



Risk Reduction & Environmental Stewardship Division
 Water Quality & Hydrology Group (RRES-WQH)
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Date: November 17, 2003
 Refer to: RRES-WQH: 03-237

Mr. Steve Yanicak
 New Mexico Environment Department
 NMED/DOE Oversight Bureau
 P.O. Box 1663, MS J993
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NMED/DOE/OB RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING CERRO GRANDE TREE THINNING PROJECT

Dear Mr. Yanicak:

As discussed at the meeting of September 23, 2003, with Laboratory and NMED/DOE Oversight Bureau staff, the Laboratory will conduct an assessment of all fuel mitigation and defensible space areas to determine if SWMUs were impacted during tree thinning operations. This assessment is being initiated in November, 2003, and a draft report will be issued by June, 2004.

The original plan was to use the Surface Water Assessment Team (SWAT) which includes NMED/DOE Oversight Bureau staff to evaluate erosion control requirements. However, at your request, we will proceed with our internal assessment and implement the appropriate erosion controls instead of using the SWAT process. A current map is enclosed indicating the areas where tree thinning was conducted by the Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project.

As discussed at the meeting of September 23, 2003, any future thinning activities will be conducted through Facilities and Waste Operations-Integrated Projects Group (FWO-IP) and will go through the institutional ESH-ID and Excavation Permit process to assure that these areas are fully evaluated for potential SWMU sites.

Please contact Mike Alexander at (505) 665-4752 or Kevin Buckley at (505) 667-1454 if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Steven Rae
 Group Leader
 Water Quality & Hydrology Group

General (SWMUs and AOCs impacted as a result of tree thinning Post Cerro Grande)



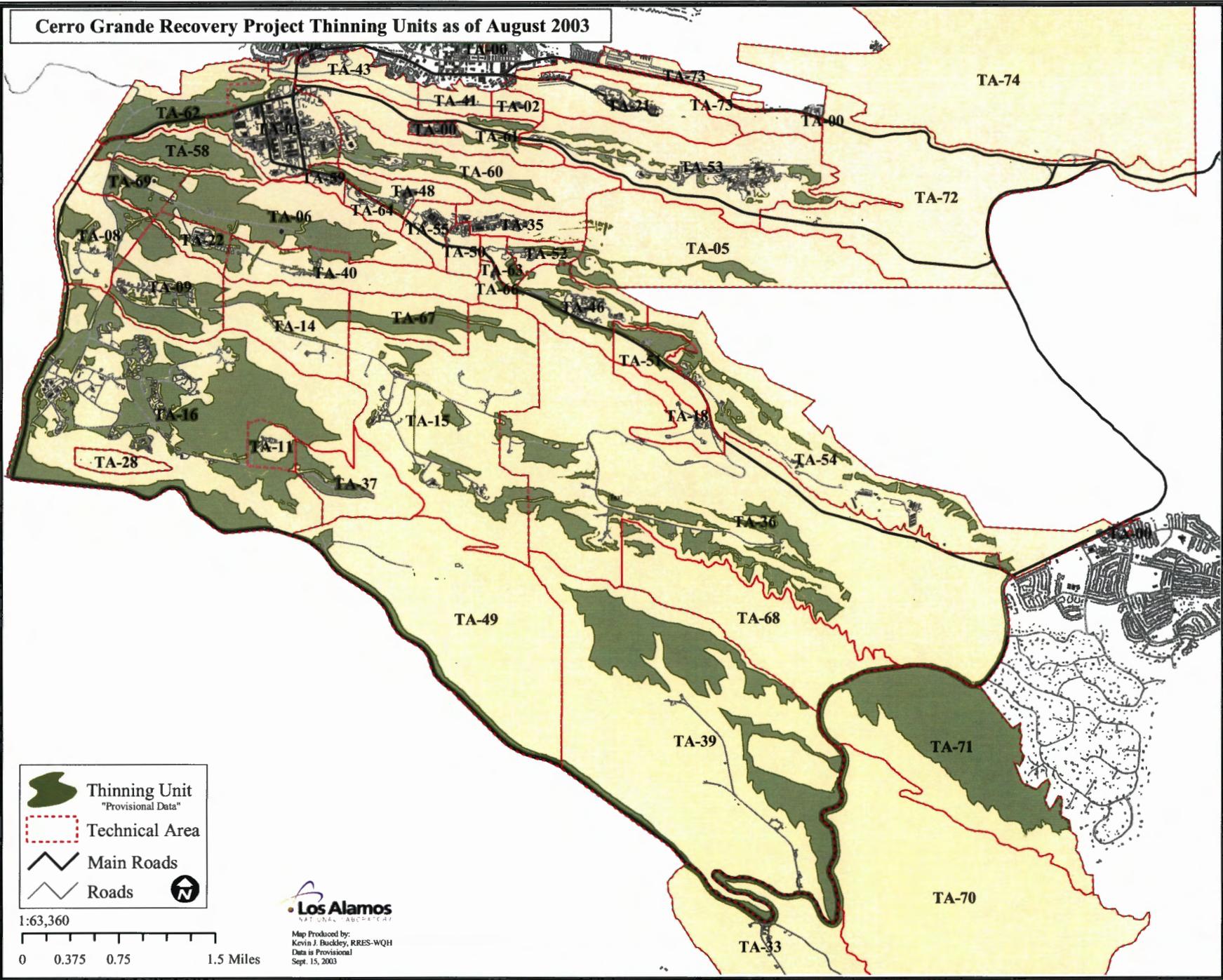
SR:MA/tml

Enclosures: a/s

Cy: Courte Voorhees, NMED/DOE/OB, Santa Fe, NM, w/enc.
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RRES-WQH File, w/enc., MS K497
IM-5, w/enc., MS A150



Cerro Grande Recovery Project Thinning Units as of August 2003



-  Thinning Unit
"Provisional Data"
-  Technical Area
-  Main Roads
-  Roads

1:63,360
 0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles

Los Alamos
 NATIONAL LABORATORY
 Map Produced by:
 Kevin J. Buckley, RRES-WQH
 Data is Provisional
 Sept. 15, 2003