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VII
Arizona Game and Fish Commission

ARIZONA STATE BUILDING

Phoenix, Arizona

Dec. 20, 1947

Honorable Sidney P. Osborn
Governor of Arizona
Capitol Building
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Governor Osborn:

Pursuant to your expressed desire for some compromise agreement between this department and the University of Arizona on the division of the range lands at Fort Huachuca, Commissioners Connor and Faver, together with the undersigned and other members of this department's personnel, met with University officials and others yesterday as requested.

We regret to advise you that no progress can be reported since only one member of the University's Board of Regents, Mrs. J. M. Greer, attended the called meeting, and the University representatives present disclaimed authority to make any commitments relative to modification of the Board's previous action on the subject. They also were unwilling to agree to make any recommendations to the Board.

We regret keenly that no progress could be made since several interested sportsmen from the distant towns of Tucson, Safford, Bisbee, Nogales and Douglas left their respective businesses and made the trip to Phoenix, some by plane, in response to the meeting call. Their disappointment was profound.

We wish to call your attention to one point which was clarified during the course of the discussion. The establishment of a herd of buffalo on the range by this department has been recurrently emphasized as the only item upon which agreement could not be reached. We are forced to disagree with this contention, and wish it clearly understood that our inability to compromise with the school officials is solely because of their consistent and repeated refusal to limit the size of their proposed experimental herd to any less animals than they have estimated the entire grasslands to be able to carry.

We have, since the inception of our negotiations, stood ready to sign an agreement to a division of the range lands to meet the needs, at least in part, of both the Game and Fish Department and the University of Arizona.

You realize, Governor, that this attitude on the part of the Commission has been in response to your request, and the overall good of Arizona and that any agreement we might have made with the University would jeopardize both of two other avenues of approach, by either of which this Department could procure sole ownership of the property.

In our sincere desire to comply with your wishes, however, with which we are in complete sympathy, the Commission still stands ready to compromise on that basis should you elect to continue attempts toward the reconciliation of our differences.

All efforts to date have been futile, however, and, pursuant to the desire expressed by an impromptu vote by all participants in yesterday's meeting, we respectfully request that you forward an application to proper Federal authorities requesting all of the range lands of Fort Huachuca be given or sold to the State of Arizona, for the use and benefit of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission for the stipulated purposes of education, recreation and wildlife management.

The above mentioned vote was taken, with only University officials dissenting, by the assemblage, composed predominantly of sportsmen, upon a motion that your office be petitioned to take the above requested action.

It is most regrettable, in our opinion, that lack of accord may necessitate the spending of sportsmen moneys to acquire this property when it could so easily be obtained without cost. Sufficient funds are available, however, for the purpose and the organized sportsmen of the State have requested our purchase of the area if necessary.

In the event Fort Huachuca is purchased by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, we would still be willing to allow the University of Arizona the privilege of conducting domestic stock grazing experiments on a part of the old fort on some basis which would provide adequate revenue to or reimbursement of sportsmen's funds.

Sincerely yours,



H. L. Reid
State Game and Fish Director