

2 September, 1947

Mr. H. L. Reid
State Game & Fish Director
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Capitol Annex
Phoenix, Arizona

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ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Dear Mr. Reid:

We acknowledge receipt of your request of 28 August, 1947, for our opinion as to the legality of the state of Arizona employing officers to enforce the game laws of the state on the Fort Apache and San Carlos Indian Reservations.

As we advised you under our opinion of 9 May, 1946, Arizona follows the common law holding that game animals within the boundaries of the state are held in trust by the state for the people thereof. *Begay vs. Sawtelle*, 53 Ariz., 304; 88 Pac., 2nd, 999.

We believe the game found on any of the Indian reservations differs in no respect to the game found elsewhere throughout the state, and is under the jurisdiction of the proper authorities of the state of Arizona.

Therefore, the question is presented as to whether the jurisdiction of the state of Arizona extends within the boundaries of Indian reservations.

It is our opinion that the jurisdiction of the state of Arizona does extend within Indian reservations with respect to crimes committed by persons who are not Indians. 25 U.S.C.A., 217, *Williams vs. U. S.*; 327 U. S. 711; 66 Supreme Court, 778. Since this is so the state has full authority to enforce its game laws within the confines of Indian reservations with respect to persons not Indians and it follows it may legally employ officers to do so.

Very truly yours,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN
Attorney General

JOHN W. ROOD
Chief Assistant Attorney General

JWR:M

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