

METHOD OF ESTABLISHING LAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

In the spring of 1936, land management districts were tentatively defined, averaging about 1,000,000 acres each, and Supervisors were appointed for each district and given administrative control. In developing the delineation of land management districts, the characteristics of an ideal district were used as a guide; each district should include ranges used at all seasons of the year; possible movement of livestock across boundaries should be kept to a minimum; each should include a component drainage segment with natural boundaries; each should be a unit as regards social, political, economic, and educational characteristics; each should be balanced as to range, forestry, agricultural resources, and industrial enterprises; the boundaries for land management should coincide with those of other administrative functions, such as health, forest administration, and law and order; each should be as compact as possible; and all portions should be accessible from a centrally located headquarters. An attempt was made to designate districts with a per capita equality of resources, but this proved impossible.

The native Indian organizations were given the power to adopt grazing regulations and to assist administrative personnel and Navajo police in enforcement of such regulations. It was specified that the sliding scale reduction in each district should fall only on herds above a certain size. This was conceived as the maximum limit system of stock adjustment, and from this was adopted the system now used and defined in the Grazing Regulations, approved by the Secretary of the Interior in 1937 following a resolution adopted by the Tribal Council.

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