



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tule Lake Unit,
World War II
Valor in the Pacific
National Monument

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Tule Lake Unit, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tule Lake Unit Requests Public Comments on Jail Restoration

TULELAKE, California— The National Park Service seeks your input in the restoration of the Tule Lake Segregation Center jail. The jail is infamous to Tule Lake and the Japanese American incarceration story because of the injustice it represents.

Tule Lake is the largest of the ten sites, where people of Japanese descent from the west coast were forcibly removed and incarcerated during World War II. At the peak population, the center held over 18,700 persons.

The jail is unique to the WWII Japanese American incarceration history because Tule Lake was the only one of the ten War Relocation Authority camps to become a maximum-security facility with three separate detention facilities-including the jail. This building was in use from late 1944 until the closure of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in March 1946. This concrete jail was used to administratively detain dissident leaders before moving them to Department of Justice camps.

The building sat vacant for years and deteriorated as a result of aging and weathering. California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) recognized the historic significance of the jail, and constructed a shelter to protect the building from the elements when it was under their jurisdiction. CalTrans transferred the jail to the National Park Service (NPS) with the designation of the Tule Lake Unit as an NPS unit in 2008.

The National Park Service recognizes the hard work that the non-profit Tule Lake Committee does to help with the preservation efforts of this new national park. In 2013, the Tule Lake Committee (TLC) received a \$192,467 grant from the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program for the second of three phases of the restoration. The Tule Lake Committee contracted with the Architectural Resources Group, Inc. (ARG) to create schematic design alternatives. In April 2014, the TLC and NPS began work on the project. With ARG's expertise, this phase of the project will provide options for future preservation and use of this building.

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

The Tule Lake Committee needs to raise one third of the grant amount for matching funds. The public can help them reach their goal by donating online at www.tulelake.org.

The donation of the jail bars and cots by local farmer Bill Osborne to the NPS in 2012 will be critical to this restoration. The bars were removed from the jail in 1946 after the facility closed. The Osborne family protected them and wanted them to be part of the preservation of Tule Lake.

During this initial "scoping" phase of the jail restoration project, we would like to know what you think. An online comment form is available at parkplanning.nps.gov/tule. It includes some questions that will assist you in sharing your thoughts. Comments may also be emailed to us at tule_superintendent@nps.gov or mailed to Hanako Wakatsuki, RE: Jail Comments, P.O. Box 1240, Tulelake, CA 96134. Comments need to be received by Aug 6, 2014.

The National Park Service is designing a plan for the restoration of the jail at the Tule Lake Unit that reflects the perspectives of those who feel connected to the site. It is through your cooperation that the National Park Service will be able to share its valuable lessons with the public and act as a catalyst in telling this important American story.

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The Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, established in 2008, is a nationally significant site dedicated to telling the story of the cost of war on the home front and the lasting effects of the unjust incarceration of over 29,000 US citizens and long-term residents of Japanese ancestry at the Tule Lake Segregation Center.

For more information about visiting the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, call 530-260-0537, email tule_interpretation@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/tule.

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