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NEWS RELEASE

Valles Caldera Trust Publishes 2009 Report to Congress

(Jemez Springs, NM) – The Valles Caldera Trust announces the publication of its *Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2009* (October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009). The annual report includes information on the Trust's operations, programs, activities, challenges and accomplishments. It also discusses the status of the Preserve's natural and cultural resources and goals for 2010.

The following are highlights from the report, which is available on the Trust's website (<http://www.vallescaldera.gov/about/trust/docs/AnnualReportCongressPR2009.pdf>)

- The Trust made a major investment in a new Science and Education Center complete with laboratory facilities, meeting rooms and housing for students, teachers, and other clients.
- Visitation increased 2% over 2008 during an economically challenging 2009.
- The Valles Caldera National Preserve served as a unique performance testing center for bulls grazing at high elevation through a collaboration headed by New Mexico State University.
- The Trust invested in an extensive Public Access and Use Program to determine environmentally appropriate uses of the Preserve and engage the public in the process.
- Science and Education grants exceeded \$3.5 million in support of annual programs which more than doubled grant revenue of a year ago.
- The Trust completed fiscal year audits from 2003 through 2008 with 2009 in progress.
- Local cattle growers participated in a livestock program which included a high altitude bull breeding component.

The Valles Caldera Trust oversees the Valles Caldera National Preserve, formerly the privately owned “Baca Ranch.” The 89,000-acre property is located in the Jemez Mountains in northern New Mexico. The ranch was purchased by the federal government in 2000 under the Valles Caldera Preservation Act. The property is known for its huge meadows, abundant wildlife, meandering streams and remarkable scenery. The mission of the Trust is to create a successful model of public land management that protects and preserves the unique values of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Toward that end, the Trust will operate the Preserve as a working ranch; strive to become financially self-sustaining; meet the varied needs of visitors; strive to use and steward the multiple resources of the Preserve; and work collaboratively with our neighbors.

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