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NAVAJO SERVICE

Window Rock, Arizona
December 29, 1936.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SUBJECT -- WATER MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.

For many years one of the outstanding developments on the Navajo Reservation has been that of stock water. This has consisted of some 1,400 reservoirs, over 800 spring improvements, more than 200 deep wells with windmills, and at least 600 shallow wells.

This development is doubly outstanding because of its importance in the major economic enterprise on the Reservation, that of stock raising. Stock water facilities is the first requisite in any program of proper range management and utilization.

However, the continued use of these water developments requires an adequate and efficient maintenance organization. The springs and wells especially must receive regular attention if they are to continue in uninterrupted service. From twelve to fourteen maintenance units, working continuously, will be necessary to carry on this work. The annual cost of this organization, including personnel, material, supplies, and equipment, is estimated at more than $150,000.00.

Conforming to the spirit of the Unified Navajo Program worked out and approved by the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture and further clarified by the heads of the Indian Service and Soil Conservation Service in Washington, this big problem of water maintenance has been undertaken jointly by the Indian Service, represented by Irrigation and E.C.W., and the Soil Conservation Service. This undertaking is one example of the *"Integration of Indian Service and Soil Conservation Service activities to accomplish Indian economic rehabilitation through range restoration and the development of agricultural and other resources."

*Quotation from Unified Navajo Program mentioned above.

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The fact that the perfecting of this stock water maintenance organization will be a pioneer accomplishment, superior in size and potentialities to any other in the United States, should be a real incentive to all cooperating parties to achieve the success and renown that is in the offing. All parties appreciate that frequent adjustments in organization and procedure will be necessary as the organization passes through the growing pains towards maturity. The spirit of "give and take" together with the determination for success will be the means of becoming disengaged from the snags that are bound to be encountered.

Details of the proposed water maintenance organization, together with estimates of materials, supplies, equipment, and personnel needed, are given in a separate report. Also the division of responsibilities in this program is listed in a separate memorandum.

Any part of this maintenance work, or even the original construction work, comes within the prescribed scope or field of activities of either of the cooperating parties. The job covering the entire Reservation, the magnitude of it, makes it advisable to draw on all parties interested in making a program to cover it thoroughly.

(Signed) Fireman H. Brown
for Indian Irrigation

(Signed) C. W. Powers
for Indian E.C.W.

for Soil Conservation Service.

Approved:

Arthur Fife
Ass't. Director Land Management
In Charge of Engineering.

AF/Ls

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