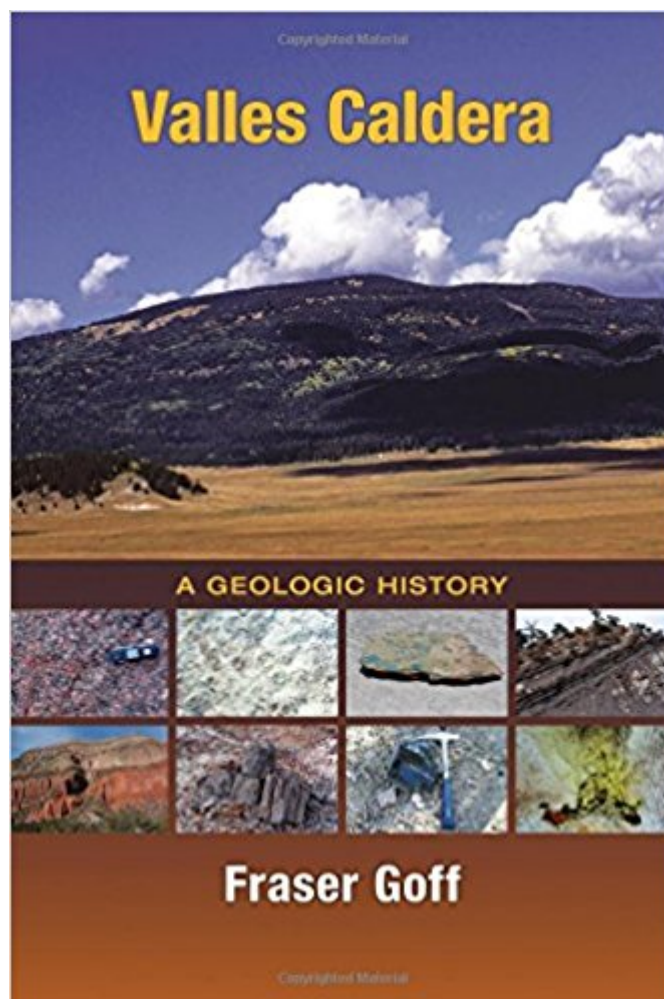


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Valles Caldera: A Geologic History



Synopsis

The Valles Caldera consists of a twelve-mile-wide collapsed volcanic crater and more than ten postcollapse volcanic domes in New Mexico's Jemez Mountains. For over a century, it was safeguarded within the 89,000-acre Baca Ranch. In the year 2000, Congress passed the Valles Caldera Preservation Act, creating the Valles Caldera Trust to purchase the ranch and create a nine-member board of trustees responsible for the protection and development of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. With special permission, qualified geologists interested in volcanic processes and hydrothermal systems have been allowed to conduct research on the preserve. One of those volcanologists, Fraser Goff, collaborated with the Valles Caldera Trust to provide an accessible scientific overview of the caldera's geologic wonders. Presented in two parts, Valles Caldera first offers a summary of significant geologic events that have taken place in the Valles Caldera area. Then Goff presents the geology, volcanology, and geothermal characteristics of the Caldera and the Jemez volcanic field. Geologic terms and names unfamiliar to all but professional geologists are defined in a summarizing glossary.

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Customer Reviews

Formed by massive volcanic eruptions over a million years ago, the Valles Caldera offers scientists unprecedented opportunities for studying its geologic wonders, and now as a national preserve, it offers the public a unique outdoor experience.

Fraser Goff is adjunct professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University

of New Mexico. A Fellow of the Geological Society of America, Goff retired from the Geology/Geochemistry Group at New Mexico's Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in 2004 after twenty-six years of service. In 1994, the respected volcanologist discovered that the Galeras volcano in the Colombian Andes was spewing more than a pound of gold each day into the atmosphere and estimated that forty-five pounds of gold a year was deposited into the rocks beneath the crater. Goff has worked on more than forty geothermal systems and fifteen active volcanoes during his career.

I discovered the caldera while visiting Los Alamos and was the only visitor in the parking area overlooking the site. An amazing and inspiring moment I'll never forget. This book explains what I was seeing and I wish I had read it before visiting the caldera. When I was there the bowl of the caldera was a working ranch. Now visitors have much more access and this is the book to have along for the trip.

Dr. Goff is the foremost authority on the geology of the Valles area, author of many scholarly publications, but here he has condensed his broad knowledge for the interests of a general audience or for professionals needing a general overview of the subject. Goff integrates the relatively young volcanic history of the Valles volcanic system to the regional framework of the American southwest that extends back in time to Precambrian times. The book is easy to read and is well-illustrated with numerous color figures that describe regional and local geology, the evolution of the Valles caldera, and the important story of inter-caldera lake sediments.

Lots of details in this book about the Valles Caldera. I also have the Valles Caldera map from High Desert Field Guides. The combination of the map and Fraser Goff's "Valles Caldera" is very informative. I am very lucky since I live about 1.5 hours away from the Valles Caldera. There is legislation before the Congress to make the Valles Caldera the next National Park. Remember, the volcano is dormant.

The best book on the geology of the Caldera I have ever seen. I work as an interpreter at the VCNP and this book has been my bible as far as geology goes. Worth every penny and more.

Can't wait to check out the Valles Caldera. Very informative!

Goff is THE expert in this area. While the book is brief, it is thorough. Other publications contain more detail but this presentation provides enough info to enjoy this natural wonder.

This is a book for all who love geology and its environs. A great exposition of this area for all rock hunters and amateur geologists. Need I say it is also a wonderful trip for vulcanologists. It is also written in easy to understand language.

Very disappointing. Dr. Goff obviously knows his subject well, but his writing style makes it very difficult to keep reading.

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