

## J. Rio Grande Corridor Planning Area

### 1. General Description

The Rio Grande Corridor Planning Area covers almost 7.7 square miles in the southeast corner of the Laboratory. The northern boundary parallels NM State Highway 4, and the community of White Rock abuts the eastern boundary. On the western and southern boundaries are the Rio Grande River and Bandelier National Monument. The Rio Grande Planning Area incorporates TAs-33, -70, -71 and narrow strips of undeveloped land in TAs-36, -39, and -68.

Also included in this planning area is the unconnected development at Fenton Hill. Fenton Hill, depicted on the Development Opportunities Map on page VIJ.3, is located about 28 miles (45 km) west of Los Alamos. The Gamma Ray Observatory and the Hot Dry Rock Geothermal Project are located at Fenton Hill.

The following assumptions will guide the physical planning of the Sigma Mesa Planning Area for the next 10 years:

- *The canyon areas along the Rio Grande will be managed as wildlife preserve.*
- *Activity at TA-33 will continue but not expand.*
- *TA-70 and -71 will continue to function as safety buffers for experiments conducted in the Experimental Engineering and Dynamic Testing Planning Areas.*
- *Major new utility corridors in the future may cross TA-33, -70 and -71.*
- *No changes are proposed for Fenton Hill at this time.*

Map VI-11: Rio Grande Corridor Planning Area Key Map



## 2. *Opportunities and Constraints*

The following opportunities and constraints affect physical planning in the Rio Grande Corridor Planning Area.

### *Physical Constraints*

The Rio Grande Corridor Planning Area is bordered on the southeast by the Rio Grande River. The planning area has three canyons: Chaquehui Canyon in TA-33, Ancho Canyon in TA-70, and Lower Water Canyon in TA-71. These canyons have severe slope constraints and contain protected species habitats and 100-year floodplains.

### *Operational Constraints*

The Rio Grande Corridor Planning Area is largely undeveloped and has minimal operational constraints except for a lack of utilities. The area is being held in reserve to meet potential development needs in the long-term future.

There is existing development in TA-33, including a tritium-handling facility, which is being phased out, and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Very Large Baseline Array telescope. Most structures in the planning area are substandard and are served by limited utilities.

Safety analysis report (SAR) areas cover the northern portion of TA-33. In TA-33 a radioactive landfill in the west-central portion; a sanitary landfill in the northern portion; and other potentially contaminated sites located in the northern, eastern, and western sectors.

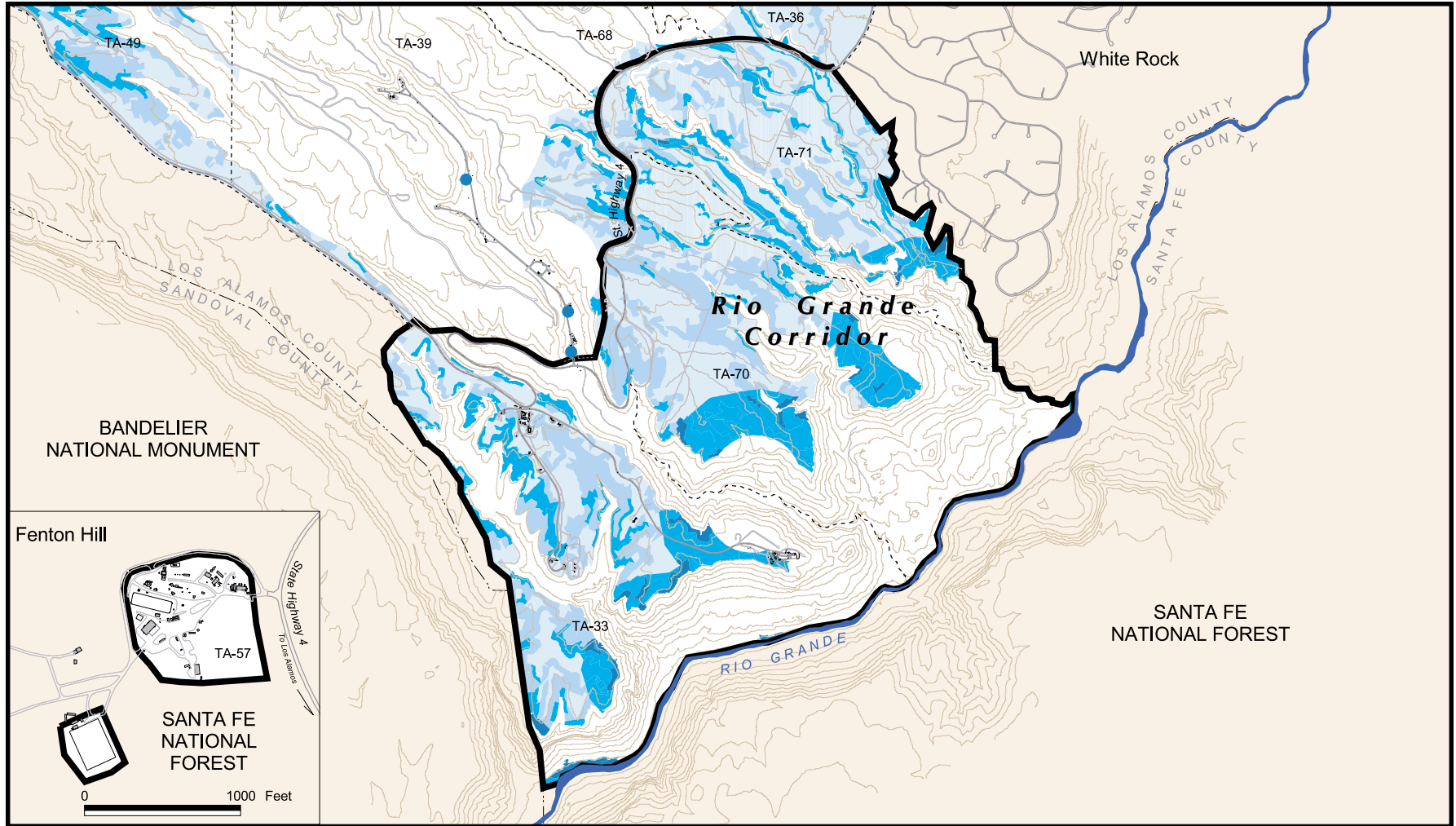
Electrical transmission line rights-of-ways traverse TAs-33, -70, and -71. In addition there are areas of possible high radio frequency located in TAs-70 and -71. TA-33 may have a potential water shortage problem and may not meet fire protection requirements for the area.

The community of White Rock is immediately east of TA-71, and the Santa Fe National Forest is southeast of TA-33 and -70. Both of which may create adjacency issues in the future.

### *Development Opportunities*

Significant undeveloped and minimally constrained land characterizes TAs-70 and -71. TA-33 contains a smaller amount of minimally constrained developable land. The tritium-handling facility in TA-33 is being phased out, and contaminated areas are being remediated creating additional usable acreage. All areas have very limited access to utilities.

Map VI-J2: Rio Grande Corridor Planning Area Development Opportunities Map

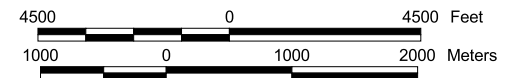


LEGEND

- Technical Area Boundary
- Non Dept. of Energy Property
- █** Planning Area
- Unique Operational and/or Physical Considerations Exist

- Excellent Development Potential
- Good Development Potential
- Fair Development Potential
- Poor Development Potential
- Radiation Source

Areas of one acre or less are incorporated into the surrounding larger areas.



### 3. *Projects for Rio Grande Corridor Planning Area*

Proposed, planned or budgeted projects noted below and on the facing summary map, VI-J3, for this planning area were identified through Laboratory documents or by stakeholders during the Comprehensive Site Plan 2000 process. The symbol *NS* stands for project “Not Shown” on the summary map.

#### ***Wildlife Preserve***

- ① Planned creation of wildlife preserve to be managed by separate agency.

#### ***Transportation Development***

- ② Proposed long-term road connection to Santa Fe.

#### ***Infrastructure Revitalization***

- ③ Proposed future utility corridor for electrical transmission lines.

#### ***Quality Environment Enhancements***

- ④ Proposed improvements to existing public access trails in TA-70 and -71.

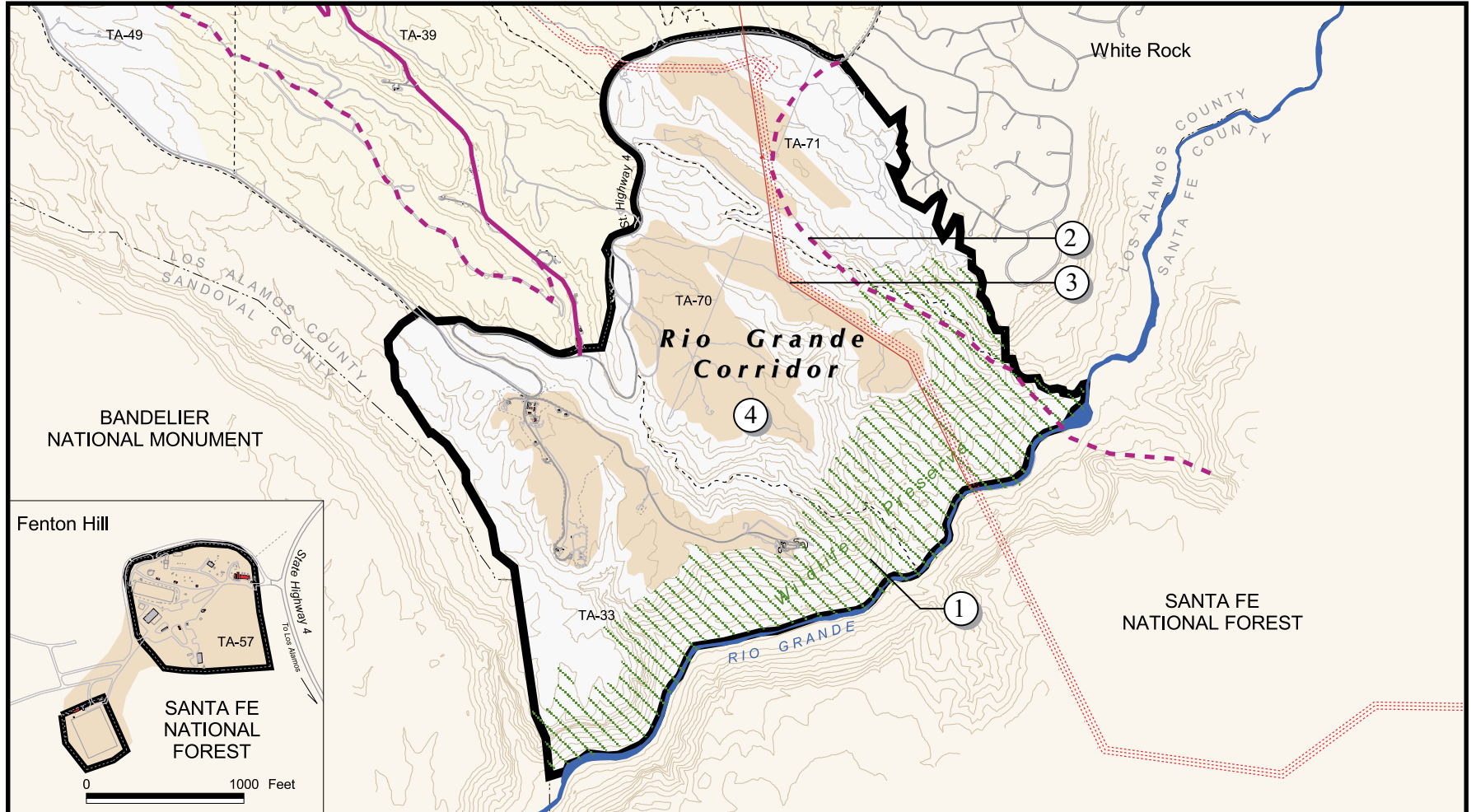
#### ***CSP 2000 Issues for Rio Grande Corridor Planning Area***

Important issues that need discussion for continued refinement of the CSP for this planning area:

- *How will the wildlife preserve affect the Laboratory’s long-term planning of utilities?*
- *Does the proposed road connection conflict with the new wildlife preserve?*



Map VI-J3: Rio Grande Corridor Planning Area Summary Map



LEGEND

- |                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Experimental Science   | Electric Line 115 kV             |
| High Explosive Testing | Proposed Elec. Line 115 kV       |
| Non-DOE Property       | Long Range New or Improved Roads |
| Reserve                | New or Improved Roads            |
| Wildlife Preserve      |                                  |
| Planning Area          |                                  |
| Fair or Poor Buildings |                                  |

