

**Chair Grijalva
Statement – V-V Ranch Background
NPFPL Legislative Hearing
June 18, 2020**

- **Thank you, Chair Haaland, and thank you for holding today’s hearing.**
- **It is important that the House continue its work during these unprecedented times.**
- **Hearings like today’s show that we can do that safely and smartly, while still conducting the people’s business.**
- **Rep. O’Halloran and I introduced H.R. 7099 after months of work and consultation with our colleagues in the House and Senate, and with senior staff from the University of Arizona.**
- **The bill would authorize an important land exchange between the University and the Forest Service for two small parcels in the Coconino National Forest.**
- **Once exchanged, the University can develop facilities on site, including dorms and classrooms,**

to support the newly accredited College of Veterinary Medicine.

- **These new accommodations will allow all students passing through that program to receive hands on, in-the-field experience as a foundational part of their curriculum.**
- **This bill is as straightforward as it is important to the University and the State of Arizona.**
- **It supports the next generation of Arizona Veterinarians, and language we have included ensures that there will be a fair return for the American taxpayer.**
- **The Senate companion receives bipartisan support from Senators McSally and Sinema, and I hope my bill will find that same broad support in the House.**
- **Madam Chair, I thank you again for your consideration of this proposal today, and I urge its swift consideration by the Committee.**