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NEWS RELEASE

Valles Caldera Trust Moving Offices to Jemez Springs

(Los Alamos, NM) – The Valles Caldera Trust, the agency responsible for managing the Valles Caldera National Preserve, will be moving their office from Los Alamos to Jemez Springs. The Trust has signed a lease with the Servants of the Paraclete to lease offices just north of Jemez Springs, across from the Jemez State Monument, near mile marker 18. The move is being scheduled for early May, 2006.

In 2005 the Trust was informed of the need to vacate their current office space to allow for renovations. The search for new space began and sites in Los Alamos, White Rock, Santa Fe, and Bernalillo, as well as Jemez Springs were considered. The facilities in Jemez Springs met all the needs of the Trust. The facility is immaculate, well maintained, and available for immediate occupancy. The location will be convenient for visitors and is close to the Preserve. Guest quarters at the new administrative site can be used to support the Trust's seasonal and short term employees. This will free up facilities on the Preserve for renovation or public use in the future.

The Trust is looking forward to becoming a member of the Jemez Springs community. Tracy Hephner, the current chair of the Trust's Board of Trustees noted that, "The support of Los Alamos was instrumental in the Trust's ability to open to the public". The Valles Caldera Preservation Act required that reasonable public access to the Preserve be available within two years of acquisition. Generally new federal landscapes remain closed for five years or more to allow agencies to establish an organization and complete some initial level of planning. The county and city of Los Alamos supported the Trust financially and as neighbors, making the accelerated organization and planning possible. The Trust will miss being a part of the Los Alamos community but looks forward to a continued alliance with community and the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The Lab has played an important role in the development of the Trust's science programs and the Trust expects this relationship to continue and grow.

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