

VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE

*Draft Framework and Strategic Guidance
for Comprehensive Management*



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for Comprehensive Management*

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Executive Summary

The Valles Caldera National Preserve is an 89,000-acre federal property in northern New Mexico, which was established in 2000 and assigned to be administered by the Valles Caldera Trust under a new and experimental management regime set forth in the Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-248).

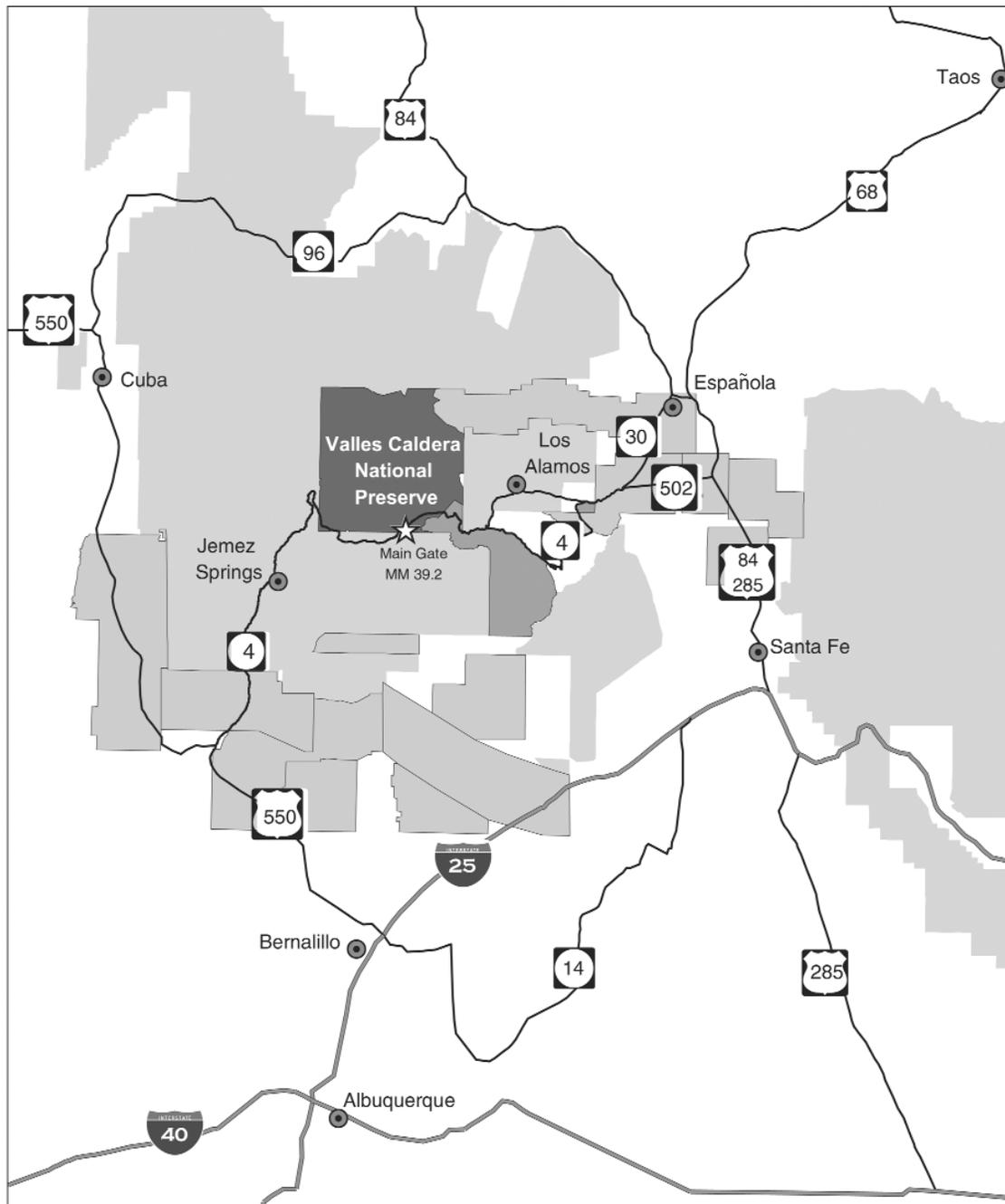
This document presents the framework for decision making that the Valles Caldera Trust proposes to use as it develops programs and policies for the management and use of the preserve.

Readers should note, however, that this is a draft document. Its purpose is to present to the interested public the vision and thinking of the Valles Caldera Trust as they have developed so far and to solicit ideas and suggestions for their improvement. Readers of this document will not find precise descriptions of future programs setting forth numbers of visitors to be accommodated, cattle to be grazed, or miles of trail to be built. Instead this framework presents the values and vision the trust will apply in making future management decisions.

Some salient features of the trust's values and vision include

- A commitment to science-based adaptive management (see discussion in chapter 5);
- A commitment to operate the preserve as a “working ranch” (see chapter 5);
- A commitment to consider financial impacts and realities in the development of programs and to pursue financial self-sufficiency while also striving to make programs accessible to visitors from all economic levels (see chapter 5);
- An expectation that most visitor infrastructure, including a visitor center, will be situated on the periphery of the preserve, not in its core; and
- A commitment to initiate programs at relatively small scale and to develop them incrementally until a carrying capacity or a desired balance with other programs is reached.

The trust invites readers of this draft framework to give special attention to chapter 9, in which the range of potential preserve programs is reviewed, and to forward to the trust their suggestions concerning the issues that should be analyzed and addressed as individual programs are developed. The trust will also especially welcome comments concerning the appropriateness of the range of programs it has identified.



Location Map

0 20 Miles

- Valles Caldera National Preserve
- Bandelier National Monument
- Indian Pueblos
- Santa Fe National Forest

Mileage to the Preserve Main Gate
 from Albuquerque: 75 miles
 from Santa Fe: 53 miles
 from Los Alamos: 18 miles
 from Jemez Springs: 20 miles