

# Wayne Allard

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## ALLARD SEEKS PRICE REDUCTION FROM YALE UNIVERSITY FOR BACA RANCH SAYS YALE SHOULD REDUCE SELLING PRICE FOR TAXPAYERS

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today asked the Yale University Foundation to reduce their asking price for the Baca Ranch in order to save taxpayers millions of dollars on the purchase of the ranch. The ranch is located in the San Luis Valley in southern Colorado.

It was reported last week that Yale University has secretly owned for several years a 50 percent share of Vaca Partners, a for-profit limited partnership. Vaca Partners owns a 50 percent stake in Cabeza de Baca LLC, the owner of the ranch. The purchase price is expected to exceed more than \$30 million. Congress has approved \$10 million in funding toward the purchase of the ranch from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). An agreement to sell the ranch to the Nature Conservancy is expected to be completed within the next few weeks.

“For one of America’s oldest universities to have been involved in a venture that could of lead to the destruction of one of our nation’s great landmarks is extremely disappointing,” said Senator Allard. “In light of these developments, I believe Yale University owes it to the taxpayers to lower their asking price on the Baca Ranch.”

In 2000, Senator Allard and Colorado Third District U.S. Representative Scott McInnis successfully pushed legislation through Congress to allow for the purchase of the Baca Ranch and the creation of the Great Sand Dunes National Park. The legislative effort was spurred to protect the aquifer beneath the dunes. The legislation was supported by Colorado Governor Bill Owens and Colorado Attorney Ken Salazar.

“According to published reports, Yale University secretly supported efforts to export water from the San Luis Valley as part owners of the ranch,” added Senator Allard. “For them now to profit at taxpayers expense from those actions is not only unseemly, but simply outrageous.

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