

Navajo Agency

Fort Defiance Arizona, Feb, 24, 1900

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

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of office letter LAND, 7682-19 dated Feb, 17, 1900, calling my attention to circular letter of November, 19, 1898, inclosing copy of letter from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, to the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, with extracts from various letters relative to depredations being committed by the Indians in going upon the Forest Reserves, starting fires and killing game, and that it was stated that a large band of Navajos were expected in a short time in that country on their annual hunt, and calling for a report as to what action I have already taken under former instructions, and what I may do at present.

Permit me to say that immediately upon receipt of former instructions I posted a map in my office showing the forest reserves adjacent to this and the Moqui Reservations, and called in the police and the head men of the tribe as fast as possible and explained to them the location of the reserve, and that an order had been made that they should not go upon the reserve, for any purpose, that if they did they would be arrested and punished, the police have talked to their people and the Head Men promised they would warn the Indians in their several districts as I had directed them. I have had talks with large numbers of them and fully explained to them the location of the forest reserves, and they promise to obey the same, since that time I have had no objection for a

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go into that part of the country, which was refused and explanation given why the refusal, I think that as far as I have been able to reach these people they fully understand the order and see and will obey the same. I feel that I have got their full confidence so far as I have made their acquaintance, but there is a portion of the reservation in the extreme north west that I know but little about as but very few of the tribe from that part of the country have ever been to the agency, they are reported to be Semi Barbarous yet and it is said that about 150, Pines are living with the Navajo; there this I get from a Chief who lives in that country by the name of Lost his Mockinsons, the country above referred to is the nearest point to the forest Reserve and it is possible that they have or may go across there for the purpose of hunting, although it may be a hazardous undertaking I will try and start two or three of the police to that part of the country under proper instructions, but it will be many days before they can make the round trip, and possibly they may encounter deep snow on the mountains and be unable to get there, however I will report further on the matter soon as possible, and meantime were Mr Davis, my clerk able to look after matters here I would take the train and run out as far as Canon Di Able, and Flagstaff, and give the proper orders to as many of the Indians as possible in that part of the country, as many of the Indians are living in that part of the country off the reservation, south and south east of the forest Reserve, who never come to the agency, I will do the very best in my power under the existing conditions to carry out the instructions of the office,

Very Respectfully,

*W. H. Haydel*  
 U. S. Indian Agent

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