

Grand Canyon

Natl Park

June 8, 1917.

Mr. H. F. Robinson,

Albuquerque, New Mexico.

My dear Mr. Robinson:

I enclose herewith a letter that I have received from Mr. C. H. Gensler, Superintendent at Supai, Arizona, in regard to the bill to establish a Park at the Grand Canyon. Mr. Gensler is of the opinion that certain lands now included within the Grand Canyon National Monument should be set aside for the use of the Indians. I also enclose a letter from Mr. W. W. Bass, on this same subject. Any information that you can give me relative to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

P. S.

Please return the enclosed letters for my files.

The Havasupai Indians numbering about one hundred and seventy-three persons are confined to a tiny reservation in the Havasu Cataract Canyon which is bounded by the Canyon walls and has a gross area of 518.06 acres, the length of the reservation being about three miles and at no place does it exceed a fourth of a mile in width.

The total number of male adults is about fifty. Near the upper end of the reservation water rises in the Canyon in great springs and from this flow the Indians cultivate a limited area of ground. This has been reported as about three hundred acres of irrigable land of which two hundred seventy acres are cultivated (Annual Report 1913, Commissioner of Indian Affairs), but both of these figures are too high. Much of the land which was formerly irrigable land was destroyed by the flood in 1911 and the area under cultivation, in my estimation does not exceed one hundred twenty five or one hundred fifty acres and it is doubtful whether an additional fifty acres could be found that could be cultivated.

The Indians are confined to the small tract of land in the Canyon unless they make a trip over a very poor trail a distance of twelve miles to the top, during which they climb from 3400 to 6500 feet and when they get on the top they have no right excepting some grazing permits. They own and run on top about eighty head of cattle and a greater number of horses. Everything taken in or out of the reservation must be packed on horseback over this steep twelve mile trail.

It is apparent that if these Indians are required to remain in the bottom of this Canyon all of the time, there can be little chance for advancement and the Indians are virtually prisoners on a small tract of ground entirely inadequate for their support as there is less than one acre of cultivated ground per capita.

I understand that some permits have been granted by the Forest Service to allow these Indians to do some dry farming on top and I believe an effort is being made to have some of this land set aside for them as an addition to their reservation.

At the present time most of the Indians leave the Canyon during the winter ~~months~~ and go to the top, although the weather is much colder on the top than it would be in the Canyon, but there is no fuel in the Canyon, except what is taken down on horseback and the Indians find it easier to move to the top during the winter where they can get fuel handy, where they can locate by water holes or use melted snow for their domestic water.

If they are to make any progress they should be allowed to increase their cattle and have sufficient range on top for them and also have land that they can dry farm which can be readily done by them at certain points during most years and most excellent results can be had in the raising of potatoes and some other crops