

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby directed to further amend the permit granted to the Pueblo de Taos Indians pursuant to section 4 of the Act of May 31, 1933 (48 Stat. 108), to provide that the Secretary of Agriculture, in administering the remainder of the existing permit area as a part of the Carson National Forest, (1) shall make the total grazing capacity thereof, as determined by him after consultation with the Pueblo de Taos officials, available to the members of the Pueblo de Taos free of charge under such conditions as he finds necessary to protect and preserve the soil and watershed; (2) shall make timber and wood from the area available without charge for the personal or Tribal community needs of the members of the Pueblo or the Pueblo community; (3) may sell timber and wood from the area to the Pueblo or its members for commercial use at its appraised value; (4) may, with the concurrence of the Pueblo de Taos officials, sell timber and other forest products from the area to non-Indians under national forest sales procedures; (5) may cause timber to be removed from the area when damaged by fire, insects, or disease, or when determined by him to be necessary to prevent the spread of insect infestations or diseases; (6) may take such other steps he determines to be necessary to protect the area and surrounding areas from fires, forest insects, and diseases; (7) shall permit the Pueblo de Taos to have exclusive use of the area during the period of August 16 through August 31 of each year to protect the privacy of their ancient ceremonies, subject to the authority of the Secretary to protect the area from fire, insects, and disease and the authority of law enforcement officers to enter the area in the performance of their official duties; (8) shall cooperate with the Pueblo in the protection from destruction or incompatible uses, to the extent feasible, of limited areas or localities within such area identified by the Indians as having special religious or ceremonial significance to them; (9) shall, if such procedure is requested annually by the governing officials of the Pueblo, require persons other than members of the Pueblo de Taos who desire to enter such area for other than official business to obtain permits, and permits for more than one day shall be concurred in by a designated official of the Pueblo.

SEC. 3. The Indian Claims Commission is directed to determine in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of the Act of August 13, 1946 (60 Stat. 1050), the extent to which the value of the Carson National Forest permit granted pursuant to section 4 of the Act of May 31, 1933 (48 Stat. 108) should be credited to the United States or should be set off against any claim of the Pueblo de Taos Indians against the United States.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
Washington, D.C., April 22, 1968.

HON. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This will refer to H.R. 3306, a bill to amend section 4 of the Act of May 31, 1933 (48 Stat. 108).

The bill would provide that approximately 50,000 acres of public lands lying east of the Pueblo of Taos grant would hereafter be held in trust by the United States for the Taos Indians.