

Valle Grande Entrance Upgrade

Implementing Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Decision I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Valle Grande Entrance Upgrade and it is my decision to implement the project as proposed.

Rationale Implementing the upgrade to the Valle Grande entrance at this time would improve the safety of those accessing the Valles Caldera National Preserve as well as those traveling on NM 4 past the entrance. The upgraded entrance will provide access to the Preserve that meets standards established by the New Mexico Department of Transportation and the American Association of State Highway Transportation at this time and through the reasonably foreseeable future.

FONSI In 1978, the Council on Environmental Quality promulgated regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These regulations included a definition of “significantly” as used in NEPA. The eleven elements of this definition are critical to reducing paperwork through the use of a FONSI when an action would not have a significant effect of the human environment, and is therefore exempt from requirements to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Significantly as used in NEPA requires considerations of context and ten elements of intensity.

The Environmental Assessment addressed all the required elements, measured the significance of the effects in context (spatial and temporal distribution of effects) and intensity (degree of effect), and found no significant effect to the human environment would occur as a result of implementing the proposed entrance upgrade.

Signed By:

/s/

Dennis Trujillo
Preserve Manager

Date: May 9, 2006

FONSI