Gary Morton
[redacted]
Las Vegas, NM 87701
[redacted]

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JAN 31 2008
VALLES CALDERA TRUST

January 31, 2008

Dennis Trujillio
Attn: 2008 Livestock Program
Valles Caldera National Preserve
PO Box 359
Jemez Springs, NM 87025
505-829-4614 Fax

Dear Mr. Trujillio:

Please accept this proposal in response to request for Proposals, 2008 Livestock Operations 08-RFP-002.

We have reviewed the RFP and understand the requirements of the grazing program and will abide by all of them. It is our hope that this could develop into a long-term relationship with the Preserve. We would like to discuss the possibility of including art and educational events as part of our program.

If the proposal raises any questions that need further discussion we welcome the opportunity to address them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary Morton

Gary Morton

Gary Morton references:

Don Hofman
Bell Ranch Manager retired
NM Cattle Growers past President
[redacted]
Tucumcari, NM 88401
[redacted]

Jack Chatfield
Riparian Restoration Project Manager
[redacted]
Mosquero, NM 87733
[redacted]

Caren Cowan
Executive Director New Mexico Cattle Growers
[redacted]
Albuquerque, NM 87194
[redacted]

Wells Fargo Bank
[redacted]

1) **Livestock Management Plan**

This proposal is to graze 2000 steer yearlings on the ranch. The cattle could be split into herds appropriate to the size of the pastures. Rotation of the cattle would also occur on an as needed basis. Range conditions will be monitored by the Trust and the operator to determine when and if a cattle rotation should take place. Our initial plan will be to get the cattle settled near the Valle Grande shipping corrals. Then move the herd to the San Antonio pasture as soon as possible. This would begin the rotation in a clockwise direction ending with the cattle in the Valle Grande pasture near the point of shipping for departure. We understand that the successful applicant will work with the Trust in order to develop the grazing plan prior to entry.

In order to be a profitable operation, we feel that the number should be 1500 - 2000 head of steer yearlings. Therefore we are not planning on fewer than 1500 preferably 2000. We also feel it would be desirable to have the entire 120 day grazing season.

Livestock will be transported via commercial cattle trucks to and from the Preserve. A four-month season is key to the profitability of the operation. Therefore cattle would arrive on about June 1 and would depart September 30. Approximately 20 trucks will be needed to haul the cattle into the ranch and more will be needed to haul them away.

Cody Lewis will be the on site manager of the cattle operation. He will be assisted by one full-time employee (yet to be determined). Gary Morton will be on call and spend as much time as possible on the ranch. As much as is possible, the cowboys will live with the cattle. We would like to rent the cabin for the duration of our stay (approx. 5 months). It would be beneficial to arrive in mid May in order to learn the lay of the land and fences. We would also like to camp in the pasture with the cattle when it is practical. It may be possible to use the San Antonio cabin while the cattle are in that area of the ranch. Each rider will have 4-5 horses each, however the total will not exceed the 16 head limit. One pickup and horse trailer will be used on the ranch. Each person will have a personal vehicle that will remain at the cabin. We will use pack animals as much as practical with very limited use of an ATV. We intend to be horseback most of the time. All hands are professional ranch cowboys and have the ability to rope and doctor cattle on the spot.

Salt /mineral will be used to locate cattle away from sensitive areas. Cowboys will also protect riparian areas as well as possible by pushing cattle away. There may be cases where a temporary fence can remedy the situation suitably.

Safety will be the responsibility of each individual involved. First-Aid kits will be kept at headquarters and the camp. This is dangerous work, however, cowboys know how to accomplish the task as safely as possible. Working, as a team and communication is key to minimizing the risk. Well-being of livestock is the mission; a strong healthy horse is absolutely necessary for producing healthy fat cattle. Using seasoned, highly experienced cowboys is the best plan to accomplish this task safely.

Dogs may be used sparingly. Probably in the fall when gathering the last remnants. Not more than three dogs would be used and rarely if at all.

All livestock will begin in compliance with the Preserve health requirements. Being amongst the cattle and able to spot sickly cattle quickly is necessary to maintain herd health. To know the symptoms and diagnose illness early produces the best results. Brisket and foot rot will be the most problematic. Foot rot, in all but the most advanced cases can be successfully treated with antibiotics. Brisket cases would need to be evacuated to a lower elevation.

We will keep records on weight gain and herd health, death loss, etc. Cowboys will keep a daily journal that will record the events of that day. We are willing to work with the Trust on any monitoring efforts.

Cody Lewis will be the cattle manager for the operation. He is a fine, honest, young man. He is ranch raised and has immense experience as a ranch cowboy. Specifically, he took care of 4000 head of yearlings last summer. These cattle were on the high mountain country of the Sangre De Cristo range, very similar to the Preserve landscape. Cody will have full authority to make decisions and to hire another cowboy as he sees the need. Gary Morton will be on the ranch as much as possible. With the exception of Gary Morton the crew will live on the ranch (in the cabin or camped with cattle). We have many connections with the cowboy world and will have other hands available if needed on a temporary basis.

The cost of fuel and vehicles, along with a sincere desire to do things the traditional way leads us to an "old" method. To actually live with the cattle is a very efficient cost effective way to manage the cattle. There should be very little use of pick-up or trailer, conserving fuel, the environment and helping the bottom line.

2) Economic Return to the Trust

We are prepared to offer $7 per head per month for a total of $28 per head for the season. This offer is for the maximum 2000 head steer yearlings for four months. If the Trust should reduce the number of cattle we could offer $6 per head per month for a total of $24 per head for the season. We feel at least 1500 head must be run to be profitable. We would also offer a 1.5% bonus if the cattle gain over 275 lbs during the season (after a 3% shrink at weighing).

3) Resource Protection Strategy

I believe our management plan is to keep the cattle fairly concentrated in a few pastures at a time, perhaps all in one large pasture. This will allow us to be in the pastures with the cattle daily. Cattle will be herded away from the riparian areas at every opportunity.

All vehicles will be thoroughly cleaned prior to entering the preserve. Vehicles will be kept to a minimum and used to a minimum. This should prevent the transport of undesirable weeds on the preserve. Horses will be quarantined for 48 hours prior to entering the preserve and fed certified weed free alfalfa exclusively. This should allow the undesirables to pass through the horse.

4) Experience of the Proposed Organization and Key Personnel

The partners responsible for this operation are Gary Morton and Cody Lewis. At least one additional cowboy will be hired. It is our hope that two men on site and additional help from Gary Morton will be sufficient. Some day workers may be contracted during receiving and shipping on a very limited basis. Some of this personnel has not yet been determined, however, we are willing to submit the necessary and appropriate documentation of those workers.

Gary Morton
[redacted]
Las Vegas, NM 87701
[redacted]

Ranch Manager- Charles R Ranch

I have been manager of the Charles R Ranch in San Miguel County for 5 years. The ranch runs a small herd of Corriente cattle.
I have cowboyed since graduating High School in 1969. I worked on the Bell Ranch in NM as a single man. Got married and went to work for the Arivaca Ranch in Arizona. I returned to the Bell and after living at several camps on the Bell I ultimately became wagon boss. At that time the Bell Ranch consisted of 292,000 acres, and ran about 4000 head of good Hereford cows. While working on the Bell I began to do artwork of the cowboys that I knew. This lead to me going into art fulltime and painting ranches and cowboys for the next 25 years. Even in the art business, I continued to work on ranches in the spring and the fall. This allowed me to experience many ways of working cattle and to learn from many others. Some of the ranches that I worked on are the 06 Ranch, Alpine, Texas, the Double O Ranch, Seligman, Arizona, the X Ranch, Kent, Texas, the 4T & K+ Ranch, Carlsbad, N, M., Vermejo Park Ranch, Raton and Cimarron, N. M., Quien Sabe Ranch, Chaning, Texas, Diamond A Ranch Hondo, N. M., McCoy Ranch, Fort Davis, Texas. In the late 1980's Gov. Garrey Carruthers appointed me to the N. M. Arts Commission and I served as Chairman for 6 years. I continued to serve under Gov. Bruce King as Chairman. Gov. Gary Johnson appointed me Director of the Dept. of Cultural Affairs in 1995 and 1996. I am currently serving Gov. Bill Richardson on the Equestrian Facility Task Force to help with the design of an all purpose equestrian facility for the state which will be built south of Albuquerque. I have helped to start many worthwhile projects and events. I was one of the original founders of the Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium in Ruidoso, N. M. that was later named the Tourism Event of Year. I am also a founder of the Working Ranch Cowboys Association, which raises funds for scholarships and crisis help for ranch families.

CODY LEWIS
[redacted]
Amarillo, TX 79124
[redacted]

I was raised on ranches in New Mexico and Texas. I am 32 years of age, I have worked on ranches in New Mexico, Texas, Arizona and Oklahoma. In the last 3 years I have taken care of cattle in the Guadalupe Mountains in southern N.M and cared for 3,000 wheat pasture cattle around Dalhart TX. I worked with Cody Price on CS,UU BAR, and Stanley ranches taking care of 4,000 Barrette and Crowfoot yearlings. I have learned cattle , horses and land under the supervision of my father Steve Lewis and many others. I have learned the proper ways of care and handling of cattle in different techniques, terrains, health and other situations. Whether it be roping, riding young horses, or the handling of cattle and land, my occupation is about the care of cattle, horses and land in the safe proper practice that I have learned.

Jeff Decker
[redacted]
Lovington, NM 88260
[redacted]

Jake Falcon
[redacted]
Springer NM 87747
[redacted]

Cody Price
[redacted]

Clay Cameron
[redacted]
Canyon, TX 79015
[redacted]