

Navajo-Hopi

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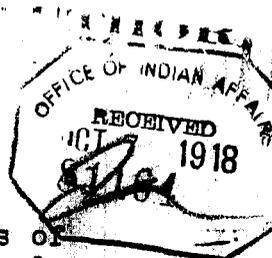
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN IRRIGATION SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF IRRIGATION
SUPERVISING ENGINEER
ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.

July 2, 1918.



Mr. W. M. Reed,
Chief Engineer,
Washington.



Dear Sir:

As you know, all of the agricultural lands of the Hopi Indians consist of the sandy bottom lands along the three main washes that run between their mesas.

The best area they have is in what is known as the Wepo or Second Mesa Wash. This wash heretofore has had no defined channel for a number of miles, and in this flat, watered by the occasional floods are extensive corn fields.

Several years ago the valley commenced to cut up with narrow deep channels, commencing at its junction with the First Mesa Wash, and are gradually cutting back through the fields, and if something is not done soon, the fields will be destroyed.

A study has been made of the situation, and a plan of cross dykes worked out, tentatively, the suggestion coming from Foreman Womack who is stationed there, and was checked over by the writer and Superintendent of Construction Post independently.

Mr. Post was directed to go over the situation with Mr. Womack, work out the plan and make a report. His report is attached, together with a sketch map, and I fully concur in his findings and recommendations.

Should there be any big rains this year, much damage will be done these fields and many acres may be rendered absolutely worthless.

The plan of spreading the flood waters to avoid cutting, and at the same time to irrigate the ground is perfectly feasible and will do the work planned.

*approved copy
returned to
W. R. July 10-18*

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No irrigation or protection work has been done for these Indians, and no assistance given them in any way other than the spring and well development. They are a fine bunch of Indians and are making a living in a region where the average white man would starve. This protection work and development is beyond their capabilities and they should receive assistance.

This matter should have been taken up before, but awaiting a time when it could be investigated and surveys made it has been neglected, but the conditions are such that immediate action should be taken before any more rains come.

I do not know what funds made available for this year can be used unless it should come from the Miscellaneous Navajo. To be sure this is not in the Navajo reservation proper, but in all legislation it is always grouped with the Navajo, and the Hopi reservation is occupied by more Navajos than by the Hopi.

I request that immediate action be taken, that the general plan be approved, and that I be given authority to expend the sum of \$7,700. for this purpose.

Until detailed surveys are made I cannot suggest any changes to the proposed plan, excepting that I believe that a few gates through the dykes will assist in the proper handling of the water and the utilization of the floods in irrigating the ground.

Very respectfully,



Supervising Engineer.

July 10, 1918.

As this work seems to be immediately necessary owing to probable damage which would greatly increase the cost at a later date. The general plan is approved. The appropriation "Navajo, Miscellaneous Projects; including Tes Nes Pos, &c., \$20,000," seems to be applicable to this work.



Chief Irrigation Engineer.