



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Valles Caldera Trust Announces Public Meetings for Visitor Access and Use**

(Jemez Springs, NM) – The Valles Caldera Trust announces that it will conduct four public meetings in north-central New Mexico to engage the public in discussions about visitor access and use of Valles Caldera National Preserve. This is the first step in a process that will produce a long-term visitor access and use management plan.

The Trust wants to hear the public's ideas on visitor capacity of the Preserve; recreation and education programs offered to the public; and the types of facilities and infrastructure, such as roads, trails and utilities, needed to support public visitation and visitor programs.

The Trust will hold four public meetings. Each meeting will consist of an orientation, an open house with information and displays, and breakout workshop discussions on programs and issues raised by the public. Members of the Board of Trustees and Trust staff will be available to listen to public comments, answer questions and participate in the discussions.

The time and location of the four meetings are as follows:

1. July 31, 2007 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Trust offices in Jemez Springs, New Mexico (18161 State Highway 4)
2. August 2, 2007 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Cities of Gold Hotel Conference Center in the Pojoaque Valley, New Mexico (10-A Cities of Gold Rd., 15 miles north of Santa Fe)
3. August 14, 2007 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Student Center of the University of New Mexico-Los Alamos in Los Alamos, New Mexico (4000 University Drive)
4. August 16, 2007 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rio Rancho, New Mexico (1771 Rio Rancho Blvd.)

The public is invited to stop by the open house anytime between 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM. The workshop discussions will be held periodically during the open house. The times of the workshops and more information, including the

information presented at the meetings, will be posted on the Trust's website at [www.vallescaldera.gov](http://www.vallescaldera.gov).

Comments can be submitted at the meetings; through the Trust's website ([www.vallescaldera.gov](http://www.vallescaldera.gov)); by email to Marie Rodriguez ([mrodriguez@vallescaldera.gov](mailto:mrodriguez@vallescaldera.gov)); or by letter to Valles Caldera Trust, P.O. Box 359, Jemez Springs, NM 87025. Comments should be received at Trust offices by September 21, 2007.

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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