

Ca Ventana en los Valles

*News of the Valles Caldera National Preserve
from the Board of Trustees*

Dr. Jeffrey Cross Joins the Valles Caldera Trust as Executive Director

The Valles Caldera Trust is pleased to announce that it has hired Dr. Jeffrey Cross as its new Executive Director. He begins work on May 1.

Dr. Cross has 15 years' experience leading federal and regional resource management and science organizations. Prior to joining the Trust, Cross was chief of resource management at Grand Canyon National Park and Director of the Grand Canyon Science Center. He was responsible for developing and implementing interdisciplinary resource management, monitoring, and research programs to protect the natural and cultural resources.

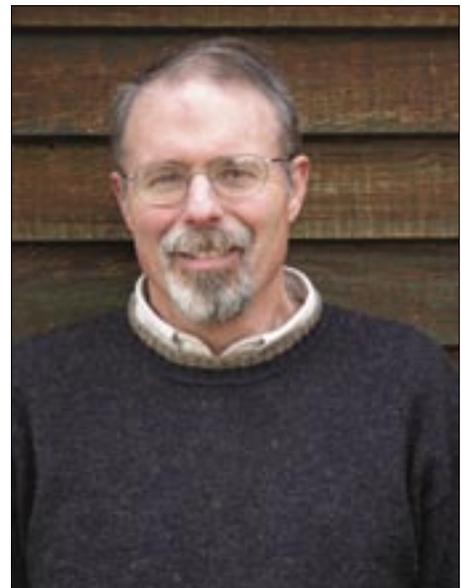
In accepting the position with the Trust, Cross said, "I'm very excited about joining the Valles Caldera Trust and look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. The Preserve is a special place that is rich in natural and cultural resources. I'm thrilled to be a part of this unique opportunity

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 Board of Trustees publishes this periodic newsletter to keep the public informed and engaged as we proceed with the task of developing a new model of public land management.

in public land management."

Valles Caldera Board Chairperson Tracy Hephner said, "We are pleased to have Dr. Cross join us. His strong resource management and science background will complement our goal of science-based adaptive management, and his experience in recreation and in managing large and complex organizations will help the Trust move toward its goals of public access and financial sustainability."

Among other accomplishments at Grand Canyon, Dr. Cross oversaw development of the Colorado River Management Plan, a recreational use plan for the more than 22,000 people who boat through Grand Canyon each year, and the largest and most controversial plan the park completed in the past decade. He also served on the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Working Group and the Grand Canyon Overflights Working Group, stakeholder processes focused on resource management of complex systems.



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The Board of Trustees is composed of seven members appointed by the President of the United States and two who serve *ex officio* (Superintendent of Bandelier and Supervisor of Santa Fe National Forest). The appointed Trustees generally serve four-year terms and, except for the Chair, receive no compensation for their work.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Comprehensive Management Framework, or notices regarding events, public Board meetings, or planning for management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve, contact

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New Executive Director

(con't from page 1)

The Science Center at the Grand Canyon manages natural and cultural resources for the 1.2 million-acre park, backcountry recreation planning, and environmental compliance. It has a staff of 60-85 and a budget of about \$3.5 million.

"I am committed to sustainable use of resources. In each of my management positions, I have used technical information to advance resource sustainability, from the capacity of the coastal ocean to assimilate pollution, to the management of habitat of recreational and commercial fishes, to the conservation of natural and cultural resources in a national park.

"As a manager, I have learned that success almost always depends on the collective efforts of many people. In all of my management positions, I have worked hard to establish good relationships with people above and below me in the organization, as well as with cooperating agencies at local, state, and federal levels, and with private industry. I have built and relied on strategic partnerships during my management career to accomplish programs and projects that probably would not have been possible otherwise," said Cross.

Cross earned a bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of Rhode Island, a master's degree in zoology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a doctorate in fisheries from the University of Washington. He spent 10 years as a scientist doing research on fish biology and ecology before moving into resource management.

He has been Supervisory Research Marine Scientist at NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service/Northeast Fisheries Sciences Center, James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory in New Jersey; Executive Director of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project; Visiting Professor, Institute of Marine and Coastal Studies at Rutgers University; and Adjunct Professor of Biology at California State University, Long Beach.

He has received several awards, including the Department of Commerce bronze medal for his work on a national fisheries habitat team, and the George Wright Society communication award.



From the Chair, Tracy Hephner

Old Timers Reunion and Open House

Put a circle around August 26; it's the date of the first ever **Old Timers Reunion and Open House** at the Valles Caldera National Preserve. The front gate

of the Preserve will be open wide in a celebration of our incredible good fortune in preserving and enjoying a unique landscape. The event will also be an opportunity to express our gratitude to all those folks who worked to establish the Preserve. In addition, we hope to begin to gather the stories of the people who lived and worked at the former Baca location. Their memories, photos, and films will greatly enrich the stories we share with visitors for generations to come.

Valles Caldera Trust On the Move

The Valles Caldera Trust offices will relocate to Jemez Springs in May. The Trust has signed a lease with the Servants of the Paraclete for office space just north of Jemez Springs. The main building sits just south of the tall white church, directly across from the Jemez State Monument, near mile marker 18 on Highway 4.

Last year, the Trust learned it needed to vacate its space in Los Alamos to allow for extensive renovation. The search began and sites in Los Alamos, White Rock, Santa Fe, and Bernalillo were considered. The facilities in Jemez Springs met all the needs of the Trust. 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. The housing accommodations will allow renovation to begin on numerous historic buildings on the Preserve.

The Trust has received a warm welcome in anticipation of the move to Jemez Springs. We look forward to becoming a part of the Jemez Springs community. We remain grateful to Los Alamos and LANL for their support in the development of our organization and we expect our relationships with both to continue and strengthen in the coming years.

2005 Recreation Numbers Are In

In 2005, nearly 10,000 folks visited the Preserve, enjoying hunting, fishing, van tours, hiking, wagon rides, horseback riding, and numerous special events. The

financial numbers have been crunched and the result was in the black. A good deal of the credit for success goes to the our Recreation Crew. They overcame crashing websites and various snafus to make sure that every visitor had a memorable experience. A special thanks is due to Kimber Barber, our former Recreation Planner. Kimber has moved on to other adventures. We wish her luck and hope the lure of the Preserve will keep her from becoming a stranger.

See Us on the Silver Screen (Again!)

Early December brought a request to film scenes for the \$28 million-feature film *Seraphim Falls*. Starring Pierce Brosnan and Liam Neeson, the film is set at the end of the Civil War and tells the story of a colonel who fails to put down his weapon and seeks to settle a grudge.

Preparations began a week before filming, as set crews assembled a cabin on an idyllic spot. Three days of shooting brought a support staff of 125, some 50 trailers, equipment trucks, vehicles, and of course, the stars. Temperatures ranged from a morning low of -15° to a high of 20° mid-afternoon. Despite the rugged conditions, the crew was never far from Hollywood. A star's request for fresh sword fish did not result in a hurried trip to the grocery store. In true Hollywood style, the fish was flown in from the coast in time for the evening meal.

Archaeologist Bill Barfuss and Landscape Architect Rourke McDermott served as liaisons for the filming. Both had a chance to share the Preserve's history on camera as part of the special features portion of an eventual DVD. They also made sure that Preserve rules for film crews were observed and oversaw the restoration of the film site. The film shoot enhanced the visibility of the Preserve as well as our bottom line.

Board News

The Board was pleased to have Albuquerque attorney Bill Keleher named to fill the position calling for experience in cultural and local history. Bill has been fully engaged as a Board member since his appointment and has taken the lead on several Board issues. He is a great addition to a very active Board.

The Board (with regret) offers congratulations to Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor Gilbert Zepeda on his promotion to Southwestern Region Director of Forestry, Forest Health, State and Private Cooperative Forestry, and International Forestry. His new position means that, after September, he will no longer serve on the Valles Caldera Trust Board. He will be greatly missed.

Staff Profile: Suzanne Gifford, Biologist

Name: Suzanne Gifford

Title: Biologist

Duties:

The biologist is responsible for conducting field research, inventory, and monitoring projects on the Valles Caldera National Preserve, with emphasis on both plant studies and studies involving animals. The biologist is involved in all aspects of field sampling campaigns, including planning and implementing, supervising seasonal field crews, compiling and analyzing data, and presenting that data to the scientific community and to the public.

Current projects within the biology program include vegetation sampling and monitoring, rodent population monitoring, insect population inventory and monitoring, and fire effects monitoring. Elk studies include nutritional status and pregnancy rate evaluations, and herd composition monitoring. Additionally, we have started a coyote monitoring effort, which to date includes tracking individual animals using GPS radio collars and food habits analysis from collecting and analyzing scats. We hope to learn about coyotes' space and habitat use, population dynamics and diet, and eventually to learn about their interactions with other species on the VCNP.

How long have you been at the VCNP?

I came to the Trust as a full-time volunteer in January 2004, and I have been working in the biology program ever since.

What's your background? (Life before the VCNP)

I grew up and went to school in upstate New York. After graduating from Cornell University, I worked seasonally for the National Park Service for three years, in South Dakota, Kansas, and northern California. I enjoyed that time a lot because in addition to interpretation and education, which were the focus of my work, I also participated in many other aspects of park operations, including search and rescue, firefighting, and wildlife monitoring and management.

What do you do for fun?

I love to hike and backpack, and I have



a passion for photography.

One memorable moment from this past summer at the VCNP?

My big moment from this past summer was catching, collaring, and releasing the first coyote for this monitoring effort. There is so much time and effort in the preparation for a project

like this—it was wonderful to finally be on the ground with the project, collecting information. The support and enthusiasm from the rest of the staff was extraordinary.

What is the best part of your job?

If I have to pick just one aspect of my job, the best part is the time I get to spend working outdoors in such a beautiful place. The VCNP is incredible to me because we get to see so much of the wildlife that is invisible in so many other places. Nature takes its course, for beautiful or grotesque, and the more I've learned to pay attention and keep my eyes open out there, the more there is to see and learn from.

What is the biggest challenge of your job?

There are very few simple cause-effect relationships in ecosystems. Everything is intertwined and dependent on everything else. People from all different perspectives care passionately about the animals and/or their management. Communicating what I'm learning about the ecological complexity on the VCNP is part of what makes my job challenging and exciting.

Summer Recreation on VCNP

FISHING (by Cottery)

Spring Season Lottery Closing Date April 16

May 11-29

June 1-18

Summer Season Lottery Closing Date May 28

June 19-30

July 1-31

Fall Season Lottery Closing Date July 9

Aug. 3-31

Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27

HIKING

May 19-29

June 2-30

July 1-30

Aug. 4-27

Sept. 7-28

Guided hikes:

May 29, June 9, 17, July 2, 15,

Aug. 18, Sept. 23



WAGON RIDES

May 20-29

June 3-18

July 1-23

Aug. 5-27

Sept. 22, 23, 24

EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM

May 26, 27, 28, 29

June 2-30

July 1-28

Aug. 11-27

Sept. 1, 4, 22, 23, 24

WILDLIFE VIEWING VANTOURS

May 20, 26, 27, 28

June 2-30

July 1-29

Aug. 4-25

Sept. 7-28

VANTOURS - EDUCATIONAL TOURS

May 21, 28

June 4, 11, 18

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Aug. 6, 20, 27

NIGHT SKY ADVENTURES

May 27, 28

June 23

July 21, 22

Aug. 26

Sept. 22, 29



FCV FISHING CLINICS

Adults: June 10, 11, Sept. 9, 10

Kids: June 9, July 16, Aug. 5

MOUNTAINBIKE EVENTS

June 24, 25/Aug. 12, 13

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

Hunting:

July 22, 23 (Adult)

July 29 (Youth)

Tracking/Survival:

July 8, 9

Sept. 2, 3, 4

Ranching: July 15

Photography: July 17-20

Fly Tying: June 18

Birding Event: July 1, 2 (overnight)

Artist's Workshops: June 2-3, Sept. 23-24



ARCHER EVENT

Aug 4-6

Fees: Hiking: \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, and \$8 for children under 15. Wagon rides: \$25 for adults, \$24 for seniors, \$15 for children. Night Sky Adventures: \$30/person. Equestrian: \$20/person. **Reservations are required for all activities except for free hiking trails:** Coyote Call (1 mile) or Valle Grande (2 miles). For further information and reservations, see our website: www.vallescaldera.gov

Improving Roads, Improving Wetlands

VC02 is one of the main roads in the Valles Caldera, going from the western edge of the Preserve, around Redondo peak, along the Valle Grande, and then up to the Valle San Antonio. It is 10.2 miles long. When it was decided that the road needed to be upgraded, Preserve Manager Dennis Trujillo and former Board member Leonard Atencio started looking at more than just traditional ranch road maintenance. The 02 road passes along many sensitive wet meadow areas and a simple inventory made it clear that the original path for the road cut through some of those areas, cutting off water flow and drying up areas that should be wet.



[Above] Water redirected from VC02 forms ponds, helping to re-establish wetland plants. [Below] The newly placed culverts are armored to prevent erosion. (All photos with this story are courtesy of D. Rourke McDermott.)

It was decided that, as long as we were spending the money to upgrade the road, we might as well do what was needed to improve wetlands along the road. This increased the cost of the upgrade by about 20% and added to the time involved for the work, but even though only 5.9 miles have been done thus far, there is clear evidence that the plan for the road has had the collateral effect hoped for on the wet meadow areas.

Consulting the Expert

Leonard and Dennis consulted with Bill Zeedyk, a well-known riparian restoration specialist who had helped with the design for the VC01 and several bridge crossings. Bill believes that roads are a major cause of soil erosion and gully formation in the West because they are often sited in such a way as to accelerate surface water flow. He has developed a number of strategies for dealing with unpaved rural roads and he has shared



those strategies with the Valles Caldera.

The VC02 had a number of problems. The road was placed in such a way that: it cut off flow to several areas of wet meadows; it concentrated surface flow so as to cause erosion; and it contributed sediment to several stream sections. In addition, it was not wide enough to meet federal standards for public travel.

When Steve McWilliams surveyed the Preserve's riparian areas in 2001 (*VCNP Watershed Restoration Reconnaissance, Aug.13-15, 2001*), he said, "The streams are filled with sediments. Road drainage is inadequate creating sediment sources. If we start cleaning up the road drainage it will start the process of the streams recovering. . . .Removing the water from the travelway surface as soon as possible reduces the erosive potential of the water and is less likely to displace surface material and more likely to keep the material on or near the travelway."

Bill agreed. Thus, in addition to widening some areas of the road, the road has been redesigned to re-direct surface water from rain and snow melt onto the areas adjacent to the road where it can replenish vegetation. This involved placing culverts, raising the roadbed to a proper elevation for best drainage, and placing what Bill calls "Porous Fill" or "French Drains." Eleven of these have been placed thus far as

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Improving Roads

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well as 52 culverts. A total of 5120 yards of dirt fill material was used to bring the roadbed to its higher elevation. That material has been taken from two different quarries on the Preserve and reclamation is ongoing at both pits.

French Drains

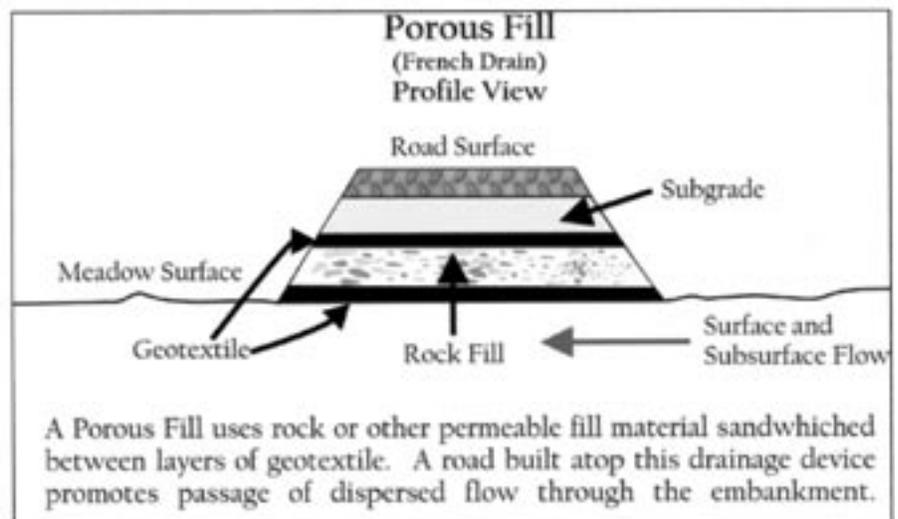
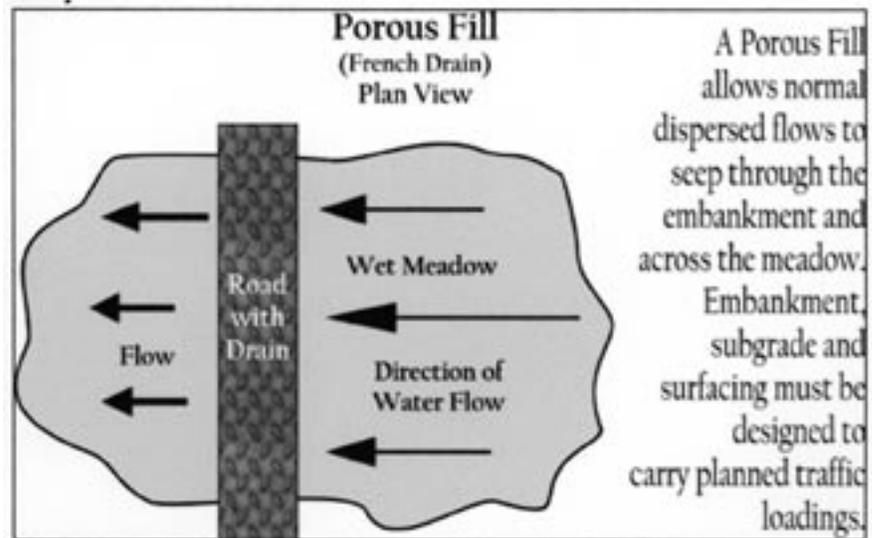
The porous fill or French Drain is used if the wetland is fed by a spring or spring seep—in other words by a dispersed rather than concentrated flow. The key is to keep the road location high enough to be out of the floodplain to avoid capturing streamflow during flood events. As McWilliams noted in 2001, “Steep road grades add to the erosive force of water on the travelway and cause accelerated erosion of the surface. . . . Below grade roads concentrate the flow and keep water on the road surface. . . . This causes increased erosion through sheet and rill erosion. . . .”

After elevating the road, the French Drain allows water to filter through under the roadway, thus maintaining low velocity sheet flow on the surface of the wetland while wetting the entire width of the landform, restoring wetland vegetation to areas that have been slowly becoming less hydric.

Culverts

According to Bill, the historic problem with culverts is that they are usually placed too low. This almost always causes headcutting and gullying, which lowers the water table, drains the soil, and destroys wetlands. Culverts on the VC02 were carefully sized and placed to accommodate bankfull discharge and re-establish floodplain function.

A multi-culvert array was used on the VC02 in between porous fills to further restore sheet flow to the



Graphics by Tamara Gadzia and Bill Zeedyk, from *Water Harvesting from Low-Standard Rural Roads*, by Bill Zeedyk, a joint publication from the Quivira Coalition, Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, LLC, The Rio Puerco Management Committee, and the New Mexico Environment Department.

entire Valle Grande surface. Armoring with rocks and cobbles was provided on many of the culverts to prevent erosion from the force of the water during snowmelt or other flood events. (See picture on page 6.)

This Year

Work will continue on the remainder of the VC02 this year. As they have in the past, a road crew from the Forest Service, under the direction of Leonard Atencio, will perform the road work. It is expected that

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Improving Roads

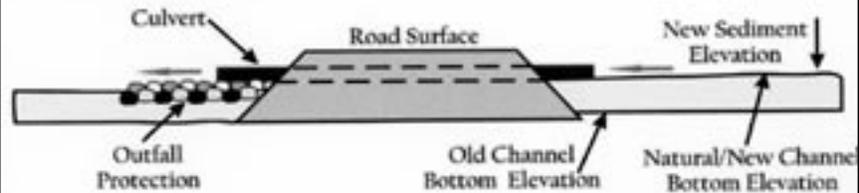
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the work will proceed a little faster this year, as fewer culverts and drains will be needed in this portion of the road.

The biggest project will be a portion of the VC02 road just before it goes through the History Grove which will need to be moved later this year. It was placed in such a way that there is no other option but relocation to restore the wet meadow area that the current road bisects.

For further information on improving rural roads in your area, see *Water*

Raising the culvert to the natural streambed elevation retards flow, causing sediment deposition and channel aggradation above culvert, thus restoring wetland area. Road may act as a dam, slowing runoff, ponding sediment, and promoting infiltration.



Protecting culvert outfall preserves channel bottom, preventing erosion of channel.

Harvesting from Low-Standard Rural Roads (in press), by Bill Zeedyk, a joint publication from the Quivira Coalition, Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, LLC, the Rio Puerco Management Committee, and the New Mexico Environment Department. Copies may be obtained from the Quivira Coalition, www.quiviracoalition.org.



[Top and Right] Views of both sides of the largest of the French Drains on the VC02, just past the Skinning Shed. [Above] An example of how the wetland vegetation is returning due to the work on VC02.