Statement of Policy Covering
SCS Work in L.M. Unit #4 for
the year 1938-39

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The basic policy of SCS planning and operations in Unit No. 4 is conceived in terms of the necessity for the introduction of measures designed to conserve the land and water resources; to promote their exploitation within the limits of conservative use; and to secure for the inhabitants economic security. The accomplishment of these aims necessitates the closest collaboration with and cooperation between the SCS, the District Supervisor, and the Indians. The SCS is directly concerned with the relationships with the District Supervisor and indirectly with the Indians through the District Supervisor.

The most important contribution with which the SCS is charged involves the use of the basic survey data and the preparation of a complete plan for the rehabilitation of the Unit. The preparation of a sub-watershed plan which describes the present condition of the physical resources, states the problems to be met in order to secure the most economical and conservative utilization of resources, and outlines the general procedure through which the present situation can be remedied and the problem met, forms the first step.

Essentially, this plan will be formulated on the basis of the objective surveys already made without regard to personalities or to policy of either the SCS or Indian Service. This

WR 8439

CV-6417-201 NN004351

means that some parts of the plan will probably remain unexecuted for several years, due to factors of policy, available money, and the attitude of the Indians. That fact, however, will not preclude the selection of certain segments or elements of the plan which are capable of immediate execution. By adhering to this plan of procedure the danger of unrelated efforts is lessened since the general objective toward which each move is directed remains the ultimate goal.

For the present, however, the limitations of money, policy, and personnel must decide the type and amount of work which may be done. During the coming year, the SCS assumes as its responsibility for Unit 4:

1. The preparation of a sub-watershed plan.
2. The development and maintenance of stock waters, except drilled wells.
3. Plans and authorized operations on flood-irrigated lands.
4. Water spreading to protect farm land and waters.

The problem of administration is one which rests primarily with the District Supervisor although the SCS cannot divorce itself from the implications of land management or operations. It is essential that the technical program be integrated with the administrative problems. To that extent, the general and specific plans of SCS operations will be subject to prior approval of the District Supervisor. This does not mean that the SCS need sacrifice any of its principles of proper land

WR 8440

CV-6417-201 NN004352

management. The principle involved is one of expediency in which we recognize that acceptance and participation by the Indians in the program are determined by factors beyond SCS control. The District Supervisor, because of his immediate acquaintance with the human problem, is better able to judge where the greatest results may come from our efforts.

In furtherance of this procedure in Unit 4, it is agreed that with respect to stock adjustment and range control the maximum limit requirements of the grazing regulations are inoperative and will not be applied. The two basic considerations in achieving proper stock adjustment in the Unit will be as follows: 1) A carrying capacity as specified by the range surveys or; 2) Proper stocking in accordance with such capacity.

In achieving proper relationship between carrying capacity and numbers of stock it is proposed, as far as possible, to work in cooperation with existing inter-related individuals and groups of Indian livestock operators. Such a plan will involve more or less recognition of traditional range use by present users. Such recognition is agreed to, provided such traditional use of the area by any particular group is not incompatible with the most equitable subsistence utilization of the area. Extreme care

WR 8441

CV-6417-201 NN004353

will be exercised to avoid crystallization of use by operators carrying on the livestock business on a commercial basis.

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WR 8442