

waters of the Rio Pueblo. If anyone is chargeable with having left the Blue Lake vicinity in a "mess" the charge is more appropriate against the Forest Service than against the Pueblo.

The existence in the vicinity of the Blue Lake of a Forest Service cabin, its use by trail riders and others, create an objectionable source of garbage and litter. The outhouse and corrals are sources of pollution of the Rio Pueblo. The cabin and numerous trails that have been cut, combined with the maintenance of directional signs giving distances to Blue Lake (three such signs are located on one trail from the north), attract trespassers who represent yet another source of trash and of intrusion upon the religious privacy of our people.

We therefore suggest and hereby request that the Forest Service remove the cabin, which is old and is desrepair, and the outhouse and corral entirely from the Blue Lake watershed, that references to Blue Lake be removed from all directional signs and that use of trails for access into the lake be discouraged by appropriate measures. These actions would eliminate the source of pollution of the river and prevent further accumulation of garbage and debris in the Blue Lake Area.

Very truly yours,

TAOS PUEBLO COUNCIL,
QUIRINO ROMERO,
Governor.

TAOS RANGER DISTRICT,
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST,
Taos, N. Mex., September 10, 1968.

Mr. TORIVIO GOMEZ,
War Chief, Taos Pueblo,
Taos, N. Mex.

DEAR MR. GOMEZ: As I discussed with you last Thursday, I made a visit to the Blue Lake on September 6, 1968.

We found that area had been left in somewhat of a mess after the ceremonials in August. Cans and bottles were strewn about, as were cigarettes and gum wrappers, and so forth. Teepee poles were scattered also and had not been replaced in the area provided.

I realize it has been Forest Service policy in the past for the Forest Service to clean up the area after ceremonials. However, with the significance that your people place on Blue Lake I would think you would be somewhat embarrassed to have someone else clean up a mess in an area which you claim is a shrine.

Since this area is entirely within your special use area, I feel it is the responsibility of the Taos Indians to clean up the area after ceremonials.

Please send someone to Blue Lake to pick up the litter and stack the teepee poles in the area provided.

I intend to inspect the area again sometime around September 30. Please have this work completed by then.

Perhaps you may wish to send Taos Pueblo representatives along during this inspection.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

DUANE R. FREEMAN, *District Ranger.*

TAOS PUEBLO COUNCIL,
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,
Taos, N. Mex., October 1, 1968.

REPORT BY COUNCIL SECRETARY OF INSPECTION TRIP TO BLUE LAKE WITH TAOS
DISTRICT RANGER

I took the War Chief to the District Ranger's office on the morning of September 27. We advised Ranger Freeman that a Council meeting was to be held that evening for the purpose of informing him that tribal officials planned to make an official inspection trip into the Blue Lake Area on the 28th, and to invite him to accompany them. Ranger Freeman said that he wanted to go with them.

We asked Mr. Freeman to show us the permit issued for the spy-trip on the 6th and 7th of September. Mr. Freeman did so. The permit was signed by the War Chief, and was issued to "Don Seaman and party of four and seven horses."