

(COPY)

Eastern Navajo Agency
Crown Point, N. M.
June 5, 1931

Mr. H. C. Neuffer,
Supervising Engineer,
Rosenwald Bldg.
Albuquerque, N. M.

Dear Mr. Neuffer:

In reply to your request, containing a memorandum of June 3rd, with reference to construction of reservoirs, please be advised that the following are our conclusions in taking care of this construction:

On small projects, it will be possible to get teams and Indians to build these reservoirs and rip-rap same; however, on the larger projects would suggest that construction be taken care of using the tractors and scrapers that you now have in the Field and pay the Indians for rip-rapping these reservoirs at the rate of \$1.00 per surface square yard. The 20¢ per cubic yard, of course, is not a very large sum, but will pay for the subsistence and horse feed while they are doing this work and the result will be that they will have the benefit from the use of these reservoirs after they are completed which will mean more to them than any wages that they may earn in the construction.

As to range control, once these several reservoirs are constructed, we believe it will be possible to work out a scheme of range control even though in a small way at first, but with the purchase and consolidation of other lands now in process of negotiation, we feel that in the future we will be able to do much more than we have in the past. It would be our plan to educate the members of our several chapters to co-operate in this direction and feel confident that with the enlistment of their help, we are sure of some accomplishment in this direction.

However, it will be very difficult to maintain an interest in this feature of the work unless we could have two trained chapter advisers who would give special attention to range conservation, livestock improvement, and water development, as the stockmen we have in the Field have many other duties to give

WR 4043

attention and cannot always meet on the dates set, when the chapters have their meetings. To date, 20 organizations have been effected.

As to the water development, as you suggest, to cover a period of five years and that certain areas be developed each year, we suggest that the first year's work be two artesian wells in the Wingate area and one small reservoir to be immediately constructed near the Navajo Church Chapter house. Mr. Cravath is now working west of Pinedale completing a small flood-water reservoir, and he has also another under construction which is at this time incomplete. Northwest of Pinedale there is a fine reservoir site but will require the construction of a good-sized dam to impound all the water coming down that valley. This area is without water and it is very important that Mr. Cravath's program be carried out as far as possible.

Of course, Canoncito needs immediate attention and Puerto-cito as well as Ramah, and perhaps before money can be appropriated for all of this work, the land situation will be adjusted through purchase and exchange for each of these three bands. In the Star Lake country, the Indians are in need of assistance for stock purposes, but this work could be handled entirely by these Indians.

We feel that it would be possible to prosecute the work on any small projects, which the Indians would undertake, continuously until completed. An estimate should be prepared, covering yardage in any dam, so that we would know just how much money could be allotted for any specific job.

Since, in many places on the reservation, there is an abundant growth of grass, due to the fact that there was no natural watering places and this area could not be covered; therefore, it would seem that since the reservation is so generally overstocked and there is such an immediate need to scatter stock from the original watering places, which are badly over-grazed, to this outlying area above mentioned, much of this class of range is such that water cannot be developed by well drilling or spring development, but will have to be developed by constructing surface water reservoirs which makes it very necessary to maintain large tractors and scrapers for this purpose.

Sincerely yours,

6-5/5-5
cc to: J. C. Tyler
W. J. Enban
William Zeh
A. H. Womack

(SGD.) S. F. Sacher
Superintendent

WR 4044