

production and domesticated livestock grazing insofar as is consistent with the other purposes stated in the Act.

(c) *Management of the Preserve.* A nine-member Board of Trustees appointed by the President is to oversee management of the Preserve and establish operating principles. The Trust is a wholly owned government corporation known as the Valles Caldera Trust. The Trust is empowered to conduct business in the State of New Mexico and elsewhere in the United States in furtherance of its corporate purposes and possess all necessary and proper powers for the exercise of the authorities vested in it. The Trust is to:

(1) Provide management and administrative services for the Preserve;

(2) Establish and implement management policies which will best achieve the purposes and requirements of this title;

(3) Receive and collect funds from private and public sources and to make dispositions in support of the management and administration of the Preserve; and

(4) Cooperate with Federal, State, and local governmental units, and with Indian tribes and Pueblos, to further the purposes for which the Preserve was established.

### III. Procedures for Management of the Preserve

In furthering the intent of Congress and to clarify the operating principles of the Trust, it is necessary and appropriate to establish procedures for the consideration of pending management actions of the Trust and implementation of the NEPA. The following procedures are intended to effectively and efficiently implement the principles of the NEPA and create a collaborative working relationship among the Trust and tribal governments, citizens, and federal, state, and local authorities. A section-by-section description of the procedures follows along with a brief account of the changes made in the proposed NEPA procedures based on the comments from reviewers.

**100 Title.** This section displays the title of the procedures with its numbering system beginning at 100.

**100.1 Authority.** This section lists the federal authorities from which the procedures are developed.

**100.2 Purpose.** The purpose of the procedures is displayed in paragraphs (a) to (d). It is important to note that the procedures are intended to amplify Congressional intent to provide innovative ways to implement effective and efficient management of the Trust and the Preserve. The term "program" is

removed from the procedures to more accurately describe Congressional intent and to reduce confusion in describing the overall management of the Preserve. The procedures are intended to integrate NEPA with the planning and decisionmaking of the Trust, make NEPA more useful to decisionmakers and the public, and ensure that environmental information is readily available before, during, and after decisions are made. The procedures are intended to supplement government-wide NEPA procedures found at 40 CFR 1500–1508. The government-wide, NEPA procedures were adopted by the Board of Trustees on August 8, 2001.

**101 Integration of NEPA with Planning and Decisionmaking of the Trust.** Sections 101.1 to 101.10 describe the process for integrating NEPA with the planning and decisionmaking of the Trust. Each of the sections, 101.1 to 101.10, of the procedures is described below:

**101.1 Purposes and Principles.** Paragraph (a) references the findings of Congress regarding the purposes and principles for management of the Preserve. The comprehensive management of the Preserve called for in the enabling legislation is achieved through strategic guidance and stewardship actions authorized by the Trust's Board of Trustees. The term "strategic guidance" is added to the description of how comprehensive management of the Preserve is achieved. Several reviewers asked for clarification of the roles of the Board of Trustees and the Responsible Official as described in the proposed procedures. The following sections of the procedures describe the overall management of the Preserve which is to be achieved through the establishment of strategic guidance by the Board of Trustees and stewardship actions undertaken by the Responsible Official, the person responsible for planning and implementing stewardship actions as authorized by the Board of Trustees.

Paragraph (b) emphasizes the vital role of citizens in the overall management, use, and enjoyment of the Preserve. As described in the revised section 101.7, Public Involvement, and throughout the procedures, citizens are encouraged to participate with the Trust in the overall management of the Preserve.

The fundamental role of monitoring and the consideration of new information among the Trust and the public are emphasized in (c). These activities are important in adapting ongoing and future stewardship actions to changing conditions. The term "ongoing" is added to emphasize that

monitoring results are to be used to adjust stewardship actions that are underway as well as those that may take place in the future.

Paragraph (d) presents the 10 guiding principles for management of the Preserve adopted by the Board of Trustees on December 13, 2001. These 10 guiding principles are referred to as "management principles" in the procedures, and are intended to guide the management of the Preserve. It is noted that the whole of the Preserve is greater than the sum of its parts. Stewardship actions within the Preserve are intended to complement the entire Preserve and enhance the unique character of the Preserve envisioned by the Congress.

**101.2 Terminology.** This section of the procedures lists 17 terms and their meanings as they are used throughout the text. It is helpful to review these terms and their meanings to promote their consistent use and interpretation by the Board, staff of the Trust, and citizens involved in the planning and decisionmaking of Trust. The following improvements to the proposed procedures are made to respond to public comments and to clarify meanings of terms used in the procedures:

**Comprehensive management program** is removed from the terminology section. The description of the comprehensive management of the Preserve is revised in section 101.10, Comprehensive Management of the Preserve, and is no longer needed in the terminology section.

**Adaptive management** is added to the procedures by the following text. "Adaptive management" means adjusting stewardship actions or strategic guidance based on knowledge gained from new information, experience, experimentation, and monitoring results, and is the preferred method for managing complex natural systems.

**Goal.** This term is improved by replacing the term "Responsible Official" with "Trust" to more accurately state that the achievement of a goal is sought by the entire Trust in addition to the Responsible Official.

**Human environment** is added to the procedures by the following text.

"Human environment" has the same meaning as that described in the CEQ regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA. "Human Environment" shall be interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment. (See definition of "effects" in 40 CFR 1508.8.) This means