



The University of New Mexico

**University of New Mexico
Informed Consent Cover Letter for Anonymous Surveys**

STUDY TITLE

Management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve: the Recreationist Perspective

Dear Valles Caldera Recreationist,

You, as a past, current, or future recreationist of the Valles Caldera National Preserve are aware of the special opportunity that this highly treasured public land has to offer. As you may be aware, the Preserve offers a beautiful landscape and a great opportunity for recreation. For this reason, I, Matt Gagnon of the Department of Geography at the University of New Mexico, am contacting you because I am conducting a graduate thesis regarding the values and perceptions of the Preserve's outdoor recreationists. You are being asked to participate in this study because of your potential interests in outdoor recreation on the Preserve.

As part of my research, I am requesting that you participate in a **brief online survey** (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/vallesrecreation2>) about your recreation experiences or thoughts on, or about, the Preserve. The survey should take about **10 to 15 minutes** to complete. Your involvement in the study is voluntary, and you may choose not to participate. Further, you can refuse to answer any of the questions at any time. There are no names or other identifying information like phone numbers, street addresses, or social security numbers associated with this survey. The survey will include questions such as "*What recreational activities do you engage in on the Preserve?*" and "*What management objectives do you think should carry the most weight?*" All responses will be kept confidential and aggregated for a statistical analysis and write-up. All survey responses will be kept for one year in a locked filing cabinet and/or on a password-protected computer in the researcher's University of New Mexico office, and then destroyed.

Your feedback is essential to this research. Findings from this research can provide information that may be used to assist the future management of the Preserve meet and understand the needs of its many recreationists. It should be stressed that this study is being conducted independent of the Valles Caldera Trust, the National Parks Service, the USDA Forest Service, or any other participatory group involved with the Preserve. If published, results will be presented in summary form only.

Please click here to begin the survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/vallesrecreation2>

If you have any questions about this research project, please feel free to email the researcher at mgagnon@unm.edu or Dr. Benson, the responsible faculty member, at mhbenson@unm.edu. If you have questions regarding your legal rights as a research subject, you may contact the UNM Human Research Protections Office at (505) 272-1129 or IRB@unm.edu.

By completing this survey, you will be agreeing to participate in the above described research study.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Gagnon
Graduate Student
Department of Geography

Protocol #: 10-356
Date: 08/02/2010