

## Fort Wingate land transfer progresses

GRANTS — The U.S. Army has notified the Department of the Interior that it is transferring administrative jurisdiction of nine parcels of the former Fort Wingate Army Depot to the Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Zuni, U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce said Friday.

“This land transfer is a huge step forward in a multi-decade fight that I became involved with when I first arrived in Congress,” Pearce said.

Pearce noted that administrative jurisdiction of nine parcels of land, totaling 2,496 acres, was officially transferred Thursday. This is the first property transfer under the Return of Certain Lands At Fort Wingate to The Original Inhabitants Act, which was included in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017. The transfer will include all of the property that the Army has remediated.

— *Kathy Helms, Cibola Bureau*