

tion for irrigation and grazing interests in the section of country to which you refer." (Exhibit 11.)

On April 1, 1912 (exhibit 12), the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, referring to a report dated March 16, 1912 (exhibit 13), recommended to the Secretary of the Interior that 44,640 acres of the national forest and public lands be set aside as an executive order reservation for Taos Pueblo. The Secretary requested the Secretary of Agriculture to approve the proposal on October 19, 1912 (exhibit 14), but Agriculture declined (exhibit 15). Again on September 23, 1916 (exhibit 16), the Superintendent of the Pueblo Agency requested the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to take up with the President creation of an executive order reservation for the Blue Lake area and that portion of the Rio Lucero drainage within the national forest. The Superintendent noted that the Taos Indians had been given exclusive use of the Blue Lake area but that they desired creation of the reservation to protect their rights. He pointed out that outsiders were grazing sheep in the Rio Lucero area and that "pressure" was being exerted for grazing permits along the east side of the Rio Pueblo watershed (the Witt Park and Apache Springs areas).

On May 1, 1918, Mr. Elliot S. Barker, Supervisor of the Carson National Forest, wrote (exhibit 17) to the Pueblo recognizing "an understanding between the Forest Service and the Taos Pueblo Indians whereby the Indians have free grazing on the watershed of Pueblo Canyon and that no permits are issued to any other parties on the Pueblo Canyon watershed." He requested Pueblo approval of a permit for 50 head in Pretty Park (now called Bonito Park) for the summer of 1918 as an aid to the war effort. He also requested the Pueblo to act promptly on "the agreement covering the free grazing on Pueblo watershed and the free use of timber by the Indians which was presented to the Council some time ago." That Elliot S. Barker is the same man who, in conjunction with the New Mexico Wildlife and Conservation Association, submitted a statement dated May 16, 1966, to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs regarding S. 3085, stating: "While I was Supervisor of the Carson National Forest I never heard of the Taos Indians claiming that the lands they now seek to acquire belonged to them. It was many years before any such claim came to my attention." He further asserted that the Indians had exclusive use of only a small area of about 2,000 acres around Blue Lake itself. Yet in 1918 Mr. Baker had clearly recognized exclusive Indian use of the entire watershed, while attempting to get an agreement from the Pueblo which would deprive it of control over the east side of the watershed. Mr. Barker's term as forest supervisor marked the end of exclusive Pueblo use of the Blue Lake area and the first qualification of the Forest Service's original intention to hold the area for the exclusive benefit of the Pueblo. The 1918 permit for Witt Park was followed in 1921 by a grazing permit to Bennett and Weber for 150 head in Apache Springs.

1920-29.—When the Pueblo Lands Board met in Taos in the fall of 1926, the Indians, through their representative John Collier, asked the board for an executive order reservation of the Blue Lake area. On September 30, 1926, Gov. H. J. Hagerman, the Secretary of the Interior's representative on the Pueblo Lands Board, informed the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of the Pueblo's desire that the Blue