



FOR IMMEDIATE

For More Information:

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NEWS RELEASE

The Valles Caldera National Preserve Has Pasture Available

The Valles Caldera National Preserve has pasture available for up to 1500 steers for the 2006 grazing season. The steers will be pastured on a per head basis for a 120 day season, running from June 1st through September 30th. Full care will be provided. Ranch Foreman Randy McKee has thirteen years experience overseeing the cattle operation on the lands of the Preserve.

The Valles Caldera National Preserve covers an area of roughly 89,000 acres in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. The grazing operation utilizes forage in the open valles and upland meadows. Elevation ranges from 8500 to 10,000 ft. The forage is primarily Kentucky blue grass and Idaho and Arizona fescue. There is ample water from perennial streams and high country stock tanks.

The Preserve was purchased by the federal government in 2000, with passage of the Valles Caldera Act. Formerly known as Baca Location 1, from the land grant era, the ranch later passed to private hands. Past owners included the Bond family and more recently, the Dunnigans, who ran a summer steer operation with stocker cattle.

The Valles Caldera Trust is charged with management of the Preserve. The Congressional mandate directs the lands be operated as a working ranch, with the goals of protecting and preserving its unique features, values and ecological health, offering opportunities for recreation, providing for sustained yield and multiple use of resources and striving to become financially self-sustaining.

The Trust has chosen to steward the lands by applying science-based adaptive management. The approach combines adaptive management, practiced by ranchers on a daily basis, with additional information generated by scientific monitoring. The combination of the mandated goals, the financial requirement and the use of science-based adaptive management result in a unique formula for the management of public lands.

For further information on the 2006 grazing program or an application to provide steers for the program, please contact the offices of the Valles Caldera Trust at 505-661-3333. *More information about the Valles Caldera National Preserve can be found at www.vallescaldera.gov.*

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