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Irrigation

UNITED STATES

Water

Development DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
1932.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Field Service

Hopi Agency,  
June 10, 1931.

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

Dear Mr. Neuffer:

In conference to-day with our stockman, Bigham and Simpson, Dr. P. D. Covington, Mr. Zeh and Mr. Womack, it was decided to recommend that the first territory to develop on Hopi for water is that directly north and west of Pinon--about nine townships, marked on the water map of the Irrigation Service. The justification for selecting this territory is that there is practically no permanent water in that country, there is feed, the sheep are there and now we are pumping water by engines at Pinon and the sheep are driven long distances to water at Pinon and the Hard Rocks Dipping Vat--the main watering places in that section of the reservation. It is understood that an allotment of \$9,500 will be used in that selected territory this coming fiscal year of 1932.

It is agreed that the Irrigation Service is to use equipment and whites, or their employees, in building these tanks because there are no horses owned by the Indians large enough or strong enough to do heavy work such as is necessary to put up dams and stone work and because the money allotted is so small that it will be necessary to make every penny count in building these tanks and getting the water at the earliest possible date. The Indians want the water and will help where they can, but it is also understood their teams and the Indians will be used at regular wages wherever they may be to the advantage of the work. Their horses are so small they can be only used at certain work. When these ponies work every day they soon play out and it is a great source of expense and trouble for the Indians to furnish grain for them while working, which they have to do. It is understood by all that the Indians will be given the preference over whites wherever their services may be used to advantage and that every opportunity will be given to apportion the work to those Indians in the districts in which the work is being done so that the work will be properly proportioned among them all at the usual wages. It is also expected that the Indians will donate some labor as convenient and reasonable.

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The usual wages we have been paying these local Indians are: \$2.00 per day for men; \$4.00 for teams with drivers. Neighborhood Indians have always donated a goodly number of days on all water development on this reservation and we will ask them to do this on this work.

We have enough dipping vats in this location to serve the stock of the territory described.

It is our belief that the Irrigation Service can construct the tanks in this territory much quicker, at a lower cost and more permanently with their own equipment and men than if they tried to use Indian labor exclusively. We have built several tanks here and we find that we have to put our own teams on in order to handle the heavy work, do the plowing, handle the rock hauling, etc., the Indian teams being so small and so poor for want of grain and proper feeding.

It is thought best to not take up at this time matters pertaining to districts to be developed during the second, third, and fourth years.

As to stock control and range administration: That can not be properly looked after until we get the men proposed by the Extension Department--three more stockmen or farmers, or extension agents. We have but two field men now, one whose time is taken up continually on the dipping and vat work and other problems concerning scap-eradication and sheep matters; and one whose time is taken up in looking after range and crop problems and cattle matters, etc., etc. After we get this water the Indians must be educated to the needs of control of stock movement or the additional water will not meet our requirements. They can be handled nicely and educated properly along these lines if the men Mr. Copley proposes to give us are allowed and get on the job. With the men we have this will be impossible. We do not have an agricultural extension agent even. We feel that with three additional men, dividing the large reservation into four districts, we can do most anything with the Indians so far as bettering their conditions is concerned. We find them especially the Navajos, eager to advance their own interests and keenly vigilant to accepting advice and work for their own progress and advancement.

(Sgd.) EDGAR K. MILLER  
Edgar K. Miller, Supt.

Copy to Womack.

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