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September 21, 2005

Dear Friends,

The Valles Caldera Trust has decided to use prescribed fire within approximately 1800 acres of the Valle Toledo. The use of fire at this time is being implemented to evaluate the effectiveness, as well as the effects, of using fire to improve and/or maintain the health and vigor of the upper and lower montane grasslands on the Preserve. The Trust will also measure and observe changes in the way cattle, elk, as well as insects utilize the grasslands following prescribed fire.

The Trust has completed an environmental analysis of this proposed action and documented that analysis in an Environmental Assessment (EA) which was posted to our website (www.vallescaldera.gov) for a public comment period from August 19, 2005 to September 19, 2005. Based on comments received by the public several minor changes were made to the EA. These changes included correcting typographical errors, clarification of several technical terms, the revision of a map to include operational features, and the inclusion of a table of contents. The proposed action was modified to reflect the potential use of existing geothermal well pads as camping sites for fire fighters. These sites have been extensively disturbed in the past for the purpose of geothermal well development. None of these modifications would require additional analysis or present new information; therefore an additional comment period was not provided.

Based on the EA and supporting project file (including public comment) the Trust found that no significant impact was likely to occur as a result of the proposed action and has made an implementing decision. The Stewardship Register containing the final EA, the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and the Implementing Decision have been posted to the Valles Caldera National Preserve website (www.vallescaldera.gov)

Prescribed fire activities could occur as soon as environmental conditions are appropriate and resources are available. The prescribed fire plan will be posted to the web site as it is completed.

Sincerely,

/s/
Dennis Trujillo
Preserve Manager