

October 19, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 5641 -- Land conveyance, New Mexico State University, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey approximately 4,342 acres of land to the New Mexico State University at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Under provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, the Secretary of the Interior may dispose of public lands to a State for any public purpose if the need for a proposed project can be demonstrated. Conveyances are limited to 640 acres in any one calendar year and the Secretary is authorized to fix the sales price through appraisal or otherwise, after taking into consideration the purpose for which the lands are to be used. When such lands are sold for educational purposes to State or local governments the price is not less than \$2.50 per acre.

Notwithstanding the acreage limitations in the Act cited above, H.R. 5641 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey approximately 4,342 acres of land to the New Mexico State University at Las Cruces, New Mexico. Recent estimates place the value of the land to be about \$400 per acre.

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