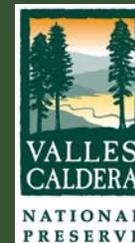


WHAT WE HEARD

At Public Meetings in 2001 and 2004



2001 PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS

The Board of Trustees held seven public listening sessions attended by over 400 people. Participants were asked to comment on:

- Visions for future use,
- Concerns about the impacts of use, and
- Management and decision-making processes.

VISIONS FOR FUTURE USE

- **Multiple uses:** Preserve is large enough, and uses compatible enough, to hold a wide range of activities.
- **Working Ranch:** Ranching is historical, economic and cultural continuity for the property.
- **Hunting:** Elk hunting would benefit herd health; an income opportunity; important recreational opportunity.
- **Fishing:** Potential for world-class fishing; may be an important income-generator.
- **Other recreation:** Hiking, camping, biking, cross-country skiing, star gazing and enjoying the peacefulness.
- **Educational Opportunities:** Summer nature camps to research laboratories. Develop an interpretive center with educational programs and facilities for conferences and workshops.
- **Economic Opportunities:** Economic potential in development; increased, or new, business opportunities in transportation, lodging, food, recreational and tourist services, and supplies and equipment.
- **Gateway Opportunities:** Surrounding communities could offer goods, services and education.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF USE

- **Cultural and Sacred Sites:** Protect archaeological sites and sites culturally significant to the Pueblos.
- **Quality of Life:** Impacts of increasing visitation on quality of life for those living and working in the area.
- **Socio-Economic Burdens:** Law enforcement and emergency medical resources currently understaffed.
- **Environmental Impacts:** Degradation of the Preserve from overuse and inappropriate uses, including damage to riparian areas by elk, cattle and recreationists; and use of off-road vehicles.

MANAGEMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

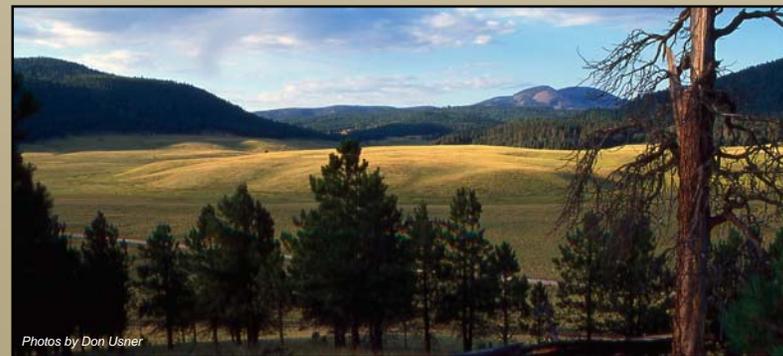
- **Management Principles:** Balance and fairness for all; recognize local priorities; preserve uniqueness.
- **Move Slowly and Carefully:** Inventory resources; base decisions on good science.
- **Learn from Other Experiences:** Study the management history of Forest Service, NPS and BLM.
- **Coordinate with Others:** Communicate and coordinate with organizations that share common goals.
- **Bigger Picture:** The Preserve is a central piece in the larger Jemez puzzle. Manage appropriately.
- **Use Local Expertise:** People living and working in the area have important information and deep wisdom.
- **Be Innovative:** Think creatively; take advantage of the special status to do things differently.
- **Monitor:** Monitor and evaluate decision-making, land and water conditions, forest and wildlife health, and public satisfaction.
- **Include Youth:** Focus on the next generation; they will be the users and stewards of the Preserve.
- **Strive for Balance and Fairness:** Help people realize that compromise is necessary.



2004 FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIC GUIDANCE FOR COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT

The Valles Caldera Trust convened five public meetings to gather input on the *Draft Framework and Strategic Guidance for Comprehensive Management*. About 90 members of the public participated in meetings at Jemez Pueblo, Los Alamos, Española, Santa Fe and Albuquerque. The 12 THEMES (below) reflect participant comments.

1. 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 information about VCT **objectives, commitments, priorities and measurable outcomes**. The next step should be planning.
3. Clarify the definition of **financial self-sufficiency**. It should not include 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 co-exist with recreation and other uses. It can be economical and ecological.
6. Maintain **controlled access and low-density programs**. It is okay 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** geographically and temporally.
8. Use **volunteers** more and better as part of research, monitoring, education and program services.
9. Improve **public outreach**. Use tools beyond the web site to reach people.
10. Establish a non-profit "**Friends Group**" for fundraising and volunteer recruitment.
11. Concern about the **perception of exclusiveness**. Find ways for more free/low cost access and publicize existing opportunities more effectively.
12. Prioritize **educational programs**.



Photos by Don Usner