

Corn Creek
Leupp
*Navajo Extension

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

June 17, 1919.

Mr. H. F. Robinson,
Supervising Engineer,
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

My dear Mr. Robinson:

Further referring to my letter of September 7, 1918 pertaining to irrigation development on the Little Colorado River about two miles above Leupp.

Inspector Endicott has visited this section and made a report to the Commissioner under date of March 11, 1919, and among his recommendations is the following:

"The construction of work for the disposal of silt at the point where Corn Creek debouches on flat land near its confluence with the Little Colorado River, and such arrangement of the dam as will allow the later flow of clear water to be diverted for purposes of irrigation."

"There is in this vicinity perhaps 2000 or 3000 acres that might be profitably devoted to the cultivation of corn, Superintendent James having completely demonstrated the value of such effort, when pursued along lines adopted by the Navajos for the production of the crop."

"The work suggested would not be expensive but would be ambitious both for present benefit and for influence on the development of Navajo industry. Corn Creek is the channel through which the drainage of a vast area finds its way to the Little Colorado. Some of the tributaries have their sources in the

heights of the Black Mountains on the Fort Defiance reservation and perhaps one-third of the Moqui reservation is included within this drainage basin. The early flow is literally mud or silt. If diverted by a dam this mud may be forced over the adobe flat for the creation of additional areas of cultivable soil."

"Without Congressional appropriation but with assistance that the Navajo would voluntarily render, the superintendent may be able to construct a crude work of brush, stone and earth with wooden gates for irrigation. Assistance of irrigation engineers and a modest appropriation would promise a more permanent and therefore more economical solution."

"Your inspector would suggest that Navajo be encouraged to make voluntary contributions of labor for their own benefit, not only in such a case as the above but in connection with road improvement and the development and conservation of water supply in every part of their country. Personal ambition is not an offensively prominent characteristic of the attitude of the Navajo and his habit of application has not been so far developed as to threaten injury to his physical powers."

"But such projects as the control of Corn Creek, not so enormous as to crush his imagination, and still so practical as to encourage the Navajo to believe that the future holds for him more wagon loads of corn and more piles of fodder, help to carry the work of the school to the places where its application may be valued by material results."

In the event that you have any light to throw upon this at the present time I should be

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glad to have it; but, if not, whenever you undertake the investigation heretofore mentioned, also please give Mr. Endicott's recommendation consideration.

Very truly yours,



WWR/ELM

Chief Engineer.