



For More Information:

Emily Blumenthal
Valles Caldera Trust
505-428-7722
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News Release
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Valles Caldera Announces Winter Recreation Schedule

Christmas Tree Sales Included

Jemez Springs, N.M. – Snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and sleigh rides highlight a full calendar of winter activities announced by the Valles Caldera National Preserve today. The schedule also includes two free snowshoeing and skiing access days. Winter hours are Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Valle Grande Staging Area. An expanded holiday schedule will run every day from December 26th through January 6th from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. New this season the preserve will remain open for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, January 21st and for President’s Day, February 18th.

Skiing and snowshoeing open the season on December 7th, weather permitting. Fees are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (62 years and older), \$8 for youth (5-15 years) while kids four and younger are free. Five-day passes are available for \$40 per adult and \$32 for seniors and youth. Reservations are not required but all must check in and depart from the Valle Grande staging area. Also, the Valle Grande Trail, Coyote Call Trail, and the surrounding area on the south side of State Highway 4 will remain open every day for hiking, skiing and snowshoeing free of charge.

Christmas Tree Sales begin the day after Thanksgiving on Friday, November 23rd, and continue through December 23rd at the Staging Area. Trees will be sold during regular business hours on a first come first served basis for the cost of a \$20 permit fee which will go to support the Preserve.

Visitors can enjoy **free skiing and snowshoeing** during Public Appreciation Day, December 15th and Winter Trails Day January 12th! Carpooling is recommended for these free events because parking is limited. Check in and check out at the Valle Grande staging area is required.

Three Special Moonlight Events dot the schedule on Friday, December 28th, Saturday January 26th, and Sunday February 24th. The Moonlight Events run from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. The self guided, skiing or snowshoeing activity offers visitors the unique opportunity to experience the Valle Grande during full moon conditions. Moonlight skiing and snowshoeing permits will be sold at the Valle Grande Staging Area beginning at 5PM at \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$10 for youth and free for kids four and younger. Visitors should be prepared for high elevation, winter mountain weather, and night conditions.

Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides offer visitors an hour long ride through the winter landscape. Rides

are \$30 for adults, \$24 for seniors and youth, and free for kids four and younger. Reservations are recommended to guarantee a seat but drop-ins will be accommodated if there are seats available.

Visitors can get an early start on 2013 by enjoying the **Fourth Annual New Year's Eve Fireworks Celebration** in the Valle Grande. The festivities will begin at 5:00 pm and include skiing, snowshoeing, bonfires and end with a fireworks display at 8:00 pm. Ticket reservations are required to enjoy in all the events and include reserved parking, a skiing/snowshoeing permit, food and a raffle ticket for a door prize. Reservations are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and youth, children four and younger are free. Visitors who want to see only the fireworks can take the family for a \$20 per vehicle cover charge at the main gate the night of the event while parking is available.

Details on events reservations can be found on our website at www.vallescaldera.gov or by calling 1-866-382-5537.

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 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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