New Mexico Ter. 22d
Govt. of New Mexico
Santa Fe Dec 31. '56

Reply to office letter of the 25. Sept. last, requesting information that will be conducive to the formation of a map of the Indian Country. Enc map and letter from Agent Carson

Ent.

Rec'd February 9. '57
Ack'd Feby 11. 1857.

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Hon. G. W. Manypenny
Com. of Indian Affairs
Washington City

very respectfully
your obt. Servt.
D. Meriwether Govr.
and Supt. of I. A. in N. M.

NN031246

Office of Supt. of Indian Affairs
Santa Fe December 30th 1856.

Sir:

In obedience to your instructions of the 25th of September last, directing me to furnish you such information as may be attainable within this Superintendency, conducive to the formation of a map of the Indian country, I have the honor herewith to enclose you the most correct map of New Mexico that I can procure, with the boundaries of the claims, reservations, &c, of the various tribes, and where practicable, bands of Indians under charge of this Superintendency marked thereon, but with deep regret for the limited and imperfect information within my reach conducive to the object you have in contemplation.

There are no well defined and acknowledged boundary lines dividing the white people from the Indians of this Territory, nor between the several tribes and bands of Indians themselves. Each tribe and band claims all the land which its people have usually hunted and roamed over, ~~not~~ not actually occupied by the whites, and the whites deny that any Indians of this Territory have a valid claim to any lands except the Pueblo Indians holding under grants from Spain or Mexico. Ask a Navajo Indian how far south the claims of his people extends, and he will reply over the Colorado Chiquito to the country of the Gila Apaches; then ask a Gila Apache how far north their country extends, and he will answer to the country of the Navajos; and if similar questions relative to their boundaries be proposed to other Indians corresponding indefinate and unsatisfactory answers may be expected. Hence, I have found it a most difficult task to decide where the different division lines should be placed, for no two parties acknowledge any definate line as common to both. I can therefore only give such ~~boundary~~ lines as the best information in my possession will indicate, and in some instances I have not

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attempted to assign boundaries to particular bands of the same tribe, for the want of information sufficient to justify me in attempting to do so.

I know of no map or diagram displaying boundaries or tribal points, either claimed by the Indians or recognized by authority, and the only Indian villages to be found in this territory are those of the Pueblo Indians the position of each of which will be found upon the enclosed map marked thus, o. Each Pueblo claims under a grant, either from Spain or Mexico, and, as a general rule, each grant contains four square leagues of land with the boundary lines running to the cardinal points of the compass, and the church of the Pueblo in the center. Several Pueblos have added largely to their grants by purchases from their white neighbors, but I have no knowledge of any such grant or purchase having been surveyed & the lines thereof established; it is possible, however, that some information on this subject may be obtained from the Genl. Land Office, as reports upon a large number of these grants have been recently made to that office from the Surveyor Genl. of this territory.

The position of each Indian Agency will be found marked thus ⊠ and the usual routes of travel will also be found marked on the map, together with the boundaries of the reservations secured to the Indians by the treaties negotiated by me during the year 1855.

I have fixed the southern boundary of the Mescalero and Mimbres Apaches at the southern boundary of New Mexico, though some of the Mescaleros reside south of this boundary within the State of Texas, and the Mimbres Apaches claim lands south of this boundary in Chihuahua. I think it probable, too, that the Navajos and Utahs have no valid claim as far west as the Colorado river, but I can gain no information as to where the western boundary of their claim should be placed, and as no other people inhabit the country west of the established claim of the Navajos and Utahs, and east of the Colorado, I have assigned it to those Indians. The red lines enclosing the Pueblos of Moqui, San Xavier, and Pimos, are not intended to indicate the boundaries of their claims, for I have no information as to the extent or boundary thereof.

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One general description of the Indian Country in New Mexico will be found equally applicable to the claim of each band and Tribe, and I would describe it as without swamp or marsh, with not more than five percent of timbered land, possibly the country claimed by the Utahs and Jicarilla Apaches may average ten per cent of timber, I think that about forty per cent of each claim consists of elevated hills and mountains, about fifty per cent of elevated table lands destitute of timber with a great scarcity of water, and about ten percent consists of creek and river bottoms low valleys, of which not more than one half or five per cent of the whole is susceptible of cultivation. This small amount of timber is to be found on the summits and in the gorges of the mountains, together with narrow strips along the banks of the larger creeks and rivers.

In my communication to you of the 26th of June 1855, enclosing the Apaches and Mimbres Apache treaties, I also enclosed maps of the countries claimed by these Indians, which are more correct than the one now enclosed, and I would respectfully refer you to these two maps for information.

To enable you to appreciate the difficulties with which I have had to contend, and the limited amount of assistance which I have been able to derive from others, in gleaning the imperfect information herewith enclosed, I enclose you a letter from Agent Carson in answer to one from me requesting information relative to the country of the Mahuache Utahs, which letter contains all the information that I can gain from a man who has resided near and traveled over the country of these Indians for the last ten years, and the three last of which he has been their Agent.

The commanding officer of this Department intends having a map of this Territory made, a copy of which I will transmit to you, but it may be several months before it is completed, but when it is finished it will probably contain some corrections of the map enclosed.

I have the honor to be

(Turn over)

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Hon. G. W. Manypenny
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