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RESOLUTION 2016-06

**Board of County Commissioners Support for the Cimarron
Watershed Alliance FY2016 Collaborative Forest Restoration
Program Grant Application**

WHEREAS, the Cimarron Watershed Alliance is applying for a grant from the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program to fund the project, Planning: Collaborative Restoration of Frequent Fire Ecosystems in the Ponil Creek Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the focus of this project is completion of a forest stand assessment and NEPA analysis of the Carson National Forest Valle Vidal Unit and the Elliott Barker State Wildlife Area which will allow for future forest fuel treatments; and

WHEREAS, future restoration treatments will help prevent large, high-intensity wildfires and provide small diameter timber which is in demand by Colfax County's forest products industry; and

WHEREAS, the growth of the forest products industry in Colfax County is dependent on access to more small diameter timber from public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Colfax County Commission is committed to reducing the threat of wildfire throughout Colfax County and increasing economic opportunity for its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Colfax County Commission believes that this project will benefit all residents of and visitors to Colfax County by restoring more natural conditions within the Ponil Creek Watershed, reducing the possibility of catastrophic wildfire, and increasing the availability of small diameter timber.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colfax County Board of Commissioners hereby supports the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's application for a Collaborative Forest Restoration Program grant and is furthermore committed to participate in the planning and monitoring process for the life of the project.

APPROVED IN OPEN MEETING THIS 12TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2016.

COLFAX COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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JAMES L. NEWTON, VICE-CHAIRMAN

ROY P. FERNANDEZ, MEMBER

ATTEST:

Rebecca D. Hoy

REBECCA D. HOY, CLERK OF THE BOARD



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

REVISION: Planning: Collaborative Restoration of Frequent Fire Ecosystems in the Ponil Creek Watershed

Executive Summary:

The Cimarron Watershed Alliance (CWA) is requesting funds from the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) to complete a forest stand exam and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of 64,528 acres in the Ponil Creek Watershed, Colfax County, New Mexico. The planning area includes the eastern half of the Valle Vidal Unit of Carson National Forest and the entire Elliott Barker Wildlife Area (EBWA). Ponderosa pine and dry, mixed-conifer are the dominant forest types. Nine young adults working for Philmont Scout Ranch will receive professional training in forest measurements and monitoring. The project also includes forest restoration education for more than 3,000 visitors to Philmont, the Valle Vidal, and the EBWA annually.

The planning area includes all of the public land in this multijurisdictional watershed. The stand exam and NEPA analysis will remove the major barriers to the restoration of this landscape. The project partners are committed to the future implementation of effective fuel treatments, expanded use of prescribed fire, job training, and small diameter timber utilization. This project will protect and leverage existing investments made throughout the watershed and region by the CWA, public land managers, neighboring private landholders, local educators, conservation groups, and the forest product industry.

Timeline:

Fall 2016 – Summer 2019

Project Partners:

US Forest Service, Carson National Forest, Questa Ranger District (USFS, CNF, QRD), NM Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF), Cimarron Watershed Alliance (CWA), Habitat Management, Inc. (HMI), Philmont Scout Ranch (PSR), NM Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute (NMFWRJ), Forest Guild (FG), NM State Forestry Division (NMSFD), Silver Dollar Racing & Shavings (SDRS), Valle Vidal Grazing Association, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Vermejo Park Ranch (VPR), CS Ranch, Chase Ranch Foundation, Kimberlin Ponil Ranch, Colfax County Commissioners, Village of Cimarron, Town of Springer.

Project Manager:

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Assistant Project Manager:

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Planning: Collaborative Restoration of Frequent Fire Ecosystems in the Ponil Creek Watershed - Project Location Map

CFRP Planning Area - 64,528 acres

USFS - 58,954 acres

NMDGF - 5,574 acres

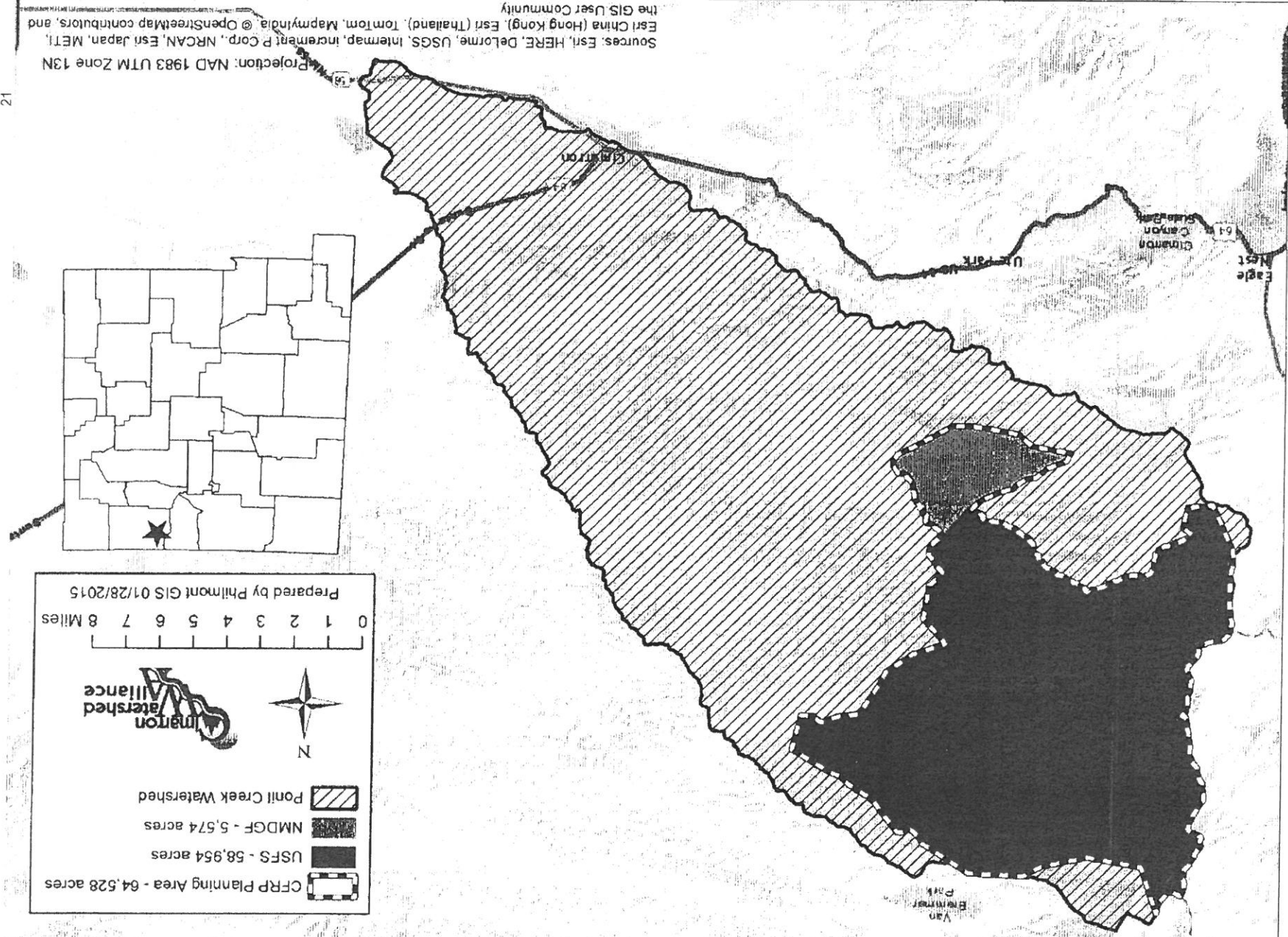
Ponil Creek Watershed

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0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Miles

Prepared by Philmont GIS 01/28/2015



Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N
Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community