

15116

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs

1906

Please give
Moqui School
Keams Canon, Ariz.,

Feb. 8, 1906

Theo G. Lemmon, Capt.

Makes report of a reservoir project for Oraibi Wash, and asks instructions.

To Capt. Aug 2/06
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463

[Signature]

186

[Signature]

RG 75 Bureau of Indian Affairs
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Box 3054
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Moqui School,

Keam's Canon, Ariz. Feb. 8, 1906.

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I beg the honor of stating to your Office that Engineer Butler and his assistant passed through here a few days ago en route to Tuba City. Mr. Butler would have stopped here but for the fact that not being advised of his coming he would have lost some time here while I was perfecting arrangements for him to do all the work I have to be done, but he did stop long enough to make three surveys that I have had in waiting for some time.

I took him to a site on the Oraibi Wash about two and a half miles from the Oraibi village. And there we made a preliminary survey of a proposition to store water from the flow of the wash. With a ditch of a mile and a half we have a reservoir site upon which can be stored an area of approximately four acres to a depth of three feet and a half on an average without excavation from the inside. There will be but little embankment and that at the highest bank-across a little wash-eight feet in height. Below this are the Oraibi fields or such part of them as would cover two or three hundred acres. This supply of water would not supply that much land but would supply what it would irrigate. This is without a dam in the wash as the ditch leading in to the reservoir would be taken out so as to start from the bottom of the stream-bed of

the wash. After the preliminary survey I asked both Mr. Butler and Mr. Holbert the probable cost. I had estimated the cost at \$750.00 Mr. Butler's estimate was \$700.00 and both Mr. Butler and Mr. Holbert felt that if put in at less than one thousand the proposition was worth the cost and reached this determination while we were making measurements and taking levels.

Mr. Butler called attention to the fact that if ^{it} proved all we hope of it that there is a chain of low places running on below where the same ditch could be used as the system is extended. While I deem it possible that some work would have to be done each year improving the reservoir and keeping it in repair that will have to be done with anything that would give service. From the time we crossed the Wash going to Oraibi on Sunday till we finished the preliminary survey Monday night we were of the opinion that there had been enough water passed in the wash to have given us a foot of depth in the reservoir and the Wash was running when I left Tuesday morning and I was in a storm almost all ^(day) from the time I left Oraibi till I reached Kean's Canon in the evening.

I know the Wash is usually dry but there are times that it runs like a mill tail as all the washes do and it is that water that we know comes that I feel we ought to store. I am convinced that we can get more ^a water by storage alone than we can by development of springs alone. The ^p the springs represent but a part of the moisture that falls and the smaller part. I don't mean to give up the development of springs but I feel that we will accumulate water supplies faster catching that which is in sight.

I beg that your Office will inform me whether the money on deposit for development of water is in your judgment applicable to such storage of water. It may be wholly technical but the water that

would flow past in open view if not stopped may not be regarded as "developed"

Please give me the judgment of your Office in the matter, if it is so applicable on the return of Mr. Butler, about a month later we will make a careful and complete survey of such propositions as I can locate within reasonable distance of villages and verify the preliminary survey already made as above described and probably make the above reservoir, and make definite reports as to others with a view to having such information in your Office as will make possible an estimate for a definite appropriation for the purpose of irrigating parts of this country

I could not feel much confidence in making recommendations last year because of the fact that those familiar with climatic conditions here assured me it was an unusual year. This has been unusual only in the matter of extreme cold.

Very Respectfully


Superintendent.