

(Following the hearing, additional testimony was received as follows:)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FOREST SERVICE,
Washington, D.C., October 2, 1968.

HON. GEORGE MCGOVERN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Indian Affairs,
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate

DEAR MR. MCGOVERN: During recent hearings by your Subcommittee on H.R. 3306, S. 1624, and S. 1625, Senator Metcalf asked me to supply information relating to the issuance of permits to non-Indians for use of the area under permit to the Pueblos de Taos. We are pleased to reply to Senator Metcalf's request.

The following discussion relates to the issuance of permits during periods other than the ceremonial period in August. No permits are issued by the Forest Service to non-Indians during the Pueblo's August ceremonial period.

Prior to 1962, various procedures were used by the Forest Service in issuing permits for non-Indian use of the Pueblo de Taos special use area. For a long period up until 1941, permits were issued without countersignatures of Pueblo officials. In 1941 the permit form was revised to provide for countersignature. However by 1955, permits were being issued without signatures of officials of the Pueblo de Taos. In 1956, copies of all permits were sent to the Pueblo War Chief. In 1960, permits again provided for concurrence by the War Chief.

In 1961 the Taos Pueblo refused to concur in entrance permits issued to non-Indians by the Forest Service. Nonetheless, some Forest Service permittees entered the area. This situation brought on a series of meetings and correspondence between the Pueblo and Forest Service officials. Following these discussions the Forest Service agreed to require that all permits to non-Indians be countersigned by a Pueblo official. Regional Forester Kennedy also agreed, in a January 15, 1963 letter, to close Blue Lake and its vicinity to public use. Copies of correspondence related to these agreements are enclosed.

These agreements and Mr. Kennedy's letter have been the basis of our policy and procedures since 1962. We have required that all permits issued subsequent to that time be countersigned by the Governor or an authorized Pueblo official. If the Pueblo does not concur, non-Indians are not allowed to enter the Indian permit area, unless on official business for the Forest Service. If the Indians do refuse to countersign permits, as they did during all of 1964, we will inquire as to their reasons. We hope that the Pueblo uses reason and good faith in considering whether or not to countersign the permits we propose to issue.

Entry permits for use of the Indian permit area contain a number of provisions related to Blue Lake. Camping is not allowed within 300 yards of the Lake. Fishing, bathing and washing in the Lake are forbidden.

Also, in order to give the Pueblo adequate time to consider the permit, applications for entry are required one week in advance. A copy of a sample 1967 permit is enclosed for your use.

In sum, no entrance to the Pueblo de Taos special use area by the public is authorized during the August Indian ceremonial period. At other times applicants may enter the special use area only if their permit is signed by a Forest Service official and by the Governor of Taos Pueblo or his authorized representative. Use of Blue Lake is restricted as described in the enclosed permit.

Sincerely,

A. W. GREELEY, Associate Chief.

Enclosures.

TAOS PUEBLO COUNCIL,
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,
Taos, N. Mex., March 4, 1963.

EDWARD P. CLIFF,
Chief Forester, U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CLIFF: At our Taos Pueblo Council meeting on January 18, 1963, final agreement on the Entry Permit to the special use area was reached with the Forest Service. The "no fishing in Blue Lake" provision was agreed to also.

We are profoundly grateful to you for your understanding of our way of life and our religious life, especially, which was so effective on our behalf in bringing