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NEWS RELEASE

CONSTRUCTION ON THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE AND NEW MEXICO STATE HIGHWAY 4

(Jemez Springs, NM) – The Valles Caldera Trust announces that construction will begin on New Mexico State Highway 4 (NM 4) at the main entrance to Valles Caldera National Preserve (mile 39) in Sandoval County on August 22, 2007.

NM 4 provides the only paved access into the Preserve. The purpose of the project is to provide safe access to and from the Preserve and increase the safety for motorists traveling on NM 4 past the Valle Grande.

The main entrance highway improvements include widening NM 4 to create a deceleration lane for eastbound traffic turning onto the Preserve, and modifying the existing entrance to provide a right turn onto the Preserve for westbound traffic. All improvements will meet standards established by the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

The project will proceed in phases. Phase 1 will run from August 22 to about September 21. It will occur on the north side of NM 4 and include relocation of the entrance gate, grading and placement of a base course. The westbound shoulder of NM 4 will be closed during working hours. Highway traffic will use the existing travel lanes during Phase 1 and access to the Preserve will be maintained.

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 vast meadows, abundant wildlife, meandering streams and remarkable scenery. More information about the Preserve can be found at www.vallescaldera.gov.

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