

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Havasupai Agency, Supai, Arizona.

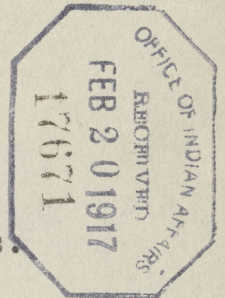
February 12, 1917.

Honorable, Carl Hayden, M. C.,

House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

Through The Honorable, The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sir:



I have your letter dated February 2, 1917 relative to your bill for the creation of the Grand Canyon National Park.

The words of this bill are not clear to me as to just how the creation of this proposed park will effect our Indian industries within the park. Hence, I shall endeavor to explain our situation.

You will note that the Havasupai reservation is within the boundary line of the proposed park. This reservation has been set aside by Executive Order and I understand, from the words of your bill, that the creation of this proposed park will in no way effect the Indians' rights to their reservation.

The Havasupai reservation is located in Cataract Canon and contains 518 acres, 250 acres are tillable and the balance is of no value whatever. 250 acres of land is not sufficient to support this tribe, and if they had the land in this canon they could not market their products in competition with other farmers of this state by reason of the topography of this section of which you are nodoubt familiar.

Cal

Hayden # 2

For some years past the Indian Office has secured free use permits for a limited number of Indian stock to graze on the Tusayan National Forest. This land is generally known as "The Indian Pasture" and embraces all the land lying between North Range 1 west and north range 2 west of the Gila and Salt River meridian and the junction of the Cataract and The Grand Canons, and is within the proposed Grand Canyon National Park. In 1916 a free use permit was procured for an Indian of this tribe to farm on this reserve, he met with success, and this year several Indians have applied for similar permits. This farming land lies between north range 1 west and north range 2 west.

This tribe can never become self-supporting and I doubt that they can be civilized in this canon, for this reason they have been encouraged, by the Indian Office and the employees here, to increase their activities on this Indian pasture, with the result that the Indians have built nine dirt dams for the impounding of water for their stock on this pasture. Some of these tanks are quite large and represent a large amount of labor, and they are all holding more or less water at this time. These Indians have some cattle, of poor grade, on this range and have applied to the Indian Office for it to furnish them, under the reimbursable regulation, with better grade cattle, which nodoubt will be done as soon as the tanks have settled sufficiently to hold a permanent supply of water. Indications are that this purchase can be safely made the fore part of the fiscal year 1918.

Hayden # 3

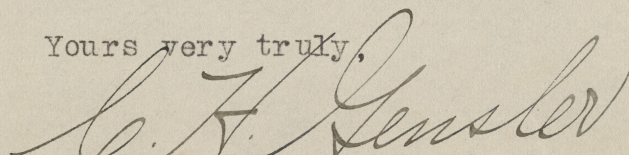
For lack of fuel in this canon, these Indians move to this pasture each winter, and live up there more or less during the summers in caring for their stock and will more-so if these farming permits are granted. They live, when up there, in small brush hogans under the most unsanitary conditions. They have been encouraged to build comfortable cottages and a few have expressed a willingness to do this, providing, they can get assurance that they can hold this land.

This canon is an unhealthy place in which to live, it is damp and clammy in winter and extremely hot in summer, these Indians have steadily decreased in number since 1900, and now number only 170 with 17 marriageable men and no marriageable women. Indian women from other tribes will not marry these men and live in this canon, hence this tribe are intermarrying and weakening their vitality. A suitable place on this plateau would overcome this.

In my judgement this piece of land holds the key to civilization, independence and perpetuity for this tribe of Indians, and I believe it could not be dedicated to a more useful purpose nor commemorated more solemn, conspicuous and lasting than to set it aside and make it a part of the Havasupai Indian Reservation.

Most respectfully submitted.

Yours very truly,


Superintendent.