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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
United States Indian Service,

Office Chief Eng'r.
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APR 8 1908

U. S. Indian Service

Subject: Disposition of
water on Moqui Reserva-
tion.

Tuba, Arizona,

March 21, 1908.

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

Sir:

I have the honor of calling your attention to the importance of adopting a plan that will prevent a few individuals from controlling the grazing lands on the Moqui reservation by getting control of the permanent water supply.

There are not, I believe, to exceed 10 springs on the whole Moqui reservation; to allot these ten springs to as many individuals would be to place the other Indians at their mercy during the greater part of each year, and entirely so during a period of drought.

I have the honor to call your attention to the inclosed map of Moencopi Wash and its tributaries; from Blue Canon east, this Wash is on the Moqui reservation.

Reservoir canon supplies the water that has been used by the Moen Copi Indians for irrigation and for domestic purposes; Togas Jay, Diamond Canon and Moen Copi Wash below Blue canon, furnish the permanent water supply that was used by the Navajos and Mormons to irrigate lands in Moen Copi Wash; the flood waters in Moen Copi Wash come from above Blue Canon; there is no continuous stream above Blue Canon but there are numerous small springs.

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Moen Copi Wash, Denet Bitto wash, Oraibi Wash, and the Keams Canon wash all get their flood waters from Black Mesa, which extends across the northern part of the Moqui reservation.

There are no permanent streams in any of the washes, except Moen Copi.

I have the honor to suggest the following plan: Create small reserves of a few acres around each of the springs on the Moqui reservation; make a reserve of the northern part of Reservoir Canon, and create a forest reserve out of Black Mesa; these reserves to be held by the Government for the benefit of all the Indians.

The Black Mesa country not only furnishes the water supply, but it contains about all the timber there is on the Moqui reservation; it is also underlaid by coal beds and may contain other minerals; grazing privileges could be granted under regulations formed by the Office.

The permanent water being under the control of the Government, would be an incentive to Indians to develop and store water on their allotments, and would insure equal privileges during drought.

This plan, or a better one, if the Office has one, should be adopted before surveys and allotments are made; definite descriptions of reserves can be furnished as the land is surveyed.

Black Mesa is shown on some maps as Zith-le-jini Mesa.

I have just returned from a trip to the head of Moen Copi Wash; I wished to ascertain if it would be possible to store the flood waters of this wash for irrigation; I found the only reservoir site is at Blue Canon.

very respectfully,

Matthew M. Murphy,
Special Allotting Agent.

2

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