

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Process and Catalog Park Central Files Nez Perce National Historical Park, Spalding, Idaho

**Discipline:** Cultural  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Washington State University  
**Effective Dates:** 7/1/2011 - 9/30/2013  
**Funding Amount:** \$74,665 [FY12: \$45,211; FY11: \$29,454]

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Nez Perce National Historical Park was established as a unit of the national park system in 1965, by Public Law 89-19. The law specifies the park was created to "facilitate protection and provide interpretation of sites in the Nez Perce Country of Idaho that have exceptional value in commemorating the history of the Nation." The original legislation included a total of 24 independent locations throughout central Idaho.

In 1992, the park was subsequently expanded by Public Law 102-576 allowing for designation of 14 additional sites located in Oregon, Washington, Montana and Wyoming. The inclusion of these additional 14 sites allowed for a more complete telling of the Nez Perce story and allowed for continuity of the interpretive message across the traditional Nez Perce homeland.

Almost immediately after initial establishment, the park began to accession items into a growing museum collection. In the intervening years, the park developed a museum management program and the park's holdings currently include an unparalleled object and archives collection. The park's central files have been maintained by the administrative division of the park and have been subject to varying degrees of management. In 2005, the NPS finalized an updated museum management plan for the park and one of the plan's chief considerations was addressing the park central files and evaluating them for inclusion in the park archives.

This project will involve the appraisal and disposition of the park central files at Nez Perce National Historical Park. Inactive files will be evaluated for their significance utilizing DO 19 and the NPS 19 Disposition Schedule. Recommendations will be made for disposal according to the schedule. If deemed to have permanent value the records will be accessioned into the park museum collection archives. Park records chosen for inclusion in the park archives will be processed and cataloged through this agreement under the direction of Nez Perce National Historical Park Archivist, Robert Applegate. All work will be performed in accordance to the NPS Museum Handbook, Appendix D and Society of American Archivists standards for arrangement and description. Materials accessioned into the park archives will be cataloged into the Department of Interior Collections Management System database (ICMS) and a finding aid produced.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** Delivery of collection finding aid by May 31, 2013

**Keywords:** Washington State University, Nez Perce National Historical Park, catalog, archives collection