

Ca Ventana en los Valles

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

New Mexico Native Knows the Neighborhood

Dennis Trujillo Named Valles Caldera Trust Executive Director

The nationwide search took months to complete and when it was all said and done the best person for the job was already on board. The Valles Caldera Trust (Trust) Board of Trustees dropped the “Interim” from his title and appointed Dennis Trujillo to the position of Executive Director. Trujillo has been with the Trust since its inception and took over as Interim Executive Director after the departure of Gary Bratcher in June 2011. Trujillo was selected by the Board of Trustees (Board) from a nationwide field of 30 applicants.

“The number of applicants was surprising but what was even more impressive was the overall

depth and quality of the field,” said Board Chairman, Dr. Raymond Loretto. “This was a difficult process but in the end the Board decided Den-



nis was the best person to lead the management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve (Preserve) to the next level.”

After his appointment as Preserve Manager in 2002, Trujillo directly supervised the management of natural resources, recreation, roads, facilities, fire, law enforcement, safety, merchandizing, and special uses. During the last nine months as Interim Executive Director, Trujillo guided the development of a strategic management plan, revised the livestock grazing program, and led the Preserve through the Las Conchas fire and its aftermath.

“Dennis did a great job as Interim Executive Director,” said Loretto. “His broad experience in natural resources and fire management was critical during

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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; endeavor 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.

The Valles Caldera

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www.vallescaldera.gov
Dennis Trujillo, Acting Executive Director

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The Board of Trustees is composed of seven members appointed by the President of the United States and two who serve ex officio (Superintendent of Bandelier and Supervisor of Santa Fe National Forest). The appointed Trustees generally serve four-year terms and, except for the Chair, receive no compensation for their work.

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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Executive Director

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the fire. But he was equally impressive in addressing internal organizational issues that needed immediate attention.”

Trujillo and his family make their home in the small Jemez Mountains village of Ponderosa where he is an active member of the community. He graduated from the University of New Mexico and went on to a rewarding career with the U.S. Forest Service. He served as the District Ranger for the Coyote Ranger District and managed lands and recreation programs on the Jemez Ranger District before coming to the Trust. His fire management expertise has taken him to fight fires across the country and around the world.

“I am excited about the opportunity the Board of Trustees has given to me,” said Trujillo. “Growing up in the Jemez I developed a deep, personal connection with the Valles Caldera and surrounding area,” said Trujillo. “I see it as a place of inspiration and learning that must be preserved for generations to come. As Executive Director I can work to accomplish that goal guided by the principles of our experiment in public land management.”

Board member Virgil Trujillo, of Abiquiu, is not related to the new Executive Director but says it was the collaborative qualities and relationships with others that helped separate the native New Mexican from the rest of the field.

“Dennis demonstrated that he has the stability, communication skills, and the spiritual commitment needed to do the job and do it well,” said the Abiquiu resident. “He used those abilities to take decisive, positive action as Interim executive Director when he addressed critical issues, like the Las Conchas Fire.”

Board member Maria Garcia, Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest, echoed that sentiment. “Three weeks after we asked him to fill in as Executive Director the Las Conchas Fire ignited,” she began. “After the danger passed Dennis rallied the staff to safely open the Preserve earlier than any other affected public land in the region.”

Loretto summed up the selection saying, “Dennis sees the big picture—from the day-to-day operations to the spiritual significance of the Valles Caldera. The Preserve is in good hands.”

From the Chairman's Desk— Where Credit is Due

by Dr. Raymond Coretto, Valles Caldera Trust
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

As I enter the eighth and final year of my tenure on the Valles Caldera Board of Trustees, I look forward to what yet needs to be done but I also look back at what was accomplished by those with whom I served. Since my election to the chairmanship, I have gained a greater appreciation for the leaders who shouldered this responsibility before me. Their vision, leadership and patience



laid the foundation on which goals were set and achievements were made. Perhaps the most daunting challenge was faced by Bill deBuys who became the first chairman in December 2001. The Trust was brand new—so new that there was no organization, no employees, and no road map. Everything, and I mean “everything,” had to be created on Bill’s watch.

With the opening gavel of that first meeting at Santa Fe Community College, he hit the ground running. During the next four years, Bill set up the Trust structure, hired all the original staff, developed the ten management principles, and wrote the *Draft Framework and Strategic Guidance for Comprehensive Management*. It was his idea to develop a non-profit “friends” group, which eventually became Los Amigos de Valles Caldera and home for this newsletter. Some may say Bill got in on the ground floor of the Valles Caldera Trust. I say he built the ground floor. Bill helped build the foundation upon which the work of the Trust has grown.

laid the foundation on which goals were set and achievements were made.

Perhaps the most daunting chal-



[Top, right] Raymond Loretto. [Above, left] Bill deBuys. [Above] Tracy Hephner. [Right] Bill Keleher. (Photos courtesy of the Trust.)

When Bill’s term expired, Tracy Hephner took over. Tracy was

deeply involved in many of the decisions during the early years of the Trust. She contributed to the development of the Interpretive Master Plan, major road improvements, held the first Open House, and began public access and use listening sessions. Hephner used her ranching experience to develop partnerships with Jemez Pueblo and NMSU regarding grazing and grazing research. She signed a memorandum of understanding to solidify the relationship with Los Amigos which initiated the Amigos riparian restoration projects and this joint newsletter.



Hephner worked with Bill Keleher on the grazing plan to increase revenue from the cattle program without damaging the land. Keleher continued that effort

when he assumed the chairmanship after Hephner’s term expired. Among his many accomplishments Keleher initiated the contract to begin work on the entryway from Hwy 4 to the Preserve, developed a business plan, and championed the public use and access plan and NEPA.

Stephen Henry took the Board reins in 2009 and recognized that modifications in the existing legislation were needed to make success achievable. When legislation was proposed to move the Valles Caldera to National Park Service management, Henry testified before a congressional committee on behalf of continuing the current

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Visitation Undercounted in Years Past

Valles Caldera Visitation Tops 97,000 in 2011

by Terry McDermott

“We always suspected more people were visiting the Preserve. We just didn’t have a better method for quantifying the exact number.”

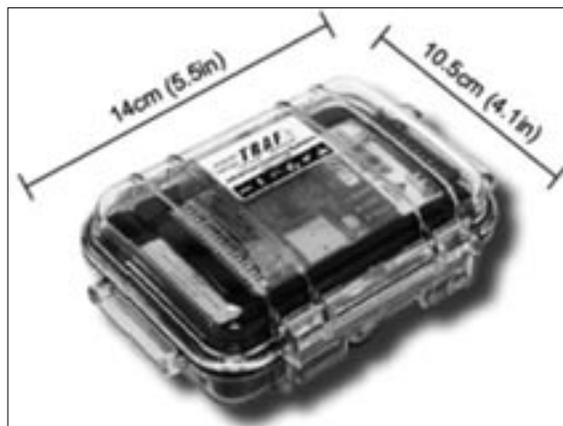
That frustration articulated by Recreation Program Manager Rob Dixon has been shared by many Trust employees past and present. Management also harbored the concern that an accurate number of current visitors was not only necessary for day-to-day management of the Preserve but also to establish a baseline for public access and use planning. Preparing for growth from a base number of almost 25,000 visitors is far different from planning for a six figure count which may be the actual visitation. It was that uncertainty and the absolute need to know that led to investment in a visitor traffic count project.

“In previous years we manually counted visitors to the information centers and used a voluntary sign in sheet for our free trails,” said Dixon. “In 2011 we purchased and installed traffic and trail counters that logged visitation at ten areas in and around the Preserve including several areas where visitation occurs but was not previously counted.”

Dixon enlisted the skills of the Trust’s Dr. Tim Haarmann to manage the project. Haarmann called on the National Park Service Public Use Statistics Office to help design a VCNP specific counting program. The office manages the collection, auditing, and analysis of monthly visitation data provided by individual NPS units. Since each park is unique a specific counting program is designed for each. NPS statistician Butch Street helped design the VCNP program and provided tips on eliminating counting errors and misinterpretations, and guidance in final data analysis.

“We wanted to design a visitor counting system that is consistent with those of other public land agencies,” noted Haarmann. “As a result the system provides a reasonable comparison of visitor counts with other public lands and will ultimately allow a better analysis of visitation patterns in years to come.”

The raw data were analyzed and adjusted to account for Las Conchas Fire personnel, employee activity, and double counting. For statistical purposes the Preserve was considered closed and all visitation



Visitor counter.

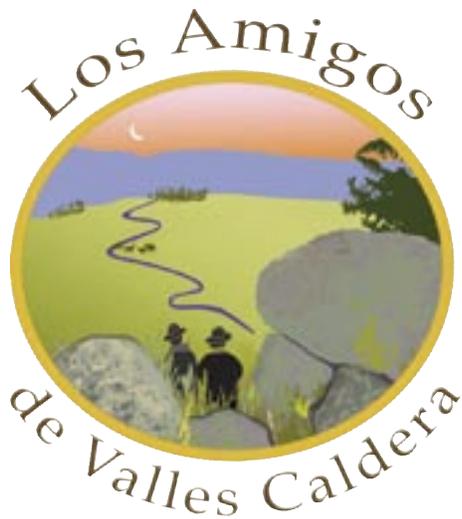
numbers were omitted from the June 27-July 13 period of the fire. Of particular note is the 160,000+ visitors to the two N.M. Highway 4 overlook pullouts who were not included in the final visitor count.

“We wanted to be consistent with NPS procedure which does not count pullout visitation on public roads it does not maintain,” explained Haarmann. “While we are certain vehicles stopped at the two interpretive pullouts to enjoy the view of the Caldera and read the posted information, we did not perform the surveys to quantify how many stopped to have lunch, switch drivers, or take a nap. But the numbers are still very valuable for planning purposes.”

Despite the exclusion of the pullout data and the impacts from the Las Conchas Fire, the results are startling. The number of visitors to the VCNP during Fiscal Year 2011 is reasonably estimated to be 97,552 which is almost four times the official visitor count of FY 2010 using the former, manual method.

“The numbers confirm what we have known for a long time: thousands upon thousands of people visit the Preserve and most enjoy it without spending a dime,” said Dixon.

The counters remain deployed and Haarmann continues to collect the data. Haarmann says some adjustments will be made to refine the collection process and include other areas not monitored last year. Another year of data to compare with 2011 will provide an even clearer picture of visitation and trends moving forward.



News from Los Amigos

Supporting the Valles Caldera
National Preserve
for Present and Future Generations

Restoration In the Works

Los Amigos is starting two new projects.

Jaramillo Creek
Los Amigos, the Valle Caldera Trust (Trust), and others are partnering to restore Jaramillo Creek so that it may be de-listed from NMED's water quality impaired stream



list. This work will include in-stream as well as floodplain restoration measures. Streambanks will be stabilized and improved road drainage will reduce sediment. Temperature problems will be addressed with reduced sediment and using native riparian vegetation for shade, bank stability, and as a buffer. This project will use innovative restoration techniques being pioneered in New Mexico. Given the former productivity of the Jaramillo and the popularity and economics of the VCNP fishing program, it seems appropriate to repair the Jaramillo so it and the East Fork below its junction can become fully functional trout streams once again.

Reducing Temperature on San Antonio Creek

San Antonio Creek above and below the Preserve boundary is listed in NMED's Clean Water Act Sections 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report as not supporting

its high quality coldwater aquatic life designated use.

Los Amigos, the Trust, and others are partnering to reduce turbidity and temperatures in San Antonio Creek by restoring six of its tributaries. Combined with a number of completed and current Los Amigos projects in the targeted watershed, this project will help San Antonio Creek meet water quality standards so that it can be de-listed.

[Top] Jaramillo Creek from the air. (Photo courtesy of Van Clothier.) [Left] Slope wetlands along the westernmost edge of San Antonio Creek. (Photo courtesy of Nina Wells.) [Above] Virginie Pointeau on an eroding bank along Jaramillo Creek. (Photo courtesy of Steve Vrooman.)

Los Amigos Events for 2012

Trail Maintenance, May 15-19

For the third year Los Amigos is sponsoring trail maintenance on the Preserve. We will meet at the Bunkhouse in the Historic District at 9 a.m. on May 15 to meet the new Preserve Recreation Specialist and to outline work and discuss project safety. Most trails are accessible by 4x4 vehicles but some hiking is required. We will be removing fallen trees and slash, brush and rocks from the trail surface and filling eroded ditches. Volunteers are welcome for any one or all days. To volunteer, email Jim Counce at jcounce@valornet.com.

Journey into the Geologic History of the Preserve Sunday, June 17, 8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Please join us for our most popular event, an exciting 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 fifth 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, 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. A lecture at our lunch 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: \$50/person; max: 35 participants. To participate, email Jim Counce at jcounce@valornet.com.

Trans-planting sod at the San Antonio Cabin last year. (Photo courtesy of Van Clothier.)



San Antonio Creek 319 and RERI Grants Wetlands Restoration Projects

Join with Los Amigos for the three weekend projects on the Preserve. You can camp out two nights in a beautiful setting and perform rewarding work that will enhance the quality of the water in San Antonio Creek. For those not wishing to camp out, day volunteers are welcome. We will host Saturday breakfast and dinner. All three projects are in the Las Conchas Fire burn area. Our efforts this year are not only to correct past damage but also to capture, by flooding into the wetlands, valuable nutrients in the ash and debris from the burn.

Valle Toledo Work Weekend, June 22-24

By moving soil and transplanting sod by hand in several locations, we will plug an animal-made fence line ditch which has captured San Antonio Creek, causing severe bank erosion and draining the adjacent wetlands. To volunteer email Jack Crane at jdcrane@valornet.com.

Santa Rosa Creek Work Weekends, July 20-22 and August 17-19

Join Los Amigos and the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation (AWF) as we work over two weekends. Several years ago AWF constructed a number of Zuni-bowls and one-rock dams in head cuts and eroding areas of this creek in the Valle Santa Rosa. They have worked very successfully by reducing erosion and capturing sediments. Last September after the fire we held a special volunteer project that in conjunction with machine-constructed large rock structures

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Events for 2012

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prevented serious erosion by spreading flood water containing ash and debris into the wetlands. The two projects this summer are to continue the hand building of more rock structures as well as digging and transplanting more sod, all designed to minimize erosion. This is a fun group that likes to work hard, and the camping isn't too shabby either! To volunteer email *Jack Crane* at jdcrane@valornet.com.

Old-Timers BBQ, August 4

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 2 p.m. at the Bunkhouse where we have met the past three years for introductions, a program, and dinner. To attend please email *Peggy Gautier* at peggyg@thuntek.net.

Check our website for more details on these and other events throughout the season (www.losamigosdevallescaldera.org). To reserve a space for one of our activities, please email the project leader listed above with your name, phone number, number in your party, and other pertinent details.

Membership

Los Amigos currently has over 200 members. If you are interested in joining, you may visit our website, www.losamigosdevallescaldera.org, or make your check payable to Los Amigos de Valles Caldera and send it to:

Los Amigos de Valles Caldera
3250 La Paz Lane
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Basic	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (62+)	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____

Order Your Morton Print to Help Restore the Bond Cabin!

Los Amigos de Valles Caldera is selling signed and numbered 18" by 22" lithographs of *Peace in the Valle* by Gary Morton (see page 8), for \$125, which includes shipping and handling. The proceeds from the sale of the prints will be used for restoration work on the Bond Cabin.

To order, please see the Los Amigos website, 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.

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Cos Amigos de Valles Caldera*

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

From the Chair, Doug Fraser

In the five years Los Amigos has been working on the Preserve, we have brought in over \$750,000 in restoration funds from federal and State sources. In addition, we have contributed over \$100,000 in in-kind contributions of time, sweat, and energy from our volunteers. As a result, Los Amigos is having a measurable and positive effect on the health of the Preserve.

In order to continue to have that effect, we need your support—and we are happy to say that we had a remarkable response to our 2011 Annual Appeal from our loyal members.

In 2012, we are cooperating with the Trust on four currently funded restoration projects, and we are pursuing other funding to restore the Bond Cabin and other historic buildings, and to help mitigate the threat of further catastrophic fire on the Preserve. You can read about some of that work in the story (*Restoration In the Works*) on page 5.

We have outlined our plans for our Summer 2012 member events and volunteer restoration weekends on pages 6-7. As always, we will have our member and old-timers picnic, and we are very pleased this year to be able to schedule our very popular geology tour, which we had to cancel last year because of the fire. It will be held on Sunday, June 17.

In the meantime, some of you will be getting notices about your membership renewal and some of you will be getting requests to become members. We hope you all will respond positively to these requests. Working together, I know we can make an even more positive impact on the Preserve this year.



*Peace in the Valle
by Gary Morton*

Two New Trustees Appointed to the Board

Kent Salazar

Lifelong New Mexican Kent Salazar was appointed to Valles Caldera Trust Board of Trustees and began his term at the March 2012 meeting. His term will run through 2014. He was the third Trustee appointed by President Barack Obama, following Dr. Melissa Savage and Dr. Ken Smith who were appointed in August 2010. By statute each trustee position is filled by a person with a specific expertise needed to guide the management of the Preserve.

Mr. Salazar served twenty years as manager of the City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department before retiring in 1996. He owns and manages the small environmental consulting firm, Kent Salazar Co., and has a B.S. in Biology from the University of New Mexico. He is in his second term as regional director for the National Wildlife Federation and served on the New Mexico State Game and Fish Commission. His appointment fills the vacancy left by the departure of former Board Chairman, Stephen Henry, whose term expired in January 2010. Mr. Salazar is now the Trustee uniquely qualified to fulfill the need of a person with expertise in the management of game and nongame wildlife and fish populations including hunting, fishing, and recreational activities.

“The Valles Caldera National Preserve is one of New Mexico’s and the United States’ natural gems,” said Salazar. “It deserves to be enjoyed and protected by present and future generations. This is what I will work with staff to accomplish.”

Board Chairman Dr. Raymond Loretto says Salazar is a welcome addition to the Trust. “Kent recognizes the unique and fragile nature of the Valles Caldera ecosystem,” said Dr. Loretto. “That understanding, combined with his experience with wildlife organizations and commissions, make Kent a valuable addition to the Board.”

Karyn Stockdale

The Audubon Society now



Kent Salazar. (Photo courtesy of Valles Caldera Trust.)



Karyn Stockdale. (Photo courtesy of Audubon Society.)

counts one of its own within the leadership of the Valles Caldera Trust. New Mexico Executive Director Karyn Stockdale has been confirmed as the newest member of the Valles Caldera Board of Trustees. She is the fourth Trustee appointed by President Barack Obama. Stockdale assumes the board position which requires a Trustee active in a nonprofit organization concerned with the activities of the Forest Service. She succeeds the late Jim Range, whose board position remained vacant since his death in January 2009.

“The Valles Caldera is one of the most stunning landscapes I have ever seen,” said Stockdale who has hiked and cross country skied the Preserve. “I consider it an honor, privilege and expect it to be a pleasure, to serve on the Board that will keep it that way for generations to come.”

Stockdale is Vice President of the National Audubon Society and Executive Director of Audubon New Mexico. She oversees the state office and the Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary in Santa Fe. Stockdale earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas and a Masters in Parks and Recreation Administration from the University of New Mexico.

“Karyn brings a wealth of hands on experience to the organization,” Dr. Raymond Loretto, Chairman of the Valles Caldera Board of Trustees. “Her community outreach abilities and knowledge of how to engage partners are important for a non profit during these challenging economic times.”

Prior to leading Audubon’s efforts, Stockdale spent seven years with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) in New Mexico where she managed outreach to communities and landowners for the acquisition of open space and environmentally sensitive lands. As a result of her accomplishments she received the TPL’s prestigious Collins Award for Excellence in Project Management.

“I want to strengthen public support for the Preserve by building bridges to the community through public partnerships and community outreach,” said Stockdale. “Great conservation results are possible only through great partnerships.”

Stockdale will participate in the next Board of Trustees meeting this summer at the Trust offices in Jemez Springs. Her term will run through 2014 and leaves one vacancy on the board.

Chairman Ray Coretto

Where Credit Is Due

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program. Henry led the effort to invest in and create the Science and Education Center and invested in the larger, user-friendly visitor center.

Each chairman improved on the work of the one before. The Trust grew as an organization and the Preserve benefitted. So did I. Working side by side with the Board members and the great staff that makes it all come together has been a humbling experience. I am using that experience to meet the challenges that we now face. The Las Conchas Fire was a significant impact to the Trust and the Preserve. Fortunately, under my watch, we participated in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) effort which will fund restoration and recovery efforts. Recently, the Board approved a reorganization plan that will streamline the workload and contribute to

more efficient use of taxpayer dollars. We also are overseeing the development of a strategic plan which will set the direction and goals for the next seven years.

The best way I know to honor the previous Board chairs, members, staff, and all those who contributed to the successes so far is to complete the work they began. The best way to do that is by using the tools of reorganization and a strategic plan to build a platform for success and keep the experiment in land management alive.



A Note from the New Executive Director

It was only a few months ago that I recounted the challenges facing the Trust after the Las Conchas Fire. That article appeared in October when I was the recently named Interim Executive Director of the Trust. Now I write as the newly appointed permanent Executive Director appointed by the Board of Trustees. Their vote of confidence, support, and collaborative spirit are greatly appreciated. They were a great help during the weeks and months after the fire and will continue to be during the uncertain times ahead.

After a challenging nine months working through the complexities of the Las Conchas Fire and its aftermath, I am better able to focus on the more traditional aspects of management. Strategic planning, restoration, workforce planning, budget management, and supporting my staff with its challenging and rewarding work are just a few key areas of concentration.

Compliance with federal reporting requirements and using those reports to improve the course of action will help keep us on track. For example, all federal agencies were required to submit a new or revised strategic management plan by February 6, 2012 to meet the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act (GPRA) of 2010. This strategic plan is of great importance because, in addition to fulfilling the GPRA requirements, it will be a valuable tool for communicating a vision for the future to both Congress and the public. Above all, this plan should be used to align

resources and guide decision-making to accomplish priorities and improve outcomes.

One major accomplishment during the past few months was the preparation of that Strategic Management Plan for fiscal years 2012 – 2018. The plan was submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and is posted to the Trust's website.

The plan includes background information about the Trust, the Preserve, and the experiment in public land management. The plan presents three strategic goals where we shall focus our attention during the years to come. The first is to expand the public's access and enjoyment of the preserve. The second is the restoration and stewardship of the natural and cultural resources found on the Preserve. The third goal focuses on what has been one of the more controversial aspects of the trust's enabling legislation: financial sustainability. With ever-shrinking federal budgets the authorization to generate revenue and accept donations will be critical to meeting all three goals.

A lot of work must be done to meet those goals. I look forward to the challenges, the opportunities, and the achievements by fulfilling the mission of the Trust: *"...an experiment in public land management, and is responsible for protecting and preserving the natural and cultural resources of the Valles Caldera National Preserve for present and future generations while being dedicated to sustainable public access and use."*

PBS TV Documentary to Showcase Science on Valles Caldera

by Bob Parmenter, Director of Science & Education

A television production team has been working on the Valles Caldera for the last year, recording the vistas and wildlife of the Preserve, and interviewing a wide range of VCNP staff and visiting scientists. The 55-minute



show, tentatively titled *Valles Caldera: The Science*, will be aired on the PBS network in September 2012. The production is a collaboration between Santa Fe Productions and Tim Aydelott Productions, with Tim Aydelott as the Director and Executive Producer. Ylonda Viola is the show's Producer, and Tony Tiano is the Executive Producer with Santa Fe Productions; John Golden Britt is the Director of Photography. The production is being funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Valles Caldera Trust, the Albert I. Pierce Foundation, the PNM Foundation, and the New Mexico Geological Society Foundation.

The show will highlight many of the significant scientific events that have occurred in the Valles Caldera. First and foremost are the geologic discoveries made in the caldera, including the original theories of caldera formation and subsequent development of resurgent domes and ring fractures. In addition, geologic studies in the 1960s of the caldera's 1.25 million year eruption history and Earth's paleo-magnetic shifts provided the conclusive data in support of plate tectonic theory and the theory of continental drift. Interviews with geologists who have worked in the Valles Caldera over the past 50 years will showcase these remarkable discoveries.

In addition, the show will recount the events of the 2011 Las Conchas fire, which burned 30,000 acres of the Preserve, and delve into the scientific efforts to both understand recent uncharacteristic forest fires and how to prevent them in the future. Scientists from various fields will discuss how detailed scientific analyses and strategic approaches are being

Science on the Preserve: [Top] Sierra Club doing vegeta-



tion monitoring. [Left] Weather station in the Valle Grande. [Above] Monitoring the creek after the Las Conchas Fire. (Photos courtesy of Bob Parmenter.)

employed to restore the forests and watersheds of the Jemez Mountains, in an effort to return more natural fire regimes to the caldera.

Finally, the production will cover many of the ongoing scientific research, inventory, and monitoring projects that provide the data for land management decisions in the Valles Caldera. Preserve operational decisions continue to be informed through a science-based adaptive management philosophy, with continuous monitoring of vegetation, fish and wildlife, watershed functioning, stream water quality, and climate variables. The VCNP staff and collaborating scientists appear throughout the show, describing their studies and how their data contribute to the greater understanding of the Preserve's natural and cultural resources. As Director Tim Aydelott notes, "The whole production crew has been thrilled to be out here with people who are making new scientific discoveries about the Valles Caldera. The Preserve is a fantastic outdoor laboratory and classroom, and we want to tell the world about it!"

So check our VCNP website for the dates and times of this informative (and scenic!) PBS TV show.

2012 Recreation Highlights

A dozen years ago, on July 14th, President Bill Clinton signed the Valles Caldera Preservation Act which created the Valles Caldera National Preserve. To celebrate that occasion and the many accomplishments of past and present staff, volunteers, and contributors, we will host the Valles Caldera Preservation Act Celebration from July 21-29. Selected events and van tours will be free of charge during the celebration. Whether you are coming up for a special event like the anniversary celebration or just visiting the area, we have something for you. We have one-hour van tours and several shorter hikes for those just passing through. Those with a little more time can take advantage of programs in the backcountry. We are open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. starting May 12th.

Please visit <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/come-visit/> for more details about all of our programs.

Special Events

•**Primitive Skills Gathering: May 20.** This free event will let you see primitive skills being demonstrated by regional experts (fire making, knapping, beadwork, etc.).

•**Run the Caldera 10K; June 9th.** A great warm up for the next day's marathon and half marathon.

•**Run the Caldera Marathon, Half Marathon: June 10.** Run through the heart of the Caldera.

•**Valles Caldera Preservation Act Celebration: July 21-29.**

•**Cruise the Caldera: August 11.** A fun



Photo courtesy of TK Thompson.

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mountain bike ride with 85 miles of roads from which to choose.

•**Twilight Mountain Bike Ride: August 25.**

This family event allows you to ride when the animals are coming down to the meadows.

•**Jemez Mountains Elk Festival: October 6 – 14.** Nine days of celebrating elk in the Jemez.

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.

Educational School Programs

We are taking reservations for school groups to visit and explore the Preserve this fall and next spring. We have educational programs for grades K-12. To reserve your date or to get more information, call (505) 629-1418.

Volunteers

Our programs are successful because of the quality and number of people who help out. We are always looking for help with the events described above as well as with 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.