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NEWS RELEASE

Valles Caldera Trust Welcomes New Trustee

Jemez Springs, NM--- Lifelong New Mexican Kent Salazar has been sworn in as the newest member of the Valles Caldera Board of Trustees. He is the third Trustee appointed by President Barack Obama and follows Dr. Melissa Savage and Dr. Ken Smith who were appointed in August 2010. By statute each trustee position is filled by a person with a specific expertise needed to guide the management of the Preserve.

Mr. Salazar served twenty years as manager of the City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department before retiring in 1996. He owns and manages the small environmental consulting firm, Kent Salazar Co., and has a B.S. in Biology from the University of New Mexico. He is in his second term as regional director for the National Wildlife Federation and served on the New Mexico State Game and Fish Commission. His appointment fills the vacancy left by the departure of former VCT Board Chairman, Stephen Henry, whose term expired in January 2010. Mr. Salazar is now the Trustee uniquely qualified to fulfill the need of a person with expertise in the management of game and nongame wildlife and fish populations including hunting, fishing and recreational activities.

“The Valles Caldera National Preserve is one of New Mexico's and the United States' natural gems” said Salazar. “It deserves to be enjoyed and protected by present and future generations. This is what I will work with staff to accomplish.”

Salazar's appointment leaves two vacancies on the board. His term will run through 2014. Board Chairman Dr. Raymond Loretto says Salazar is a welcome addition to the Trust,

"Kent recognizes the unique and fragile nature of the Valles Caldera ecosystem," said Dr. Loretto. "That understanding, combined with his experience with wildlife organizations and commissions, make Kent a valuable addition to the Board."

The Valles Caldera Trust oversees the Valles Caldera National Preserve, formerly the privately owned "Baca Ranch." The 88,900 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 National Preservation Act. The property is known for its huge meadows, abundant wildlife, meandering streams and remarkable scenery. More information about the Preserve can be found at www.vallescaldera.gov.

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