

Southern Navajo Agency,
Fort Defiance, Arizona,
September 8, 1932.

Mr. Howard J. Smith,
State Land Commissioner,
Phoenix, Arizona.

Dear Sir:

This will refer to your letter of July 22, 1932, also to my letter of August 8, 1932, relative to leasing State lands for grazing use of Navajo Indians in this jurisdiction.

Since writing my letter of August 8, 1932, I have given your letter considerable attention and find that there is a great deal of work involved in arriving at what uses have been made and will likely be made of the areas designated on your map. As you are aware, the school sections in this immediate vicinity are surrounded in many instances by white homesteaders, as well as by Navajo Indians. From your letter, I am to assume that only Indian-owned livestock is being encroached upon the State lands. It is apparent to me that white homesteaders have been taking the same advantages as have been taken by the Indians. However, until a more complete study of the situation can be made, I am not in a position to even suggest what share of the range is being used by Indians of this jurisdiction and what proportion of the range on State lands is being used by people, other than Indians.

It is my plan to have a thorough investigation made of the range situation, with a view of approaching your office with as clear and concise statement of the information gathered, having prepared a lease with your office for use of your grazing land, which will be equitable to all concerned.

Very truly yours,

John G. Hunter,
Superintendent.

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