

Ca Ventana en los Valles

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

NMSU, Jemez Pueblo, and NMBCPA Proposal Selected Valles Caldera Awards Grazing Contract

A joint proposal presented by New Mexico State University, Jemez Pueblo, and the New Mexico Beef Cattle Performance Association (NMBCPA) was selected for the 2009 grazing season. The Executive Director, in collaboration with board members and staff, reviewed the five proposals submitted, taking into consideration the economic, environmental, and social benefits of each proposal and their respective herd management plans.

“All proposals we received were reviewed and each brought its unique approach to the grazing program,” said Gary Bratcher, Executive Director of the Valles Caldera Trust. “However, the plan selected includes community, educational, economic,



Elk and cows co-existing on the Valle Grande. (Photo courtesy of Kathy Fraser.)

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.

and scientific elements that extend benefits beyond the borders of the Preserve.”

The proposal submitted by Dr. Manny Encinias of NMSU, in partnership with Jemez Pueblo and the NMBCPA, establishes the framework for providing cow-calf pairs, virgin bulls, and replacement heifers in the 2009 program. The proposal specifies 500 Animal Units (AUs) to a maximum of 1,500 AU’s at a flat rate of \$52 (AU) for the season. The NMSU plan also calls for the development of a grazing plan to benefit both the natural resources and the performance of grazing cattle. “The intent is to incorporate a grazing system which minimizes the use of grazing resources along riparian areas and emphasizes the use of the resources away from the perennial waterways,” says Encinias.

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The Valles Caldera Trust

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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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Grazing Contract Awarded

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Diversified Breeding Stock Operation

"The plan is essentially a diversified breeding stock operation with extensive hands-on management by NMSU and the partners," said Bratcher. "It creates an enterprise that can dramatically improve the production of livestock for high elevation ranching, promote economic development in the region, and allows the Preserve to further enhance the self-sustaining, environmental, and cultural goals set by the Valles Caldera Preservation Act."

The primary objective of the proposal is focused on the development of a high-altitude performance testing facility for virgin bulls and replacement heifers. The Preserve pastures have always been attractive to cattle growers, but the high altitude provides a unique feature. "There is a nationwide market demand for progressive genetics that meet industry standards for performance and also have an ability to thrive at high elevations," said Encinias. "Before the Trust accepted our proposal there was no high-altitude facility in the U.S. where seedstock could be objectively evaluated on a 100% forage-based diet. Now we have one."

For 48 years, NMSU's Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station in Tucumcari has managed and housed the state's only seedstock performance testing facility, in cooperation with the NMBCPA. The NMBCPA is an organized group of seedstock producers in the Southwest focused on marketing industry-leading genetics to improve the quality of commercial cow-calf operations. During this time membership has developed international recognition for their centralized performance testing facility. Their role in this partnership is based on a commitment to objectively evaluate the performance of quality seedstock that will thrive at high elevations.

Partnering with NMSU gives the Trust the opportunity to team with the state's Land Grant University, providing access to the region's leading natural resource and livestock production scientists and producer-educators. This partnership will explore potential revenue-generating opportunities for the

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Preserve Open Seven Days a Week

Have Fun this Summer

by Rob Dixon, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Summer fun and recreation on the Valles Caldera promises to be the best ever in 2009 as we open the Valle Grande Staging area seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We routinely offer fishing, hiking, equestrian trail riding, mountain bike riding, van tours, and star gazing events. We've added new guided hikes, and will continue the favorite unguided hikes and two free hikes. Equestrian trail riding and mountain bike trail riding will continue to alternate weekends in the Banco Bonito area. We feature a few new van tours and improved wildlife, history, archaeology, and botany tours. The very popular one-hour tours to the headquarters are highlighted by a Thursday-Monday run. We also expanded the stargazing program to take advantage of the star-filled nights on the Preserve. Please visit our website at <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/> for more details.

Special Events

These exciting events are designed to take advantage of the Preserve's unique landscape:

- **June 6-7**—Preserve Days will include fun, games, skill demonstrations, and history.

- **June 13**—Run the Caldera Marathon and Half Marathon. This is a run through the heart of the Caldera.

- **June 20**—Equestrian Endurance Race (American Endurance Ride Conference sanctioned event).

- **June 25**—Valle Grande Pasture Ride.

- **June 27**—Adult Fly Fishing Clinic.

- **June 28**—Youth Fly Fishing Clinic.

- **June 28**—Storyteller Night (dinner, stories).

- **July 9**—Valle Grande Pasture Ride.

- **July 10**—Storyteller Night (dinner, stories).

- **July 18**—Primitive Camouflage Workshop.

- **July 23**—Valle Grande Pasture Ride.

- **August 1-2**—Cruise the Caldera Fun Mountain Bike Ride. Roughly 80 miles of road will be open for you to choose from.

- **August 8**—Storyteller Night (dinner, stories).

- **August 8-9**—Primitive Technology Demonstrations.

- **August 12**—Valle Grande Pasture Ride.

- **August 26**—Valle Grande Pasture Ride.

- **September 22-24**—Photo Adventure. This Three-day event will allow you, your camera, and your own vehicle access to remote parts of the Preserve.

Many more events are scheduled. Check our website for details.

Facility Rentals

Just for the day or for overnight, our facilities are available for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, club events, business meetings, company parties, or educational tours. We are accepting reservations for the Casa de Baca Lodge (sleeps 16) and the Bunkhouse (sleeps 13). Please visit our website for more details.

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 email Kim DeVall at kdevall@vallescaldera.gov for more information.

Volunteers

We have multiple opportunities for volunteers each day of the summer season. We are looking for volunteers to help with all of the events described above. There are even opportunities to lead events as volunteers. In addition, we are always looking for volunteers to help answer visitor questions in our stores and at the pullouts. If you want to spend some of your valuable time helping the Preserve, email Kim.



Photos courtesy of T.K. Thompson.

Big Changes in the Preserve's Fishing Program

by Kimberly DeVall

The goal of the Valles Caldera National Preserve is to provide angling opportunities for the public as quality outdoor experiences with memorable scenery, solitude, wildlife viewing, and fishing. In order to improve the experience for anglers, we have instituted a number of changes in our fishing programs.

San Antonio Fishing Program

New this year is the reservation system available seven days a week for San Antonio Creek. Also new this year is the freedom for anglers to drive their own vehicles to their assigned fishing areas (Monday through Friday only). Due to high weekend visitation, San Antonio anglers will be transported by Valles Caldera Trust staff and vans on Saturdays and Sundays. We also reorganized the creek into four fishing reaches varying from 1.9 to 5.1 miles in length for anglers to choose from. Each reach will have a limited number of slots available each day.

The 2009 San Antonio Creek fishing season opens on May 21, 2009, and closes on August 30, 2009. Fishing reservation fees are \$35 per adult and \$25 per youth (under 16 years). Reaches will be available seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For those anglers choosing to drive themselves on Monday through Friday, please visit our website (http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/fish/fish_needtoknow.aspx) for the rules and policy regarding driving personal vehicles to/from designated parking locations.

To participate in the San Antonio Fishing Program, a person will reserve a specific fishing reach by day over the phone (866-382-5537), online (www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/fish/fish_needtoknow.aspx).



(Photos courtesy of Don J. Usner.)

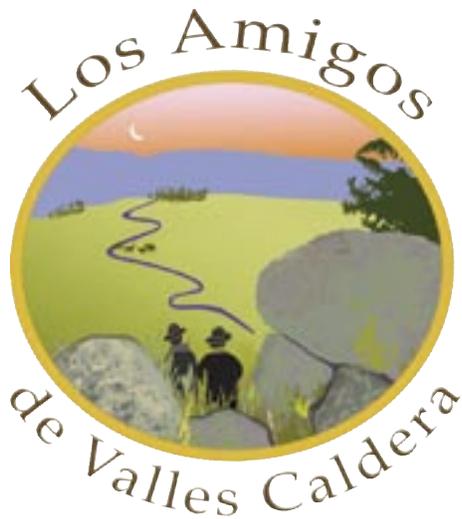
vallescaldera.gov) or by walking in. Others can take the chance of getting on the San Antonio Creek by driving to the Valle Grande Staging Area and seeing if there are any vacancies. All anglers will be notified with a reservation confirmation and will receive additional instructions. Anglers who will be transported by Valles Caldera Trust staff on Saturdays and Sundays must be at the staging area no later than 7:00 a.m.

East Fork Fishing

Anglers will have an opportunity to fish seven days a week on the 6.5 miles of the East Fork of the Jemez River, along with the lower end of Jaramillo Creek. The program is designed to offer ten anglers access to these rivers, on the Valle Grande, for the day. This opportunity is also available mainly through a reservation system on a first come, first served basis. Fishing reservation fees are \$35 per adult and \$25 per youth (under 16 years).

This program will accommodate both those who plan ahead, as well as those who drop in. Of the ten available slots, four will be reserved for Valles Caldera National Preserve registered fishing guides. All ten available slots may be reserved up to 24 hours before the specified fishing day. If all ten slots are not reserved, the available slots will be offered at the Valle Grande Staging Area on a first come, first served basis or by lottery if there are more anglers than slots.

Anglers also have the option of using one of the Valles Caldera National Preserve's permitted fishing guides. To see a list of permitted fishing guides, please visit http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/fish/fish_guides.aspx.



Spring/Summer 2009

News from *Cos Amigos*

Supporting the Valles Caldera
National Preserve
for Present and Future Generations

Cos Amigos to Start Restoration Work on the San Antonio this Summer

The overwhelming beauty of the Valles Caldera, with its green valley bottom grasses, belies the problem. An incision in the San Antonio stream channel system, caused by a combination of inappropriate livestock grazing, road drainage issues, and deforestation, has drastically reduced the extent of the historic wetland. The vast green acreage that was once wetland sod has been largely replaced by non-riparian vegetation, a subtle, yet significant change. Within the lowered base level, the stream is slowly building itself a new wetland floodplain in many places, but this process is pe-



[Top] Incipient meander cutoff, from the San Antonio Creek Inventory. (Courtesy of Van Clothier.) [Above] San Antonio Creek. (Photo courtesy of D. Rourke McDermott.)

riodically set back by meander cutoffs, which deepen the incision. Grazing by cattle and elk is an important issue for stream channel stability and subsequent loss of wetlands due to a synergy of removal of key vegetation, trampling of stream banks, compaction of soil, and drainage rills started by animal trails.

Los Amigos, the Trust, and others are partnering to restore riparian habitat on San Antonio Creek under a State River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative grant. We will intervene in key locations to ensure that natural stream channel evolution continues in a desirable direction. This work will include in-stream as well

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Calendar of Los Amigos Events 2009

Journey into the Geologic History of the Preserve
Sunday, June 7: 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 third season for this tour and it's just as popular as ever, with views that will knock your socks off. 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.

Caldera Marathon Work Days
Friday, June 12th & Saturday, June 13th

Los Amigos will help the Preserve's Recreation Staff prepare for the Marathon on Friday. On Saturday we will help with the Marathon by staffing water stations and helping with other duties.

Dendroglyph Tour
Saturday, July 11th

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.

Old-Timers and Members BBQ and Hike
Sunday, July 19th

This event permits members to enjoy a day on the Preserve, starting with a hike at 9 a.m. This year we hope to hike up South Mountain from the Valle Grande Staging Area. For non-hikers, we are meeting at 4 p.m. at the Bunkhouse for introductions, a lecture, and dinner.



Hikers from last year's Old-Timers Event. (Photo courtesy of Greg Kendall.)

East Rim Hike

Saturday, August 1st, 8:30 a.m.

Greg Kendall will lead a hike from Pajarito Mountain to Cerro Grande and then on to the Cerro Grande parking area on Hwy 4. We will meet at Camp May Rd. and the new Ski Hill By-Pass Road and drive to the Cerro Grande hike parking area, leaving half of the cars there. We will then drive to the Pajarito ski area and ride up the lift. The trail crosses into the Preserve and then later out again. The views are outstanding. This will be an opportunity to travel into an area that is normally not open to hiking.

Alamo Bog Wetlands Work Days and Campout
Friday, August 14th – Sunday, August 16th

Join Los Amigos and the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation (AWF) as we work over a weekend protecting the rare Bog Birch in Alamo Canyon on the west side of the Preserve. Last year we worked with the AWF to put up fencing around patches of Bog Birch, but our work was not completed. There are other patches that need protection from the hungry elk that love Bog Birch shoots. We will be camping at the entrance 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 Environmental Work Party Days, Cleanup and Science Work Days, a Western Dinner and Cattle Loading Event, 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).

If you would like to reserve a space for one of our activities, please send an email to Los Amigos (info@losamigosdevallescaldera.org) with your name, phone number, number in your party, and other pertinent details—or call 505-412-3843.

San Antonio Creek Restoration

(con't from page 5)

as floodplain restoration measures. There are several incipient meander cutoffs that are predicted to cause channel avulsions, headcuts, and loss of floodplain access in the near future. These will be prevented to keep the stream in proper functioning condition. Many eroding banks are contributing to a high sediment load. These banks will be stabilized. Floodplain wetlands adjacent to the creek in several places are being drained by headcut feeder channels. These small channels will be raised to restore sheet flow to significant areas. Solar gain, accompanied by an over-wide channel, is contributing to temperature problems in the lower reaches. Willows and other native riparian vegetation will be planted in appropriate places to stabilize and narrow the creek channel as well as to provide shade for the water surface.

Post vanes, post baffles, and post weirs may be used to increase meander length and restore pools. Heavy equipment will be used to realign several short channel segments to prevent undesirable meander cutoffs. Electric fencing will be installed where grazing occurs along San Antonio Creek to eliminate cattle disturbance in the project area.

Volunteers from Los Amigos, the Trust, and other organizations such as RSVP, New Mexico Trout, Trout Unlimited, the Sierra Club, and local landowners will learn the demonstration restoration techniques and will assist in installation of structures to improve conditions along San Antonio Creek. Volunteers will also help with monitoring of the restoration.

San Antonio Creek is listed in NMED's Clean Water Act Sections 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report

as not supporting its high-quality coldwater fishery designated use. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) were created for San Antonio Creek for temperature and turbidity.

An inventory of the San Antonio Creek sub-watershed from its headwaters to the Preserve boundary (approximately 16 river miles) was completed in 2007 with funds from the Alamo Bog wetlands grant from the EPA to NMED, under which Los Amigos was the primary sub-contractor. It assessed the creek's condition and the potential location of remediation structures for this project and is providing part of the basis for the San Antonio Creek Wetlands Action Plan. The watershed was flown with a digital camera and a sub-meter GPS. Ground reconnaissance was then done with similar equipment. The data, including 260 air photos and the flight track of the airplane, as well as hundreds of resource points on the ground (including 155 ground photopoints), were assembled into a GIS map document. Detailed analysis of these data by the survey team and Trust staff serves as the basis to produce priorities for restoration work.



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 \$225, 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, 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.

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

From the Chair, Doug Fraser

We are very pleased to welcome Jemez Springs resident Jim Counce to our Board. He will be taking Greg Kendall's place, as Greg and his wife will be traveling extensively to promote Karen's new book. We wish them great success with that endeavor. Luckily, Greg has agreed to continue to help with our Member Events this summer.

Jim told us, "I am a retired high school science teacher. My bachelor's degree is in biology with minors in chemistry and math.



Jim Counce.

My master's degree is in science teaching and I have taught environmental science, chemistry, biology, and math for many years. If any of my knowledge and experience could be of use to Los Amigos, I would appreciate the opportunity to help as a member of the Board of Directors." Jim has offered to help with Member Events and the website.

We continue to look for other potential Board members. Please contact me if you are interested.

In other news, we have changed our mailing address to 3250 La Paz Lane, Santa Fe, NM 87507 and closed our office in Jemez Springs.

We are excited that we will be finishing up our Alamo Bog wetlands project this year and beginning work on San Antonio Creek. We are currently writing further grant applications to help restore more riparian areas on the Preserve.

I hope to see you at our Member Events this summer!



*Peace in the Valle
by Gary Morton*

Biologist vs. Mountain Lion

Just Another Day at the Office!

Valles Caldera Staff Biologist Mark Peyton has a passion for his work. It takes him all over the world. “In Florida, I worked on a mammal inventory of Everglades National Park, and helped out with crocodile conservation and python removal,” he says describing the experience as if he were a neighborhood cop strolling by unexpired parking meters. “The snakes get too big, and people can’t handle them as pets so they let them go. As a result, pythons are a big problem in the Everglades.”

Then there was the time in Costa Rica when armed with nothing but a camera, he ran after a jaguar into the jungle. “I wanted to get some photos until he stopped, turned and hissed at me,” he laughed. “I stopped short and thought, ‘Whoa! What am I doing?’”

Peyton avoided listing on the cat’s lunch menu to join us at the Valles Caldera National Preserve where one day late this past winter his passion led him to an “office” site near the Redondo Border. Peyton tells us about yet another close encounter of the feline kind:

There are rare moments in time that slow everything down and engrain themselves into our memory so vividly that it almost loses the sensation of reality. Hiking through the woods on this blustery winter morning had that effect on me. It was a crisp, cool morning on March 6th with swirling wind and just a hint of hopeful spring—the perfect conditions to find elusive wildlife. On this particular morning I was tracking Merriam’s turkey in hopes of better describing their natural use of the landscape. Walking quietly up-slope through the dense woods, I was particularly interested in the large “old-growth” Ponderosa pine as potential roosting sites for turkey. Having identified a few in the distance I started creeping forward for a closer observation. To my surprise, I encountered a full grown Mountain Lion in the middle of its breakfast.

Busy feeding upon a freshly killed elk yearling, the cat was equally startled at my sudden appearance a mere 20 feet away. Leaping toward some thick scrub oak this cat became as invisible as it was silent. Mountain Lions have evolved to be ambush predators. Preferring to stay concealed, they are perfect at disappearing into their landscape. Once the cat was 50 meters away from me, it crouched down into the oak and completely “disappeared.” I knew the exact location of the cat and

couldn’t see or hear anything. A brief observation of the area made it obvious the Mountain Lion had taken down the elk that morning. Signs of the brief and hopeless struggle, and the drag marks of the carcass over fallen trees and brush into a concealed location to feed, clearly



A typical Mountain Lion kill: An ungulate, in a secluded feeding area, and partially buried. (Photo courtesy of Mark Peyton.)

identified the big cat as the predator.

It is exhilarating and humbling to be reminded of my place in the natural order of the world. Top of the food chain was not my position at that moment. Mountain Lions are the apex predators of this landscape and yet we scientists know very little about their actions and behavior as it relates to the environment. There is a wealth of knowledge to be learned about Mountain Lions but, on this particular morning, I decided it would be best to leave the cat as I had found it. And so, I returned down the mountain reflecting on the brief but influential encounter. As I sat down to a hot cup of coffee, it was impossible not to think of the awe-inspiring strength and mystique that accompanies the elusive predator known as the Mountain Lion.

Editor’s Note: *Mark will be seeking close encounters of the Far East kind when he travels to Mongolia this summer for a trek through the Gobi desert and the Altai mountains. His goal is to survive six months in the wilderness while photographing as much wildlife as possible. He will return to us in November with some new tales of life in his “Caldera office” where he hopes to develop a research project on the cats of the Valles Caldera.*

From the Desk of Trust Chair, Steve Henry

You learned from our story on page 12 that the Public Access and Use Planning (PAUP) process will seek input from you and your friends to develop the business roadmap that will lead the Trust to become a model of cost recovery. We encourage your participation at our workshops, open houses, and on line to let us know what you want to see on the Preserve and, just as importantly, what you don't want to see. The plan will be developed based on initial input from public workshops held in 2007 and the recently completed ENTRIX Revenue Enhancement Study. The Board of Trustees has already tabled the "green burial" option detailed in the Revenue Enhancement Study and there may be others which may not be conducive to successful environmental and financial management of the Preserve. The ENTRIX Study can be found on the web at <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/about/trust/docs/VCTRevenuePlan20090327.pdf>

Increased Visitation Anticipated

Preserve General Manager Dennis Trujillo and staff are extremely busy preparing for the summer season on the Preserve. Increased visitation is anticipated for 2009



Dennis Trujillo, Preserve General Manager.

with expanded and improved activities and the opening of an upgraded information center. This portable building will be placed in the Preserve to provide a larger public facility that is ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) compliant and will present a more comfortable experience for visitors. Due to the increase in visitation over the last couple of years, a larger common area and increased retail space is needed. As part of the PAUP, the Trust will analyze different scales and locations for the placement of a permanent visitor center. A list of Preserve activities is available in this newsletter (see pages 3 and 4) or on the web at <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/>

The Environmental Assessment for Multiple Use and Sustained Yield of Forage resulted in the issuance of a "Finding of No Significant Impact." That cleared the way for the 2009 grazing program scheduled to begin June 1st. See story on page 1.

The information office in Jemez Springs is now open year round and serves as the Trust reception area. All telephone calls are answered by a live person to improve

our service to the public. Preserve promotional materials and retail items will remain on sale at that site.

Expanding Science and Education

Plans to expand our science and education

activities are under way

on the Preserve. Dr. Bob Parmenter, Director of Science and Education, has initiated discussions with several universities and other educational institutions in order to plan their participation for 2009. Temporary employees and volunteers are being recruited to assist and special events are being scheduled to provide educational and scientific experiences for the public. Study activities will include wildlife and forage monitoring that will enhance our database for future decisions.

New Staff and Board Members

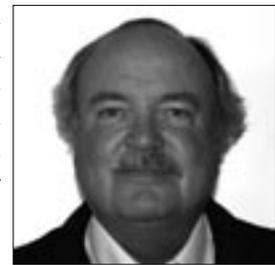
Dennis Rino came on board as our Chief Administrative Officer last fall. He is in the process of hiring a full-time accountant and filling the vacated human resources specialist position. Dennis is working with the General Accounting Office to finalize our audit, which will be released to the public as soon as we receive it. Dennis also was successful in procuring additional account codes which will help provide a more detailed analysis of financial data for the Trust and the public.

The new Manager of Marketing and Communications is Terry McDermott. Terry spent 10+ years at Intel Corporation where he began as

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(Photo courtesy of Steve Henry.)



Dr. Bob Parmenter, Director of Science and Education.

From Steve Henry

(con't from page 10)



*Dennis Rino, Chief
Administrative Officer.*

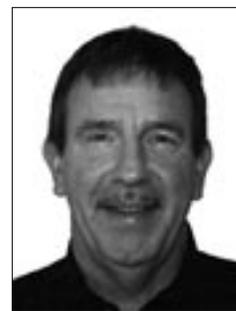
communications and marketing manager and finished his tenure in charge of government relations. Prior to Intel, Terry spent a dozen years as an award-winning sportscaster on KOAT-TV Channel 7. Terry will provide up-to-date information on our activities to the public, be responsible for the communications of the upcoming Public Access and Use Planning process, and develop marketing

programs for the Trust.

Dr. Raymond Loretto of Jemez Pueblo was re-

appointed to the Board of Trustees for a second consecutive, four-year term. Virgil Trujillo of Abiquiu was appointed to his first term in January and attended his first board meeting in March. Three vacancies remain to be filled.

As you can see, a lot is happening in 2009 and I personally want to encourage you to visit the Preserve this year and to enjoy the many activities that are offered. We would appreciate feedback on your experience so that we can continue to improve on our customer service to you—the American public.



*Terry McDermott,
Communications and
Marketing Manager.*

Grazing Contract Awarded

(con't from page 2)

Trust, including but not limited to the development of feed supplements and mineral formulas for high elevation beef production.

Sustainable Practices

Dr. Encinias, a beef cattle specialist with NMSU, will team with colleagues from Las Cruces and the greater Cooperative Extension Service network of agricultural agents in north central New Mexico to launch an aggressive educational program for the beef cattle producers in the region. The program will emphasize progressive and sustainable practices in the areas of natural resource management, herd improvement, and cooperative, value-added marketing for local cattle. "Our outreach goal is to establish the VCNP as an example of how to manage and improve grazing resources and profitability of beef cattle operations at high elevations," said Encinias.

A vital component of this proposal is the participation of the cow-calf producers from the Jemez Pueblo Livestock Association (JPLA). Encinias and the JPLA have a long-standing working relationship relative to the management of their cow-calf production systems on the Pueblo. The inclusion of the JPLA will give NMSU the demonstration herd necessary to quantify changes relative to cattle quality and marketability, typical of cow-calf operations in the region.

Jemez Pueblo and its Livestock Association will further benefit from participation in the program through a summer rest period for its pastures to improve the condition of grazing lands. The result will be a healthier, stronger, and more profitable herd as well as a more resilient home rangeland.

"The program not only improves our cattle and our cattle management over time but it also provides rest and enhances the condition of our rangelands on the Pueblo," said David M. Toledo, Governor of Jemez Pueblo. "This is an excellent example of the Valles Caldera's commitment to work with the Pueblo and community."

The final number of AUs permitted to graze this summer will be determined once forage and precipitation data is completed in late May or early June. Herd numbers may also be adjusted according to changes in precipitation and forage during the grazing season. Though not identified in the proposal, NMSU, NMBPCA, and JPLA will evaluate additional opportunities to include other local livestock producers to achieve the outlined objectives.

Revenue Enhancement Study Complete: Public Access and Use Planning Process Begins

The Valles Caldera Trust released a long awaited revenue enhancement study that will be incorporated into the extensive Public Access and Use Planning (PAUP) process scheduled to begin this summer. The comprehensive study conducted by the Economics Group of ENTRIX, Inc. of Vancouver, Washington, illustrates how the Preserve can achieve financial self-sufficiency through a combination of activities, new facilities, program enhancements, and infrastructure



Mountain Lion: One quick glance before disappearing into the brush. See story on page 9. (Photo courtesy of Mark Peyton.)

upgrades. The elements contained in the study can be intermingled to create an environmentally responsible landscape of financial self-sufficiency.

“The report analyzed programs and activities at the VCNP and around the country with respect to financial, cultural, and environmental viability at the Valles Caldera,” said Gary Bratcher, Executive Director. “Armed with this information the staff, management, and Board of Trustees can develop a bona fide business plan that will enable us to achieve our financial goals while preserving the environment.”

The Board of Trustees commissioned ENTRIX in early 2008 to conduct a strategic study of revenue

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enhancement opportunities to achieve those goals as outlined in the enabling legislation. ENTRIX evaluated a number of revenue-generating business enterprise activities including lodging and hospitality, education and research, hunting, fishing, and other recreation programs to generate revenue.

ENTRIX fashioned a pair of alternatives that employ a variety of common elements including the development of a visitor center and an education and research center, and renovation of existing cabins and structures. The alternatives are suggested models of how the Preserve can attain financial self-sufficiency but are not the final revenue enhancement plans for the Preserve.

“These alternatives, along with several others, will be available for public input during the Public Access and Use Planning and as part of the National Environment Policy Act planning process,” said Bratcher. “The process will analyze the range of alternatives that will be presented to the public, with a final decision on a preferred alternative expected in 2010.”

Open Houses are being planned for this summer to invite public participation and interaction with Trust specialists who will provide exhibits and interpret the access and use combinations. The public testing of these combinations will stimulate new ideas and concepts that will potentially add to self-sufficiency and long-term management of the Preserve.

The entire ENTRIX report can be viewed on the Trust’s website. You can stay informed about the PAUP project by signing on to the mailing list at the top left side of the VCNP home page at www.vallescaldera.gov. You will receive email updates and schedules of meetings and workshops.