

Fort Union Ranch, NM: Aug 6 - 7, 2008
Valles Caldera National Preserve, NM: Aug 7 - 8, 2008

The final days of summer field trips led the Rockies researchers to the Fort Union Ranch, Wind River Ranch, and Valles Caldera National Preserve.

At Fort Union, researchers were hosted by Ned Ames and Jane Solokow. The ranch faces many of the same troubles as other working ranches in New Mexico but is unique because in the center of its expansive pastures sits Fort Union National Monument and part of the historic Santa Fe Trail.

The Valles Caldera National Preserve represents a fresh take on federal land management. Through legislation, the preserve is managed semi-privately by the Valles Caldera Trust and the preserve's small, dedicated staff, with the mandate to cover operating costs.



The Valles Caldera



The Rockies Project with Ames and Sokolow near the Santa Fe Trail



Wind turbine used to pump water for cattle at Fort Union



Musketball at the arsenal of Fort Union. The arsenal is on the property of the Fort Union Ranch.