

State Veterans Cemetery, Boise, Idaho



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:

Ross Rooper
Beck & Baird Landscape Architecture, Boise

DISTRIBUTOR:

Chaz McCallister,
Horizon Landscape & Irrigation Solutions

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Guho Corporation

COMPLETION DATE:

2005

RAIN BIRD SALESPERSON:

John Slaughter

RAIN BIRD PRODUCTS:

- RWS (Root Watering System)

"My first impression of the RWS was that it was the perfect ready-made solution for the cemetery project."

— Ross Rooper, Landscape Architect
Beck & Baird Landscape Architecture, Boise

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Until 2004, Idaho was the only state without a state-run veterans cemetery. Thanks to a generous land donation, however, Idaho was finally able to get federal grant money to make the cemetery a reality.

CHALLENGE:

The donated land featured a slope with grades ranging from 15–60° and required significant reshaping and stabilization through the planting of trees, shrubs, grass and other groundcover. Not only that, it became apparent that irrigation would be a challenge because the soil was so sandy that not a single rock was found as construction and landscaping crews excavated more than 1,000 cubic yards of soil.

SOLUTION:

Landscape architect Ross Rooper knew his best bet was to focus on as much indigenous vegetation as possible, so most of the cemetery was replanted in naturally growing Idaho fescue and sagebrush. Although the soil in this particular location wasn't naturally compatible with trees, more than 600 young trees were designed into the plan as a tribute to the forests that shape Idaho's horizons. Irrigating the trees was an absolute necessity.

Ross was planning to design a custom tree irrigation system when Rain Bird supplier Chaz McCallister of Horizon Landscape & Irrigation Solutions showed him the new Rain Bird RWS. "My first impression of the RWS was that it was the perfect ready-made solution for the cemetery project," Ross recalled.

He immediately specified 1,250 Rain Bird RWS-B-C-1401 units with sand socks. Because of the sandy soil, he needed the units to encourage lateral root growth, so each RWS was cut to 24 inches. He also specified the sand socks to prevent the sand from infiltrating the RWS mesh tube.

RESULT:

Ross is pleased with the self-contained nature of the Rain Bird RWS because he didn't have to specify a host of small parts for each root watering unit. Also, "Rain Bird has a really good reputation," he said. "I knew I was specifying a good product."