January 20, 1909

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Keams Canon, Ariz

Jany 20, 1909

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

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FEB 1 - 1909 File 5304

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 reservations these reserves to remain under Government control, as the Indians living 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

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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

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protecting trees, will dry up, and the county will become more desolate than it now is.

In regard to amount of land to be allotted to each Indian:-

I have recommended that each Indian be given 40 acres of valley land and 320 acres of mesa land. There is no permanent stream that can be used for irrigation, on the Moqui reservation; the cultivation of this land will have to be by a system of "dry farming;" the only water that can be used for irrigation is "storm water," and it is very uncertain; the land that can be farmed without irrigation, is sandy and consequently becomes barren or arable, as the sands are shifted by the winds; an Indian therefore, needs much more of this land than he would need, if he had permanent soil and a sure water supply.

As to the Mesa, or grazing land, 320 acres to each individual, will give about 1600 acres to the family: according to the Government regulations for grazing on forest reserves, 1 sheep requires 12 acres for a year's grazing; this would locally estimate 9 acres to each sheep; this would give a herd of 133 to 177

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 M. Murphy

Spl Allotting Agent.

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Nearest permanent water on north 9 miles

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

in Sec 15, Tp 27 N. R 19 E. about 15 mi
Nearest permanent water east

Nearest permanent water west
about 6 miles

[c] Big Burro Spring situated in
Sec 14, Tp 26 N. Range 16 East.

Nearest permanent water within 15 mi on south

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