

**Floodplain Statement of Findings
for the Technical Area 72
Outdoor Live Fire Range Safety Upgrades Project at
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos County, New Mexico**

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA),
Los Alamos Field Office

ACTION: Floodplain Statement of Findings

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The NNSA, a semi-autonomous agency within the DOE, is proposing new construction and upgrade activities in lower Sandia Canyon at Technical Area (TA) 72 at the Outdoor Live Fire Range facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The proposed upgrades are intended to improve range safety to help fulfill the mission requirements of maintaining a trained and qualified armed Protective Force. The project activities within the 100-year floodplain include: 1) installation of eight permanent flagpoles, 2) installation of a weatherproof electronic range status board, 3) removal a backstop berm on a decommissioned range, and 4) removing structures and replacing at least two with new storage structures on existing gravel pads (Figure 1). Two additional activities are proposed for areas outside of the floodplain. The first is to replace broken poles on a training structure to the southeast of building 72-0040. The second is to correct erosion on a backstop berm on the far northeast end of the Outdoor Firing Range. Small erosion channels on the back slope of the berm will be filled in and stabilized with a rolled erosion product.

Eight permanent flagpoles are proposed to replace temporary flagpoles at individual firing ranges within the larger TA-72 Outdoor Live Fire Range facility. The tilt-based cone tapered aluminum poles will be approximately 30 feet in height. Each pole will be mounted with a night vision compatible steady burning red obstruction light powered by a small integrated photocell. The light will indicate during range use if a range is active or not and the pole height will ensure the light can be seen throughout the facility. The poles require a 3-foot (ft.) 6 inch (in) deep by 2 ft 6 in wide concrete footing to attach the pole's cast aluminum shoe base. The project includes excavating approximately 4ft deep x 3ft wide holes for the concrete bases. Any excess soils would be stabilized at the excavation site following guidelines in the LANL Seeding Specification (LANL 2021) or disposed of in accordance with the LANL Waste Management Procedure P409 (LANL 2022).

LOCATION WITHIN A FLOODPLAIN EXPLANATION: Given that Outdoor Live Fire Range is partially within the floodplain, there are no practical alternatives that would avoid an action within the floodplain.

ALTERNATIVES: In addition to the Proposed Action, the alternatives available to DOE/NNSA include the no action alternative. The no action alternative was not selected by DOE/NNSA because the temporary safety measures of flagpoles in 55-gallon drums and manually updated status board on the perimeter fence are not visible during nighttime operations. There is also an increased risk of human error because this system does not centralize control of the individual range statuses.

FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STANDARDS: The proposed project would result in limited and minor direct and indirect impacts to the 100-year floodplain and would not result in adverse impacts to the floodplain values or functions. Temporary disturbance within the floodplain would cease following completion of construction activities. Best management practices would be implemented. This proposed project would not significantly modify flow paths within the floodplain

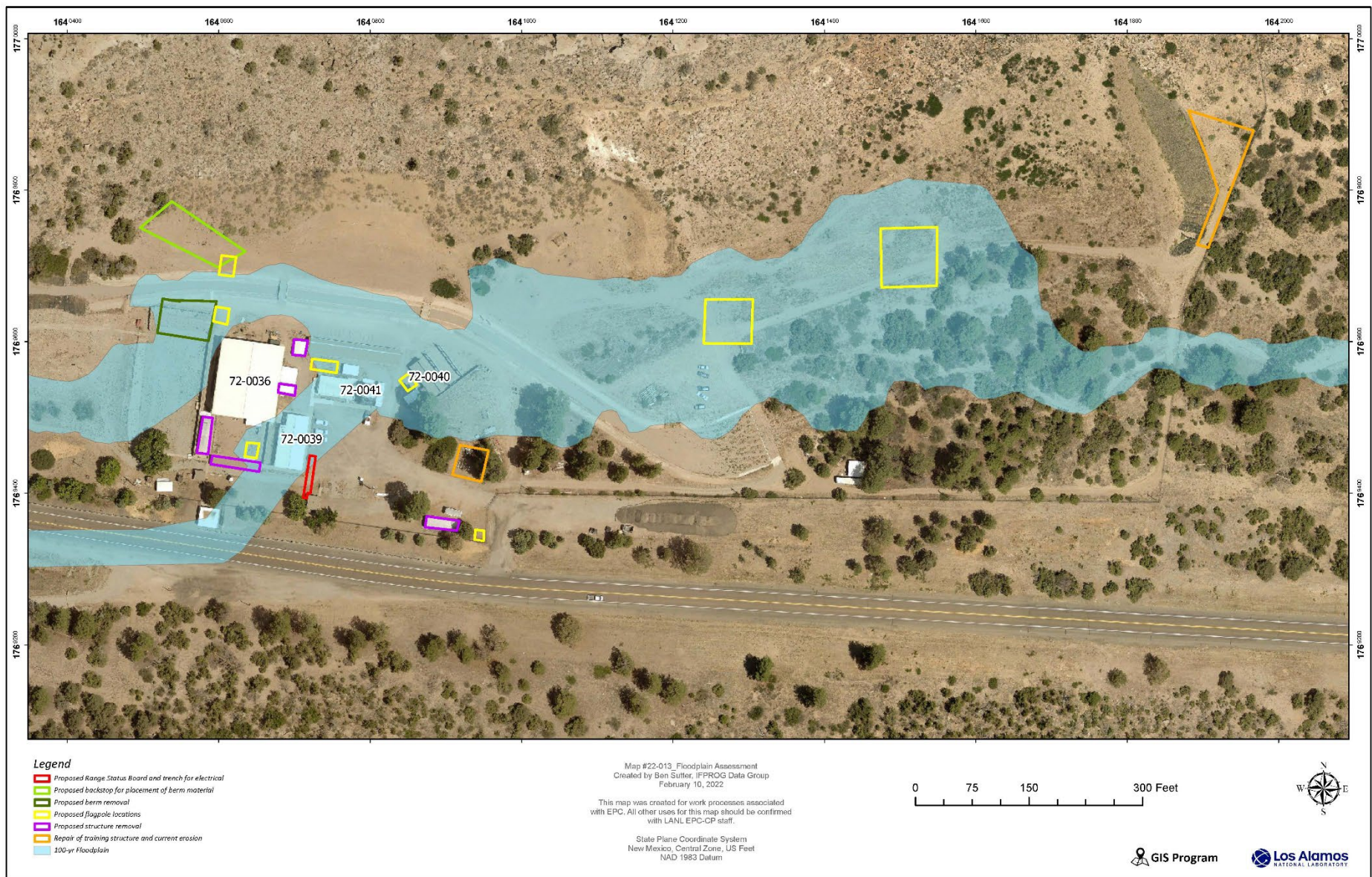


Figure 1 Map of proposed flagpoles, range status board, backstop berm removal, structure removals and the Sandia Canyon 100-year floodplain.

from pre-project conditions to post project conditions. No effects to lives and property associated with floodplain modifications are anticipated.

STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL HARM TO OR WITHIN THE FLOODPLAIN:

Engineering and administrative controls to limit soil erosion, sediment loss, and spills and leaks will be in place during and after construction. Specific mitigations include the following:

- Hazardous materials, chemicals, fuels, and oils will not be stored within the floodplain.
- Heavy equipment will not be used within the floodplain if conditions are too wet to prevent damage to the soil structure.
- Equipment will be refueled at least 100ft from the 100-yr floodplain.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Floodplain Statement of Findings was prepared in accordance with Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management* and DOE implementing regulations 10 Code of Federal Regulations 1022 *Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements* and provided a summary of the *Floodplain Assessment for the West Road Maintenance Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory* (Floodplain Assessment) analysis and determination.

The notification for the availability of the Floodplain Assessment and request for comments was sent to appropriate government agencies, tribes, organizations, and persons known to be interested in or potentially affected by the proposed floodplain action via the GovDelivery system and published online on March 1, 2022, for a 15-day public review and comment period on the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) website at

<https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/los-alamos-national-laboratory-floodplain-assessment-technical-area-72-outdoor-live>. No comments were received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or questions regarding this Floodplain Statement of Findings contact Ms. Kristen Dors via email at Kristen.Dors@nnsa.doe.gov; fax (505) 667-5948 or mail to:

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