

Valles Caldera Trust

Draft Framework Public Meetings

SUMMARY NOTES

The Valles Caldera Trust convened five public meetings in April 2004 as part of an effort to introduce their *Draft Framework and Strategic Guidance for Comprehensive Management* and to gather public input for the final document. Facilitated meetings were held in Jemez Pueblo, Los Alamos, Espanola, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque. In total, about 90 members of the public participated in the meetings.

This summary of twelve themes reflects the comments that were most often made by participants. Each recommendation below was made in some form at more than one of the meetings; some were made at all of the meetings. A summary table follows at the end of this report. Please also see the individual notes from each of the sessions.

Public Comments – Twelve Themes

1. Overall, the vision, values, and approach articulated in the Draft are good. There is strong public support for the “slowly but surely” development approach.
2. There is a need for more specific, substantive information about the VCT’s objectives, commitments, priorities, and measurable outcomes. A next step (either written as “Chapter 11,” as an addendum, or as immediately subsequent work) should be more quantified planning. First define “ecological health” and acceptable levels of change, then specific program goals.
3. Clarify the VCT’s definition of financial self-sufficiency. This should not include the additional overhead that is required to run a federal agency.
4. Ecological health should be the basis upon which other decisions are made.
5. Emphasize the working ranch as a cultural and educational value. Develop it in ways that are co-existent with recreation and other uses. It can be economical and ecological.
6. Maintain controlled access and low-density programs (avoid becoming another Yosemite). It is OK to offer programs at different fee levels, if some higher revenue programs can balance and allow for other low-cost programs.
7. Consider zoning of activities, both geographically and temporally.
8. Use volunteers more and better – as part of research, monitoring, education, and program services.
9. Improve public outreach (communication and collaboration). Use tools beyond the web site to reach people.
10. Establish a non-profit “Friends Group,” for both fundraising and volunteer recruitment.
11. Concern about the perception of exclusiveness. Find ways for more free/low cost access and publicize existing access opportunities more effectively.
12. Prioritize educational programs.

Public Recommendations	Jemez	Los Alamos	Espanola	Santa Fe	Abq
Vision, values good	•	•	•	•	•
Needs more specific outcomes and commitments	•	•	•	•	•
Clarify “self-sufficiency”	•	•	•	•	•
Ecological health as basis		•		•	•
Working ranch as cultural, educational value	•		•	•	•
Controlled access and low-density		•	•	•	•
Zoning of activities	•	•		•	•
Use volunteers more		•	•		•
Improve public communication and collaboration	•	•	•	•	•
Establish non-profit “Friends Group”	•	•		•	•
Concern about “exclusiveness”	•	•			
Prioritize educational programs	•		•	•	