

Excerpt from REPORT ON AN EXAMINATION OF THE TAOS FOREST RESERVE,  
TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO, by Theodore F. Rixon, Special Field Assistant,  
U. S. Geological Survey, 1905:

"In the neighborhood of Taos and Taos Pueblo, large areas are given up for agricultural purposes. The Indians themselves have put several hundred acres in crops, consisting of all descriptions of agricultural and garden products, and apparently are a thriving community, their stock consisting of the best, and their horses are especially noticeable, having been imported from the North and East and thus avoided the stunted growth of the local cayuse.

"Considerable credit is due to the intelligence of the Indians for this result, the preservation of the timber along the Rio Pueblo having demonstrated to them its ability to conserve their water supply for irrigation, and as a consequence they enforce this rule strictly, not to allow any of their tribe under any excuse whatever to cut and haul away any timber within 200 yards of the river on either side, and under no circumstances to remove any obstruction such as fallen timber across the stream itself. By this means they have always an abundance of water and are rarely affected by sudden cloudbursts rushing down the river.

"A comparison of this river with others to the south can not help but convince the most skeptical of the advantage of preserving the timber along the rivers and the grass roots in the mountains. The preservation of these two prominent factors in irrigation in New Mexico was never more clearly demonstrated than has been done by the Pueblo Indians at their own instigation and carried out under their own supervision. It is the only locality where this rule has been strictly enforced, and it has been left to the Indians to demonstrate to a higher degree its efficacy.

"For years the Pueblo Indians have claimed the sole use and ownership of the watershed of the Pueblo, and after pasturing their herds season after season on the same range, it is to-day covered with a luxuriant growth of pasture, and is the only spot thruout this territory where conservation principles have been adopted and enforced, and the result warrants its similar adoption and enforcement by the Government on all its forest reserves in New Mexico, and the result by covering the barren and dusty mountains with a green and luxuriant pasture will amply justify the time and expense necessarily entailed in bringing this result about. \*\*\*

"... At one time this portion of the Taos Reserve must have been a great grazing district, in fact it is to-day on the Pueblo, but the same results could be obtained all over this reserve were the same principles adopted and thoroly enforced."

EXCERPT FROM HEARINGS OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS  
September 19-20, 1968 (from pp. 83 & 85, printed Senate report)

FROM THE TESTIMONY OF ARTHUR W. GREELEY, ASSOCIATE CHIEF, U. S.  
FOREST SERVICE:

Mr. GREELEY. Our main concern about what should happen here in the future is that we think some things could be done to improve range management, to improve the grazing administration, and we do think that this is an area that could be a useful area for more day recreation use. .... We do not now have plans for timber cutting but the right kind of land use looking ahead into the future should permit some commercial timber harvest.

by whom?  
what is right?

... We think there could be more livestock raised up there if there were some range improvements and range management practices which would be difficult to put into effect and carry out, and be consistent with the maintenance of a wilderness condition.

What kind?

As I have indicated, there is some timber which we think would be useful. It is not vital. There is not a community life which depends upon it now but over the long pull we have thought that it would be desirable to harvest that timber that is located on the east side.

for whom?

Over the long pull it is my belief that there are going to have to be more watershed improvement practices on some of these high water yielding areas in the southwest which would require some manipulation of vegetation that would not be done in a wilderness area. This is a high water yielding area. There is a yield of 100 acre-feet per section of land that comes off the area here. These are long-term considerations. The area is pretty much in a wilderness state now. To keep it in the wilderness state would not make an awful lot of difference except these possible future uses would then be foregone.

Contradicts  
underlining  
above

Senator HANSEN. Do I understand you to suggest, Mr. Greeley, that, appreciating the importance of this area as a watershed, it is your thinking that watershed improvement work within the watershed area would include the removal of timber.

Mr. GREELEY. The removal of timber can be done consistent with good watershed practices.