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NEWS RELEASE

PRESIDENT BUSH APPOINTS NEW VALLES CALDERA TRUST BOARD MEMBERS

(Los Alamos, NM) – President Bush has announced his intent to appoint three new members of the Valles Caldera Trust board of trustees to four-year terms. A fourth position still remains to be filled. The new pending appointees replace members whose terms expired in January 2005. The President must sign the proclamation to finalize these appointments and is anticipated to do so in the next three-to-four weeks.

The new trustees and the areas of expertise they represent are:

- John T. Caid, director of the White Mountain Apache Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division and a resident of Pine Top, AZ (expertise in the management of game and non-game fish and wildlife);
- James R. Gosz, director of the New Mexico Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) at New Mexico State University and a resident of Cedar Crest, NM (expertise in the sustainable management of forest lands);
- Raymond Loretto, DVM – Veterinarian practicing in San Ysidro, NM and former Governor and First Lieutenant Governor, Pueblo of Jemez, New Mexico (active in state or local government and expertise in the customs of the local area).

In addition, current board chair Tracy Hephner has been reappointed to serve a new full term, expiring January 16, 2009. She has been reassigned to fill the
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seat on the board for expertise in domesticated livestock management. A long-time rancher from Wagon Mound, New Mexico, Ms. Hephner formerly was assigned the seat designated for a member with expertise in the management of game and non-game fish and wildlife.

The board seat designated for expertise in cultural and natural history of the region awaits an appointment.

The terms for new trustees James Gosz and Raymond Loretto will expire January 16, 2009; the term of John Caid will expire January 16, 2007.

"I look forward to working with these strong individuals on the board," Valles Caldera Trust Board Chair Tracy Hephner said. "Each are leaders in their own right and they seem tailor-made for the trust. Their experience will lend so much to our decision-making process and I think the public can feel confident in them."

"A strong board has been the key ingredient to the success of this new experiment in public land management," said Ray Powell, executive director for the Valles Caldera Trust. "The new trustees offer depth and breadth to this board and the current board and staff of the trust truly look forward to working with them. We expect to accomplish a great deal with the leadership and guidance of this board. "

The Valles Caldera Trust was created by the Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2000. Nine members serve. Of these, seven members are appointed by the President of the United States. Five of these appointees must be New Mexico residents. In addition, the Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest and the Superintendent of Bandelier National Monument serve as voting members on the board.

The seven appointees are selected for specific expertise or represent an organization or government entity as follows:

- Expertise in aspects of domesticated livestock management, production and marketing;
 - Expertise in the management of game and non-game wildlife and fish populations;
 - Expertise in sustainable management of forest lands;
 - Active in a nonprofit conservation organization concerned with the activities of the US Forest Service;
 - Expertise in financial management;
- (more)
- Expertise in the cultural and natural history of the region; and

(more)

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- Active in state or local government in NM, with expertise in the customs of the local area.

Board members may serve up to eight consecutive years.

The Valles Caldera Trust oversees the Valles Caldera National Preserve, formerly the privately owned "Baca Ranch." The 88,900 acre property is located in the Jemez Mountains in northern New Mexico. It was purchased by the federal government in 2000 under the Valles Caldera National Preservation Act. The property is known for its huge meadows, abundant wildlife, meandering streams and remarkable scenery. More information about the Preserve can be found at www.vallescaldera.gov.

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