



Valles Caldera National Preserve

Los Alamos County Council
Presentation

July 29, 2025

Draft General Management Plan
and Valles Grande District
Development Concept Plan



Land Acknowledgement

Valles Caldera is of spiritual and ceremonial importance to numerous American Indian peoples in the greater Southwest region.

We recognize this is a regionally significant geographic and cultural focal point and a pivotal sacred place for numerous tribal groups.

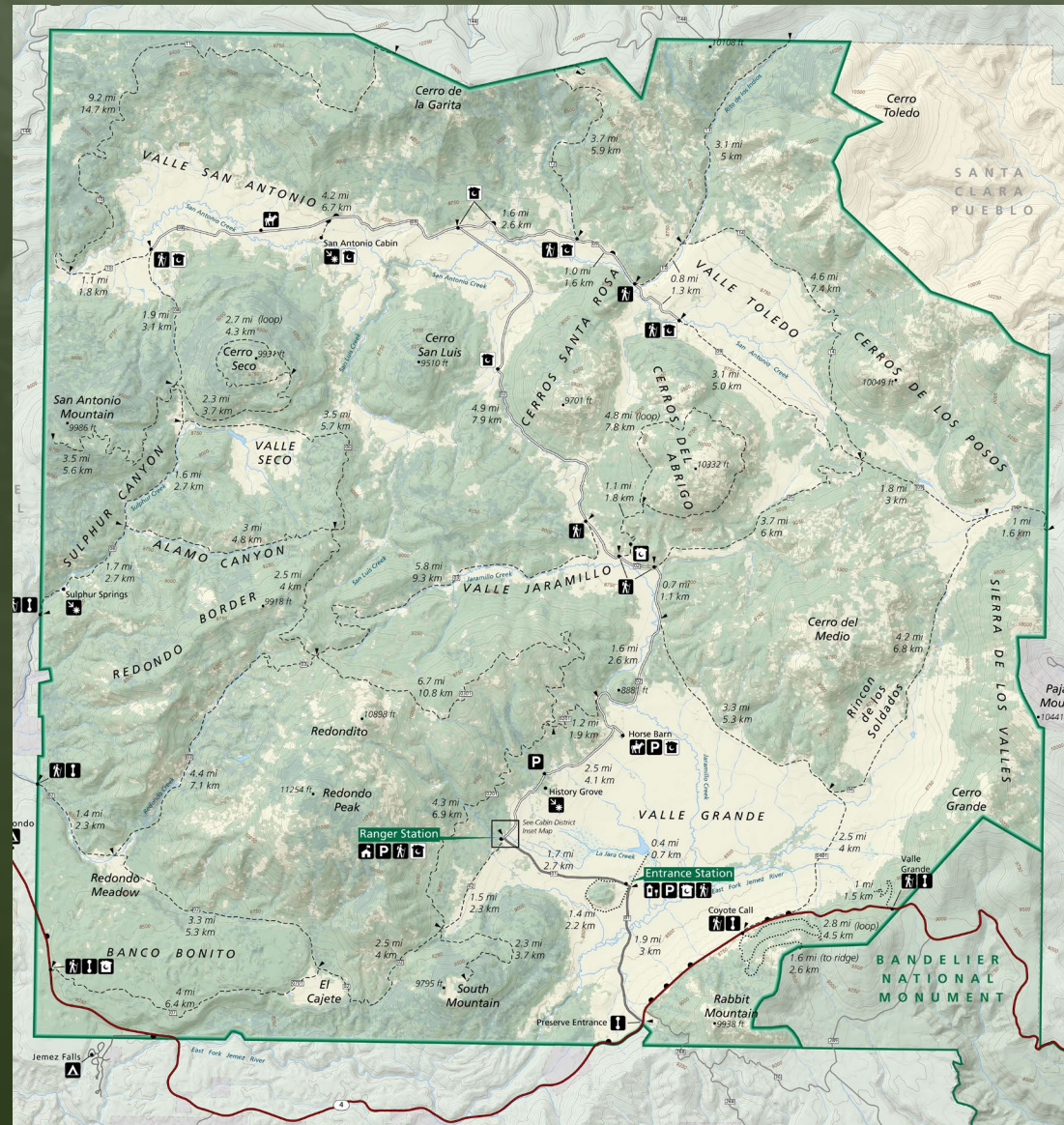
These cultural connections are both contemporary and of great antiquity, and we respectfully seek to uphold the values and prioritize the voices of the tribes and pueblos for whom this special place continues to be part of their practices, beliefs, identity, and history.

Attachment A

E X P E R I E N C E Y O U R A M E R I C A



Planning Area



Attachment A



What is a General Management Plan and Development Concept Plan?

A general management plan (GMP) is a broad document that defines long-term goals for the following over a 20-30 year horizon:

- Resource Protection
- Visitor Experience
- Facilities, Administration, and Operations
 - Focused Development Concepts for the Valle Grande District

Park Purpose & NPS Mission

Located in the Jemez Mountains of north-central New Mexico, Valles Caldera National Preserve protects, preserves, and restores ecosystems and cultural landscapes within an outstanding example of a volcanic caldera for the purpose of education, scientific research, public enjoyment and use, and cultural continuity.

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Need for the Plan

- Required by the park's enabling legislation.
- Improve visitor experiences while preserving Valles Caldera's landscapes, resources, cultural connections, and habitats.
- Address visitor access to and within the park. Legacy roads were not engineered or designed for public use.
- Provide fundamental visitor services including potable water, restrooms, parking, and trails, that are accessible to all visitors including people with disabilities.
- Manage for current and future levels of visitation.

Attachment A



Legacy Infrastructure



Attachment A

E X P E R I E N C E

Y O U R

A M E R I C A



Existing Visitor Contact Buildings



Attachment A

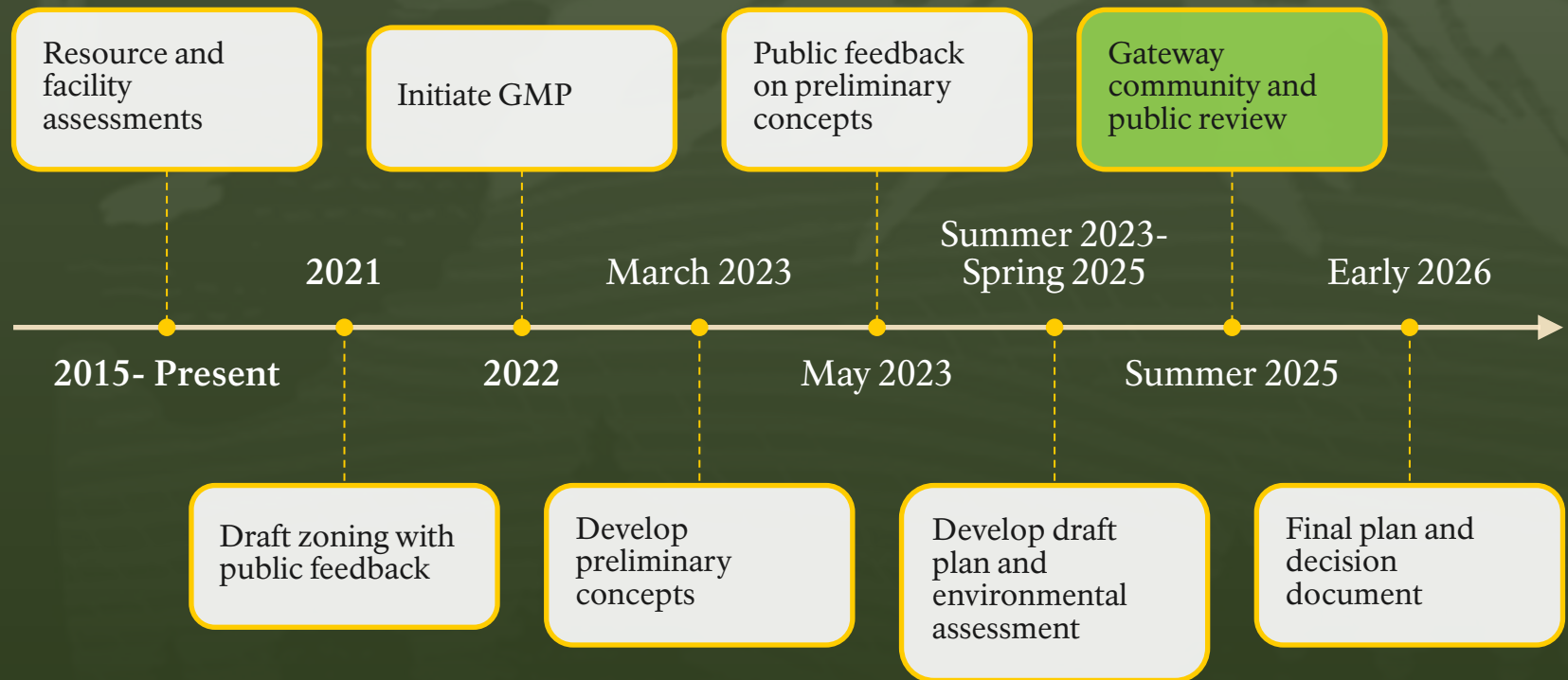
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Planning Process

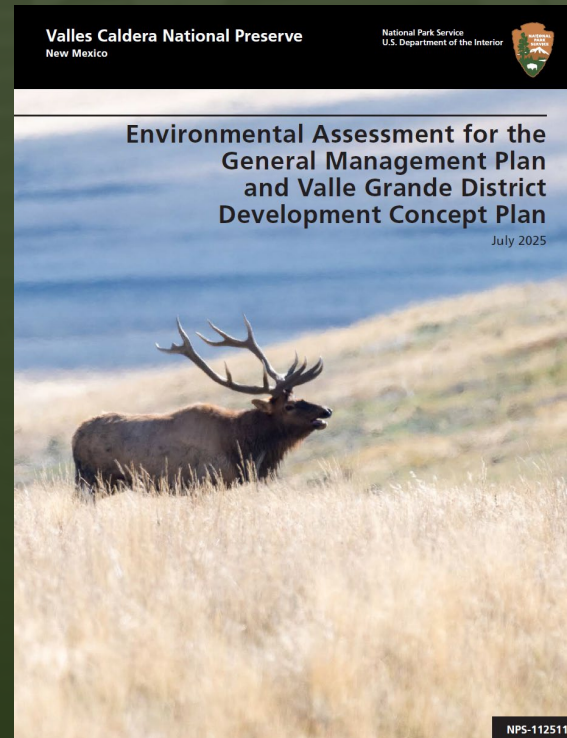


Consultation with Tribal Nations



August 1-30: Public Review

- Documents and comment form available on:
https://parkplanning.nps.gov/VALL_GMP

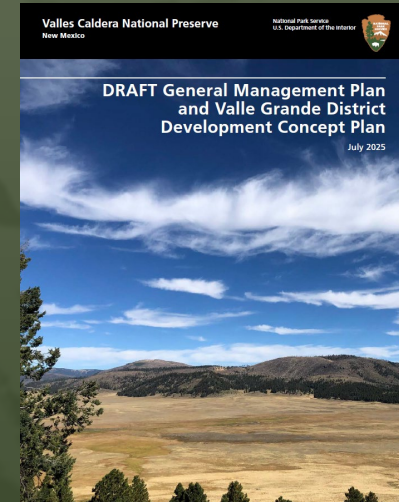




DRAFT GMP/DCP Contents

- Chapter 1:
Introduction to the
Plan
- Chapter 2: General
Management Direction
- Chapter 3:
Management
Strategies and Actions

- Appendixes:
 - A: GMP background
 - B: Indicators and
Thresholds
 - C: Visitor Capacity
 - D: References
 - E: 2024 Settlement
Agreement with Jemez
Pueblo
 - F: 2024 Banco Bonito
Boundary Agreement
with Jemez Pueblo
 - G: Map in Grayscale



Attachment A



GMP/DCP Chapter 2: General Management Direction



Attachment A

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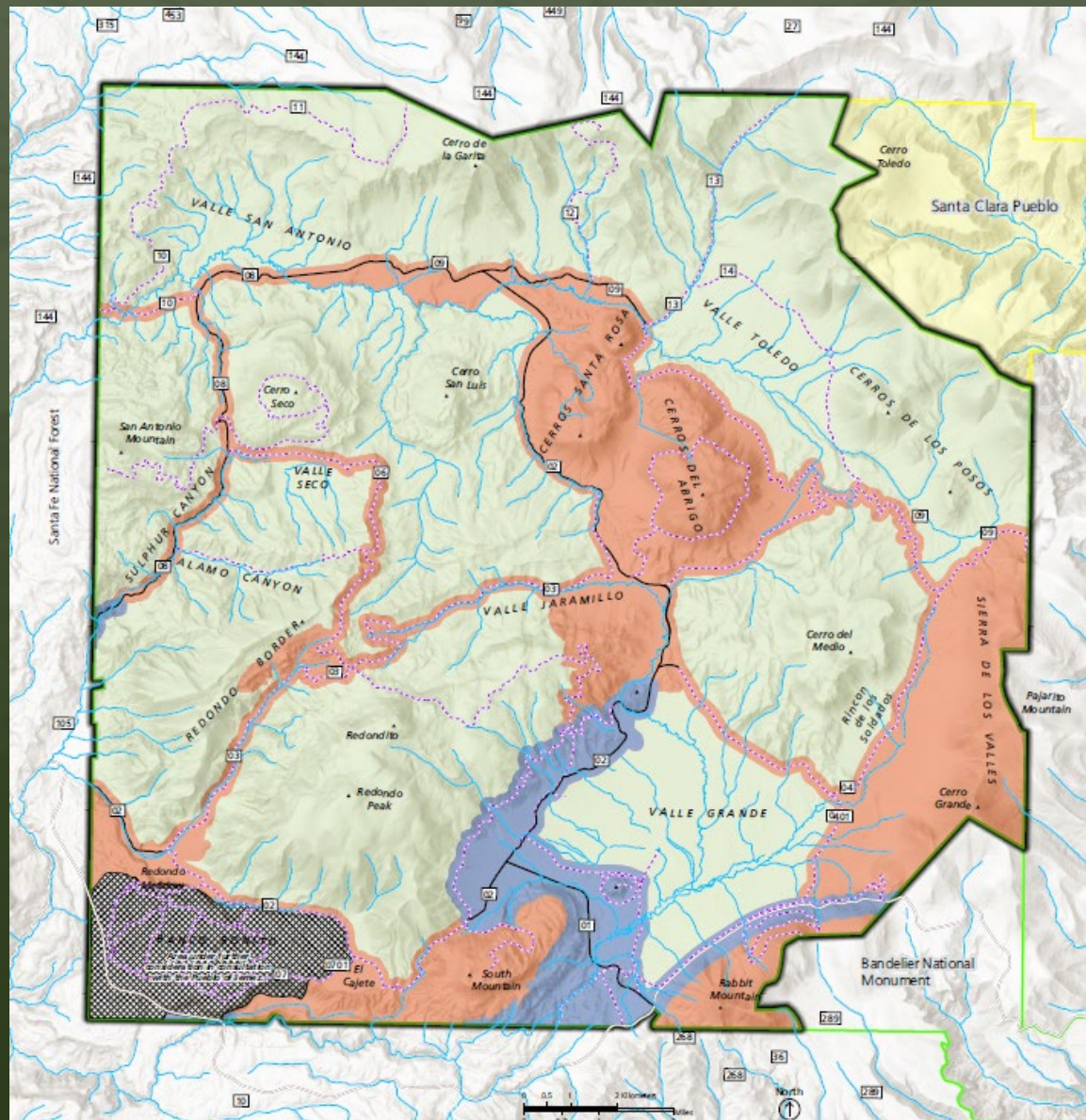


Zoning

- Backcountry Zone
- Self-Guided Zone
- Visitor Engagement Zone

- Existing and Proposed Trails
- Public Road
- New Mexico State Route 4
- Santa Fe National Forest Roads
- Stream

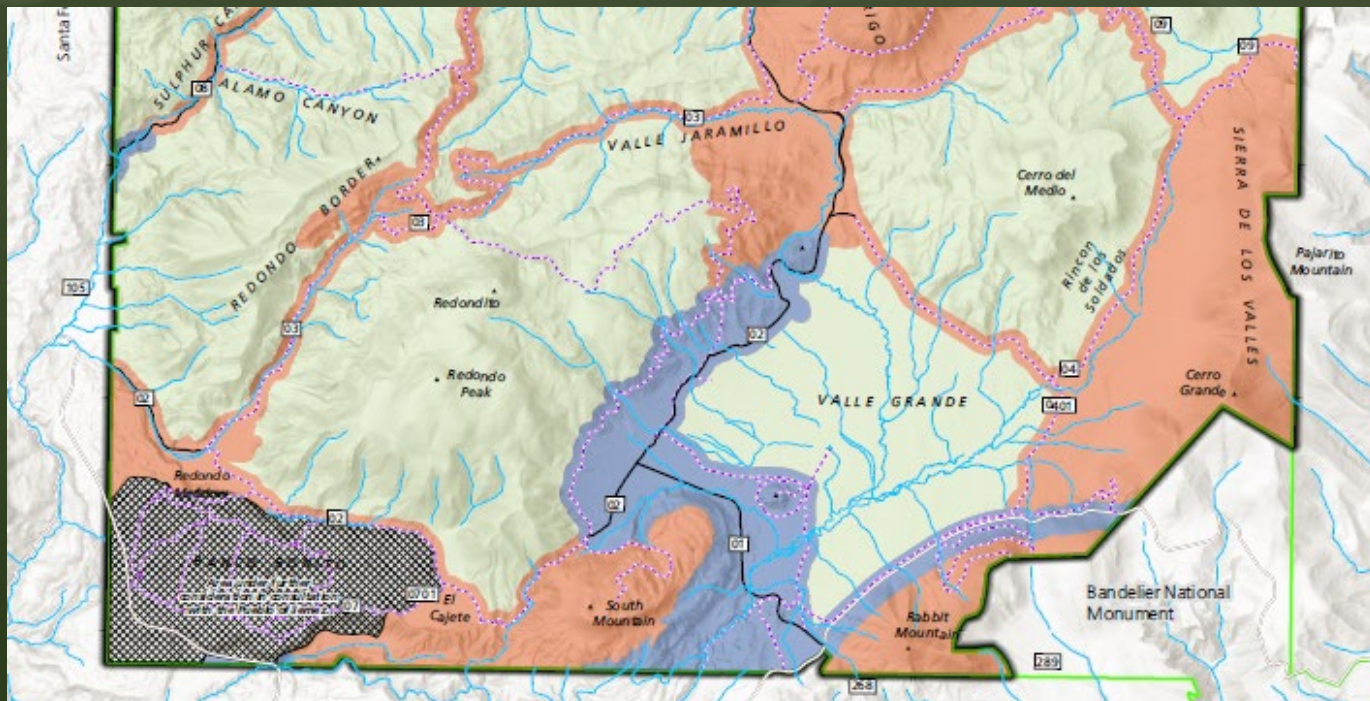
- Santa Clara Pueblo
- Bandelier National Monument
- Santa Fe National Forest
- Preserve Boundary





Visitor Engagement Zone (Blue)

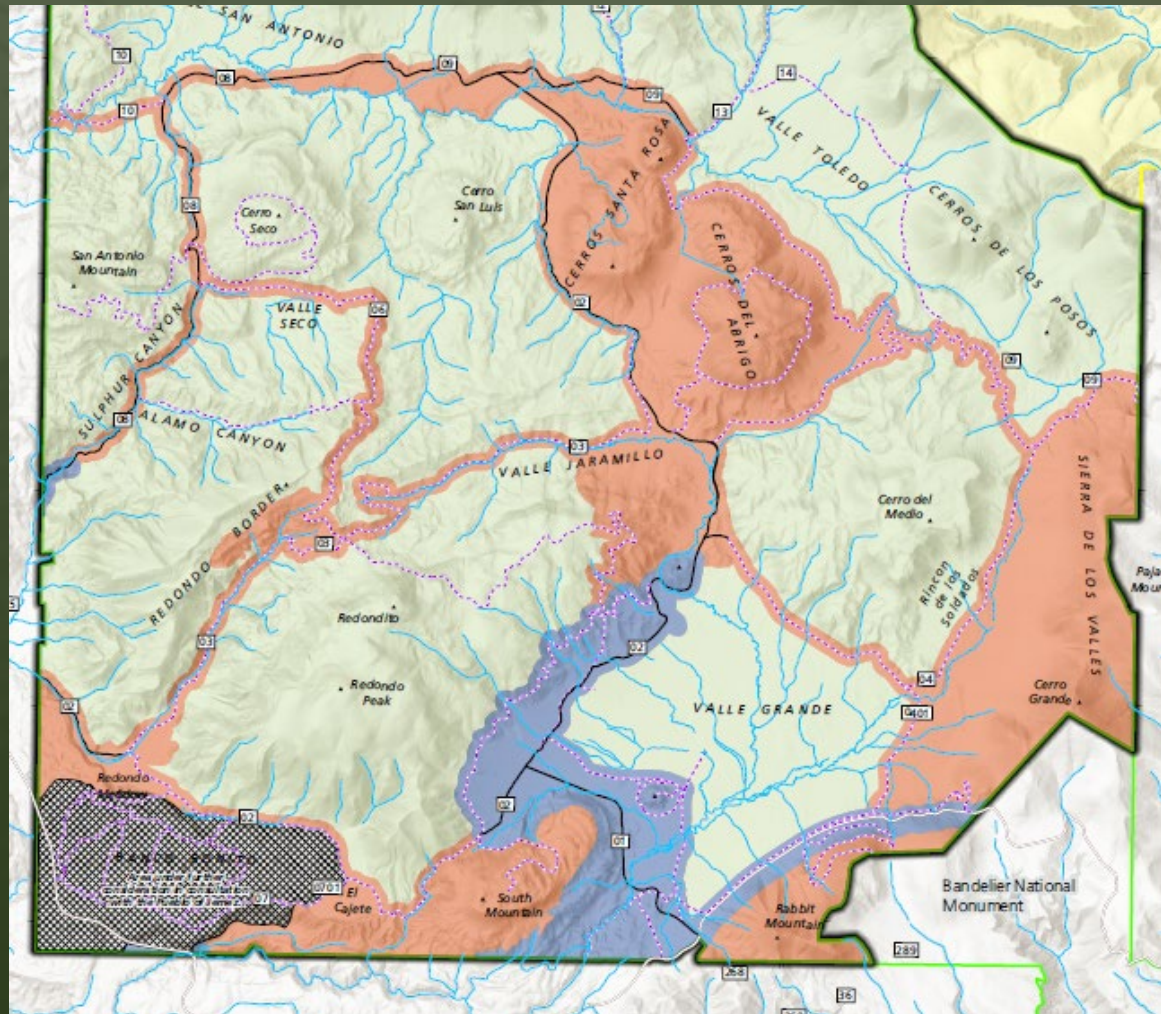
- Easy-to-reach areas where most short-term visitors to the park visit
- Most visitor services and park facilities
- Highest visitor density and most developed zone





Self-Guided Zone (Orange)

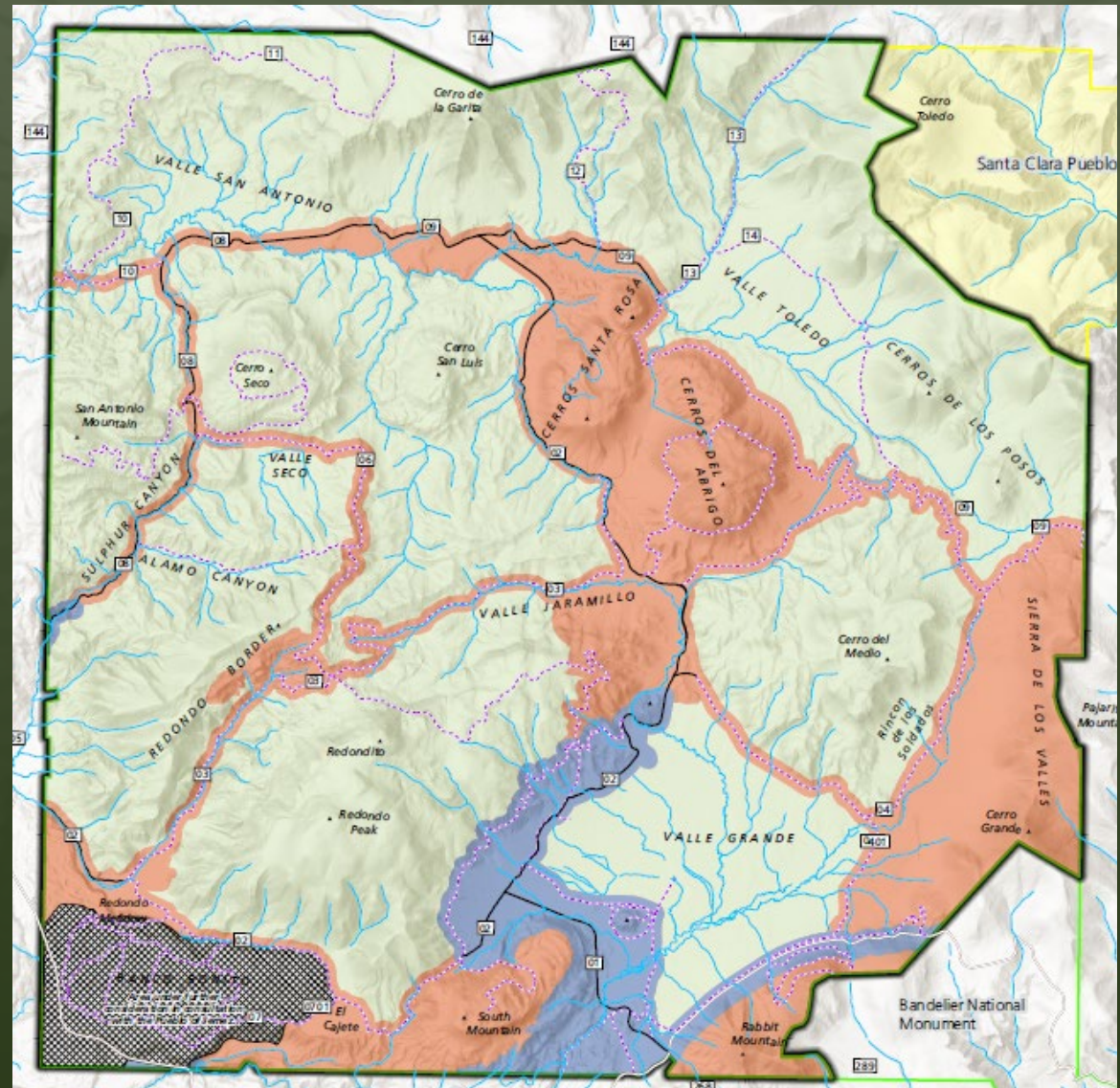
- Public roads open seasonally
- Some visitor services and park facilities
- Some outdoor skill and preparation are needed
- Low to medium visitor density





Backcountry Zone (Green)

- Primitive trails and minimal signage
- Low visitor density
- Least developed zone
- Natural processes, ecosystem function, and natural wildlife behavior are prioritized





GMP/DCP Chapter 3: Management Strategies and Actions



Attachment A

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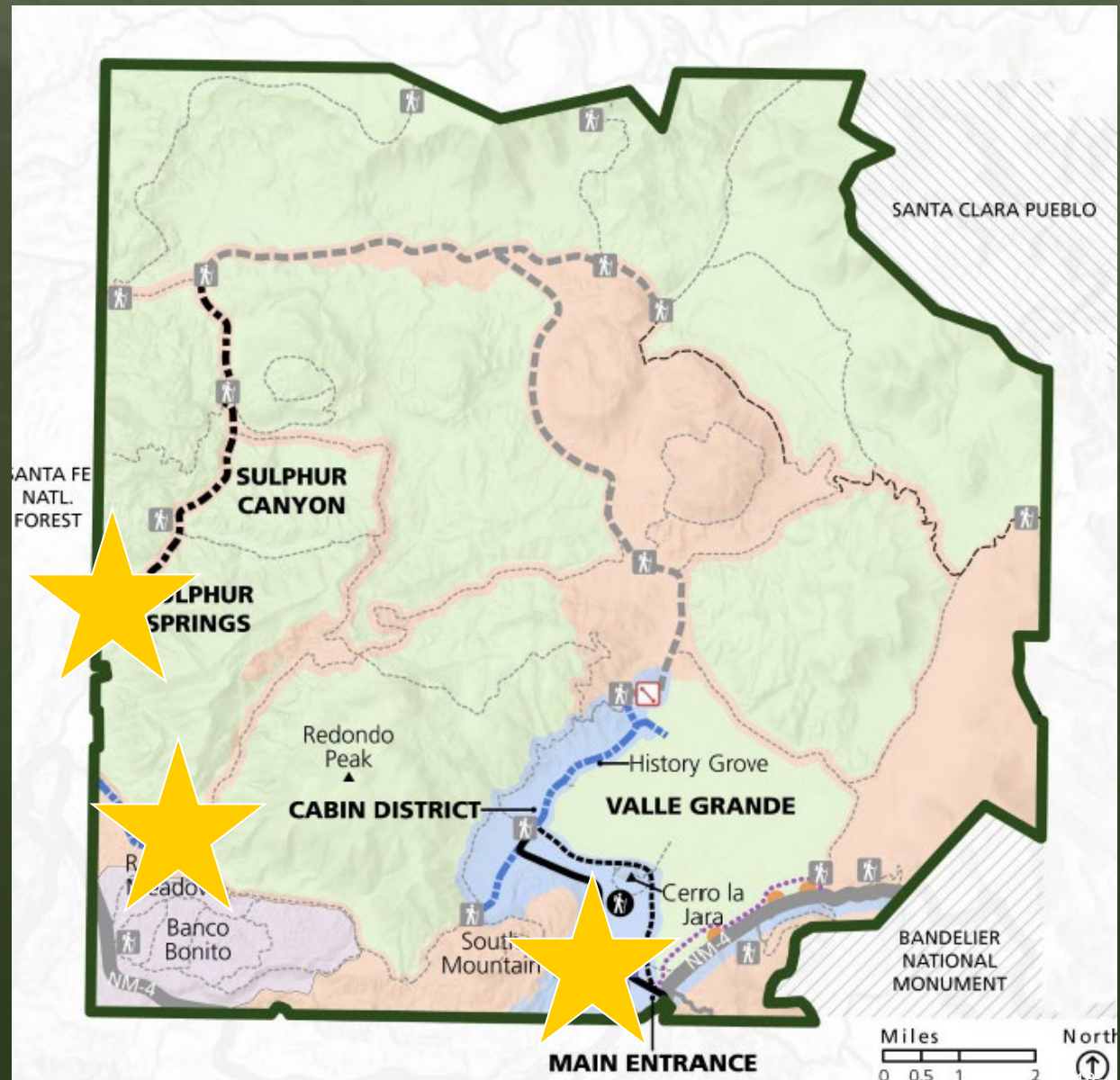
Visitor Use and Experience Actions

- Establish a visitor services area in the Valle Grande District
- Visitor Amenities
- The cabin district's focus will shift towards historic preservation, interpretation, and recreation, serving as a gateway to the backcountry.
- Public Education and Resource Protection
- Monitoring Visitation Trends



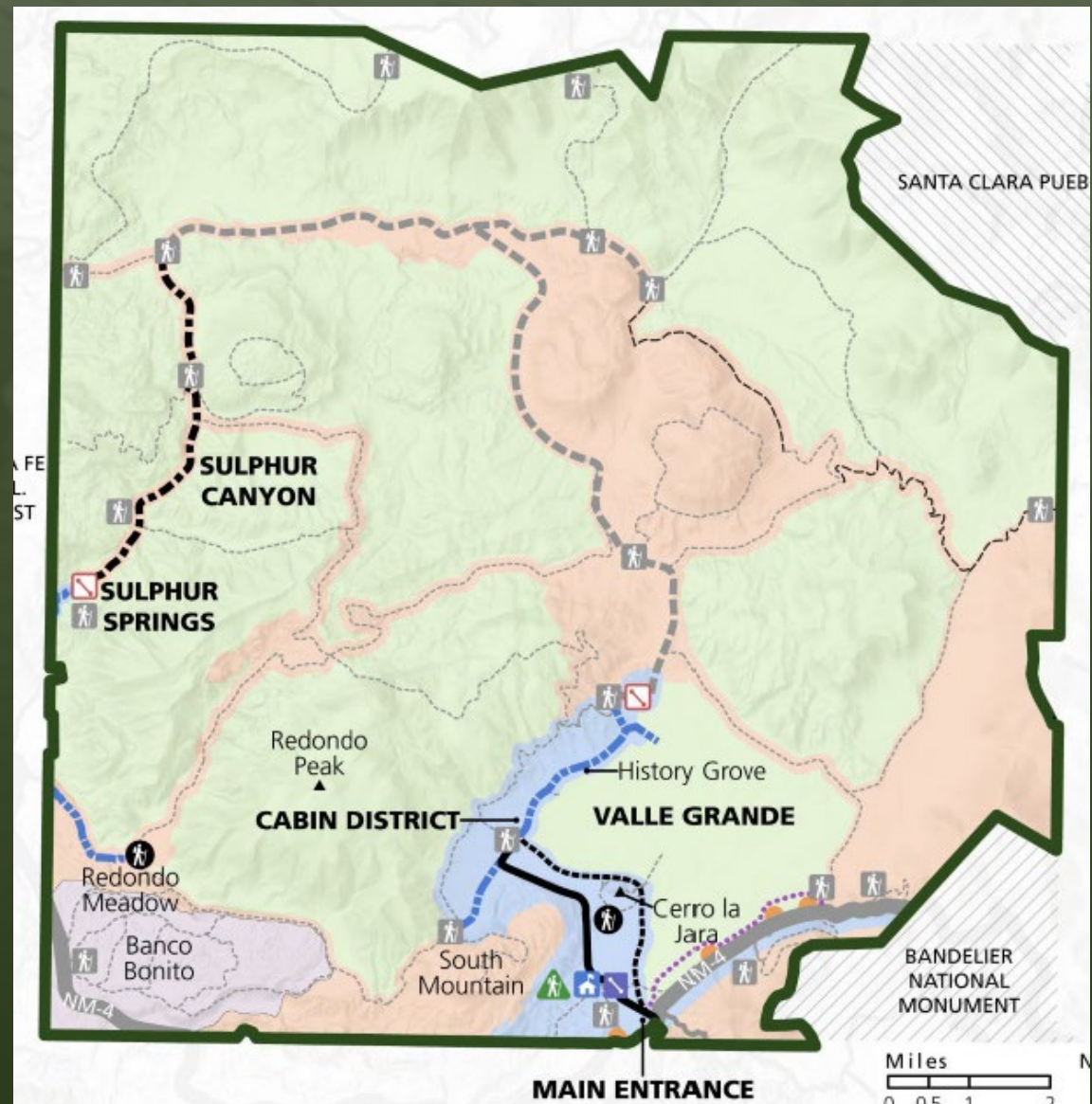


Visitor Amenities





Road Network

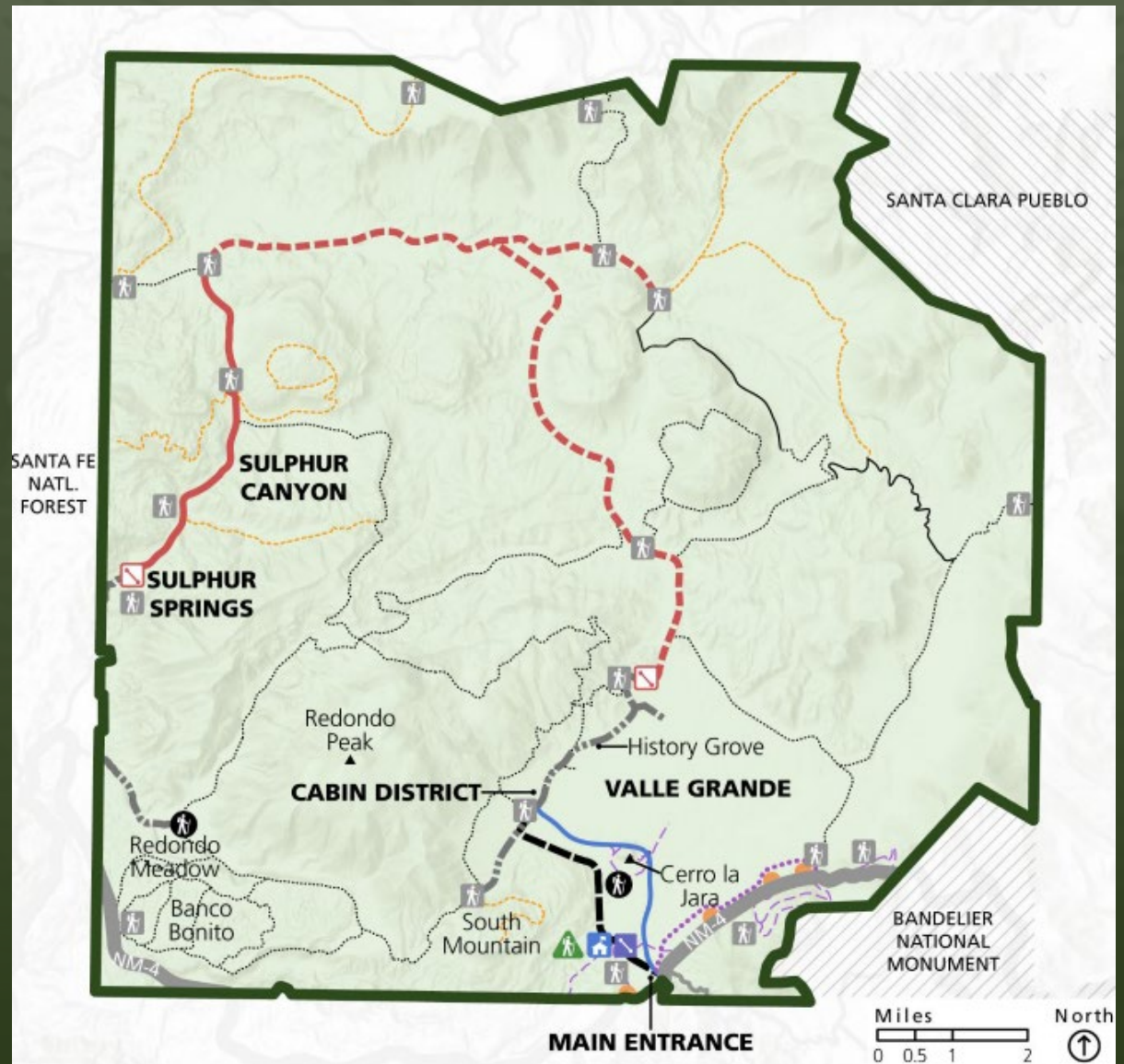




Trails

- Existing Trail (Hiking/equestrian/biking)
- Minor Trail Relocation (Hiking/equestrian/biking)
- Existing Trail (Hiking/equestrian)
- Existing Trail (Hiking)
- Proposed Multiuse Trail (Accessible, Unpaved)
- Proposed Boardwalk

- Proposed Visitor Service Area
- Existing Trailhead
- Formalize Existing Trailhead
- Proposed Trailhead
- Proposed Entrance Gate
- Proposed Backcountry Gate
- Improve Existing Road Pulloffs





Natural Resource Stewardship Actions

- Climate Adaptation and Resource Stewardship
- Invasive Species and Fire Management
- Restoration and Monitoring Efforts
- Collaborative Projects and Partnerships



Cultural Resource Management Actions

- Conduct comprehensive archeological inventories across the park
- Complete and update baseline and treatment documents for cultural resources
- Develop park-specific National Register of Historic Places eligibility framework for nominations
- Employ passive protection strategies
- Collaborative educational efforts





Tribal Relationships and Management of Resources of Traditional Significance Actions



- Establish collaborative relationships
- Identify and protect significant resources
- Collaborative planning and access



Environmental Assessment



Environmental Assessment

Chapter 1: Purpose and Need

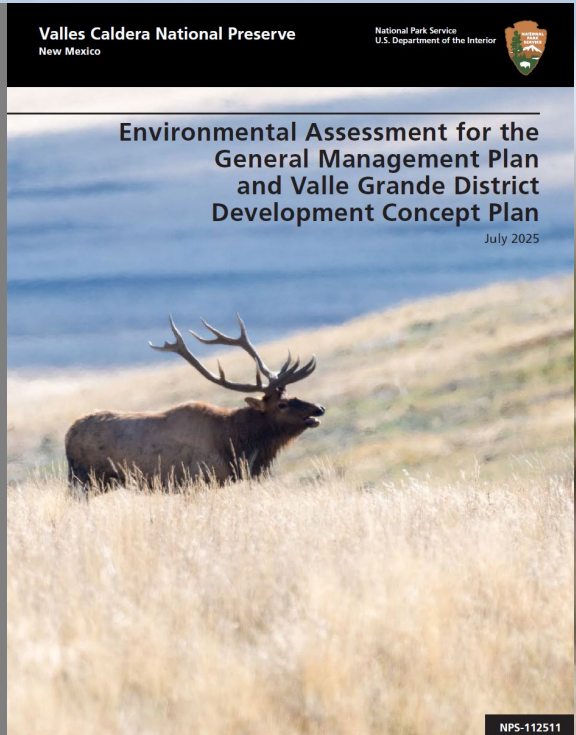
Chapter 2: Alternatives

Chapter 3: Environmental Consequences

Chapter 4: Coordination and Consultation

Appendixes:

- A: Impact topics not carried forward
- B: References



Environmental Assessment

Discusses the effects of each of the **three alternatives**:

- No action – Current Management
- NPS Preferred – New Appropriate Facilities
- Adaptive Reuse – No New Facilities

Environmental Assessment

Analysis of the alternatives on:

- Visitor Use and Experience
- Federally Listed Species
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Archeological Resources
- Ethnographic Landscape
- Historic Ranching Structures and Landscapes





Questions?

