

3706

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec'd JAN 27

1896

NAVAJO AGENCY,
Fort Defiance, Arizona.

JAN 19 1896

Constant Williams,
Captain 7th Infantry,
Acting Agent.

SUBJECT:

*Requests that the attention of
the Secretary of the Interior be
again called to allotments
of lands to Indians on the
Moen-Kopi wash.*

*see to sec Jan 29, 1896
L. R. B. 23
431*

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Hunter

RG 75 Bureau of Indian Affairs
E. 91 (PI-163) Letters Received, 1881-1907
Box 1279
year 1896 letter # 3706

3706

Department of the Interior,

U. S. INDIAN SERVICE,

Navajo Agency.

Fort Defiance, Arizona, January 19, 1896.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.,

Sir:

I respectfully suggest that the attention of the Secretary of the Interior be again called to the importance of an early decision on the allotments of land to Navajo and Moqui Indians on the Moen-kopi Wash.

These Indians and their ancestors have been in possession of this country from time immemorial, and were in peaceful enjoyment of it when the Mormons intruded into that valley a few years ago. If their allotments are confirmed there will still be enough land left for the Mormons, who certainly ought, in justice, to be restricted in their choice to such as is not required for the use of the original inhabitants.

As I have already informed you, the Mormons have secured, by fraud, a decree from the Court of Coconino county whereby they are given all the water of the Moen-kopi wash, as original appropriators. Last spring I made a temporary arrangement with them, with-

Commissioner. 2.

out waiving any rights, for the joint use of the water by Indians and whites. The season is again approaching when this matter will be revived, and the Mormons will again claim the entire water right under the decree of the Court. I can probably effect another temporary arrangement, but it is not right that year after year these Indians should be compelled to make concessions to people who are bent upon driving them out of their native homes. There is already considerable friction between the Indians and Mormons, and an open conflict seems to be impending.

Very respectfully,

Constant Williams,

Captain 7th Infantry,

Acting Agent.