

7. Glossary and Acronyms

Glossary

alluvial aquifer. A water-bearing assemblage of gravels and sands formed by the deposition of weathered materials such as sand and silt particles.

alluvium. A deposit of sand, mud, etc., formed by flowing water.

area of potential effects (APE). The geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist.

arthropod. An invertebrate animal having an exoskeleton (external skeleton), a segmented body, and jointed appendages; includes spiders, insects, and crustaceans.

A-weighted decibel scale (dBA). An expression of the relative loudness of sounds in air as perceived by the human ear.

benthic organism. A type of aquatic life that lives on or just beneath the bottom of a sea or lake or in the intertidal zone (mainly mudflats).

biota. A region's plant and animal life.

blackwater. Wastewater containing bodily or other biological wastes, as from toilets, dishwashers, or kitchen drains.

caldera. A large, roughly circular crater left after a volcanic explosion or the collapse of a volcanic cone.

carbon footprint. A measure of the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by a single activity or by a company, household, or individual through day-to-day activities over a given period.

colluvium. Loose earth material that has accumulated at the base of a hill through the action of gravity.

cutbanks. Near-vertical cliffs produced by erosion of the banks of a stream.

daylighting. To suffuse an interior space with daylight filtered through translucent materials, as roofing panels.

decennial. Occurring once every 10 years.

decibel (dB). A unit used of measurement used to express the intensity of a sound wave.

dendroglyph. Symbols carved into tree trunks.

diffraction. The bending of waves, especially sound and light waves, around obstacles in their path.

environmental impact statement (EIS). A document required by NEPA for certain actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The

document describes the environmental effects of various alternatives of a proposed action, including a no-action alternative, and is used as a tool for decision making.

environmental justice. The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

even-age forestry management. A group of forest management practices employed to achieve a group of closely related forest trees that are nearly the same age.

first-order stream. A stream that does not have any other recurring or perennial stream feeding into it.

food conditioning. Occurs when a wild animal has contact with humans and is rewarded with food or trash. The animal thereafter associates people with food and becomes a potential threat to humans.

forb. Any herb that is not a grass or grasslike.

fumarole. A hole that is in or near a volcano and from which vapor rises.

geothermal heat pump (GHP). A central heating and/or cooling system that pumps heat to or from the ground.

graminoid. Of or relating to grasses.

graywater. Wastewater from household baths and washing machines that is recycled especially for use in gardening or for flushing toilets.

greenhouse gas (GHG). Any of the gases whose absorption of solar radiation is responsible for the greenhouse effect (increase of the mean temperature of the planet), including carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, and the fluorocarbons.

habituation. The decline of a conditioned response following repeated exposure to the conditioned stimulus; e.g., the flight response in wild animals being dampened due to constant contact with or exposure to humans.

herbivory. The consumption of plants.

hydric soils. Soils that have water-holding capacity and also store more organic carbon.

hydrology. The science dealing with the occurrence, circulation, distribution, and properties of the waters of the earth and its atmosphere.

hydrophyte. A plant that grows in water or very moist ground; an aquatic plant.

implementation-level decision. Site-specific actions analyzed in this document to be implemented upon completion of the NEPA process. Under the action alternatives, implementation-level decisions include two basic components: the development of a visitor center or visitor contact station and the development of connected infrastructure and facilities.

infiltration rate. The maximum rate at which a soil will absorb water.

lacustrine sediments/deposits. Sediments deposited in lakes.

landscape character. The existing characteristics of the landscape, including its relative scenic attractiveness and historic range.

landscape visibility. The relative importance of various scenes to the public based on distance from an observer.

lentic. Relating to or inhabiting still water.

Level 1 road. A road defined by the USFS as closed to vehicular traffic. These roads may be open to and suitable for nonmotorized uses, such as hiking.

Level 2 road. A road defined by the USFS as open for use by high-clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic is not a consideration.

Level 3 road. A road defined by the USFS as open and maintained for travel by “prudent drivers” in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are low priorities. These roads are typically low speed and single lane, with turnouts and spot surfacing. Some may be fully surfaced with either native or processed material.

Level 4 road. A road defined by the USFS as providing a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds. Most are double lane and aggregate surfaced. However, some may be single lane.

Level 5 road. Road defined by the USFS as the most developed.

lithic. Pertaining to or consisting of stone.

lithic scatter. A surface scatter of cultural artifacts and debris that consists entirely of lithic (i.e., stone) tools and chipped stone debris.

loam. A rich soil containing a relatively equal mixture of sand and silt and a somewhat smaller proportion of clay.

mesic. Of, relating to, or growing in conditions of medium water supply.

midden. A mound or deposit containing shells, animal bones, and other refuse that indicates the site of a human settlement.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). A U.S. environmental law that established a U.S. national policy promoting the enhancement of the environment and also established the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

omnivore. An animal whose normal diet includes both plants and animals.

performance requirement. The limitation placed on the implementation of a Valles Caldera National Preserve stewardship action necessary for compliance with applicable laws, regulations, standards, mitigating measures, or generally accepted practices.

programmatic-level decision. Future actions analyzed in this document that consider only a general area of impact that could occur in any area of the Preserve. These future actions would require additional planning and decision making in compliance with NEPA prior to implementation.

pyroclastic flow. A mixture of solid to semi-solid fragments and hot, expanding gases that flows down the flank of a volcano.

refraction. The change of direction of a ray of light, sound, or heat.

riparian. Of, pertaining to, or situated or dwelling on the bank of a river or other body of water.

scenic attractiveness. Landscape character quality relating to the possession of the most positive combinations of variety, unity, vividness, mystery, intactness, coherence, harmony, uniqueness, pattern, and balance.

scenic integrity. The degree of intactness and wholeness of the landscape character.

second-order stream. A stream formed by the confluence of two first-order streams.

seen area mapping. Specific areas that would be seen from travelways or use areas.

sequester (GHG emissions). To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

sherd. A broken piece or fragment of pottery.

slash. Unwanted tree branches, tops, stumps, and leaves that are removed during logging.

snag. A short, projecting stump (a cut or broken branch); also a standing dead tree.

special trout waters. Waters that have reduced fishing bag limits or are catch-and-release only. These regulations are designed to increase the quality of fishing for anglers.

stewardship action. An activity or group of activities consisting of at least one goal, objective, and performance requirement proposed or implemented by the Valles Caldera Trust that may (1) guide or prescribe alternative uses of the Preserve upon which future implementing decisions will be based or (2) use or manage the resources of the Preserve.

subnivean. In or under the snow layer.

talus. A sloping mass of rocky fragments at the base of a cliff.

Trombe wall. A sun-facing wall separated from the outdoors by glass and an air space, which absorbs solar energy and releases it selectively toward the interior at night; an example of passive solar heating design.

valle. Spanish word for valley.

valley fog. Formed when cool air drains down the hills or mountains in the evening and accumulates in valleys, where it may reach its dew point and cause fog to form.

valley wind. Wind that ascends a mountain valley (up-valley wind) during the day.

visual absorption capability. The relative ability of any landscape to accept human alteration without loss of landscape quality.

vitrification. Conversion to glass.

watershed. The region or area drained by a river, stream, etc.

windthrow. Trees that are uprooted by wind.

xeric. Of, pertaining to, or adapted to a dry environment.

Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
APE	area of potential effects
BBER	Bureau of Business and Economic Research
BISON-M	Biota Information System of New Mexico
Btu/hr/ft	British Thermal Units per hour foot
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FSM	Forest Service Manual
GAO	U.S. Government Accountability Office
GHG	greenhouse gas
GHP	geothermal heat pump
GIS	geographic information system
GORP	Great Outdoor Recreation Pages
LEED	Leadership in Environment and Energy Design
LOS	level of service
MRCOG	Mid-Region Council of Governments
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NM-4	New Mexico Highway 4
NMDA	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
NMDGF	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
NMDOT	New Mexico Department of Transportation
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department

NMTD	New Mexico Tourism Department
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	oxides of nitrogen
NOAA–Fisheries	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
PCE	primary constituent element
Preserve	Valles Caldera National Preserve
ROD	record of decision
RV	recreational vehicle
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
STIP	statewide transportation improvement project
TMDL	total maximum daily load
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDOE	U.S. Department of Energy
USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
VCT	Valles Caldera Trust