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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INDIAN SERVICE

NAVAJO AGENCY IRRIGATION DIVISION

NARRATIVE-COST REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 1938

~~FOI~~

E. R. FRYER

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

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A BRIEF REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IRRIGATION DIVISION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1938

IRRIGATION CONSTRUCTION

No new projects of major importance were initiated during the fiscal year. The comparatively small appropriation for construction were utilized in the continuation of construction activities on eighteen projects previously initiated. These are all of major importance in the economic scheme for development of agricultural possibilities in the Navajo-Hopi area. Expenditures of Irrigation funds on all projects were relatively small, and excluded in many cases, payments for common labor. The Division acknowledges, as of appreciable value in accomplishing its aims, the contributions of various cooperative agencies, and the labor donations of many community groups of Indians.

The largest expenditure was made on the Fruitland Project. This development, initiated under the first Public Works Program, in 1933, lies on the south side of the San Juan River below Farmington, New Mexico. Here there are in excess of five thousand acres of good farm land, susceptible of irrigation by waters obtained through direct diversion from the San Juan River. The land is capable of producing all subsistence crops, and, by intensive usage, can be made to produce valuable excesses. The valley in which the project lies is well known for its production of readily marketable fruits.

During the fiscal year improvements in the main canal to the first unit, river bank protection for farm lands, installation of drops and turnouts, and subjugation of the first unit, with major emphasis

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on subjugation, were included in construction activities. Subjugation of a total of 500 acres was completed. In addition, a considerable amount of research was carried on with a view to determining a suitable and effective living for the porous and highly dispersable Blue Hill shale section of the main canal between the first and second units. Surveys were made, and definite plans and estimates for the eventual completion of the project perfected. These were used as the basis for a \$150,000.00 deficiency appropriation request.

Development of the Round Rock Project, located near Round Rock Trading Post in Arizona, consisted in strengthening the earthfill storage dam, and in the subjugation of 120 acres of farm land. In addition, three miles of fence were erected around the project.

For this development most of the common labor was contributed by CCC-ID as a cooperating agency. Considerable interest in the project is shown by the Indians, and we hope to have all available land utilized during the season of 1939.

At Lower Rock Point Project, about twenty miles north of Round Rock, with cooperation of both Soil Conservation Service and CCC-ID a rodent control project was completed, a community fence around the area erected, and a wind erosion control border planted. This latter work entailed the planting of approximately 40,000 trees.

Perhaps the major development was the inauguration of a 20-acre experimental farm. This is under the direct supervision of Mr. John B. Reed, Chief Agronomist for the Navajo Service, and is to serve the dual purpose of determining the most suitable crops for the

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area, and acting as an instruction station for Indian farmers. This area, through demonstrating maximum results to be obtained, should exert a powerful influence toward interest the inherently nomadic sheep raising Navajos in the more sedentary occupation of land cropping. Other similar areas will be installed at widely separated locations in the future if the present development proves as valuable as we anticipate.

Work of lesser magnitude in the way of expenditures was carried on in connection with fifteen other Navajo Projects of varying importance and embracing all of the land management districts of the Reservation. Details of these developments have been shown in the reports submitted monthly by the Divisions, and need not be mentioned in detail at this time.

In the Hopi area activities were largely concentrated at the Lower Denebito Project which is located approximately fourteen miles north of Oraibi, Arizona. At the close of the fiscal year, subjugation, complete with laterals, turnouts, drops, borders, roads, and flood protection, of 210 acres had been accomplished. The interest now shown in the project indicates that all of the twenty-one ten-acre subsistence tracts will be taken up and cropped during the 1939 farming season.

Of greatest magnitude among the SCE-CCC-ID cooperative projects was the work accomplished in the Chinle Valley at Many Farms. In November and December a complete survey of the Chinle Valley between the mouth of the Canyon de Chelly and a point below Black Mountain

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was carried out. This covered the entire valley for a distance of approximately thirty miles. Subsequent to the completion of surveys and estimates, work was started on the Many Farms diversion by the CCC-ID. The diversion was 95% completed, the heading structures complete, and five miles of the distributary system practically complete at the close of the fiscal year.

Surveys of many projects and proposed development sites were made. Surveying activities, however, were concentrated in accumulating water resources information for all points on the Reservation. One man was detailed to work with Soil Conservation Service representatives in collecting complete and authoritative hydrological data to be used in connection with plans for future development. Studies of various groups of projects, with a view to area planning, were initiated. It is felt that numerous small projects in certain areas can conveniently and advantageously be combined to facilitate operation and maintenance activities, and to reduce the cost thereof; to make possible the formulation of more comprehensive and more intelligent plans for future developments; and, most important, to develop a community of interest among larger groups of Indians.

Under the present plan, which will be completed and submitted for consideration in the near future, we propose to combine about fifteen small developments in the Captain Tom Area Project. Many of the developments are purely Indian constructed and maintained. It is felt that considerable encouraging influence can be exerted by the combination which will enable the Division to render needed assistance in a number of places. Similar proposals for several other areas are

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under consideration.

IRRIGATION OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Activities under this heading have been fully covered in the monthly reports submitted, with a fair statement of results accomplished shown by the annual crop report. Most of this work is purely routine; however, a notable development in its character is worthy of mention here. Under the supervision of Chief Agronomist Wood, District Supervisors, Extension Agents, and Irrigation Project foremen have combined their efforts in an intelligent planning of cropping activities, designed both to increase and improve results obtained, and to interest and encourage the Indians in profitable usage of the available agricultural resources. The value of this combination of effort is already exhibiting marked effects.

DOMESTIC AND STOCK WATER DEVELOPMENT

This part of the program, prosecuted by cooperative agreement between the Soil Conservation Service, Education Division, and Irrigation Division, is summarized in the following excerpt of a report submitted to the Soil Conservation Service.