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Title: Combined Watershed Posters

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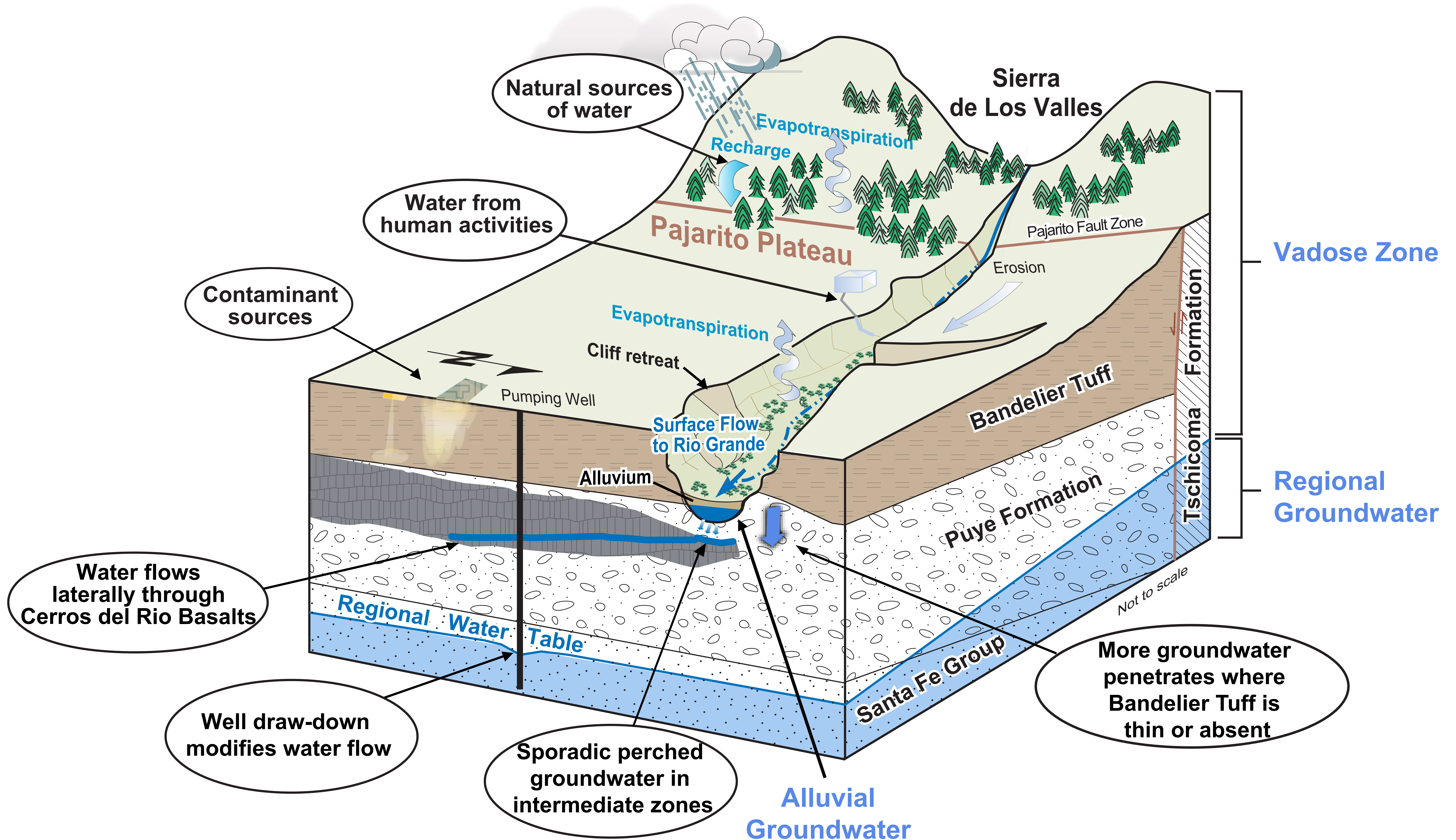
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Groundwater
Reading Room
Consent



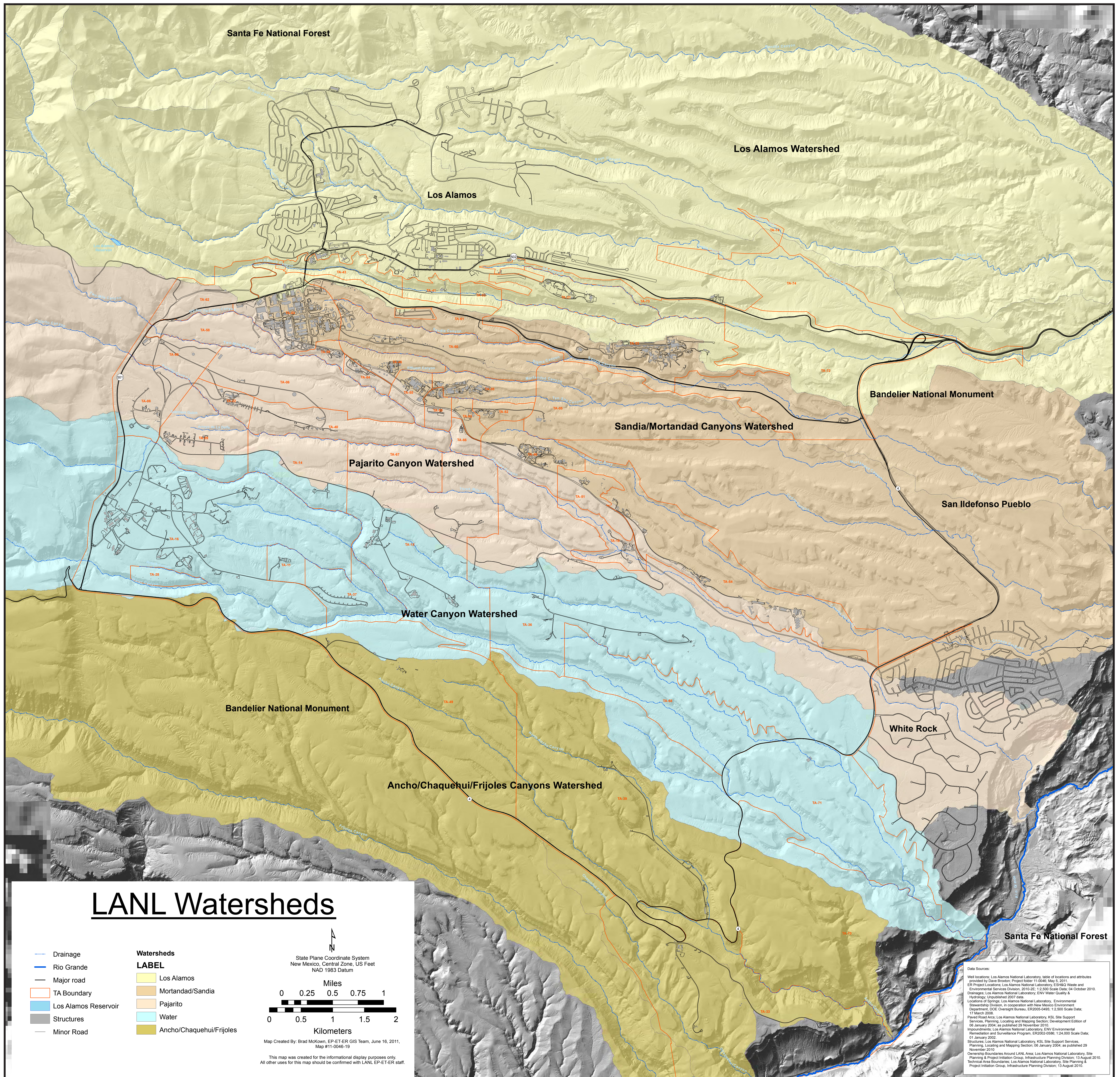
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Water Flow Model on the Pajarito Plateau Groundwater Zones



Los Alamos National Laboratory Watersheds



Los Alamos/Pueblo Canyon Watershed



Contaminant Transport:

- Storm water runoff
 - Very short-lived (generally less than 2-4 hours),
 - Sometimes extends to the Rio Grande.
 - Increased after the Cerro Grande fire in May 2000 and has substantially lessened
 - Sometimes contains low concentrations of contaminants
 - Risk within regulatory limits



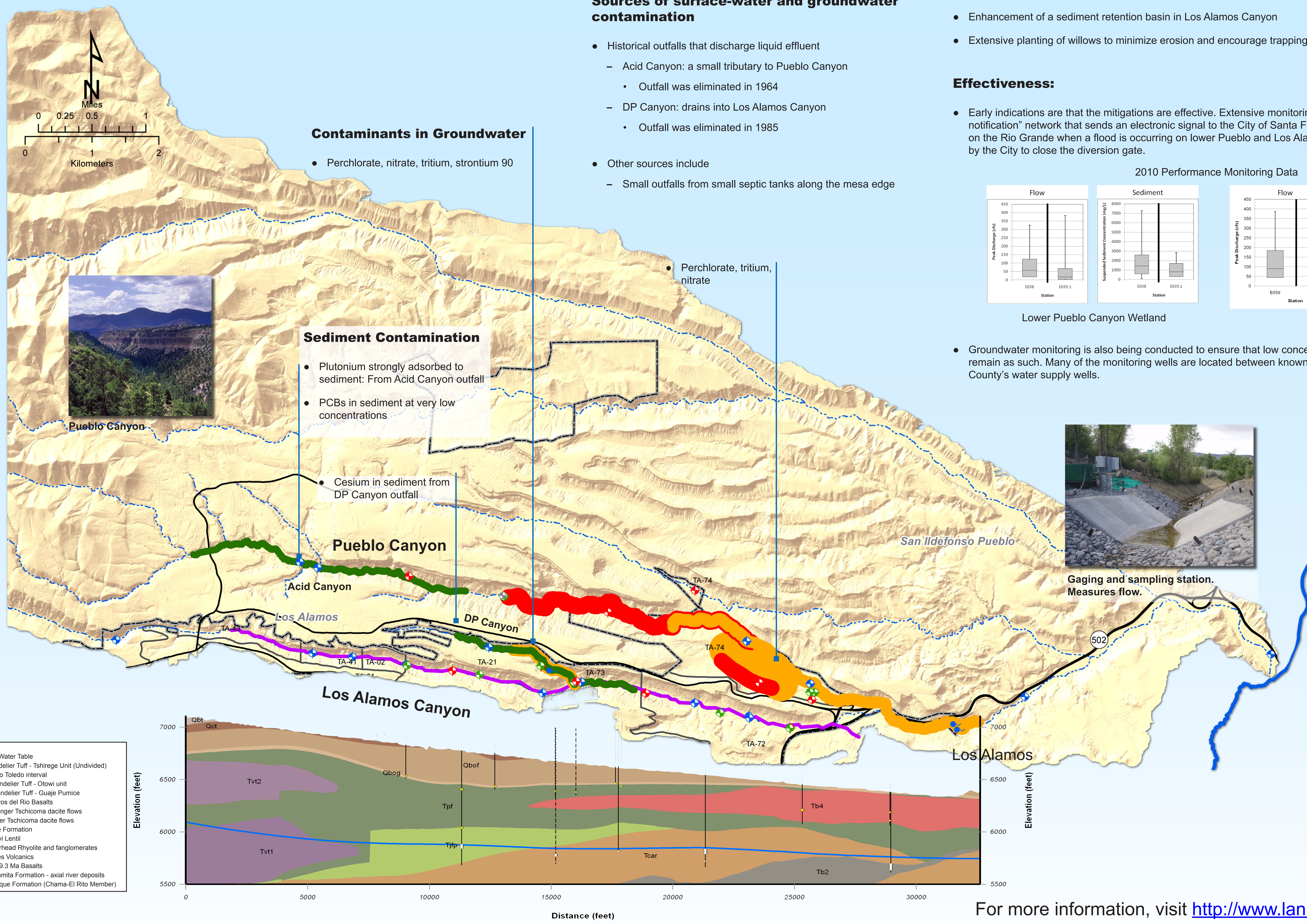
The retention basin in upper Los Alamos Canyon traps and settles sediment while allowing continued flow of storm water.

History of the Watershed

- Laboratory's earliest facilities starting in 1943
- Primary operations on the mesas surrounded by canyons
 - Plutonium processing
 - Uranium processing
 - Wastewater treatment facilities
 - Waste disposal (material disposal areas)



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Legend

- Regional Water Table
- Qbt - Bandelier Tuff - Tahirege Unit (Undivided)
- Qct - Cerro Toledo interval
- QBof - Bandelier Tuff - Otowi unit
- Qbog - Bandelier Tuff - Guaje Pumice
- Tb4 - Cerros del Rio Basalts
- Tvt2 - Younger Tschicoma dacite flows
- Tvt1 - Older Tschicoma dacite flows
- Tpf - Puye Formation
- Tpt - Totavi Lentil
- Tjfp - Bearhead Rhyolite and fanglomerates
- Tvk - Keres Volcanics
- Tb2 - 8.4-9.3 Ma Basalts
- Tcar - Chamita Formation - axial river deposits
- Ttc - Tesuque Formation (Chama-EI Rito Member)

Contaminant distribution

- Planned
- Alluvial
- Intermediate
- Regional
- Spring
- Alluvial
- Intermediate
- Regional
- Geologic cross-section extent
- Major road
- Rio Grande
- Watercourse
- LANL boundary
- TA boundary

Sources of surface-water and groundwater contamination

- Historical outfalls that discharge liquid effluent
 - Acid Canyon: a small tributary to Pueblo Canyon
 - Outfall was eliminated in 1964
 - DP Canyon: drains into Los Alamos Canyon
 - Outfall was eliminated in 1985
- Other sources include
 - Small outfalls from small septic tanks along the mesa edge

Contaminants in Groundwater

- Perchlorate, nitrate, tritium, strontium 90

- Perchlorate, tritium, nitrate

Sediment Contamination

- Plutonium strongly adsorbed to sediment: From Acid Canyon outfall
- PCBs in sediment at very low concentrations
- Cesium in sediment from DP Canyon outfall

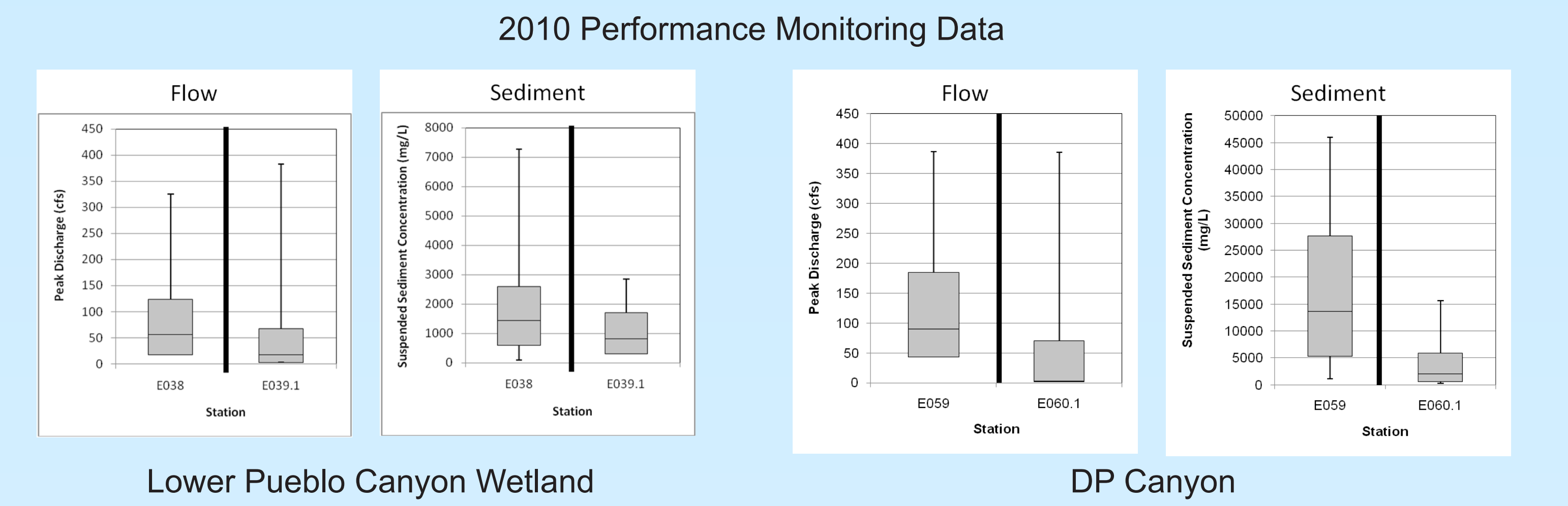
Controls/Mitigations/Monitoring

To address storm water transport of contaminated sediment, engineered and other practical mitigations were placed in the watershed in 2009 and 2010.

- Grade Control Structures in DP and Pueblo Canyons
- Enhancement of a sediment retention basin in Los Alamos Canyon
- Extensive planting of willows to minimize erosion and encourage trapping of sediment

Effectiveness:

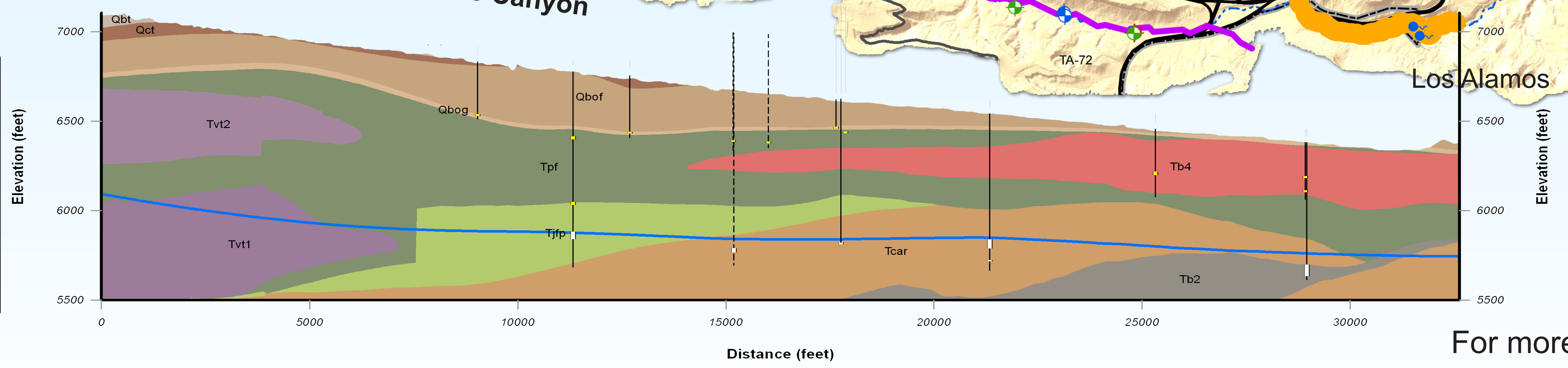
- Early indications are that the mitigations are effective. Extensive monitoring is underway and includes an "early-notification" network that sends an electronic signal to the City of Santa Fe's Buckman Direct Diversion project site on the Rio Grande when a flood is occurring on lower Pueblo and Los Alamos Canyons. This signal can be used by the City to close the diversion gate.



- Groundwater monitoring is also being conducted to ensure that low concentrations of groundwater contamination remain as such. Many of the monitoring wells are located between known areas of contamination and Los Alamos County's water supply wells.



Gaging and sampling station. Measures flow.



For more information, visit <http://www.lanl.gov/environment/h2o/>

Mortandad/Sandia Canyon Watershed



Contaminants in Groundwater

- Chromium, nitrate – present beneath Sandia and Mortandad watersheds
 - Sources: historical TA-03 power plant cooling towers
- Perchlorate, nitrate and tritium – beneath Mortandad watershed
 - Sources: Historical releases from the RLWTF outfall

Sediment contamination

Sandia Canyon

- Large portion of the original chromium inventory present in sediments within the Sandia Canyon wetland: From TA-03 power plant cooling towers
- PCBs in sediment within the Sandia Canyon wetland: From electrical transformer storage areas

Mortandad Canyon

- Strontium adsorbed to sediment and in shallow groundwater: From RLWTF outfall
- Radionuclides strongly adsorbed to sediment in Mortandad Canyon: From RLWTF outfall

History of the Watershed

Sandia Canyon

Primary operations on the mesas surrounded by canyons:

- Laboratory's utilities located near head of Sandia Canyon in TA-03 since early 1950s
- Sanitary wastewater treatment facility
- Former storage area for electrical transformers and capacitors

Mortandad Canyon

Primary operations on the mesas surrounded by canyons:

- Radioactive liquid waste treatment facilities at TA-35 (former) and TA-50 (current)
- Research laboratories, including chemistry and actinide research
- Waste Disposal (Material Disposal Area C)

Sources of contamination

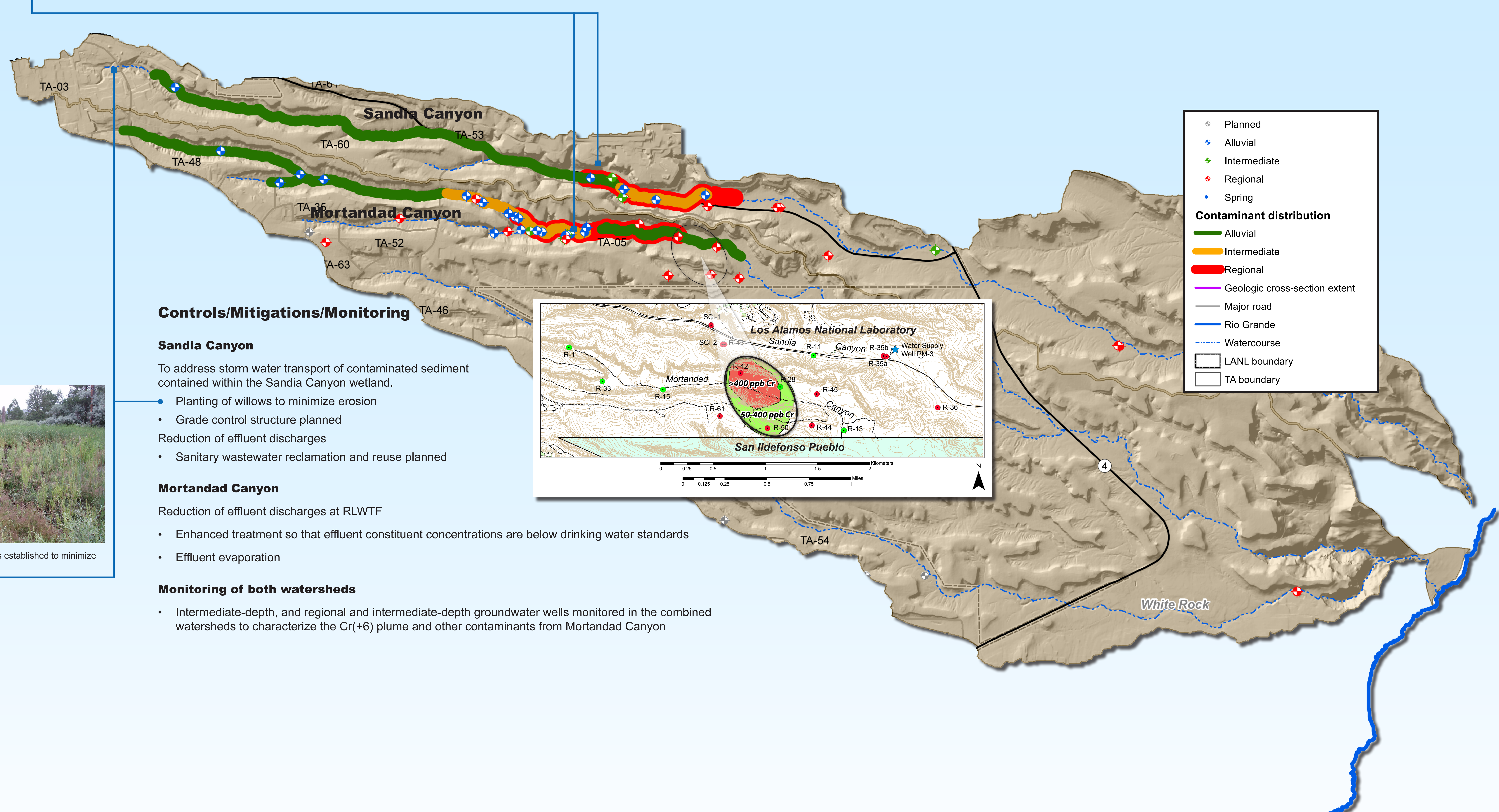
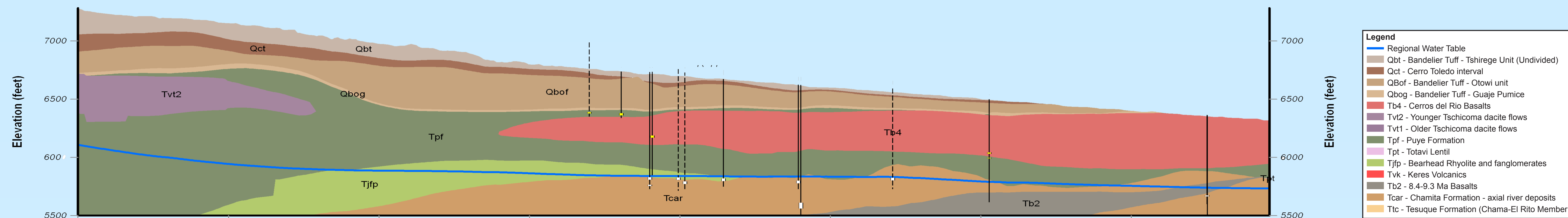
Historical outfalls that discharge liquid effluent to

- Sandia Canyon
 - Early 1950's to today –cooling towers and treated sanitary wastewater
 - TA-03 power plant cooling towers discharged Cr(+6) from 1956 to 1972, estimated mass is 69,000 to 160,000 lb
 - Currently receives liquid effluent from LANL's sanitary wastewater system, cooling towers and steam plant totaling > 200,000 gal/day
- Mortandad Canyon
 - 1963 to today – releases effluent from the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF)
 - Currently most wastewater is evaporated



Sandia wetland with willows established to minimize erosion.

Sandia Canyon Cross Section



Controls/Mitigations/Monitoring

Sandia Canyon

To address storm water transport of contaminated sediment contained within the Sandia Canyon wetland.

- Planting of willows to minimize erosion
- Grade control structure planned
- Reduction of effluent discharges
- Sanitary wastewater reclamation and reuse planned

Mortandad Canyon

Reduction of effluent discharges at RLWTF

- Enhanced treatment so that effluent constituent concentrations are below drinking water standards
- Effluent evaporation

Monitoring of both watersheds

- Intermediate-depth, and regional and intermediate-depth groundwater wells monitored in the combined watersheds to characterize the Cr(+6) plume and other contaminants from Mortandad Canyon



Los Alamos National Laboratory Watershed Aggregates



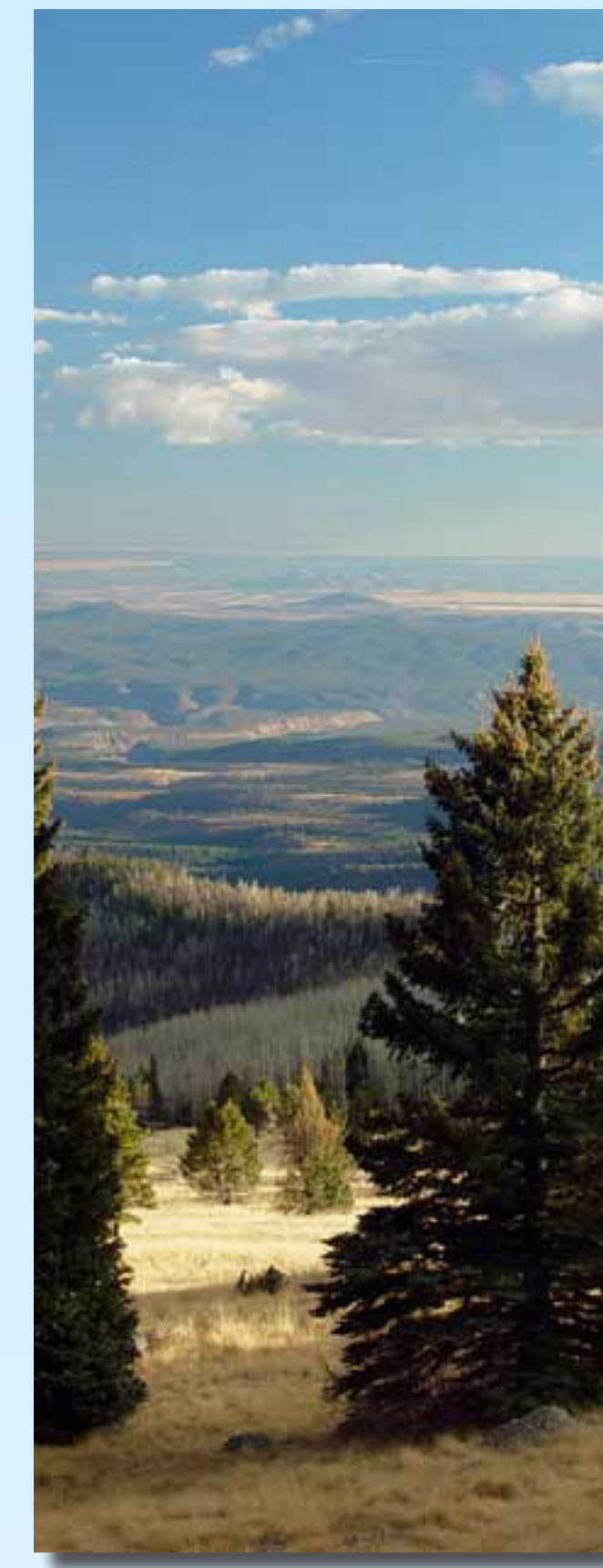
History of the Watershed

- Laboratory operations in watershed began in 1943 and include some of the earliest Manhattan Project experimental sites
- Laboratory operations occurred on mesas and on the canyon floor:
 - Development of explosives
 - Explosive firing sites
 - Radiochemistry laboratories
 - Nuclear criticality experiments
 - Waste Disposal (MDAs)
 - Wastewater treatment facilities

Pajarito Canyon Watershed



Area G looking eastward with Pajarito Canyon to the right.



View from top of Pajarito Canyon

Contamination in Groundwater

- Volatile organic compounds
 - Source is former vacuum repair shop
- Chloride and barium
 - Source may be related to application of road salts
- No definitive groundwater contamination from TA-54

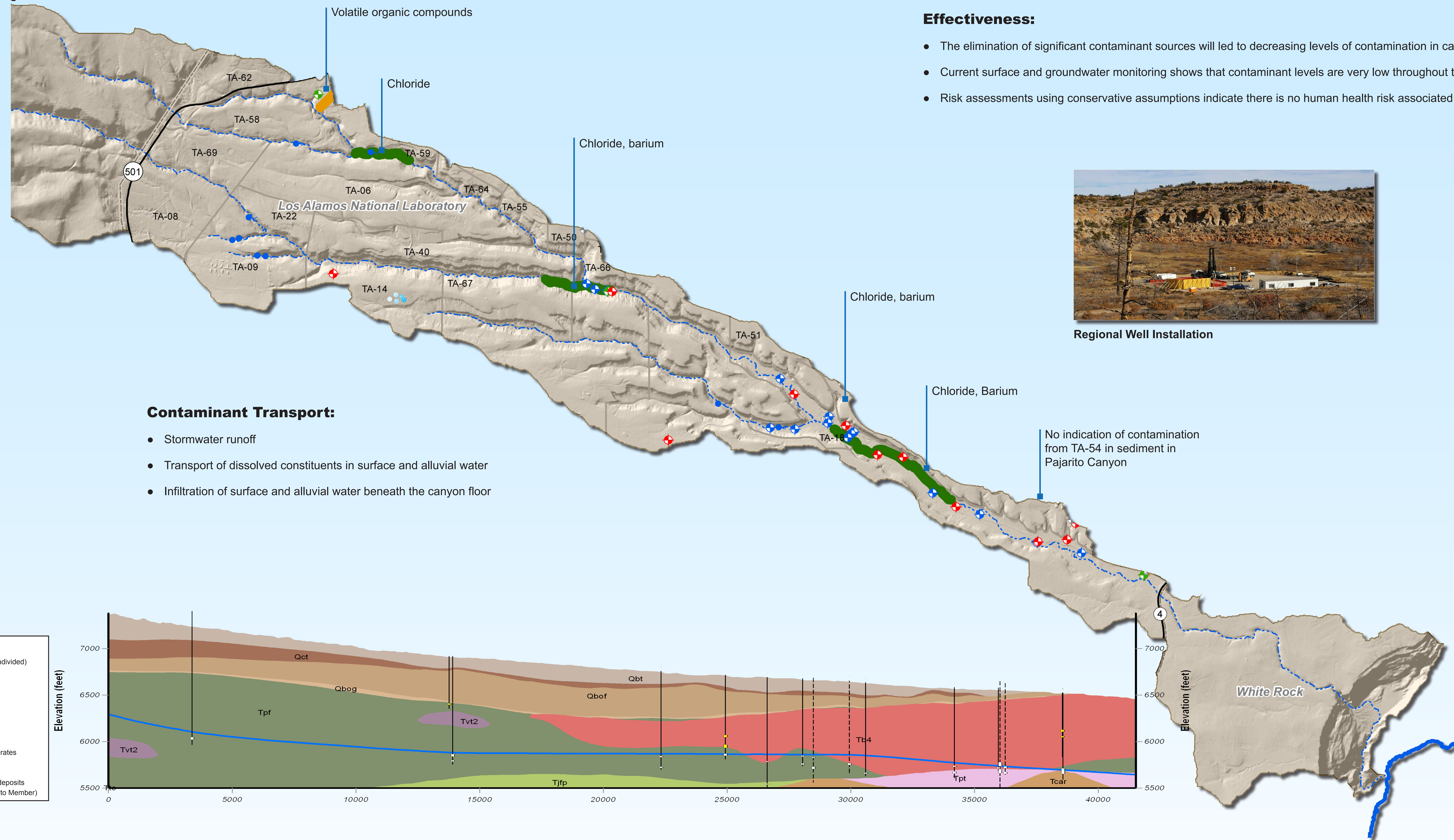
Controls/Mitigations/Monitoring

To address storm water transport of contaminated sediment, engineered and other practical mitigations were placed in the watershed in 2009 and 2010.

- Outfalls, septic systems, and surface releases primarily responsible for contaminants in surface water and groundwater are no longer active or have been eliminated
- Major facilities that were contaminant sources have been closed (e.g. TA-18)
- New monitoring wells have been installed throughout the watershed to monitor groundwater
- A flood-retention structure installed above TA-18 after the Cerro Grande fire traps sediment from the upper watershed

Effectiveness:

- The elimination of significant contaminant sources will lead to decreasing levels of contamination in canyon sediment and water over time
- Current surface and groundwater monitoring shows that contaminant levels are very low throughout the watershed
- Risk assessments using conservative assumptions indicate there is no human health risk associated with canyon sediment and water



Contaminant Transport:

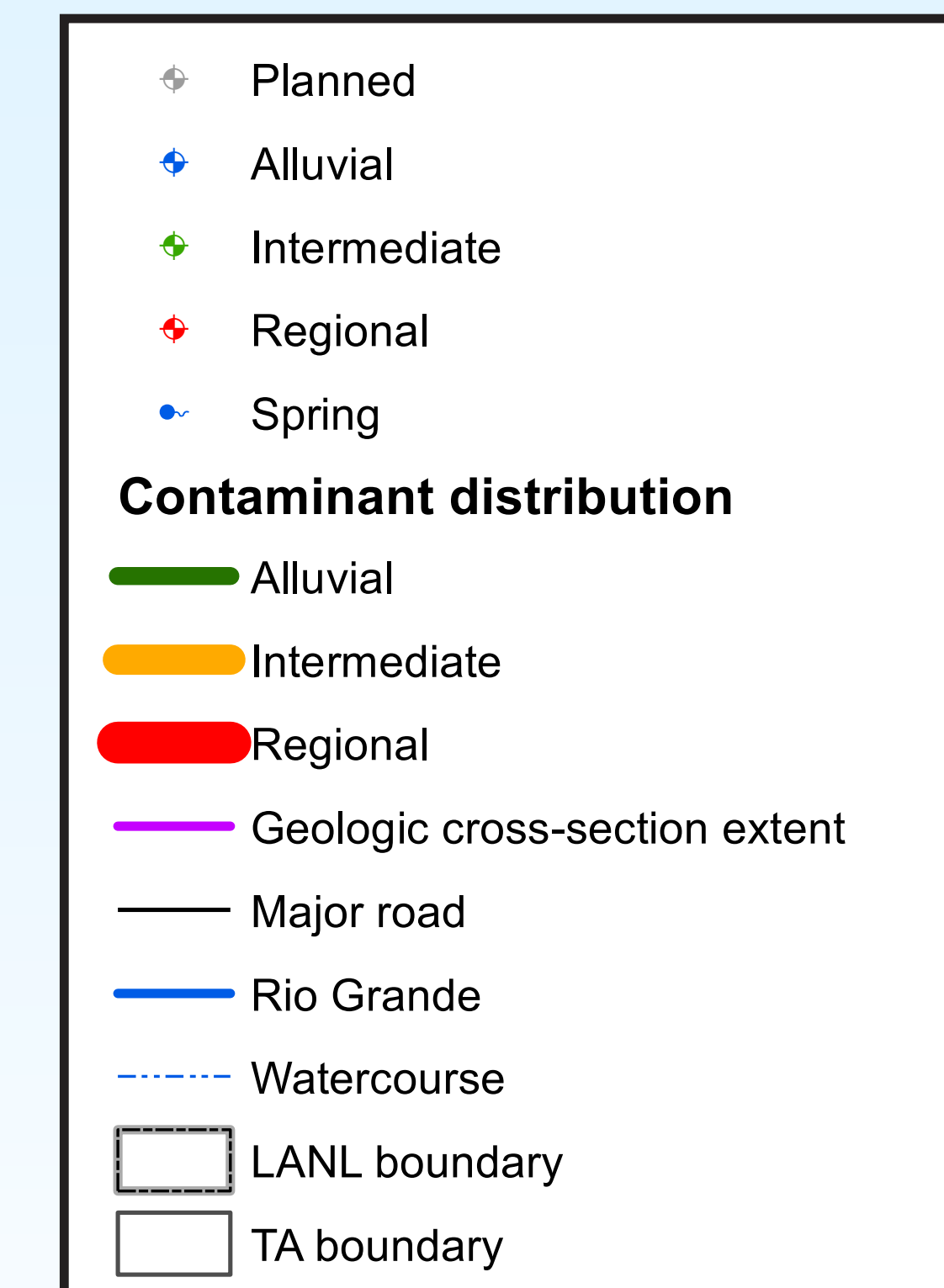
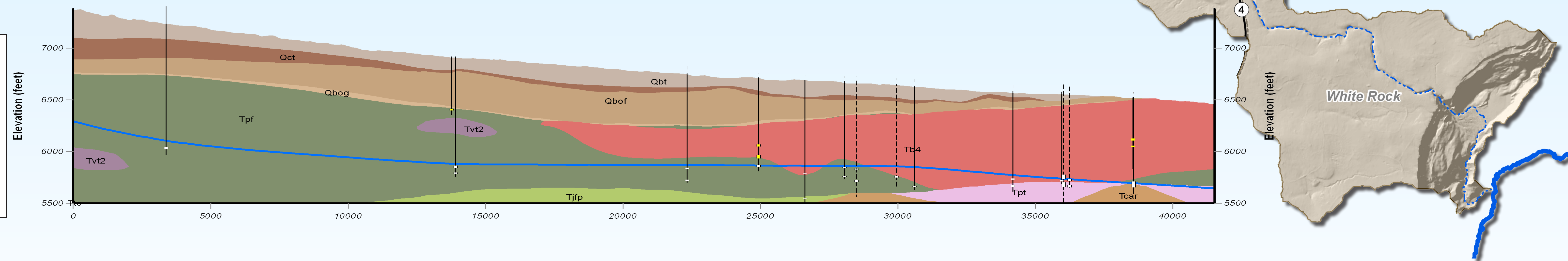
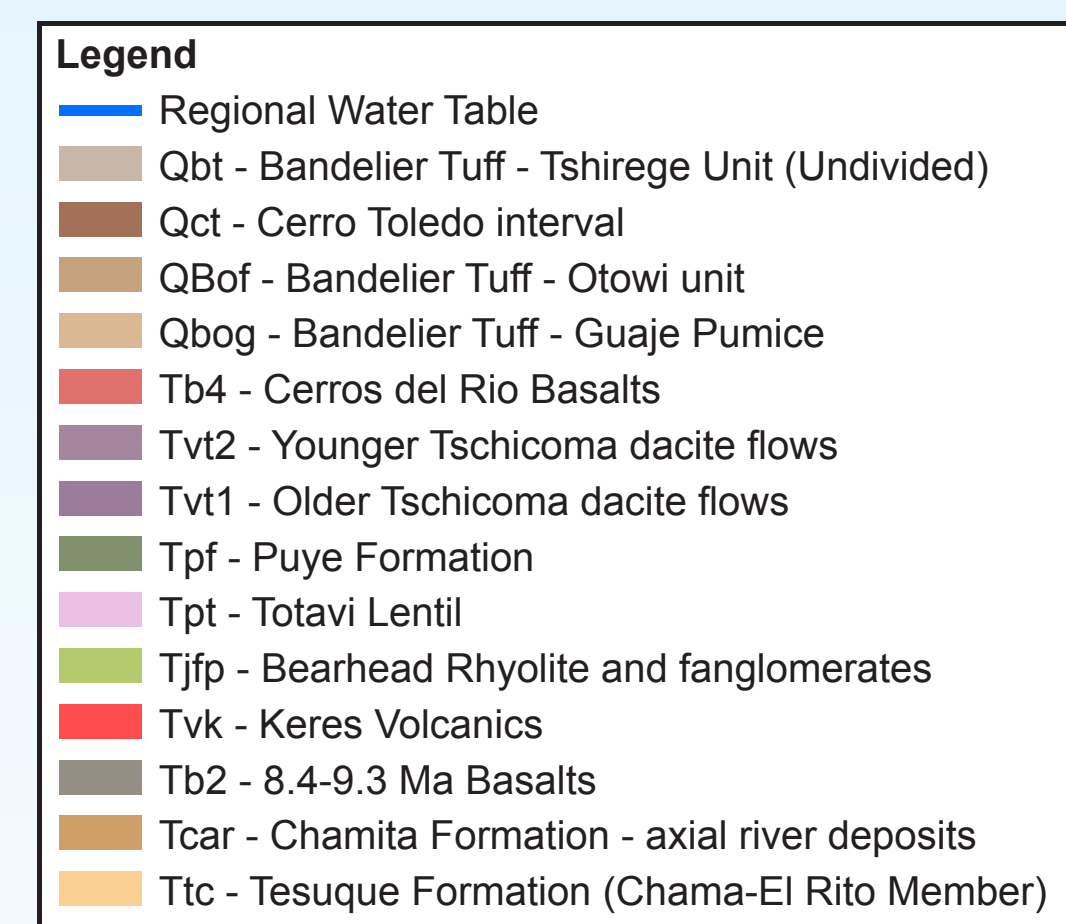
- Stormwater runoff
- Transport of dissolved constituents in surface and alluvial water
- Infiltration of surface and alluvial water beneath the canyon floor



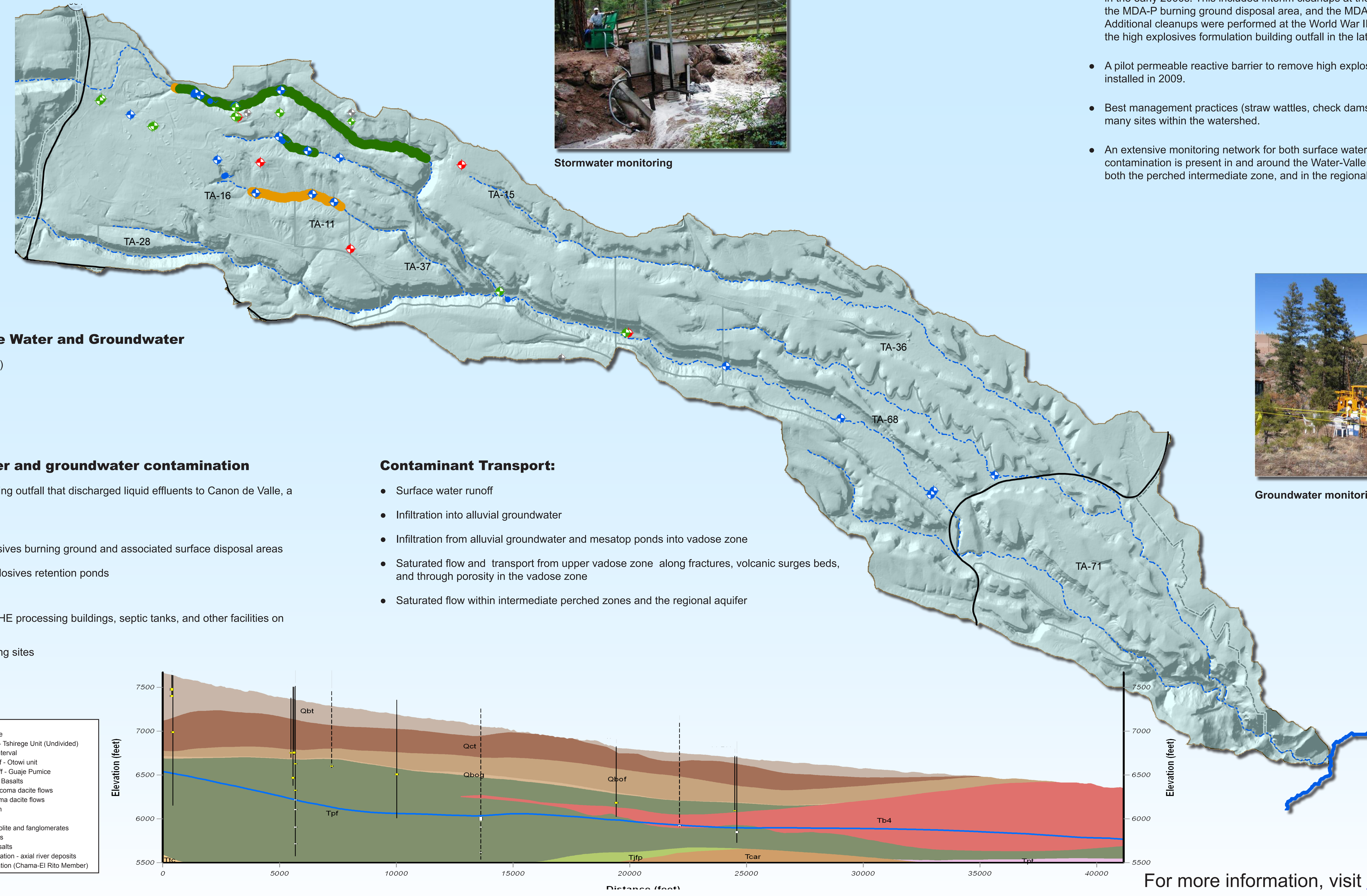
Regional Well Installation



Area G looking northwest. Pajarito Canyon on the left.



Water/Potrillo/Cañon de Valle/Fence/Indio Watershed



Controls/Mitigations/Monitoring

- Most of the major sources of high explosives and barium contamination were cleaned up in the early 2000s. This included interim cleanups at the TA-16-260 high explosive outfall, the MDA-P burning ground disposal area, and the MDA-R burning ground disposal area. Additional cleanups were performed at the World War II era machining building ponds and the high explosives formulation building outfall in the late 2000s.
- A pilot permeable reactive barrier to remove high explosives from alluvial groundwater was installed in 2009.
- Best management practices (straw wattles, check dams) are installed downgradient from many sites within the watershed.
- An extensive monitoring network for both surface water contamination and groundwater contamination is present in and around the Water-Valle watershed. This included wells in both the perched intermediate zone, and in the regional aquifer.

History of the Watershed

- High explosives processing and firing starting in 1944
- Primary operations on mesa tops
 - High explosives formulation, casting, pressing, and machining
 - High explosives burning (waste disposal)
 - Wastewater treatment
 - Firing site operations
 - Subsurface device testing

Contaminants in Surface Water and Groundwater

- High explosives (particularly RDX)
- Barium and boron
- Chlorinated solvents

Sources of surface-water and groundwater contamination

- Historical high explosives machining outfall that discharged liquid effluents to Canon de Valle, a tributary to Water Canyon
 - Outfall eliminated in 1996
- Runoff/infiltration from high explosives burning ground and associated surface disposal areas
- Infiltration from mesatop high explosives retention ponds
- Other sources may include
 - Numerous small outfalls from HE processing buildings, septic tanks, and other facilities on mesa edges
 - Runoff from high explosive firing sites

Contaminant Transport:

- Surface water runoff
- Infiltration into alluvial groundwater
- Infiltration from alluvial groundwater and mesatop ponds into vadose zone
- Saturated flow and transport from upper vadose zone along fractures, volcanic surge beds, and through porosity in the vadose zone
- Saturated flow within intermediate perched zones and the regional aquifer



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Sampling Results for Regional Aquifer and Intermediate Groundwater

Analytes tested for

Group	Parameter	Code	Group	Parameter	Code
Dioxin, Furan	Heptachlorodioxin(2,3,4,6,7,8)	PCB-141	Semi-Volatile Organic Analytes (SVOCs)	Acetophenone	PCB-65PCB-61
	Heptachlorodioxin(2,3,4,6,8)	PCB-142		Acrylonitrile	PCB-66
	Heptachlorodioxin(2,3,4,7,8)	PCB-143		Acrylonitrile	PCB-67
	Heptachlorodioxin(2,3,4,7,8)	PCB-144		Acrylonitrile	PCB-68
	Heptachlorodioxin(2,3,4,7,8)	PCB-145		Acrylonitrile	PCB-69
	Heptachlorodioxin(2,3,4,7,8)	PCB-146		Acrylonitrile	PCB-70
	Heptachlorodioxin(2,3,4,7,8)	PCB-147		Acrylonitrile	PCB-71
	Heptachlorodioxin(2,3,4,7,8)	PCB-148		Acrylonitrile	PCB-72
	Heptachlorodioxin(2,3,4,7,8)	PCB-149		Acrylonitrile	PCB-73
	Heptachlorodioxin(2,3,4,7,8)	PCB-150		Acrylonitrile	PCB-74
Metals	Aluminum	PCB-151	Volatile Organic Analytes	Acetone	PCB-75
	Antimony	PCB-152		Acetone	PCB-76
	Arsenic	PCB-153		Acetone	PCB-77
	Boron	PCB-154		Acetone	PCB-78
	Barium	PCB-155		Acetone	PCB-79
	Beryllium	PCB-156		Acetone	PCB-80
	Bismuth	PCB-157		Acetone	PCB-81
	Bromine	PCB-158		Acetone	PCB-82
	Calcium	PCB-159		Acetone	PCB-83
	Chromium	PCB-160		Acetone	PCB-84
General Inorganic	Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons Clear Range Organics	PCB-161	General Inorganic Chemistry	Chloride	PCB-85
	Aluminum	PCB-162		Chloride	PCB-86
	Arsenic	PCB-163		Chloride	PCB-87
	Boron	PCB-164		Chloride	PCB-88
	Barium	PCB-165		Chloride	PCB-89
	Beryllium	PCB-166		Chloride	PCB-90
	Bismuth	PCB-167		Chloride	PCB-91
	Bromine	PCB-168		Chloride	PCB-92
	Calcium	PCB-169		Chloride	PCB-93
	Chromium	PCB-170		Chloride	PCB-94

Analytes above a screening level

Analytes above a regulatory level

