



## The Tule Lake Foundation Document Made Official

The Tule Lake Unit achieved another exciting milestone in January! The park's Foundation Document, which all 405 national park sites have or will soon have, was approved by the Director of the National Park Service's Pacific West Region, representing a significant step in the development of the site. This foundation, which is the result of hard work by NPS staff and subject matter experts, will serve as the guiding document for the Tule Lake Unit's interpretive programming and future management decisions.

The Tule Lake Unit, which was designated as a unit of WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument by President George W. Bush in 2008, is currently drafting a General Management Plan, and the core components of the foundation document were reviewed by the public in summer 2013 as part of the public scoping for this plan.

*The purpose of the TULE LAKE UNIT, a part of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, is to preserve, study, and interpret the history and setting of the incarceration and later segregation of Nikkei at Tule Lake during World War II.*

One of the primary benefits of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. As identified in the foundation document, the purpose of the Tule Lake Unit is "to preserve, study, and interpret the history and setting of the incarceration and later segregation of Nikkei at Tule Lake during World War II."

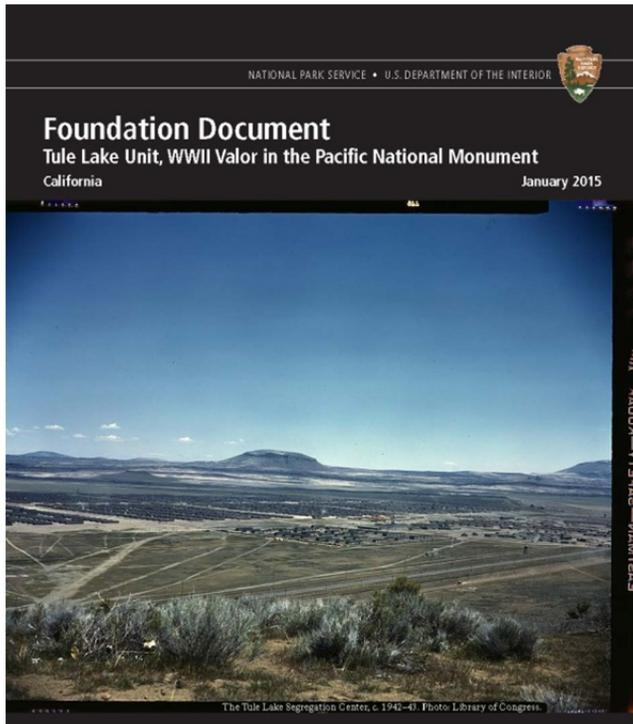
A main component of a foundation document is the significance statements section. For the Tule Lake Unit, the significance statements are identified as Injustice; Loyal or Disloyal; Renunciation; Relevancy;

January 2015

Stories and Perspectives; Individuals and Communities; Segregation Center; Historic Setting and Resources; Tule Lake Landscape; and World War II.

Another component of the foundation document, the Fundamental Resources and Values section, represents the features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, and other attributes that are determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. For the Tule Lake Unit, these are identified as Historic Sites, Archeological Features, and

Artifacts; Setting and Landscape; Collections, Archives, Documents, and Inventories; Personal Stories; Cultural Traditions; and Public Understanding, Education, and Involvement.



The cover of the Tule Lake Unit Foundation Document

The foundation document also includes six interpretive themes, which define the key concepts and stories that visitors should understand after visiting the Tule Lake Unit. These themes are: *"Injustice,"* which identifies the racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, failed political leadership, and other factors that fueled the incarceration of Japanese Americans; *"Tule Lake War Relocation Center to Segregation Center,"* which notes the unique conversion of Tule Lake to a more militarized segregation center; *"Stories and Perspectives, Individuals and Communities,"* which recognizes the varied perspectives of individuals, families, and communities and the short- and long-term impacts of the camps; *"'Loyal' or 'Disloyal,'"* which covers the difficult and unfair decisions that individuals and families were forced to make as a result of the loyalty questionnaire; *"Renunciation,"* which

explores the decision of nearly 6,000 Japanese Americans at the Tule Lake Segregation Center to renounce their citizenship and modern issues that challenge our understanding of what it means to be a U.S. citizen today; and *"Relevancy,"* which presents the Tule Lake Unit as a forum for discussing the meaning of citizenship and justice in the United States. These interpretive themes will guide park staff as they develop interpretive and educational programs that enable visitors to explore and relate to all of the resources, values, and significances of the Tule Lake Unit.

The drafting of the foundation document included input from NPS staff, subject matter experts, and the general public. Mike Reynolds, Superintendent of the Tule Lake Unit and Lava Beds National Monument writes, "I would like to express my appreciation for all who assisted in this project through the stages of planning, reviews, revision, and final production, especially the many members of the public who attended a series of public meetings, shared personal stories, and provided such good input. This document will provide Tule Lake Unit managers with thoughtful guidance for all planning and management decisions in the future."

In the upcoming months, the Tule Lake Unit Foundation Document and Foundation Document Overview will be emailed to the park's mailing list and available on the park's website. You will be able to obtain additional copies of the document by contacting the park directly.

**January 2015**