

Connect with Nature

HEALING HABITATS



Clear-cut logging (1963–71) removed almost all old-growth trees. Logging roads are still visible within the preserve (left).

Valles Caldera National Preserve is restoring this landscape to its natural splendor. A dynamic living laboratory, the preserve is repairing years of human use to foster ecosystem health and balance.

While here, you might think about the complex relationship between humans and nature; engage in recreation, education, or preservation; or “just be” in this vast, rugged landscape—all while helping to protect the caldera’s many treasures.

Lively forests

Strategic restoration of forests can reduce the risk of wildfire, retain carbon, purify air and water, and provide prime habitat for native wildlife.

Abert's squirrel
© MARY WOODCOCK

Ponderosa pine
© EDWARD C. JENSEN

Mountain bluebird
© CARA LUTHER

Open grasslands

Stunning and sprawling, these grasslands hold soil in place, retain precipitation, and absorb nutrients efficiently.

Rocky Mountain iris
© DAVID RUSE

Gunnison's prairie dog
© LARRY LAMSA

Parry's oatgrass
© DAVID POWELL

Vital wetlands

The preserve protects headwaters of several streams and rivers. Wetlands reflect ecological health and provide an array of essential plant and animal habitats.

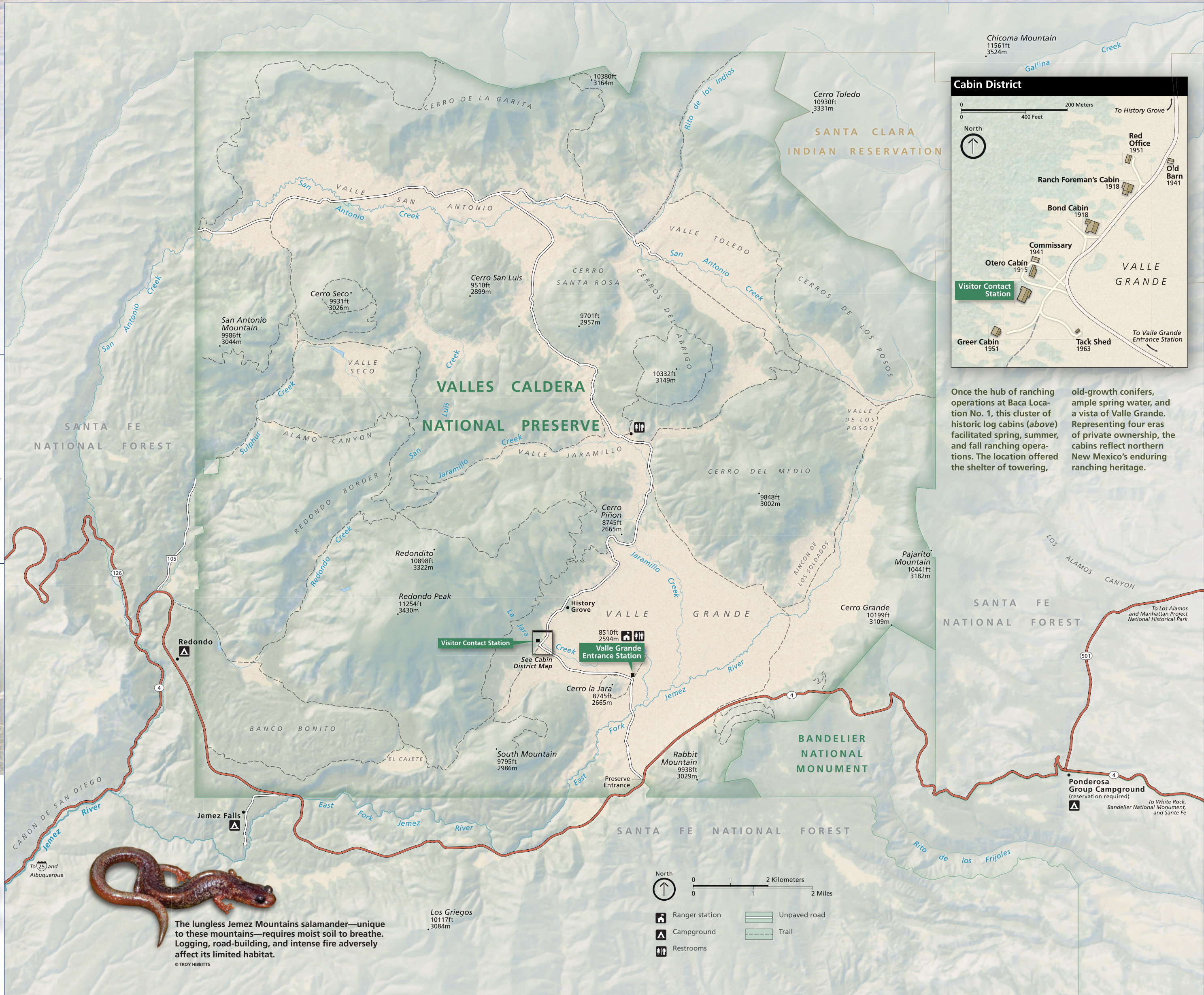
Bald eagle
DAVID GREIBLING

Common spikerush
© MELISSA STUDDANT

Longnosedace
© NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM / ELLEN EDMONDSON

The lungless Jemez Mountains salamander—unique to these mountains—requires moist soil to breathe. Logging, road-building, and intense fire adversely affect its limited habitat.

VIEW OF CERRO SAN LUIS
Spruce and aspen ring low rolling ridges that are shorelines of an ancient lake. Elsewhere, pine and fir grow on south-facing slopes.



WHAT IS A NATIONAL PRESERVE? A National Preserve is similar to a National Park and may permit activities like hunting, fishing, and grazing so long as they do not jeopardize the site's natural values. Elk and turkey hunting and trout fishing are allowed by permit and with a New Mexico state license. For permit and firearms regulations visit the park website.

ACTIVITIES include hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and ranger-led programs. • If you are new to the park, consult with a ranger for information. • The park has no water, food, lodging, or camping facilities; these may be found in nearby communities. • Visit the park website or contact station for information on programs and volunteering.

SAFETY Be alert for sudden weather changes, lightning, falling trees, flash floods, hypothermia, and dehydration. Several feet of snow may cover the park in winter. • Cell phone coverage is not reliable in the park. • Report accidents or safety hazards to a park ranger. • Carry plenty of water.

REGULATIONS Park roads are dirt and gravel. Off-road driving is prohibited. Park only in designated areas. • Pets must be leashed at all times and are prohibited in the backcountry. • Do not feed, approach, or attempt to touch any wild animal. • Federal law protects all natural and cultural features in the park. Collecting is prohibited (including antlers, rocks, obsidian, insects, plants, and mushrooms). • Practice Leave No Trace principles.

OPERATING HOURS Open daily except Thanksgiving and December 25. Hours vary seasonally. Call or visit the park website for more information.

DIRECTIONS From Santa Fe Take US 84/285 north to the NM 502W/Los Alamos exit. Continue on NM 502 to NM 4. From Albuquerque Take I-25 north to exit 242. Continue on US 550 to exit NM 4. The entrance to the park is near NM 4 mile marker 39 at 39201 NM 4, Jemez Springs, NM 87025.

ACCESSIBILITY We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. Park facilities currently have limited accessibility. For more information about accessible services and programs call or check the park website.

Emergencies call 911
MORE INFORMATION Valles Caldera National Preserve PO Box 359 Jemez Springs, NM 87025 575-829-4100 www.nps.gov/val

Valles Caldera National Preserve is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

Los Amigos de Valles Caldera, the official park friends group and cooperating association, assists with volunteer-led ecosystem restoration projects and raises funding to promote education, interpretation, and science. To support the park or get more involved, visit www.losamigosdevallescaldera.org.

National Park Foundation. Join the park community. www.nationalparks.org
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By the early 1900s hunting had eliminated New Mexico's native elk. In the 1940s and 1960s around 100 elk from Wyoming were reintroduced to Valles Caldera. Today, the Jemez Mountains are home to New Mexico's second-largest elk population.

Rocky Mountain elk
© JUAN FAN

