



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 20, 2006

NEWS RELEASE

Valles Caldera Trust Announces Winter Recreation Programs

(Jemez Springs, NM) – The Valles Caldera Trust announces its winter recreation program on Valles Caldera National Preserve. The activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and sleigh rides. Activities begin on December 29, 2006 and end on April 1, 2007. All winter activities will be based out of the Valle Grande Staging Area located about 2 miles off Highway 4 at mile 39.2.

Eleven miles of groomed trails and 11,000 acres will be available for day use skiing and snowshoeing every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. No reservations are required. Fees are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for youth (6-15 years); children 5 years and under are free.

Approximately 24,000 acres will be available for overnight skiing and snowshoeing on 11 weekends. The Trust will use a lottery to select people to spend up to three nights per weekend at one of our comfortably equipped yurts, which are about 6 and 12 miles from the Staging Area. The lottery will close on December 14 and we will post the results by December 20. Lottery tickets are \$5 and the fee for each yurt is \$180 per night for up to six people.

Additional activities include moonlight skiing on December 30, February 3 and March 3 and dark night skiing on January 20, February 17 and March 17 from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm. No reservations are required. Fees are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for youth (6-15 years); children 5 years and under are free.

Sleigh rides will be offered on Saturdays and Sundays from January 6 through April 1, 2007. Rides take about 60 minutes. Sleighs pulled by matched draft horses offer an alternative mode of travel through the Valle Grande. Guides will share the interesting history and lore of the Baca Ranch and offer insights into its past and its future. Fees are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$15 for youth (6-15 years); children 5 years and under are free.

The public can obtain information about any event and enter the lottery for overnight skiing and snowshoeing on the Trust's website (www.vallescaldera.gov) or by phone (1-866-382-5537).

Winter offers a completely different experience in the vast snow-covered expanse of the Preserve. All winter activities are offered depending on snow conditions on the Preserve.

The Valles Caldera Trust oversees the Valles Caldera National Preserve, formerly the privately owned "Baca Ranch." The 89,000-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 Preservation Act. The property is known for its huge meadows, abundant wildlife, meandering streams and remarkable scenery. The mission of the Valles Caldera Trust is to create a successful model of public land management that protects and preserves the Valles Caldera National Preserve's unique values. Toward that end, the Trust will operate the Preserve as a working ranch; strive to become financially self-sustaining; meet the varied needs of visitors; strive to use and steward the multiple resources of the Preserve; and work collaboratively with our neighbors.

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