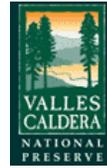


# NEWS RELEASE

Valles Caldera Trust, Valles Caldera National Preserve  
USDA Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest



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## **\$40 MILLION GRANT AWARDED FOR COLLABORATIVE FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT IN THE SW JEMEZ MOUNTAINS**

(SANTA FE, NM)—A collaborative approach to landscape scale restoration in the fire-prone Southwest Jemez Mountains has been selected to receive up to \$40 million for 10 years of treatments aimed to restore healthy, resilient ecosystems, reduce wildfire risk, enhance fish and wildlife habitats, and maintain and improve water quality. The grant will also potentially employ up to 500 full and part time workers.

The Southwest Jemez Collaborative Restoration Program was among 10 nationwide projects selected by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack on August 13 for funding under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP).

The grant program, created by federal legislation sponsored last year by New Mexico Senator Jeff Bingaman, takes the highly successful Collaborative Forest Restoration program approach, pioneered in New Mexico, and applies it nationally.

Restoration treatments will be done across 100,000 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest, much of the 89,900 acre Valles Caldera National Preserve, and more than 10,000 acres managed by Bandelier National Monument, and the Jemez and Santa Clara Pueblos. Smaller trees will be thinned on about 90,000 acres and prescribed fire used on 76,000 acres.

The grant proposal was developed by more than 60 people representing more than 30 different groups. It was submitted to the Forest Service's national office and USDA for funding consideration under CFLRP.

It's part of an ongoing landscape restoration effort spearheaded by the Valles Caldera Trust (which manages the Preserve), Forest Service, New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute and The Nature Conservancy.

Other key partners include Bandelier National Monument, Jemez and Santa Clara Pueblos, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, WildEarth Guardians and other conservation groups; New Mexico State Forestry; State departments of Environment and Game and Fish; and local Firewise Community Associations.

For more information on the Southwest Jemez Collaborative Restoration Program please visit:  
[http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/jemez\\_mtn\\_rest/index.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/jemez_mtn_rest/index.html).

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