

Taos Ranger District  
Carson National Forest  
Taos, New Mexico

2710

September 10, 1968

Mr. Torivio Gomez  
War Chief, Taos Pueblo  
P.O. Box 258  
Taos, New Mexico 87571

Dear Mr. Gomez:

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

We found that the area had been left in somewhat of a mess after the cerimonials in August. Cans and bottles were strewn about as were cigarette and gum wrappers, etc. Tee Pee 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 cleanup the area after cerimonials. However, with the significance that your people place on Blue Lake I would think you would be somewhat embarrassed to have someone else cleanup a mess in an area which you claim as a shrine.

Since this area is entirely within your special use area I feel it is the responsibility of the Taos Indians to cleanup the area after cerimonials.

Please send someone to Blue Lake to pickup the litter and stack the Tee Pee 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 a Taos Pueblo representative along during this inspection.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

*DR Freeman*  
Duane R. Freeman  
District Ranger

cc: Forest Supervisor  
Governor Quirino Romero