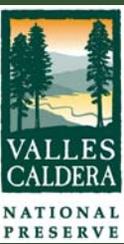


THE PRESERVE

Cultural Resources



Rock shelters in natural cavities or shallow caves are relatively common on the Preserve. Occupation of these shelters was as early as Middle Archaic (ca. 3000 B.C.) through Classic Puebloan (ca. A.D. 1600). Some shelters have heavy interior soot staining and ash, and walls constructed near the entrance.

A shelter on the west side of the Preserve has a small wall constructed at the entrance



Obsidian quarries abound on the Preserve and some cover several acres. Sites at Cerro del Medio are high quality obsidian. Obsidian cobbles occur in Valle Toledo and Valle San Antonio downstream from Cerro del Medio.



Rock alignments and stone enclosures are not common but have been found on slopes and ridges above the grassy valleys. Their age and function is not well understood. Some enclosures are likely lambing pens associated with Hispanic or Native American sheep herding. Others may have been prehistoric hunting blinds, eagle traps or simple shelters.



An unusual complex of walls on Cerro La Jara is constructed with boulders

Hundreds of **lithic reduction sites** provide a record of raw material reduction and use throughout prehistory. The majority of tools and flakes on these sites is obsidian. Tool manufacture probably accompanied gathering, hunting and resource processing tasks that prehistoric peoples pursued within the caldera.



Flags mark a sample of artifacts found at a lithic scatter in the Valle Toledo



The remains of **historic structures** from 19th and 20th century sheep herding, cattle ranching, sulphur mining and logging occur on the Preserve. Cabins in the "Headquarters Area" are still in use today. Logging began in the 1920s and continued through 2000 left mills and hundreds of miles of roads.



Sulphur mine on the west side of the Preserve in 1921



Wooden pipe found near a historic cabin



The Otero Cabin was constructed in 1908



Remains of a multi-room fieldhouse



High altitude agriculture: Small 1-4 room masonry fieldhouses occur only in the SW corner of the Preserve on the flat volcanic formation known as Banco Bonito. These Ancestral Puebloan sites were probably occupied seasonally for maize cultivation during the Classic period (A.D. 1325-1425). Some fieldhouses contain slab-lined hearths and pottery sherds. Rock terraces and gardens are related to farming at high altitude (up to 8,400 feet).