

**Floodplain Statement of Findings
for Fire Risk Mitigations at the
Lower Slobbovia Explosives Testing
Site in Technical Area 36 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 to take fire pre-suppression actions at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Technical Area (TA) 36. The purpose is to establish a safety perimeter to help prevent fires from spreading away from the firing point at the Lower Slobbovia explosives testing site. The proposed project would include an inner fire break base course line free of vegetation and an outer fuel break cleared of trees and shrubs that both encircle the Lower Slobbovia site in TA-36 (Proposed Action)(Figure 1). The Proposed Action is located in the Potrillo Canyon Area of Concern (AOC) C-00-013. The AOC occupies the same footprint at the 100-year floodplain. The 100-yr floodplain represents the extent to which post-Lab aged sediments (and contaminants) could have been deposited and therefore, is used to delineate the extent of the AOC.

LOCATION WITHIN A FLOODPLAIN EXPLANATION: The objective of the Proposed Action is to mitigate potential fire starts from the Lower Slobbovia explosives testing site, which is located in the Potrillo Canyon 100-yr floodplain; therefore, there are no practical alternatives that would avoid an action within the floodplain.

ALTERNATIVES: There are no alternate locations that would mitigate potential fire starts from the Lower Slobbovia explosives testing site, thus none were considered.

FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STANDARDS: The Proposed Action will not result in a significant change, if any, to the floodplain values or functions. Short-term impacts will be avoided or minimized by adherence to permits and other requirements. Post construction, the floodplain would retain the same preconstruction floodplain values and functions as present prior to intersection modification. No impacts to human safety, health and welfare, or private property are anticipated as the natural and beneficial floodplain values will be preserved. The Proposed Action, with implementation of project mitigation measures, conforms to applicable floodplain protection standards.

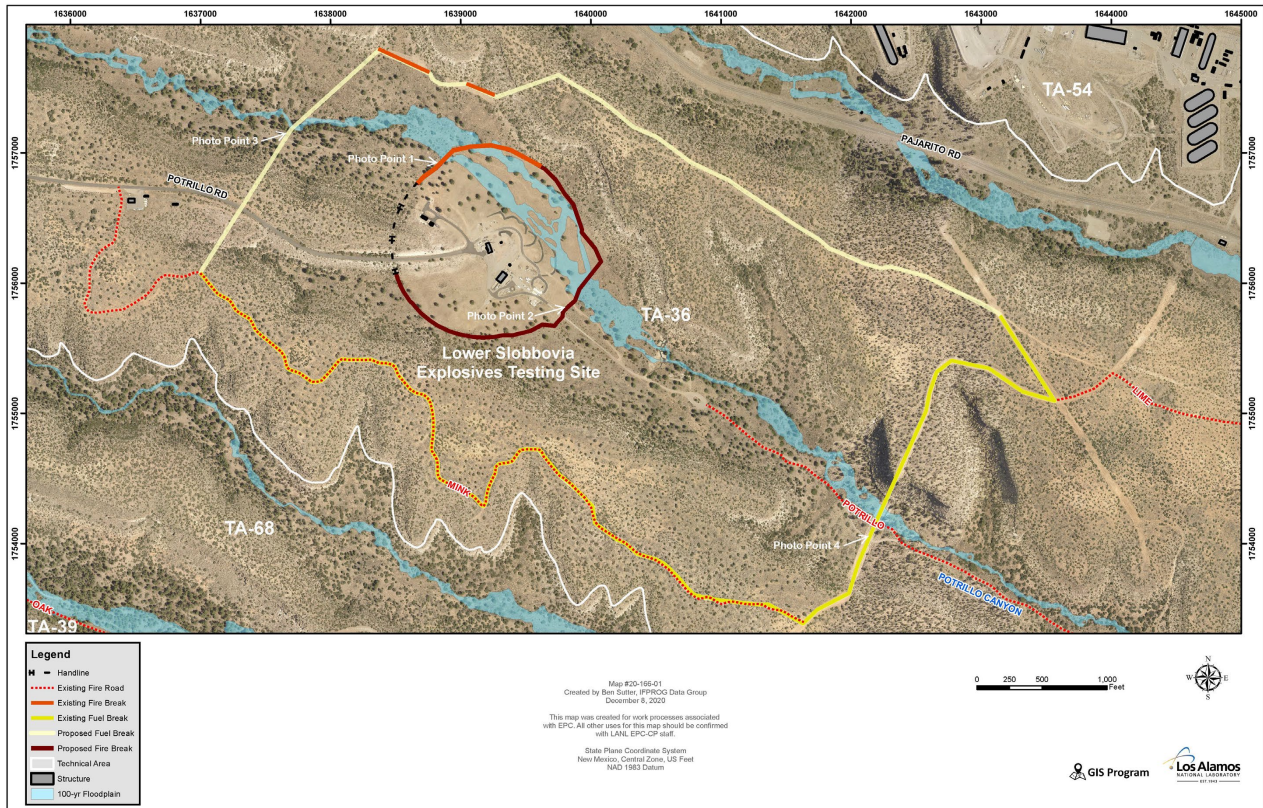


Figure 1. Lower Slobbovia explosives testing site inner fire break, outer fuel break, and 100-yr floodplain.

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:

- Soil would not be removed from the Potrillo Canyon AOC as a result of construction activities.
- All disturbed soils would remain on site and be stabilized in place. Areas of soil disturbance not topped with base course would be stabilized with vegetation following NPDES Construction General Permit requirements.
- Project disturbed areas will be stabilized and revegetated post construction in accordance with the LANL Seeding Specification.
- 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 Fire Risk Mitigations at the Lower Slobbovia Explosives Testing Site in Technical Area 36 the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Project at Technical Area 39 at Los Alamos National Laboratory* (Floodplain Assessment) analysis and determination.

A notification of availability of the Floodplain Assessment was made via the GovDelivery system and published online on March 3, 2021 for a 15-day public review and comment period. The document was posted on the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) website at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/other-documents-and-notice>. 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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