



Valles Caldera National Preserve



Designation Legislation: S. 285/Tom Udall

Location: New Mexico

Background: Background: Explore an unparalleled geological and recreational gem in the high elevations of northern New Mexico's Jemez Mountains. Scientists from all over the world have come to Valles Caldera National Preserve to study large eruptions and their deposits in one of the world's best examples of a resurgent caldera—a circular volcano with an uplifted center floor. Not unlike Yellowstone National Park—another noted caldera—the Valles Caldera is a land of superlatives. The beautiful streams, high mountain peaks and lush grass lands, old-growth timber, areas rich in cultural and tribal heritage, and abundant elk herds and other wildlife make its nearly 90,000 acres a wonderland of adventure, steeped in scientific values.

Valles Caldera National Preserve is already owned by the federal government, and managed by a special trust. The preserve's unmatched combination of geological wonders and superb recreational values make it worthy of inclusion in our National Park System, with interpretation by America's elite storytellers—our national park rangers.

NPCA Support

- Worked with local leaders in the community to secure a strong consensus of support for the legislation.
- Provided important access and information to all stakeholders on the internal politics of moving this bill forward in the DC landscape;
- Facilitated and helped to finance an economic analysis that reflected the value and benefit to local communities and the regional northern New Mexico economy from National Park Service designation.

Learn more: <http://www.npca.org/news/magazine/all-issues/2010/fall/a-golden-opportunity-text.html>

**Valles Caldera National Preserve
Supportive Comments by NPCA and Partners**

David Nimkin, Senior Regional Director of the Southwest Region, National Parks Conservation Association

“The designation of Valles Caldera National Preserve as a national park site is the culmination of years of hard work by local communities, advocates, and local state and Federal political leaders who recognized that the superlative landscape demands the breadth of National park service management. Protection of its natural and scientific values and management of visitor enjoyment are hallmarks of the National Park Service; this designation affirms that this wondrous place will be protected and enjoyed for generations.”

Tom Ribe, Executive Director of Caldera Action

“The passage of the Valles Caldera National Preserve from its unsustainable ‘trust’ management experiment to the stable and protective National Park System is a permanent tribute to the hard work and persistence of many local people who care deeply about the Valles Caldera and who dedicated themselves to this clear vision. From treading around in the mountains to treading the halls of our nation’s capital, our local movement, supported by the National Parks Conservation Association, has reached the finish line - for which we are all grateful.”

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All comments are available for media use.

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