

Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Tom McClintock, Chairman
Hearing Memorandum

June 21, 2016

To: All Subcommittee on Federal Lands Members

From: Majority Committee Staff – Aniela Butler
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x 6-7736)

Hearing: Legislative hearing on H.R. 4387 (Rep. Doug LaMalfa), To establish the Tule Lake National Historic Site in the State of California, and for other purposes.
June 23, 2016 at 2:00 PM; 1324 Longworth HOB.

H.R. 4387 (Rep. Doug LaMalfa), “*Tule Lake National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2016*”

Bill Summary

H.R. 4387, introduced by Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-01), establishes the Tule Lake National Historic Site in Tulelake, California.

Invited Witnesses

Panel I

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-01)

Panel II

Mr. Michael Reynolds
Associate Director, Workforce and Inclusion
National Park Service
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Nick Macy
Owner, Macy’s Flying Service
Tulelake, California

Background

The Tule Lake Segregation Center, located in Tulelake, California, housed the largest number of Japanese American internees during World War II. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor and President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066, the government forcibly

relocated approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans to ten different War Relocation Authority (WRA) Camps across the United States.¹

Established in May 1942, the Tule Lake Camp housed a peak population of 18,700 internees, making it the largest WRA Camp in the country. In July 1943, the Camp converted into a Segregation Center to house Japanese Americans deemed “disloyal” due to their refusal to serve as a member of the Armed Forces or swear “unqualified allegiance to the United States” over Japan.² Over 97% of the 5,589 Japanese Americans who renounced their U.S. citizenship were also interned at the Camp. “Squalid housing and sanitation, unsafe working conditions, and inadequate food and medical care” made the maximum-security center prone to frequent labor strikes or stoppages and demonstrations.³ After the Segregation Center officially closed in March 1946, many Japanese Americans interned at Tule Lake felt ostracized from society and spent decades fighting to regain their U.S. citizenship.

H.R. 4387 removes the Tule Lake Segregation Center National Historic Landmark and Camp Tule Lake from the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument and establishes those sites as the Tule Lake National Historic Site (NHS). After the establishment of the NHS, the National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will enter into an agreement to allow NPS to manage the parts of the site located within the boundaries of the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The Secretary of the Interior may also utilize resources from the Lava Beds National Monument, located near Tule Lake, to administer the NHS. The bill also contains a provision preventing any new acquisitions of land outside of the original boundaries of the NHS without prior consultation and written consent from the governing bodies of the City and County one year prior to the acquisition.

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) introduced a similar companion bill, S. 2412, in the Senate on December 17, 2015.

Administration Position

The Administration position is unknown at this time.

Cost

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

¹ Tule Lake Committee. “History.” Text is drawn from “Tule Lake Revisited: A Brief History and Guide to the Tule Lake Concentration Camp Site,” Second Edition, by Barbara Takei and Judy Tachibana. Published by the Tule Lake Committee, 2012. <http://www.tulelake.org/#!/history/cdxv5>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.