

Fifth Irrigation District
Box 445, Albuquerque, N.M.

January 24, 1931

Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of Office telegram of January 21 which reads as follows:

SEE COPY NEUFFER'S LETTER JANUARY FOURTEENTH CONCERNING PROPOSED GENERAL SURVEY FOR DEFINITE PROGRAM OF WATER DEVELOPMENT ON NAVAJO AND HOPI RESERVATIONS AND CONSIDER MATTER SUBMITTING YOUR VIEWS IN WRITING

I have a copy of Mr. Neuffer's letter of January 14, and have discussed the matter with him as well as with Mr. W. H. Zeh, Forester.

There can be no question as to the advisability of making a comprehensive survey and study of the domestic and stock water development and grazing situation on the Navajo and Hopi Reservations. That this should be made in the immediate future and should be participated in by the Forestry, Agricultural, Industrial, and Irrigation Divisions, in co-operation with the superintendents is also essential.

There has been a great deal of water development work done on these reservations in the past, and it is believed that it has been done to great advantage, and it has resulted in increasing the herds of sheep and general prosperity of the Indians. We have been fortunate in having Mr. Womack in direct charge of water development for many years, and under his personal supervision and due to his intimate knowledge of geological conditions and his close contact with the Indians, a large number of springs, wells, and charcos have been developed in widely scattered portions of the reservations. However, this has resulted in increasing the herds to such an extent that the areas adjacent to the water holes have been overgrazed, while there remains a vast area of grazing land which still can not be properly utilized because there is no water developed. It is realized that in order to improve conditions those areas where grazing is available must be provided with water wherever possible.

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→ last. In other places water can be developed at reasonable

In order to secure the best results from future development it will be necessary to carefully study these reservations and prepare a plan for their ultimate development, based upon the location of grazing areas of different classes, utilization at different seasons under regulation, and the development of water supply. In some places it would be almost prohibitive to develop water even though the grazing is excellent. These should be reserved to the cost under varying methods, and this development should proceed in accordance with the quality of grazing lands and the practicability of utilizing them.

As stated in Mr. Henffer's letter it will require four to six months, probably the latter figure is more nearly correct, to develop a practicable plan of procedure. However it appears necessary to proceed as rapidly as possible in the formation of a general plan, based upon an early survey and study of the entire reservation, so that the advance estimates for 1933 can be submitted at a time with a reasonable amount of justification. Following that the study should be continued and a report prepared to show the detailed program and estimate of cost, so that it will be available for the hearings next fall.

It is suggested that to secure this result the program of work for Navajo and Hopi water supply development for 1931 be modified to permit the use of about \$2,500, which is the amount estimated to be required for this work during the rest of the fiscal year, for this survey. It will be necessary to employ an instrumentman, rodman, and draftsman, in addition to the present forces, and a considerable amount of travel will be necessary, making up a total of \$2,500. The program of work submitted June 13 and approved July 25 allocates the total appropriation of \$75,000 to various jurisdictions. It is proposed to take the following amounts from those allotments to be used for this survey:

Eastern Navajo	\$ 400.00
Leupp	200.00
Hopi	0.00
Northern Navajo	600.00
Southern Navajo	1000.00
Western Navajo	300.00
Total	<u>\$2500.00</u>

It is not believed that these reductions will seriously affect the work in any jurisdiction, although it will reduce to a small extent the total amount of work which can be done. The Hopi funds are practically exhausted and besides very little field survey work will be necessary in that jurisdiction.

If this is authorized it is planned to begin work immediately and prosecute it as rapidly as weather conditions will permit. It is planned first to prepare a map of the entire Navajo and Hopi country showing all

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water developments to date, and to show thereon the grazing areas of the various classes where water has not been developed and then to determine where water can be developed within those areas. It is believed that an approximate program can be prepared in co-operation with the other divisions in time to submit the advance estimates by May 31, based upon this new survey for a complete program. It is desired then to continue with the work until all the details can be worked out, so that by about August 31 a final report can be prepared showing all future work required and estimates of cost thereof, together with a program of development during succeeding years until completed.

If this is approved, the program for 1931 should be modified and Mr. Neuffer notified, and he should be given authority to employ a draftsman immediately at not to exceed \$2,000 per annum. At the same time it would be desirable to have the representatives of the Forestry, Agricultural, and Industrial Divisions advised in regard to the matter and necessary instructions given. It is believed that these representatives should all get together at as early a date as possible, so that there will be no undue delay in getting together the necessary information for this preliminary report and advance estimate.

It is believed that in connection with the water development program consideration should also be given to the continuation of work on developing irrigation projects wherever feasible. Much information regarding locations of feasible projects is already available.

I plan to leave here early next week with Neuffer for a trip into the Navajo Reservation when further consideration will be given to the water development program as well as to visit some of the work now under way.

Yours very truly,

Herbert V. Clotts,
Asst. Chief Engineer.

C.C. - H. C. Neuffer,
Supervising Engineer

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