



## Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

**Project:** Replace Irrigation System and Connect to Backup Well at Spalding Picnic Area

**PEPC Project Number:** 95386

**Description of Action (Project Description):**

The purpose of this project is to contract the installation of a new commercial irrigation system in the 9 acre historic Spalding Picnic Area to maintain turfgrass and irrigation of historic non-native tree species that were planted as a memorial grove in the 1930's. The project would also connect the irrigation system to a backup well 1000 feet away that used to supply water to the Spalding Visitor Center but was abandoned because of potability issues. The new system would be modernized with commercial pop up sprinklers and timer controls to schedule watering. Design allows for the new system to follow the old irrigation lines so that archeological disturbance is minimal for the irrigation system itself, however, the 1000 foot mainline that will connect the system to the well will be new disturbance. The line will also have to cross a creek via a road bridge (NPS Owned), a road (NPS owned), and railroad tracks (not NPS owned). We will be trenching through the drip lines of the trees (if that's where the existing irrigation lines are). The most important aspect of this project is trenching over the existing irrigation to preserve the archaeological sensitive soil. There is no concern about damaging the smaller fiber roots but would have the contractor avoid severing the larger buttress roots. This can be performed with or without the use of an air spade. In this case air spading would be very time consuming and not in line with the focus on archaeology.

The significance of the trees in the park is something that gets a little twisted into an "arboretum" but it's more of a memorial grove, where the placement of a specific tree, it's age, or species is not as important as there being a collective grove of eastern tree varieties that would never be able to survive there if it wasn't for NEPE watering them. The park will need to begin planting trees very soon to replace the larger failing trees that were planted when the park was created. Installing the new irrigation system is the first step so that it will be easier to establish the more drought intolerant tree plantings. If trees are affected by the irrigation they will most likely be removed and replaced which may be good for the grove to add some layering of trees of different ages

**Project Locations:**

**Location**

<b>County:</b>	Nez Perce	<b>State:</b>	ID
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There are no required mitigations identified.

**CE Citation:** C.4 Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities and grounds under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide; or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.

**CE Justification:**

Irrigation system (new) will be placed in same trenches and along same footprint of existing. Tribal and archaeological monitors will be present during all earth disturbing activities. No impairment will result.

**Decision:** I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

**Signature**

**Superintendent:**

Charles Beall

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chl Beall', is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Date:** 09/10/2020

**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
<b>A.</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
<b>B.</b> Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
<b>C.</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
<b>D.</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
<b>E.</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
<b>F.</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
<b>G.</b> Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
<b>H.</b> Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	
<b>I.</b> Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
<b>J.</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
<b>K.</b> Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
<b>L.</b> Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	