

On June 14, 1962, after discussions between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, the Chief Forester informed the Bureau of Indian Affairs (exhibit 96) that the "Forest Service is willing to continue following the policy of authorizing non-Indians to go into the permit area only on the basis of permit issued by the Forest Service and countersigned by the Governor of the Taos Pueblo or his representative authorized to sign for him." However, he hoped the Pueblo would agree "to let non-Indians go into the area under permits" and suggested "a written understanding particularly about the times and circumstances when the Taos Pueblo would prefer that we not request the Governor, or someone acting for him, to countersign permits."

The decision to recognize the Pueblo's right to veto entry into the Blue Lake area ended the controversy for only a brief period. On August 4, 1964 (exhibit 97), the forest supervisor indicated his approval of the system of granting countersigned permits to the Blue Lake area and gave the Pueblo Council his assurance that he did not wish to encourage public travel into the area. On October 13, 1964, however, the forest supervisor suggested (exhibit 98) that it would be desirable to have a "formal agreement" with the Pueblo with respect to issuance of permits, pointing out that the Pueblo had not approved any permits during the summer of 1964 and that many people had entered the area without permits. On January 15, 1965 (exhibit 99), the district ranger advised the Pueblo that as a result of the Pueblo's failure to approve any permits in 1964 "the situation got out of control" and stating "we must establish a system of issuing permits for entry to those who will respect the area." On March 2, 1965 (example 100), the ranger again wrote to the War Chief that "the Forest Service will continue to issue permits to visit the Blue Lake area," but he agreed that the Service "will discourage all travel" within the permit area. The letter enclosed a form of permit which provided that the Pueblo's reasons for not granting the permit must be stated. On March 15, 1965 (exhibit 101), the Pueblo rejected the arrangements proposed by the ranger and notified him that his letter had been referred to its local counsel for review.

The extent to which the permit area has been open to recreationalists since 1940 may be indicated by the numbers of permits issued over the years. In February 1962 Secretary Freeman stated (exhibit 102):

"For the period 1940 to 1960 the number of permits per year have [sic] averaged about sixteen. These permits have authorized use by an average of only 65 people during the whole year. In 1960, eleven permits to go into the area were issued. These permits were applicable to only 48 people."

On the basis of Forest Service figures the following table has been prepared:

Year	Number of permits	Number of persons	Year	Number of permits	Number of persons
1940-60 average.....	16	65	1964.....	None	None
1960.....	11	48	1965.....	6	41
1961.....	4	7	1966.....	3	13
1962.....	2	7	1967.....	10	58
1963.....	15	90			