

wrote to the chief forester to request that he terminate further stocking of Blue Lake. When assurances that stocking would be discontinued were not immediately forthcoming from the Forest Service or from the State authorities, the Governor of the Pueblo announced that he would close the Blue Lake area to recreationalists. Also contributing to the Governor's decision was the local forest ranger's request that the Pueblo sign entry permits in advance of applications so that the permits could be issued directly from the forest office. After the Governor's announcement, the forest supervisor announced that he would issue entry permits without approval of the Pueblo (exhibit 86).

The matter was then discussed by the Pueblo's representatives in Washington with representatives of the Forest Service, and it was hoped that a conference between Forest Service field personnel and Pueblo representatives would reach agreement on permit procedures. The hoped-for meeting was held on August 15, 1961. At the conference (exhibit 87) the Forest Service representatives asserted that the Service had the right to issue permits to recreationalists whether or not the Pueblo concurred; the Pueblo insisted that it had the right to refuse to concur and thus prevent issuance of a permit. The conference resulted in no agreement; the Forest Service stated it would continue the procedure previously followed; the Pueblo would approve permits unless it had a "valid reason" (valid to the Forest Service) for disapproving. However, on September 15, 1961, the Pueblo wrote to Chief Forester McArdle (exhibit 88) and Secretary Freeman (exhibit 89) regarding the permit dispute. As a result, a further conference with Forest Service personnel was held on December 19.

On December 29, 1961 (exhibit 90), the regional forester summarized the results of that conference in a letter to the Pueblo, stating the Service's agreement that "permits will be required for all persons not Forest Service employees or Taos Pueblo Indians" and that the Forest Service will make renewed efforts to advise tourists of "restrictions in the use of the Blue Lake areas." On January 5, 1962 (exhibit 91), the Pueblo's counsel objected that the regional forester's letter of December 29 did not reflect the agreement reached at the conference that each permit would be countersigned by the Governor or his representative. He asked the Service to agree that each permit issued "shall bear the signature of an authorized Forest Service employee and the Governor of the Taos Pueblo or his authorized representative." On February 1, 1962 (exhibit 92), the regional supervisor responded to the Pueblo's request of January 5 by agreeing to the cosigning procedures but added the qualification that "you will cooperate with the Forest Service in signing permits provided there is an absence of valid reasons to the contrary and when agreed-to limits on the number of permits are not exceeded." The Pueblo's counsel on February 13 (exhibit 93) rejected the regional supervisor's qualification and insisted on the Pueblo's right to disapprove permits regardless of reasons. On March 13, 1962 (exhibit 94), the regional forester again wrote that "all applications will be referred to the Governor or his representative, and his wishes will be carefully weighed before we reach a decision on the approval or disapproval of permits." On April 2 (exhibit 95), the Pueblo's counsel rejected the Forester's assertion of authority to issue permits despite lack of Pueblo approval and threatened legal action to determine the validity of the Forest Service's position.