

3-11-1896

Nez Perce Indian Reservation

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Recommended Citation

S. Doc. No. 163. 54th Cong., 1st Sess. (1896)

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 12, 1896.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

The VICE-PRESIDENT presented the following

LETTER FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, TRANSMITTING AN ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION—\$3,130—FOR SETTING UP AND OPERATING TWO PORTABLE STEAM SAWMILLS ON THE NEZ PERCE INDIAN RESERVATION, IDAHO, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION OF MILL MACHINERY FROM THE AGENCY TO THE MILL SITES, AS SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *March 11, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress an estimate of appropriation—\$3,130—for setting up and operating two portable steam sawmills on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation, Idaho, including transportation of mill machinery from the agency to the mill sites, as submitted by the Secretary of the Interior on the 10th instant as an amendment to the Indian appropriation bill now pending.

Respectfully, yours,

S. WIKE,
Acting Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, March 6, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to invite the attention of the Department to the following provision contained in the agreement with the Nez Perce Indians in Idaho, entered into on May 1, 1893, and ratified by the act approved August 15, 1894:

ARTICLE IV. It is further stipulated and agreed that the United States will purchase for the use of said Nez Perce Indians two portable steam sawmills, at a cost not exceeding ten thousand dollars, * * *

By authority contained in Department letters dated July 15, 1895, this office purchased the two portable steam sawmills for \$1,680.43 each, or a total of \$3,360.86.

Upon reference to the act of August 15, 1894, ratifying the agreement in question, and appropriating funds to carry its provisions into effect, it will be seen that no provision is made to cover the expense of operating these sawmills, and the agreement itself is silent on that

point. The funds accruing to the Nez Perce Indians under the agreement must, by its terms, be paid to them per capita, in cash. It is obvious, therefore, that if the Government is to bear the expense of operating the mills the necessary funds must be appropriated therefor, as there is now no appropriation applicable for such purpose.

Acting under instructions from this office, the United States Indian agent at the Nez Perce Agency has submitted the following estimate to cover the expense of setting up and operating the sawmills during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, viz:

To transport the mill machinery from the agency to the mill sites.....	\$250
For salaries of two sawyers, at \$720 per annum each.....	1,440
For salaries of two engineers, at \$720 per annum each.....	1,440
Total.....	3,130

Under the circumstances I would respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to appropriate the sum of \$3,130 for the purpose of setting up and operating the two sawmills mentioned during the fiscal year 1897. A form of amendment is herewith respectfully inclosed, with the suggestion that it be transmitted to Congress for consideration in connection with the Indian appropriation bill now before the Senate.

Very respectfully,

D. M. BROWNING, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Indorsement.]

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, *March 10, 1896.*

Approved, and respectfully forwarded through the honorable Secretary of the Treasury for the favorable consideration of Congress.

HOKE SMITH.

NEZ PERCE AGENCY, IDAHO, *February 21, 1896.*

SIR: Replying to your communication of the 13th instant cited (Finance), I have the honor to submit the following estimate which will cover the expenses of putting up and operating the two portable sawmills during the fiscal year of 1897:

Amount required to pay freight on mills from agency to mill sites.....	\$250
Two sawyers, at \$720 each per annum.....	1,440
Two engineers, at \$720 each per annum.....	1,440
Total.....	3,130

I would suggest that each Indian furnish the wood for fuel and perform any other labor required while the mill is in operation for his especial benefit.

The above estimate provides for running the mills only eight hours each workday, which I think will be sufficient to supply the demand.

Very respectfully,

S. G. FISHER,
United States Indian Agent.

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

Amendment.

For setting up and operating two portable steam sawmills on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation, Idaho, including transportation of mill machinery from the agency to the mill sites, three thousand one hundred and thirty dollars.