



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Valles Caldera National Preserve Re-opens Summer Activities Resume Tomorrow**

**Jemez Springs, NM**— Summer recreation returns to the Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP) at 8:00 AM tomorrow, more than a month after the Las Conchas Fire suspended all activities on the Preserve. The Santa Fe National Forest will ease fire restrictions for the Preserve and the surrounding Jemez Mountains, which were under Stage III restrictions since June 24<sup>th</sup>. Effective tomorrow the new Stage I restrictions will limit some activities such as campfires and smoking because rainfall has yet to compensate for the effects of the drought. All areas burned in the La Conchas Fire will remain closed.

The VCNP will resume normal summer activities excluding those which regularly occur in the burned areas. Unfortunately, the streams on the Preserve have been impacted by both drought and fires so fishing activities also remain suspended. “While on your way to join us at the Valles Caldera we hope you make a couple of stops to visit the local restaurants, shops and businesses along the way,” said Terry McDermott, VCNP Communications and Marketing Manager. “We’re all looking forward to your return to the Jemez Mountains.”

More information on activities and recreation on the VCNP is available by telephone at 1-866-382-5537 or on the Valles Caldera Trust website at <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/> under “Current Conditions” where updates to activities and recreation will also be available. Visitors

to the web page also view available activities by clicking on the “calendar” tab at the top of the home page <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/calendar/ViewCal.html>.

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