



Valles Caldera National Preserve

Sandoval and Rio Arriba Counties

State of New Mexico

Finding of No Significant Impact and
Implementing Decision

Interim Program for Overnight Camping

Contact Information:

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Stewardship Register

Stewardship Action	Interim Overnight Camping
File Number	PLAN 3
Target Start Date	Summer 2008
Target Completion Date	Until Rescinded or Revised
Location	Various Locations
Last Updated	20080429 -MER

Introduction

A Finding of No Significant Impact or *FONSI* is a document that briefly presents the reason why an action, not otherwise excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement, will not have a significant effect on the natural or physical environment or people's relationship to that environment (CEQ 1977).

Finding

It is my finding that the Proposed Stewardship Action (PSA), which would allow limited camping in support of administrative activities and recreation activities and events on the Valles Caldera National Preserve, would not have a significant effect on the environment or significantly change people's relationship to that environment. I am basing this finding on a careful review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the PSA.

The EA found that the context of any environmental consequences would be limited in both time and space and the intensity would be minor or negligible. The EA considered the effect of limited camping framed by specific performance requirements designed to mitigate any potential negative impacts.

Public comment was overwhelmingly supportive. Concerns brought forward by the public were adequately addressed in the proposed action and performance requirements.

The PSA included no development of any permanent or temporary facilities; any ground disturbance would be minor. If any unforeseen adverse effects were to occur the Trust could easily adjust the program without incurring any loss due to facility or infrastructure investments. Interim Camping could be curtailed at any time without leaving enduring evidence that it had ever occurred.

Implementing Decision

The Trust is beginning development of a comprehensive plan for public use and access to the Preserve, including the development of facilities and infrastructure. Interim programs for public use and recreation including the proposed Interim Camping activities are important tools for informing comprehensive planning and good decisions in the future.

Based on the FONSI and considering the potential benefits to the public and the potential contributions to current and future management of the Preserve, it is my decision to implement Interim Camping with all performance requirements as described in the EA until revised or rescinded.

/s/Jeffrey Cross

May 7, 2008

Jeffrey Cross, Executive Director

Date

Works Cited

CEQ. *Regulations for Implementing the Procedures of NEPA*. Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508, Washington D.C.: GPO, 1977.