

**From:** [Chuck Hathcock](#)  
**To:** [Imler-Jacquez, Sandra R -FS](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on the Encino Vista project #54965  
**Date:** Monday, December 2, 2019 8:42:51 AM

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Hi Sandra,

Please accept my comments below for the Encino Vista Landscape Restoration Project # 54965. Thanks!

Hello,

My name is Chuck Hathcock and I am a wildlife biologist in the Jemez and I also own property and live along the Rio Puerco just downstream of this project's boundary between Youngsville and Coyote. Overall I support this project and agree that this restoration needs to be completed before a stand-replacing wildfire hits this area. I have some comments for you to consider.

--You addressed owl habitat thoroughly, thank you.

--The use of goats is mentioned once as a means to control Gambel oak on page 10. Goats can be very destructive, you should detail the proposed use of goats and how you'll mitigate the impacts to other plant species on the landscape from the goats.

--You do not mention the Jemez Mountains salamander. While the project boundary looks to be just outside of designated critical habitat on the southern edge, this area is still within the salamander's historic range. You should have some considerations for salamander habitat along the boundary with the VCNP and just west of there.

--You do not mention any compliance requirements for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. You should have some mention of this federal law and have best management practices that can help mitigate impacts to migratory birds. The primary impact would be from active nest destruction, so having some guidelines to prioritize tree and shrub removals outside of the peak bird nesting season would be appropriate.

--You do not mention removing non-native species. Areas along the Rio Puerco are choked closed with Russian olive and to a lesser extent salt cedar. You mention this and other watercourses in the background and mention that they are at risk, but I don't see any treatments listed for riparian health improvement. Consider adding treatment options that include non-native tree removals.

--Lastly, why is the northern goshawk the only RFSS species mentioned? Others could be impacted by this work as well such as the boreal owl, pale Townsend's bid-eared bat, spotted bat, water and masked shrews, and several plant species.

Thanks for your consideration.