

MUSY – Forage Environmental Assessment

Addendum

Introduction

The following changes have been made to the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the Valles Caldera Trust (the Trust) considering the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield of Forage (MUSY – Forage) on the Valles Caldera National Preserve, released for public review and comment on December 19, 2008.

Executive Summary

The final paragraphs of the Executive Summary under the heading, *Findings and Decisions* on page 10, have been revised as follows to reflect the current status of planning and decision making for MUSY- Forage:

The EA was distributed and otherwise made available for public review and comment from December 19, 2008 through February 2, 2009 (45 days). In response to timely requests made by the public, the Trust extended the comment period through February 12, 2009 (55 days).

On March 2, 2009 the Trust released a preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and a summary of comments and responses for a 30 day public comment and review period through April 1, 2009. This permitted a feedback loop for public comment prior to making a final determination regarding significance and a subsequent implementing decision.

On April 07, 2009 the Responsible Official (Gary Bratcher, Executive Director) signed the final FONSI and made the decision to implement Alternative D₂, stating, “I find this alternative to be most compliant with the Valles Caldera Preservation Act, specifically in the ability of *Optimizing the generation of income based on existing market conditions, to the extent that it does not unreasonably diminish the long-term scenic and natural values of the area, or the multiple use and sustained yield capability of the land.*”

Corrigenda

The following minor edits have been made in the body of the EA.

1. Table 4, page 29, has been replaced with Table 5, (from page 30). A new Table 5 was created which more clearly illustrates allocation and capacity as described in the text. The change has added clarity to the proposed action. The tables, as they appear in the final document are shown below.

Table 1 – Animal Unit (AU) Equivalents

Animal	AU Value	Monthly Forage Allocation Pounds (dry weight)
Cow/calf pair, Bull (bovine), Horse	1.0	900
Steer/heifer/yearling	.7	630
Elk	.6	540

Table 2 – Animal unit capacity in context with elk and climate

Elk Population Estimate	Number of Animal Units for 120 days under various climate scenarios				
	Optimum	Favorable	Average	Unfavorable	Drought
2500 elk	2732	1862	991	227	-536
3000 elk	2282	1412	541	-223	-986

Optimum: Capacity of the wettest year evaluated
 Favorable: Modeled capacity between average and optimum
 Average: Mean capacity 2002-2008
 Unfavorable: Modeled capacity between drought and average
 Drought: Capacity under driest conditions evaluated

2. Forage Allocation – Performance Requirements, page 29, fifth bullet and sub-bullet; has been changed to clearly state that out year commitments would be based on average capacities and could be adjusted based on actual conditions.
3. Forage Allocation – Performance Requirements, page 29, sixth bullet; change “favorable” to “favorable or optimum” and cross reference to table 5.
4. Multiple Use of Forage – Performance Requirements, eighth bullet, (second bullet on page 32) and performance requirement has been clarified by adding “commitments to individuals and organizations”.
5. Multiple Use of Forage – Performance Requirements, a bullet has been added as follows, “contracts and agreements for domestic livestock use will include measures to prevent noxious weeds. These measures could include confining animals prior to or upon arrival, cleaning vehicles and otherwise minimizing risks associated with vehicles.”

These are practices currently employed by the Trust and considered in the environmental consequences.

6. Page 61, first paragraph, cross-reference currently referencing “table 7” will be updated to reference “table 8”
7. Page 87, third paragraph, cross-reference currently referencing “table 18” will be updated to reference “table 17”
8. Page 101, second paragraph under **Black-footed Ferret – (*Mustela nigripes*)** – Endangered. “...then 200...” is replaced with “...than 200...”

9. Page 140, paragraph 2, “Trust” replaces “Preserve” in this paragraph where “Preserve” was incorrectly used in reference to the agency.
10. Page 141, third paragraph, “hazard” replaces “hazrd”.

Appendices

1. The appendices have been removed from the EA and provided in separate documents.
2. A detailed summary of comments to the EA and preliminary FONSI has been added as Appendix D.