(C O P Y)

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INDIAN FIELD SERVICE

Northern Navajo Agency
Shiprock, New Mexico
June 20, 1931

Mr. H. C. Neuffer,
Supervising Engineer
Box 445
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Neuffer:

In reply to your letter of June 16, 1931, I beg to submit herewith the information called for.

1.--The Northern Navajo Indians can do all the work involved in building stock water reservoirs under competent supervision and direction.

The gang now at work on the Boundary Butte vat offered to work on this community project for $1.00 a day, or a sufficient wage to feed themselves and teams. The rate of 25¢ a cubic yard for the earth work on reservoirs and from $1.00 to $1.50 a yard for spillway rock excavation should prove satisfactory--they work so since they are working for themselves. They will have to have a competent foreman, however, to see to it that the reservoirs are of the desired depth and capacity.

2.--To be effective, the program for range management will have to be worked out with the Association officers and members to insure their hearty support and cooperation. The plan I have in mind is to develop the water on a new range for the people on a depleted range provided they agree to seal the water supply on the depleted range for a certain length of time and give the depleted range a chance to come-back. Unless this plan is adopted, the development of a new range will be followed by such increase in flocks as to overgraze both the old and the new range.

The Superintendent will have to assume responsibility for enforcing proper range management by sealing the water of the old range--just as he has to assume responsibility for castrating the range stallions. A careful check of the horses on this reservation shows a steady loss of mares on the range who have gone off in search of mates. Mr. Jensen's recent check shows 5,000 horses on this reser-

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vation. His wealment of 450 range stallions this spring will help still more to lessen the number of Indian ponies on the reservation. The Indians have acquiesced so far in this policy and it will be easier to convince them of the desirability of the plan of range management advocated above with respect to sealing the water on the depleted ranges.

3.--(a) Along the Chaco River and to the east.

(b) Complete program under (a).

(c) Country between Red Mesa and ridge east of Nakaito to region of the Toatin Mesa.

(d) A 10-mile wide band South of the San Juan River by 5-mile from four-corners to Mexican Hat.

(e) Mancos River to Chimney Rock.

4.--One new vat at Chimney Rock.
One new vat west of Rattlesnake Oil Lease
One new vat in Pena Vato Arroyo
Total 3 new vats.

The locations of the proposed developments as set forth above will be marked on the new maps when received and a copy sent you as you request.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Ernest H. Hammond,
Ernest H. Hammond,
District Superintendent,
in charge.

EHH:ME

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