

# Ca Ventana en los Valles

*News of the Valles Caldera National Preserve  
from the Valles Caldera Trust*

## Science and Education Center Open For Business!

*by Stacy Urich, VCT Education Coordinator*

After dozens of volunteer hours and months of refurbishing, refurbishing and renovation, the new Valles Caldera Trust Science and Education Center opened for business in March. A contingent of 11 students and two teachers from Lake Forest Academy near Chicago began their week-long stay at the Center in Jemez Springs on March 14th and are the first ever tenants to enjoy what the facility has to offer. The trip was made possible through collaboration between the VCT staff and the National Sierra Club to provide participants opportunities to learn about the natural and cultural resources of the Valles Caldera National Preserve and San Diego Canyon.

*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. It was purchased by the federal government in 2000 under the Valles Caldera Preservation Act. The property is known for its huge 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 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.*



[Above] Lake Forest Academy students at San Diego Canyon, [right] using telemetry to track turkeys, and [below] playing volleyball. (All photos with this article are courtesy of Stacy Urich.)



(continued on page 3)

## The Valles Caldera Trust

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*If you would like to receive a copy of the Comprehensive Management Framework, the Annual Report to Congress, the State of the Preserve, or notices regarding events, public Board meetings, or planning for management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve, contact*  
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## Hiking Program Grows

When we opened in May of last year, the Valles Caldera hiking program offered 27 miles of hiking trails. By the time we finish this season, trails will have increased to more than 50 miles. Also new this year is a shuttle system for self-guided hiking. Each of the two shuttle loops gives hikers up to seven trails from which to choose. Individuals with reservations have priority seating, and walk-ups will be accommodated providing there is room in the shuttle van at that departure time.

We still offer guided hikes; many of which venture into areas not offered for self-guided hiking. Our two free trails, La Jara trail and South Mountain trail, are available 7 days a week without reservations.

For more information on the hiking program including a map of our hiking trails go to <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/hike/index.aspx> on our website.

Come on up and "TAKE A HIKE!"

*Kids on a school hike.  
(Photos courtesy  
of VCT recreation  
staff.)*



# Open for Business!

(continued from page 1)

The students spent four full days participating in archeology, biology, entomology, and service learning programs. VCT biologists led snowshoed students onto the Preserve to track flocks of Merriam's turkeys that are monitored through the use of radio telemetry. Although turkey radio-signals were detected, no turkeys were directly observed. However, participating students learned about radio telemetry techniques and their importance to biologists for managing wildlife. On another day, the class worked along the Jemez River in San Diego Canyon where they installed wire exclosures around the trunks of riparian cottonwood trees to protect them from beaver attack. The students expanded the poultry fence exclosures along a two mile stretch of the river to enable the trees to grow uninhibited by the fencing. Students also worked in the Center's laboratory with VCT archeologists and the VCT entomologist to process samples and prepare voucher specimens for archival. Our archeologists instructed the class on how to sort through flotation samples to identify very small artifacts that were collected from an excavated site. Students also learned from the VCT entomologist how to mount insects that were collected in traps on the Preserve. Students then used the microscopes and identification keys to classify the species for our archives.

When the students were not participating in



[Top] Evelyn Gordon sifts a sample collected from a archeology site to identify the small artifacts. [Middle] Sarah Jacobson and Anne Fitzpatrick, sort through excavated materials to locate small artifacts, while VCT staff member Caroline Charles assists. [Above] Andrew Kingsley of LFA looks at obsidian under a microscope. [Bottom left] Two students take advantage of the basketball court.

academic or service learning activities, they relaxed by playing basketball, volleyball, hiking or just enjoying the Center grounds. The group also spent a day exploring Santa Fe, skiing at Pajarito, and visiting the local hot springs. The whole adventure was enjoyed by all, and the teachers are already planning next year's trip. The Science and Education staff would like to say 'thank, you' to the students of Lake Forest Academy for making our first education program so exciting, fun and memorable! We look forward to many more programs like this one, and invite

our readers to share in the education experiences available at the Valles Caldera Trust Science and Education Center. The facility is equipped to host education programs from public schools to elder hostels, including university level research programs with access to the Preserve.

For more information about the Science and Education Center, please visit our website at [www.vall-escaldera.gov/education](http://www.vall-escaldera.gov/education) or contact us via email at [secvt@vallescaldera.gov](mailto:secvt@vallescaldera.gov).

# Improved Fishing Program Gets Even Better!

Last year the Trust enacted some major changes to dramatically improve the fishing experience on the Preserve. In 2009, we replaced the lottery program with a reservation system that allows anglers to reserve the specific



date and reach of the river they want to fish. We reorganized the reaches on San Antonio Creek into four segments ranging from 1.9 to 5.1 miles and permitted anglers to drive their own vehicles to their reach instead of waiting for a van to pick them up or drop them off.

## *New Start and End Times*

Anglers were delighted with the changes, and they had a few of their own suggestions to make the fishing experience even better. Their overriding issue was the requirement that all anglers arrive at 7:00 a.m. and leave their reach no later than 2:00 p.m. The early start often discouraged those who had an hour or more to drive from home and the early finish forced them to leave long before sunset. That will all change this season.

Beginning May 22nd and running through the end of the season, the fishing program will run seven days a week 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Anglers can check in at any time between 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Instead of pulling a line out of the water by 2:00 p.m., anglers can fish until they leave in time to check out by 6:00 p.m.

## *Fees*

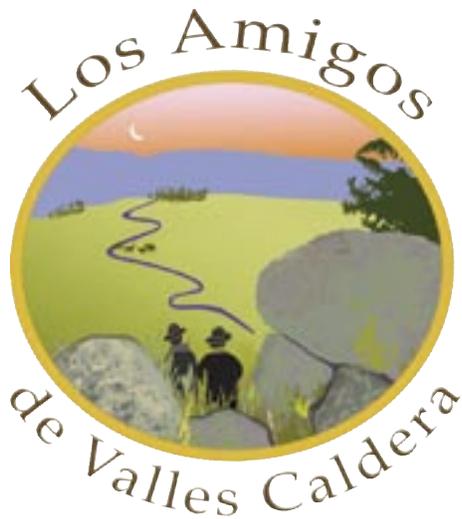
Fishing fees for either the San Antonio Creek or the East Fork of the Jemez River are set at \$35 per adult per day. Fees for youths (age 15 and under) are set at \$25 per youth per day. Reservations can be made by telephone (866-382-5537), online (<http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/fish/index.aspx>) or by walk-up. All anglers will receive a reservation confirmation and additional instructions.

Other 2010 opportunities related to fishing on the Preserve are fishing clinics! This year we team up again with volunteers from New Mexico Trout to offer youth (8-16 years of age) and adult (over 16 years of age) fly fishing clinics. The participants will have the opportunity to spend half the day learning about the equipment, tackle, tying knots and flies, along with stream insect sampling and identification. Participants will have time to practice their casting skills and then head for the fishing hole in the afternoon. Pricing is set at \$15 per person for the youth clinics and \$75 for the adult clinics. New this year are fly tying clinics for ages 16 and older (\$75/person). Flies tied in this class are going to be very specific to the Preserve and during the afternoon participants will be able to try them out on the Upper East Fork. Go to <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/special/#ftc> and scroll down to the skills clinic you want for dates and times. And remember to purchase your New Mexico State fishing license or you won't be able to share in all the fun.

## *Clinics*

On a final note, a recent five-year study conducted by Aquatic Consultants in Albuquerque determined that the Rio San Antonio and the upper reach of the East Fork Jemez River in the Valle Grande have the highest density (fish per acre) and highest biomass (lbs. per acre) of trout than any comparably sized water in the western United States that they had ever sampled.

So, come on up. Fishing is so good on the Preserve that anglers are starting to call it "catching."



Spring 2010

## News from Los Amigos

Supporting the Valles Caldera  
National Preserve  
for Present and Future Generations

### Winter Recreation on the Preserve

by Jim Counce

With over 100 inches of snow the winter season at the Preserve has been a tremendous success. The 37 miles of groomed trails provided skiers and snow shoers a wonderful time. Individuals and families have been out on the trails accessing some of the best snow conditions that have been seen in the Jemez Mountains in many years. Winter recreation at the Preserve has broken all

previous records for access and participation. The trails have been expertly groomed by Jay and Ryan with their snowmobiles dragging the grooming equipment. They then go back over the trails with a track setter for cross-country ski enthusiasts.

I have had the opportunity to ski almost all of the trails during the season and have found the conditions to be near perfect. The snow has been hard packed by the groomers making the skiing and snow shoeing a real pleasure for all. Some of the trails include a trip to *The Missing* movie set, up to the History Grove with a



[Top left] Hitting the trail! [Top right] Gear. [Bottom left] Missing set. [Bottom right] Trails in all that snow! (Photos courtesy of Jim Counce.)

loop around many of the old structures, over to South Mountain and finally a journey to the *Buffalo Girls* movie set followed by a trip around the rim of the ValleGrande and back to the staging area. The trips range from 1.5 miles

around La Jara to 12 miles for the rim excursion. There is a ski or snow shoe adventure for everyone, from the very beginner to the expert.

Many people have come to take part in the sleigh rides that were offered from December through late February. There were two large draft horses pulling a sleigh with twelve people through the History Grove area to view the buildings as well as the 300 year old trees. Everyone enjoyed the tour as well as the excellent narration by the driver.

# Los Amigos Events for 2010

## *San Antonio Cabin Work Weekend—TBA in July*

By transplanting sod, we will plug a small animal-made ditch that is draining the wetlands and redirect this flow to a low-lying area on the left terrace of the creek. Wetlands sod will be dug from a relatively wide area in a loose and random checkerboard fashion and transplanted right side up to build the plug. The pockmarks from the digging will rapidly fill in with the surrounding native vegetation, creating micro-topographic complexity in the meantime which is better habitat. This will raise the water table of the wetland, and redirect the flowing exiting the wetland to a natural swale, which will become another wetland.

## *La Jara Workdays*

*TBA in June*

Volunteers will construct rock structures along VC02 near La Jara Creek as part of our wetlands grant. To volunteer, email Jack Crane at [jdcrane@valornet.com](mailto:jdcrane@valornet.com).

## *Caldera Marathon Work Days*

*Saturday, June 12*

Los Amigos will help with the Marathon by staffing water stations and helping with other duties. What better place to spend a lovely June day than helping out on the Preserve? To volunteer, email Jack Crane at [jdcrane@valornet.com](mailto:jdcrane@valornet.com).

## *Cruise the Caldera Work Days*

*May 29, June 13, July 3, August 7*

Los Amigos will help with the bike events by staffing water stations etc. To volunteer, email Jack Crane at [jdcrane@valornet.com](mailto:jdcrane@valornet.com).

## *Journey into the Geologic History of the Preserve*

*Saturday, July 11*

*8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.*

Please join us for an exciting and popular geologic tour of the north rim of the Valles Caldera led by local geologist, international tour guide, and Los Amigos member Kirt Kempter. This is the fourth season for this tour and it's just as popular as ever, with views that will knock your socks off.

Departing from Española at 9:00 a.m., we will drive west on Forest Road 144 (also known as 39-

mile road), stopping at several view points as we wind our way into the northern Jemez Mountains. As we ascend the back side of

Chicoma Peak, there will be spectacular views of the Rio Grande Rift, Pajarito Plateau, and other geologic features of the northern Jemez Mountains. The road also cuts through the core of an old volcano, active 10 million years ago. Our destination will be a picnic lunch stop along the north rim of the Valles Caldera known as "Hunter's Point." Here you will find the most spectacular views of the northern portion of the caldera. A lecture at this stop will provide a geologic history of the caldera since the massive eruption occurred 1.2 million years ago. This dynamic story includes multiple lakes and volcanic eruptions within the caldera since its collapse. We will finish up with a tour through the Preserve to the Valle Grande Staging Area.

Kirt is offering this tour as a fundraiser for Los Amigos.

A high-clearance 4x4 vehicle is required for this tour, as we will be traveling over very rough roads. Room in vehicles may be available for those without a high clearance vehicle on a first come, first served basis. If you haven't taken this tour yet, don't miss out!

Lunch provided! Cost: \$35/person; max: 35 participants.

## *Dendroglyph Tour—TBA*

Colleen Olinger has graciously volunteered to lead us on a tour of some of the dendroglyphs (tree carvings) that her crew found in 2007. We will meet for lunch (BYO) at 12:00 noon at the Valle Grande Staging area and then board vans at 12:45 p.m. for the drive to Alamo Canyon. We will hike to the area where the dendroglyphs can be found. Cost: TBD; max: 24 participants.

*(continued on page 7)*



## *Cos Amigos Events for 2010*

(continued from page 6)

### *Old-Timers and Members BBQ and Work Day Sunday, July 18*

This event permits members to enjoy a day on the Preserve, starting with a clean-up and maintenance workday around the Historic District at 9 a.m. For non-workers, we are meeting at 4 p.m. at the Bunkhouse for introductions, a lecture by Ana Steffen, Preserve Archaeologist, and dinner.

### *Alamo Bog Wetlands Work Days and Campout Friday, August 21 – Sunday, August 23*

Join Los Amigos and the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation (AWF) as we work over a weekend protecting the rare Bog and the rare Bog Birch in Alamo Canyon on the west side of the Preserve. For the last two years, we have worked with the AWF to put up fencing around patches of Bog Birch. There are other patches that need protection from the hungry elk that love Bog Birch shoots. In addition, we will be constructing some rock structures designed to minimize erosion from old geothermal well pads, which is drying out the Bog. We will be camping at the en-

[Page 6] Kirt Kempter discussing the geology of the Caldera. [Below] The acid pond at Alamo Bog. (Photos courtesy of Greg Kendall.)



trance to Alamo Canyon on a flat bare ground area suitable for a large group. It's a fun group that loves to work hard, and the camping isn't too shabby either!

We have other events in the planning stages including a Fall Aspen Viewing Tour, and other Special Events volunteer opportunities.

Check our website for more details on these and other events throughout the season ([www.losamigosdevallescaldera.org](http://www.losamigosdevallescaldera.org)).

If you would like to reserve a space for one of our activities, please email Los Amigos ([info@losamigosdevallescaldera.org](mailto:info@losamigosdevallescaldera.org)) with your name, phone number, number in your party, and other pertinent details.

### *New Price!*

## *Order Your Morton Print to Help Restore the Bond Cabin!*

Los Amigos de Valles Caldera is selling 350 signed and numbered 18" by 22" lithographs of *Peace in the Valle* by Gary Morton (see page 8). Each is \$125, which includes shipping and handling. The proceeds from the sale of the prints will be used for restoration work on the Bond Cabin, such as pouring a new foundation, eliminating the drainage problem, etc. (All work must be approved by the Trust and be compatible with State Historic Preservation Office requirements.)

To order, please see the Los Amigos website, [www.losamigosdevallescaldera.org](http://www.losamigosdevallescaldera.org), or mail a check with your order to Print, Los Amigos, 3250 La Paz Lane, Santa Fe, NM 87507.

Prints will be given free to each new Los Amigos Lifetime or Obsidian Guild member.

## *Obsidian Guild*

The Valles Caldera Obsidian Guild recognizes individuals who provide support for the Valles Caldera National Preserve through planned gifts. Membership belongs to those who have made deferred gifts to Los Amigos de Valles Caldera through one or more of the following methods:

- provision in a will or revocable trust;
- retirement plan beneficiary designation; or
- life insurance policy beneficiary designation.

Members of the Obsidian Guild share a common bond of generosity and visionary leadership, nourishing the Preserve's unique assets. For further information, please contact Larry Icerman, [licerman@aol.com](mailto:licerman@aol.com).

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*Doug working in front of the Valle Grande. (Photo courtesy of Kathy Fraser.)*

## *From the Chair, Doug Fraser*

As you can see from the contents of this newsletter, there are a lot of things happening on the Preserve! We encourage all of you to come out and enjoy this upcoming recreation season. As Jim Counce's photos show, the winter brought a lot of snow and the East Fork has been overflowing its banks this spring. That should mean great fishing and beautiful hiking this summer.

We will be working on Alamo Bog again this summer (this will be the final field season on that project) and on the San Antonio under our wetlands and river restoration grants.

There will be opportunities for volunteers to help us and we hope that we will see you out there!

There are other opportunities for volunteers to enjoy a beautiful day on the Preserve and help out at the same time. See our listing of events on pages 6-7. We also hope that you will join us for the Los Amigos member events as well.

Also, please note that the Board of Los Amigos and the artist have agreed to a new reduced price for the Bond Cabin print (see left and page 7), the proceeds from which will go to helping restore the Cabin. We hope that this might induce you to purchase a print for yourself or as a gift!



*One of our helpers at Alamo Bog! (Photo courtesy of Greg Kendall.)*



*Peace in the Valle  
by Gary Morton*

*Open Seven Days a Week!*

## *2010 Recreation Program Highlights*

*by Rob Dixon, Recreation Program Manager*

Our 2010 recreation calendar is full of activities for the entire family. This year we are featuring two Photo Adventures, a monthly Cruise the Caldera event, and several Fly Fishing Clinics. New events are: two Twilight Mountain Bike



and 10K: June 12. This is a run through the heart of the Caldera.

**Photo Adventure:** June 1-3 and Sept. 27-29. This three-day event will allow you, your camera, and your own vehicle access to remote areas of the



Preserve.

**Caldera 3D Archery Shootout:** June 19 and 20. Two days of fun-filled archery competition and prizes.

**Twilight Mountain Bike Ride:** June 26 and September 24. This family event allows you to ride when the animals are coming down to the meadows.

**Caldera Pioneer Equestrian Endurance Race:** June 17-19. An American Endurance Ride Conference sanctioned event.

**Stone Tool Technology Demonstrations:** May 30. Come see how stone tools are made and used.

**Primitive Camouflage Workshop:** August 15 and September 25. A family-oriented fun class, where you will learn to

Rides, three Fly Tying Clinics and more hiking trails. Equestrian trail riding and mountain bike trail riding will continue to alternate weekends in the Banco Bonito area. We have expanded our van tours and improved wildlife, history, archaeology, geology, artist, and stargazing tours. Please visit our website at <http://www.valles-caldera.gov/comevisit/> for more details about these and other programs.

We are open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### *Special Events*

**Cruise the Caldera:** May 29, June 12, July 3, August 8. A fun mountain bike ride with 85 miles of roads to choose from.

**Run the Caldera Marathon, Half Marathon**



use natural materials to camouflage yourself.

**Adult Fly Tying Clinics:** May 13, June 15, July 8. Experts will teach you how to make your own flies.

**Youth Fly Fishing Clinics:** May 22, June 26, July 24, August 28.

**Adult Fly Fishing Clinics:** May 23, June 27, July 25, August 29.

*(continued on page 12)*

# *Agreement Builds on First Year Success*

## *Valles Caldera Trust and New Mexico State University Encore Livestock Program for 2010*

*by Tim Haarmann, Ranch Foreman*

The lands of the Valles Caldera National Preserve have been grazed for as long as man has tended domestic livestock. The historic ranch was long known as Baca Location 1. The 89,000 acre Valles Caldera National Preserve was created by the federal government in 2000. A wholly-owned federal corporation, guided by a Board of Trustees, the Preserve represents a new approach for managing public lands. The Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2000 directs the Trust to operate as a working ranch, while protecting and preserving the health of the land and its resources. Multiple use and sustained yield of the renewable resources and public use of and access to the Preserve for recreation are also among the mandates in the Act.

### *"Tremendous Potential"*

The Livestock and Range Improvement Program operated by New Mexico State University in 2009 on the Valles Caldera National Preserve proved so successful that it will return for the 2010 season and beyond. "We feel that tremendous potential exists for scientific, research, and extension activities to be expanded in the programs designed and managed by New Mexico State University to benefit the regional livestock industry and the economic interests of northern New Mexico," said Trust Executive Director, Gary Bratcher. "Additionally, we expect the technical assistance provided the Trust through an agreement with NMSU and private sector participation in their programs will assist us in identifying commercial opportunities that will be of direct economic benefit to the Preserve. At the same time, we are assuring the public that our livestock program will not be detrimental to the proper stewardship of the property."

### *Four-Year Agreement*

The new lease service agreement with NMSU is for a four-year period with grazing rates, herd size, and services re-negotiated annually. This will allow NMSU and the Trust sufficient flexibility to adjust the program



to changing range, weather and forage conditions. It will also provide certainty that seamless data collection and analyses will continue over an extended period of time during variable conditions in order to validate the information gathered. "We feel extending the partnership with the Trust will mutually benefit all parties. A multiple year agreement is the only option that will permit us to realistically commit and invest both time and resources to comprehensively explore, evaluate, and develop meaningful, deliverable products to aid and defend the Trust's mandate ordered by Congress" explained Dr. Manny Encinias, Extension Livestock Specialist from New Mexico State University.

### *2009 Program*

The 2009 program combined genetic improvement of breeding lines to address Brisket Disease in the beef cattle industry and a range conservation and restoration strategy to provide a direct benefit to ranchers from Jemez Pueblo and Sandoval County who improved their operations and restored their own range lands. "The shift to herd improvement and range conservation programs clearly had very positive impacts on the regional livestock industry and the Preserve," said Dennis Trujillo, General Manager

*(continued on page 11)*

# Livestock Program Builds on Success

(continued from page 10)



of Preserve Operations. “But we can make even greater improvements by utilizing the resources of New Mexico State and expanding research activities on issues such as stocking rates, forage consumption, sensitive habitat protection, proprietary feed and mineral supplements, and beef marketing.”



pants was very cognizant of our unique circumstances in being both a working ranch and a public use and recreation Preserve,” said Dr. Tim Haarmann,



Ranch Foreman on the Preserve. “The program involved many local cattle growers, included an extension and research component, and a conservation program which allowed the resting of tribal land. We look forward to the upcoming year and the insights we will gain into sustainable cattle production in Northern New Mexico.”



## Data Provides Foundation to Expand

Data collected from 2009 was valuable and can serve as a foundation on which to expand to more programs through seamless continuation of the research program established last summer. “NMSU made excellent progress on the initial research involved in high elevation bull evaluation,” said Valles Caldera Trust Science and Education Director Dr. Bob Parmenter. “But this type of research, as is the case with most research, requires longer, more detailed involvement.”

Last year’s grazing season was considered a true success. The livestock and range improvement program was able to meet all of the obligations spelled out in the original contract, including the protection of sensitive riparian areas. “This year’s group of partici-



[Page 10] Dr. Tim Holt PAP testing a bull, who is not happy about the procedure!  
 [This page, top] The bull is getting released and another will take his place for testing. [Middle top] Rounding ‘em up! [Middle left] The youngest cowboy. [Middle right] Butting heads. [Bottom] Ranch hands from NMSU and Jemez Pueblo watching the proceedings. (Photos courtesy of T.K. Thompson and Anthony Armijo.)

# 2010 Recreation Highlights

(continued from page 9)

## Group Tours

We encourage visitors to participate in our scheduled activities when possible. For groups of 20 or more, we can explore options that allow your group to experience the Preserve together. Please call (505) 428-7722 for more information.

## Volunteers

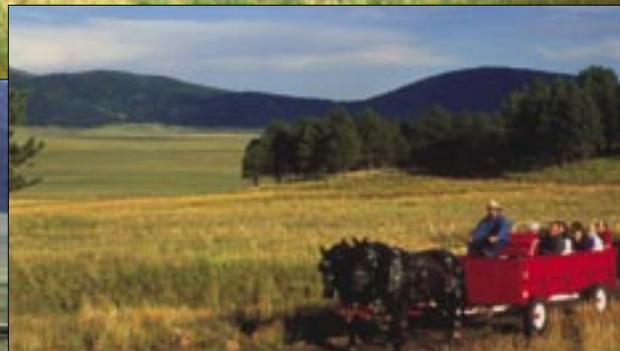
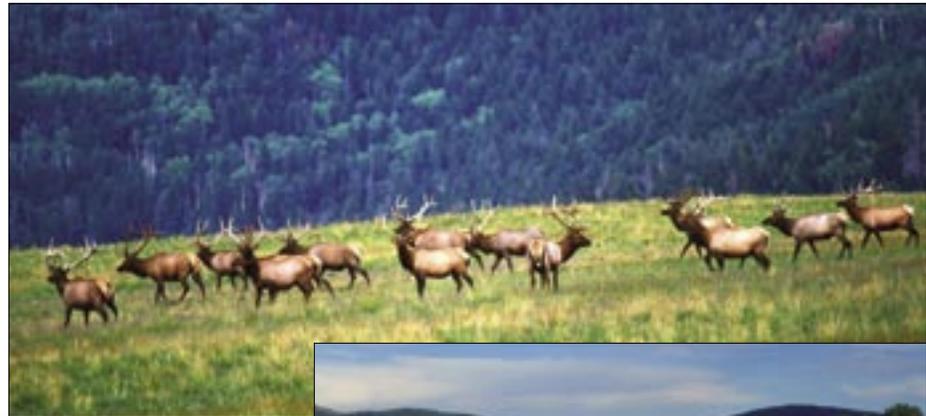
Our programs are successful because of the quality and number of people who help out. We are always looking for help with all of the events described above as well as answering visitor questions in our stores and pullouts. There are even opportunities to lead events. If you are a dependable person and want to spend some of your valuable time helping the Preserve, please email [volunteers@vallescaldera.gov](mailto:volunteers@vallescaldera.gov).

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[Page 9: top] Horseback riders heading out. [Page 9, middle] Bike riders during a Cruise the Caldera event. [Page 9, bottom] Marathon runner. [This page, top] Elk coming down from the trees at the end of the day. [Middle right] Wagon ride through the Valle Grande. [Middle left] Bike riders on VC02 near the ranch headquarters. [Bottom right] Horseback riders enjoying a beautiful day. (Photos courtesy of Don Usner and T.K. Thompson.)