



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information:

Terry McDermott

**Public Affairs
Specialist
505-428-7714**

tmcdermott@vallescaldera.gov

May 3, 2012

NEWS RELEASE

Valles Caldera Trust Welcomes New Trustee

Jemez Springs, NM--- The Audubon Society now counts one of its own within the leadership of the Valles Caldera Trust. New Mexico Executive Director Karyn Stockdale was confirmed as the newest member of the Valles Caldera Board of Trustees this week. She is the fourth Trustee appointed by President Barack Obama and follows Dr. Melissa Savage and Dr. Ken Smith who were appointed in August 2010, and the recently named Kent Salazar who was sworn in during the March board meeting in Albuquerque. By statute each trustee position is assigned with a specific expertise needed to guide the management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve (Preserve). Stockdale assumes the board position which requires a Trustee active in a nonprofit organization concerned with the activities of the Forest Service. She succeeds the late Jim Range whose board position remained vacant since his death in January, 2009.

“The Valles Caldera is one of the most stunning landscapes I have ever seen,” said Stockdale who has hiked and cross country skied the Preserve. “I consider it an honor, privilege and expect it to be a pleasure, to serve on the Board that will keep it that way for generations to come.”

Stockdale is Vice President of the National Audubon Society and Executive Director of Audubon New Mexico. She oversees the state office and the Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary in Santa Fe. Stockdale earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas and a Masters in Parks and Recreation Administration from the University of New Mexico.

“Karyn brings a wealth of hands on experience to the organization,” Dr. Raymond Loretto, Chairman of the Vales Caldera Board of Trustees. “Her community outreach abilities and knowledge of how to engage partners are important for a non profit during these challenging economic times.”

Prior to leading Audubon's efforts, Stockdale spent seven years with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) in New Mexico where she managed outreach to communities and landowners for the acquisition of open space and environmentally sensitive lands. As a result of her accomplishments she received the TPL's prestigious Collins Award for Excellence in Project Management.

"I want to strengthen public support for the Preserve by building bridges to the community through public partnerships and community outreach," said Stockdale. "Great conservation results are possible only through great partnerships."

Stockdale will attend her first Board of Trustees meeting this summer at the Trust offices in Jemez Springs. Her term will run through 2014 and leaves one vacancy on 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.

###