

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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Irrigation  
9001-36-N

Assistant Director of Irrigation  
Room 520, Eighth & Figueroa Bldg.  
Los Angeles, Calif.

July 25, 1939

Mr. A. L. Wathen  
Director of Irrigation  
Office of Indian Affairs  
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Compilation of Irrigation Data

Dear Mr. Wathen:

In response to your request of September 23, 1938, there are being transmitted to you by express two sets of the Histories and Irrigation Data for all Indian Irrigation Projects and Subsistence Gardens.

Attached hereto, as preface, index and general information for ready reference, will be found:

- (1) Alphabetical list of Irrigation Projects, Units and Gardens, by States and Reservations.
- (2) Copy of your letter of September 23, 1938, requesting the compilation of the Histories and Irrigation Data.
- (3) Copy of my circular letter of November 10, 1938, to Engineers and Superintendents requesting field data for use in the compilation.
- (4) List of persons to whom copies of the various Histories and Irrigation Data are now being distributed.
- (5) Copy of my form letter sending the applicable copies as listed in (4) to each Engineer and Superintendent.
- (6) Map of Indian tribes and settlements in the United States;  
Map of the United States showing annual average precipitation;  
Map of the United States showing average precipitation between April 1 and September 3.

The list of projects, which has been carefully compiled, should be useful as well as interesting, especially the summary on last page.

Copy of your letter is included for comparison of the features and form suggested, with that in the compilation.

Copy of circular letter is shown principally for the outline and data forms contained, which may be useful for future reference.

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The list of persons may be useful if it is desired to know who has received any particular copies.

The maps are unusual and interesting in connection with Indian irrigation.

Referring to the individual project histories, ten copies of the narratives were mimeographed. Six sets were completed with maps, if any, and, in the case of Navajo, Pueblo, California and Subsistence Gardens, with six sets of tabulations.

The best available maps were included, except for the California and Navajo projects, which, being so numerous and the maps in most cases of large dimensions, would have added greatly to the cost and size of the histories.

Many of the maps were reduced in size, but a large number were not susceptible of reduction. The project maps are a distinct disappointment. It appears that the larger the project, the poorer the map.

The location of subsistence gardens is shown on reservation maps where available, and in the case of Oklahoma on a State map also showing Agency jurisdictions.

The individual histories, except California, Navajo and Subsistence Gardens (where they are grouped), have been stapled to a heavy sheet to facilitate handling.

The arrangement of the sets was given considerable thought to make them most readily accessible and useful. The system of State cards and project folders was used with the idea that they could be filed either in a drawer or on the desk, using the Klearadosk or similar stand. This enables one to find any project without reference to an index and permits removal of any one or more for reference, insertion of additional data, or for correction.

Navajo projects for the three States have been segregated under Arizona, and grouped by States in the narrative and in the tabulation.

The subsistence gardens have been segregated by States and reservations in alphabetical order under a special heading.

A summary tabulation of all projects has not been made since much of the data that could be tabulated will be out of date soon and the correction of figures in so many places when future data become available appeared to be of questionable merit.

The work of compilation has extended from January 1 to date. Most of the field data was received by May, the last on June 20. It should not be assumed that this was merely arranged in proper order and mimeographed. On the contrary it was without exception necessary to rearrange, revise, correct and rewrite every project. A great deal of research was

necessary to correct and supplement the field data and to supply data for many projects not reported from any source. Many of the descriptions were too long and others entirely too brief. Most of them had to be rewritten more than once before cutting stencils. In many cases where the same data appeared in different places it was conflicting and generally did not conform to other available information. This is particularly true of the population and areas of reservations, on which there is still considerable variance that needs attention.

The data on works needed, estimated cost and economic program for completion, are taken directly from the field statements without any attempt to evaluate same, and do not in many cases tie into previous estimates or existing programs, and furthermore are already out of line due to variations in the 1940 appropriations from the previous estimates.

Since January 1 practically my entire time and that of Miss Cleland has been devoted to this work. The addition of the routine office work has made necessary long hours of continuous overtime, especially during the past three months. Mr. O. M. Browne was here and assisted on the first rewrite of several of the projects from January 16 to March 15. Mr. McCarthy spent about half his time on this work for three months; Mrs. Inus devoted a good share of her time to it, except for two weeks' leave between February 1 and June 30; after she resigned Miss Surace took up the work throughout July. Mr. Hilles, temporary draftsman, assisted in preparation, folding, etc., of the maps during May and June.

The original or negative, or both, and one extra print of the maps and tabulations included in the Histories have been retained in a separate file here.

While it is realized from inside knowledge that the Histories and Irrigation Data are far from complete and contain some discrepancies, it is believed that, for the most part, they will be found to present a fairly good picture of the projects.

It will doubtless be found that there are glaring omissions and inaccuracies which should have been eliminated; yet I assure you we have tried faithfully to sort out the wheat from the chaff and the chaff to the end that you will have fairly dependable data.

I trust that with so much information available in one place it will be really valuable for reference.

Yours very truly,

*Herbert V. Clotts*

Herbert V. Clotts,  
Assistant Director of Irrigation

Enclosures

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