

Find and fix

What to fix	Change to	Why
Affect vs. effect	The effect; was affected by	Use “affect” as a verb and “effect” as a noun
the BEMP Program	BEMP	The P stands for program, so the BEMP program is redundant
Bosque Environmental Management Project (for example)		Always look up the proper name of the program, for any program. Acronyms are specific.
Bosque	bosque	“bosque” = “forest” and is not capitalized unless part of the proper name “Middle Rio Grande Bosque”
Citations – lacking	Proper citations	EACH sentence with borrowed information HAS to be cited
Citations – indirect		Cite the paper <i>you</i> read, not the paper that was cited in the source you read. Also, read the paper, not just the abstract
Cochiti Damn, damns	Cochiti Dam, dams	“damn” is the swear word; “dam” is the structure
Cottonwood, Russian Olive (for example)	cottonwood, Russian olive	Do not capitalize common names of plants, or any animals except birds
cotton wood	cottonwood	One word
data is (This data is...)	These data are/were/show	The word “data” is plural. “Datum” is singular.
Dryer	Drier	“Dryer” is the machine, “drier” is not as wet.
e.g. vs. i.e.	e.g., i.e.,	“e.g.” is “for example” and does <i>not</i> include everything. “i.e.” is “that is” or the complete list of examples
et al et. al et. al. et all.	et al.	“et al.” stands for “and others” where “others” is abbreviated, hence the period
Grams or g	g/m ² or g/m ^{^2}	Litterfall is weighed to the nearest .1 g, but the data online are in g/m ² to account for the area of collection
However ...	In spite of this... or Although... or something similar	“However” at the beginning of a sentence typically means “in whatever manner” not “although”
Hypothesis was proven/disproven	Hypothesis was supported or rejected	You test your hypothesis, but you do not prove your hypothesis, especially in one experiment or paper
instillation	installation	Jetty jacks were installed (put in place), not instilled
invasive	Exotic vs. native	Be clear on native vs. exotic, as either can be invasive
Jetty Jacks	jetty jacks or Kellner jetty jacks	Not capitalized, although “Kellner” is the proper name and is capitalized

Levies	levees	Levy (levies) is the tax; levee (levees) is the flood-control structure
Litter fall	Litterfall	We use "litterfall" as one word. You can also use "leaf fall." Keep in mind that litterfall refers to leaves, wood and reproductive parts, and not just the leaves.
NM, UNM, USFWS, ...	New Mexico, University of New Mexico, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, ...	Acronyms have to be spelled out in full the first time you use them in text. Provide the acronym in parentheses next to the full title (or vice versa) to then use the acronym in the rest of the paper.
Margins	1 inch	Not 1.25"
middle Rio Grande	Middle Rio Grande	Cochiti Dam to Elephant Butte is not the middle of the Rio Grande; Middle Rio Grande is the proper name of this area
North, East ...	north, east, south, west	Do not capitalize directions unless it is the name of a region (e.g., the Southwest)
Paragraph format	Use either indentation or space between paragraphs, not both	Effective use of space
Punctuation then citation	Citation (or end quote, citation) then punctuation.	Punctuation goes outside the citation. Quotes go before the citation. If the citation is at the beginning of the sentence, then the punctuation can go inside the quotation marks
references	Author last name, first. Year. → title of article. Source.	list in alphabetical order; first line is not indented, subsequent lines are indented within each reference; each reference is single-spaced, double-space between references
Rio Grande River	Rio Grande	"rio" = "river" (Rio Grande River is redundant)
Salt cedar	saltcedar	One word (not a true cedar)
significant	Noticeable, notable, important, relatively large, ...	In your paper, try to use "significant" if you are testing for statistical significance
Ssp vs. spp.		"ssp." is subspecies; "spp." is more than one species within a genus
Then, than		"Then" refers to time or "if/then" statements. "Than" is used for a comparison
5 wells, 10 tubs, 2 rain gauges	Five wells, ten tubs, two rain gauges	Unless part of a measurement, spell out words ten and under