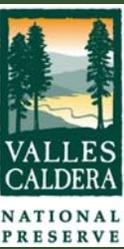


MUSY - Forage

Proposed Stewardship Action



The Preserve's grasslands are iconic of its beauty.



Michael Mudd

The Valles Caldera Trust is proposing to allocate forage within the Valles Caldera National Preserve to support elk and other herbivores; to preserve and protect ecosystem processes and habitats; to support livestock grazing and other commercial purposes; and to support scientific, education and other public uses.

The Trust is proposing to continue to manage annual grazing programs for domestic livestock. These programs could be one year or multiple years. They could include grazing by cattle or other domestic herbivores. The Trust is also proposing other commercial uses of forage, including harvesting of native seeds and plants.

The Trust is proposing to manage infrastructure associated with the allocation and use of forage, including the repair, maintenance, removal, obliteration and rehabilitation, or construction of earthen and other water tanks, water distribution systems, fences and other barriers, and corrals and pens.

The Valles Caldera Trust will be making mid-term (5-10 years) term decisions regarding the allocation and use of Preserve's forage resources including;

- Whether to allocate a portion of the Preserve's forage to livestock and other commercial purposes, and/or to scientific, educational or other public purposes.
- How forage allocation and use will occur in time and space, and the quantity and distribution of such use.
- How infrastructure, including earthen tanks, water holding and distribution systems, fences, barriers, corrals and pens, will be managed.
- The goals, objectives and monitored outcomes for livestock management and other activities that use or affect forage, riparian resources and associated habitats.
- The performance requirements that will guide the development and management of programs and facilities for livestock management and forage use.



There are a 136 stock tanks with earthen dams constructed to hold water for livestock operations. About 69% are functional; their average size is 1.4 acres.



The Preserve has 54 miles of boundary fence and 64 miles of interior fence. About 30 - 35% of the fences are in disrepair or inappropriately constructed and need to be replaced.

The forage within the Preserve's grasslands sustains wildlife and livestock. Healthy forage provides habitat for prey and predator and protects the quality of the Preserve's water and the surrounding riparian areas.



Don J. Usner



Don J. Usner



Don J. Usner