

and comment on an environmental assessment based on the complexity and nature of the proposed stewardship action and public comment received.

Paragraph (f) is added to clarify necessary actions in emergency situations. Paragraph (f) states, "If the Responsible Official determines that an emergency circumstance exists requiring immediate implementation of a proposal, the Chair of the Board of Trustees may reduce or eliminate the time period for public review and comment on an environmental assessment. If the Responsible Official proposes to respond to an emergency with an action that would normally require preparation of an environmental impact statement, the Chair of the Board of Trustees will immediately contact the Council on Environmental Quality to invoke the procedures under 40 CFR 1506.11." This addition to the procedures is intended to be responsive to the comments from reviewers and provide for needed response to an emergency.

101.8 Making and Recording an Implementing Decision. This section of the procedures contains three requirements in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) regarding making and recording an implementing decision for a proposed stewardship action. The section begins with paragraph (a) that states the Responsible Official may make an implementing decision to authorize a stewardship action after completion of 101.5 and compliance with the listed conditions.

Paragraph (b) requires signature of the Responsible Official and date of the implementing decision.

Paragraph (c) has a provision for making minor corrections or adjustments to stewardship actions to improve efficiency, correct minor errors, or otherwise improve performance, if and only if, the three listed criteria are fulfilled.

101.9 Monitoring Outcomes and Considering New Information. This section describes the steps necessary to ensure that new information is considered and, if relevant to on-going or planned stewardship actions, appropriately acted upon by the Responsible Official. Paragraph (a) requires the Responsible Official to evaluate each monitored outcome identified in a stewardship register. As information from monitoring is obtained and interpreted, conclusions are to be recorded in the appropriate stewardship register by the responsible Trust staff.

Paragraph (b) is a requirement for the Responsible Official to consider new information and the influence that

information may have upon on-going or completed stewardship actions.

101.10 The Comprehensive Management of the Preserve. To more accurately describe the contents of this section, the title is changed from "Preparing and Approving the Comprehensive Management Program" that appeared in the proposed procedures. This final section of the procedures is rewritten to more adequately describe the comprehensive management of the Preserve and the relationship of strategic guidance, the State of the Preserve, stewardship registers, and their roles in fostering adaptive management.

Paragraph (a) is changed to read, "The comprehensive management of the lands, resources, and facilities of the Preserve includes all stewardship registers, the State of the Preserve, and the strategic guidance adopted by the Board of Trustees." These documents depict the management of the Preserve and provide timely references for interested citizens."

Paragraph (b) as rewritten states, "At least once every five years after August 2, 2002, the Board of Trustees must review the goals adopted in strategic guidance and the State of the Preserve. Based on the reviews of the goals and the State of the Preserve, the Board of Trustees may remove, amend, or continue the goals of the Preserve, and/or adopt one or more additional goals." Reviewers requested that the procedures establish a means to evaluate the long-term goals of strategic guidance and avoid altering goals without consideration of the overall natural and social environments within and adjacent to the Preserve. The requirement in (b) ensures that at least once every five years from the date the Board assumed management of the Preserve, the Board must review the goals of strategic guidance and the State of the Preserve before removing, amending, continuing, and/or adopting one or more additional goals.

Paragraph (c) is rewritten to read, "The Board of Trustees may remove, amend, and/or adopt one or more additional goals only after completing reviews of the goals adopted in strategic guidance and a current State of the Preserve." This requirement is added to ensure that the Board may at any time add, amend, or remove one or more goals of strategic direction, but only after review of all goals and a current State of the Preserve. This requirement responds to requests to establish clear requirements that the long-term goals of strategic guidance receive careful consideration in a broad and

comprehensive context before revision by the Board of Trustees.

Exhibit I Stewardship Register. This exhibit concludes the procedures. Minor changes are made in the description of the stewardship register. The description of the purpose and need is reworded to read, "Concisely explain why the stewardship action is proposed and the goal(s) sought." This improvement was also made in the 101.2, Terminology, to point out that the purpose and need for a proposed stewardship action should include the one or more goals sought through the action proposed.

The description of the integrated environmental document is rewritten to read, "Integrate the environmental document or, if a categorical exclusion is used, cite the category." This change is made based on reviewer comments to specifically cite the category if a categorical exclusion from the preparation of an environmental document is appropriate for the stewardship action under consideration.

The text of the procedures follows:

Valles Caldera Trust—National Environmental Policy Act Procedures for the Valles Caldera National Preserve

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100 Authority and Purpose

100.1 Authority. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Pub. L. 91–190, the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), sec. 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7609), E.O. 11514, Mar. 5, 1970, as amended by E.O. 11991, May 24, 1977, CEQ regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508, and