

Caldera Action

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Caldera Action regrets resignation of Executive Director Jeff Cross at Valles Caldera National Preserve.

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Caldera Action's Board of Directors is disappointed to hear of the resignation of Jeff Cross, Executive Director of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Mr. Cross announced May 5 that he has accepted a new position with the National Park Service and will leave the VCNP in June.

Caldera Action was pleased when Jeff Cross was hired as Executive Director of the VCNP because of his strong background in public land management, resource protection and his knowledge of public recreation programs gained while at Grand Canyon National Park. Under Dr. Cross' leadership, the VCNP has seen robust support for the science and monitoring program as well as modest increases in public recreation opportunities.

"We are saddened to see Jeff Cross leaving the staff at the VCNP," said Tom Ribe, President of Caldera Action. "We appreciate the job he has done in extremely difficult circumstances. With a great deal of uncertainty about future funding, staffing and programs at the VCNP, Jeff did an outstanding job of guiding the Preserve under a challenging legislative framework and in a difficult political climate."

"We hope the VCNP Trustees will choose a replacement for Dr. Cross who has a solid background in public land management and a commitment to public access to the Preserve," said Betsy Barnett, Vice President of Caldera Action.

The Executive Director at the VCNP works under a politically appointed "Board of Trustees" with 9 members whose tenure is limited. Unlike other public land units, the current VCNP legislation requires the Trust to achieve "financial self-sufficiency" by 2015, a goal that Caldera Action believes may be difficult to achieve.

"Preservation of VCNP resources and increasing public access to the Preserve will depend on more public participation" said Ribe. "Losing Dr. Cross will result in a challenging transition and we urge the public to get involved with the Preserve's future."

Caldera Action is a 501c3 membership organization advocating for appropriate public access to the VCNP, for the financial and management stability of the VCNP, and for the protection of its natural and cultural resources.

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