

COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 750 □ 1312 Fairlane Rd
Yreka, California 96097
www.co.siskiyou.ca.us

(530) 842-8005
FAX (530) 842-8013
Toll Free: 1-888-854-2000, ext. 8005

February 21, 2017

Mr. Larry Whalon, Superintendent
Tule Lake Unit
WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument
PO Box 1240
Tulelake, CA 96134

Subject: Comments on the Tule Lake Unit WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Whalon:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors would like to provide the following comments regarding the National Park Services (Park Service) *Tule Lake Unit World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* (Management Plan). We would also like thank you for taking the time to present the Management Plan to the Board of Supervisors, which was helpful in getting the Board and its staff familiar with the background and goals of the Management Plan.

We understand that the Park Service currently has use of thirty-seven acres of the Tule Lake Monument, where they provide tours of the area and facilities located on the property. Under the Management Plan, one of the options is to continue use of these thirty-seven acres and provide for more regular tours, and place advertisement and signage that would attract the public. The Park Service is also looking into locating barracks that could be relocated to the thirty-seven acres to allow visitors to examine and experience the living conditions of the Tule Lake Unit when it was operational as an internment camp. After several discussions with other local agencies, the Tule Lake Airport, and others located near the Tule Lake Unit, it appears that the proposal to limit use to these thirty-seven acres is supported, and as such would also be supported by Siskiyou County.

The decision to support use of the thirty-seven acres for public tourism is based partly on the fact that this would provide the Park Service adequate space and ability to offer meaningful tours and gain an economic benefit. In addition, it would prevent any unwanted impacts and influence on private property and the Tule Lake Airport (Airport). We understand that the

Park Service is attempting to initiate partnerships with private landowners to expand the boundary of the Tule Lake Unit, but there is significant concern about the potential impacts to local businesses, the Airport being one of them. Although the Airport is located in Modoc County, it is very beneficial to Siskiyou County through the services it provides, mainly through Macy's Flying Service. Siskiyou County is unequivocally supportive of the Airport and surrounding local businesses and recognizes the necessity to keep these entities open and operational, and uninfluenced by the operation of the Park Service's Tule Lake Unit. Please see the attached letter submitted by the Board of Supervisors on September 08, 2015, voicing support of the Airport and recognizing the Airport's need to secure their facilities. We also support the other local businesses in the area, including farming and ranching operations, and feel that limiting the Tule Lake Unit to its current thirty-seven acres will not result in negative impacts to these businesses and private properties, while still ensuring successful operation of the Tule Lake Unit.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Nielsen, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, at enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us or (530) 842-8012.

Sincerely,

Michael N. Kobseff, Chair
Board of Supervisors