

Save Minidoka National Historic Site

Stop the Lava Ridge Wind Project



Healing, Learning and Remembrance

In 1942, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 and forcibly removed 13,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast to Minidoka in south central Idaho. For over 20 years, Minidoka National Historic Site has told painful stories of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII and has served as an important reminder of the fragility of civil rights. Thanks to bipartisan support from Congress and Presidents from both parties, park visitors can experience life at Minidoka thanks to its immersive setting and a sense of remoteness and isolation provided by sweeping vistas of distant mountains.

Wind Turbines Would Dishonor Sacred Ground

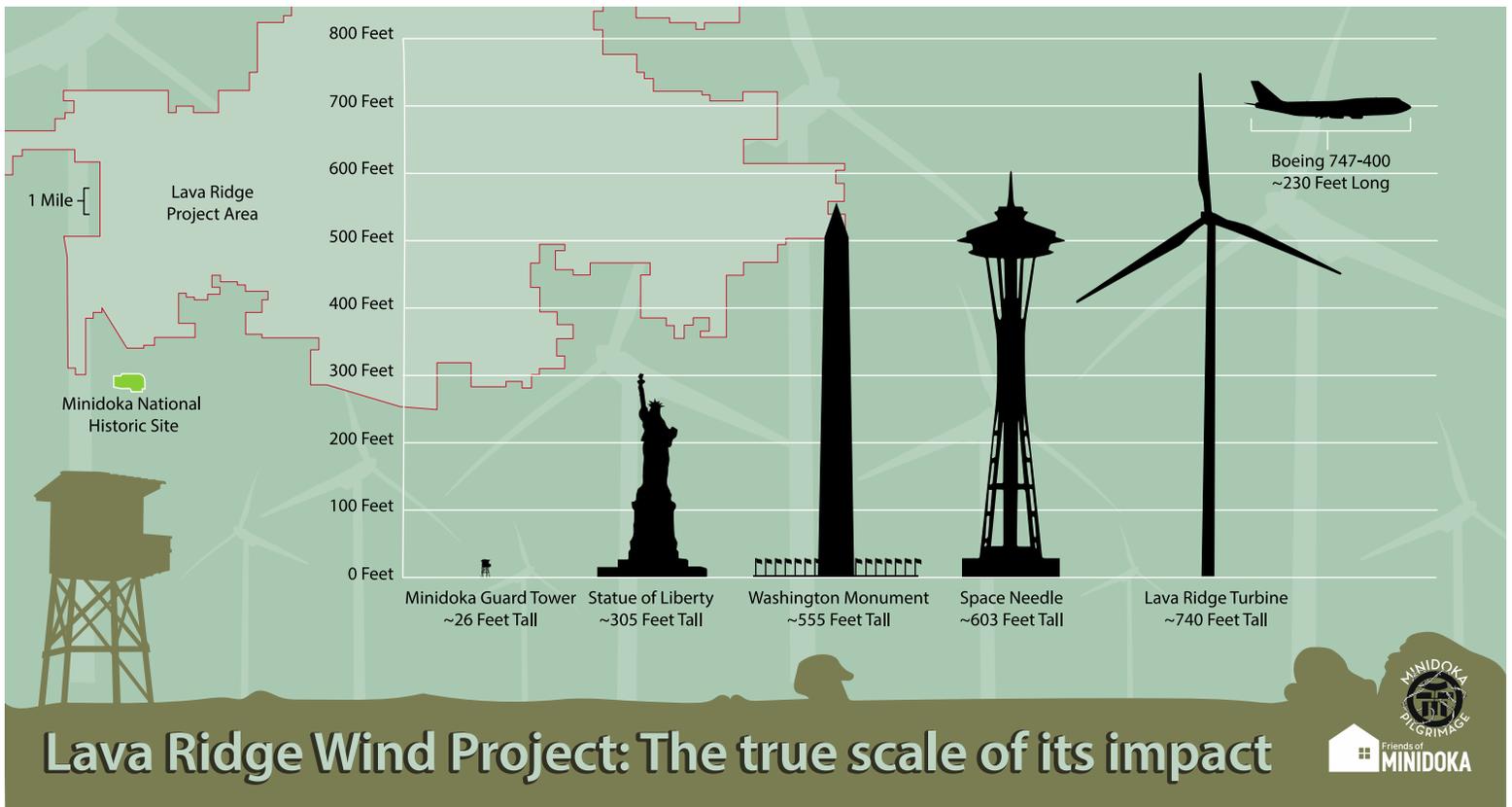
In 2009, LS Power, a New York private equity company, tried to build a powerline over Minidoka. Thankfully, the Department of the Interior moved LS Power's Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) power line away from the park. Today, LS Power seeks approval from the Bureau of Land Management to build the giant Lava Ridge wind project on federal land within two miles of the park's visitor center.

- The project would impair Minidoka's fundamental resources and values as a place to learn about the incarceration story.
- LS Power's project would dishonor Japanese Americans and Alaska Natives who were wrongly incarcerated and who served in the military during WWII.
- Minidoka is a sacred place for commemoration and healing. Survivors and their descendants make pilgrimages to heal the deep emotional trauma dating back to the 1940s.
- Minidoka tells stories of courage and sacrifice to current and future generations and helps ensure this does not happen again.
- Eighty years after Executive Order 9066, Minidoka can help the public understand that racial prejudice, hate and violence directed against the AAPI community are not new.



“As proposed, the Lava Ridge Project would fundamentally change the psychological and physical feelings of remoteness and isolation one experiences when visiting Minidoka NHS.”

— National Park Service



LS Power’s project would encroach on Minidoka’s historic footprint and would be one of the largest wind projects on US soil:

- 400 wind towers, 340 of which would be visible from the park’s new visitor center.
- Over a dozen wind towers located on the historic footprint, including within two miles of the visitor center.
- Each tower could be as tall as 740 feet (taller than the Seattle Space Needle), with turbine blades exceeding the wingspan of a Boeing 747, exceeding the height of any existing towers.
- A visual wall of towers and spinning blades that would dominate 114 degrees of the park's 360 degree viewshed, coupled with the proposed SWIP line, a high voltage power line located to the west.
- Noise, light and other significant impacts on historic, cultural and natural resources.

Current Status and Next Steps

In August 2021, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced the beginning of BLM's fast-track review of the Lava Ridge Project to meet President Biden’s renewable energy permitting goals. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), BLM has completed the scoping process. BLM plans to issue a draft environmental impact statement for public comment in the summer of 2022. BLM is also working to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

With your help, we can save Minidoka!

Please join us to stop Lava Ridge and save our nation’s heritage and national parks from this poorly-sited renewable energy project. For more information:

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