



In 2014 the Valles Caldera Trust finalized the Landscape Restoration and Stewardship Plan – AKA “Stewardship Plan”. The signing of the Record of Decision authorized the implementation of a 10-year strategy to restore and steward the forest, grassland, and riparian systems on the Valles Caldera.

Activities authorized include: forest thinning, prescribed burning, riparian and wetland restoration, noxious weed control, road maintenance, closure and decommissioning, and post burn stabilization and rehabilitation.

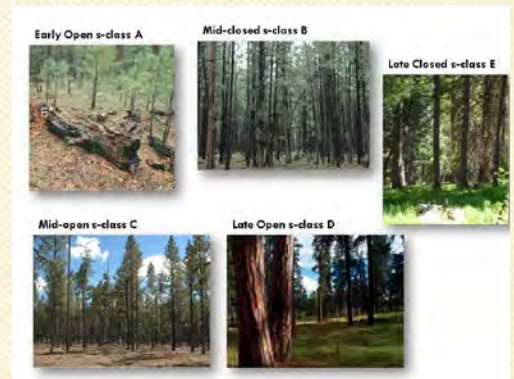
Adaptive Management Monitor – Evaluate – Adjust

Adaptive Management on the Valles Caldera is defined in our NEPA procedures and includes:

- ❖ Goals – Purpose intent
- ❖ Objectives – Measurable achievements that indicate goal attainment
- ❖ Monitored outcomes – Meaningful outcomes with measures identified in time and space

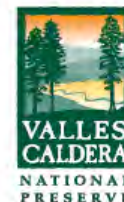
Goal: *The ecological condition of the preserve would be moving toward the composition of landscape vegetation and disturbance attributes that, to the best of our collective expert knowledge, can sustain current native ecological systems and reduce future risk to native diversity.*

- ❖ Objective: Improve forest structure at the landscape level
- ❖ Monitored outcome: S-class distribution
- ❖ Desired Outcome: Move the structure and composition of the preserve’s ecosystems towards the reference condition; improve the resilience of the ecosystem.
- ❖ Target: 35% of closed forests move to open classes



MARIE RODRIGUEZ, DIRECTOR STEWARDSHIP

Valles Caldera Trust
P.O. Box 359
Jemez Springs, NM 87025
505428-7728 office, 505-660-1194 cell
mrodriguez@vallescaldera.gov
www.vallescaldera.gov



An experiment in
public land management...

Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy

"1. Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity."

Whether or not the wildland fire community is committed to safety is not in question, especially during incident management. Increasing the safety of living with and managing fire is an integral part of the Cohesive Strategy. The Joint Fire Science Program 1998 plan notes that the successful implementation of the JFSP plan will lead to improved fire fighter safety and safer communities. Similarly our own plan identifies improved fire fighter safety as the desired outcome of implementing our plan, but neither the JFSP nor our stewardship plan identify safety as the purpose.

As we focus on landscape restoration, ecological departure, the threats of climate change, and scientific controversies, our purpose and priority on safety is not always at the forefront. Title 4 – Forest Landscape Restoration of the 2009 omnibus bill does not include the word safety. In 2013 we were all reminded of the real cost of our "out of whack" forests.



Token Adams 41, who was married with one child, worked as an engine captain for a fire crew at the Jemez Ranger District died in September 2103 responding to a report of a fire.

Just a few weeks before they perished on the Yarnell Hill fire, the Granite Mountain Hotshots worked through the night to protect an historic old growth forest and cabins during the Thompson Ridge fire on the Valles Caldera National Preserve.



"Protecting the Old Growth" photo by Kristen Honig

MARIE RODRIGUEZ, DIRECTOR STEWARDSHIP

Valles Caldera Trust
P.O. Box 359
Jemez Springs, NM 87025
505428-7728 office, 505-660-1194 cell
mrodriguez@vallescaldera.gov
www.vallescaldera.gov



An experiment in
public land management...