

# Ca Ventana en los Valles

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

*Frontiers of Our Past:*

## *Discovering the Cultural Landscapes of the Valles Caldera*

*by Ana Steffen, Acting Cultural  
Resources Coordinator*

Over the past seven field seasons since the establishment of the Valles Caldera National Preserve, the Cultural Resources (CR) Program has made significant headway in understanding the complex and deep history of changing human land use on this extraordinary landscape. Conducting an archaeological survey to discover and document prehistoric sites is a time-consuming and meticulous process. Although the Trust CR Team has completed surveys of only 10% of the 89,000 acres within the Preserve, we



*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.*

*Chris Turnbow, University of New Mexico Office of Contract Archaeology, at one of the large prehistoric obsidian quarries on Cerro del Medio. (All photos courtesy of the Trust CR program, unless otherwise noted.)*

now know a great deal from the remnants left behind from thousands of years of human use of this beautiful and inviting place. Since 2000, our field investigations and analyses have:

- Confirmed the use of this landscape by prehistoric peoples as early as the Late Paleoindian period (beginning at least 8,000 years ago) and as late as the period of contact between Native North Americans and European immigrants after A.D. 1540.
- Demonstrated that trade or transport of obsidian artifacts originating from caldera volcanic deposits

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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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## Frontiers of Our Past

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occurred throughout all periods of prehistory and extended across North America.

- Discovered ceramic artifacts (i.e., undecorated and decorated pot sherds) in rockshelters and open-air locations from the earliest periods

of pottery-making in the Southwest (i.e., as early as 500 A.D.) through late prehistory and early historic Puebloan eras, even from the Spanish entrada.

- Investigated the preservation characteristics of buried artifact-bearing soils to begin predicting the locations of hidden ancient occupations across the Preserve.

- Established the presence of agricultural terraces on Banco Bonito that demonstrate the growing of crops like maize or beans at some of the highest elevations yet known in North America.



*Obsidian artifacts found at a prehistoric quarry workshop on Cerro del Medio.*

### Cost-Effective Approach

How have we accomplished this? With an eye toward tight budgets and broad financial demands posed by the need to build and repair an infrastructure of roads and facilities, the CR Program has developed a cost-effective approach to integrating research into each federally mandated CR project. The Preserve, as a federal land managing agency, must meet the goals of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NHPA requires that, as projects are planned, the potential to disturb or adversely affect cultural resources must be assessed and that significant cultural resources be protected whenever possible. In meeting the NHPA requirements for preservation on public lands, a central goal of the Trust CR Program has been to design our compliance efforts to maximize opportunities to substantively learn about the past. Thus, without funding for research, the Trust CR Program has been able to take each requirement for NHPA compliance as an opportunity for knowledge building.

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## *From Trust Chair, William B. Keleher*

As the Valles Caldera National Preserve prepares for our 2008 activities, the Board of Trustees remain optimistic with respect to the future of the Preserve. Our optimism is tempered somewhat by the fact that the budget submitted to Congress by the President did not include an appropriation for the Trust for fiscal year 2009.

In early February, board members Tracy Hephner, Jim Range, and myself, accompanied by Jeff Cross, Executive Director, visited the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, staff of the United States Forest Service, as well as Mark Rey, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture. During each visit, we provided copies of the *State of the Preserve 2002-2007, the Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2007*, and additional information relating to the Preserve. We were very fortunate in having personal meetings with Senators Pete V. Domenici and Jeff Bingaman, as well as Congresswoman Heather Wilson, and staff of Congressmen Tom Udall and Steve Pearce. Our visits were well received, and we believe Congress will make a reasonable appropriation for fiscal year 2009.

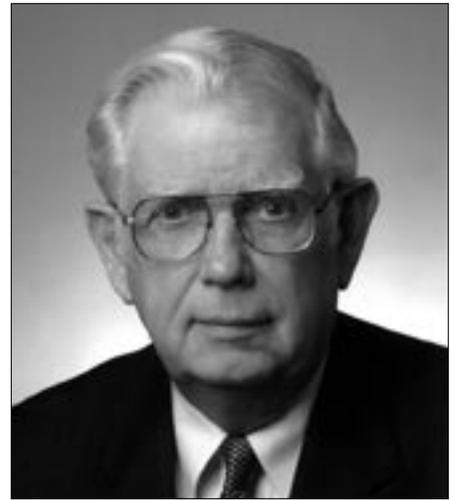
There remain a wide variety of views with respect to activities on the Preserve. A request for proposals for grazing livestock during summer 2008 was issued and several responses received. By the time this newsletter is published, the successful applicant will have been determined. In addition, a request for proposals for a business plan has been issued and again, responses were submitted from consulting companies that understood the unique nature of the Preserve, a federal government corporation that is to become financially self-sufficient by 2015. Responses have been reviewed and we anticipate the successful applicant will have been decided by the time this newsletter is published. A business plan is crucial for the future

of the Preserve. The Trust now has sufficient data with respect to land management issues to determine what programs

can be provided, but the question remains: Can they be supported financially without impairment of the goals established by Congress?

An example of the wide views held with respect to activities on the Preserve is snowmobiles. A recent article in the *Sunday Albuquerque Journal* asked whether or not snowmobiles would be part of the future of the Preserve. While no one can positively rule anything out, the article was unexpected by the Board as there have been no Board discussions with respect to snowmobiling or use of all terrain vehicles on the Preserve, except by staff for administrative purposes. The article in the *Albuquerque Journal* was fair; however, the headline might have led one to believe that snowmobiling was under serious consideration.

In closing, I wish to thank all of the members of Los Amigos de Valles Caldera, especially Doug Fraser, Larry Icerman, and Barbara H. Johnson, who have been especially helpful. Larry and Barbara served on the Board of Trustees with distinction for four (4) years and both recognize the requirements of the federal law establishing the Preserve and the need to develop a comprehensive program for the management of the land, its resources, and facilities for public use and access to the Preserve for recreation and education. I thank Barbara and Larry for their many years of service on the Board of Trustees and for establishing Los Amigos as a 501(c)(3) corporation to financially assist the Preserve and provide volunteers to work on projects.



# *Collaborative Forest Restoration Project*

## *Thinning in Banco Bonito*

by Marie Rodriguez, Natural Resource Coordinator

Banco Bonito is the place name for the broad sloping landform which resulted from the final gasp of the El Cajete eruption approximately 50,000 years ago. This place name has been adopted in reference to the Preserve's southwest corner as well as the surrounding Forest Service land. New Mexico State Highway 4 (NM 4) bisects the Preserve through the southwest corner. However, if it were not for the signs, most visitors would not believe they were within the Preserve. Instead of the iconic grasslands and vistas that people associate with the Preserve, the southwest corner is characterized by a dense ponderosa pine forest with inclusions of aspen and fir.



[Above] What Banco Bonito probably looked like pre-settlement.  
[Top Right] What Banco Bonito looks like now.

### *Change in Natural Condition*

Banco Bonito looked very different a century ago. Prior to European settlement, frequent fires, ignited by lightning, burned across this landscape, fanned by the southwesterly winds that typically prevailed. These fires would spread quickly and lightly across the landscape, fueled only by grass and litter. Tree seedlings would be killed and dead twigs and branches would be consumed. Larger ponderosa pine establishes a thick bark that protects them from fire. The result of this interaction between fire and a fire-adapted ecosystem, was an open forest of large ponderosa pine trees with a luxurious understory of



native grasses.

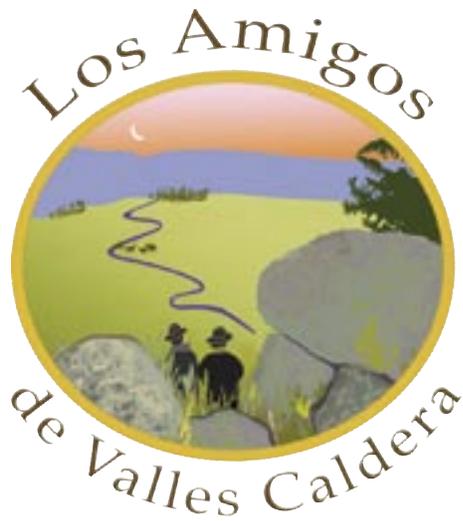
European settlement would initiate a profound change in the structure, composition, and function of this ecosystem. Large trees were logged and fire was eventually removed from the system. Without fire, young trees survived in unprecedented numbers—so many in fact, that they exceed the capacity of the forest. Instead of replacing the large trees harvested for lumber, they grew to about 8-12 inches and stagnated from the intense competition for water, sunlight, nutrients, and space to grow. A fire burning in this modern forest would not burn quickly and lightly through litter and grass but could burn intensely, as a crown fire fueled by hundreds and thousands of stagnated trees.

Small, year-round communities, as well as Forest Service campgrounds, are located along NM 4 on either side of the Preserve, making this a busy corridor throughout the year, especially during the summer. Besides the continued occurrence of lightning fires, Banco Bonito is subject to a high occurrence of human-caused fires. With increasing hazard in the forest and increasing numbers of fires, it is no wonder that Banco Bonito was identified as in need of immediate treatment upon federal acquisition!

### *Collaboration Critical*

The woes of Banco Bonito are reflected throughout the forests of the intermountain west. This issue affects everyone who manages, lives, works, plays, or otherwise has a stake in our forests. Because there are so many stakeholders involved in

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Winter-Spring 2008

## News from Los Amigos

Supporting the Valles Caldera  
National Preserve  
for Present and Future Generations

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### Get Intimate with the Valles Caldera National Preserve!

by Greg Kendall, Vice Chair

Are you interested in having an intimate relationship with the Valles Caldera National Preserve? Are you wondering how to do it? Why not be a volunteer? Los Amigos is looking for Volunteers to help with the Gift Shops, our watershed restoration project in Alamo Bog, our potential work on the restoration of the Bond Cabin, to assist Misty Blue with her extremely successful NM 4 interpretive program, or to come on out and join Los Amigos for our spring volunteer work party to help clean up the historic district.

I've been volunteering at the Preserve for a few years now and I have been lucky enough to have a chance to explore many normally unseen areas of the Caldera and to meet wonderful people. In 2005, I directed one of the mountain bike events as a volunteer. It was hard work putting it all together, but the rewards of being able to lay out, survey, and set up the course were fantastic. It was an experience I will always treasure. I was able to travel the course



University of CA-Berkeley and UNM archaeological fieldschool students visit the large obsidian boulder in Obsidian Valley on the north side of Cerro del Medio. Dr. Shackley demonstrates use of a portable device to measure the trace elements in the obsidian, a technique used to geologically "source" artifacts found far from the Jemez Mountains.

extensively on bike and by Jeep. Now, as Los Amigos Vice Chair, I have been active in helping to organize many of the events and activities for our organization. It's been a pleasure to work with so many fantastic folks and to hear the stories of their experience with the land and the people who inhabit it.

I encourage you to consider volunteering with Los Amigos as a wonderful way to gain a closer association with the Valles Caldera, its wildlife, its people, its history, and its terrain.

The Trust and Los Amigos are looking for Gift Shop volunteers, who can commit to one day a week volunteering at one of the two Gift Shops the Trust

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# Calendar of Los Amigos Events 2008

Los Amigos members will have a number of opportunities to enjoy the Preserve—and to help it—this year. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities!



## **Historic District Clean-up Learn about the Bond Cabin and the Historic District Saturday, June 7 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Los Amigos members will help the Preserve clean up the Historic Headquarters Area in preparation for the summer recreation season. Board member Tracy Hephner will lead us as we do minor maintenance, clean up, and plant flowers in the headquarters area. Los Amigos will provide water, lunch, and snacks to the workers.

Archaeologist Ana Steffen will join us with Shannon Dennison of Bandelier National Monument to discuss historic information on structures in the historic district, including their character-defining architectural features and historic integrity, and offer an array of best approaches for preserving those historic architectural and design features.

## **Journey into the Geologic History of the Preserve Saturday, June 28, and Saturday, September 20 8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Please join us for an exciting geologic tour of



*This page: [Left] Bond Cabin. [Above] Kirt Kempter discussing the geology of the caldera, using his new full-color map. Page 7: [Top left] Members enjoying the BBQ last year. [Top right] Alamo bog. [Bottom right] Trust staffer Jim Trout showing Los Amigos members an elkshed. (Photos courtesy of SWCA; Greg Kendall; Julie Walker; and Kathy Fraser.)*

the north rim of the Valles Caldera led by local geologist, international tour guide, and Los Amigos member, Kirt Kempter. Departing from Española at 9:00 am, 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, providing a spectacular view 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, a dynamic story including 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.

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

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# Calendar of Los Amigos Events 2008 *(con't from page 6)*



## **Old-timers and Members BBQ and Hike** **Sunday, July 20** **9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

This event permits members to enjoy a day on the Preserve, starting with a hike at 9 a.m. Last year, 21 hikers were driven in the Preserve's vans to the foot of Cerro Abrigo for a seven-mile hike led by Craig Martin. Craig told stories about the Preserve's history as the hikers circumnavigated the volcanic mound. This year, we hope to hike Cerro Seco. We will try to entice Craig to come back to lead that hike.

For non-hikers, we are meeting at the horse paddocks at 4 p.m. for introductions, a lecture, and dinner. We will be inviting Trust Board members, and the many "old-timers" who spent previous years on the Preserve before it was purchased by the government.

We hope you will join us again for a day of fun, hiking, and reminiscing!

## **Alamo Bog Wetlands Tour** **Saturday, August 9** **10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

We will tour the Alamo Bog area where work will begin next year on the wetlands grant Los Amigos and the New Mexico Environment Department received from the EPA. The Alamo Canyon restoration will include preserving habitat for the rare bog birch, lowering the height of the falls at a significant headcut to reduce the force of falling water, dispersing the flow, hardening the base of the falls to protect subsoil, and conserving soil moisture within the bog upstream of the headcut, thus protecting existing wetland plant growth. The road contributing sediment to the bog will also be addressed through restoring

the slope from the road to slow the velocity of runoff, planting on the slope, creating structures to maintain the sediment out of the bog, and possibly permanently closing the road. This part of the Preserve is not generally open to visitors, so this will be an opportunity to see some rare scenery and to learn about watershed restoration techniques.



## **Wildlife Tour** **Wednesday, October 1** **4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Last year 15 Los Amigos members took advantage of an offer from the Trust for a wildlife viewing tour during the hiatus in the elk hunt that occurs every year during mating season (the "rut"). The group was able to see many elk and hear them bugle into the night. This year's tour will be on October 1 and will start at the Valle Grande Staging Area at 4 p.m. We hope you will join us for another memorable experience on the Preserve!



## *From the Chair, Doug Fraser*

First, I want to thank the McCune Charitable Foundation for its recent support of Los Amigos de Valles Caldera. In the last year, we have made requests to McCune and to Los Alamos National Bank for support, and they have both come through. In addition, we received \$2,610 from our year-end appeal to our members. Thank you!

We are continuing our fundraising, in part to keep us up with the administrative chores of any non-profit, and in part to fund our contribution to restoring the Bond Cabin. I hope you enjoy the article by Ana Steffen about the Trust's Cultural Resource Program and especially about the Bond Cabin. We will be working in the historic headquarters district and learning more about its history in May (see Calendar of Events 2008, pages 6 and 7).

Secondly, we are moving forward with our volunteer program. In talks with the Trust, we will be supplying volunteers for the Gift Shops, the NM 4 interpretative program, the headquarters cleanup, and other programs. Please see Greg Kendall's article on page 5. We hope you will consider volunteering on the Preserve this summer.

Thirdly, also this summer we will be presenting a full plate of member events. Our events were very well attended last year and we hope to see even more of you this year!

And lastly, we will shortly be asking you to renew your membership in Los Amigos. We hope you feel that your membership has been of such value to you and to the Preserve that you will do that. Thank you for your continued support.

### *Get Intimate with the VCNPI!*

*(con't from page 5)*

operates (one at the Jemez Springs offices and one at the Welcome/Staging Area two miles inside the main gate of the Preserve). There will be a two or three day Gift Shop training at the Trust offices in Jemez Spring during the second half of April.

Los Amigos will join Trust Board member Tracy Hephner June 7 to help with a Historic Area Cleanup Day on the Preserve.

Please let me know if you're interested in one of these opportunities. Email or call me at [volunteers@losamigosdevallescaldera.org](mailto:volunteers@losamigosdevallescaldera.org) or (505) 412-3843 if you would like to be added to the volunteer list or if you have questions.

As other volunteer opportunities are finalized, we will update the Los Amigos website (<http://www.losamigosdevallescaldera.org>) or just search Google for "Los Amigos de Valles Caldera."



*(Photo courtesy of Greg Kendall.)*

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## Thinning in Banco Bonito

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forest management, collaboration is critical to the task of restoration. The Community Forest Restoration Act of 2000 (Title VI, Public Law 106-393) established a cooperative forest restoration program in New Mexico to provide cost-share grants to stakeholders for forest restoration projects on public land to be designed through a collaborative process (the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program or CFRP). The act authorizes annual appropriations to be awarded to proposals that address specified objectives, including: wildfire threat reduction; ecosystem restoration, including non-native tree species reduction; reestablishment of historic



fire regimes; reforestation; preservation of old and large trees; increased utilization

of small diameter trees; and the creation of forest-related local employment.

### Over 200 Acres Treated

To date, over 200 acres in the Banco Bonito area of the Preserve have been treated through grants awarded by the CFRP. An area south of NM 4 was treated in collaboration with the Walatowa Woodlands Initiative (WWI), an economic development enterprise of Jemez Pueblo. The focus of this grant was not only the restoration of the forest, but also to increase the capacity of the WWI to create forest-related local employment and to increase the utilization of small diameter trees. An area north of NM 4 was treated in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy, The USFS Jemez Ranger District, the USFS Fire Laboratory, and New Mexico Recycling Coalition. The focus of this grant was to explore



[Above] Banco Bonito Entrance before work and after. [Left] Prescription development workshop. (Photos courtesy of Marie Rodriguez.)

the development of prescriptions that meet hazard reduction goals, while protecting wildlife habitats and initiating a trend toward forests that would be sustainable in changing natural as well as social environments. The project also measured the effects as well as the effectiveness of masticating trees and leaving the material on site or burning it.

The Valles Caldera Trust and the Preserve benefitted greatly from these collaborative efforts. The health of our forest was improved; we developed partnerships with those that can help further the protection of our resources, as well as benefiting our local communities. We will be gaining valuable data that will help in developing prescriptions and selecting tools for future restoration projects on the Preserve.

# Frontiers of our Past

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## Resources of the Preserve

What are the cultural resources of the Preserve? Cultural resources include all of the significant archaeological and historic sites, buildings, and artifacts that illuminate how peoples used the caldera throughout the past.

**Lithic Scatters.** Of the 415 prehistoric sites



[Above] Only a subtle rectangular rubble mound marks this prehistoric fieldhouse on Banco Bonito. [Top right] Aspen carving inscription includes date, (“1947 Julio 27”), name (“Leopoldo Torres”), and perhaps hometown (“Cordova”). [Right] Trust CR Team members recording a culvert built ca. 1935 by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) when they constructed Highway 4.

we have documented thus far, the overwhelming majority are small and large scatters of the artifact debris left behind from making tools from the excellent quality obsidian (volcanic glass) abundant in the caldera. Sites of this kind pose several challenges for interpretation and management. While rich in the number of artifacts, sites with assemblages dominated by obsidian “debitage” are difficult to pinpoint chronologically (i.e., they could represent human use from any time within 10,000 years of human occupation) and often represent multiple episodes of occupation and use from different time periods. Thus while lithic scatters may appear to represent a single behavior (i.e., making stone tools) they actually more often represent locations where prehistoric peoples lived seasonally and returned year after year, sometimes for many generations. These lithic

scatters are ubiquitous throughout the Preserve, occur on almost every kind of landform, and can extend across

many acres in size. This means that when seeking to repair or upgrade roads or to locate parking areas in suitable spots, for example, often it is not possible to avoid or “go around” sites, or to locate areas with no archaeological resources present. Meeting this preservation challenge requires new field methods and approaches to interpretation.

**Other Cultural Resources.** While obsidian “lithic scatters” are the most common type of archaeological site on the Preserve, there are many other kinds of cultural resources. Fieldhouses are another common prehistoric site type. These are the remains of small one or two room masonry structures used



by early Puebloans. As their name suggests, fieldhouses are believed to have been occupied or used for storage in conjunction with agricultural fields. Because most of the Preserve is too high in elevation to support maize agriculture, fieldhouses are found only in the lowest elevations on Banco Bonito in the southwest corner of the Preserve; this is also the reason there are no pueblos inside the caldera—in contrast to the many pueblos on the surrounding mesas and canyons. Puebloan people used the caldera for hunting, gathering plant and mineral resources, and ceremonial activities, but did not build their large settlements here.

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# Frontiers of our Past

(con't from page 10)



**Historic Uses.** Cultural resources also include the remains of historic uses of the Preserve, including hunting, livestock grazing, logging, lumber milling, and mining of sulphur and pumice. Historic sites in the Preserve are diverse, ranging from the well-preserved early-20th century log cabins in the Headquarters area, to wooden corrals, historic roads, log-cabin foundations, and small

dumps of historic trash at mill sites. Aspen carvings and other marked trees are also important historic resources as they preserve the names and dates of early mountain shepherders. Even old fence lines provide valuable information about past grazing and herding systems used on the Baca Location No. 1, including the *partido* system in place when sheep were the primary livestock grazed here.

## *Approach to Preservation and Interpretation*

What approach is the Trust taking to preservation and interpretation? Given the unusual characteristics of the historic and archaeological record in the caldera, the Trust CR Program has developed a number of innovative responses to the challenges posed by this new model of federal land management. We have streamlined our field recording process to minimize field time while increasing the amount we can learn from artifact assemblages readily visible on the landscape surface (thus decreasing the need for costly excavations). We have initiated the development of an integrated information database that allows us to rapidly determine whether areas considered in activities-planning have been surveyed, account for what historic properties are present and may be affected, and assess how to readily achieve planning goals without disturbing known cultural resources. We have created partnerships with academic institutions (especially the University of New Mexico) to pursue

research without internal funding and to accomplish survey and excavation requirements with low-cost student field schools and cooperative agreements. We are developing new opportunities for the public to learn about the cultural resources and

history of the Preserve through van tours, guided hikes, and special events such as flintknapping demonstrations. Through innovation, outreach, and community involvement, the Trust CR Program will continue to seek new ways to discover, preserve, and tell the story of the rich cultural heritage of the Preserve.



[Left] Woman with child alongside Bond Cabin, probably circa 1918 just after construction. (Photo courtesy of Richard Boyd.) [Above] Bond Cabin 1921. (Photo from the Parkhurst Collection, courtesy of the Los Alamos Historical Society Archives.)

## *Focus on the Bond Cabin*

Everyone has seen the Bond Cabin as they ride or drive through the Headquarters Area at the north end of the entrance road into the Preserve. Situated in the middle of the Ranch Headquarters Historic District, with an inviting front porch and a gorgeous view of the Valle Grande, this cabin evokes a past era of domestic comfort amid the once-bustling activities of a busy ranch. The Bond Cabin was built in 1918 by Frank Bond, within a year of his purchase of the Baca Location No. 1 with his brother George Bond. It was built as a seasonal residence for Bond family members involved in the operation of the ranch. The other common name for the structure, Headquarters House, indicates the central function it served throughout the Bond era (1917 – 1962) and into the Dunigan era (1963 – 2000).

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# Focus on the Bond Cabin

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Along with the nearby Ranch Foreman's Cabin, built at nearly the same time, the log construction and rustic style are important character-defining features of the building and contribute strongly to the overall feeling of the historic Headquarters Area. Despite decades of continuous use, the appearance and integrity of the Bond Cabin remains largely undiminished: many of the windows and doors are original and the two 1980s additions to the house have construction and visual styles

similar to the original. In contrast, the Ranch Foreman's Cabin has structural additions with incongruous board and batten exterior walls, many of the windows have been enlarged and replaced, and numerous interior alterations have substantially diminished the historic architectural integrity of the building.

In 2006 the Trust brought in a team of historic architectural and preservation specialists from SWCA Environmental Consultants to examine, document, and evaluate all of the historic structures in the Preserve. The team, led by Shannon Dennison (now at Bandelier National Monument), assembled historic information on each structure, assessed character-defining architectural features and historic integrity, provided detailed recommendations on maintenance and repair tasks and priorities, and offered an array of best approaches for preserving historic architectural and design features. Their report, along with a structural and mechanical facilities assessment provided by engineers with the Gila National Forest, will provide the basis for implementing much-needed work on all the structures in the Headquarters Area.

The report also provides a basis for nominating the area and its early structures to the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District. The district is an important cultural landscape on the

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Preserve, and listing as a Historic District will allow the Trust to pursue substantial external funding to undertake repairs needed to make the structure suitable for a variety of purposes.

To learn more about the historic context of the built cultural landscapes in the Preserve visit the VCNP website and download *More Than A Scenic Mountain Landscape: Valles Caldera National Preserve Land Use History* by Kurt Anschuetz and Thomas Merlan (2007). The Adobe PDF document can be read on-line or downloaded at: [http://www.vallescaldera.gov/about/trust/trust\\_ref.aspx](http://www.vallescaldera.gov/about/trust/trust_ref.aspx) [At the [www.vallescaldera.gov](http://www.vallescaldera.gov) home page, click on "About Us", then "Reference Documents"].



The Bond Cabin, view to the north. (Photo courtesy of SWCA, 2006.)