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Date: December 17, 2010

File Code: VCVCAD11

Dear Valued Friend of the Valles Caldera Trust,

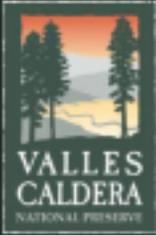
The Valles Caldera Trust Board and Staff would like to extend our appreciation for the support and interest you have shown in the management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve (The Preserve) during the past eight years.

The Annual Report for 2010 is attached in compliance with a reporting requirement of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-248). Should additional information be required or if you have questions please contact:

Mr. Gary Bratcher
Executive Director
Valles Caldera Trust
505-428-7732

Sincerely,

Dr. Raymond Loretto
Chairman
Board of Trustees
Valles Caldera Trust



VALLES CALDERA TRUST



ROURKE McDERMOTT

VALLES CALDERA

NATIONAL PRESERVE

Sandoval and Rio Arriba Counties

State of New Mexico

P.O. Box 359

Jemez Springs, NM 87025

(505) 661-3333

www.vallescaldera.gov

Valles Caldera Trust
2010 Report to Congress
Fiscal Year 2010

VALLES CALDERA TRUST

Fiscal Year 2010 – Report to Congress

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Executive Director Perspective

The Valles Caldera Trust (Trust) has completed eight years of managing the Valles Caldera National Preserve (Preserve). In this annual Report to Congress, the Trust presents information on the successes and accomplishments of 2010, a discussion on the future of the Trust management and the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (Act) that initially created the Trust and the Preserve, and the proposed legislation to end the “experiment in public land management” as contemplated in the Act.

Section 1 of the report gives a broad overview of the Trust and the Preserve. You are provided a brief description of the property including physical location, landscape features, and vegetation. Information is also provided on the direction established for managing the Preserve and many of the elements contained in the Act.

Goals established by the Board of Trustees in 2009 for FY 2010 activities are addressed in **Section 2**. I am very pleased with staff performance in the attainment of the goals set for the organization. Our administrative functions were made more efficient to the benefit of the Trust and the vendors providing goods and services to the Trust. For the first time, marketing and communications activities were planned, fully funded for the year, and executed in a professional fashion greatly assisting in goal attainment. The Information Technology group improved and expanded our IT systems and made for a more secure IT experience. The Preserve Operations group expanded recreation, identified new opportunities in the livestock program conducted with New Mexico State University, upgraded and maintained Preserve infrastructure, and addressed programs for improvement on public access and use and forest restoration. The Science and Education group performance provided increased resource monitoring, new research programs, collaboration with outside organizations, and a very successful first year operating the Science and Education Center.

Section 3 addresses Dennis Rino’s group and their administrative activities for the year including budget, spending and revenue, human resources, and others. Terry McDermott and his IT staff also present their activities and programs in marketing, communications, and IT in this section. Revenue fund spending continued allowing us to make investments in infrastructure, equipment, and necessary programs such as public access and use and forestry restoration projects. Appropriated funds budgeted through the Forest Service for the Trust decreased by \$500,000 from 2009 levels.

Dennis Trujillo, the Trust’s senior employee in years of service to the Trust and his group’s management and activities in Preserve Operations are discussed in **Section 4**. The Trust experienced lower revenue generation and visitation in 2009 as compared to the previous year, resulting in a complete staff evaluation of Preserve and recreation activities and opportunities. As a result, new programs were added, some existing programs were modified taking into consideration public input, and an aggressive marketing plan was put into place. Coupled with this, the Trust’s authorization of approximately \$4.4 million in

revenue funding to be invested into the Preserve's operations and infrastructure in 2010/11 was continued.

These actions resulted in a very successful turn-around in 2010 with a **59 %** increase in visitation and a **15%** increase in revenue over FY 2009. Another great achievement was the **80%** increase in recreation volunteer hours which allowed for many activities not covered in our budget.

One year ago the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) and Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP) joined together to form a collaboration focused on restoring natural ecosystems of a landscape located in the southwestern Jemez Mountains. The 210,000 acre Southwestern Jemez Mountains Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project includes mesas and mountains, forests and grasslands, streams and wetlands – all in dire need of ecological restoration.

This collaborative effort was supported by key partners and other federal and local land managers (The Nature Conservancy, New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico State Forestry, Santa Clara Pueblo, USGS, and Bandelier National Monument). The collaborative strategy was awarded funding under the Federal Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) authorized by Congress in 2009 for up to \$35,000,000 over ten years to restore our forests, grasslands and waters!

Dr. Bob Parmenter and his group continued to have more fun than anyone again in 2010. It was another banner year for Science and Education activities and programs as you will see in **Section 5**. The Science and Education Center performed well with cost recovery above the level projected and lots of students taking advantage of the science programs offered. Adaptive management guidance was made available to Operations and resource monitoring was provided for the Trust.

Section 6 addresses the goals established for FY 2011 for the various management groups. There is one appendix provided in **Section 7**.

The 2009 Report to Congress fully described the predicament of the Trust relative to compliance with the Act and the legislative proposal sponsored by Senators Bingaman and Udall of New Mexico to turn over management of the Preserve to the National Park Service. That legislation, S. 3452 (see appendix), would repeal the Act and make the Preserve a component of the National Park System. At the time of this writing, the bill has passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee, and its outcome in the 111th Congress is uncertain.

The Board of Trustees has publicly noted that there is no current emergency situation that justifies the haste in which this proposed legislation has been considered by the Senate Energy Committee. In fact, the current management situation with the Preserve has never been better. We have strong public support with increased access and recreational uses.

We are addressing the forestry challenges, developing needed infrastructure, and furthering our research and cooperative management activities. To the extent that future management is to be considered, the existing law already provides a mechanism for transition from Trust management after the year 2015. If the current legislation does not pass this session of Congress, I believe that a more deliberate approach to future management options would be in the public interest, including evaluating the merits of alternative management regimes under the National Park Service, the Forest Service, or a continuation of Trust management. In particular, the Trust management should be considered anew in light of proposed amendments to the Act that we submitted to Congress last year, one of which would repeal the mandate of financial self sufficiency which has been shown unworkable in providing funding for operating costs plus capital improvements.

The legislation pending in the Congress has put the Trust in a state of limbo and anxiety. The uncertainty over the Trust's future existence affects our ability to plan and budget, to enter into contracts, and to engage in long term cooperative management arrangements. Most profoundly, the uncertainty affects our professional and administrative staffs whose future employment is potentially dependent on the outcome of this proposal. Fortunately, the Forest Service has been extremely supportive to the Trust during this period of uncertainty providing funding for the Trust in both 2010 and 2011 and in collaborating with the Trust in joint activities and programs which have brought additional resources to the Preserve.

In spite of this uncertain situation, the Trust had a very successful year in serving the public as shown in this Report to Congress. I believe that this success will continue and that the public ownership of this land will be justified by the level of enjoyment, entertainment, and educational value provided to the people. I also believe that the "cost recovery" model permitted the Trust is beneficial to public lands and expanding this model to other federal properties may be the only remedy to the financial crises currently experienced by parks, preserves, and forests nation-wide.

Come see us. We assure you a quality experience on a very unique landscape.



OLD GROWTH PONDEROSA PINES - PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROURKE McDERMOTT

Section 1 – Valles Caldera

1.1 Background

The Valles Caldera Trust (the Trust) is a wholly owned government corporation responsible for managing the Valles Caldera National Preserve (the Preserve). The Preserve, originally known as the Baca Location No. 1, was operated as a privately owned ranch for over a century prior to its acquisition by the federal government. Federal acquisition occurred in July of 2000 with the passage of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (Public Law 106-248). The Preserve is comprised of 88,900 acres of National Forest System (NFS) land located in Sandoval and Rio Arriba counties in north central New Mexico. National Forest System land is typically managed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Delegating management of NFS land to a government corporation constitutes an experiment in public land management.

1.2 The Trust

The Trust is staffed by Federal employees and governed by a nine member Board of Trustees (Board). Seven trustees are appointed by the President with the remaining seats ex-officio; the Superintendent of Bandelier National Monument and the Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest. On January 10, 2001 the first board of trustees was seated and officially assumed management of the Preserve in August of 2002. The current trustees are listed in Section 3.

Among the purposes listed for The Valles Caldera Preservation Act (the Act) is *“to establish a demonstration area for an experimental management regime adapted to this unique property which incorporates elements of public and private administration in order to promote long term financial sustainability consistent with other purposes enumerated in this subsection...”*

Towards this end the Act provided the Trust with certain exemptions and tools different from those available to the United States Forest Service (USFS) which manages most NFS land in the United States. Among these is the ability to retain donated funds and income generated from the management of the Preserve. These funds are retained in an interest bearing account and are available without further appropriations *“for the administration, preservation, restoration, operation and maintenance, improvement, repair, and related expenses incurred with respect to properties under its management jurisdiction”*. The Trust is considered an agency for the purpose of compliance with Federal environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), but remains exempt from the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.).

1.3 The Preserve

The Preserve is located atop the Jemez Mountains in north central New Mexico (Figure 1) and is often referred to as the “crown jewel” of the Jemez. The name “Valles Caldera” refers to the series of expansive grassy valleys or “valles” contained within an approximately 13-mile wide collapsed volcanic crater. “Caldera” is Spanish for cauldron or kettle as well as a geologic term. Most people associate the Preserve with the “Valle Grande”, the largest of the valles.



CALDERA PONDEROSA PINES – ROURKE MCDERMOTT

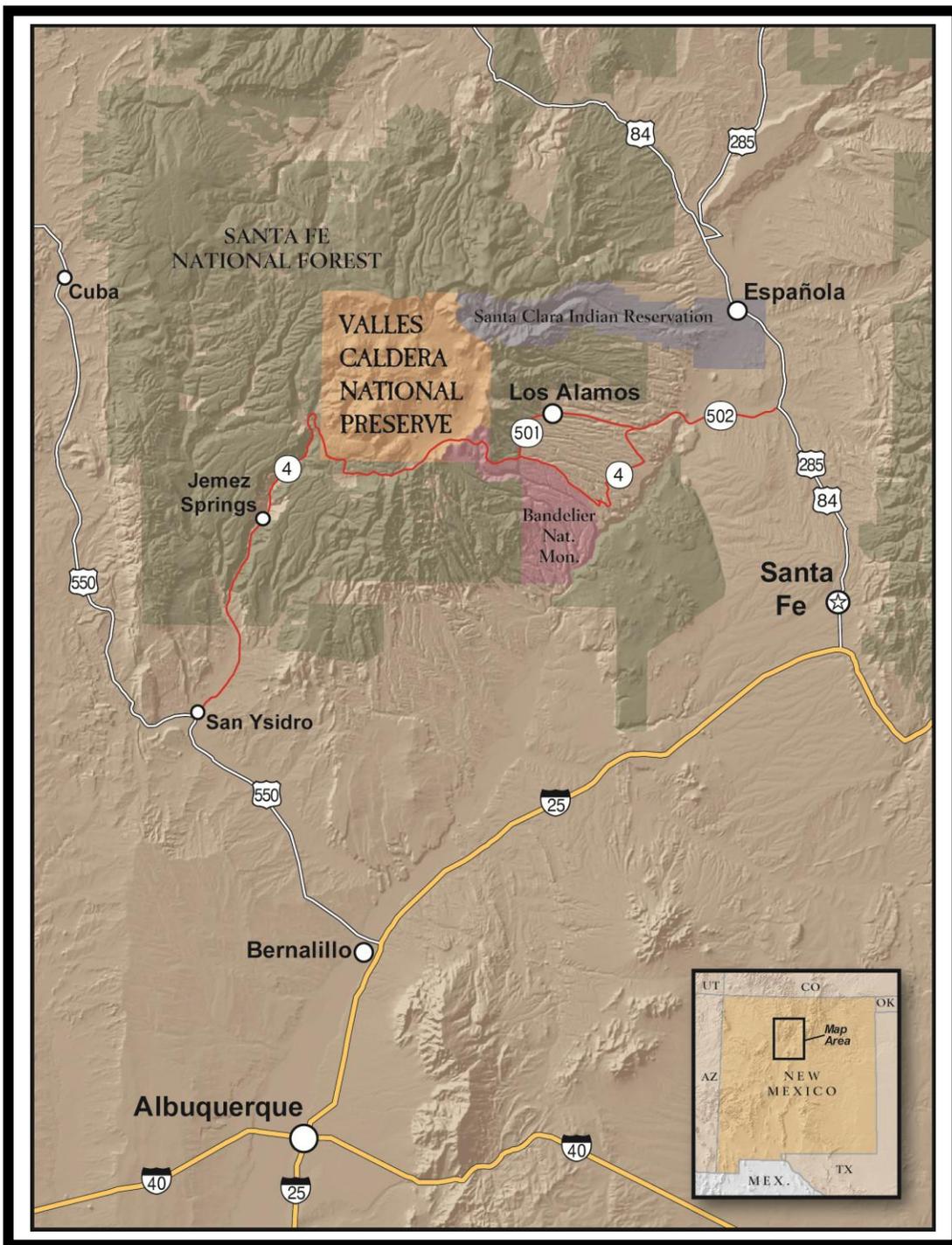


FIGURE 1 – VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE, SANDOVAL AND RIO ARRIBA COUNTIES, NEW MEXICO

One-third of the Preserve consists of expansive, gently sloping grasslands with the remaining two-thirds in mountainous forests. Nearly 52 miles of perennial streams originate in the Preserve’s forests and meander through its grassland valleys making the Preserve one of the most diverse areas in the southern Rocky Mountains ecoregion (southern Wyoming to northern New Mexico). The major landscape features and vegetation are depicted in Figure 2.

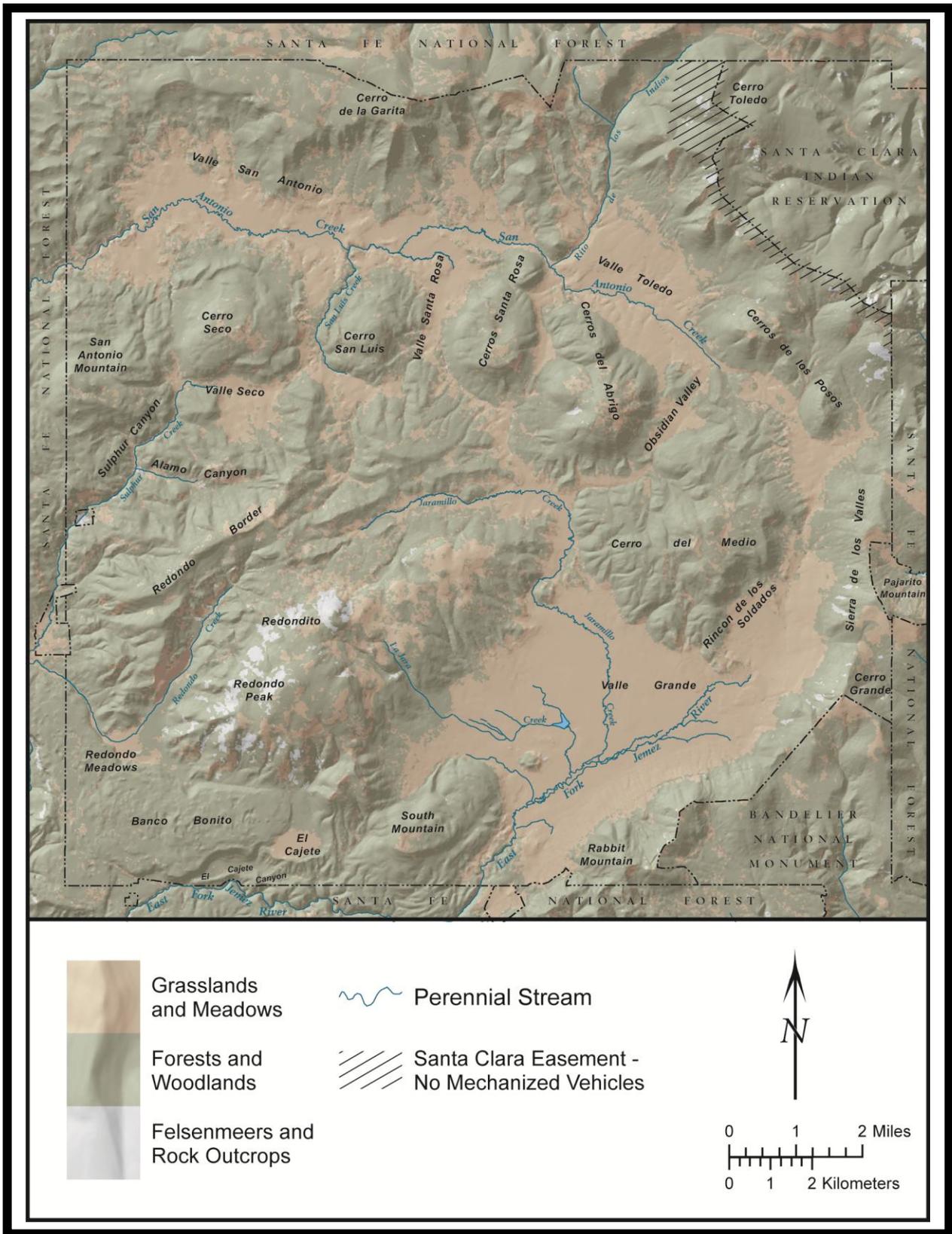


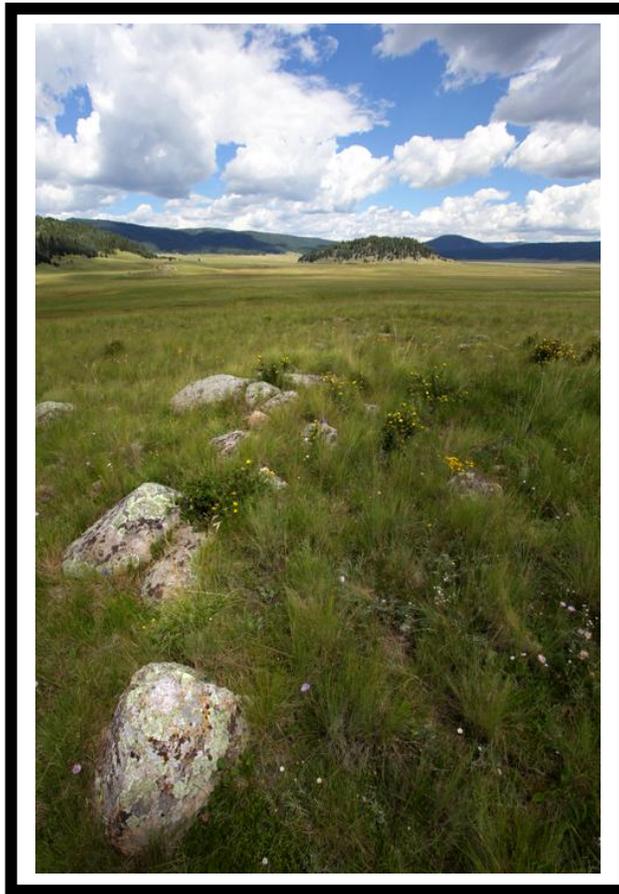
FIGURE 2 – LANDSCAPE FEATURES OF THE VALLES CALDERA

1.4 Management Direction

1.4.1 Purposes

Besides authorizing acquisition of the Preserve as a demonstration area for an experimental management regime, the Act identified purposes for the acquisition, three of which are directly tied to the management of the Preserve:

1. protect and preserve for future generations the scientific, scenic, historic, and natural values...including rivers and ecosystems, and archaeological, geological, and cultural resources;
2. provide opportunities for public recreation;
3. provide for sustained yield management of the Baca ranch for timber production and domestic livestock grazing insofar as is consistent with the other purposes stated herein.



VALLE GRANDE & CERRO LA JARA – ROURKE McDERMOTT

VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE “CROWN JEWEL” OF THE JEMEZ MOUNTAINS

1.4.2 Goals

In section 108, (d) the Act identified six goals for comprehensive management of the Preserve:

1. *operation of the Preserve as a working ranch, consistent with paragraphs (2) through (4);*
2. *the protection and preservation of the scientific, scenic, geologic, watershed, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural and recreational values of the Preserve;*
3. *multiple use and sustained yield of renewable resources within the Preserve;*
4. *public use and access to the Preserve for recreation;*
5. *renewable resource utilization and management alternatives that, to the extent practicable –*
 - a. *benefit local communities and small businesses;*
 - b. *enhance coordination of management objectives with those on surrounding National Forest System land; and*
 - c. *provide cost savings to the Trust through the exchange of services, including but not limited to labor and maintenance of facilities, for resources provided by the Trust; and*
6. *optimizing the generation of income based on existing market conditions, to the extent that it does not unreasonably diminish the long-term scenic and natural values of the area, or the multiple use and sustained yield capability of the land.*

1.4.3 Benchmarks

The Act identified several benchmarks to measure the progress of the Trust in meeting the goals and purposes of the Act.

Public Access

Within two years of acquisition, the Preserve was to be open for reasonable access by the public. This goal was met in 2002 with the initiation of interim programs for summer recreation, and winter recreation which included hunting and special events. In 2002 the Trust hosted only 700 visitors to the Preserve; this number grew to over 24,000 in 2010.

Comprehensive Management

Within two years of assuming management, the Trust was to develop a program for the comprehensive management of the Preserve. This benchmark was reached in August of 2003, with the Federal Register publication of the final NEPA procedures for the Trust. The purpose of these procedures is, “To implement the comprehensive management of the lands, resources, and facilities of the Valles Caldera National Preserve...” and included ten management principles to describe the values of the Trust and the vision adopted by the trustees.

Comprehensive management of the Preserve, under the Trust's NEPA procedures, is a dynamic system of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluating, and adjusting actions on the ground towards ultimate goal attainment. The process is documented in Stewardship Registers and the State of the Preserve, which is published every five years.

Plan for Decreasing Appropriated Funding

Also within two years of assuming management, the Trust was to provide Congress a plan that will achieve at a minimum, the financially self sustained operation of the Trust and management of the Preserve within 15 full years of acquisition.

A plan for decreasing appropriations was completed by the trustees in November of 2004 and included in Appendix B of the "Framework and Strategic Guidance for Comprehensive Management" prepared by the trustees and distributed by the Trust in 2005. The plan addressed decreasing appropriations and identified a development strategy for the Preserve which identified three phases of development:

Phase 1: Institution Building – Approximately 2001-2005

Phase 2: Infrastructure Development – Approximately 2005-2010

Phase 3: Program Refinement – Approximately 2010-2015

The development strategy also identified several sources of funding for achieving financial self-sustainment including:

- Fees for public access or activities
- Federal and other public grants
- Sustainable utilization of natural resources
- Private fund-raising and partnerships
- Retail and merchandizing activities
- Non-programmed special events
- Hospitality activities

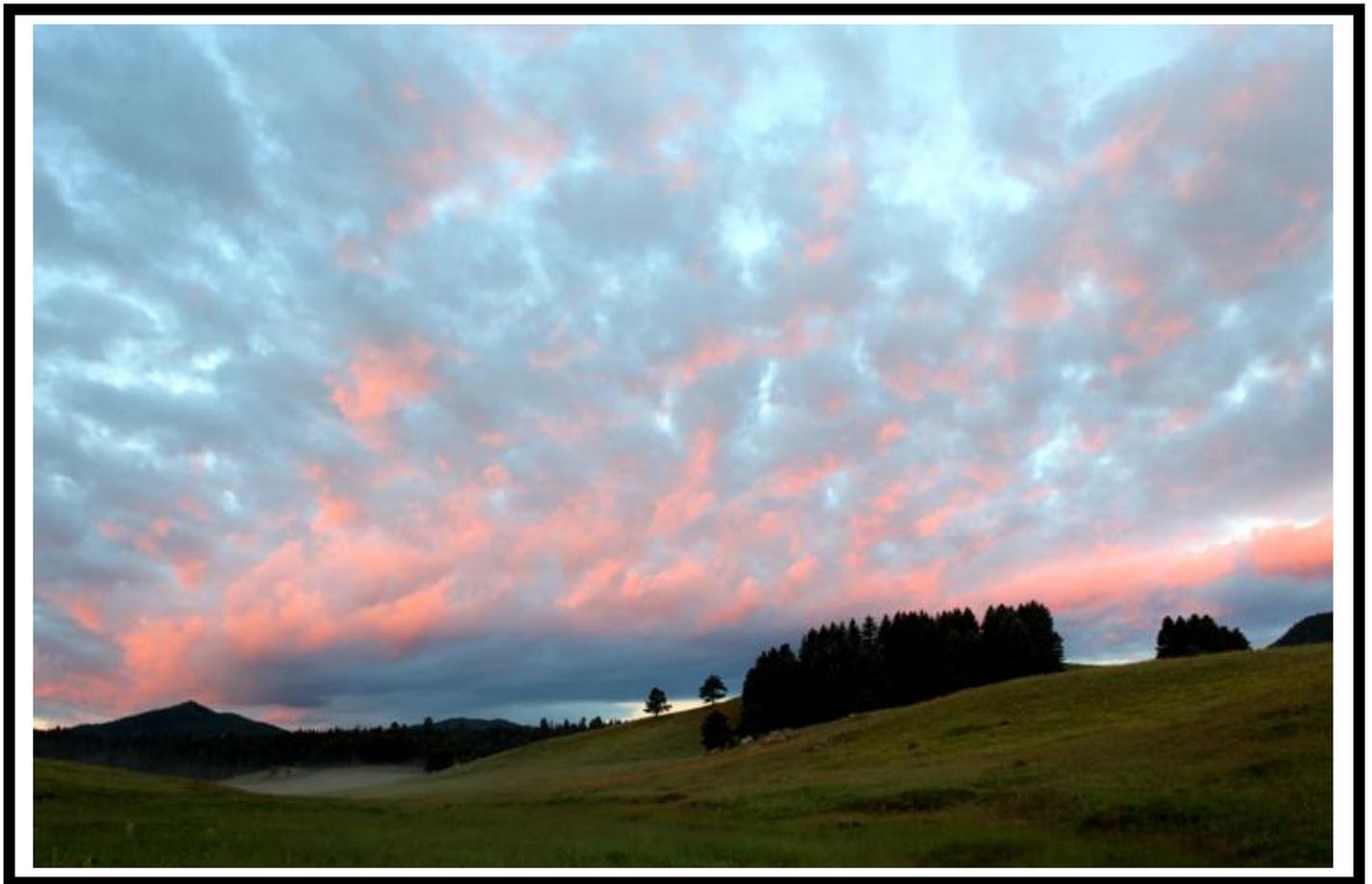
The plan also noted how performance would be tracked but did not project actual costs or revenues.

Financial Self-sufficiency

The term "financially self-sustaining" is defined in the act as meaning "*management and operating expenditures equal to or less than proceeds derived from fees and other receipts from resource use and development and interest on invested funds.*" The Act further clarifies that, "*Management and operating expenditures shall include trustee expenses, salaries and benefits of staff, administrative and operating expenses, improvements to and maintenance of*

lands and facilities of the Preserve, and other similar expenses”, in other words, all direct and indirect expenditures.

The goal for financial self-sufficiency is July 25, 2015; or fifteen full years after acquisition. If, after the fourteenth full year following acquisition, the trustees believe that goals and objectives of the comprehensive management program under section 108 (d) have been met, but the Trust has not achieved financial self-sufficiency as defined, the trustees may submit to the Committees of Congress a recommendation for authorization of appropriations beyond that provided by the Act.



SUNRISE IN THE VALLE GRANDE - PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROURKE McDERMOTT

Section 2 – Fiscal Year 2010 Goal Attainment

The FY 2009 Report to Congress identified numerous goals for the operating units of the Trust for 2010. Comments on the progress made by management in addressing these goals follow:

2.1 Administration

2.1.1 Reduce length of time for vendor payment

Results

The Trust has made significant improvements in reducing late payments to suppliers. This has resulted in fewer interest penalties paid and improved relationships with vendors. This effort will be continued until we reach the desired level of performance.

2.1.2 Improve requisition efficiency

Results

The Trust continues to make improvements in providing timely deliverance of services and supplies. Expanding the utilization of credit cards in purchasing is underway in order to cut down on the requisition-to-payment timing process.

2.1.3 Comply with Federal Law in audit submission

Results

The Trust did not complete its Fiscal Year 2010 financial statement audit by November 15, 2010, due to pending legislation which might have eliminated the need for the audit expense. In the December, 2010 Board of Trustee meeting, the Trustees decided to proceed with the 2010 audit due to no action by Congress on the pending legislation. The audit will be contracted and performed immediately.

2.2 Communications and Marketing

2.2.1 Expansion of Marketing Program

Results

Radio impressions dramatically increased with funding made available for full winter and summer seasons. Print, radio, brochure, web and face-to-face marketing combined for more than 7.5 million impressions which is a dramatic increase compared with a little more than 2 million in 2009. Increased awareness from advertising contributed to a dramatic 59% increase in Preserve visitation and a 15% increase in recreation revenue. Considerable assistance was given the Science and Education group in creating materials to promote the Science and Education Center programs and activities.

2.2.2 Promote and Coordinate Lodging Rentals

Results

A robust marketing program of collateral materials, messaging and a still-developing client database were developed during the year for the Science and Education Center and are in place to support FY 2011 efforts. Results exceeded projections for the Center in 2010 with many repeat clients already booked for 2011. Preserve lodging proved to be very popular and future revenue is expected to increase in part due to hunt lodgers and facility upgrades in time for the 2011 season.

2.2.3 Develop up-to-date website to accommodate marketing and advertising programs and retail sales

Results

Key investments in on-line retail software and hardware made product sales more efficient for customers and staff. An investment in photography equipment combined with a dedicated staff photographer provided professional grade graphics and artwork for companion on-line banner ads and marketing. In addition to the website the VCT now includes Facebook and Twitter accounts as part of its social media outreach. Retail revenue almost doubled in 2010 from the previous year.

2.2.4 Expand IT service to provide for additional facilities acquired due to changes in rental agreements, including a new Science and Education Center and Administration building

Results

IT supervised and conducted complete upgrades to telephone, internet and communications systems from design through implementation. Necessary support for operations included providing for the buildings' network cabling infrastructure, network service, PC's and laptops, printing, VoIP, and VPN Tunnels to the Trust's main site for both facilities. Hardware upgrades included purchase, installation and deployment of servers, laptops, networking systems and software. New telephone systems were also purchased, AV capability installed, and on-line computing is available throughout the SEC including the science laboratory. The admin building and SEC are fully operational with state-of-the-art computing and phone systems.

2.2.5 Update IT system with hardware and software upgrades

Results

The Trust's printing capabilities were hampered by outdated printers and copiers. By introducing more efficient printers, reducing the overall number of professional printers, and replacing user's personal printers with larger localized Multi-Function printers, the expense for ink purchased was greatly reduced. The overall quality of printing also

improved due to the newer technology in the new items purchased. A system wide laptop refresh and telephone upgrade was also completed in conjunction with bringing the new SEC and Admin buildings on line.

2.2.6 Improve IT Security

Results

During fiscal year 2010 the Trust was identified as a Micro-Agency and the number of aspects reported for Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) was reduced significantly. The reporting tool now allows for identifying crucial issues and producing Security Content Automation Protocol (SCAP) reports when requested by the OMB. It also provides a thorough analysis of systems and could provide a great deal of auditing capability in the event of a security incident.

2.3 Preserve Operations

2.3.1 Increase fenced pasture acreage in order to optimize revenue from livestock program

Results

New proposed pastures have been identified and can be developed by adding new fencing within existing pastures that also keep livestock out of sensitive riparian areas. Up to 10,349 acres of pasture could be utilized by adding these fences which would represent 114,050 linear feet of fencing.

- A South Shipping Trap pasture (creates 778 acres, requires 7,341 linear ft of fencing, estimated cost \$17.6K)
- A South Valle Grande pasture (creates 1,247 acres, 15,502 ft of fencing, \$37.2K)
- A Posos pasture (creates 1,726 acres, 16,064 ft of fencing, \$38.5K)
- A North Toledo pasture (creates 2,325 acres, 15,649 ft of fencing, \$39.1K)
- An East San Antonio Bench pasture (creates 1,968 acres, 17,496 ft of fencing, \$43.7k)
- A North San Antonio Bench pasture (creates 1,442 acres, 24,502 ft of fencing, \$58.8K)
- A West San Antonio Bench pasture (creates 863 acres, 17,496 ft of fencing , \$43.7K)

2.3.2 Complete long-term planning for public access and use

Results

Ultimately, five action alternatives were developed which vary in the location and scale of development. The Trust will study the potential environmental consequences that would result from the implementation of any of the action alternatives as well as taking no action at all. During the analysis the public will have the opportunity to review the details of each alternative and provide feedback. During the scoping period, public comment was used to identify issues and formulate alternatives. During the analysis phase the comments will

help ensure the EIS focuses on potential effects or outcomes that are of importance to the public. The complete analysis will be documented in a draft EIS and distributed to the public for review and comment in 2011.

2.3.3 Upgrade potential rental facilities

Results

In 2010, the Trust, working in cooperation with the Center for Design and Interpretation (CDI), Region 2, Forest Service, competed and has available for solicitation, contracts and design specifications for the lodge, bunkhouse and both A-frames on the Preserve. Although the Trust has not gone out for bids for the renovation of these facilities, these contracts will be given priority and should be out for solicitation and a contractor(s) selected within the next few months. Construction is scheduled for the spring of 2011.

2.3.4 Expand hiking opportunities on the Preserve

Results

The Trust was able to almost double the total miles of hiking trails to 54-plus in 2010. Registering for a hiking shuttle or guided hike can be done at the Preserve, via our website or by calling our toll free number. Reservations are not required to hike on the Preserve and over 6200 visitors enjoyed the activity in 2010.

2.4 Science and Education

2.4.1 Natural Resources Inventory

Results

In FY 2009-2010, the Trust's inventory objectives included (1) publication of a Valles Caldera geology map; (2) publication of the Valles Caldera Level-2 Soils Map; and (3) continued inventories of beneficial and pest species of insects in collaboration with the USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory and Smithsonian Institution. Geology and soils projects were completed in 2010, although actual publication was delayed until 2011. Insect surveys were continued during the 2010 field season, and additional species added to the inventory list and archived collections; in particular, numerous identifications were made for specimens in the Orthoptera (crickets and grasshoppers) and Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), with additional identification being made for other groups (e.g., aphids, beetles, aquatic insects, and dragonflies).

2.4.2 Natural Resources Monitoring

Results

In 2010, the Trust's objectives for natural resource monitoring were to continue ongoing monitoring activities for climate, stream water quality and discharge amounts, vegetation

forage production and utilization by wildlife and livestock, plant biodiversity and cover, impacts of elk and livestock on riparian ecosystems, fish populations (all species), elk populations (including predator impacts on calf survival) and movements, and landscape-level ecosystem productivity. All monitoring programs were successfully completed in 2010, with completed field data acquisitions, data analyses, and presentation of the field data to the Board of Trustees and the public during meetings in public.

2.4.3 Natural Resources Research

Results

The continuing objective for the Trust is to encourage scientific activities on the Preserve, as evidenced by the number of projects, the funding levels provided by non-VCT sources, and the contributions of scientists to the understanding of Preserve natural and cultural resources (via publications and presentations). Indicators for science community interest in studying the Valles Caldera National Preserve can be gleaned from the number of projects conducted, the amount of funding generated to support these projects, and the number of publications/presentations resulting from the research. Current (2010) funding from outside (non-VCT) sources came from 44 different project sources, and exceeded \$3.9 million, which is greater than the entire FY 2010 Congressional appropriation to the Trust. These funds, while not all spent on the Preserve *per se*, contributed to the regional economy through personnel salaries, purchasing of equipment and supplies, travel, contracts, and educational stipends – and all of these transactions generate tax revenues for the local, state and Federal governments. More importantly, the information gleaned from these studies is being used to direct managers on how best to apply manipulative actions on the ground – forest thinning prescriptions, use of fire, distributions of livestock, predator impacts on elk populations, fisheries management, etc.

2.4.4 Cultural Resources

Results

Necessary information was provided in a timely manner to enable program planning and project implementation while considering resource preservation and tribal communication. Cultural resources review was completed for 29 individual projects, and input was provided for landscape-scale forest restoration and public access planning. Seventeen specific on-the-ground cultural resources inventory, site-assessment, or monitoring projects were completed in advance of project planning. Rapid response during the winter 2009-10 provided cultural resources clearance for Redondo Canyon and Highway 4 Forest Restoration fuels treatments projects supporting “shovel-ready” status for ARRA funding. For Public Access and Use Planning, inventory information was provided for the three proposed Visitor Center locations, and survey or site-assessment was conducted for 25.4 miles of new trails and 22 archaeological sites.

Tribal consultation was conducted through meetings at three pueblos, and mailings to 36 Native American groups in which the Trust seeks input on all planned projects for the year.

In maintaining the Trust's relationship with the NM Historic Preservation Division and State Historic Preservation Office, a field visit was made to archeological sites and historic properties and a meeting was held in Santa Fe to discuss historic structures and the Headquarters Historic District nomination. In June 2010, the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation suspended work on the programmatic agreement for management of cultural resources pending the outcome of the Senate proposal to convert management of the Preserve to the National Park Service.

The CR Team initiated an analysis of all Preserve ceramic artifacts and continued the temporal-diagnostic projectile point typology study. The results of these projects were presented as a poster-symposium at the annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology in St. Louis, along with posters concerning Preserve projects with obsidian geochemistry and chronometry, the aspen dendroglyph survey, an investigation of rock features at site LA132045, and the University of New Mexico 2008-2009 archaeological field school surveys in the East Fork of the Jemez River area.

2.4.5 Science Education

Results

In FY2010, the Trust continued developing the Science and Education Center in Jemez Springs. Renovation of the facility, begun in September 2009, continued through early March, 2010 and the facility successfully opened for use in mid-March 2010. As a result, the educational programs on the Preserve expanded considerably in 2010, through the use of a modern teaching classroom and laboratory facility, and housing for 'students' of all ages (K through elder hostel) from across the nation. In its first year of operation, targeted revenue of \$52,000 was exceeded by \$10,000.



EAST FORK OF THE JEMEZ RIVER - PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROURKE McDERMOTT

Section 3 – Trust Administration

3.1 Organization

This year the Trust staff consisted of 17 permanent, full time employees and 10 who worked less than full time or were employed for a limited term. In addition, the Trust employed an average of 40 temporary employees during the summer field season and 10 during the winter months.

3.1.1 Staff – (as of September 30, 2010)

Executive Director, Gary Bratcher

Executive Assistant Berta Pantoja

Communications and Marketing Manager, Terry McDermott

Information Technologies Specialist, Will Breedlove

Computer Technician, Darren Toya

Administrative Officer, Dennis Rino

Human Resources Specialist, Catherine Gonzales

Accountant, Sharon Waagen

Purchasing Agent, Kim Toribio

General Manager Preserve Operations, Dennis Trujillo

Natural Resources Coordinator, Marie Rodriguez

GIS Program Specialist, John Swigart

Seasonal Cartographic Crew (3)

Ranch Foreman, Dr. Tim Haarmann

Seasonal Ranch Crew (3)

Recreation Program Manager, Rob Dixon

Supervisory Customer Services Representative, Teresa Franklin

Seasonal Retail Sales and Facilities Rentals (6)

Supervisory Recreation Specialist, Kimberly DeVall

Seasonal Recreation Assistants II (9)

Seasonal Recreation Assistant I (3)

Interpretive Assistant, Carmen Blumberg

Landscape Architect / Photographer, Rourke Mc Dermott

Hunt Program Coordinator, Mick Trujillo

Director of Science and Education, Dr. Robert Parmenter

Biological Science Technician, Mark Peyton

Hydrologist, Scott Compton

Seasonal Biological Field Technicians (4)

Cultural Resources Coordinator, Dr. Ana Steffen
 Archaeologist Crew Chief, Jeremy Decker
 Archaeologist Crew Member, Jacqueline Stark
Seasonal Archaeological Crew (3)
 Facility Operations, Lizabeth Shulman
 Interpretive Assistant / Public Education Coordinator, Stacy Urich

3.2 Board of Trustees

The Valles Caldera Preservation Act provides that, “In general the Trust shall be governed by a nine member Board of Trustees consisting of the Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest; the Superintendent of the Bandelier National Monument, National Park Service; and seven individuals appointed by the President with specific expertise or representing an organization or government entity as described.” Trustees held board meetings in public three times during FY 2010.

At the beginning of 2010, there was a partially filled Board of Trustees comprised by:

1. Mr. Stephen Henry
2. Mr. Ed Tinsley
3. Dr. Raymond Loretto
4. Mr. Virgil Trujillo
5. Mr. Dan Jiron
6. Mr. Jason Lott

Trustee Jiron accepted a job transfer to California during the summer and was replaced by Santa Fe National Forest Acting Supervisor Erin Connelly. Of the three remaining vacancies, two were filled by the presidential appointments of Dr. Melissa Savage and Dr. Kenneth Smith in August.

As indicated below there are eight sitting trustees at present with Mr. Henry and Mr. Tinsley scheduled to leave the board when their terms expire on January 16, 2011.

CURRENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEE	TERM EXPIRATION	POSITION/EXPERTISE
Erin Connelly	Ex Officio	Interim Supervisor Santa Fe National Forest
Jason Lott	Ex Officio	Superintendent Bandelier National Monument

Dr. Melissa Savage	January 16,2013	Expertise in the natural and cultural history of the area.
Dr. Kenneth Smith	January 16,2013	Expertise in sustainable forest management
Virgil Trujillo	January 16,2013	Expertise in aspects of domestic livestock management, production and marketing
Dr. Raymond Loretto	January 16,2013	Active in New Mexico state or local government with expertise in the customs of the area
Stephen Henry	January 16,2011	Expertise in game and nongame wildlife and fish populations
Ed Tinsley	January 16,2011	Expertise in financial management, budget and program analysis and small business management

3.3 Budget

The annual budget of the Trust consists of current FY appropriations (Treasury Account 1106), and revenue generated through operations (Treasury Account 5363). The following table represents the FY 2010 expenditure and revenue summary for the Trust:

3.3.1 Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Summary

FY2010	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	PROGRAM
	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES	REVENUES
PROGRAM	1106	5363	5363
ADMINISTRATION	1,555,486	115,602	31,476
COMMUNITY SERVICES	15,176	0	1,558
FISHING PROGRAM	0	35,837	60,281
FACILITY RENTALS	0	72,501	23,827
HUNTING PROGRAMS	3,419	110,788	276,944
INVENTORY/MONITORING	738,764	0	0
INFRASTRUCTURE	0	702,067	0
PLANNING	140,932	0	0
OPERATIONS	685,518	0	15,624
SUMMER RECREATION	2,768	220,993	52,801

STORE SALES, ADM	4,982	195,016	104,089
SPECIAL USES	0	1,906	3,500
WINTER RECREATION	565	58,638	33,940
STEWARDSHIP COMPLIANCE	304,345	0	0
SPECIAL EVENTS	26	46,400	42,880
SCIENCE/EDUCATION	0	638,391	62,298
ALL PROGRAMS	\$3,451,981	\$2,198,139	\$709,218

3.4 Compliance

During Fiscal Year 2010 the Trust completed and published its financial statement audit for fiscal year ended September 30, 2009.

3.5 Communications and Marketing

A cohesive, robust communications and marketing plan was developed, implemented and active for an entire fiscal year for the first time in 2010. Beginning with the winter season and running through September funding was allocated to print, electronic and social media in a strategically targeted manner as prescribed in the communication plan. Highlights included:

Radio advertising targeted at specific events increased participation in the marathon and fishing programs.

Development and distribution of new collateral materials including a Science and Education Center (SEC) brochure, individual activity posters and 60,000+ Super Volcano brochures. We have populated the SEC webpage with brochure and are looking to do on-line bookings.

In 2010, the Trust improved its web site by purchasing and implementing software to enhance an on-line presence, including a complete social media suite of Twitter, Facebook, and email blasts. New on-line retail software contributed to doubling retail sales over 2009.

Investment in professional camera equipment and dedication of an in-house photographer and graphics design employee provided just-in-time creation of targeted collateral materials, additional retail inventory and web graphics at a considerable time and cost savings.

Print advertising expanded to include winter and summer activity guides as well as targeted publication opportunities.

The improvements made in advertising resulted in an increase of more than five million impressions over 2009 and had a direct positive impact on Trust visitation and revenue.

3.6 Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) staff improved the overall communications efficiency of the Valles Caldera Trust by maturing infrastructure, enhancing security, expanding development, and expediting technical support. Infrastructure for the system underwent many major improvements in 2010. Adding the Science and Education Center and the new Administration offices involved completely overhauling the infrastructure for not only the new facilities, but the Trust's main offices as well. Both sites required substantial infrastructure improvements in order to support the operations' requirements provided by the Trust's administration. Necessary support for operations included providing for the buildings' network cabling infrastructure, network service, PC's and laptops, printing, VoIP, and VPN Tunnels to the Trust's main site for both facilities.

The Science and Education Center provided a unique challenge in the need to find a minimal cost solution for providing a high bandwidth connection for the large numbers of visitors expected to utilize the network in the facility. Two networks were created to allow a more secure environment for the Trust's staff while allowing for a more traditionally open Wi-Fi network for guests of the Center. The Administrative facility was fairly straightforward and was equipped with a 6Mb EIA connection in anticipation of future upgrades to the Trust's network infrastructure.

The overall response time to help desk requests was consistent throughout the year. The downtime for staff only slightly increased due to the additional workload of installing and maintaining two new facilities with the same amount of IT resources allocated. Improvements to the IT staff's Help Desk capabilities are planned for 2011 that should increase response time.

The Trust's printing capabilities were hampered by outdated printers and copiers. There was also a large amount of expense related to printing costs. By introducing more efficient printers, reducing the overall number of professional printers, and replacing user's personal printers with larger localized multi-function printers, the amount of ink purchased was greatly reduced. The overall quality of printing also improved due to the newer technology in the new items purchased.

Section 4 – Preserve Operations

Preserve Operations experienced serious drops in revenue generation and visitation in 2009, resulting in a complete evaluation of recreational activities and opportunities by management and staff. As a result, new programs were added, existing programs were modified taking into consideration public input, and an aggressive marketing plan was put into place. Coupled with this, the Trustees authorized the utilization of approximately \$4.4 million in revenue funding to be invested into the Trust's operations and infrastructure in 2010/11. These actions resulted in a very successful turn-around in 2010 Preserve results with a 59 % increase in visitation and a 15% increase in revenue over FY 2009. Another noticeable achievement was an 80% increase in recreation volunteer hours which allowed improvements to be made to the Preserve outside of our budgeted activities.

4.1 Recreation

The recreation programs were expanded into nine areas for 2010: facility rentals, fishing, hunting, summer recreation, hiking, information center, special events, special uses, and winter recreation. The Trust is striving to provide quality recreational activities and experiences while maintaining the Preserve's natural and cultural values. One innovation in recreation results from the ability to close an area of the Preserve to all activities except for a specific event on a specific date and then re-open to regular activities the following day. This allows the Trust to host unique and high quality special events such as marathons and mountain bike rides, which can attract hundreds of visitors for a single day. The Trust had one commercial photo shoot this year, and several film scouts indicate that they will include the Preserve for 2011 filming locations.

The Preserve has year-round access to observation areas and two free hiking trails via New Mexico Highway 4. The information centers and expanded access to the Preserve allowed public access seven days a week from May through October and weekends from December through March. The information centers and expanded access is closed most of the spring as roads are impassible.

The following table illustrates the visitation numbers for the various programs and volunteer assistance to the Trust:

Program	Visitors	Volunteer Hrs.	Value to Trust
Facility Rentals	1,258	128	2,669
Fishing	1,746	788	16,430
Hiking	6,205	452	9,424
Hunting	2,076	1,457	30,378
Information Center	6,170	61	1,272
Special Events	2,182	3,632	75,727
Special Uses	35	-	-
Summer Recreation	1,933	634	13,219
Winter Recreation	<u>3,179</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>1,397</u>
Totals	24,784	7,219	\$150,516

Visitor totals are calculated by counting actual visitors who participate in an activity or visit one of our two staging areas. This does not take into account the many visitors who only stop at our highway pullouts to view the Preserve. Value of volunteer hours is calculated at \$20.85 per hour based on information found at:

<http://www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow/calculator.asp>

4.1.1 Facility Rentals

The primary management direction is to provide access to Trust rental facilities and to assure the public that these facilities are safe, clean, attractive, efficient and accessible. The overall condition of the two rental facilities on the Preserve (lodge and bunkhouse) is fair but all government agencies, including the Valles Caldera Trust, are required to incorporate accessibility standards into all federally conducted or federally assisted facilities, programs, services, and activities.

In 2010 the Trust, in cooperation with the Center for Design and Interpretation (CDI), Region 2, Forest Service, contracted design specifications for repairs and modifications for the lodge, bunkhouse and A-frame structures. These contracts will be given priority and should be out for solicitation and contractor(s) selected in early 2011 for construction in the spring of 2011. The lodge and bunkhouse have been the highest priority for accessibility renovation in an effort to reduce potential liability, and along with making these buildings compliant, the Trust will also incorporate design elements that will improve overall function and appearance. In 2010 the lodge and bunkhouse were made available for public use and provided 1012 visitor nights and 246 day visits for public use.

4.1.2 Fishing

Program changes made in 2009, a continuation of the reservation system for access and participation, expanded hours of operation, and effective marketing resulted in a rebound in fishing results. Fishing clinics were expanded this year including one event for the Big Brother organization from Los Alamos. The New Mexico Trout organization was a great volunteer partner in the Preserve fishing program this year.

4.1.3 Hiking

In 2010, the hiking program was separated out from summer recreation in order to track hiking related expenses and revenues. Hikers had the choice of 14 different hiking trails totaling 54-plus miles of trail. Trails ranged from 1.5 mile loops to 16 mile out and back trails. Access to these trails was provided by driving to trail parking or by shuttle.

The shuttle was well received for several reasons. The volume of trails roughly doubled. Hikers were not required to pick a trail to hike in advance. They could change their minds anywhere along the shuttle route and pick another trail on the route. If they completed their hike early enough they could simply catch the shuttle to another hike and continue hiking. A 16 mile out and back trail is too long for many hikers, but was very popular with

runners. The shuttle system allowed visitors to hike out and catch another shuttle back, cutting the distance in half.

Some visitors simply rode the shuttle and never got off. This gave them a quick tour of the Preserve without interpretation. The most popular contributor to the shuttle systems positive reception was resource protection. Our staff explained we didn't have developed trail heads with parking and the shuttle system allowed access to the trails without causing damage to the resource.

4.1.4 Hunting

Elk hunting

For 2010, a total of 15,000 elk and 5000 turkey hunt brochures were distributed to license vendors throughout the state and at several outdoor expositions. The Valles Caldera National Preserve continues to provide excellent elk hunting opportunities on public land. We are working with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDG&F) for the best management of the Jemez elk herd, by closely monitoring the elk numbers and focusing on the recruitment of elk calves on the Preserve, Unit 6B. For the past several years the Preserve has documented a low percentage (20 -24 %) of elk calves that survive to the age of one year which is of concern because the Preserve has the second lowest elk calf recruitment in the State. Elk biologists from the NMDG&F suggest that in order to stabilize a viable and healthy elk herd of approximately 3000 animals, in Unit 6B, the calf recruitment rate should be within a range between 35 and 40%. We continue to adjust annual harvest numbers and we are also looking at a third year of studies in cooperation with the NMDGF focusing specifically on elk calf mortalities for future management of this herd.

The mature bull/either sex hunts continue to be popular as well as the youth/mentor antlerless hunts. All hunt orientation information revolves around hunter ethics and safety. The youth/mentor hunts in particular encourage mentors to teach their charges about ethical hunting practices and hunter safety.

Based on mobility impaired hunter input, in 2009 the Trust reduced the number of hunt tags for the mobility impaired in order to reduce the amount of vehicle traffic while increasing the size of their hunt area. To date hunters have experienced a high level of success, although this year the inclement weather was a major challenge on this hunt and the overall success dropped.

This fall the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, in cooperation with the Trust, issued 77 bull tags for the Preserve; 77 hunters harvested 48 mature bulls for a 62 percent success rate. Ninety-eight percent of bull hunters had an opportunity to harvest a legal bull elk (i.e. either missed or declined to take a shot). The state also issued 173 antlerless tags, of which 165 hunters harvested 71 antlerless elk for a 43% success rate.

Turkey hunting

In 2010, the Trust offered its fourth wild turkey hunt since the property became public land. The Merriam's turkey was offered to the public on a fair chase basis and under low hunting pressure using a bow or shotgun. The Trust continued with providing two programs in 2010 for hunting turkey and both programs were open to the public and generated revenue for the Trust.

The "Deluxe Hunt Package" included three days of hunting and fishing, one day of scouting, and four nights of lodging and meals at the Lodge. Of the eight packages offered in 2010, four were sold and one was auctioned off at the National Rocky Mountain Elk National Convention. Each hunter was allowed to bring one guest for an additional fee.

The second program allowed the public to enter a lottery draw system for twelve Preserve access authorizations. One authorization was raffled by the New Mexico Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The lottery fee was \$20 per chance and the drawing included one day of scouting and three days of hunting on the Preserve. The hunters selected through the lottery and the one raffle winner were allowed day access only, with one guest at no cost to hunt and fish.

All elk and turkey hunters received a welcoming letter, an orientation packet and an access agreement. The Trust requires a liability waiver to be signed by elk and turkey hunters and their guests. Also, each hunter was required to attend an orientation where the hunting rules and regulations were reviewed. Volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and others again donated their time to assist hunters on the youth, mobility impaired and other antlerless elk hunts.

Hunters reported that the elk and turkey hunts were high quality and that they would like to return to hunt again. The Trust continues to receive numerous letters of appreciation from hunters for the attention received from staff, which added to their experience and perception of the value of hunting on the Preserve.

4.1.5 Information Centers

Our three information centers provide information about the Preserve and activities, retail sales for VCNP merchandise, and fee processing for other recreation activities on site. This gives the visitor the option to make a reservation in advance on the web or reserve their activity on site.

In FY 2010 merchandise sales increased by 89 percent over FY 2009 to \$104,098. This large increase in merchandise sales resulted from increased visitation coupled with more diversified and available product lines, improved retail facilities, and improved sales

management. The new temporary visitor center in the Valle Grande was open all year in 2010 and served the bulk of our 24,000-plus visitors.

4.1.6 Special events

Recurring special events for 2010 included the 5th annual Run the Caldera Marathon & Half marathon, four Cruise the Caldera Mountain Bike Fun Rides (85 miles of trails to choose from), two photo adventures, two moonlight ski and snowshoe events, and ski orienteering. New additions for the year included:

- A New Year's Eve cross country skiing & snowshoe event complete with fireworks at midnight
- The addition of a 10k to the Run the Caldera Marathon and Half Marathon
- Caldera 3-D Archery Shootout partnered with the Jemez Pueblo's Walatowa Bowhunters Club for this two-day archery competition
- Two twilight mountain bike fun rides where riders could explore 12 miles of road while the wildlife began their evening routines in the valleys
- The Pioneer Endurance Ride partnered again with the American Endurance Ride Conference to offer this three day ride
- Caldera Adventure Workshop, a three-day event focused on connecting kids with nature using primitive skills as a conduit

Due to word of mouth, increased marketing activities, maintaining a consistent event and the addition of a 10K run, participation in the 5th annual marathon almost doubled this year with 535 registrations. Approximately 480 people ran, making it the largest event that didn't involve driving a car. The moonlight ski & snowshoe events drew over 600 participants in three nights. The first 3-D archery shoot attracted approximately 200 participants.

In an effort to connect more kids with nature, several primitive skills events were held throughout the year and attracted groups from Santa Fe Prep Academy, Los Alamos Middle School, Zia Pueblo Head Start program, and the Jemez Pueblo Wellness Program. The Jemez Pueblo group consisted of 82 children ages 8-16 for three consecutive days of outdoor adventure on the Preserve.

In 2010 we initiated and successfully collaborated in special events and VCNP recreational informational programs with other agencies including:

- New Mexico Department of Tourism
- Jemez Pueblo (Walatowa Visitor Center and Jemez Pueblo Wellness Program)
- Santa Clara Pueblo/Puye Cliffs
- Santa Fe National Forest
- Zia Pueblo/ Head Start program
- Los Alamos County

- Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce
- Santa Fe Prep Academy
- Albuquerque Biopark
- Fenton Lake State Park
- National Association of State Park Directors
- Bandelier National Monument
- REI sporting good stores
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- La Cueva Volunteer Fire Department
- Sandoval County Scenic Byway
- Jemez Valley Community Association
- New Mexico 4-H
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Albuquerque

4.1.7 Special Uses

Special uses represent commercial filming and photography and were separated from “special events” in 2010. This separation allows for a better understanding of commercial interests on the Preserve. One commercial photography shoot was made this year and several movie scouts visited. The Preserve is listed as a potential location for several movies in 2011.

4.1.8 Summer activities

Summer activities included van tours (wildlife, ecology, cultural, botany, history, artist, etc.), astronomy tours, equestrian trail riding, and mountain bike trail riding. The hiking program was separated from summer recreation in an effort to better track the program. The one-hour Magma to Magpie tour is still the most popular tour, followed closely by elk tours. This tour runs several times a day and allows for the casual visitor to get a closer look at the Preserve and learn about its history. Many of the other activities are growing in response to word of mouth and increased marketing of what is offered.

4.1.9 Winter activities

Winter recreation on the Preserve offers 29 miles of groomed and 8 miles of un-groomed cross country skiing and snowshoeing trails. Along with the largest amount of groomed trails in New Mexico, visitors have over 13,000 acres to break their own trails. Horse-drawn sleigh rides provide a very special experience and in 2010 the 39 scheduled rides sold out, as well as 13 additional rides that were added due to the high demand. Several other dates were added and sold out also. The program still struggles with challenges in cost containment, primarily in clearing snow from the roads. The lack of adequate infrastructure continues to be the biggest challenge for winter recreation.

4.2 Livestock Program

Multiple Use and Sustained Yield

The Valles Caldera Preservation Act foresaw continued management of the VCNP as a working ranch. For a second season, the Trust operated a livestock program under the environmental assessment (EA) for the “Multiple Use and Sustained Yield” which was completed last year. The EA provided a framework of adaptive management to guide the Trust in the continued operation of annual programs for domestic livestock grazing. The Trust made a Finding of No Significant Impact and an implementing decision regarding a comprehensive program for the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield of the Preserve’s Forage Resources (MUSY- Forage). This decision marked the first comprehensive program implemented under the NEPA procedures developed for the Trust including adaptive management.

Adaptive Management for MUSY – Forage is implemented under a system of Goals, Objectives and Monitored Outcomes as required in the procedures. Under the program, measurable objectives were established for ecological goals. Progress is based on annual monitoring. Thresholds for adjusting management actions are also based on monitored outcomes. Annual monitoring occurs in 41 ecological sites (grazed and un-grazed by domestic livestock) and is correlated with environmental data (precipitation, soil moisture, weather, etc.).

For a second consecutive year, the Valles Caldera Trust awarded the program on the Preserve to New Mexico State University (NMSU). The University, through the extension service, operated small, multiple objective programs on the Preserve this summer designed to address animal health and ecological issues important in the regional area. There were over 600 head of cattle on the Preserve in 2010.

Unfortunately, as has been the case in years past, trespass cattle continued to be a problem on the Preserve, mostly on the northern part of the Preserve. The fence is often cut throughout the grazing season and dozens of trespass cattle graze on the Preserve. Substantial effort was made to remove cattle off of the Preserve, or have the owners come retrieve their cattle, but continual cutting of the fence makes keeping trespass cattle off the Preserve a difficult task.

4.2.1 High altitude bull evaluation program

Forty-five yearling bulls, representing the Angus, Red Angus, Angus Plus, Hereford, Charolais, and Beefmaster breeds foraged on the Preserve this summer and underwent a variety of scientific tests before being used for breeding. Most important of these is the Pulmonary Arterial Pressure test. This test provides an indicator of the animal’s resistance to Brisket Disease, also known as High Mountain Disease or Pulmonary Hypertension. This disease is one of the Rocky Mountain region's most costly diseases. Susceptibility or resistance to brisket disease is an inheritable trait. The goal of this program was to identify bulls with the greatest resistance to brisket and promote that genetic trait, adding value to

the animal and reducing the incidence of the disease. Work was also initiated to identify genetic markers for this condition.



4.2.2 Replacement heifer program

Similar to last year, cattle producers for this program brought in over 200 artificially inseminated heifers. They were bred with bulls who were likely (through genetics) to produce a calf that would be small at birth but would gain good weight in the first year. A small calf during the first delivery will reduce the likelihood of complications occurring during birthing and lead to an overall improvement in reproductive health.

4.2.3 Cow-calf pairs program

Local cattle producers, including producers from Jemez Pueblo and the Navajo Nation, brought in over 200 cows and their calves to the Preserve. Both the mother cows and their calves benefited from the abundant forage and gained significant weight while on the Preserve. This program also had a Conservation Stewardship component in which NMSU supported Jemez Pueblo Livestock Association in resting and restoring tribal lands through summer grazing of their small cow-calf herd.

4.3 Natural Resource Management

4.3.1 Planning

The focus of the 2010 natural resource management program involved furthering the development of a comprehensive plan for restoration and management of the Preserve's natural landscape – *Landscape Restoration Management Plan (LRMP)* – which was initiated in 2009.

The Trust, along with key partners (Santa Fe National Forest, The Nature Conservancy, the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute), initiated a collaborative forest restoration strategy for the “Southwest Jemez Mountains Landscape” which included 86,200 acres of the Preserve and 110,000 acres of adjacent lands managed by the Santa Fe National Forest as well as small inclusions of Jemez Pueblo tribal lands and private lands. The collaboration included a fieldtrip with over 20 participants from state, local, and federal agencies, nongovernment organizations, universities, and citizens; a three day strategic planning workshop where over 60 individuals participated; and a full day

monitoring workshop with over 30 participants. The product of these collaborative events was a proposal for restoration submitted for consideration under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, established by congress under Title IV of Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.



FIGURE 3 – CFLRP COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP, FEBRUARY

The proposal was awarded just over \$35,000,000 to be appropriated in annual portions over ten years. While other lands are included in the landscape and strategy the funding can only be invested on the National Forest System (NFS) lands i.e. the Preserve and the Santa Fe National Forest.

The natural resources program also produced detailed and quantified reports of the vegetation, wildland fire environment, wildlife, fisheries, hydrology, soils and socio-economic settings of the Preserve. The reports were the result of the data acquisition documented in previous reports to Congress and served as the basis for the development of the proposed strategy for restoration as well as providing a baseline for adaptive management.

Planning and decision-making under the National Environmental Policy Act for the LRMP was initiated in July 2010 with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register. This publication initiated the “scoping” period and an opportunity for the public to comment on the actions being proposed. The trust developed a website which included an on-line forum for public comment and hosted a public meeting to provide detailed information and hear comments.

The LRMP proposes forest restoration and management, road closure (decommissioning and maintenance), riparian and wetland restoration, and the control and eradication of noxious weeds. Under the LRMP the Trust would thin 23,000 acres of forest over the next ten years followed by prescribed fire. An additional 32,000 acres would be treated with prescribed fire alone. Eight hundred fifty miles of roads could be closed to motor vehicle access; an additional 100 – 150 miles of road could be physically decommissioned to stop ongoing erosion. Approximately 200 miles of road would be maintained for administrative

and public access. Besides road closure and decommissioning other site-specific riparian and wetland restoration is being proposed preserve-wide. Current noxious weed control and eradication would continue and any new noxious weeds entering the Preserve would also be eradicated.

Under the proposed LRMP we expect the amount of future annual completion of restoration work would at least double that completed in 2010. The public comment was generally positive regarding the proposed activities.

4.3.2 Forest Management

The natural resource program submitted a proposal and was awarded funding for forest thinning under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Two projects totaling over 890 acres were awarded. The projects served to reduce wildfire hazard, improve forest health, and create economic opportunities. The tops and branches of the trees were piled for burning and the larger boles were made available to the public for firewood or chipped for use as landscaping material.

The Santa Fe National Forest provided employees to oversee the contract which was issued by the USDA Forest Service. While the ARRA paid for the contract work the trust reimbursed the USDA Forest Service for employee time.



Figure 4 – Forest restoration sequence

4.3.3 Range and Watershed Management

Noxious Weed Control and Eradication

The Trust continued control and eradication efforts on Canada, bull and musk thistle and began control actions on oxeye daisy. Weeds were dug out of the ground by volunteers from the Native Plant Society; herbicide was applied by individual volunteers licensed for application in the State of New Mexico. All thistle populations are down to a few isolated occurrences. Goathead, a miserable non-native, invasive plant has all but been eradicated by alert staff simply grubbing any invaders they see. Cheatgrass is spreading on open roads as a result of road maintenance disturbance.



Figure 5 - Canada thistle (left), musk thistle (center), oxeye daisy (right) (Photo ©Al Schneider, www.swcoloradowildflowers.com)

Riparian and Wetland Restoration

A variety of riparian and restoration activities were completed by volunteer groups on the Preserve this fiscal year. Los Amigos de Valles Caldera performed work in Alamo Canyon and on La Jara Creek to stop ongoing erosion caused by poorly aligned roads and lack of drainage and water crossings. Work was implemented through grants received from EPA. Santa Clara Pueblo felled trees and planted willow along Indios Creek to create habitat for beaver. WildEarth Guardians also constructed elk-cattle exclosure fences in Indios Creek to support willow and shrub plantings.

WildEarth Guardians received funding for restoration work on Sulphur, Redondo and San Antonio creeks. Implementation is expected to begin next fiscal year. These projects would plant willow and construct elk exclosures along the streams to re-establish woody riparian vegetation, ultimately improving water quality, stream condition and function, and aquatic habitats.

4.3.4 Public Access and Use Planning

At the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, the Trust had published a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Analysis (EIS) and held two public scoping meetings and hosted an interactive web forum. These meetings took place concurrent with the National Park Service's assessment to determine the suitability of the preserve for inclusion as a unit of the National Park System. This assessment and the rumors of impending legislation somewhat distracted participation at the public meetings. Many attendees came to express their opinions regarding a possible change in administration rather than to discuss proposed expansion in public access and use.

Following the scoping meetings the trust invested in more detailed assessments of potential sites for the development of visitor facilities including an investigation of sites with potential for a carbon neutral footprint.

Ultimately, the trust developed five action alternatives which vary in the location and scale of development. During the next fiscal year the trust will study the potential environmental consequences that would result from the implementation of any of the action alternatives as well as taking no action at all. During the analysis the public will have the opportunity to



FIGURE 6 – PUBLIC MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2009, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

review the details of each alternative and provide feedback. During the scoping period, public comment was used to identify issues and formulate alternatives. During the analysis phase the comments will help ensure the EIS focuses on potential effects or outcomes that are of importance to the public. The complete analysis will be documented in a draft EIS and distributed for to the public for review and comment this year.

The alternatives being considered are consistent with the Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2000 as well as the language of Senate Bill 3452, passed through committee in August. The process of preparing an EIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act is consistent with the procedures of the trust, USDA Forest Service and USDI Park Service and could be incorporated into any changes in administration of the preserve, thus protecting the current investment in time and money.

4.4 Infrastructure and Facilities

4.4.1 Roads

A major accomplishment this year was the completion of numerous improvements to several roads on the Preserve, including VC09, VC08, VC03, and VC02 using labor and equipment provided by two road crews from both the Santa Fe and the Gila National Forests. The project, which included major road and erosion improvements with installation of culverts and erosion control measures, successfully upgraded a total of about 7 miles. The long-term goals of this project are to complete a total of 16 miles of road.

In addition the Trust was able to complete 23 miles of road maintenance in FY 2010. The goal for 2011, as was the case in FY 2009, will be some level of maintenance occurring on the majority of the Preserve's open roads. Currently, public access to and uses of the Preserve's existing facilities are still limited. These facilities require deferred maintenance to address compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and public health and safety. Deferred maintenance identified in the 2006 facilities assessment (USFS Gila NF, Engineering Department, 2006) can proceed as guided.

4.4.2 Facilities

The new Valle Grande Visitor Contact Station has dramatically improved public service and safety at the Preserve. The public has truly enjoyed this first season's full use of the much improved visitor facility which features increased square footage, covered porches, wood burning fireplace, and solar powered lighting. The Visitor Contact Station will be used for the next three to five years while the planning and analysis are completed regarding the locations and construction of permanent visitor facilities. In addition, the Trust has upgraded several restroom facilities to meet ADA standard. At our main Valle Grande staging area, near the Visitor Contact Station the Trust has purchased and installed a

double vault toilet. While at the Banco Bonito staging area, where the majority of the large recreation events are staged (including mountain biking and equestrian activities every weekend), we have also installed a single vault toilet. We installed a single vault toilet at the Cerros del Abrigo trailhead, one of our most popular hiking trails on the Preserve. The Trust has made these improvements to better accommodate and enhance the outdoor experiences of the public with disabilities and the general public as a whole.



MOUNTAIN BIKERS RESTING IN THE VALLE JARAMILLO - PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROURKE McDERMOTT

Section 5 – Science and Education

5.1 Science

The Trust's Science program consists primarily of inventory, monitoring and research related to natural and cultural resources and socio-economic conditions, and is supported by ~20 percent of the Trust's planned budget. The Trust's robust science program has provided the necessary foundation for "Science Based Adaptive Management" as described in the Trust's Management Principles. Fiscal year accomplishments in the areas of inventory, monitoring and research are summarized below.

Inventory

When the Preserve was acquired by Congress in 2000, very little information was available on the natural and cultural resources of the site. Much of the initial scientific effort was directed toward inventory studies of the Preserve and, since 2002, Trust staff and many outside collaborators have completed a new geology map, a new high-resolution soils map, a vegetation map, forest stand and condition maps, species inventories and distributions of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, fungi/lichens, aquatic insects, and many groups of beneficial and pest terrestrial insects (e.g., beetles, grasshoppers, butterflies, moths, dragonflies, aphids, etc.). Watershed health, fish habitat and stream functioning condition have been assessed for the major watersheds on the Preserve, and stream water quality has been quantified. To-date, Trust archaeologists have discovered and inventoried over 590 cultural resource sites, with evidence of human use of the Preserve and caldera obsidian deposits dating back 11,000 years. Archaeological inventories to date still represent only 14% of the Preserve's land area.

In 2010, the following inventories were completed on the Preserve:

- **Geology and Soils Inventories and Maps**

Major inventory projects on the geology and soil resources of the Preserve were completed in 2010. The geology inventory composite map and GIS data layer were finished, and a draft map has been compiled for public distribution. A Preserve-wide soil inventory (Terrestrial Ecosystem Survey) was also completed in FY 2009. This is a standardized inventory completed by the USDA's Forest Service and National Resource Conservation Service. All data sets have been finished and provided to the Trust, along with some of the digitized soil maps. Final maps, data base and Geographic Information System data will be made available to scientists and the public in early 2011.

- **Biodiversity Inventory**

In 2010, the Trust continued collaboration with the USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL, Beltsville, MD) and the Smithsonian Institution (SI, Washington, DC) for the inventory of beneficial and pest insect species on the Preserve. Archived voucher

collections of insect species found on the Preserve are being stored in the SEL/SI collections, as well as in the Preserve voucher collection in the Science and Education Center. This latter collection is used for assisting visiting scientists, as well as in educational activities for public school students to illustrate the enormous biodiversity on the Preserve. The SEL/SI inventory program is funded through FY 2011, and entomologists will work on the Preserve during the coming summer. In addition, a summary symposium of the insect biodiversity work was held in December 2010 at the annual national meeting of the Entomological Society of America in San Diego, CA.

- **LiDAR-based topographic and vegetation inventory**

In the summer of 2010, the Trust collaborated with the University of Arizona's "Critical Zone Observatory" program on the Preserve to acquire a high-resolution inventory of land topography and vegetation structure using LiDAR ("**L**ight **D**istance **A**nd **R**anging") technology. With LiDAR data taken from a fixed-wing aircraft using a laser source and receiving unit, the land forms of the Preserve were "mapped" with an accuracy level of 5-8 cm vertically and 20-30 cm horizontally. This imagery is sufficiently detailed to also show forest structure (tree density, height, biomass) and even shrub and grass cover. The data are being incorporated into the Trust's Geographical Information System (GIS) for use in planning for transportation, forest management, and public access and use. With access to these high-resolution LiDAR data layers in the GIS, the Trust will not need to contract for on-the-ground surveys for civil engineering tasks, and the investment in LiDAR should pay for itself in the next several years via reduced cost for implementing public access and use plans.

- **Cultural Resources Program Inventories**

Cultural resource surveys were conducted on 900 acres in 2010. The largest project included a survey of 460 acres on Banco Bonito in advance of future forest restoration projects there. Two other large projects included a survey on Redondo Mountain in the La Jara Creek headwaters (138 acres), and an inventory of 120 acres in the Seco and San Luis valleys.

Overall, most of the survey projects were in support of project planning and NHPA Section 106 compliance. However, the survey on the Banco Bonito also was conducted not only to assist planning for future forest restoration and forest product utilization (e.g., Christmas tree cutting), but also to address research questions regarding prehistoric and historic agriculture in this area that seems too high in elevation for maize-based subsistence systems. The VCT inventory on Banco Bonito this summer, aided by the efforts of two undergraduate university interns, pushed the known elevation for Pueblo fieldhouses and constructed agricultural terraces to above 8,400'. The interns also worked with the CR Team to install four monitoring stations to investigate the possibility of effective "agricultural microclimates" at terrace plots and within the complex ridge-swale topography of the Banco.

Another kind of inventory conducted in the Preserve in recent years has been an inventory of aspen carvings (also called “dendroglyphs”) that were created by early 20th Century shepherders, loggers and hunters, and are found throughout the Preserve. These carvings are a rich source of information about 20th century land use. The earliest carvings are from the 1910s, and there is an abundance of carvings from the 1930s and 1940s. Since the carvings often provide a precise date and the carvers name and hometown, the inscriptions inform on the families and communities that used the Baca Location No. 1, provide season of use, and allow these shepherders, loggers and hunters to speak for themselves from the past. This information is especially meaningful as these are the voices of peoples otherwise largely undocumented in regional histories. The aspen surveys are conducted with 100% volunteer labor, with 886 hours logged in FY2010. Over 120 new historic aspen carvings were documented this season, with 300 acres of new survey in Alamo Canyon and South Canyon on the west side of the Preserve. The mapping and photographic fieldwork conducted by this small but productive group of volunteers is valuable because these are fragile resources at risk from elk damage, fire, and aspen senescence, and because this type of survey replaces work that would have to be conducted by the VCNP CR Team.

Field investigations at archaeological sites this year included discovery of 65 new sites, and revisits to another 39. Site revisits are conducted to update documentation and to assess site condition, and/or to refresh site marking in advance of upcoming project implementation (e.g., in preparation for forest thinning or firewood collection). Throughout the season, the CR Team collects arrow and spear-points found to help identify time periods of prehistoric use; this year’s collection brings this growing database to over 200 projectile points on the Preserve that can be approximately dated by classification of distinctive “temporally diagnostic” artifact styles.

• **Social Science Survey**

In 2010, the Trust and the US Forest Service’s Rocky Mountain Research Station continued survey work on socio-economic impacts of the VCNP on local and regional human populations. Because the Valles Caldera plays a highly visible and important role to various members of the public, from Native Americans to ranchers to recreationists, gaining the input and support of these groups for management and restoration initiatives is critical. Thus, the survey project goal is to gather information on the use, access, and fire/fuels management attitudes and preferences of user groups and adjacent communities concerning the VCNP. This project, entitled “*USE, ACCESS, AND FIRE/FUELS MANAGEMENT ATTITUDES AND PREFERENCES OF USER GROUPS AND ADJACENT COMMUNITIES CONCERNING THE VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE*” is being undertaken by social scientists with the Rocky Mountain Research Station to provide important information concerning public desires and concerns for management of the VCNP to assist managers in developing public understanding and support for Preserve projects and initiatives.

In the first phase of the study in 2009, the RMRS scientists conducted in-depth, unstructured interviews with members of adjacent communities that utilize the VCNP for

business or recreational purposes. Environmental education groups, who either use or would like to use the Preserve and a climate scientist examining fire effects in the region, have also been interviewed. The second and third phases, underway in 2010, include gathering information from Native American groups, who consider the VCNP a sacred place, and from several nearby Hispanic communities with a history of use in the area. Topics of discussion include public perceptions of wildfire and wildfire management, fuels management, public views of wilderness, multiple use, use of the VCNP as an education center, and management models for the Preserve. Preliminary reports are being prepared after each phase, with a final report giving a summary of views and preferences obtained from the various stakeholder groups. The final report will be a General Technical Report (GTR) from Rocky Mountain Research Station, US Forest Service.

Monitoring

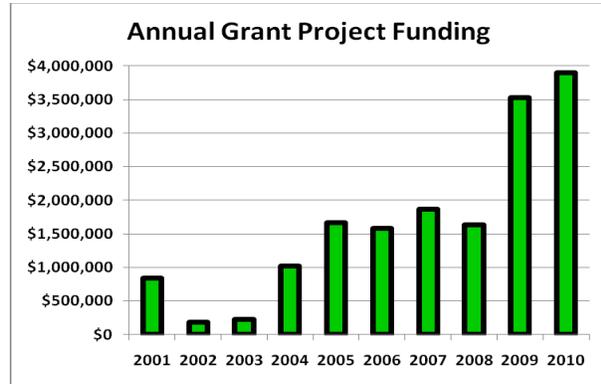
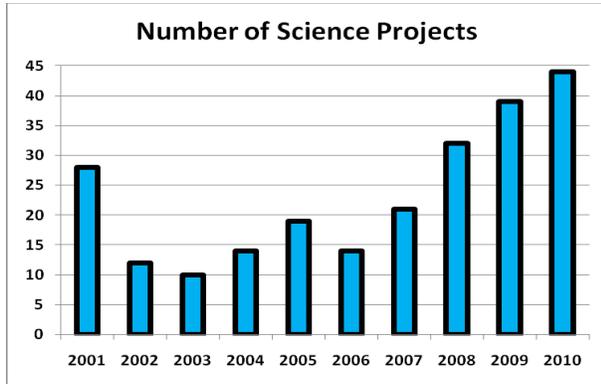
In FY 2010, the Trust continued annual monitoring projects for rangeland forage production and utilization, forest ecosystem changes following thinning and mastication, stream water quality, stream discharge amounts, climate conditions, and elk and fish population dynamics throughout the Preserve. Monitoring data in 2010 were collected from the stream gauging stations and flumes that were installed in 2008 on the four major watersheds of the Preserve, so that future changes in water production to downstream villages, towns, Pueblos and cities can be quantified. Based on hydrologic research on the Preserve, we anticipate that as the Trust restores the many stands of second-growth, high density forests we will observe a concomitant increase in stream water flows to downstream communities, thereby enhancing the “ecosystem services” of the Preserve.

A systematic approach to monitoring produces opportunities to incorporate volunteers, and in 2010, the Trust continued to offer range monitoring as an “Eco-tourism” event in partnership with the Sierra Club. The monitoring program relies on seasonal (spring and fall) measurements of plant biomass (forage for elk and livestock) to provide baseline data and a system of permanent and temporary monitoring sites to measure direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of programs and activities that occur on the Preserve. In addition, volunteer citizens participated in fisheries monitoring by assisting Preserve field biologists during electro-fishing sampling (catch-measure-release) in the major streams of the Preserve.

Research

Research projects in the Preserve increased from 39 in 2009 to 44 in 2010, and outside (non-Trust) funding continued increasing to just under \$3.9 million (see figures below and detailed table on next page). Over the last ten years, the Preserve has demonstrated its value as an outdoor laboratory and classroom, as well as a venue for testing various approaches to ecosystem restoration for streams, grasslands and forests. For the last two fiscal years, “outside” research funding (grants and contracts from other sources) has

exceeded the annual Congressional appropriations to the Trust, indicating that science, research training and education programs are important components of the Preserve's regional economic impact.



Valles Caldera National Preserve: 2010 Science Projects List

<u>P.I. Name</u>	<u>Project Title (abbreviated)</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Belone, Tammy	Mercury Deposition Monitoring for Jemez Pueblo	EPA	\$17,000
Black, Michael	Climate Reference Network Station	NOAA	\$24,000
Bush, Janis	Wildlife herbivory impacts on Gambel oak stands	USDA	\$10,000
Byers, Doug	Strength characterization of Bandelier tuff	Volunteer	\$2,500
Chorover, Jon	Critical Zone Observatory Program (started 9/09)	NSF	\$870,000
Coop, Jonathan	Tree seedling establishment in valles, VCNP	Volunteer	\$2,000
Desilets, Darin	Development of snow-water equivalent methods	Sandia Nat. Lab.	\$100,000
Dodd, Justin	Diatom communities of VCNP streams	NSF, UNM	\$2,300
Eichler, Carla	Petrogenesis of the Southwestern Moat Rhyolites, Jemez Volcanic Field, VCNP	U. Arizona	\$18,500
Falk, Don	Fire history of VCNP valles	BLM, JFSP	\$75,000
Fettig, Stephen	Dispersal in gray-headed juncos; breeding bird surveys.	Volunteer groups	\$9,887
Gardner, Jamie	Geology mapping of VCNP	Volunteer	\$3,000
Gauthier, Rory	Obsidian Sourcing at Ancestral Pueblo Sites	NSF	\$2,500
Goff, Fraser	Geological investigations of the VCNP	Volunteer groups	\$80,000
Griswold, Terry	Native bees of the VCNP	USDA/ARS/Bee-Lab	\$1,500
Havstad, Kris	Monitoring of rangelands forage utilization	USDA ARS	\$15,000
Heikoop, Jeffery	Natural Perchlorate in high-alpine springs, VCNP	DOE/LANL	\$50,000
Johnson, Christine	Survey of Gunnison's Prairie Dog in New Mexico	NM Dept. Game & Fish	\$50,000
Johnson, Terry	Monitoring of Bald Eagle Populations	Volunteer	\$2,500
Keller, Chick	Survey for Rare and Endemic Plants on VCNP	Volunteers	\$1,500
Lahti, Megan	Status of short-horned lizards on VCNP	Utah State Univ.	\$2,000
Matson, James	Stream water quality improvements via restoration	EPA	\$505,120
Matson, James	Stream habitat manipulation and beaver restoration	NM RERI	\$137,000
McWilliams, Steven	T-Walk Stream Assessments	Volunteer	\$1,280
Michener, William	New Mexico EPSCoR Program	NSF	\$1,000,000
Morgan, David	Habitat restoration for beaver reintroduction	CFRP	\$132,969
Nufio, Cesar	Melanoplus grasshoppers in Rocky Mountains	NSF	\$7,000

Painter, Charles	Jemez Mt Salamander Survey	NM Dept. Game & Fish	\$1,000
Parmenter, Robert	Monitoring for Forest Restoration (CFLRP)	USDA/USFS	\$192,500
Parmenter, Robert	Elk-coyote interactions on VCNP	USFS/RMRS	\$4,000
Parmenter, Robert	Natural History of Wild Turkeys on the VCNP	USFS/RMRS	\$6,000
Parmenter, Robert	Remote-sensing for range management	USFS/RMRS	\$10,000
Parmenter, Robert	ATPPL: Transportation Planning on VCNP - LiDAR	DOT/FTA	\$200,000
Peterson, Liesl	Climate-change impacts on Pika Populations	U. CO, Nat. Geog. Soc.	\$34,000
Price, Relf	Inventory of Fungi and Lichens	Volunteer	\$50,000
Rahn, Thom	CO2 and H2O flux in the Valle Grande	LANL	\$20,000
Reyes, Gabriel	Behavior of Hoary Bats on the VCNP	Bat Conservation Int.	\$3,200
Romig, Kirsten	Bryophyte survey of the VCNP	NMSU/USDA-ARS	\$13,677
Ryerson, Dan	Forest insect pest inventory	USFS	\$1,500
Sackett, Loren	Gunnison's Prairie Dog genetics and plague potential	Colorado Div. Wildlife	\$50,000
Sawyer, Audrey	Hydrology of large woody debris in VCNP streams	NSF	\$53,500
Solis, Alma	Beneficial and pest insect biodiversity survey	USDA SEL/SI	\$30,824
Steffen, Anastasia	Banco Bonito Prehistoric Agriculture Study	USDA/USFS	\$9,000
Steffen, Anastasia	Aspen Dendroglyph Survey	Volunteer group	\$18,450
Strenger, Steven	Soil survey and TES mapping of VCNP	US Forest Service	\$95,000
Swanson, Travis	Surface/groundwater nutrient/metal interactions	Univ. of Texas	\$5,000
Wheeler, Al	Hemiptera inventory on VCNP	Clemson Univ.	\$5,000
		TOTAL (FY2010):	\$3,895,257

In 2010, the VCNP research projects addressed questions concerning topics such as climate change impacts on watershed hydrology, fire ecology, elk-predator interactions, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and elk-livestock grazing. The University of Arizona's "Critical Zone Observatory" grant (funded by the National Science Foundation) established its first "Zero-Order Basin" study area on the flanks of Redondo Peak, installing instruments to monitor climate, stream flow, groundwater, and plant water use. The Trust also hosted the second field season of the New Mexico EPSCoR grant, funded by NSF for \$3 million per year for 5 years. The Preserve is one of the three field study sites for the project, and the major topic is to understand climate change on upland water resources in northern New Mexico. Project collaborators include all the New Mexico universities.

5.2 Community Services

5.2.1 Education

A number of K-12 schools, colleges and universities bring students and teachers to participate in on-site learning. In FY 2010, the following activities were conducted:

- As in previous summers, in 2010 high school science teachers from the Northern New Mexico Network for Rural Education (the 29 public school districts in northern New Mexico) participated in a week-long science training workshop on curricula development targeting climate change, biodiversity, aquatic insects, watershed dynamics and how to teach these topics to students at their respective schools. A five-year, \$10 million grant proposal was resubmitted to the National Science Foundation in August 2010 to continue and expand this teacher training program.

- Again in 2010, in collaboration with Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Pajarito Environmental Education Center, the Trust also hosted three science camps for middle- and high-school students, including one for students from the Eight Northern Pueblos. Numerous other educational groups (from middle school through university) visited the Preserve on science field trips.
- Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) brought Middle School students onto the Preserve to continue a multi-year interdisciplinary learning adventure. The students sampled monitoring plots established in 2008, and conducted forest inventory in an area proposed for forest thinning. Subsequent classes will return to the same area to continue photo and inventory monitoring. These data will be used in project planning and analysis.
- Lake Forest Academy (High School) in Chicago, IL, participated in a service trip over their spring break, with students assisting Trust biologists in radio-tracking turkeys, elk and coyotes. They also participated in protecting cottonwood trees in the Jemez River valley from beavers by placing wire exclosures around the tree trunks.
- Cottonwood Valley Middle School, Socorro, NM, spent a week on the Preserve for environmental educational programs.
- A natural resources class from Hendrix College, Arkansas, visited the Preserve for a science field trip with Dr. Parmenter.
- A class in groundwater hydrology from the University of Texas worked on the Preserve for a week, performing field sampling in the Valle Grande and Redondo Canyon.
- A wildlife and forestry class from Oklahoma State University spent a week on the Preserve, learning about VCNP natural resources management, and participated in several of the ongoing monitoring projects.
- A geology class from Lehigh University, PA, conducted a class field trip to learn about caldera formation and the science programs on the VCNP.
- A large group of scientists visited on a field trip in association with the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) and the North American Benthological Society (NABS) national annual meeting in Santa Fe.
- 30 high school students from Española, NM, visited the VCNP on a class science field trip to learn about wetlands, water quality and watershed functioning.
- NRCS conducted a soils workshop for a week on the Preserve for soils scientists from across the USA.
- High school students from the Eight Northern Pueblos conducted a 2-day workshop on the VCNP to learn techniques and technology for Geographical Information Systems (GIS).
- A geology class from the University of New Mexico undertook a field trip to learn about caldera formation, volcanology, prehistoric climate changes and plate tectonics.
- New Mexico State University conducted the national 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP) convention on the Preserve.
- An international group of foresters toured the VCNP to learn about forest and watershed restoration and science projects associated with the monitoring program.
- Field trip with summer students working at Los Alamos National Laboratory, focusing on climate change and adaptive management using scientific studies for monitoring and research.

- Sierra Club service trips to VCNP to assist with forage utilization measurements, and learn about the ecology of the VCNP.
- Santa Fe Garden Club field trip on the natural and cultural history of the Preserve.

5.2.2. Science and Education Center

In 2010, the Valles Caldera Trust continued to develop formal and informal educational programs that will serve the American public, from public school children through senior citizen programs. The Trust acquired (with revenue funds, not appropriated dollars) an existing facility in Jemez Springs for an education and training center. The facility has 25 bedrooms (50 person capacity), a dining hall and institutional kitchen, classroom space, teaching laboratory space, and offices and is only 15 minutes from the Preserve's southwest corner. This facility provides overnight lodging for students, teachers, scientists, and other program participants nationwide, and provides needed class/laboratory facilities to support field programs. In the fall of 2009 through spring of 2010, the Trust renovated and equipped the facility, known as the Valles Caldera National Preserve's Science and Education Center, and opened the doors to the public in March, 2010.

The overall education program focuses not only on science-related aspects of the Valles Caldera National Preserve (including geology, ecology, wildlife and fisheries management, range management and livestock husbandry, forestry, biodiversity, climate change, hydrology, archaeology), but also includes a wide range of other disciplines (art, photography, history, literature, poetry, music) for which the Valles Caldera provides an inspirational environment. Numerous preliminary programs in both formal and informal education activities have been conducted and the logistical realities of these undertakings have been worked out and perfected. The Trust is now moving ahead with permanent programs.

The "clientele" of these programs falls into four main groups: (1) public school students and teachers (elementary through high school) and college/university students in formal educational classes; (2) general public participants in informal workshops and theme-oriented or special-topic classes; (3) organized volunteer groups that participate in ongoing science projects on the Preserve; (4) private, corporate, NGO, or government retreats and training programs.

The Trust has developed a financial plan for operating the proposed facilities and the programs. Overnight lodging and food service revenues will allow the educational program to achieve 100% cost-recovery when the facilities reach 45% capacity. School program expenses can be defrayed via grants, and such grants are being prepared in cooperation with New Mexico universities and colleges. Several existing grants already support teacher and student educational projects (e.g., the 5-year, \$15 million grant from the NSF EPSCoR program to UNM, NMSU, Highlands and NM Tech).

The target usage of the Science and Education Center in FY2010 was to recover \$50,000 from user fees; the actual cost recovery exceeded \$60,000, and we anticipate increased revenues from users in FY2011.

The Trust believes that the development of Valles Caldera public education programs, with suitable support facilities, will provide an outstanding experience for the American people, and ensure that the Preserve becomes a sustainable national resource in research and educational programs for science, natural resource management, and other academic disciplines.

5.2.3 Science Collaborations with Agencies and Organizations

The Trust responds to requests by agencies and organizations to host field trips or participate in meetings and workshop functions to further collaboration with the Trust. Examples this year included the Rocky Mountain Research Station (US Forest Service), The Nature Conservancy, USGS Wildlife Cooperative Unit (NMSU), Jemez Pueblo, and Los Alamos Leadership.

5.2.4 Scientific and Public Education – Outside Presentations

The Trust responds to a number of requests from schools, agencies, and organizations to provide speakers for meetings and events. In FY 2010, the Trust's Science staff provided outside presentations, including participation in events such as the New Mexico State Fair, Los Alamos Earth Day Celebration, the New Mexico Watershed Forum, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, and the Society of American Foresters. In addition, scientific papers were published concerning Paleoindian artifacts on the Preserve and reviewing hydrology research findings on the Preserve with respect to forest management.

5.2.5 Science Outreach and Project Collaboration

The Trust staff serves on a variety of collaborative groups which address local issues such as elk, development, recreation, wildland fire risk, water quality, and forest health. Volunteers contributed 2854 hours of service for a cost avoidance of \$59,506 to science and education activities. Value of volunteer hours is calculated at \$20.85 per hour based on information found at: <http://www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow/calculator.asp>

In 2010, the Trust collaborated with WildEarth Guardians, the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, and students from Colorado College (Colorado Springs, CO) to remove old sheep and cattle fencing on the Preserve (this was necessary to reduce wildlife injuries from antiquated fencing that was no longer needed for ongoing livestock operations).

The Cultural Resources Program has initiated an oral history program as a satellite of the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum (NMFRHM) oral history program. In

FY2010, twelve interviews were completed to gather the stories and memories of local “old-timers” with links to the Baca Location No. 1 throughout the 20th century.

The VCNP Aspen Art Survey volunteer program is now in its third year. This year the team located an inscription dated to 1898, the oldest known so far and probably as old as is possible given aspen life spans. To date, more than 2750 acres have been surveyed and 450 carved aspen have been recorded. This effort was recognized in August of 2010 by the White House and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation with designation of the VCNP as “Preserve America Steward” in acknowledgement of the work to preserve cultural resources and a “continuing commitment to our Nation’s Heritage”.



MISTY MORNING IN THE VALLE GRANDE - PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROURKE McDERMOTT

Section 6 – Goals 2011

6.1 Administration

6.1.1 Complete Timely Fiscal Year 2011 financial audit.

Metric The Trust will complete the FY 2011 financial audit by November 15, 2011 as required by regulation.

6.1.2 Review personnel, operational and HR policies to ensure control processes are in place and approved.

Metric Trust policies are reviewed, revised, submitted to the Board of Trustees and approved before the end of FY 2011.

6.1.3 Conduct financial analysis to determine the return on investment and economic growth possibilities of Preserve and SEC lodging, merchandise sales and food service.

Metric Detailed cost benefit analysis of expenditures, revenues and profitability of programs resulting in pricing and revenue recommendations to improve cost recovery are completed.

6.1.4 Enhance purchasing efficiency by streamlining credit card usage through approved purchasing agents and increased limits.

Metric Needs assessment conducted, cardholders identified, approval process established, purchasing limits expanded and bureaucratic red tape reduced resulting in further improvement in purchasing delays.

6.2 Communications and Marketing

6.2.1 Increase media and advertising impressions to nine million statewide by developing collaborations with NGOs, government partners and expansion of existing media programs.

Metric Addition of marketing through social media (Twitter, Facebook) and collaborations with NM State Parks, Tourism, Bandelier, SFNF and local chambers will contribute to word of mouth and formal promotion resulting in at least a 20% increase in visitation and 10% increase in revenue and nine million impressions.

6.2.2 Establish robust web presence for the Science and Education Center and programs, Preserve lodging, activities, and on-line retail offerings to increase revenue and visitation bookings.

Metric Expand Facebook use, email communications and site hits. Search engine is in place for site and individual pages. Increased on-line merchandise purchases and web site page hits are recorded.

6.2.3 Network Improvements to improve bandwidth available to Trust offices and reduce overall costs of Internet Services.

Metric Local internet service and bandwidth improve computing and VoIP at lower cost and better functionality through a combination of upgrades to MPLS and EIA lines and installation of PBX systems.

6.2.4 Upgrade several aging servers and provide file servers at satellite locations.

Metric Servers purchased, installed and existing services migrated to new hardware.

6.2.5 Information systems upgrades to website and on-line services.

Metric Site Search capabilities, map features, and advertising are established and active on the website. Technology testing and launch of the Web retail store are complete.

6.3 Preserve Operations

6.3.1 Riparian habitat restoration to ensure the natural stream functions continue in a desirable direction.

Metric Initiate San Antonio Creek Watershed restoration activities which use innovative restoration techniques being pioneered in New Mexico (including in-stream and floodplain restoration measures), address the needs of the Jemez watershed, and develop new partnerships to reduce costs to Preserve.

6.3.2 Improve rangeland habitat to increase available water and forage for wildlife and livestock while maintaining ecologically viable conditions.

Metric Identification of all areas on Preserve with earthen stock tanks that need improvement or modification accomplished. Complete the improvement or modification of four earthen stock tanks in strategic areas of the Preserve to maximize water harvesting for wildlife and livestock.

6.3.3 Complete environmental analyses of programs to finish transition to comprehensive management of visitation and resource management of the Preserve.

Metric In fiscal year 2010, the trust completed scoping and alternative development. In fiscal year 2011 the public will have the opportunity to review these alternatives as well as the draft Environmental Impact Statements, with a Record of Decision to be made on both projects by the end of the fiscal year. Record of Decision will be signed in 2011.

6.3.4 Improve the signage along the section of NM State Road 4 that is within the Preserve.

Metric

- Update and install accurate interpretive signs along 3 of the 6 pullouts overseeing the Valle Grande
- Complete design work for monumental boundary signs and entry sign within the context of the Valle Grande
- Work with NMDOT to get permits and clearance to install the signs
- Put contract package out for solicitation of bids to install the signs
- Select a contractor to implement and construct according to the design
- Provide oversight and management of construction until work is completed

6.3.5 Reduce hazardous fuels and restore ecosystem structure, composition, and health of the Preserve's forests.

Metric

- Implement mechanical treatments and prescribed fire to restore over 2000 acres of significantly departed fire adapted forests.
- Prepare approximately 2400 acres of forest and 5000 acres of grassland for implementation in 2012. This includes project layout, archeological survey and clearance, contract preparation, burn plan preparation, along with baseline monitoring.

6.3.6 Improve the driving conditions of Preserve roads while mitigating erosion problems and maintaining natural water flow.

Metric The improvement of at least 8 miles of VC08, VC06, and VC03 including the addition of proper drainage systems such as culverts, wing ditches, and rolling dips. The grading and maintenance of an additional 50 miles of internal Preserve roads to increase public safety and mitigate erosion problems will be planned.

6.3.7 Decrease the number of noxious weeds and eventual extirpation of all noxious weeds to improve rangeland conditions.

Metric Continue to perform noxious weed surveys on the Preserve to identify locations of populations of weeds requiring treatment. Treatment of identified populations using hand digging or spot spraying of approved herbicides.

6.3.8 Improve the success of the livestock program by maximizing the number of cattle grazing on the Preserve thus increasing the financial return to the Trust while minimizing the negative ecological impacts.

Metric Achieve the highest stocking rates allowed under the forthcoming FY11 Range Readiness Report and make sure the authorized rate is complied with.

6.3.9 Implement visitor counting system similar to what is used by other public land agencies.

Metric The system will be implemented to count visits to Highway 4 pullouts and major access points to the Preserve. Bringing our visitor counting system on par with other public lands will assure reasonable comparisons of visitor counts with other public lands and allow a better analysis of visitation.

6.3.10 Expand opportunities and explore suitable locations for camping on the Preserve.

Metric In spite of camping opportunities surrounding the Preserve, many of the guests request to camp on the property. An evaluation will be made of potential sites for rustic camping and implemented if deemed feasible.

6.3.11 Expand partnerships for access with neighboring lands.

Metric The Trust has explored seasonal access points with surrounding public lands and is ready to work with neighbors to implement a few of the most promising ideas.

6.3.12 Institute program to allow manageable volume of private vehicles to traverse the Preserve.

Metric A portion of the visitors to the Preserve would like to drive across the property in personal vehicles and improvements in roads could facilitate limited numbers of vehicles to be permitted on a daily basis.

6.4 Science and Education

6.4.1 Continue the Natural Resources Inventory and publish findings.

Metric Geology and soils projects were completed in 2010 and will be published and available on the VCT web site in 2011. Insect surveys will be continued during the 2011 field season, and additional species added to the inventory list and archived collections.

6.4.2 Evaluate and adaptively respond to changes in the Preserve discovered through continued Natural Resources Monitoring.

Metric In 2011, the Trust's objectives for natural resource monitoring will be to continue ongoing monitoring activities for climate, stream water quality and discharge amounts, vegetation forage production and utilization by wildlife and livestock, plant biodiversity

and cover, impacts of elk and livestock on riparian ecosystems, fish populations (all species), elk populations (including predator impacts on calf survival) and movements, and landscape-level ecosystem productivity. A major expansion of the monitoring program will be directed at the forest restoration project (CFLRP described in Section 5) to evaluate ongoing forest thinning, burning and riparian restoration. These programs will be evaluated by (1) completion of all field data acquisitions, and (2) completion of data analyses for (3) incorporation into Trust resource assessment, management planning and implementation.

6.4.3 Continue to encourage natural resources research through collaboration with outside entities, scientists, institutions and other partners.

Metric Indicators for science community interest in studying the Valles Caldera National Preserve can be gleaned from the number of projects conducted, the amount of funding generated to support these projects, and the number of publications/presentations resulting from the research. In addition, the information generated from these studies may be applied to decision-making processes for management actions. The Trust will endeavor to continue support for all permitted non-VCT research projects, provide appropriate administrative and logistical support when possible, and participate in collaborative grant proposals with interested scientific groups.

6.4.4 Cultural Resources

Metric The Valles Caldera Preservation Act empowers the Trust “to protect and preserve the scientific, scenic, geologic, watershed, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, and recreational values of the Preserve.” Thus, in 2011, the Cultural Resource Program objectives will include:

- (1) Planning support in the development of Preserve programs, including contribution to the NEPA process and documents, and pre-planning input to insure that cultural resources preservation is considered early in the planning process.
- (2) Organizing and completing field investigations in advance of on-the-ground projects and new Preserve activities. In particular in FY11, planning for the Landscape Restoration and Management Plan will include developing and implementing an efficient and effective approach to CR survey for the numerous acres to be included in this Preserve-wide project.
- (3) Conduct consultation with tribes to alert them of Preserve activities that may be of interest and to consider their concerns and ideas as part of early planning for programs and projects.
- (4) Maintain a strong relationship with the NM State Historic Preservation Office in support of Trust preservation and knowledge building goals.
- (5) Build knowledge of historic and prehistoric land-use in the caldera. Projects in FY 2011 include completion of the Baca Ranch Headquarters Historic District

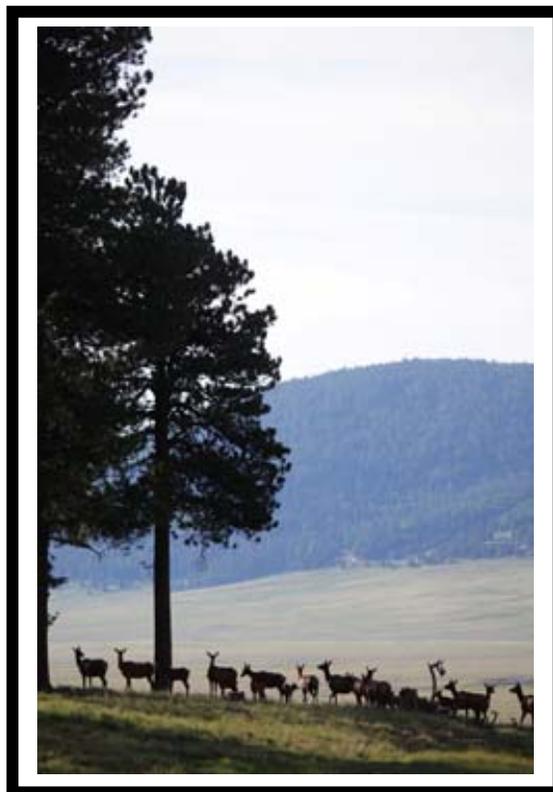
nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, further developing the Banco Bonito High Elevation Agriculture Study, and continuation of the projectile point typology and ceramic studies to understand broad patterns in human land-use, to illuminate historic and Ancestral Puebloan use of the Preserve, and to provide regional context for prehistoric caldera-use.

6.4.5 Ensure the economic success of the Science and Education Center.

Metric Cost benefit analysis of lodging, food service and activities performed and pricing adjusted to ensure economic projections are attained.

6.4.6 Increase occupancy, utilization and revenue of SEC.

Metric Additional SEC programs developed and marketed to a wider clientele will increase utilization and occupancy resulting in an increase in revenue sufficient to at least cover facility costs in 2011.



ELK HERD NEAR TREE LINE – ROURKE MCDERMOTT

Calendar No. **607**

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3452

[Report No. 111–321]

To designate the Valles Caldera National Preserve as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 27 (legislative day, MAY 26), 2010

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

Reported by Mr. BINGAMAN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italics*]

A BILL

To designate the Valles Caldera National Preserve as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Valles Caldera National*
3 *Preserve Management Act”.*

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 *In this Act:*

6 (1) *ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE.*—*The term “eligible*
7 *employee” means a person who was a full-time or*
8 *part-time employee of the Trust during the 180-day*
9 *period immediately preceding the date of enactment*
10 *of this Act.*

11 (2) *FUND.*—*The term “Fund” means the Valles*
12 *Caldera Fund established by section 106(h)(2) of the*
13 *Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v-*
14 *4(h)(2)).*

15 (3) *PRESERVE.*—*The term “Preserve” means the*
16 *Valles Caldera National Preserve in the State.*

17 (4) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*
18 *the Secretary of the Interior.*

19 (5) *STATE.*—*The term “State” means the State*
20 *of New Mexico.*

21 (6) *TRUST.*—*The term “Trust” means the Valles*
22 *Caldera Trust established by section 106(a) of the*
23 *Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v-*
24 *4(a)).*

1 **SEC. 3. VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE.**

2 (a) *DESIGNATION AS UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK*
3 *SYSTEM.*—*To protect, preserve, and restore the fish, wild-*
4 *life, watershed, natural, scientific, scenic, geologic, historic,*
5 *cultural, archaeological, and recreational values of the area,*
6 *the Valles Caldera National Preserve is designated as a unit*
7 *of the National Park System.*

8 (b) *MANAGEMENT.*—

9 (1) *APPLICABLE LAW.*—*The Secretary shall ad-*
10 *minister the Preserve in accordance with—*

11 (A) *this Act; and*

12 (B) *the laws generally applicable to units of*
13 *the National Park System, including—*

14 (i) *the National Park Service Organic*
15 *Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and*

16 (ii) *the Act of August 21, 1935 (16*
17 *U.S.C. 461 et seq.).*

18 (2) *MANAGEMENT COORDINATION.*—*The Sec-*
19 *retary may coordinate the management and oper-*
20 *ations of the Preserve with the Bandelier National*
21 *Monument.*

22 (3) *MANAGEMENT PLAN.*—

23 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 3 fiscal*
24 *years after the date on which funds are made*
25 *available to implement this subsection, the Sec-*

1 *retary shall prepare a management plan for the*
2 *Preserve.*

3 (B) *APPLICABLE LAW.*—*The management*
4 *plan shall be prepared in accordance with—*

5 (i) *section 12(b) of Public Law 91–383*
6 *(commonly known as the “National Park*
7 *Service General Authorities Act”) (16*
8 *U.S.C. 1a–7(b)); and*

9 (ii) *any other applicable laws.*

10 (C) *CONSULTATION.*—*The management*
11 *plan shall be prepared in consultation with—*

12 (i) *the Secretary of Agriculture;*

13 (ii) *State and local governments;*

14 (iii) *Indian tribes and pueblos, includ-*
15 *ing the Pueblos of Jemez, Santa Clara, and*
16 *San Ildefonso; and*

17 (iv) *the public.*

18 (c) *ACQUISITION OF LAND.*—

19 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary may acquire*
20 *land and interests in land within the boundaries of*
21 *the Preserve by—*

22 (A) *purchase with donated or appropriated*
23 *funds;*

24 (B) *donation; or*

25 (C) *transfer from another Federal agency.*

1 (2) *ADMINISTRATION OF ACQUIRED LAND.*—On
2 *acquisition of any land or interests in land under*
3 *paragraph (1), the acquired land or interests in land*
4 *shall be administered as part of the Preserve.*

5 (d) *SCIENCE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.*—

6 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall—

7 (A) *until the date on which a management*
8 *plan is completed in accordance with subsection*
9 *(b)(3), carry out the science and education pro-*
10 *gram for the Preserve established by the Trust;*
11 *and*

12 (B) *beginning on the date on which a man-*
13 *agement plan is completed in accordance with*
14 *subsection (b)(3), establish a science and edu-*
15 *cation program for the Preserve that—*

16 (i) *allows for research and interpreta-*
17 *tion of the natural, historic, cultural, geo-*
18 *logic and other scientific features of the Pre-*
19 *serve;*

20 (ii) *provides for improved methods of*
21 *ecological restoration and science-based*
22 *adaptive management of the Preserve; and*

23 (iii) *promotes outdoor educational ex-*
24 *periences in the Preserve.*

1 (2) *SCIENCE AND EDUCATION CENTER.*—As part
2 of the program established under paragraph (1)(B),
3 the Secretary may establish a science and education
4 center outside the boundaries of the Preserve.

5 (e) *GRAZING.*—The Secretary may allow the grazing
6 of livestock within the Preserve to continue—

7 (1) *consistent with this Act; and*

8 (2) *to the extent the use furthers scientific re-*
9 *search or interpretation of the ranching history of the*
10 *Preserve.*

11 (f) *FISH AND WILDLIFE.*—Nothing in this Act affects
12 the responsibilities of the State with respect to fish and
13 wildlife in the State, except that the Secretary, in consulta-
14 tion with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish—

15 (1) *shall permit hunting and fishing on land*
16 *and water within the Preserve in accordance with ap-*
17 *plicable Federal and State laws; and*

18 (2) *may designate zones in which, and establish*
19 *periods during which, no hunting or fishing shall be*
20 *permitted for reasons of public safety, administration,*
21 *the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitats, or*
22 *public use and enjoyment.*

23 (g) *ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.*—

24 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall undertake
25 activities to improve the health of forest, grassland,

1 *and riparian areas within the Preserve, including*
2 *any activities carried out in accordance with title IV*
3 *of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009*
4 *(16 U.S.C. 7301 et seq.).*

5 (2) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.*—*The Secretary*
6 *may enter into cooperative agreements with adjacent*
7 *pueblos to coordinate activities carried out under*
8 *paragraph (1) on the Preserve and adjacent pueblo*
9 *land.*

10 (h) *WITHDRAWAL.*—*Subject to valid existing rights, all*
11 *land and interests in land within the boundaries of the Pre-*
12 *serve are withdrawn from—*

13 (1) *entry, disposal, or appropriation under the*
14 *public land laws;*

15 (2) *location, entry, and patent under the mining*
16 *laws; and*

17 (3) *operation of the mineral leasing laws, geo-*
18 *thermal leasing laws, and mineral materials laws.*

19 (i) *VOLCANIC DOMES AND OTHER PEAKS.*—

20 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in para-*
21 *graph (3), for the purposes of preserving the natural,*
22 *cultural, religious, archaeological, and historic re-*
23 *sources of the volcanic domes and other peaks in the*
24 *Preserve described in paragraph (2) within the area*
25 *of the domes and peaks above 9,600 feet in elevation*

1 *or 250 feet below the top of the dome, whichever is*
2 *lower—*

3 *(A) no roads or buildings shall be con-*
4 *structed; and*

5 *(B) no motorized access shall be allowed.*

6 *(2) DESCRIPTION OF VOLCANIC DOMES.—The*
7 *volcanic domes and other peaks referred to in para-*
8 *graph (1) are—*

9 *(A) Redondo Peak;*

10 *(B) Redondito;*

11 *(C) South Mountain;*

12 *(D) San Antonio Mountain;*

13 *(E) Cerro Seco;*

14 *(F) Cerro San Luis;*

15 *(G) Cerros Santa Rosa;*

16 *(H) Cerros del Abrigo;*

17 *(I) Cerro del Medio;*

18 *(J) Rabbit Mountain;*

19 *(K) Cerro Grande;*

20 *(L) Cerro Toledo;*

21 *(M) Indian Point;*

22 *(N) Sierra de los Valles; and*

23 *(O) Cerros de los Posos.*

24 *(3) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply*
25 *in cases in which construction or motorized access is*

1 *necessary for administrative purposes (including eco-*
2 *logical restoration activities or measures required in*
3 *emergencies to protect the health and safety of persons*
4 *in the area).*

5 (j) *TRADITIONAL CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS SITES.—*

6 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation*
7 *with Indian tribes and pueblos, shall ensure the pro-*
8 *tection of traditional cultural and religious sites in*
9 *the Preserve.*

10 (2) *ACCESS.—The Secretary, in accordance with*
11 *Public Law 95-341 (commonly known as the “Amer-*
12 *ican Indian Religious Freedom Act”) (42 U.S.C.*
13 *1996)—*

14 (A) *shall provide access to the sites de-*
15 *scribed in paragraph (1) by members of Indian*
16 *tribes or pueblos for traditional cultural and*
17 *customary uses; and*

18 (B) *may, on request of an Indian tribe or*
19 *pueblo, temporarily close to general public use 1*
20 *or more specific areas of the Preserve to protect*
21 *traditional cultural and customary uses in the*
22 *area by members of the Indian tribe or pueblo.*

23 (3) *PROHIBITION ON MOTORIZED ACCESS.—The*
24 *Secretary shall maintain prohibitions on the use of*
25 *motorized or mechanized travel on Preserve land lo-*

1 *cated adjacent to the Santa Clara Indian Reserva-*
2 *tion, to the extent the prohibition was in effect on the*
3 *date of enactment of this Act.*

4 *(k) CALDERA RIM TRAIL.—*

5 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after*
6 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in*
7 *consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, af-*
8 *ected Indian tribes and pueblos, and the public, shall*
9 *study the feasibility of establishing a hiking trail*
10 *along the rim of the Valles Caldera on—*

11 *(A) land within the Preserve; and*

12 *(B) National Forest System land that is ad-*
13 *acent to the Preserve.*

14 *(2) AGREEMENTS.—On the request of an affected*
15 *Indian tribe or pueblo, the Secretary and the Sec-*
16 *retary of Agriculture shall seek to enter into an agree-*
17 *ment with the Indian tribe or pueblo with respect to*
18 *the Caldera Rim Trail that provides for the protec-*
19 *tion of—*

20 *(A) cultural and religious sites in the vicin-*
21 *ity of the trail; and*

22 *(B) the privacy of adjacent pueblo land.*

23 *(l) VALID EXISTING RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act af-*
24 *fects valid existing rights.*

1 **SEC. 4. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Administrative jurisdiction over
3 the Preserve is transferred from the Secretary of Agriculture
4 and the Trust to the Secretary, to be administered as a unit
5 of the National Park System, in accordance with section
6 3.

7 (b) *EXCLUSION FROM SANTA FE NATIONAL FOR-*
8 *EST.*—The boundaries of the Santa Fe National Forest are
9 modified to exclude the Preserve.

10 (c) *INTERIM MANAGEMENT.*—

11 (1) *MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.*—Not later
12 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
13 the Secretary and the Trust shall enter into a memo-
14 randum of agreement to facilitate the orderly transfer
15 to the Secretary of the administration of the Preserve.

16 (2) *EXISTING MANAGEMENT PLANS.*—Notwith-
17 standing the repeal made by section 5(a), until the
18 date on which the Secretary completes a management
19 plan for the Preserve in accordance with section
20 3(b)(3), the Secretary may administer the Preserve in
21 accordance with any management activities or plans
22 adopted by the Trust under the Valles Caldera Preser-
23 vation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v et seq.), to the extent the
24 activities or plans are consistent with section 3(b)(1).

25 (3) *PUBLIC USE.*—The Preserve shall remain
26 open to public use during the interim management

1 *period, subject to such terms and conditions as the*
2 *Secretary determines to be appropriate.*

3 *(d) VALLES CALDERA TRUST.—*

4 *(1) TERMINATION.—The Trust shall terminate*
5 *180 days after the date of enactment of this Act unless*
6 *the Secretary determines that the termination date*
7 *should be extended to facilitate the transitional man-*
8 *agement of the Preserve.*

9 *(2) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.—*

10 *(A) ASSETS.—On termination of the*
11 *Trust—*

12 *(i) all assets of the Trust shall be*
13 *transferred to the Secretary; and*

14 *(ii) any amounts appropriated for the*
15 *Trust shall remain available to the Sec-*
16 *retary for the administration of the Pre-*
17 *serve.*

18 *(B) ASSUMPTION OF OBLIGATIONS.—*

19 *(i) IN GENERAL.—On termination of*
20 *the Trust, the Secretary shall assume all*
21 *contracts, obligations, and other liabilities*
22 *of the Trust.*

23 *(ii) NEW LIABILITIES.—*

24 *(I) BUDGET.—Not later than 90*
25 *days after the date of enactment of this*

1 *Act, the Secretary and the Trust shall*
2 *prepare a budget for the interim man-*
3 *agement of the Preserve.*

4 (II) *WRITTEN CONCURRENCE RE-*
5 *QUIRED.—The Trust shall not incur*
6 *any new liabilities not authorized in*
7 *the budget prepared under subclause*
8 *(I) without the written concurrence of*
9 *the Secretary.*

10 (3) *PERSONNEL.—*

11 (A) *HIRING.—The Secretary and the Sec-*
12 *retary of Agriculture may hire employees of the*
13 *Trust on a noncompetitive basis for comparable*
14 *positions at the Preserve or other areas or offices*
15 *under the jurisdiction of the Secretary or the*
16 *Secretary of Agriculture.*

17 (B) *SALARY.—Any employees hired from*
18 *the Trust under subparagraph (A) shall be sub-*
19 *ject to the provisions of chapter 51, and sub-*
20 *chapter III of chapter 53, title 5, United States*
21 *Code, relating to classification and General*
22 *Schedule pay rates.*

23 (C) *INTERIM RETENTION OF ELIGIBLE EM-*
24 *PLOYEES.—For a period of not less than 180*

1 *days beginning on the date of enactment of this*
2 *Act, all eligible employees of the Trust shall be—*

3 *(i) retained in the employment of the*
4 *Trust;*

5 *(ii) considered to be placed on detail to*
6 *the Secretary; and*

7 *(iii) subject to the direction of the Sec-*
8 *retary.*

9 *(D) TERMINATION FOR CAUSE.—Nothing in*
10 *this paragraph precludes the termination of em-*
11 *ployment of an eligible employee for cause dur-*
12 *ing the period described in subparagraph (C).*

13 *(4) RECORDS.—The Secretary shall have access*
14 *to all records of the Trust pertaining to the manage-*
15 *ment of the Preserve.*

16 *(5) VALLES CALDERA FUND.—*

17 *(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of*
18 *enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall assume*
19 *the powers of the Trust over the Fund.*

20 *(B) AVAILABILITY AND USE.—Any amounts*
21 *in the Fund as of the date of enactment of this*
22 *Act shall be available to the Secretary for use,*
23 *without further appropriation, for the manage-*
24 *ment of the Preserve.*

1 **SEC. 5. REPEAL OF VALLES CALDERA PRESERVATION ACT.**

2 (a) *REPEAL.*—On the termination of the Trust, the
3 *Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v et seq.)*
4 *is repealed.*

5 (b) *EFFECT OF REPEAL.*—Notwithstanding the repeal
6 *made by subsection (a)—*

7 (1) *the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture*
8 *to acquire mineral interests under section 104(e) of*
9 *the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v–*
10 *2(e)) is transferred to the Secretary and any pro-*
11 *ceeding for the condemnation of, or payment of com-*
12 *ensation for, an outstanding mineral interest pursu-*
13 *ant to the transferred authority shall continue;*

14 (2) *the provisions in section 104(g) of the Valles*
15 *Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v–2(g)) relat-*
16 *ing to the Pueblo of Santa Clara shall remain in ef-*
17 *fect; and*

18 (3) *the Fund shall not be terminated until all*
19 *amounts in the Fund have been expended by the Sec-*
20 *retary.*

21 (c) *BOUNDARIES.*—*The repeal of the Valles Caldera*
22 *Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v et seq.) shall not affect*
23 *the boundaries as of the date of enactment of this Act (in-*
24 *cluding maps and legal descriptions) of—*

25 (1) *the Preserve;*

1 (2) *the Santa Fe National Forest (other than the*
2 *modification made by section 4(b));*

3 (3) *Bandelier National Monument; and*

4 (4) *any land conveyed to the Pueblo of Santa*
5 *Clara.*

6 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 *There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as*
8 *are necessary to carry out this Act.*