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**Subsistence of Navajo Indians in New Mexico. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting an estimate for an appropriation of \$185,000 for subsisting the Navajo Indians in New Mexico up to the 30th of June, 1873.**

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SUBSISTENCE OF NAVAJO INDIANS IN NEW MEXICO.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*An estimate for an appropriation of \$185,000 for subsisting the Navajo Indians in New Mexico up to the 30th of June, 1873.*

DECEMBER 20, 1871.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, D. C., December 16, 1871.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 15th instant, submitting an estimate for an appropriation of \$185,000 for subsisting the Navajo Indians in New Mexico up to the 30th June, 1873.

A copy of a communication from Superintendent Pope, representing the urgency of the case, is also herewith transmitted, with the recommendation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

I commend the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWAN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

HON. JAMES G. BLAINE,  
*Speaker House of Representatives.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, D. C., December 15, 1871.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the inclosed copy of a letter from Nathaniel Pope, Superintendent Indian Affairs for New Mexico, dated Washington, D. C., December 11, 1871, representing the urgent necessity for further provision being made for the Navajo Indians of his superintendency.

These people, numbering some eight or nine thousand souls, are, by the total failure of their crops, left entirely dependent on the Government for support, while the means at the disposal of the Department applicable to their relief are inadequate to provide for their increased necessities.

I concur in the views expressed by Superintendent Pope, regarding the urgency of the case, and respectfully recommend that the matter be laid before Congress, with a request that the sum of \$60,000 be appropriated for the subsistence of these Indians up to June 30, 1872; and that an additional appropriation of \$125,000 be made for their subsistence from that time till the end of next fiscal year, June 30, 1873.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER, *Commissioner.*

Hon. C. DELANO,

*Secretary of the Interior.*

*Estimate of appropriation required for subsisting the Navajo Indians up to June 30, 1873.*

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary for subsisting the Navajo Indians in New Mexico for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872.....	\$60,000
And for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873 .....	125,000
Total .....	<u>185,000</u>

NEW MEXICO SUPERINTENDENCY,  
*Washington, D. C., December 11, 1871.*

SIR: Owing to the unfortunate location of the Navajo Indians of this superintendency as regards facilities for farming, they have raised comparatively nothing for several years past for their support, and their condition seems to demand immediate attention.

I am informed by Agent Miller that these Indians planted more and worked harder during the past year than at any time since they have been on the reservation, but their crops will be a total failure, owing to the same causes that have operated heretofore, namely, a great scarcity of moisture during the summer, and early and severe frosts during the fall, and I am convinced, in view of their repeated failures to raise crops, that these Indians cannot be made self-sustaining by tilling the soil alone. The subsistence that has been furnished them will be expended during next month, and a failure to provide for their future support will entail a much greater expense upon the Department of paying numerous and just claims for depredations committed upon citizens living in the vicinity of the reservation.

The Navajoes number about 8,000 souls, and if the Department fails to provide for them, they will subsist upon the people of the Territory, as they have done heretofore when there was a scarcity of subsistence at the agency.

I would therefore urge upon the honorable Commissioner the necessity of asking Congress to make a special appropriation for subsisting the Navajo Indians during the present fiscal year of at least \$75,000, and \$125,000 for the next fiscal year ending June 30, 1873.

With much respect, &c.,

NATHANIEL POPE,  
*Superintendent for Indians for New Mexico.*

Hon. FRANCIS A. WALKER,

*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*