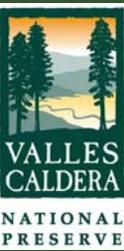


# VISITOR PROGRAMS

## Recreation



### 2007 "Interim" Recreation Program

**Core Events:** hunting; fishing; guided and unguided hiking; free hiking; tours with interpretive themes, including geology, archaeology, wildlife viewing, botany, and history; as well as equestrian trail riding; sleigh rides; cross country skiing snowshoeing, moonlight skiing and dark night skiing; and star gazing.

**Special Events:** mountain biking, a marathon, family reunions, weddings, workshops, clinics, wagon rides, group tours, and facility rentals.

**Clinics:** fly-fishing, outdoor skills and photography.



Visitors enjoy the view of the Valle Grande from the other side of the fence (above). Experiencing the quite beauty of the Preserve (below).



The Trust began providing "reasonable access to the public for recreation" within two years of Federal acquisition as mandated by the Valles Caldera Preservation Act. In 2002, the Trust opened its gates to the first visitors for commercial hiking and elk hunting.

Existing recreation programs are considered interim and are designed around the existing ranching infrastructure. At the time of Federal acquisition, there was no parking, toilets or trailheads. There were no buildings adequate to provide visitor services, no potable water and no roads suitable for passenger vehicles.

Over time, the interim programs will be replaced by a comprehensive, long-term program supported by the appropriate infrastructure.



Traffic jams on and off the Preserve in August 2006. Roads are infrastructure that support year-round access with personal and other vehicles.



Above (left to right) cross country skier, two staff members speak with a visitor, a school field trip from Albuquerque takes a lunch break. Below (left to right) a successful elk hunter with two staff members, youth antler collection program, fishing on the San Antonio Creek, early spring on the Preserve.



Below (left to right) two successful turkey hunters, a talk at the Valle Grande Staging Area, a sleigh ride in the pines.



	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Public Visitation	7,500	9,220	9,938
<b>Revenues</b>			
Elk Hunting	\$210,850	\$285,625	\$317,365
Fishing	\$ 62,793	\$ 71,645	\$ 60,415
All Other Events	\$129,562	\$109,449	\$ 76,656
Concessions	\$ 13,256	\$ 9,558	\$ 48,496
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$416,461</b>	<b>\$476,277</b>	<b>\$502,932</b>



Visitor programs are supported with existing or temporary infrastructure. Parking in Valle Grande is limited to cattle shipping and receiving grounds (above left) and a gravel pit (above right) at the Staging Area. The number of visitors and types of programs are limited by the existing infrastructure.



Above left, VCT staff, teaches kids to construct a shelter from pine needles at a outdoor skills clinic for youth. Above right, visitors take in one of the Preserve's panoramic views.



Above left, is one of two buildings used by the public. The historic cabins on the Preserve such as the "Cowboy Cabin" above right, require an average of \$56,000 to in deferred maintenance to become suitable for public use.