1. Evaluation of the applications, either proposed or in place at the Valles Caldera GIS. Reply to 2 students regarding the question and provide insights or learn from their work.

-ABRIGO HIKING TRAIL-lack in information regarding trail, parking for visitors. Severe lack of information in legend, no data sources, as a visitor, this map would provide me with on a vague topographic idea of the park, nothing else. VC09…what does this mean? Provides number to call for information, bot not inviting. Scale is not appropriate. Should provide more information regarding difficulty and time to complete as well as parking and visitor center information.

-2007 Elk Hunting Units- again, what is VC (visitor Center?) What is a unit? And why should I want to go there? There are numbers under area and peak titles, what do they mean? Elevation? Better information and legend included in this map, but the information is not thorough, and it feels elementary.

-Fishing map, very similar to the other maps.

From what you have read, tell your classmates your evaluation of the applications, either proposed or in place for the Valles Caldera GIS.  Reply to at least 2 students regarding this question to provide insights or learn from their work (15 points for post, 5 points for a reply).

Hello Class,

Regarding the applications, both proposed and in use for the Valles Caldera GIS, my evaluation is severe but not hopeless. While reviewing the cartographic products such as the hiking trail, fishing, and hunting maps, my evaluation was that the maps are poorly made, lacking both standardization and useful information. As an example, the Abrigo Hiking Trail map is suffering from a severe lack of information. From a straight cartographic viewpoint, the legend lacks information about some spatial aspects of the map (VC09, what does this stand for?) and there is no information regarding the data. Furthermore, as a visitor, this map would provide me with a vague topographic idea of the park, nothing else. It is intended to be a guide for a hiking trail (where do you park? Where are the trailheads? How long will the hike take? Difficulty level of the hike?). A number to call for information is provided, but that is not adequate. If the goal of the product (i.e. a hiking map) is to provide guidance and information to visitors, this product fails. The maps are all different in style, with no geographic standards. Many organizations have in house standards, or adhere to other widely accepted standards. The Valles Caldera maps clearly do not have that in place, which suggests to me lack of communication, organization, planning, and leadership.

 Regardless of my critique of the maps, on a larger function of GIS, there is none. As far as I can see, the Valles Caldera GIS is limited only to cartographic output. This is not a bad thing except that outlined in the Management Principles and Management Plan for Interpretation Statement the goals for the Valles Caldera are outlined to achieve more. One of these goals involves the restoration or to increase the resiliency and integrity of the ecological systems. I know very well that GIS can help to plan, monitor, and achieve that goal but I see no evidence that they will use GIS in this way. To wrap this up, the big picture is lack of planning and direction. The use of GIS by this organization is limited to only cartographic products and thus a lack of understanding is being demonstrated. The organization does not fully understand what their explicit goals are, the management plans and the poor quality spatial products are evidence of this.

 I should also say, this was a very negative assessment, but not in a hopeless way. I see motivation and good philosophies in place but with out these philosophies and idea being turned into actual explicit bench marks, tasks, or objectives.

 I hope you all can use this or shed some light on some things I might have missed! Thanks so much, Elizabeth