

**Considerations for Future Management of
the VCNP**

August 22, 2013



Recent Events

- May 23, 2013 SGC action.

- * Brief meeting with Sen. Udall's staff.

- * S.285 marked up with several amendments.

 - Added trapping

 - Added "jurisdiction" to authority of State

 - Removed "the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitats, or public use and enjoyment"

**Assertions that S.285 is fully supported by
sportsmen.**

Not quite ALL

**Letter dated June 17, 2013 to Senators Udall
and Heinrick from twenty-five major
conservation & sportsmen organizations
strongly opposing the bill.**

Organizations in opposition include:

Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Bear Trust International
Boone & Crockett Club
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance
Catch-A-Dream Foundation
Congressional Sportsmen Foundation
Conservation Force
Masters of Foxhounds Assoc.
Mule Deer Foundation
National Assoc. of Forest Service Retirees
National Rifle Association



**National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
North American Bear Foundation
North American Grouse Partnership
Orion – The Hunter’s Institute
Quality Deer Management Assoc.
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute**

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION**

**Daniels Leadership Center Auditorium, New Mexico Military Institute, 101 W. College Blvd.,
Roswell, NM 88201**

Thursday, May 23, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Valles Caldera Possibly Moving to Management by National Park Service.

The Department was made aware of pending legislation to transfer the Valles Caldera National Preserve to the National Park Service. Public comment was heard and largely expressed opposition to a change in management. Discussion centered on the Commission's opposition of moving the Valles Caldera National Preserve to the National Park Service. Following discussion of adherence to the Open Meetings Act, a motion was made to oppose via letter any change of management for the Valles Caldera National Preserve as presented by the Department.

MOTION: Commissioner Arvas moved to oppose via letter any change of management for the Valles Caldera National Preserve as presented by the Department

SECOND: Commissioner Montoya

Vote: 6-0

**Yes: Commissioner Arvas, Vice Chairman Salopek, Commissioner Montoya,
Commissioner Kienzle, Commissioner Espinoza and Commissioner Ramos**

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Result: Motion UNANIMOUS. PASSED.

***Wildlife Federation files Complaint with
AG's Office.**

***Response**

*** Chairman Suggests Curative Action**

- 1.) Properly noticed**
- 2.) Summary of May 23rd deliberations**
- 3.) Re-vote if desired**

Continued Concerns with Transfer to NPS

- NPS Mission – protect – preserve, not conservation.
- Sec. of Interior still has final say – no mention of concurrence, only consultation.
- NPS will still need \$s to manage.
- Past experience in NM & other states demonstrate cumbersome process ref. hunting.
- Public expectation different if NPS

Language in S.285

(a) DESIGNATION AS UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—To protect, preserve, and restore the fish, wildlife, watershed, natural, scientific, scenic, geologic, historic, cultural, archaeological, and recreational values of the area, the Valles Caldera National Preserve is designated as a unit of the National Park System.

Per Current Law

PURPOSES.—The purposes for which the Preserve is established are to protect and preserve the scientific, scenic, geologic, watershed, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, and recreational values of the Preserve, and to provide for multiple use and sustained yield of renewable resources within the Preserve

No Immediate Need for Action

Per current legislation report due in 2014.

Final report & recommendation due in 2018.

Current Management Cost approx. \$3 million / year.

SEC. 110. TERMINATION OF THE TRUST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Valles Caldera Trust shall terminate at the end of the twentieth full fiscal year following acquisition of the Baca ranch under section 104(a).

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) BOARD.—

(A) If after the fourteenth full fiscal years from the date of acquisition of the Baca ranch under section 104(a), 16 USC 698v–8.

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the Board believes the Trust has met the goals and objectives of the comprehensive management program under section 108(d), but has not become financially self-sustaining, the Board may submit to the Committees of Congress, a recommendation for authorization of appropriations beyond that provided under this title.

(B) During the eighteenth full fiscal year from the date of acquisition of the Baca ranch under section 104(a), the Board shall submit to the Secretary its recommendation that the Trust be either extended or terminated including the reasons for such recommendation.

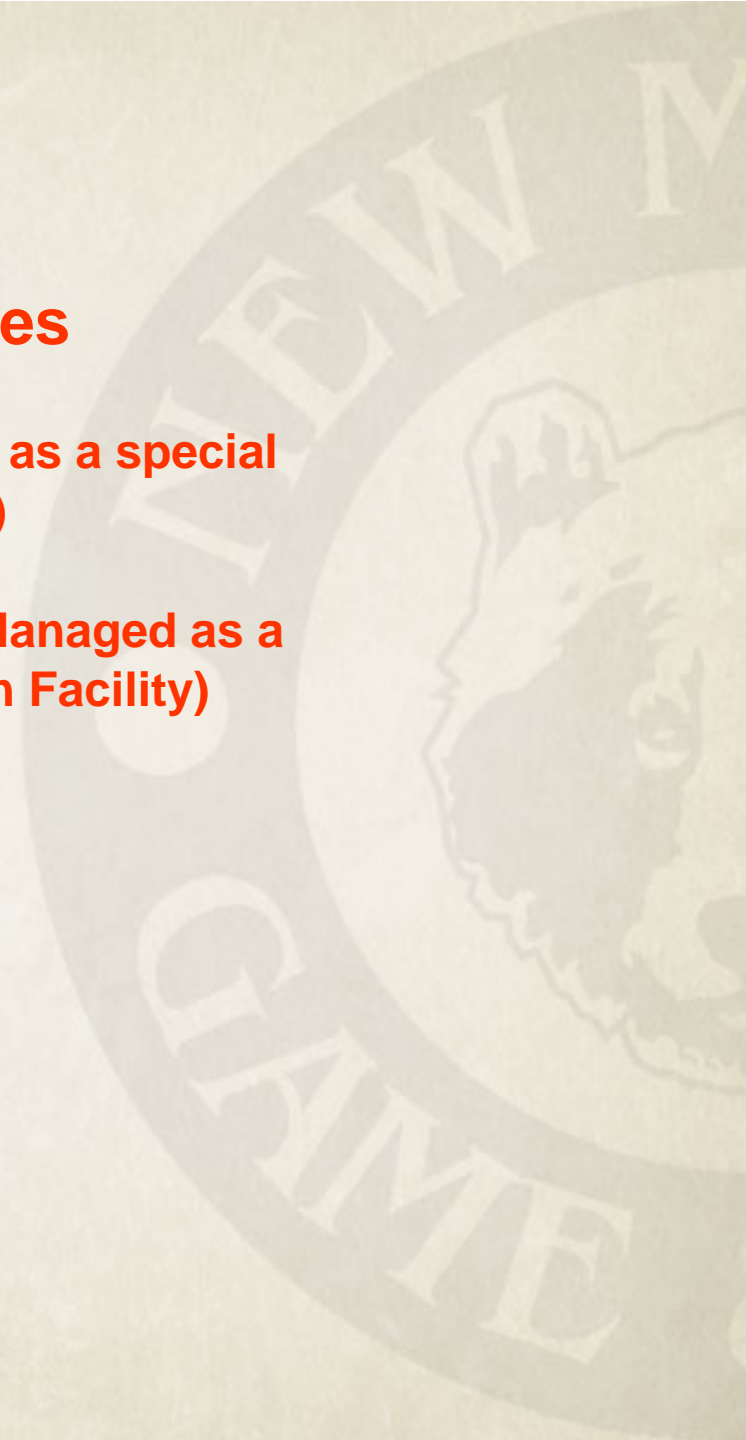
(2) SECRETARY.—Within 120 days after receipt of the recommendation of the Board under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees of Congress the Board's recommendation on extension or termination along with the recommendation of the Secretary with respect to the same and stating the reasons for such recommendation.

(c) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—In the event of termination of the Trust, the Secretary shall assume all management and administrative functions over the Preserve, and it shall thereafter be managed as a part of the Santa Fe National Forest, subject to all laws applicable to the National Forest System.

Prospective Alternatives

Transfer to US Forest Service (Possibly as a special management area similar to the Valle Vidal)

Transfer to State Game Commission (Managed as a Fish & Wildlife Conservation and Education Facility)



Discussion

