

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 7/11/2019 4:51:01 PM

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Comments:

Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

I've attended one of your presentations, and felt like your staff did a good job fielding questions and keeping the focus on the broader concept that you're proposing. We're a tough group, "the public", and I applaud everyone's willingness to listen and answer questions.

My question at the meeting was in reference to the riparian treatments. I work in those systems, have trapped and relocated beaver into a variety of habitats and situations, and I feel like the reason for failure is almost always grazing and habitat depletion. Beaver will cultivate water if you give them half a chance. On my property it's the elk, but as we are learning here in the southwest it's often livestock. In almost every case where we have had success, the how and where to fence was key. You cannot count on riders or the promise of the grazer to move the cattle or horses, cuz it doesn't happen. Valle Vidal may be the exception, but in my mind's-eye that too isn't working perfectly.

So please, get informed as to what works and what doesn't, allow the beaver to grow the habitat without competing, or make wolf a part of your plan to balance things out (I know, I know, pipe dream).

Good luck, and thank you all for your effort.

John David Blagg