

HOWARD J. SMITH  
STATE LAND COMMISSIONER

CARROLL HUDSON  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

*02*  
*10/18/34*

State Land Department

STATE OF ARIZONA

OFFICE OF

State Land Commissioner

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

June 14, 1934.

Mr. Jas. G. Hunter, Supt.,  
Southern Navajo Agency,  
Fort Defiance, Arizona.

Dear Sir:

On September 8th, 1932, this Department received a letter from you relative to our letter of July 22nd, in which we advised you that upon investigation this Department had found that all of the land in Township 19 North, Ranges 28, 29 and 30 East, and Township 20 North, Range 28 East, in which area there is in excess of eighteen sections of State land, was being used without payment of rental by an Indian named Silversmith, who has received the full benefit of this grazing land for sometime.

We also advised you that at that time there were nearly two hundred Indian horses seen in one herd by our men near Sanders and that these horses, and other stock, were grazing all of Township 21 North, Ranges 28, 29, 30 and 31 East, as well as Townships 22 and 23 North, Ranges 29, 30 and 31 East.

You advised us in this letter that it was your plan to make a thorough investigation of the range conditions in this locality and that this Department would be notified of the information disclosed. We are now advised that the United States Indian Service is at the present time leasing the railroad land in these several townships from the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company for the Navajo Indians, in which townships the State has school lands which we are unable to lease to other parties due to the fact that the railroad land is leased by the Indians. We believe it is only fair that the Indian service should lease the State lands in these townships so that the Indians receiving the benefit from such lands would be paying the same rental as paid to the State by other cattle and sheep men in the various parts of the State.

Will you kindly give this matter your consideration and advise this Department regarding same.

Yours very truly,

Howard J. Smith, Commissioner,

By

*Wm. Alberts*  
Wm. Alberts

WA/rs

RECEIVED

JUN 16 1934

SOUTHERN NAVAJO AGENCY  
FORT DEFIANC, ARIZ.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO STATE LAND COMMISSIONER

WR 3529