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NEWS RELEASE

VALLES CALDERA TRUST REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR 2007 LIVESTOCK GRAZING PROGRAM

(Jemez Springs, NM) – The Valles Caldera Trust is seeking proposals to operate an ecologically and economically viable cattle operation on the Valles Caldera National Preserve for the summer 2007 grazing season. All livestock operators are eligible, including permittees on US Forest Service and BLM lands, private land livestock operators, and ranchers on state trust and tribal lands. The Trust has identified a minimum capacity of 1,000 Animal Units and a maximum capacity of 2,000 head of cattle to graze on the Preserve for approximately 120 days (June 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007).

This request for proposals is based on 1,000 cow/calf pairs or 1,430 yearlings (1 yearling = 0.7 animal units) entering the Preserve on June 1, 2007. The entry date may be delayed due to climate and range readiness, but entry will be no later than June 15, 2007. Stock numbers may be increased up to the 2,000 head maximum (established by the 2002 Environmental Assessment for the Interim Grazing Strategy) if conditions during the spring range readiness assessment warrant. The Trust will make the decision whether or not to increase capacity on April 15, 2007.

The deadline for proposal submission is January 9, 2007. There is a mandatory pre-bid meeting at Trust offices on December 13, 2006 at 10:00 am for all potential bidders. Information about the landscape, forage resources and facilities on the Preserve will be presented and discussed.

The request for proposals is available on the Trust's web site (www.vallescaldera.gov) or by calling 505-661-3333. The Trust offices are located at 18161 Highway 4, Jemez Springs, NM.

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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