

Additional Lands
For Navajos.

COPY

Hotevilla, Ariz., Jan. 7th, 1930.

Supt. Edgar K. Miller,
Hopi Indian Agency,
Beams Canyon, Ariz.

Dear Mr Miller:

In reply to your letter of Dec 27, 1929 as to the land these Indians are not using and that could be allotted to other Indians I will speak of only my personal observations and knowledge gained in over two years actual field work on this Reservation.

The Hopi Indians have what one could call a standing complaint to the effect that the Navajo is continually encroaching and crowding their grazing and their stock are very bad about getting into the Hopi's fields, making a continual source of friction between the two tribes. Would almost be justified in saying one Stockman's time is more than filled with settling these disputes, not only during the crop growing season but thruout the year.

This past year was unusually good grazing year, and one seeing the range and stock at this time would be justified in saying there is an abundance of feed for all the stock now on the Reservation, and perhaps a bit to spare. However, just one year ago conditions were very different. Altho the actual loss from starvation on this Reservation amounted to perhaps 10% of the sheep, 15% cattle and horses I am sure there was even more loss during the spring and early summer, and the crop of lambs, calves and colts was very low and the young stock poor in quality and did not seem to have any strength or resistance. I know of at least 20 flocks of sheep that did not raise a single lamb. All caused by lack of feed, caused by dry summer and fall.

As to there being land on this Reservation that the Indians are NOT using - well, there just "Aint no such animal". In my work, and altho I have not been on every foot of the Reservation, I have been over it pretty thoroughly, I would take oath that have not yet seen a single section of land that is not grazed. Perhaps not all the year, as it may be too far from stock water for them to graze on it except while there is surface water or snows.

And I would also say that I do not know of any of the Reservation that is not over grazed. In many places, especially adjacent to the never falling water supplies the grass is entirely grazed off. Take the Wepo sheep dip for instance. Has been used for dipping for several years, most abundant water on the Reservation and I question if there is enuf feed there for more than a very few sheep - that is within a radius of three or four miles. Along these lines it has been the policy of this Reservation for several years to advocate to our Indians the good of cutting down their animals and having fewer animals of better quality. It would be very disastrous to tell these people we were going to let somebody else bring their stock in on the Reservation after we have been preaching the gospel of conserving the range and cutting down their flocks and herds for these several years past.

In this very variable, altho scanty rainfall, it is hard to find a year when the precipitation and seasons are "average" so as to set a definite number of stock as what the Reservation would graze profitably. Our only gauge is what is here now, and the condition of the range over a period of more than one growing season. With such a standard, and knowing ALL the land is in use I cannot see how anyone with the interests of our Indians at heart could ask to let anyone else in. If possible we should have a fourth more acreage than we have now. Respectfully,

19-x

Best W. Simpson