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Erection of a flour and saw mill at Shoshone Agency, Wyo. Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting an estimate of appropriation submitted by the Secretary of the Interior for the erection of a flour and saw mill at Shoshone Agency, Wyo.

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ERECTION OF A FLOUR AND SAW MILL AT SHOSHONE  
AGENCY, WYO.

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*An estimate of appropriation submitted by the Secretary of the Interior for  
the erection of a flour and saw mill at Shoshone Agency, Wyo*

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JANUARY 20, 1894.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be  
printed.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *January 18, 1894.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, an estimate of appropriation, submitted by the Secretary of the Interior on the 16th instant, for the erection of a flour and saw mill at Shoshone Agency, Wyo., and to purchase machinery therefor, \$6,000.

Respectfully, yours,

W. E. CURTIS,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, January 12, 1894.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copies (in triplicate) of two communications, dated September 9 and November 9, 1893, respectively, from the acting U. S. Indian agent at Shoshone Agency, Wyo., embodying estimates of the cost of constructing at that Agency a flour and grist mill, and of purchasing necessary additional machinery; also a copy of a letter from this office, dated October 9, 1893, to Capt. Ray on the subject; and to make the following recommendation: That

Congress be requested to insert the following item in the estimates of appropriations for the Indian service for the ensuing fiscal year:

For the erection of a flour and saw mill at Shoshone Agency, Wyo., and to purchase machinery therefor..... \$6,000

Capt. P. H. Ray, the acting U. S. Indian agent at Shoshone Agency, under date of September 9 last, reports the condition of the plant thus:

The mill (sawmill) as now located is rapidly going to ruin, and the engine is so badly placed that it is unsafe to run it. I find a new planer, shingle machine, and lath machine, also machinery for a flour mill, which have never been placed in position. All of this machinery is absolutely necessary to this agency. \* \* \*

Capt. Ray further states that the Indians are constantly applying for lumber and begging to know when they can have their logs cut and wheat ground, and that many Indians have ceased to sow wheat because they can not have it converted into flour.

The new machinery referred to was purchased in the latter part of 1887, upon the recommendation of then Inspector Armstrong, there being there at that time an engine and part of machinery for a grist-mill, comparatively new. This machinery for some reason, it appears, was never put in operation, probably on account of lack of funds.

It is, I think, doing but justice to these Indians to place the saw and grist mill plant in satisfactory running order. It should have been done long ago. I therefore earnestly hope that Congress may see fit to incorporate the foregoing item of appropriation in the estimates for the fiscal year 1895.

Very respectfully,

D. M. BROWNING,  
*Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*January 16, 1894.*

Respectfully forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury. The recommendation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs is approved.

HOKE SMITH,  
*Secretary.*

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UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
*Shoshone Agency, September 9, 1893.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith estimate for rebuilding the sawmill at this agency, and to respectfully request authority to contract for the stonework and purchase the lumber here, and that the shafting, roofing, etc., may be purchased East and shipped as early as practicable.

The mill as now located is rapidly going to ruin, and the engine is so badly placed that it is unsafe to run it. I find a new planer, shingle machine, and lath machine, also machinery for a flour mill, which have never been placed in position. All of this machinery is absolutely necessary to this agency. By rebuilding the mill with stone basement and foundation I can place all the machinery so it can be run to advantage, including the flour mill, and it will be secure against frost and fire, and, with the addition of a Blake pump and small supply of hose, I will be able to establish a fire service, of which the agency is now entirely destitute.

The Indians are constantly applying for lumber, and begging to know when I can cut logs for them and grind their wheat. Many have ceased to sow wheat because they can not have it ground. If I can only get the sawmill in running order I feel confident that besides sawing all the logs the Indians will bring in I will be able to cut enough lumber to more than pay current expenses and build the flour mill.

I have asked for only sufficient material to place the machinery. I will be able to construct the shelter as soon as the mill is in running order. The stonework is necessary, for where timber comes in contact with the alkali soil it rots and becomes unsafe in less than two years.

The mill will be an excellent school for practical instruction of scholars in the use of wood-working machinery, and I will be able to give it my personal supervision by having the mill at the agency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. RAY,

*Captain Eighth Infantry, Acting Indian Agent.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, October 9, 1893.*

SIR: I am in receipt of your communication of the 9th ultimo, submitting an estimate of \$1,417.40 for rebuilding a sawmill at your agency (which mill you state is rapidly going to decay) and placing in position machinery bought some years ago, but which has never been placed in position.

I regret the unfortunate condition of things with regard to this mill and machinery, and would very much like to apply a remedy, but with my present information I do not well see how I can do so. The appropriations for the support of your agency for the present fiscal year will all be needed to meet obligations that have already been contracted for goods and supplies, and it is a serious question if some of the supplies will not have to be reduced before the year is out in order to prevent a deficiency.

Besides these appropriations there is an appropriation of \$20,000 made annually for buildings and repairs, but as this is all that there is for buildings and repairs to buildings for some fifty or sixty different agencies I am loth to take any of it to erect and repair a mill when so many necessary repairs, to make dwellings even habitable, are so much more urgently needed. Moreover, this appropriation is nearly all used up.

If you will make a fuller statement of the case and prepare a careful estimate of what it will cost to erect a new mill, place the machinery in position, and put everything in good working order, and forward the papers to this office, I will consider the propriety of recommending to Congress that an appropriation be made for the purpose.

Very respectfully,

D. M. BROWNING,  
*Commissioner.*

Capt. P. H. RAY,  
*U. S. Indian Agent, Shoshone Agency, Wyo.*

U. S. INDIAN SERVICE,  
*Shoshone Agency, November 9, 1893.*

SIR: In accordance with your letter dated October 9, 1893, I have the honor to submit herewith estimate of cost of flour and saw mill at this agency, with plan of mill.

The estimate contemplates that the base of the saw mill and the walls of the flourmill shall be of stone, which will be the most economical, as the lumber in the region is not suitable for such purposes and soon decays where brought in contact with the ground, and I think that in all buildings of this character they should be made as permanent as possible, so that the Indians may not be discouraged by loss or failure of any part of the work we undertake.

I have included only the heavier parts of the machinery, as I believe I will be able to supply what may be needed to complete the flourmill from funds of class 4, miscellaneous receipts.

If the honorable Commissioner can place this on the regular appropriation bill it will start a work that I am sure will produce good results in the near future.

In this connection I have the honor to invite attention to the second section of article 3 of the treaty with the Shoshones and Bannocks, made July 3, 1868, which reads as follows:

4 ERECTION OF FLOUR AND SAW MILL AT SHOSHONE AGENCY, WYO.

"The United States agrees further to cause to be erected on said Shoshone Reservation, near the other buildings herein authorized, a good steam circular sawmill, with a gristmill and shingle machine attached, the same to cost not more than eight thousand dollars."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. RAY,  
*Captain, Eighth Infantry, Acting U. S. Indian Agent.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

*Estimate of material and labor required to erect a flour and saw mill at the Shoshone Agency, Wyo.*

MATERIAL.

540 perch stone in wall, at \$4 per perch.....	\$2,160.00
25,806 feet lumber, rough, assorted, at \$30 per M.....	774.18
10,000 feet lumber, dressed, assorted, at \$38 per M.....	380.00
18 windows (12 lights, 12 by 14), at \$3.25.....	58.50
42 squares Cortright metal roofing, at \$10.....	420.00
800 pounds nails, assorted, at \$7 per cwt.....	56.00
Locks, hinges, bolts, etc.....	35.00
Counter shafting, pulleys, etc.....	150.00
1 saw.....	100.00
1 bolting machine.....	200.00
1 smutter.....	100.00
1 separator.....	100.00
1 cockle machine.....	100.00
Belting, assorted.....	150.00
<b>Total required for materials.....</b>	<b>4,783.68</b>

LABOR.

160 days' mechanical labor, at \$3.50 per day.....	\$560.00
<b>Total amount of estimate for construction of flour and saw mill at agency..</b>	<b>5,343.18</b>

P. H. RAY,  
*Captain, Eighth Infantry, Acting U. S. Indian Agent.*

NOVEMBER 9, 1893.