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Residential Real Estate

Nearly 300-acre Tijeras property listed for auction



The main residence at 434 Juan Thomas Road in Tijeras, New Mexico.
COURTESY OF NM APARTMENT ADVISORS INC.



By [Dylan Ortuno](#) – Reporter, Albuquerque Business First
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Story Highlights



- A 298.9-acre luxury estate near Albuquerque was listed for auction Sept. 1.
- The property features an 80-acre residential parcel and 218 acres of open space.
- William Degenhardt, Ph.D., a UNM biologist, owned the estate until his death in 2022.

A luxury estate previously owned by University of New Mexico biologist and herpetologist that spans 298.9 acres just outside of Albuquerque was listed for auction Sept. 1.

The property at 434 Juan Tomas Road in Tijeras was listed for sale at a starting price of \$1.1 million by [Maestas Real Estate Services Inc.](#)'s qualifying broker [Anita Maestas](#) and [NM Apartment Advisors Inc.](#)'s CEO [Todd Clarke](#).

The 298.9-acre property has a 4,270-square-foot, four-bedroom, three-bathroom residence and a 2,746-square-foot barn and workshop.

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An overlooking view of 434 Juan Tomas Road in Tijeras, New Mexico.

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"It's just such a beautiful, peaceful and tranquil property," [Maestas](#) said. "It's actually subdivided into two different sections. The house itself is on 80 acres and then the other parcel which is 218 acres, is all beautiful open space, pretty much untouched, other than some fences, by human hands."

The residence was first built in 1973 by its original owner William "Bill"

Degenhardt, Ph.D. and has since been renovated across its kitchen, bathrooms, basement area and well system. The property features a natural spring, golden eagle and owl nesting areas and a certified tree farm with an agricultural exemption, subject to renewal.

The property is zoned A-2 Rural Agricultural. This allows for uses such as

The property is zoned R-2 rural agricultural. This allows for uses such as farming, crop cultivation, low-impact recreational use of open land and more while preserving farming and rural open space.

"I do think that this fits anybody who's got a church group that wants a camp, a retreat, girls or boy scouts (camps), treatment centers or anybody who wants to be really close to the urban part of Albuquerque and still be out in the middle of nowhere," Clarke said. "With just an amazing, lush forested valley with really high-end housing, an ability to hold just a ton of people and expand it."



A living room inside the residence at 434 Juan Thomas Road in Tijeras, New Mexico.

COURTESY OF NM APARTMENT ADVISORS INC.

Clarke and Maestas said Degenhardt, who died in 2022, used the property as a social hub for himself and close friends.

"He (was) a really important figure in the scientific community at UNM and was also very good friends with Tony Hillerman, who is a very well-known New Mexico author," Maestas said. "And what's kind of fun about that friendship is that they and several others ... used to all get together (here) and have these little poker nights on a weekly basis. They found this property as a little getaway."

Degenhardt contributed to UNM's amphibian and reptile research and co-authored the book "Amphibians and Reptiles of New Mexico," which looks at New Mexico's 123 species of amphibians and reptiles. It has been cited by government organizations such as the New Mexico Department of Wildlife.

Degenhardt "had a dream that (the property) might somehow be put to an educational use for the university or some other government sector," but his estate ultimately decided to auction it off when they "just realized there really wasn't an appetite or a business model" that worked for that desired use, according to Clarke.

"Somebody just needs to call it off as is," he added.

“So we re just gonna sell it off as-is,” ne added.

Prospective buyers must attend a virtual or in-person tour Sept. 8 at noon.
The initial offer deadline is Sept. 10 at 4 p.m.

Tour details and additional confidential information are available
at nmapartment.com/juantomas.

T H E L I S T

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