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Title: Floodplain Assessment for the Proposed Outdoor Fire Range Upgrades at TA-72 in Lower Sandia Canyon, Los Alamos National Laboratory

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Floodplain Assessment for the Proposed Outdoor Fire Range Upgrades at TA-72 in Lower Sandia Canyon, Los Alamos National Laboratory

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Introduction

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is preparing to implement actions in Sandia Canyon at Technical Area (TA) 72. Los Alamos National Security (LANS) biologists conducted a floodplain determination and this project is partially located within a 100-year floodplain. The proposed project is to upgrade the existing outdoor shooting range facilities at TA-72. These upgrades will result in increased safety and efficiencies in the training for Protective Force personnel.

Project Description

In order to remain current on training requirements, the firing ranges at TA-72 will be upgraded which will result in increased safety and efficiencies in the training for Protective Force personnel (Figure 1). These upgrades will allow for an increase in class size and more people to be qualified at the ranges. Some of these upgrades will be built within the 100-year floodplain. The upgrades include: concrete pads for turning target systems and shooting positions, new lighting to illuminate the firing range for night fire, a new speaker system for range operations, canopies at two locations, an impact berm at the far end of the 300-yard mark, and a block wall for road protection.

Floodplain Impacts

The proposed outdoor firing range upgrades will disturb less than two acres of land. The completed outdoor firing range upgrades will result in increased safety and efficiencies in the training for Protective Force personnel as well as increasing efficiency in house-keeping procedures to keep shrapnel and expended bullets and fragments on-site and out of the drainage channel.

Best management practices for soil erosion control and floodplain protection would be implemented during all project activities. For any construction or excavation, a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Notice of Intent would be filed, and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan would be implemented as required.

The long-term effects for the 100-year floodplain in Sandia Canyon at TA-72 are positive. Initially, the floodplain will be disturbed, but the completed structures for outdoor range upgrades will reduce the amount of shrapnel or bullet fragments from entering the drainage channel.

Other Alternative Considered

Under the No Action alternative, LANL would not meet training requirements or increase the safety and efficiencies at the existing outdoor firing range.

Proposed Actions within the Floodplain at TA-72

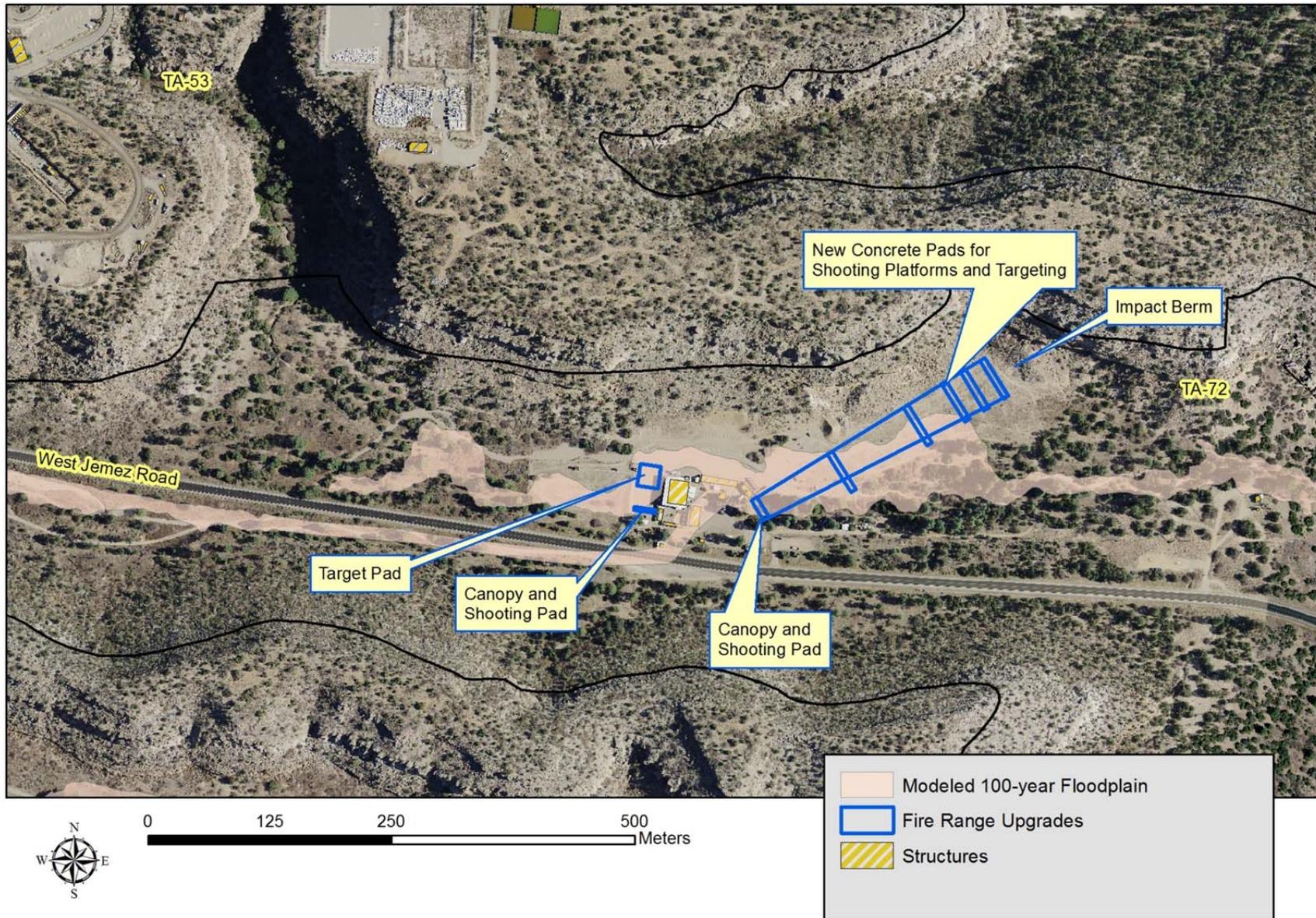


Figure 1. Orthophoto map showing the general location of the proposed projects in relation to the 100-year floodplain boundary in TA-72.