I work on a variety of Mexican Spotted Owl projects for the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, a non-profit located in Colorado that is committed to avian conservation throughout the West and Central Great Plains. My concerns about this project are primarily related to the impact of project activities on threatened and endangered avian species, such as Mexican Spotted Owls. I do understand that vegetation management projects such as this have an important place in our public landscapes. Decades of fire suppression policy have led to an abundance of fuels in some areas and reduction of said fuels is paramount to the health and safety of both public and private landowners and users. In fact, one of the greatest threats to habitat for Mexican Spotted Owls is high severity, large scale wildfires, while low intensity fires may be a benefit to the owl’s habitat. When it comes to Mexican Spotted Owls, Colorado is the most under-surveyed state within the species’ range. There is a significant amount of Mexican Spotted Owl habitat within the project area, including areas that are slated for burning and mechanical thinning. Since full-scale surveys for this federally threatened species have been not conducted recently, it would be difficult to gauge the effect of this project on their nesting success, for example. While this project may provide a net benefit for Mexican Spotted Owls and their habitat over time, vegetation treatments conducted during the breeding season are at high risk of adversely affecting individual owls that may be nesting in the area.