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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, NAVAJO RESERVATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

and

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, NAVAJO DISTRICT  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Relative to

Stock Water Maintenance and Operations on the  
Navajo Reservation for the Fiscal Year 1938.

Proper range use on the Navajo Reservation has necessitated, during the past few years, the development of some two thousand springs, wells, watering tanks and reservoirs for range livestock use. The maintenance and continued operation of these developments are indispensable to the present program of range management, erosion control, and effective conservation. The funds of the Indian Service for the fiscal year 1937-38 are, however, insufficient to insure proper maintenance and operation of these water improvements.

Therefore, in order to maintain and protect these existing range water developments, without which the conservation program on the Reservation would be endangered, the following memorandum of Understanding is entered into by the U. S. Indian Service and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

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A. The Indian Service, through its divisions of Irrigation, Civilian Conservation Corps (Indian Division) and Education, hereby agrees as follows:

1. To furnish twenty (20) skilled laborers for the entire year.
2. To furnish, maintain, and operate the following motor vehicles:
  - a. Sixteen (16) trucks.
  - b. Four (4) pickups.
  - c. One (1) coupe.
3. To furnish, maintain, and operate one (1) well drilling rig.
4. To furnish materials and supplies as follows, amounting to approximately \$8,724.00:
  - a. Miscellaneous windmill supplies.
  - b. Small tools used in well drilling.
  - c. Acetylene and oxygen.
  - d. Other materials and supplies.
5. To furnish unskilled labor to the amount of approximately \$10,000.00.
6. To furnish such supervision and administration of water maintenance personnel and activities as shall be necessary under this agreement and shall be responsible for the submission of all necessary reports incident to such administration.

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7. To make a monthly report to the Soil Conservation Service giving details of use of such materials and supplies as are furnished by the Soil Conservation Service.
8. The Indian Service further agrees that it will make all reasonable efforts through its educational program and within the limitations of its present organization to secure the cooperation of the Navajo Indian stock operators in the preservation and maintenance of the range water improvements.

B. The U. S. Soil Conservation Service hereby agrees to furnish the following estimated amounts of materials and supplies, the total obligation not to exceed \$8,000:

1. 15,000 gals. gasoline	\$1800.00
2. 500 gals. lubricating oil	125.00
3. 4,000 ft. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " galvanized iron pipe with recess couplings	800.00
4. 3,000 ft. 1" galvanized iron pipe with recess couplings	450.00
5. 2,000 ft. 3/4" galvanized iron pipe with recess couplings	200.00
6. One lot of miscellaneous pipe fittings and valves	400.00
7. 4,000 ft. B.M. miscellaneous lumber	200.00
8. 750 ft. tiling	175.00
9. 800 sacks of cement	520.00
10. 3,100 ft. 1-5/8" well casing	3100.00
11. Reinforcing steel	130.00
12. Contingencies	100.00

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- C. It is mutually agreed between the two parties to this memorandum:
1. That the total contribution of the Indian Service under this agreement shall be approximately, but not in excess of \$69,500, and the total contribution of the Soil Conservation Service shall be approximately but not in excess of \$8,000.
  2. That materials to be furnished by the SCS shall be drawn on monthly requisitions, signed by the Chief Engineer of the Navajo District, Soil Conservation Service, such requisitions to cover such amounts of materials or supplies as are reasonably expected to be used within the monthly period.
  3. That title to any and all materials furnished or agreed to be furnished under this agreement by the SCS, and not used, shall remain in the SCS.
  4. That this agreement shall cover operations only for the fiscal year 1937-38, but that during that time it may be amended by consent of both parties, such amendment to be evidenced by a supplementary written memorandum.

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### JUSTIFICATION FOR WATER MAINTENANCE ON THE NAVAJO RESERVATION

The present and future soil conservation program for the Navajo Reservation revolves, for the most part, around proper range management. One of the first requirements in any range program includes adequate stock waters for proper distribution and seasonal use of the range by livestock. Naturally, maintenance of existing waters is essential. It is of more importance from a wise use of money to maintain existing waters than to build new water developments.

On the Navajo Reservation the permanent supply of water for livestock consists of some 600 wells of all classes, 330 springs, besides a few live streams and lakes. The secondary source of livestock water is in excess of 1,000 earth dams of varying sizes, holding water temporarily. It is planned that the Indians will take over the maintenance of this secondary source of water more and more. However, the maintenance of drilled wells equipped with windmills requires special skill and equipment which the Indians do not possess. The pulling of pump rods or pipe requires blocks, clamps, and utmost care

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so that these parts will not be dropped. The Indians can not be expected to maintain this equipment for a long time to come.

Livestock waters on the 15,000,000 acre Navajo Reservation to the extent of some 2,000 are inadequate for proper use by livestock. There will have to be more water developed in the future. If these waters were evenly divided this number would not be so bad. This is not the case, however, and large areas exist that are too remote from water for proper use. Certainly the maintenance of already existing waters should come before larger sums are spent in making new developments.

Excess trailing of livestock to water, denudation of ground cover, and congesting stock in watered areas are problems to be reckoned with in our program of conserving the soil. Therefore, the Soil Conservation Service should be concerned not only with new water developments but also with maintaining those waters existing at present.

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