



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For More Information:**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

Valles Caldera Trust submits final proposal for the 2009-2010 Elk Hunts.

Jemez Springs, NM - This year the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish will establish the Rules for 2009 – 2010 hunts on the Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP) as well as the general state draw. The type of hunts and the number of available permits will basically remain as they have in the last few years but with some changes.

The Trust continues to charge fee because Congress mandated the Preserve be financially self-sufficient by 2015. In 2009, the Valles Caldera Trust, will continue to offer some of the best elk hunting in New Mexico. Lottery chances will be available at \$30.00 each for a mature bull or four for \$100. Lottery chances for antlerless hunts will be \$20.00 each or six for \$100. New this year, the application process will allow for two hunters to apply together. Applicants applying together for a mature bull/either sex chance will pay \$60.00 per chance, \$120 for two, \$180 for three and \$200 for four. Applicants who wish to apply together for an antlerless hunt will pay \$40.00 per chance, \$80.00 for two, or three for \$100.

Valles Caldera Trust has decided to further consider its proposed offering of 15 deluxe hunt packages, which would have included food and lodging at the Valle Grande Lodge. Under this proposal, 15 of 77 mature bull and either sex tags would have been offered as three separate elk hunt codes in 2009-2010 Valles Caldera National Preserve lottery. Those who drew successfully would have been charged an additional price of \$7500 for that hunt code.

The proposal for the deluxe hunting package was presented at the New Mexico Game Commission meetings in Las Vegas and Albuquerque this summer and at a public meeting of the Valles Caldera Trust Board of Trustees in September. After considering comments from the Public, the Trust is not moving forward with this proposal at this time. Therefore, these 15 tags will be available through the general lottery pool.

Due to the fact that the Trust is mandated by the Valles Caldera Preservation Act to provide recreational opportunities and become financially self-sufficient by the year 2015, the Board of Trustees will continue to develop alternatives to provide a good hunting experience to New Mexico residents and non-residents that could include higher fees. Once the Trust reaches the mandate of financial self-sustainability, this will result in a savings to the taxpayer. The Trust will not require Congressionally appropriated funding to continue operations outlined in the Act.

The state quota will continue to be applied to the 2009-2010 hunts and 78 percent of all licenses will be issued to New Mexico residents. Non-residents who choose to use an outfitter will receive up to 12 percent of the available licenses and non-residents who apply to hunt without an outfitter will receive up to 10 percent of the available licenses.

Congress established the Valles Caldera National Preserve as a demonstration area for an experimental management regime adapted to this unique property which incorporates elements of public and private administration in order to promote long term financial sustainability consistent with the other purposes of the Act.

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