

September 11, 2008 - Valles Caldera Trust

Public Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Stewardship Update



Current Stewardship Actions

 Multiple Use and Sustained Yield of Forage

 Public Use and Access

 San Antonio Watershed Wetlands Restoration

 Forest and Watershed Restoration

 Redondo Canyon Restoration

Future!!

Multiple Use and Sustained Yield of Forage

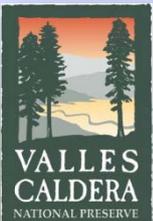
Proposed Action

-  Ecological Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes
-  Allocation of forage for ecosystem services, use by native fauna (primarily elk), use by the Trust (primarily for domestic livestock grazing)
-  Multiple use of forage (support domestic livestock grazing, scientific, educational, recreational, commercial and other purposes)
-  Connected Actions – management of infrastructure (fences/barriers, earthen tanks/water sources)
-  Facility improvements

Multiple Use and Sustained Yield of Forage

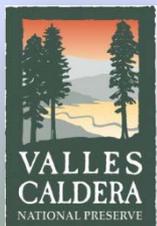
Purpose and Need

-  Valles Caldera Preservation Act (purposes and goals)
-  Existing condition of the Preserve (ecological condition, productivity, and suitability)
-  Condition of infrastructure and facilities related to ranching operations
-  Lessons learned from the interim grazing program



Multiple Use and Sustained Yield of Forage

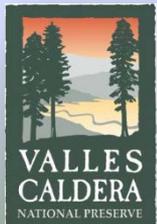
- 📄 Key Issues (based on initial analysis, public comment, and interim program)
- 📄 Concerns expressed regarding potential adverse effects to programs and resources resulting from livestock grazing.
- 📄 Types of programs - domestic livestock grazing



Multiple Use and Sustained Yield of Forage

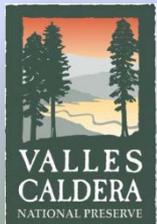
Alternatives

-  A - No Action
-  B – Forage allocation of 95% of the forage to ecosystem services, recreational and other relative values, and in support of native fauna and habitats. 5% of available forage to domestic livestock grazing (\cong 350 cow/calf pairs; 500 heifer or steer) or other uses. Removal and subsequent maintenance of a amount minimal infrastructure
-  C –Forage allocation of 60% to ecosystem services, 20-25% native fauna, 15-20% domestic livestock grazing or other use. Management of infrastructure in support of livestock programs. Domestic livestock grazing programs would be developed with an emphasis on collaboration and achieving a variety of purposes.
-  D –Allocation as described under ‘C’, with an emphasis on achieving economic efficiencies in programs
-  C₂,D₂ – C or D with facility improvement



Environmental Consequences

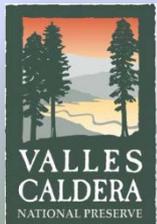
- 📄 Preserve-wide Assessment
 - 📄 Watershed (range, soils, hydrology)
 - 📄 Fire Ecology
 - 📄 Wildlife (Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive and Species of interest)
 - 📄 Aquatic Species (Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species)
 - 📄 Cultural Resources
 - 📄 Socioeconomic (this section estimates the financial efficiency of the alternatives, describes outcomes in context and intensity, and identifies outcomes that are meaningful for decision making)
 - 📄 Sensory Resources (sights, sounds, sense of place)
 - 📄 Recreation
 - 📄 Considerations for determining significance



Schedule

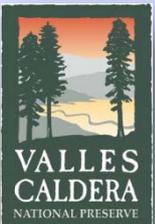
***Change in schedule – look for draft by
September Board Meeting!**

- 📄 Preparing final document for editing >200 Pages.
- 📄 Available end of September, early October – 45 day comment period due to length and complexity (similar to EIS).
- 📄 Review comments and make finding and decision by December Board Meeting.
- 📄 Finding of no Significant Impact (FONSI) – Implementing Decision
- 📄 No FONSI – terminate or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.



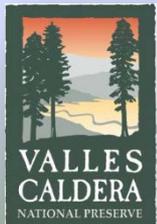
Public Use and Access

-  Phase one (public workshops, market analysis (business plan)) nearing completion.
-  Engaged USFS Enterprise Team assistance from Tom Christiansen, putting together Interdisciplinary Team (IDT).
-  Using the information acquired during phase one, the IDT should have notice of intent out in early 2009.



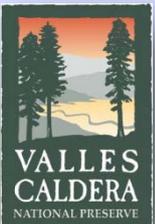
San Antonio Watershed Wetlands Restoration

- ❏ Proposed Stewardship Action has been out for public comment – no issues have been identified.
- ❏ A variety of activities are being proposed to address issues affecting the riparian areas and wetlands along San Antonio Creek and the wetlands complex in Alamo Canyon.
- ❏ Based on an inventory funded through a grant received by Los Amigos
- ❏ The Environmental Assessment should be available for public review early in 2009.
- ❏ Based on the findings (FONSI) an implementing decision could be made by early spring of 2009.



Future Stewardship Actions

- 📁 Forest and Rangeland Management
 - 📁 2006 completed delineation of plant alliance mapping;
 - 📁 2006/2007 completed stand delineation/attribution, stratified the forests for sampling and tested sampling design.
 - 📁 2008 completed field sampling, need to download/evaluate data
 - 📁 2009 synthesize forest inventory with other data (ecological data, transportation, socioeconomic) – existing condition report.
 - 📁 2009 - Purpose/Need, Proposed Action, Proposed Stewardship Action to Board
 - 📁 2009 -Notice of Intent, Public Scoping and Alternative Development.
 - 📁 2010 – Environmental Consequences, Draft/Final Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision

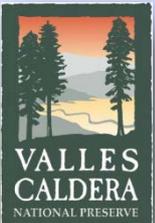


Building capacity to implement forest management projects

- 📄 Landscape Forest Restoration Act – Long term (10 year) funding for forest restoration activities over landscapes >50,000 acres.
- 📄 Collaborating with Santa Fe National Forest, Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute at Highlands University, The Nature Conservancy in preparation to compete for funding.
- 📄 Building Community Capacity – Collaborating to establish a Forest Investment Zone in northern New Mexico for the purpose of building capacity to harvest, manufacture, market and distribute small wood products.
- 📄 Within the zone the Jemez Area, including all of the Preserve would be a “landscape anchor area” and communities including the Jemez Valley, Jemez Mountains, Cuba, the Espanola Valley and Los Alamos would be included in the anchor area.
- 📄 RFP issued through U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities – lawsuit being filed by Center for Biological Diversity that may preclude any award.

Future Stewardship Actions

- ❏ Redondo Canyon Restoration Project
 - ❏ Preparing purpose and need, proposed action to present at December BOT meeting for authorization to continue planning.
 - ❏ Small project ($\cong 600$) acres proposing several monitoring tasks in association with thinning and prescribed fire to inform comprehensive forest management.
 - ❏ Develop stewardship contracting process
 - ❏ Quantify outcomes in ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and water capture/storage and spring run off (as estimated by changes in sublimation, soil moisture, and surface flow)



More Information

 www.vallescaldera.gov

 **Get Involved**

 **Stewardship**

 **Stewardship Registers containing a variety of documents**

 **Public Meetings**

 **Planning Meetings**

 **Virtual Meetings (Use and Access, MUSY-Forage)**

 **Posters**

 **Handouts**

 **Comment Forms**

