

*Mr. Mack*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Soil Conservation Service  
NAVAJO SERVICE  
Window Rock, Arizona

*File Hopi  
General Agency  
L.C.A.C.*

April 15, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Seth Wilson

FROM: John H. Proviase

SUBJECT: Employment of Extension Range Management  
and Agricultural Technicians for Land Use  
Administration on the Hopi Jurisdiction.

The land use and conservation program, which was initiated jointly by our respective services on the Hopi jurisdiction this fiscal year, is now well under way. Already a plan has been completed and approved which provides for proper range management on the 225,920 acres of lands used by the people of Second Mesa, and a plan has been completed and is practically ready for approval covering complete conservation treatment and proper land use of the Five Houses area, which includes 24,525 acres. Plans are well under way for complete work on the Navajo area, and plans for First and Third Mesa are being contemplated and surveys will begin in the near future. Ultimately these plans will cover the entire Hopi jurisdiction, and when executed will provide for the conservative use of 425,164 acres of range, and 8,024 acres of crop land from which 5,109 Hopi Indians derive their subsistence.

As pointed out in the sub-watershed plan for the Hopi Land Management District, submitted to you some weeks ago, portions of the area are critically eroded by wind and water and are in precarious condition. This is in part due to over-use of the range by excessive numbers of stock, in part due to undue seasonal concentrations of livestock around farms, villages, and stock waters. Proper adjustment of stock numbers and proper management practices over a considerable period of time will be an administrative necessity.

Our range technicians estimate, further, that by a livestock improvement program and the adoption of other proper animal husbandry practices the value of the livestock marketed by the Hopis could probably be increased by 20 to 30 per cent.

The Hopi cultivated areas are also seriously affected, largely by wind erosion. Although agricultural opportunities in the Hopi area are extremely limited, approximately 50 per cent of the Hopi income is now derived from farming and the continued availability of this farm land in a productive condition is essential to Hopi subsistence. Included in the cultivated lands are approximately 800 acres of orchards capable of producing an important supply of food, but which at present are in extremely poor condition resulting from lack of knowledge concerning horticultural methods.

It is recognized that the completion of land use plans is only the first step in the conservation and proper use of the Hopi land and water resources, and that by far the larger and most difficult task will be the carrying out of these plans. It is recognized also that these plans, to be successfully executed, must be complemented by and closely tied in with extension and educational services in all phases of livestock husbandry and agriculture.

As specified in the memorandum of understanding between our two bureaus relative to cooperative erosion control and land management activities, the Bureau of Indian Affairs agrees to "conduct land management, land use administration, and erosion control work in conformity with the plans made by the Soil Conservation Service", and "to accept full administrative responsibility for land management administration and assume, as rapidly as funds are made available, the complete financial burden for such administration." It is believed that the Soil Conservation Service may not be willing to continue operations in the Hopi jurisdiction unless assurance is given that plans for conservation practices will be complied with and structural works built for the control of erosion will be maintained.

In view of the above, we urgently request that steps be taken immediately by the Indian Service to employ sufficient additional personnel so that responsibility may be assumed for the field administration of land use plans, and suggest that these employees be made responsible also for educational and extension activities necessary in the rounding out of a complete land management program. We believe that such personnel should include at least one extension range technician, assisted by two range aides (one or both of which should be Hopi Indians), and one extension agricultural technician.

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It is our opinion that it will be necessary to employ men qualified to work with Soil Conservation Service representatives in the formulation of plans and capable of complete participation in the interpretation of these plans. They should have fair understanding of the theories and philosophies of land use and soil conservation and should be able to administer with complete understanding all phases of the program. Needless to say, they should have the type of personalities which would allow them to secure the full confidence of the Hopi Indians. Such personnel will, I am sure, provide the continuity between planning and administration which is essential in obtaining proper land use through the cooperative effort of the government and the Indians.

(Sgd.) John E. Proviase  
Area Conservationist  
Navajo Area

cc: Hugh G. Calkins

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