



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**VALLES CALDERA TRUST SELECTS ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

(Jemez Springs, NM) – The Valles Caldera Trust announces the selection of Lucia Sandoval Turner for the position of Acting Executive Director. Ms. Turner recently retired from the Forest Service as Deputy Regional Forester of the Southwest Region. She has been involved with the Valles Caldera since the property was purchased by the Federal government in 2000 and is familiar with all aspects of the Trust and the Preserve. Ms. Turner lives in Albuquerque and will report to the Trust the week of June 16<sup>th</sup>.

William B. Keleher, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, stated "The Trust is very fortunate to have someone with Ms. Turner's experience. She is a native of New Mexico and a direct descendent of Luis Maria Cabeza de Baca."

Keleher stated that the Board of Trustees will be seeking a permanent Executive Director and advertising the position in the near future.

Jeffrey Cross, the previous Executive Director, resigned to accept a position with the National Park Service's Natural Resource Program Center as chief of Ocean and Coastal Resources.

*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](http://www.vallescaldera.gov).*

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