DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Subject:- disposition to be made of springs and timber lands on Moqui reservation; also — amount of land to be allotted to each Indian.

Keams Canon, Ariz

January 20, 1909

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

Sir:-

I have the honor to again call attention to the fact that my work as allotting agent is seriously embarrassed on account of the following unsettled questions, viz:-

(1) The disposition to be made of the springs on the Moqui reservation.

(2) The disposition to be made of the timber lands. " " "

(3) The amount of land to be allotted each Indian in Moqui Villages under Keams Canon.

I have made the following recommendations:-

In regard to springs:-

In order to prevent a few individuals from controlling the grazing lands, I have recommended that a small reserve be set aside including each of the springs on the reservation, these reserves to remain under Government control, so the Indians owing adjacent lands could have access to the springs.

In regard to timber lands:-

That Black Mesa in the northern part of the Moqui reservation, and adjacent timbered mesas, be made

into a forest reserve, to be retained under Government control, and to be administered for the benefit of all the Indians concerned.

There is no commercial timber on the Moqui reservation; the timber growth consists of stunted cedars, pinons (pine nuts) and a few small yellow pines; but such as it is, the timber is of great value to the Indians, and should be held for the use and benefit of all the Indians.

At present the Black Mesa country is held by a small band of Navajos under a desperado known as Billa-Ku-zhy (Crooked-finger) who will not permit the Moquis to use any of the timber or wood or even go near the Mesa; the mesas nearer the villages are being denuded of their timber and no young trees are taking the place of those destroyed, as the young growth is eaten by the Indian sheep; when these mesas are stripped of their timber, as they will be in a few years, the loose soil will blow away, and the springs that are now fed by the moisture conserved by the

sheep to each family, which is about one half the number of sheep that I have estimated that each Navajo family should possess; but as the Hopis are farmers, rather than herdsmen, and should be encouraged to remain farmers, although absolute dependence on crops is not to be encouraged, either, I therefore deem the above amounts of lands as fair and just to the Hopis as well as to others that may be concerned.

The Indians are constantly asking me for information on the above subjects, but I can give them none until I receive my instructions from the Office.

Very respectfully,

Matthew W. Murphy,

Spl Allotting agent.

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Nearest permanent water on north 9 miles

If one man controlled Burro Spring at this time, he could also control an area of 100 square miles of grazing land.

in Sec 15, Tp 27 N. R 19 E. about 15 mi

Nearest permanent water east

Nearest permanent water west about 6 miles

☐ Big Burro Spring situated in Sec 14, Tp 26 N. Range 16 East.

No permanent water within 15 mi on south