Navajo
July 9th 1884

Hon. Commissioner
of Indian Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letter, No 198. dated June 17th 1884, and I respectfully ask whether the instructions therein contained apply fully to this Tribe of Indians.

If I have placed the proper construction on its contents, it would have about the same effect with the Navajos, as an extension of their reservation to an indefinite distance on all sides. For there is hardly a spring or other place where water exists for many miles on either side of their reserve, that is not occupied by some member of this Tribe, for at least a portion of each year, and they have usually made some slight improvement thereon.

This Tribe is necessarily nomadic in their habits, often build and occupy farm or fence different

"Wagons" (their name for Huts) in one year, and race, around from one place, to another, as fancy, or better grass, impels them, this would give them an opportunity to lay claim to any one, of several lactations, each, and be a fruitful cause of complaint by the whites, who were desirous, of occupying any of these claims.

All of the country, adjoining this reserve, is rapidly filling up, with stock-men, and other settlers, who of course are desirous, of possessing themselves, of the most desirable claims (especially of the springs, for water is very scarce throughout) and who as a rule think that, an Indian has no business whatever, off of his reservation, and mostly all believe, that he can in no way acquire a title, to any land, outside of its limits, unless he should renounce his tribal relations, and become a citizen.

These ideas, and causes, will naturally lead to a great deal of trouble, annoyance, and very likely to some thing much more, unless great care and judgement is used in management

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I therefore, respectfully, request, that you give me full and definite instructions, in the premises, that I may go ahead, and be sure I am right.

Very Respectfully
John W. Bannon
U S Indian Agent

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