

Valles Caldera National Preserve
Sandoval County
New Mexico
Stewardship Register

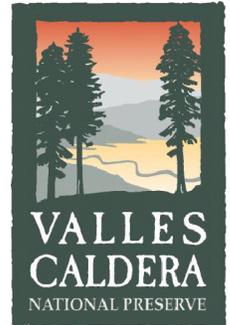
Stewardship Action	Borrow Pit #2 Expansion
File Number	200402
Target Start Date	Summer 2006
Actual Start Date	
Target Completion Date	Summer 2006
Actual Completion Date	
Location	
Latitude/Longitude	
Legal description	
UTM (Approximate Center)	364899.83 3976899.88



Valles Caldera National Preserve

Proposed Expansion Borrow Pit #2

Vicinity Map



1:130,000

Legend

-  Valles Caldera National Preserve Boundary
-  Proposed Expansion

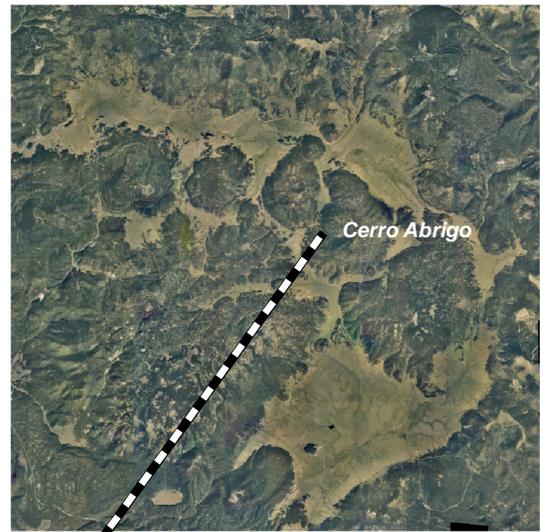
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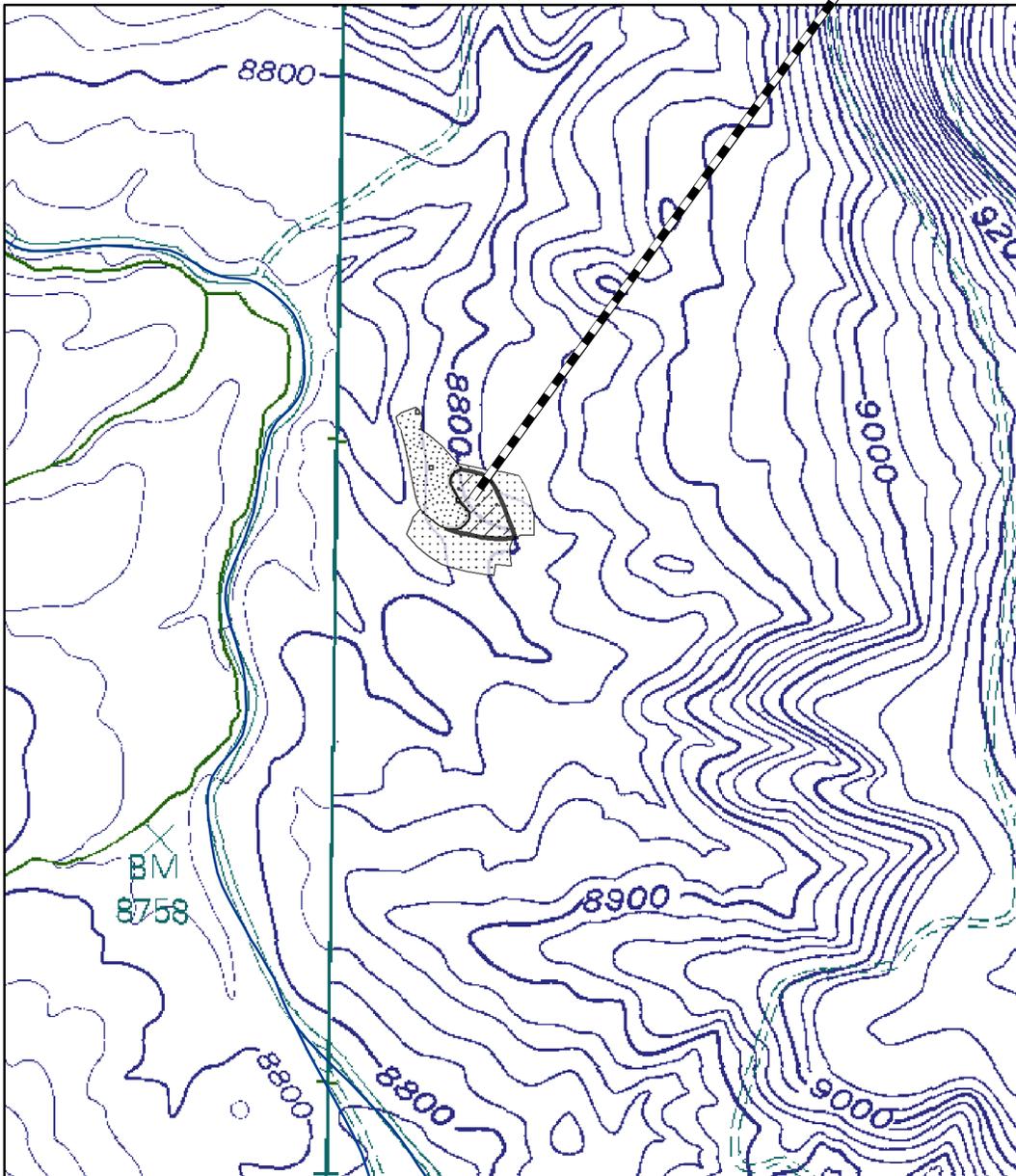
Valles Caldera National Preserve

Proposed Expansion Borrow Pit #2

Project Map



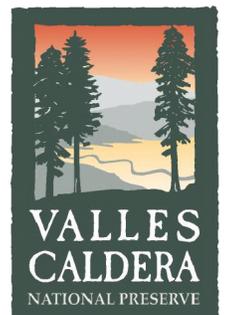
Valles Caldera National Preserve



Legend

-  Borrow Pit #2 (Existing)
-  Proposed Expansion
-  Footprint

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Valle Grande Entrance Upgrade

I. Purpose and Need

The Valles Caldera Trust is proposing to expand the borrow pit known as Borrow Pit #2 by approximately 1.7 surface acres. Borrow Pit #2 is located west of Cerro Abrigo. The term “Borrow Pit” is used to describe a site where native rock and aggregate are removed. The expansion is being proposed to provide local material for the maintenance work currently under way on road VC02 as well as to provide material for other annual road maintenance within the Preserve.

This stewardship action is being proposed to support efforts by the Trust to meet its management responsibilities as described in the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (the act); Section 108 Resource Management, (b) Management Responsibilities, (5) maintenance, rehabilitation, repair, and improvement of property within the Preserve. The proposed stewardship action will also support the Trust in meeting the goal established by the act in Section 108 Resource Management, (d) Management Program, (4) public use and access of the Preserve for recreation. The act further notes that facilities in the Preserve (including roads) are to meet public safety standards applicable to units of the National Forest System and the State of New Mexico.

The act specifically permits this activity in Section 105 The Valles Caldera National Preserve, (e) withdrawals, (2) Materials for Roads and Facilities; where it is stated, that “- *Nothing in this title shall preclude the Secretary, prior to assumption of management of the Preserve by the Trust, and the Trust thereafter, from allowing the utilization of common varieties of mineral materials such as sand, stone, and gravel as necessary for construction and maintenance of roads and facilities within the Preserve.*”

Borrow Pit #2 has been used to support the VC02 Road Maintenance Project. Borrow Pit #2 was an existing borrow pit that was reactivated to support the maintenance of VC02 (http://www.vallescaldera.gov/get_involved/stars/docs/200402Road%20Maintenance-SR.pdf). The existing excavation was estimated to be adequate to support the road maintenance project however, additional material is needed. The expansion of the existing pit would provide adequate material to complete the VC02 maintenance project as well as provide material for future road maintenance in the vicinity of the pit.

II. Proposed Stewardship Action

The proposed stewardship action would expand the current size of the pit from 2.6 acres to 4.3 acres. All shrubs and trees would be removed from the additional 1.7 surface acres through cutting, pushing, removal and/or mastication. The current vegetation consists of ponderosa pine trees measuring less than 9" in diameter with a small inclusion of aspen trees.

III. Performance Requirements

All performance requirements listed previously in the VC02 Road maintenance Stewardship Register will be incorporated.

The soil, rock, organic material, and some or all vegetation will be piled on site for later use in site rehabilitation.

Oversized material, if present, will be stock piled on site for future use as rip-rap or derrick material.

Temporary erosion control features will be used during the life of the material source.

Permanent drainage control measures will be established after the site has been rehabilitated.

When excavation of the site has been completed, on all or part of the area, and the site will not be used again, the sides will be sloped, graded, or scaled and the general pit area smoothed and stabilized.

Mycorrhizae fungi product or soil stabilization structures will be used to enhance the nutrient availability and site conditions for establishing native grasses and shrubs (in lieu of planting or seeding).

Drainage and erosion control features established in the access road will be maintained during the life of material source.

IV. Public Comment

You may provide comment regarding this proposal to the Trust electronically or through surface mail. Electronic comments may be submitted by selecting the feedback icon associated with the Stewardship Register or by sending an email to Marie Rodriguez, Natural Resource Coordinator at mrodriguez@vallescaldera.gov.

Surface mail may be addressed to the Valles Caldera Trust, Attention: Marie Rodriguez, P.O. Box 359, Jemez Springs, NM 87025

Comments can be most helpful if they are received by June 13, 2006.

