



Valles Caldera Trust
18161 State Highway 4
P.O. Box 359
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

T 505-661-3333
F 575-829-4614
www.vallescaldera.gov
info@vallescaldera.gov

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2009 Livestock Operations

09-RFP-002

VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE

SUBMISSION DUE DATE: APRIL 30, 2009

INTRODUCTION

The Valles Caldera Trust (Trust) is seeking proposals to operate an ecologically and economically viable livestock operation on the Valles Caldera National Preserve (Preserve) for the summer grazing season of 2009. All livestock operators are eligible, including permittees on USFS and BLM lands, private land livestock operators, and ranchers on state trust and tribal lands. For the purposes of this program, an eligible participant is identified as:

- 1) A single producer or operator,
- 2) A partnership or company,
- 3) A corporation or association,
- 4) A non-profit organization, or
- 5) A university or educational institute/organization

The 2009 grazing season will run for 120 days beginning on or about May 30, 2009 with removal occurring on or about September 30, 2009.

- **Minimum guaranteed** capacity is set at **500 AU's (Animal Units¹)** for 120 days based on average capacity. Current long-term forecasts are predicting the probability of warmer and drier conditions occurring this year; see page 3.
- Final capacity will be determined based on actual conditions and will be adjusted in May, 2009, based on range readiness conditions to be reported by the Preserve Scientist.

Long-term average precipitation and associated soil moisture at the Preserve has been shown to provide forage amounts that can support approximately 540 AUs for 120 days. Prevailing climate and range readiness may require delays in entry (no later than June 15, 2009). Stock numbers may be adjusted if precipitation changes over the next 30 - 45 days or conditions during the range readiness assessment warrant. The Trust will not consider proposals which include fewer than 500 AUs of livestock. The Trust reserves the right to make the decision whether or not to adjust the capacity throughout the grazing season.

Capacity for livestock considers the total amount of forage produced on areas of the Preserve suitable for grazing. Suitability is based on topography, distance to water and forage availability.

¹ 1.0 AUs is equivalent to one mature, lactating cow with a calf at her side. Yearlings, steer and heifer have a value of 0.7 AUs. A mature bull has a value of 1.0 AUs.

The average capacity for livestock has been determined from measured field forage quantities across the Preserve on suitable land during 2002-2008, a period that included both exceptionally dry and wet years (low and high forage production). Of the total forage available on suitable land, 60 percent is allocated back to the ecosystem and approximately 20 percent is allocated to provide for wildlife including the Preserve’s resident elk herd (estimated at 3,000 head by the NM Department of Game and Fish). The remaining forage is available for extractive uses including grazing by domestic livestock. **Actual field measurements during 2002-2008 indicate an average annual livestock capacity of 541 Animal Units for 120 days**; years with above-average precipitation have produced forage for an estimated 1,412 Animal Units; and the record high production year was capable of supporting an estimated 2,282 Animal Units. Years with below-average precipitation have led to the reduction or cancelation of livestock grazing. A frequency distribution of below-average to above-average precipitation years is shown in Figure 1 for Jemez Springs, 1914-2005, and illustrates that most years fall near average or somewhat below average in terms of total annual precipitation.

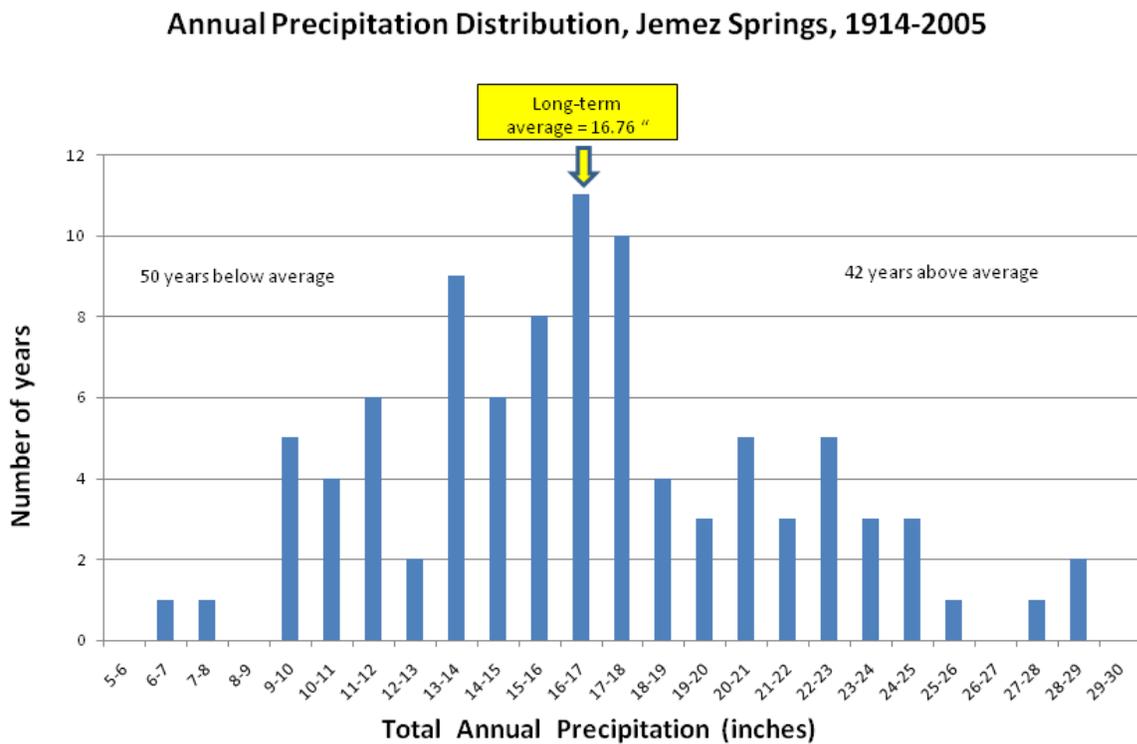


Figure 1. Number of years with varying amounts of total annual precipitation in Jemez Springs, NM, during 1914-2005. Most years have between 13 and 20 inches of precipitation (average of 16.76 inches), with a slight tendency for more below-average years than above-average years.

Current Preserve Conditions: Total fall-winter precipitation in the Preserve during 2008-2009 has been about average, though late winter-early spring precipitation (January through March) is currently 45% below average (as of early April; see Figure 2). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) indicates that we are in a La Niña event (which causes New Mexico to receive below-average precipitation in late-winter and early spring), and NOAA further predicts that conditions will be warmer and drier than normal through April; warmer than normal temperatures are predicted to continue through June.

Cumulative Precipitation, VCNP Valle Grande

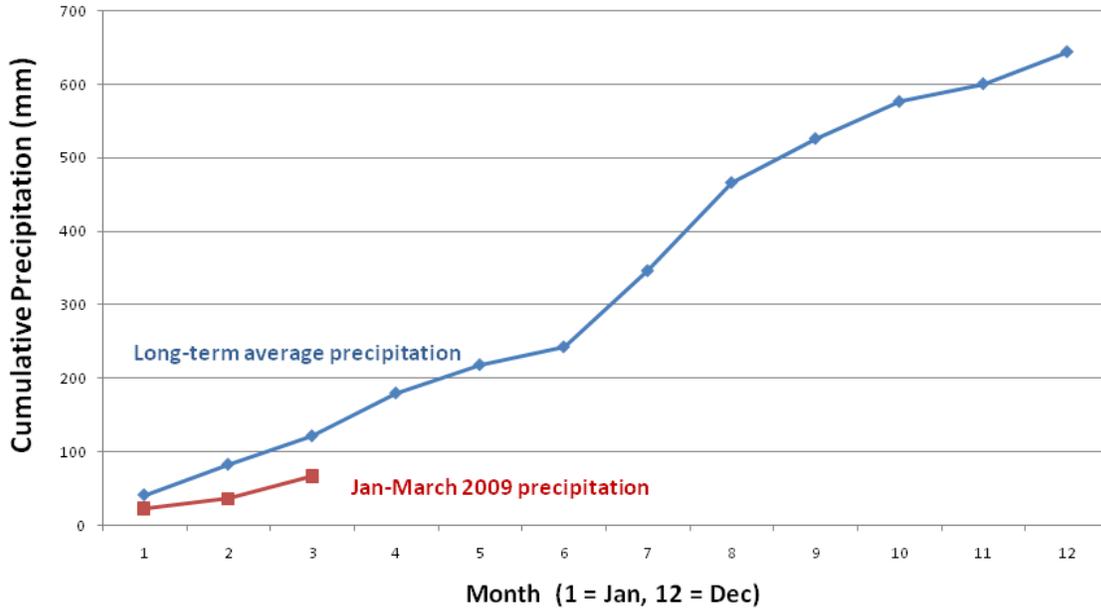


Figure 2. Current (January-March 2009) accumulated precipitation in the Valle Grande (red line) compared to average cumulative precipitation (blue line). Current precipitation total for this time period is 45% below average.

The implication of these current conditions for livestock capacity is that the upcoming spring forage production measurement (scheduled for May, 2009) may be close to average or below average this spring. **This means that if current below-average precipitation trends continue through April and into May, stocking levels near the long-term average (500-600 AUs) or below will be established.**

STOCKING RATES FOR COW-CALF PAIRS VERSUS YEARLINGS

Table 1 below presents the number of cow-calf pairs and their yearling equivalents based on entry dates of May 30, 2009 (4 months of grazing) and a delayed entry of June 15th.

Table 1 - Animal Unit equivalents at minimum and maximum capacities for cow and calf pairs and steers for entry dates of May 30 and June 15.

Projected Number Cow and Calf Pairs	Number Yearlings	Number of Months (Entry Date)
500	714	4.0 (May 30)
572	744	3.5 (June 15)
800	1040	4.0 (May 30)
914	1188	3.5 (June 15)
1,000	1300	4.0 (May 30)
1143	1486	3.5 (June 15)
1400	1950	4.0 (May 30)

BACKGROUND

The Preserve was established through the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (Act), Public Law 106-248 to “protect and preserve the scientific, scenic, geologic, watershed, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, and recreational values of the Preserve, and to provide for multiple use and sustained yield of renewable resources within the Preserve.” The Act states that the Preserve will be operated as a working ranch consistent with other purposes.

The Act also created the Trust as a wholly-owned government corporation to manage the Preserve. A nine-member Board of Trustees governs the Trust and the Executive Director oversees management of the Trust and the Preserve.

Since federal acquisition, the Trust has operated a variety of livestock programs including replacement heifer, yearlings, cow-calf and conservation stewardship programs. Under these programs the Trust has contracted for up to 1,960 head, based on the annual forage production and elk population estimates.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Preserve is approximately 89,000 acres of high elevation forest and grasslands and is located in the Jemez Mountains (primarily in Sandoval County) of north central New Mexico. The main entrance to the Preserve is located 75 miles northwest of Albuquerque, 21 miles north of Jemez Springs and 18 miles west of Los Alamos (see attached Location Map). The Santa Fe National Forest, Bandelier National Monument and Santa Clara Pueblo surround the Preserve. Prior to federal acquisition in 2000, the property was known as the Baca Location No. 1. Commercial use of the resources, including ranching, timber harvest, and hunting, occurred on the Preserve under various owners since the 19th century. For additional information, visit our web site at www.vallescaldera.gov.

The livestock program operates in and around a series of valles, or high elevation montane pastures totaling about 27,000 acres divided into 18 pastures and traps (see attached pasture and

image maps). These grasslands produce abundant forage, which attracts about 3,000 elk to the Preserve. Key information relative to livestock operations on the Preserve include:

- The valleys and pastures are accessible by pick-up truck and trailer; four-wheeled drive is sometimes necessary.
- Two sets of pens with certified scales are available for shipping and receiving.
- A chute is available for doctoring.
- Water is available through a series of functional earthen tanks and live streams, although use by livestock of riparian areas with perennial streams will be minimized.
- Fences consist of more than 50 miles of boundary fence and 60 miles of interior fence, which are typically 4-5 strand barbed wire. Some older “sheep fence” still remains in many areas.
- A pack animal or ATV is useful for hauling equipment or supplements.
- Pens, tack sheds, a barn and traps are available for horses.
- The primary safety concern on the Preserve is frequent afternoon lightning storms during July and August.
- Other hazards include high elevation, uneven terrain, prairie dog holes, bogs, mud and other hazards typical of natural environments.
- Healthy immunized herds generally fair well although brisket and hoof rot occur due to elevation and climate.
- Mountain meadows are dominated by sedges and rushes, as well as Kentucky bluegrass and Timothy; valley slopes are dominated by Arizona fescue, pine dropseed and Parry’s oatgrass; and grazable woodlands are dominated by Kentucky bluegrass, Parry’s oatgrass, Thurber’s fescue and Arizona fescue.

SCOPE OF CONTRACT

A description of services and related work will be included in the terms, specifications and provisions of the contract.

The selected participants will be expected to provide livestock, as well as all supplies, equipment, and labor for successful operations. This will include transportation of livestock to and from the Preserve, and management and care of the livestock while on the Preserve. Management and care should provide for the stewardship of the land and the animals and with respect to riparian protection, fishing and other recreation activities occurring on the Preserve. It is expected that management of the livestock will be accomplished primarily on horseback, but may include the use of trained stock dogs. Most pastures are accessible by pick-up truck with horse trailer. Use of ATVs is limited to those activities where motorized vehicles are the only practical tool for accomplishing required work, such as placement of supplements, temporary fencing and transportation of supplies and equipment.

The respondent may include value added options, including research or monitoring projects; educational seminars associated with ranching or range management, or workshops or demonstrations of ranching activities such as herding with dogs, grading livestock, etc. Proposed value added activities will be evaluated for compliance with Trust goals and with existing laws,

including the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act (other state and federal laws may apply). Value added activities associated with livestock operations must provide for public safety, will not require or cause significant ground disturbance, do not have the potential to affect riparian zones and water quality, and can be conducted under current management policies. Added value activities require a full insurance policy and proof of experience.

NOTES TO BIDDERS

The Statement of Work/Technical Specifications below are guidelines and not all-inclusive. This is a “best value” procurement and it is our intention to enter into final negotiations with the top bidder(s).

STATEMENT OF WORK/TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. Deliverables will include:

- A. The number and type (cow-calf pair, steer, heifer, bull, etc.) of livestock proposed. The applicant **MUST INCLUDE** a range of number of AUs to be included (i.e., and minimum and maximum number of head). This is required because the Trust does not know at this time what the final stocking level will be, pending assessments of range condition in early May, 2009; thus, the applicant should state the minimum and maximum number of livestock that he/she could satisfactorily manage and would be economically feasible for the applicant under this program. For example, if the applicant requires a minimum of 1,200 AUs for economic reasons, then a range of 1,200 - #,### AUs should be stated. If the applicant could logistically manage only up to 700 AUs, then a range of 500-700 AUs should be stated.
- B. Delivery of livestock within 5% of animal units identified in the submitted proposal (unless conditions allow for or require an adjustment).
- C. Performance of management activities as described in the submitted proposal.
- D. Range rider logs documenting herd management as described in the submitted proposal.
- E. Performance of value added activities as described in the submitted proposal.
- F. Documentation of animal health for all cattle, horses, and dogs being brought onto the Preserve.
 - Veterinary or laboratory certification is required for Trichonomiasis testing or coggins testing.

2. Performance Requirements

A. Safety

The successful proponent will develop a safety plan that identifies the potential hazards and accident prevention measures associated with all proposed activities prior to entry. The Trust is available to assist the proponent with this requirement upon request.

Also prior to entry the participant will be asked to provide proof of insurance and emergency contact information.

B. Payments

Terms and timing of payment should be included in the proposal and at minimum must include a deposit of at least 20% prior to entry.

C. Weed Prevention

- Vehicles (except those identified for commuting), trailers and horses will remain on the Preserve during the grazing season. Equipment should be thoroughly washed of mud and weeds before entering Preserve.

D. Livestock Health

- All livestock should have health exams before entering the Preserve and shall be free of contagious diseases. The successful applicant will submit a health plan for vaccinations and worming to the Trust for approval. Proof of treatment of animals such as producers signed logs, or receipts from purchase of vaccinations and dewormers will be required.
- Steers will be vaccinated with Cattle Master 4 or equivalent, Ultrabac 8 or equivalent and Ivomec Pour-on or equivalent prior to entry.
- Cows will be vaccinated with Cattle Master 10 or equivalent, Ultrabac 8 or equivalent and Ivomec Pour-on or equivalent prior to entry.
- Bulls must be tested for trichomoniasis and brucellosis and negative results provided in writing. Bulls will be vaccinated with Cattle Master-4 or equivalent, Ultrabac 8 or equivalent and Ivomec Pour-on or equivalent prior to entry.
- Horses will have a current Coggins test and inspection papers issued by the New Mexico Livestock Board or out-of-state equivalent.
- The successful applicant will provide proof of current vaccinations for rabies, parvo, and distemper for each working stock dog brought onto the Preserve. Dogs shall be free of fleas and ticks. *Note to bidders: Coyotes on the Preserve have tested positive for distemper, parvo, and plague. In addition, the Trust hosts recreational activities that include overnight or dark night experiences that emphasize the Preserve's natural soundscape. Dogs must be controlled at all times.*

E. Research, Inventory and Monitoring

- The Trust conducts a variety of activities to improve its management and understanding of the Preserve's resources. The Trust may request participation in monitoring activities. In the past these types of activities have included putting GPS collars on cattle and tracking their movements and measuring animal's responses to different supplements. Your participation in any activity that could directly affect your stock would be voluntary and greatly appreciated.

3. Additional Requirements:

- A. Riparian areas are fragile habitats and require close monitoring and range riders. Proposals must include specific plans for protection of these areas including:
 - a. Daily inspection and removal of livestock from riparian areas, with avoidance of certain riparian sections (to be designated by the Ranch Foreman).
 - b. Timely inspection of fences.
- B. Location of supplements or lures must be approved in advance of placement
- C. Off road driving is not allowed on the Preserve except for ATVs.
- D. ATV use is limited to transport of salt, mineral and equipment.
- E. Ability to rope and doctor in pasture is recommended.
- F. Control of coyotes or other predators is specifically forbidden.
- G. Access to the Preserve is limited. Working and living on the Preserve requires compliance with all rules governing behavior of everyone on the Preserve.

LABOR, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND OTHER MATERIALS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE TRUST

1. Quarters – three-bedroom house, equipped with basic furnishings and three bunk-beds (sleeping for six) is available and can be rented for \$250.00/month.
2. RV Hook-up is available and can be rented \$50.00/month.
3. Two sets of shipping pens with working chutes and certified scales are available for use by the proponent for no fee.
4. A tack shed that can be locked is available for use by the proponent for no fee.
5. Up to seven (7) pastures and corrals are available for horses at no fee. Up to four (4) horses per rider, not to exceed 16 total horses, are allowed on the Preserve; no stallions are allowed.
6. Program oversight will be provided by the Trust.
7. A grazing plan that includes quality assurance will be developed by the Trust in cooperation with the successful applicant and will be followed by the successful applicant. Changes to the grazing plan will be negotiated with the successful applicant during the grazing season.
8. The final contract will include a provision for removal in case of drought or in the event of a large fire event.
9. The Trust will maintain existing interior and perimeter (boundary) fencing; program-specific temporary fencing will be the responsibility of the proponent.
10. Monitoring will be the responsibility of the Trust and may result in alterations to the grazing plan or removal of animals from certain areas of the Preserve.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

1. This request does not commit the Trust to pay any costs incurred by the applicant in the submission of this proposal. The Trust will treat each proposal as proprietary information. Proposals will not be returned. The winning proponent, the total compensation, and a summary of the proposal will be made public.
2. The Trust reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.
3. The Trust will review all received proposals and select the finalists, which then may be asked to participate in an oral interview with the Trust selection committee (this may be by telephone). Reviewers will be Trust staff, members of the Board, and one or more representative from a federal land management agency (USFS or BLM).
4. The Trust reserves the right to conduct discussions with any applicant if it is deemed necessary for understanding, clarity or negotiations.
5. The Trust may elect to negotiate with and award the grazing opportunity to two or more applicants if the proposals appear compatible and proponents are willing.
6. Site visits will be provided following award of the contract.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Trust will award a contract resulting from this solicitation to the responsible applicant, whose offer conforms to the solicitation and will be most advantageous to the Trust in terms of economic return and other technical factors considered. The following factors shall be used to evaluate offers: 1. Economic return 2. Technical capability of the applicant and his/her proposal to meet the Trust requirements, and 3. Past performance.

Technical factors include:

1. Livestock Management Plan - *(Should provide for daily management of the animals)*
2. Resource Protection Strategy – *(Emphasize protection of riparian areas)*

Response to the Evaluation Criteria

The applicant may submit their response in any format. Using the outline below may be helpful.

- 1) Economic Return to the Trust –
 - ✓ Describe the monetary returns that will accrue to the Trust. Benefits should be described in terms of guaranteed (e.g., price per head, per pound, or flat grazing fee) and potential or variable returns (e.g., bonus to be paid on better than average weight gain for steers).
 - ✓ Compatibility with eventual stocking levels determined by range condition in May, 2009 (e.g., the range of proposed AUs includes the final stocking capacity determined by the Trust).
- 2) Livestock Management Plan – The actual pasture rotation will be developed by the successful applicant and the Trust prior to entry. In this section describe:

- ✓ The number and class of animals you propose to graze on the Preserve and the number of herds you plan to manage them as.
 - ✓ How you are planning or able to adjust to possible changes in capacity based on actual conditions in the spring as described in the introduction.
 - ✓ Describe the proposed methods for livestock transport to and from the Preserve, including items such as time frames, number and size of vehicles, and safety procedures
 - ✓ Describe the workforce and resources you will use to manage the livestock program including the number of range riders, horses, and vehicles. Describe how you expect to manage the herd on a day to day basis including the resources that would be required.
 - ✓ Describe any planned use of temporary fences or supplements to aid in resource protection.
 - ✓ Include plans to ensure the safety of your workforce and the well being of your livestock.
 - ✓ Describe how dogs will be used and controlled while not working on the Preserve, if applicable.
 - ✓ Describe in detail the proposed herd health program, including disease prevention and the management of the animals' health while on the Preserve.
 - ✓ Are you planning on conducting any research or monitoring? (not required)
 - ✓ Describe the personnel that will be living and working on site and personnel that will be commuting and their roles and relationships. (For example: Range riders A, B, and C will be living and working full time on the Preserve. Owner D, will be on site two days per week. Range riders E & F will be available if needed.)
 - ✓ Describe any innovative management ideas.
- 3) Resource Protection Strategy –
- ✓ Provide details on how you plan to protect streams and riparian areas from overuse and otherwise being negatively affected by livestock. This section should be supported by the overall livestock management plan.
 - ✓ Describe actions you would take to avoid transporting weeds onto the Preserve.
- 4) Past Performance (Experience of the Proposed Organization and Key Personnel) –
- ✓ Provide names for individuals who will be overseeing or implementing the proposal.
 - ✓ Describe their experience including number of years, size, and location of operations they have previously worked on.
 - ✓ Describe the experience of the proposing organization with similar livestock operations on similar landscapes, particularly high-altitude and ecologically sensitive landscapes.
 - ✓ Describe any specialized skills (roping, riding, doctoring etc.)

- ✓ Include any relative education and experience that indicates knowledge as well as personal qualifications such as reliability, leadership etc.

Required References

For the proposing organization, a minimum of three (3) personal or professional references, including name, address, telephone number, and email address, if applicable, and one (1) bank reference, including name and contact information.

For each range rider, a minimum of two (2) personal or professional references, including name, address, telephone number, and email address, if applicable.

HOW TO APPLY:

Written responses to the RFP are required. The RFP closes on April 30, 2009. Please respond to the RFP by providing a detailed summary of the livestock operation you are proposing for the 2009 season. Include a response to the evaluation criteria. Using the bulleted outline provided may be helpful.

1. Submitted proposals should:
 - A. Include a copy of the cover/signature page on each copy of the proposal
 - B. Include the applicant's response to the evaluation criteria
 - C. Be printed on one side only
 - D. Have all pages numbered
 - E. Include three (3) copies of the proposal

COMPLIANCE

It is the responsibility of the selected bidder to comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

GOOD LUCK!

PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Three copies of the proposal must be received at the address below no later than **4:00PM, MST on April 30, 2009.**
2. Proposals submitted via U.S. Postal Service should be addressed as follows:

Tim Haarmann
ATTN: 2009 Livestock Program
Valles Caldera National Preserve
P.O. Box 359
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

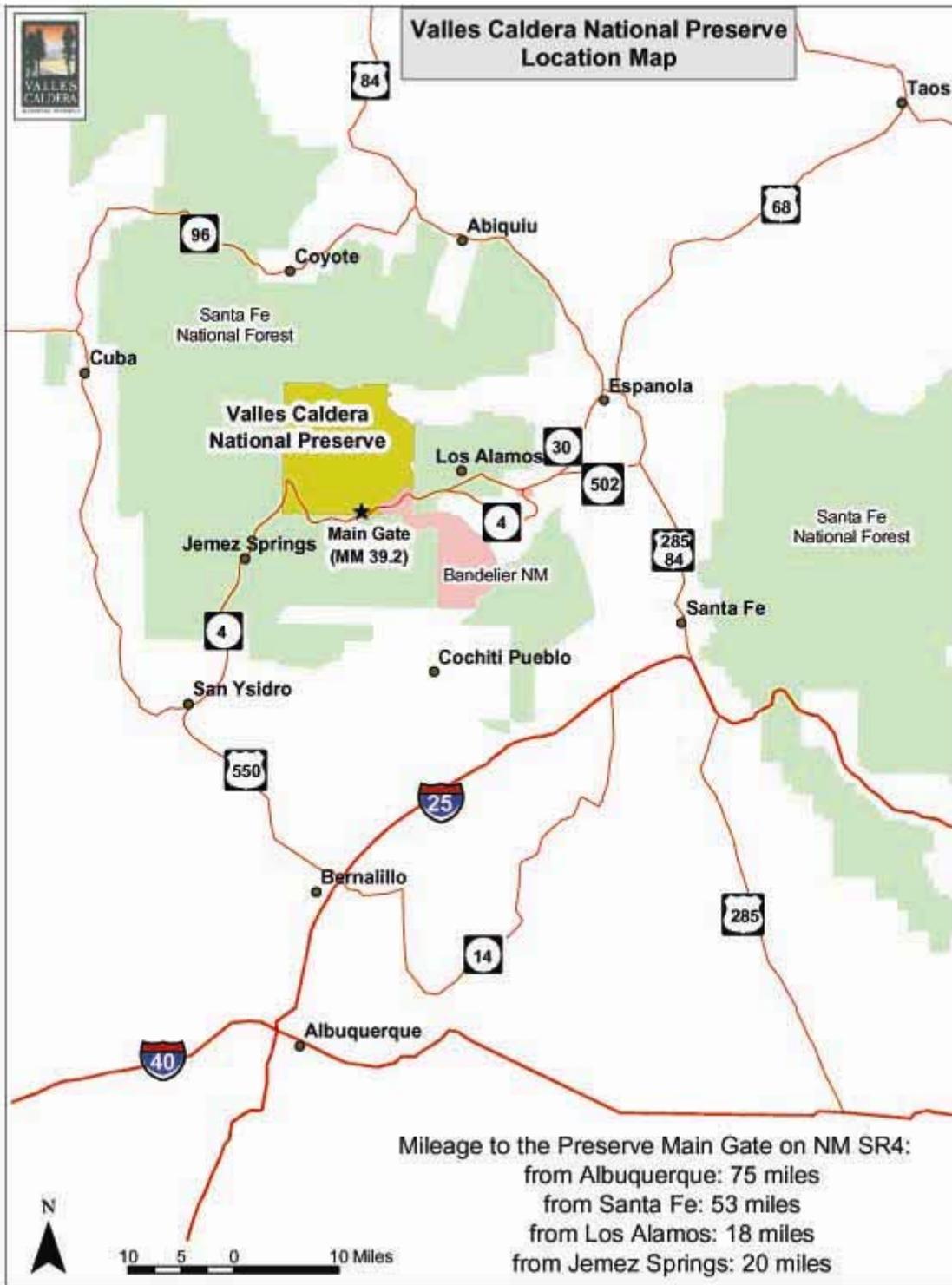
3. Proposals that are hand-delivered or submitted via Federal Express or any other parcel service should be delivered to the physical address as follows:

Tim Haarmann
ATTN: 2009 Livestock Program
Valles Caldera National Preserve
18161 Highway 4
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

For any questions, please contact Tim Haarmann, thaarmann@vallescaldera.gov, 505-428-7717, or Dennis Trujillo, dtrujillo@vallescaldera.gov 505-428-7731, or the Trust main office at 505-661-3333.

Attachments:

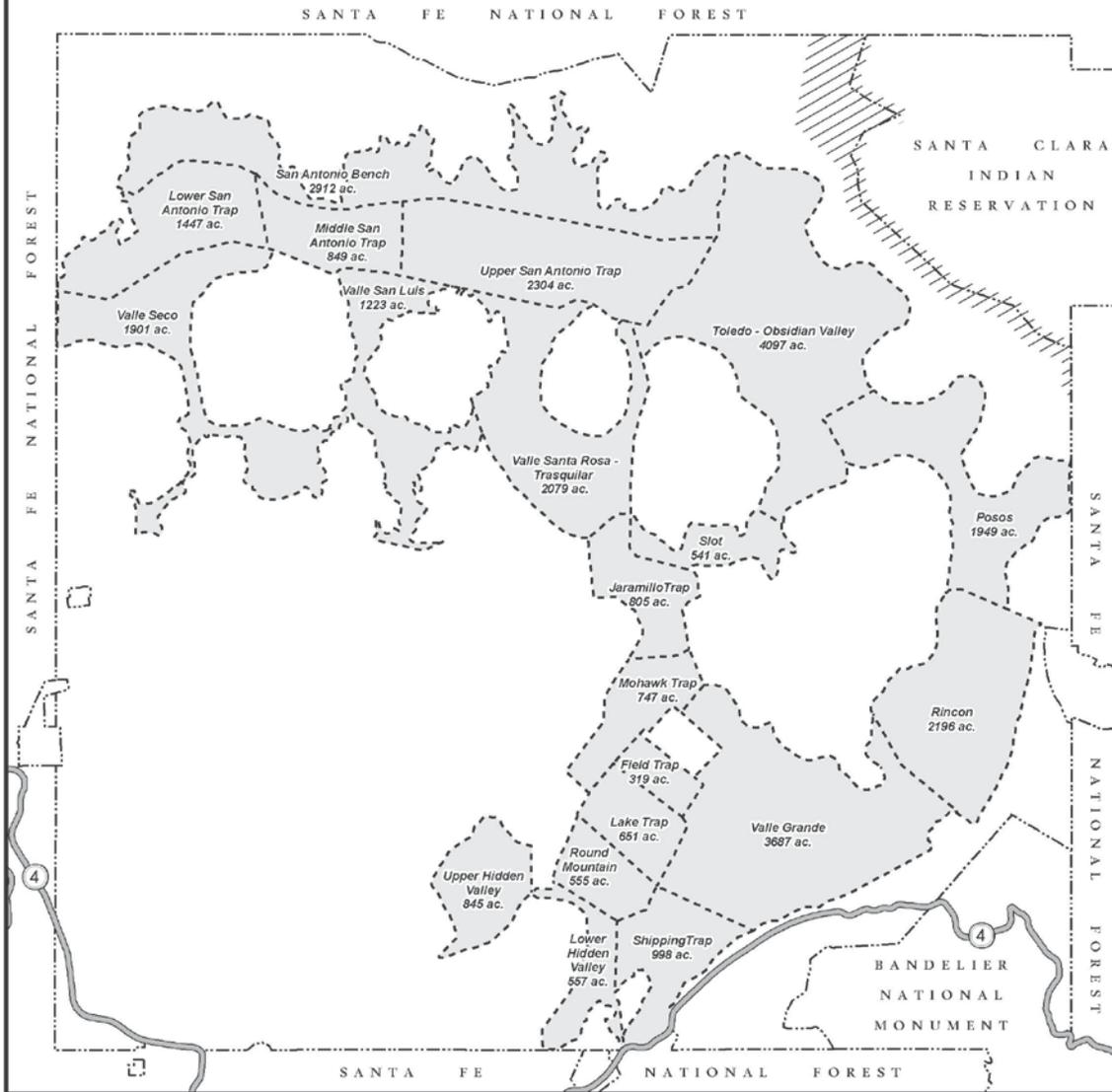
- # 1.Location Map
- # 2.Pasture Map (from the Interim Grazing EA, as amended in 2003)
- # 3.Image Map





Valles Caldera National Preserve, New Mexico

Grazing Pastures



- Pasture Boundary
- Property Boundary
- //// Santa Clara Easement - No Mechanized Vehicles



