Report on Oak Springs

Office Chief Eng'r.
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Ft. Defiance, Ariz.

Sept. 28, 1908.

Mr. H. F. Robinson,
Supt. of Irrigation,
Albuquerque, New Mex.

Dear Sir -

The Oak Springs are located about sixteen miles south of St. Micheals in the Black Creek Valley. There are three or four families living close to the springs, and one old man, I did not learn his name, said that he owned a quarter section that had the springs on.

Two of the springs come from the base of the hills, and the indians have built a small reservoir to catch the water. The other spring is in the bottom of an arroyo which is about ten feet deep. The three springs could be run into one at an expense of $25.00, and carried down the arroyo for about 1000 feet and then taken out onto the land, and used for gardens: the expense would be about $125.00. Or the first two mentioned springs could be used for gardens from where they come out of the base of the hills. The indians use these two springs for irrigating their gardens now, and all that would be needed to be done, would be to fix their ditch and small reservoir, which would cost about $75.00.

There is no reservoir site that could be developed, but a small one could be built at a cost of about ~~XIXX~~ $300.00, including outlet pipe, that would irrigate their gardens and water their stock. If the reservoir is built, the three springs should be run together and carried down the arroyo as first mentioned. The formation of

the arroyo is rock and adobe, so the water would run in it without much loss from seepage. The reservoir would be in adobe soil, so it need not be lined. During the rainy season there is considerable water comes down the arroyo that could be used to fill the reservoir also. The springs are flowing now about 12cu. in. per second, and from what I learned flow nearly as much during the dry season.

The Indians are anxious to have something done, and say they would make good use of the water if they had it.

I would recommend that the reservoir be built, if anything is done.

Would enclose some views of the springs and country, but the films have not been returned from the photographers.

Respectfully yours,

Alan J. Hover

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