

NM Strategicplan**From:** Aaron Chavez [achavez@sjwc.org]**Sent:** Fri 7/15/2005 1:27 PM**To:** NM Strategicplan**Cc:****Subject:** Form posted from Microsoft Internet Explorer.**Attachments:**

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General_Comments= Concerns of the San Juan Water Commission Regarding
the Draft NewMexico Statewide Policy and Strategic Plan for Non-Native
Phreatophyte/Watershed Management

- 1) In the first paragraph of the Executive Summary and throughout the Draft Watershed Plan statements are made that, "tamarisk's have a reputation for consuming more water than native species".

The San Juan Water Commission would like to see scientific proof before such a statement is made. We believe native plant species may consume as much or more than non-native species. Possible revisions need to be made until scientific proof justifies a statement.

- 2) In the first paragraph of Revegetation and Rehabilitation Templates and Protocols a statement is made "For the purpose of this document, revegetation refers to the restoration of vegetation to a site. This is not confined to native vegetation and may occur naturally through regeneration or through induced means. Rehabilitation is ... making the land useful again after a disturbance. It involves the recovery of ecosystem functions and processes in a degraded habitat. Rehabilitation does not necessarily reestablish the pre-disturbance condition, but does involve establishing geological and hydrologically stable landscapes that support the natural ecosystem mosaic."

The statement that restoration is not confined to native vegetation is somewhat disingenuous. The San Juan Water Commission believes planting grasses and trees other than native plants may be just as harmful or water thirsty as the Salt Cedars and Russian Olives.

- 3) On page 25, second paragraph, "For New Mexico, this objective is the return of riparian areas to healthy productive state".

High concentrations of Russian Olive and Salt Cedar groves may be

designated as low grade firewood areas; in addition, the wood harvested might be used for pulp and fiber products that can result in economic benefits. Russian Olives and Salt Cedar benefit the riparian area by bank stabilization, wind breaks and can provide an excellent habitat for wildlife. Also, Russian Olive is a productive species in that it provides food for bird species including small and large mammals.

Additional Comment

The Willow and Cottonwood groves are shrinking, currently Salt Cedar and Russian Olives are displacing these areas. Our landscape is changing due to climate cycle and the evolution of the new riparian area being formed by Salt Cedar and Russian Olives which do provide habitat for different fauna.

Recommendations_Comments=
Implementation_Comments=
Templates_Comments=