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NEWS RELEASE

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Valles Caldera National Preserve Opens 2010 Season Saturday Longer Hours, More Trails Highlight Summer Fun

Jemez Springs, NM -- Summer fun and recreation on the Valles Caldera promises to be the best ever in 2010 as the Valles Caldera National Preserve opens this Saturday May 22nd. For the third consecutive year the Preserve will once again be open seven days a week, however, hours of operation have been extended from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The extended hours will allow visitors more time to enjoy our programs and more flexibility in scheduling their visit. For example anglers will now be able to check in any time after 8:00 a.m. and fish until they leave in time to check out by 6:00 p.m.

Also this year we are featuring two Photo Adventures, a monthly Cruise the Caldera event, and several Fly Fishing Clinics. New events are: two Twilight Mountain Bike Rides, three Fly Tying Clinics and 50% more hiking trails. Equestrian trail riding and mountain bike trail riding will continue to alternate weekends in the Banco Bonito area. We have expanded and improved our wildlife, history, archaeology, geology, artist and stargazing tours. Please visit our website at <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/> for more details and to make reservations for these and other programs. We are open 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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Special Events

Cruise the Caldera - May 29, June 12, July 3, August 8 – A fun mountain bike ride with 85 miles of roads from which to choose.

Run the Caldera Marathon, Half Marathon and 10K - June 12 - This is a run through the heart of the Caldera.

Photo Adventure - June 1-3 and Sept. 27-29 – This Three day event will allow you, your camera, and your own vehicle access to remote areas of the Preserve.

Caldera 3D Archery Shootout - June 19 and 20 - Two days of fun filled archery competition and prizes.

Twilight Mountain Bike Ride - June 26 and September 24 - This family event allows you to ride when the animals are coming down to the meadows.

Caldera Pioneer Equestrian Endurance Race - June 17-19 - An American Endurance Ride Conference sanctioned event

Stone Tool Technology Demonstrations - May 30 – Come see how stone tools are made and how they are used.

Primitive Camouflage Workshop - August 15 and September 25 – A family-oriented fun class, where you will learn to use natural materials to camouflage yourself.

Adult Fly Tying Clinics - May 13, June 15, July 8 – Experts will teach you how to make your own flies.

Youth Fly Fishing Clinics - May 22, June 26, July 24, August 28

Adult Fly Fishing Clinics - May 23, June 27, July 25, August 29

Facility Rentals

Just for the day or for overnight, our facilities are available for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, club events, business meetings, company parties or educational tours. We are accepting reservations for the Casa de Baca Lodge (sleeps 16) and the Bunkhouse (sleeps 12). Please visit our website for more details or call (505) 428-7722 for reservations.

Group Tours

We encourage visitors to participate in our scheduled activities when possible. For groups of 20 or more we can explore options that allow your group to experience the Preserve together. Please call (505) 428-7722 for more information.

Volunteers

Our programs are successful, because of the quality and number of people who help out. We are always looking for help with all of the events described above as well as answering visitor questions in our stores and pullouts. There are even opportunities to lead events. If you are a dependable person and want to spend some of your valuable time to help the Preserve, please email volunteers@vallescaldera.gov. Your helping hand will help make our events and the Valles Caldera National Preserve a success.

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