For Immediate Release
July 31, 1936

Williams Announces Missouri Will Receive Special Drought Allotments.

Deputy Administrator Aubrey Williams announced today that the Works Progress Administration in Missouri had been authorized to employ destitute farmers certified for relief because of drought conditions.

Mr. Williams said State Works Progress Administrator Matthew S. Murray has been instructed to put to work those certified on water conservation and supply projects and other public works.

The Deputy Administrator added that a job quota of 3,000 has been fixed.

Forty-nine of Missouri's 92 counties, comprising a belt reaching from Iowa to Arkansas and projecting westward in the South Central Area to Kansas, have been designated as emergency drought areas by the Department of Agriculture.

Administrator Murray reported that arrangements are now complete to employ farmers on water supply projects in two counties, Bates and Vernon, in conjunction with the State Relief Administration.

At the same time R. C. Jacobson, Works Progress field representative, informed Mr. Williams that plans were well under way for employment of destitute farmers in Kansas and Nebraska. Assignment of farmers to various projects is
expected to begin in a few days in all three of the states now added to the designated emergency drought area.

Meanwhile, Howard O. Hunter, Assistant Administrator in charge of drought operations, reported that surveys to determine the feasibility of enlisting aid from Civilian Conservation Corps camps in speeding emergency water supply measures of the Works Progress Administration in the drought area were begun today in Wyoming. Drought conditions have become steadily worse in Wyoming, State Administrator Will G. Metz reported. Mr. Metz is to conduct a four-day survey for Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps in an attempt to arrange a joint campaign for speedy development of water resources. It is expected that the results in Wyoming will guide officials in making plans for other states.

The survey was begun on authorization of Robert Fechner, Chief of the Civilian Conservation Corps, as well as Works Progress Administration officials.

Employment of destitute farmers in western and central western drought areas today reached approximately 34,000. North Dakota had assigned 14,351 to WPA jobs and South Dakota 13,500. Montana had 3,326 drought victims on WPA rolls and Minnesota 1,153. Wyoming's WPA job assignments as a result of the drought numbered 950 and Colorado, latest to launch its program, had 657.