53995

6-1100

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

ADDRESS ONLY THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Field
Irrigation
L M H

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON FEB 21 1912

Navajo

Memorandum for Department.

(Supplementary to report recommending construction Ganado Reservoir.)

The Office is in receipt of a letter from Superintendent of Irrigation H. F. Robinson, dated February 14, 1914, in which he reports further on the Ganado reservoir. In his report he says that he believes the reservoir can be filled once annually with water containing practically no silt, which would not limit the life of the reservoir and would irrigate all the lands contemplated under the proposed project. Mr. Robinson submits a plan for caring for a large part of the silt by means of sluice gates, filling the reservoir only with the surface flow, and also providing for sand boxes where the water enters the supply canal for the reservoir.

This would prevent a large quantity of silt from entering the reservoir, should it be necessary some seasons to fill it during flood periods..

Mr. Robinson further states that should this reservoir fill with silt in 35 years, or even in 25 years, the land will have increased in value and earned enough to make further work practicable and not excessively expensive.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The dam can then be raised, increasing the capacity of the reservoir, or a similar reservoir site which is located some distance above, from which water can be diverted into the reservoir under consideration, could be utilized, which would act as a settling basin, making it possible to build the dikes for the lower reservoir to a considerable height.

The Indians who would be benefited by this reservoir are excellent workers, and the Office feels confident that every acre of irrigable land under this project will be irrigated by the Indians as soon as the water is made available, and that the value of the increased crops would pay a high interest on the investment.

There is but little water on the Navajo reservation, and the need for irrigation is very great. In view of the possibilities for increase in the storage capacity within 25 or 35 years, if found necessary, this Office believes that this project should be approved, and it so recommends.

The report of Mr. Robinson, with maps, in inclosed herewith, with request for its return to the Indian Office.

2-NMcC-21

F H Abbott

Assistant Commissioner.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES