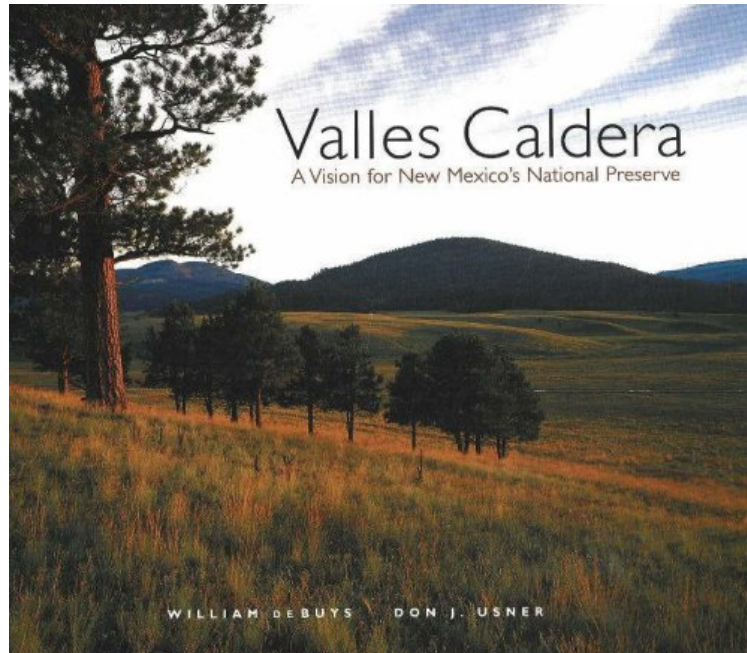


[FREE] Valles Caldera: A Vision for New Mexico's National Preserve

Valles Caldera: A Vision for New Mexico's National Preserve

William deBuys, Don J. Usner

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William deBuys, Don J. Usner : Valles Caldera: A Vision for New Mexico's National Preserve before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Valles Caldera: A Vision for New Mexico's National Preserve:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A special place and the struggle to preserve itBy R. M. PetersonValles Caldera, the place, is a National Preserve, treasured by many of us living in Northern New Mexico, but relatively unknown to the rest of the world. It is the collapsed interior of a large volcano that erupted over a million years ago; additional volcanic activity occurred within the caldera over the next half million years. The caldera is about twelve miles in diameter, and the Preserve encompasses about 140 square miles. It contains wooded mountains (the tallest is over 11,000 feet), several meandering streams, and gorgeous grassy open areas known as "valles". For wildlife, it is best known for the three to four thousand elk that now live there during the summer. As for scenery, while it does not have the spectacular geological features of many of our western National Parks, it does have a serene majesty.VALLEES CALDERA, the book, is two things. First, it contains a collection of about sixty color photographs by Don Usner. Second, there is a thirty-page essay by William deBuys about the history of the Valles Caldera, focusing particularly on the acquisition of the Preserve (formerly a private ranch) by the federal government in 2000 and then the first five years of the administration of the Preserve by a nine-person Trust. Inasmuch as deBuys was one of those nine, he is a particularly knowledgeable and insightful source. In addition, he writes well (just as Don Usner's photographs are accomplished).For the general public, VALLES CALDERA the book is a four-star introduction to Valles Caldera the place. For most, the photographs might not spark a keen desire to visit the Preserve -- because the Valles Caldera simply isn't in the same league as, say, Zion or Yosemite -- but once you have been to the Preserve, they are a fine memento of a special place. The essay is unusual for books of this ilk. Rather than gushing about the

natural beauty of the place and its unique geological and biological features, it deals more with the economic and political obstacles that had to be surmounted or wired around for the Valles Caldera to become part of our national patrimony and the byzantine administrative challenges still facing the Preserve. While not intrinsically interesting to some, it is quite instructive for the conservation-minded. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

OUTSTANDING!By W. Newton**THIS BOOK IS ABOUT A LITTLE-KNOWN AREA IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO, FORMERLY A PRIVATE RANCH, THAT WAS BOUGHT BY THE FOREST SERVICE IN 2000, AND IS NOW A NATIONAL FOREST PRESERVE. THE BOOK DETAILS THE HISTORY OF THE RANCH AND HOW IT BECAME PART OF THE NATIONAL PRESERVE SYSTEM. IT IS A LAVISHLY PRODUCED VOLUME, WITH 59 BEAUTIFUL, FULL PAGE COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THIS OUTSTANDING SCENIC AREA. IF YOU ARE A FAN OF WESTERN LANDSCAPES AND WESTERN AMERICANA, I WOULD STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU GET A COPY.** BILL NEWTON 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must-have for the coffee table of anyone that lives near the Jemez. By Brian Erick O'neil This is a great book that covers the evolution of the Valles Caldera trust, and the rich history of the Caldera. There are some amazing photos and anecdotes.

In 2000 President Clinton signed into law the Valles Caldera Preservation Act, a visionary piece of legislation that transferred to the public domain a privately owned ranch in northern New Mexico. This book tells the natural and human history of the preserve, presents photographs of its splendor, and outlines the unique administrative experiment now underway to manage its public lands.

About the Author William deBuys chaired the board of trustees for the Valles Caldera Trust from its formation in 2001 until 2005. He is the author of several books, among them *Enchantment and Exploitation: The Life and Hard Times of a New Mexico Mountain Range*, *River of Traps: A Village Life*, and *Salt Dreams: Land and Water in Low-Down California*. Don J. Usner was born and grew up in New Mexico. His books include *Sabino's Map: Life in Chimay's Old Plaza*, *Benigna's Chimay: Cuentos from the Old Plaza*, and *New Mexico Route 66 on Tour: Legendary Architecture from Glenrio to Gallup* (Museum of New Mexico Press).