



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information:

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NEWS RELEASE

**Valles Caldera Trust Announces New Planning Process
for Livestock Grazing**

(Jemez Springs, NM) – The Valles Caldera Trust announces that it is beginning a new planning process to allocate forage resources among domestic livestock, elk and other herbivores, and other commercial and non-commercial purposes.

Since 2002, the Trust has managed an interim livestock grazing program. During that time, the Trust obtained important new information about forage resources and assessed rangeland and watershed conditions within the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

The Trust is proposing a comprehensive program for multiple use and sustained yield of forage resources within Valles Caldera National Preserve. The proposed program will include the infrastructure (fences, corrals, water tanks, etc.) needed to manage the program.

The Trust will hold a public open house on June 15, 2007 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at its offices in Jemez Springs, New Mexico (18161 State Highway 4). People who cannot attend the open house can submit comments to the Trust through the website (www.vallescaldera.gov); by email to Marie Rodriguez, Natural Resource Coordinator (mrodriguez@vallescaldera.gov); or by letter to Valles Caldera Trust, PO Box 359, Jemez Springs, NM 87025.

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. The federal government purchased the ranch in 2000 under the Valles Caldera Preservation Act. The property is known for its vast meadows, abundant wildlife, meandering streams and remarkable scenery. The mission of the Trust is to create a successful model of public land management that protects and preserves the unique values of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Toward that end, the Trust will operate the Preserve as a working ranch; strive to become financially self-sustaining; meet the varied needs of visitors; strive to use and steward the multiple resources of the Preserve; and work collaboratively with our neighbors.

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