

The Pueblo also complained of Forest Service stocking of fish in Blue Lake, Star Lake, Waterbird Lake, and Bear Lake. From time to time one or more of the lakes would become overstocked and dead fish would appear (in 1939 Star Lake had been dynamited to kill excess fish). However, despite repeated vigorous protests, the Pueblo did not succeed in correcting such abuses of its religious attachment to the land.

1950-1959: The Pueblo's frustration in attempting to maintain the privacy of its sacred Blue Lake area and to preserve the natural ecology from commercial interference continued during the 1950's. Mr. Brophy's memorandum of June 22, 1950 (exhibit 63), states Indian complaints of continuing trespasses by non-Indian livestock, the stocking of Blue Lake, and incursions of "hundreds of tourists." In the early 1950's Forest Service cooperation in meeting the Pueblo's desires generally improved. In the summer of 1950 Area Director Hagberg (exhibit 64) obtained the agreement of Forest Supervisor Cottam to limit or halt the stocking of Blue Lake. The forest supervisor in a letter dated July 14, 1950 (exhibit 65), also agreed that the area around Blue Lake was "not entirely satisfactory" because of heavy use by campers, pointed out that the Forest Service had "in recent years" changed the permits limiting overnight camping to one night instead of three, and indicated a willingness "to try to work out some arrangement" to prohibit overnight camping. In 1952 (exhibit 66) at the Pueblo's request the Forest Service investigated the possibility of halting logging operations in La Junta Canyon, which were being conducted under a contract let by the State of New Mexico. However, that brief period of cooperation did not achieve lasting results. On June 7, 1957, the Pueblo's concern with steadily increasing use of the Blue Lake area by campers and sportsmen was taken up at a meeting with representatives of the Pueblo Council, the United Pueblos Agency, and the Forest Service (exhibit 67). The Pueblo asserted that the number of recreationalists should be reduced, but the Forest Service proposed only that applicants for permits be required to apply 1 week in advance of their visit. The problem of controlling access was to be taken up anew in the 1960's.

The Pueblo was shaken by other challenges to its privacy during the 1950's. In early 1955 the Indians protested vigorously a Bureau of Reclamation proposal to build a dam on the Rio Pueblo, a suggestion which caused alarm in the Pueblo. A year later the Pueblo was again shocked by a report that a road was proposed through the Rio Pueblo Canyon. It was also disturbed at the continued logging activities in La Junta Canyon. Therefore, on June 15, 1956, the Pueblo Council adopted resolutions (exhibit 68) condemning the proposed road, asking for termination of logging operations in La Junta Canyon, and asking for a grazing permit for La Junta Canyon with construction of a fence to keep non-Indian stock out of the canyon. In September 1956 the Pueblo objected to proposed mining operations in Twining Canyon, north of the Blue Lake area, because they feared miners might intrude into the Rio Pueblo watershed. Although assured that no mining activities were likely, the Pueblo nevertheless wrote to President Eisenhower on October 25 (exhibit 69) asking that Executive Orders 4929 and 7361 be "observed and respected." In December 1956 the Pueblo Council adopted resolutions asking for grazing permits for all areas in the Rio Lucero and Rio Pueblo watersheds not covered by existing agreements (exhibit 70).