

EIS

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Sent: Thursday, December 02, 2004 11:33 AM
To: kIRK.W.OWENS@saic.com
Subject: Data request information

Attachments: Biol Inforequest.doc



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forequest.doc (46 K)

Sorry, Kirk. I thought I had sent this on. Am still working on other questions.

Susan

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DATA REQUEST FOR LANL SUPPLEMENTAL SWEIS
Land Use, Visual Resources, Ecology, Cultural Resources
(11/22/04)

REQ. #	PARAMETER	ADDITIONAL NOTES	DOCUMENT/ PAGE NUMBER
E-1	What is the status of the Natural Resources Management Plan?	The referenced paragraph notes that preparation of the Natural Resources Management Plan has been halted; however, on p. 4-112 of the ID, under "Natural Resource Management Plan," it indicates that such a plan is under development.	ID, Section 4.5.1.6, page 4-111, Subsection "Changes since 1999"
There is no Natural Resources Management Plan, nor do we anticipate that one will be developed.			
E-2	Is any updated information available on habitat fragmentation?	It is noted in the referenced section that studies related to fragmentation are 15 years old.	ID, Section 4.5.2.1, page 4-115, Subsection "Habitat Fragmentation"
We will provide you with a copy of Muldavin, E. and S. Yanoff. 1999. Ecology-based biodiversity evaluation for Los Alamos National Laboratory: an integrated GIS spatial analysis and field assessment approach. LA-UR-99-5593. This document looked at habitat fragmentation in five canyon systems at LANL. I am not aware of any other recent work that has been done on habitat fragmentation.			
E-3	Has any information been developed relative to elk overpopulation and elk response to recent wildfires?	The referenced section notes that an interagency working group has been formed to explore problems and potential solution related to elk overpopulation and elk response to recent wildfires.	ID, Section 4.5.2.3, page 4-116, 3 rd paragraph of section
A doctoral student, Susan Rupp, is scheduled to finish her dissertation on elk and responses to fire this coming May. I am attaching two documents that summarize information LANL has collected on trends in elk abundance. A group called Seeking Common Ground was formed to discuss elk management issues in the Jemez Mountains; however I am not aware of any final product that resulted from the efforts of that group. I am including a brochure Seeking Common Ground produced on their effort.			
E-4	Will a new wetlands delineation study be	<i>[We understand that a new wetlands delineation has been</i>	

	undertaken? When will it be available?	<i>discussed; is there any more recent update?]</i>	
<p>We are currently preparing a purchase request to have 1:12000 aerial photography taken in June 2004 orthorectified to use for identification of potential wetland areas; we plan to conduct a wetlands inventory of LANL during spring and summer of 2005. We do not anticipate the results will be available until the fall of 2005 at the earliest.</p>			
E-5	Are specifics available as to the effects of the Cerro Grande Fire and post-fire work on wetlands? For example, how many acres were affected and how.	The referenced material notes that, "The Cerro Grande Fire changed some of the wetlands and drainage patterns around LANL, as did retention and weir structures affiliated with the CGF."	ID, Section 4.5.1.2, page 4-103, 5 th bullet
<p>Because LANL does not have current reliable information on wetland locations and boundaries, all statements about affected wetland areas are estimates only. During the Cerro Grande Fire, an estimated 16 ac (6.5 ha) of the wetlands identified were burned. All the affected wetlands suffered low or moderate burn severities. Additional riparian areas along the drainages burned during the fire; however, these are not wetlands and are not included in the total acres of wetland.</p> <p>Water retention structures built in drainages following Cerro Grande fire may develop wetland characteristics over time; however, with the ongoing drought, they have not been defined as wetlands to date.</p>			
E-6	What is the impact on wetlands of closing some outfalls and opening new ones? What information does Table 4.5.2-1 contain?	The referenced material notes that, "There are new outfalls and old ones that have been shut off." The referenced material further notes that Table 4.5.2-1 will be updated, but it is not clear what table is being referenced.	ID, Section 4.5.1.2, page 4-103, 6 th bullet
<p>The 2002 SWEIS Yearbook has an extensive description of outfalls at LANL and the outfall reduction program. The number of permitted outfalls has decreased from 66 in 1998 to 21 in 2002. Not all of these outfalls support or did support wetlands (for example, well heads have been permitted as outfalls, but water is released so infrequently there is no effect on vegetation). We have calculated bounding conditions on the maximum wetland loss resulting from the outfall reduction program. Of the 157 wetlands within the GIS coverage, 69 were selected as potentially dewatered due to eliminated outfalls. Complete loss of these 69 wetlands would represent a maximum loss of 6.84 acres (2.77 hectares) of wetlands. No field work has been done to determine actual wetland effects. We do not know of any wetlands created by new outfalls.</p>			
	What is the current estimate of wetland	The CMR EIS (DOE/EIS-0350) indicates that there are 27	CMR EIS, Section 3.7.2, page 3-35 (2 nd

	acreage on LANL?	wetlands totaling 77 acres; however, the ID gives a figure of 50 acres. What is the correct acreage?	paragraph of section) and ID, page 4-102, Section 4.5.1.2, 2 nd paragraph
Wetland information at LANL is not up-to-date—therefore we cannot provide a current estimate of wetland area.			
E-8	Two outfalls are expected to close between 2004 and 2009, how will this affect wetland acreage?	It is noted in the referenced section that 13 acres of wetlands are caused or enhanced by wastewater from 38 NPDES-permitted outfalls.	ID, Section 4.5.1.2, page 4-102, last paragraph
I could not find the reference to which two outfalls are expected to close in the information document. The laboratory has a long-term goal to reduce or eliminate discharges to the environment. Therefore all wetlands that are maintained or enhanced by outfall discharges could potentially experience some adverse effects in the future.			
E-9	Is the T&E Species Habitat Management Plan available?	The referenced section notes that a T&E Species Habitat Management Plan will be integrated into the Natural Resource Management Plan.	ID, Section 4.5.1.6, page 4-112, Subsection “Natural Resource Management Plan”
Parts of the Habitat Management Plan are sensitive information because they discuss the locations of T&E species, but parts of it are available. An overview document is available.			