

Temp. Exhibit No. 33

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# HOP INDIAN RESERVATION

DESCRIPTIVE HISTORY OF IRRIGATION

HOPI INDIAN RESERVATION  
DESCRIPTIVE HISTORY OF IRRIGATION

The Hopi Indians, once known as the Moquis Pueblo Indians, have been for many years a peaceful people who devoted themselves to the cultivation of soils available to them. Their villages are located on high rock bluffs and they farm the lower land surrounding the villages. Coronado claims to have found them in this same general location in 1540, at which time they lived in well built stone houses; cultivated their fields of maize, beans, peas, melons and pumpkins; and tended their flocks and herds.

The Hopis for many years have taken advantage of the natural runoff for irrigation requiring diligence and skill. Farm practices perforce required that they plant their crops in locations where good subsurface moisture existed or where they could irrigate them by spreading the flood flows without the benefit of irrigation ditches. In the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the year 1906, the Superintendent of the Moqui School stated that:

"The Hopi is the "dry-farming" expert of the world and has been for untold ages. The land of his nativity furnishes ideal conditions for the production of certain crops by "dry-farming" and the ages have taught him what crops and where to find the conditions."

The Annual Report of the Indian Irrigation Service for the years, 1921 and 1922 designated the Wepo Wash as an irrigation project with an irrigable area of 750 acres of which 650 acres were

being irrigated by the Indians without canals. By 1929 floods had washed away most of their effective project works and some of their land.

In the nineteen thirties, irrigation works were constructed for four irrigation areas on the Hopi Reservation. These irrigation areas and the year works were constructed are as follows:

Begashibito	1934
Lower Dinnebito	1937
Jeddito	1939
Phillips Farm	1939

For additional details regarding information contained above, see Annual and Special Reports of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The attached Table 1, gives a summary of data on irrigation facilities.

Table 1. 1931 INDIAN IRRIGATION FACILITIES  
 Summary of Data on Irrigation Facilities

Area	Source of water	Avail- able storage cap. Ac-ft.	Type of diversion structure	Date of original const. (Fed. Gov.) Year	Length of canal miles	Properties of Canal			Capacity cfs
						Bottom width ft.	Water depth ft.	Side slopes ratio	
Begashibito	Cow Spgs. Wash	25	None	1934	.6 .6	3 3	1.5:1 1.5:1	- -	8 8
Lower Dinne- bito	Dinnebito Wash	None	Concrete	1937	2.0	4	1.5:1	.001	30
Jeddito	Jeddito Wash	None	Concrete	1939	1.4 1.4	4 4	1.5:1 1.5:1	.00065 .00065	25 25
Phillips Farm	Polacca Wash	1.7	Concrete	1939	-	2	1.5:1	-	4

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						Bottom width Ft.	Water depth Ft.	Side slopes Ratio	Slope Ft/ft	Capacity cfs
Begashibito	Cow Spgs. Wash	25	None	1934	.6	3	.5	1.5:1	-	8
					.6	3	.5	1.5:1	-	8
Lower Dinnebito	Dinnebito Wash	None	Concrete	1937	2.0	4	.2	1.5:1	.001	30
Jedito	Jedito Wash	None	Concrete	1939	1.4	4	2.5	1.5:1	.00065	25
					1.4	4	2.5	1.5:1	.00065	25
Phillips Farm	Polacca Wash	1.7	Concrete	1939		2	0.8	1.5:1	-	4

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