

Timothy M. Keller
State Auditor



Sanjay Bhakta, CPA, CGFM, CFE, CGMA
Deputy State Auditor

State of New Mexico
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

For Immediate Release

February 4, 2016

Contact: Justine Freeman
(505) 476-3819

State Auditor Designates Cebolleta Land Grant for Investigation

SANTA FE, NM – Today, State Auditor Tim Keller announced that the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) has initiated an investigation of the Cebolleta Land Grant. The Cebolleta Land Grant, located in Cibola County, was established as an official political subdivision of the State of New Mexico in 2004. Although Cebolleta has received millions of dollars since that time, it has not submitted annual audits as required by state law.

“Public dollars best serve communities when there is full transparency each year,” said State Auditor Tim Keller. “Cebolleta’s audits are long overdue and the investigation will shed a light on financial transactions and expedite bringing the Land Grant into compliance with the law and enable the community to pursue state and federal funding.”

Earlier this year, the Cebolleta Land Grant was placed on the OSA’s “At Risk” List, found here: http://osanm.org/government_score_card. If public funds are not audited, the risks of financial misstatements or fraud, waste and abuse increase.

The Office of the State Auditor helps government work better by providing transparency and accountability for government spending; informing policy choices; and tackling fraud, waste and abuse. OSA is an independently elected executive agency responsible for examining the use of public dollars in New Mexico.

###