

Mr. Archibald S. Alexander
Under-Secretary of the Army
Washington, D. C.

W. B. Weeks

Dear Sir:

Your March 5th telegram referring to the Army's decision to reacquire title and reoccupy Fort Huachuca in the immediate future has been received. In this connection, may I submit the enclosed and the following points as representing our thinking along these lines.

When it first began to look like Fort Huachuca would be reactivated, we immediately set about trying to persuade the Army to lease that portion of the post to which our Fish and Game Commission now holds title, instead of reacquiring title as the deed covering this property specifically permits. The reason for this act is that in acquiring this property following the last war, the State had to go through so much red tape, so many delays and uncertainties that we were hoping that it might never have to be this way again. If the Army reacquires title, it is likely that our entire previous experience will have to be repeated. Under a lease written by the Army, on terms the Army might dictate, just so automatic return to the State is assured, such a complicated eventuality might be eliminated.

So, this letter respectfully approaches your office on three specific points.

First, we would like to petition you to requisition the area now held by our Fish and Game Commission under a lease arrangement granting continued use of a isolated portion of the area for our buffalo herd plus the assurance that when the Army is finished with the property, it will be automatically returned without the necessity for negotiation to the State of Arizona or the state's Fish and Game Department. As already stated, the Army can write the lease according to its own terms except for the two stipulations suggested here.

Second, if such a lease agreement is not at all possible on the entire area now held by the Fish and Game Department, could the section now occupied by the buffalo herd and a few antelope be withheld as still belonging to the Fish and Game Department while you reacquire title to the remainder of the area?

Third, if neither of the first two suggestions can be worked out, would spell out for us what you mean in your telegram when you say, "this will be done in such a manner as to cause a minimum disruption to the activities now conducted by the State of Arizona."? This is very important to us because quite frankly we are in a position where if we have to move the buffalo herd and the antelope that are now confined to a fairly isolated district, the animals will probably have to be slaughtered on the spot, since it will be very expensive to try to move them.

I apologize for the rather involved nature of this petition and for the fact that it does in some respects encroach upon the spirit of the terms of the deed under which the State of Arizona acquired its title to Fort Huachuca. On the other hand, I am sure you can appreciate our position and that we can rely on you to be as generous in your handling of this problem as possible.

Arizona is looking forward to the Army's return to Fort Huachuca. You will find us ready and willing to do everything possible to facilitate your reactivation of this historic, old post.

Sincerely

Howard Pyle
GOVERNOR