National Historic Site—the first internment camp to become a unit of the NPS in 1992—followed by the establishment of Minidoka Internment National Monument in 2001.

Groups committed to the preservation and interpretation of these sites also successfully pursued National Historic Landmark designation for Tule Lake, Topaz, Heart Mountain, Amache, Manzanar and Rohwer internment camps with assistance from the NPS. The NPS continues to provide preservation and interpretation assistance to these sites. As stewards of our nation's history, the NPS recognizes the importance of preserving these sites and the stories of those who lived in the camps, and those who were affected by the actions of the federal government. The stories and constitutional issues associated with the confinement of Japanese Americans continue to resonate with the American public and inspire future generations.

Critical Involvement Sought

The NPS wants to ensure that all those interested in the preservation and interpretation of these sites are engaged in the development of this grant program.

We welcome the opportunity to continue working with current partners, to hear from new voices, and to expand the capacity to tell these important American stories of resiliency, perseverance, equality and justice. We thank you for your interest and participation and look forward to working with you towards the preservation of these significant sites.



*Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming
NPS Photo*



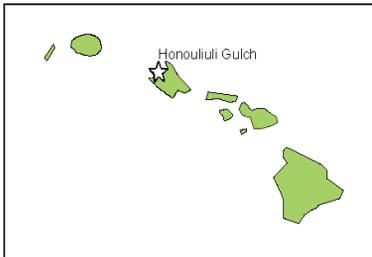
Photos courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

Key Provisions of Public Law 109-441

- The Secretary, after consultation with State, local, and tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and private nonprofit organizations (including organizations involved in the preservation of historic confinement sites), shall develop criteria for making grants.
- Grants will be given for the purposes of identifying, researching, evaluating, interpreting, protecting, restoring, repairing, and acquiring historic confinement sites, per the criteria developed by the Secretary of the Interior (through the NPS).
- Historic confinement sites include Gila River (AZ), Granada (CO), Heart Mountain (WY), Jerome (AR), Manzanar (CA), Minidoka (ID), Poston (AZ), Rohwer (AR), Topaz (UT), Tule Lake (CA), and “other historically significant locations, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II.” Please refer to the map below.
- Land acquisition of non-federal property is authorized at only four of the sites and may be acquired only with the property owner’s permission and written consent. These sites are: Jerome (AR), Rohwer (AR), Topaz (UT), and Honouliuli (HI).
- Provisions of this grant program may not place any constraints on private property.
- Applicants must provide a dollar-for-dollar non-federal match for funds awarded in a grant.
- The law authorizes the appropriation of up to \$38 million for the grant program.

Confinement Sites Associated with Japanese Americans During World War II

*This map is based upon the 1999 NPS publication *Confinement and Ethnicity*. It is not meant to be a comprehensive list of sites. Additional sites may be identified as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.*



- WCCA Assembly Center
- ▲ WRA Relocation Center
- WRA Isolation Center
- WRA Temporary Camp or Other WRA Facility
- ☆ Justice Dept., U.S. Army, or Other Facility
- Unused Facility
- Other Sites



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Developing Grant Criteria

Although the law provides guidance on who is eligible to apply and receive these grants, we are seeking your comments to help us develop grant criteria. Grant criteria will allow the proposals to be objectively reviewed so that funds can be used to address the most compelling and important confinement site issues. These criteria also allow us to review proposals, applying an open and transparent process, to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposal. Establishing standards that all projects must address provides a solid foundation to achieve our mutual goals for preserving and interpreting these sites.

Here are some examples of general considerations that could be used to evaluate the proposals:

- How does this proposal preserve or improve the conditions of confinement site resources?
- How effectively does this program convey the stories of the confinement sites?
- Is there support from other partners or stakeholders for this confinement site project?
- Does the applicant demonstrate fiscal and project management capabilities?

For additional information and details on existing NPS grant programs, please visit the following website: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/>

Public Engagement

We are enthusiastic about the opportunity to engage the public in a discussion of the criteria for this program. This consultation will be facilitated through public listening sessions, on the internet through NPS websites, and through mailings.

We also welcome your written comments and are available for telephone calls if you need clarification or additional information. The National Park Service has staff working across three regions to ensure that we are gathering information from as many people as possible. The regional contact person and information is provided below:

PACIFIC WEST REGION

California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, and other states not listed below

Contact: **Tom Leatherman**
Phone: 510-817-2701
Email: tom_leatherman@nps.gov

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico

Contact: **Kara Miyagishima**
Phone: 303-969-2885
Email: kara_miyagishima@nps.gov

MIDWEST REGION

Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio

Contact: **Rachel Franklin-Weekley**
Phone: 402-661-1928

Planning Schedule

Milestones

- 1** September/October 2007
 - Gather information
 - Participate in public workshops
 - Submit comments
- 2** November/December 2007
 - Develop DRAFT criteria for grant program
 - Review DRAFT criteria and submit comments
 - Participate in national public meeting
- 3** February 2008
 - Finalize criteria for grant program

Additional Information

For more information on the National Park Service's involvement with Japanese American confinement sites, please refer to the following on-line sources:

Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites (1999, rev., 2000)*

http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/anthropology74/

*Paper copies of this publication may be ordered through your local bookstore.

"Japanese Americans in World War II," Draft National Historic Landmark Theme Study (February 2005) <http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/themes/JPNAmericanTS.pdf>

Manzanar National Historic Site
<http://www.nps.gov/manz>

Minidoka Internment National Monument <http://www.nps.gov/miin>

Scheduled Public Listening Sessions

Las Vegas, Nevada
Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Seattle, Washington
Thursday, September 27, 2007

Bainbridge Island, Washington
Thursday, September 27, 2007

Portland, Oregon
Friday, September 28, 2007

Sacramento, California
Wednesday, October 10, 2007

San Jose, California
Tuesday, October 9, 2007

San Francisco, California
Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Gardena, California
Thursday, October 11, 2007

Los Angeles, California
Thursday, October 11, 2007

San Diego, California
Friday, October 12, 2007

Honolulu, Hawaii
Date and location to be announced

Denver, Colorado
Date and location to be announced

Salt Lake City, Utah
Date and location to be announced

Phoenix, Arizona
Date and location to be announced

Little Rock, Arkansas
Date and location to be announced

Dumas, Arkansas
Date and location to be announced

Chicago, Illinois
Date and location to be announced

Washington, DC
Date and location to be announced



*Granada Relocation Center (Amache), Colorado
National Historic Landmark Dedication
May 2006 - NPS Photo*

For updated meeting information, please check on the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/parkHome.cfm?parkID=73>) and Manzanar website (<http://www.nps.gov/manz>), or call or email one of the regional contacts.

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