

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I
FY 2018

Restoration Planning for Improved Water Quality and Quantity in the Cimarron Watershed, New Mexico

Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-18-F005

Applicant: Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc.
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Technical Proposal

Executive Summary

January 31, 2018
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
Cimarron, Colfax County, New Mexico

As with the West in general and New Mexico in particular, climate change has exacerbated the water challenges of the Cimarron River Watershed. Addressing these challenges will require a well-organized collaborative effort to enhance and stretch available water supplies to meet a variety of needs in times of abundant precipitation and during drought. The goal of this project is to sustainably enhance the function of the Cimarron Watershed for the benefit of a broad variety of values supported by the river and its tributaries. This WaterSMART project intends to expand on previous planning efforts by the Cimarron Watershed Alliance by identifying – through extensive engagement with Cimarron stakeholders - specific on-the-ground projects that address water quality and quantity issues, and moving these projects towards implementation. In addition, projects will be focused not only on delivering short term water benefits, but on ensuring the long term durability of projects and their benefits. Stakeholder outreach and consensus will be absolutely integral to the success of this grant; we are confident we can mobilize Cimarron stakeholders behind this effort, and that enhanced watershed function will improve water quality and quantity, promising positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses, and outdoor recreationists who depend so heavily on the Cimarron River basin.

The project will begin once the Cimarron Watershed Alliance has passed all pre-award reviews and clearances between August and October of 2018, depending upon award of the financial assistance agreement. The project will be completed two years after the award date in 2020.

The proposed project is not located on a Federal facility.

Background Data

The Cimarron River is a Canadian River tributary originating in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of north-central New Mexico and flowing eastward to its confluence with the Canadian. The watershed lies entirely within Colfax County and is 1,032 square miles. Several important tributaries feed the Cimarron, including Rayado and Ponil Creeks. Cieneguilla and Moreno Creeks flow into Eagle Nest Lake, which impounds the Cimarron for managed delivery to ranches and municipalities downstream. Elevations in the watershed range from 12,000 feet to

just less than 6,000 feet at the Cimarron/Canadian River confluence near Springer, New Mexico.

The upper reaches of the watershed are mountainous and forested, often receiving over 300 inches of snowfall during the winter. Terrain is much flatter where the Cimarron meets the Great Plains near Springer. Though generally drier than the higher elevations, the lower Cimarron Watershed experiences brief episodes of very heavy precipitation, particularly during the summer monsoon season.

Land ownership in the Cimarron Watershed is primarily private, with ranching as the predominant land use. Agriculturalists are the primary water consumers, both directly and through irrigation of hay and feed cropping. The Cimarron River also supports important municipal and/or domestic water use in the towns of Angel Fire, Eagle Nest, Cimarron, Raton, and Springer.

Both the Carson National Forest and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) own and manage the portions of land in the upper watershed (Figure 1). A small area of state-owned lands, located in the southern part of the watershed, is managed by the New Mexico State Land Office. Cimarron Canyon State Park is owned by the NMDGF and managed by the New Mexico State Parks Division, as is Eagle Nest Lake State Park located in the Moreno Valley within the Cimarron Watershed.

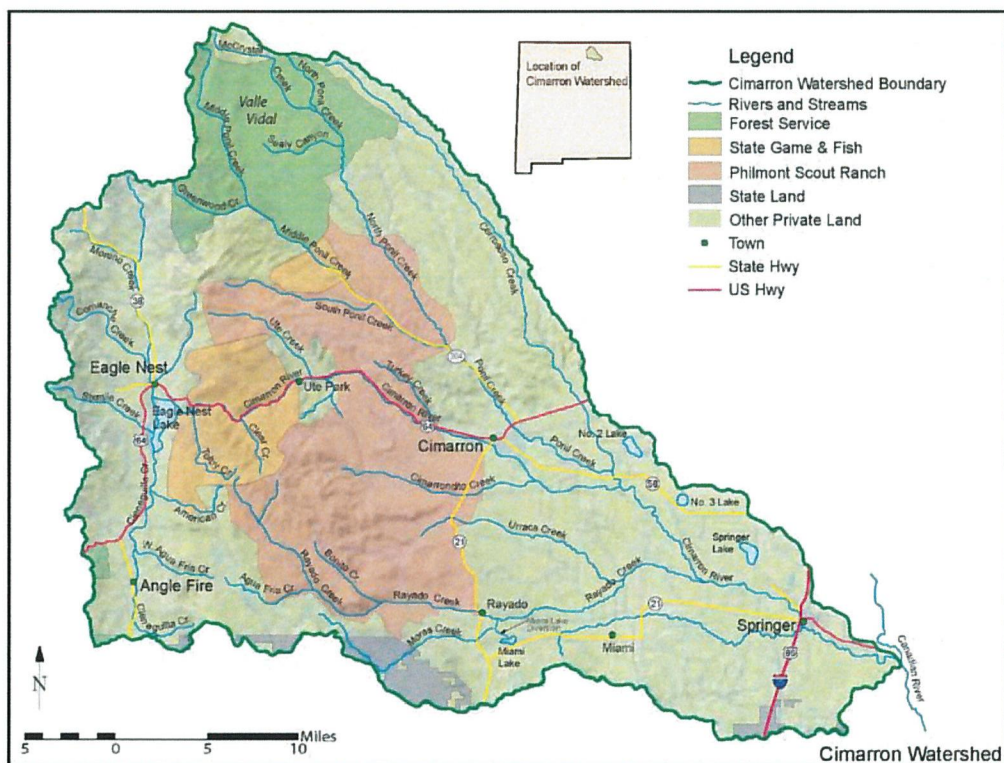


Figure 1. Land ownership in the Cimarron Watershed

These state parks, along with private recreational attractions such as the Angel Fire Ski Area and the Angel Fire Golf Course, have recently stimulated growth and development in the Moreno Valley, particularly in the Angel Fire area. Another important water use on the Cimarron is recreational. Eagle Nest Lake and a publicly owned section of the Cimarron River below the dam are extremely popular fishing destinations, attracting tourists and the economic benefits they provide to the community.

According to the Colfax Regional Water Plan, updated in 2016, surface water supplies the great majority of the water used in Colfax County with the Cimarron River as the County's most significant water source. Surface water availability varies greatly from year to year, with the highest flow years supplying many times more water than the drier years. It is also important to note that, as with many Rocky Mountain streams, the Cimarron's flows not only vary annually but monthly, the bulk of flow occurring during the March through June snowmelt runoff season, with brief spikes occurring during the monsoon season of July through September.

Development of groundwater resources in the Colfax planning region has occurred primarily in the Moreno Valley area around Angel Fire and Eagle Nest. Groundwater also supplies smaller water systems and domestic and livestock wells throughout the watershed and is important to the region for providing the sole source of drinking water for many communities. In the Cimarron Watershed, the Villages of Angel Fire, and Eagle Nest water systems are supplied by groundwater, as are numerous smaller systems and domestic and livestock wells.

Water rights in New Mexico are regulated by the Office of the State Engineer. The Colfax County Regional Water Plan (2016) reports that potential water rights issues are looming. For example, the Village of Angel Fire currently does not have adequate water rights to meet domestic water demands in low supply years. Additionally, the Colfax Regional Water Plan suggests that junior water rights holders would greatly benefit from increased efficiencies in delivery of irrigation water. Addressing water conservation and delivery issues will build trust among stakeholders and avert future conflicts over water supplies in the Cimarron Watershed.

Although the Cimarron Watershed has been impacted by several issues related to water quality, issues related to water quantity need to be explored to improve watershed health and secure against future surface water shortages. As the recently approved Colfax Regional Water Plan identifies, there are many potential strategies, projects, and/or policies that should be pursued in the interest of increased water security. These issues include:

Drought Vulnerability - Cimarron water users depend heavily on surface water and are thus vulnerable to drought. In addition to the many agricultural surface water users, many public

water systems rely on surface water, including Raton Water Works, Cimarron Water System, Philmont Boy Scout Ranch Headquarters, Carisbrook Property Owners (Raton area), French Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) (Springer area), Springer Water System, and Springer Correctional Facility (NMOSE, 2016).

Increased Variability in Surface Water Supply Due to Climate Change – The American Southwest is predicted to experience climatic stressors including: higher frequency of extreme precipitation events (floods), more frequent and longer droughts, higher temperatures, reduced annual snowpack, earlier and/or faster melting of snowpack due to dust and ash, and earlier timing of snowmelt before vegetation has emerged from seasonal dormancy.

Inefficiency in Water Delivery Systems for Irrigation - Many irrigation ditches within the Springer Ditch Company network, Antelope Valley Irrigation District, Vermejo Conservancy District, and other locations within the region, are faced with large water losses due to inefficient delivery systems. Many of the irrigation works include unlined, low gradient ditches that traverse long distances between the diversion points and end uses. As there is little groundwater use in the area of most of these ditches, seepage losses do not result in groundwater recharge and thus provide no benefit to the region. Improving irrigation efficiency is therefore a key issue in the Cimarron Watershed.

Increased Threat of High Intensity Wild Fires - Significant headwater forest acreage with overly dense tree stands combined with a greater likelihood of heatwaves and drought greatly increase the threat of wildfire and consequent impacts on streams and reservoirs. The Cimarron Watershed Alliance is the recipient of a Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) grant which aspires to reduce catastrophic fire risk through public land forest management in the watershed. The need for forest thinning or prescribed burn treatments on private lands in the watershed is significant. Overly dense tree stands have many negative impacts on potential soil water storage and infiltration within a headwater system.

Infrastructure Upgrades Needed - The region encompasses 59, mostly small, drinking water systems (NMOSE, 2016). These small systems face challenges in financing infrastructure maintenance and upgrades and complying with water quality monitoring and training standards.

Limited Information Available on Groundwater Recharge - In areas such as the Moreno Valley where there is significant groundwater use, available spatial and temporal data are inadequate to accurately track water level trends, and additional groundwater monitoring is needed. Colfax County seeks to conduct aquifer mapping to better define groundwater resources in the County

that can be developed to provide more reliable supplies during drought conditions. These data may provide information about limited recharge to ground water resources, as has been found to the neighboring counties, based on hydrogeological research studies by Zeigler Geologic Consulting.

Increased Demand for Watershed Restoration Activities - Because of the dependence on surface water in Colfax County, the legacy of extractive uses leading to current land degradation, and the role recreation plays in the local economy, there is considerable interest in watershed protection and restoration. In 2011 the Cimarron Watershed Alliance completed a watershed-based plan (Hilton, 2012), the primary focus of which was to address the root causes of impairment that affect designated uses of water within the watershed. The plan followed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance for nine elements of watershed based planning and included an active public involvement process. Stakeholders shared information about locations in the watershed which they perceived as needing either protection or restoration treatments. Many causes of degradation and impairment attributed to legacy land use activities such as mining, logging, and overgrazing by livestock. Legacy degradation needs to be addressed in order to restore the water-holding capacity of the lands within the watershed.

Reduced Stream Flows – The 2016 update to the Colfax Regional Plan identifies reduced flows downstream of Eagle’s Nest Lake as an issue limiting the recreational trout fishery downstream of the dam. Reduced flows may be the result of many different watershed health factors.

All of these issues have been identified as needing to be addressed for improving water security in the Cimarron Watershed. However, only the subset of these problems that directly address watershed health will be addressed under this grant proposal. Other funding sources will be pursued in the future to address the specific conditions necessary to plan for drought preparedness and water use efficiencies.

Project Location

The Cimarron Watershed is located in the northeast portion of New Mexico (Figure 2). The watershed area is entirely in Colfax County and includes the Village of Angel Fire, the town of Cimarron, and the town of Springer. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) for the watershed is 11080002.

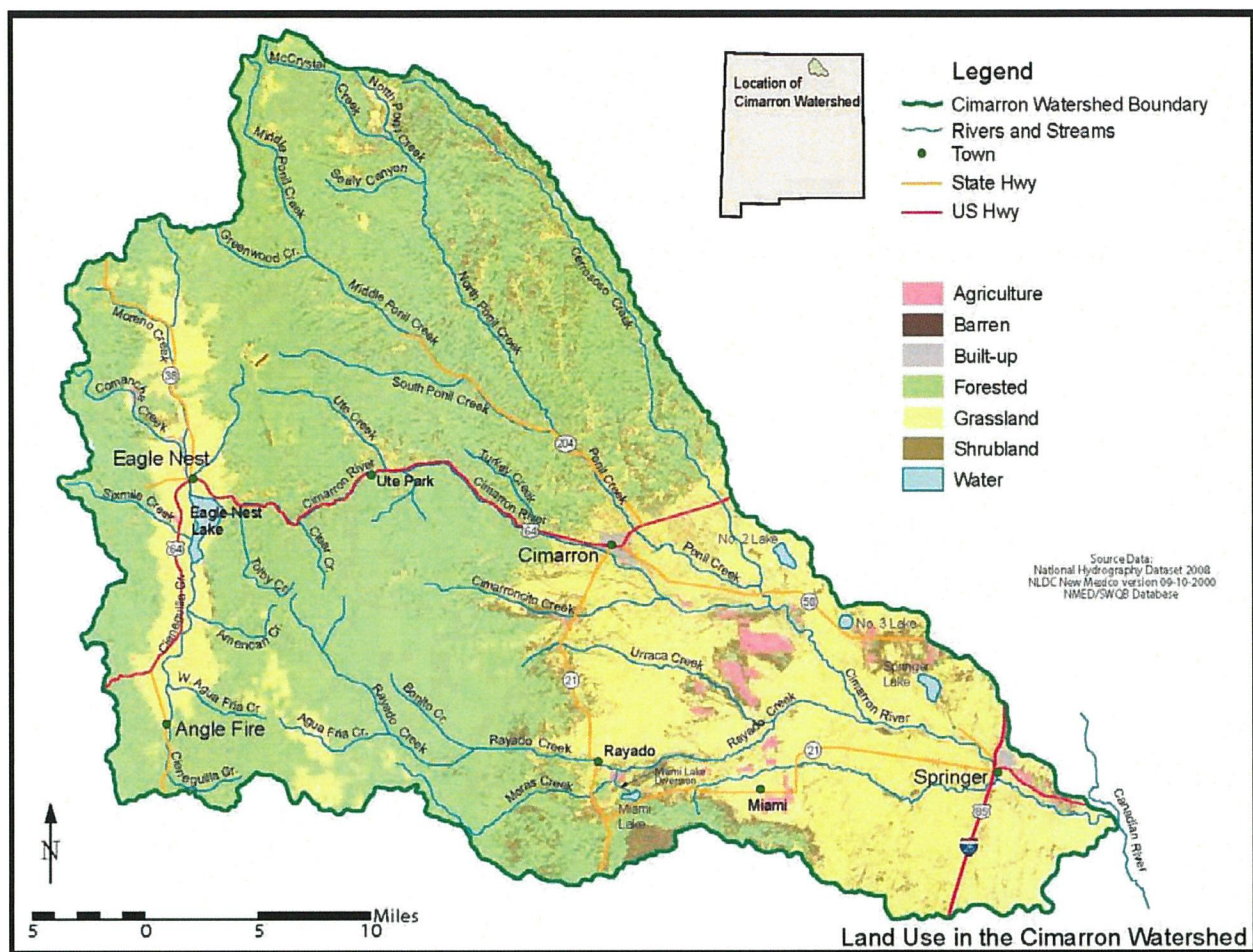


Figure 2. Location Map of Cimarron Watershed within Colfax County, New Mexico

Technical Project Description

Applicant Category

The Cimarron Watershed Alliance (CWA) is an existing watershed group founded in 2001 which has strong commitment from stakeholders to continued stewardship of water resources. The CWA is not a new watershed group, and is applying for this Phase I project as an Existing Watershed Group in order to expand planning efforts outside of the confines of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water Act 319 project funds. To date, all planning and implementation funds have been used to address water quality stream impairments due to exceedances of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) pollutant standards set by the Clean Water Act.

The organizational structure of the CWA is that of a board of directors, which is composed of CWA officers and volunteers from the membership. Additionally, a technical advisory panel,

and temporary committees are available to address specific issues as needed. The CWA currently employs three part-time staff.

The CWA is composed of volunteers from both incorporated and unincorporated areas of Colfax County. The CWA has involved stakeholders from a broad range of interest groups including public officials, state and federal agency personnel, civic group representatives, ranchers, business people, and community members with the common interest of maintaining and improving water quality and water quantity within the Cimarron Watershed. There are no Native Tribes residing within the watershed, although the Sandia and Taos Pueblos own some non-federal (private) property in the Moreno Valley. Collectively, CWA members represent more than one million acres of private property.

The CWA was created by concerned stakeholders in response to water quality investigations performed by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), as required by the EPA, which identified problems in streams and rivers within the Cimarron Watershed. The group developed by-laws and was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 2004 (Hellman, 2010). CWA holds a monthly stakeholder meeting that is open to the general public.

The CWA's mission is "to strive for and maintain a healthy watershed for all residents through collaborative community activities involving all stakeholders with an interest in water."

The objectives of the CWA are:

1. To restore, maintain and/or preserve surface and groundwater quality, aquatic resources, and water supplies.
2. To provide a resource for watershed issues and information.
3. To protect, restore, and maintain natural resources (land, water, forest, and wildlife) in the watershed.

CWA's initial and recent projects included reducing high temperatures by limiting livestock and wildlife access and re-planting riparian habitats; mitigating wildland fires through forest thinning and re-planting burned areas, sediment transport reduction through bank stabilization, instream, and low-water crossing remediation, restoring river channels and wetlands habitat, improving wastewater management, establishing alternative watering sources for wildlife and game, and conservation education.

Examples of CWA collaborative projects include:

- CWA partnered with the Quivira Coalition Philmont Scout Ranch, Vermejo Park Ranch, Cimarroncito, Chase, and C.S. Ranches, the Village of Cimarron, NM State Forestry Department, and the NM Department of Game and Fish to restore riparian forests, stabilize streambanks, and control erosion on Ponil Creek. The project goal was to decrease the creek temperature so that Ponil Creek can be removed from the NMED list of impaired waterways.
- EPA Approved, Cimarron Watershed Based Plan, December 2017
- CWA collaborated with the New Mexico State Parks and Eagle Nest Elementary School to help 7th graders construct an osprey nesting platform.
- CWA collaborated with Colfax County to conduct a workshop on building and maintaining roads that prevent erosion.
- CWA collaborated with Western Wood Products to construct a transfer station in the town of Eagle Nest to reduce the distance required by landowners to haul wood materials that are accrued from forest-thinning projects.

Eligibility of Applicant

The Cimarron Watershed Alliance is a grassroots entity which strives to work with stakeholders to improve water quality and water quantity within the watershed. As an Existing Watershed Group, the CWA is eligible to seek funding under the Phase I grant opportunity in order to improve the capacity of the group to explore strategic opportunities to better manage water resources. In order to mitigate the current and future impacts of land degradation, drought, and climate change, the proposed planning process will allow the CWA participants to assess current conditions and explore potential strategies to conserve water resources and restore degraded wetlands and streams so that potential conflicts over water can be addressed before crisis conditions lead to outright conflicts.

Goals

The goal of this project is to work with a broad range of stakeholders to develop a watershed restoration plan to sustainably enhance the function of the Cimarron Watershed for the benefit of a broad variety of values supported by the Cimarron River and its tributaries. Enhanced watershed function will improve water quality and quantity, promising positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, existing and future businesses, and outdoor recreationists in the Cimarron basin. Furthermore, broad stakeholder engagement in identifying and willingness to implement specific projects will help ensure that these outcomes will endure over time.

This WaterSMART project intends to expand on these previous planning efforts by identifying specific opportunities to address the identified issues in a collaborative manner and moving them towards implementation. Through this process, CWA will achieve the following specific goals:

- Prepare and administer stakeholder survey in order to identify and prioritize potential restoration projects in the Cimarron Watershed.
- Assess wetlands and streams on private lands with willing stakeholders to identify potential restoration projects that will enhance watershed function.
- Assess headwater catchment areas for opportunities to optimize water storage through the repair of wetlands.
- Assess forested areas on private lands with stakeholders willing to seek funding opportunities for future thinning or prescribed burn projects.
- Work with willing stakeholders to assess Cimarron River from Eagle Nest to Cimarron for opportunities to improve conveyance and/or riparian storage through natural channel design modification.
- Using available data, assess water use patterns to identify opportunities to optimize flow through timing and magnitude of deliveries from Eagle Nest Lake.
- Research and evaluate potential for non-injury water transactions as a tool for improving agriculture and tourism economies, especially in times of drought.

Approach

Building on existing planning efforts, including the Cimarron River Watershed-Based Plan completed by the CWA in 2012 (updated in 2017) and the 2016 Colfax Regional Water Plan, this effort will seek to identify opportunities to address identified issues and outline steps needed to implement solutions. Improving water security by enhancing watershed function in the Cimarron Watershed will ultimately benefit farming, ranching, municipalities, recreation, riparian ecosystem function, and wildlife and fishery habitats.

Because the CWA is an Existing Watershed Group, all tasks outlined will be under the criteria in Task B – Watershed Restoration Planning. The CWA will use targeted outreach to continue the conversations with stakeholders with whom relationships have been built in previous planning efforts. Conversations begun during those efforts will be expanded to include new stakeholders and to explore tangible means of improving watershed health, and in the process, and surface water supply and water security. Restoration needs will be identified and potential solutions discussed.

Many solutions to water quality and quantity problems within the watershed will require innovative thinking and expenditure of social capital. The trust that CWA has built over the last 17 years within the communities and individuals in the watershed will be built upon to tackle difficult water issues with stakeholder participation in order to complete a comprehensive Cimarron Watershed Restoration Plan.

Under Task B – Watershed Restoration Planning, the preparation of the plan will require a series of meetings and workshops for facilitating discussion and initiating data collection efforts with local community stakeholders. More importantly, the meetings and workshops will ensure continuous input and feedback from local stakeholders throughout the drafting stages of the plan.

The following is a detailed outline of actions undertaken under Tasks B of the proposal.

Stakeholder Engagement for Expansion of Cimarron Watershed Based Plan

- 1) Responsible person(s): Randa Celley, Mollie Walton, Richard Smith
- 2) Expected Task Start and Completion Dates: October 1, 2018 to October 1, 2020
- 3) How the task will be accomplished: CWA will conduct four or five stakeholder meetings in two locations to involve as many stakeholders as possible in the area. The purpose of the meetings will be to gauge the priorities of the stakeholders and identify possible implementable projects that will help to steer the direction of the Watershed Restoration Plan. The following methods will be employed to inform the stakeholders of the meetings:
 - a. Direct emails and phone calls to landowners, businesses, and other officials (from CWA's existing stakeholder list and the 2016 Colfax Region 9 Regional Water Plan Master Stakeholder List)
 - b. Flyers posted in high visibility areas
 - c. Public Service Announcements on the local radio stations

- d. Announcements at other organization meetings
 - e. Advertisements in local community newspapers
- 4) Meeting Locations:
- a. Two meetings in Moreno Valley, New Mexico
 - b. Two meetings in the Cimarron, New Mexico area
 - c. A fifth meeting, location to be determined, will be conducted for collaborative analysis and prioritization of projects identified in the Technical Analysis and Mapping phase of the project
- 5) One-on-One Meetings: CWA will engage key stakeholders in one-on-one discussions regarding the issues and opportunities to address them.
- 6) Desired Meeting Outcomes:
- a. Stakeholders in the watershed area are informed about the planning process.
 - b. Identify stakeholders with willingness to take on watershed restoration projects.
 - c. Use outreach opportunities to schedule field assessments of potential future projects to inform the plan.
 - d. Stakeholders will take on the role of eyes on the ground participants to identify water related issues facing the project area and help to develop the project solutions needed to accomplish the desired outcome.
 - e. Stakeholders will have access to the information and the facilitators throughout the planning process to ensure full cooperation.
 - f. Bring preliminary results to stakeholders in order to prioritize restoration, conservation and educational opportunities for projects that will best enhance water security in the watershed.
 - g. Linking stakeholders together for potential cooperative projects.
- 7) Deliverables:
- a. Identification of stakeholders who are willing to support projects that will involve on-the-ground restoration work
 - b. Identification of stakeholders who are willing to support projects that will involve on-the-ground thinning or prescribed burns to improve forest health in the headwaters
 - c. Summary of proposed collaborative management solutions to address stakeholder needs
 - d. Cimarron Watershed Restoration Plan with stakeholder projects identified for future implementation

Technical Analysis and Mapping Activities

1. Responsible person(s): Mollie Walton, Richard Smith, Aaron Kauffman, Jan-Willem Jansens
2. Expected Task Start and Completion Dates: October 1, 2018 to August 31, 2020
3. Tasks to be accomplished:
 - a. Stakeholder Survey: A survey will be designed and administered to Cimarron Watershed stakeholders to gauge interest in different treatments for improving watershed health and function and to prioritize treatments areas under the proposed treatment measures.
 - b. Assess slope and riparian wetlands and stream condition on private lands with willing stakeholders to identify potential restoration projects that will enhance watershed function.
 - c. Assess headwater catchment areas for opportunities to optimize water storage through reduction of tree density.
 - d. Work with willing stakeholders to assess Cimarron River from Eagle Nest to Cimarron for opportunities to improve conveyance and/or riparian storage through natural channel design modification.
 - e. Using available data, assess water-use patterns to identify opportunities to optimize flow through timing and magnitude of deliveries from Eagle Nest Lake.
 - f. Research and evaluate potential for non-injury water transactions as a tool for improving agriculture and tourism economies, especially in times of drought.
4. How the tasks will be accomplished:
 - a. Site meetings specified above will be conducted with the assistance of experts and a technical report prepared.
 - b. Once willing stakeholders have been identified, site meetings will be scheduled in order to identify possible conservation or restoration projects.
 - c. Site meetings will be documented by data collection including Global Positioning System units, photographs, and detailed notes.
 - d. Location data from site meeting will be entered into a geodatabase.
 - e. Using available data, summaries will be prepared to identify opportunities to optimize flow through timing and magnitude of deliveries from Eagle Nest Lake.
 - f. Research existing success stories, interview stakeholders from and evaluate potential for non-injury water transactions as a tool for improving agriculture and tourism economies, especially in times of drought

5. Desired Outcomes:

- a. An understanding of opportunities available to address identified issues based on stakeholder survey.
- b. The geodatabase will be used to store details of potential watershed restoration projects in the Cimarron Watershed.
- c. Projects will be prioritized based on stakeholder feedback on how the proposed projects would be address problems from the following categories:
 - i. Vulnerability to Fluctuations Surface Water Supply Due to Climate Change
 - ii. Potential for reduction of forest density to reduce the Threat of High Intensity Wild Fires
 - iii. Ecological Restoration Potential
 - iv. Stream Flow Improvements

6. Deliverables:

- a. Geodatabase of existing and future projects
- b. Assessment of project priority and recommendations of potential funding sources
- c. Watershed Restoration Plan

Evaluation Criteria

Criterion A – Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope

The Cimarron Watershed Alliance has been in existence for 17 years and has a diverse group of stakeholders. The CWA's continued success is a direct result of the inclusive nature of its core purpose of improving land conditions for all stakeholders within the 8-digit HUC watershed.

Sub-Criterion No. A1 Watershed Group Diversity

The CWA is a non-profit 501(c) 3 corporation made up of stakeholders from Colfax County, New Mexico. Stakeholders share a common interest to maintain and improve water quality and quantity within the watershed. The CWA is led by a Board of Directors.

CWA's affected stakeholders include residents of the area, ranchers and farmers (agricultural irrigators), Philmont Scout Ranch, municipal water suppliers (including suppliers to the City of Raton, Cimarron Village, and the Town of Springer), local, state and federal government agencies, civic groups, recreation (golf, skiing, hunting, mountain biking, hiking, anglers) and conservation interests.

Throughout its existence, the Cimarron Watershed Alliance has emphasized to a diverse range of stakeholders that water is a commonality that unites the depth to which water users share values and needs. As planning efforts proceed, CWA will translate discussions of shared interests into project identification and implementation.

Sub-Criterion No. A2. Geographic Scope

The Cimarron Watershed Alliance is the watershed steering group for the entire 8-digit HUC watershed (Figures 1 and 2). Currently the group represents the entire geographic scope of the Cimarron Watershed, although there has been higher participation from stakeholders in the Northwest portion of the Cimarron Watershed. Efforts will be made to increase stakeholder input from the portion of the watershed below Eagle Nest Lake State Dam. As the stakeholder base expands, it is expected that communication channels will expand commensurately.

Two of the 5 stakeholder meetings will be held in convenient locations for individuals from the eastern and southern parts of the watershed. Many of the stakeholders in these areas are agricultural producers. Efforts will be made to schedule meeting at times that do not compete with time-sensitive activities such as hay harvesting in the fall. Outreach to individual stakeholders will be prioritized in watershed areas that have been under-represented in past stakeholder meetings.

Criterion B – Addressing Critical Watershed Needs

New Mexico faces challenges in the face of legacy degradation issues that have degraded watershed conditions statewide. The degraded conditions coupled with a regional susceptibility to drought greatly reduce the watersheds abilities to maintain ecological resilience in the face of normally variable climatic conditions. Normal fluctuations are likely to be exacerbated by climate change which sets the stage for future water scarcity and resource conflict.

Sub-Criterion No. B1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Because of the longevity of the CWA and the capacity of its knowledgeable stakeholders, much scientific knowledge has been incorporated into existing planning documents such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved Watershed-Based Plan for the Cimarron Watershed, and watershed needs and issues identified. These issues, more fully described in the Background section of this application, include:

- Increased Variability in Surface Water Supply Due to Climate Change
- Increased Threat of High Intensity Wild Fires

- Increased Demand for Watershed Restoration Activities
- Stream Flow Improvements

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has been an engaged stakeholder in supporting both planning and implementation projects in the watershed. Philmont Scout Ranch and Vermejo Park Ranch are two engaged stakeholder groups which embody the conservation stewardship legacy important to the success of the CWA. Stakeholders and board members also include members of the ranching community.

Previous restoration projects have been conducted based upon available funding sources for water quality impairments in streams within the watershed with Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) exceedances under the Clean Water Act. This project will allow the CWA to seek funding for expand restoration activities beyond the streams that have listed impairments to include all streams within the watershed with a greater emphasis on private lands.

A survey will be developed in which stakeholders will be asked to prioritize future potential projects that could directly address the problems outlined in the Background section that directly watershed health and function. Surveys will be summarized to inform and rank priority issues and identify potential projects that could be undertaken to directly address core issues. Using this process, projects that receive multiple recommendations from stakeholders and have potential to have substantial beneficial effects will be prioritized to seek project funding for implementation.

Sub-criterion No. B2. Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Stakeholder Outreach and Partnership Building

Because past efforts in the watershed had been primarily focused on planning documents and restoration of streams with TMDL impairments, new stakeholders will need to be encouraged to work with the CWA for this expansive planning project. Stakeholder outreach is critical to expanding potential partnerships to result in a more comprehensive plan with diverse stakeholder input. Stakeholder diversity often lends itself to innovative approaches which benefit the whole.

The Cimarron Watershed Alliance acknowledges the potential for conflicts over water usage, though in its 17 year history, it has been successful in bringing diverse stakeholders to the table to discuss how to best manage water to the benefit of the most stakeholders. To date, there has been little conflict and much consensus on past and present CWA projects. Conflict resolutions,

should they become necessary, will be approached with care and the recognition that successful resolution will require time and patience. If conflicts should arise, CWA will work with stakeholders to come to a science-based understanding of how different actions affect the water resource and surrounding water users.

Watershed Restoration Planning

CWA will reach out to government agencies and other stakeholders to develop needed information. A search of all existing, pertinent studies and information will be conducted and data gaps identified. Assessments described in the “Technical Analysis and Mapping Activities” section of this application will be completed. Once all pertinent information and data has been gathered, opportunities for collaboration to address identified issues and/or optimize water use will be identified. CWA anticipates the need for technical assistance for this endeavor and has included such need in the budget for this project.

Once all pertinent data has been gathered, issues will be identified and prioritized by the group. The planning efforts from this project will build upon the Cimarron Watershed Based Plan and the recently completed Colfax Regional Water Plan by focusing on water supply issues emerging out of those more general plans which affect the Cimarron Watershed and identifying opportunities to coordinate water use in a manner that is collaborative and meets the needs of all water users.

Watershed Management Project Design

Project development will depend on the direction of the stakeholder group and the feasibility of pursuing identified opportunities in a collaborative manner. For example, if an opportunity to address an unmet stream flow need is identified, the group would decide whether to pursue it and affected parties would have to consent before a project is developed.

The CWA will summarize (based on available data such as Cimarron River hydrographs, water rights, and patterns of water use) stream flow parameters on the Cimarron River in order to identify opportunities to optimize use and improve flows, particularly downstream of Eagle’s Nest dam. Opportunities for stream improvement/restoration projects will be identified by results of the summary.

Site-specific project development will depend in many instances on consensus within the group and consent on the part of affected entities. This is the case, for example, in any project that involves a change in stream management. The nature of such projects is unknown at this time and their design and engineering beyond the scope of this grant application.

Project Timeline

Table 1. Project timeline based on anticipated August 2018 start date

	2018		2019				2020		
Project Task	Q-3*	Q-4	Q-1	Q-2	Q-3	Q-4	Q-1	Q-2	Q-3
1. Project Administration									
Quarterly Financial Reports									
Quarterly Performance Reports									
Nine Month Performance									
Final Report									
2. Stakeholder Outreach									
Communications with Stakeholders									
Preparation of Watershed Maps									
Stakeholder Meetings									
Meeting Records and Recommendations									
3. Field Meetings									
Stakeholder Communication									
Site Research									
Site Meetings with Stakeholders									
Data Management and Mapping									
Watershed Map of Potential Projects									
4. Stakeholder Recommendations									
Analysis Meeting									
Consensus Report with Maps of Watershed Priority Projects									
5. Watershed Restoration Plan									

This effort will build on the Cimarron Watershed Based Plan and the recently completed Colfax Regional Water Plan by focusing on water supply issues emerging out of those more general plans which affect the Cimarron Watershed and identifying opportunities to coordinate water use in a manner that is collaborative and meets the needs of all water users. CWA staff and contractors will meet with stakeholders at potential restoration sites to assess watershed health improvement needs. CWA would welcome Reclamation's assistance in identifying any potential environmental compliance requirements; however, CWA does not anticipate any environmental

compliance to be necessary for this planning project. No monitoring, or on-the-ground project implementation activities will take place.

Sub-criterion No. C1. Understanding of and Ability to Meet Program Requirements

Major tasks are outlined in previous sections of the technical proposal and in Table 1. Task start and end dates and milestones are summarized in the Table 2. Budget costs per task are in Table 3.

Table 2. Project task milestones

Task	Start Date	Time of Completion	Milestone
1. Project Administration	August 2018	August 2020	
Quarterly Financial Reports	September 2018	June 2020	X
Quarterly Performance Reports	September 2018	June 2020	X
Nine Month Performance	March 2019	March 2019	X
Final Report	May 2020	August 2020	X
2. Stakeholder Outreach	August 2018	August 2020	
Communications with Stakeholders	August 2018	August 2020	
Preparation of Watershed Maps	September 2018	July 2020	
Stakeholder Meetings	October 2018	July 2020	X
Meeting Records and Recommendations	October 2018	August 2020	
3. Field Meetings	May 2019	July 2020	
Stakeholder Communication	September 2018	August 2020	
Site Research	September 2018	June 2020	
Site Meetings with Stakeholders	May 2019	July 2020	
Data Management and Mapping	September 2018	August 2020	
Watershed Map of Potential Projects	October 2018	August 2020	X
4. Stakeholder Recommendations	September 2018	August 2020	
Analysis Meeting	May 2020	July 2020	
Consensus Report with Maps of Watershed Priority Projects	May 2020	July 2020	X
5. Watershed Restoration Plan	January 2020	August 2020	X

Table 3. Costs by Project Task

Task	Cost
1. Project Administration	\$16,181.96
2. Stakeholder Outreach	\$13,518.40
3. Field Meetings	\$49,185.60
4. Stakeholder Recommendations	\$3,060.00
5. Watershed Restoration Plan	\$6,000.00

Sub-criterion No. C2. Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts

Key sources of water quality information in the Cimarron Watershed are provided in the assessments conducted by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) as part of their ongoing efforts to evaluate water quality conditions and the responses needed in New Mexico.

Between March and November 2006, the Surface Water Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a water quality survey of the Canadian River and selected tributaries, including the Cimarron River (NMED, 2010). Follow-up data were collected in 2007, 2008, and 2009 (NMED 2010). Water quality monitoring stations were located within the Cimarron Watershed to evaluate the impact of tributary streams and ambient water quality conditions. The water quality survey included 16 sampling sites; most sites were sampled eight times, while some secondary sites were sampled from one to four times. As a result of the monitoring effort and the subsequent assessment of results, several surface water impairments were identified and added to New Mexico's Integrated Clean Water Act §303(d)/305(b) List (NMED, 2010).

The *Cimarron Watershed Based Plan, December 2017* describes six objectives with an overall goal of meeting and maintaining water quality standards and the usage of surface water and groundwater resources in New Mexico. The Nonpoint Source Management Program is a cooperative effort among watershed stakeholders and NMED, established to educate others, implement best management practices (BMPs), and reduce the ability of nonpoint pollutants to enter surface and ground waters. These objectives are related to planning, restoring water quality, protecting water quality, education, protecting groundwater quality, and interagency cooperation (NMED 2010.).

In addition to NMED sampling, in June of 2010 the University of New Mexico Water Resources Graduate Program conducted a survey of water quality in the Cimarron Watershed and the

Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge as part of this planning effort (UNM, 2010). This study included measuring flows and water quality characteristics at 34 surface water sites in the two study areas.

The EPA Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program (EMAP) protocol was used to assess six reaches of the Cimarron River and one reach of Rayado Creek. The assessment evaluated hydrology, geomorphology, riparian vegetation, human impacts, benthic macroinvertebrates, and water quality. In addition, flow measurements and water quality samples were taken at 24 other locations within the basin. The UNM assessment found generally high quality conditions of the river and riparian environment throughout the Cimarron River. This conclusion was supported by the type and diversity of benthic macroinvertebrates, by channel geomorphic criteria, and by water quality measurements (UNM, 2010).

An initial Cimarron Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) was prepared in 2003 shortly after the Cimarron Watershed Alliance was formed. The WRAS identified key restoration focus areas, including: establishing healthy riparian areas, reducing forest biomass, and improving wastewater systems. The WRAS also identified plans for monitoring and public outreach.

The Colfax Regional Water Plan (2016) provided an overview of surface and groundwater conditions and water quality in Colfax County. Detailed analysis of stream flow was included in the plan to assess the probability of whether supplies would be able to fulfill adjudicated water rights. The plan also provided an overview of water quality in Colfax County, including the Cimarron Watershed, and identified watershed protection as a key regional water planning priority.

In addition to the studies that pertain to the Cimarron Watershed as a whole, a number of existing studies also pertain to specific parts of the watershed and are included in the Cimarron Watershed Based Plan, 2017.

Criterion D

This proposed project supports the Cooperative Conservation Initiative and the Climate Change and Resilience mission of the Department of the Interior (DOI) initiatives. The proposed project would not benefit a Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) project, facility, or activity.

The proposed planning project indirectly impacts threatened or endangered aquatic or riparian species by setting the stage for choosing future implementation projects that will directly impact these species. Positive impacts are likely to occur from identifying future projects

designed to improve water quality and quantity. Increasing stream base flow will result in fish and wildlife habitat improvement and improved ecosystem resilience.

Within the Cimarron Watershed, there are no official sovereign Tribal lands; however, Sandia Pueblo and Taos Pueblo own some non-federal (private) property in the Moreno Valley.

Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

The planning efforts through this grant do not require environmental or cultural resource compliance. No ground disturbance will occur through the course of field meetings conducted as part of this planning project.

Required Permits and Approvals

No permits are required under this proposed planning project. The only approvals required will be from landowner stakeholders for site meeting permissions in order to assess current conditions and identify potential restoration and water delivery efficiency opportunities.

References

Hellman, Bethany. (2010). *Cimarron Watershed Alliance, a case study*. Provided by Cimarron Watershed Alliance.

Longworth, J.W., Valdez, J.M. , Magnuson, M.L. & K. Richard, K. (2013). *New Mexico water use by categories 2010*. New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (Vol. 54) Technical Report .

New Mexico Environment Department. (2010). New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Cimarron River (Canadian River to Headwaters). Final Draft. July 23, 2010. §303(d)/§305(b)

New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau (2010). *2010-2012 State of New Mexico Clean Water Act §303(d)/§305(b) Integrated Report*.

New Mexico Environment Department. (2014). Water systems, Colfax County.

New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, Office of the State Engineer. (2016). *Colfax Regional Water Plan*.

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Project Budget

Budget Proposal

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		QUANTITY TYPE	TOTAL COST
	\$/UNIT	QUANTITY		
Salaries and Wages				\$37,491.00
Richard Smith	\$22.50	262	Hour	\$5,895.00
Mollie Walton	\$30.00	706	Hour	\$21,180.00
Randa Celley	\$24.00	434	Hour	\$10,416.00
Fringe Benefits				\$2,868.06
Full-Time Employees	NA	NA	NA	NA
Part-Time Employees	\$37,491.00	7.65%	CWA Wages	\$2,868.06
Travel				\$13,377.40
Mileage	\$0.55	14,720	Mile	\$8,022.40
Per Diem	\$85.00	63	Hotel Night	\$5,355.00
Equipment				\$0.00
NA				\$0.00
Supplies and Materials				\$3,187.56
Intel Core i7 Processor Laptop	\$2,000.00	1	Unit Cost	\$2,000.00
Non-Profit ArcGIS Software	\$161.28	2	Annual License	\$322.56
Projector	\$250.00	1	Unit Cost	\$250.00
Screen	\$90.00	1	Unit Cost	\$90.00
1 TB Dropbox Account	\$100.00	2	Annual Subscription	\$200.00
Printer Paper	\$25.00	1	Box	\$25.00
Printer Ink	\$50.00	4	Cartridges	\$200.00
Rite in the Rain Field Notebook	\$20.00	5	Notebook	\$100.00
Contractual/Construction				\$33,480.00
Southwest Urban Hydrology, LLC	\$50.00	248	Hour	\$12,400.00
Ecotone Landscape Planning, LLC	\$85.00	248	Hour	\$21,080.00
Other				\$500.00
Stakeholder Mtg. Space Rental	\$100.00	5	Day Fee	\$500.00
Total Direct Costs				\$90,904.02
Indirect Costs	10%	\$90,904.02	10% MTDC	\$9,090.40
CWA Project Request Amount				\$99,994.42
Project Match by Trout Unlimited	25%	\$34,984.00	2 year's Salary	\$34,984.00
Project Match by Trout Unlimited		\$6,000.00	Travel Costs	\$6,000.00
Stakeholder Meeting Match	400	\$24.14	Hours	\$9,656.00
Total Estimated Project Costs				\$150,634.42

Budget Narrative

Salaries and Wages

Mollie Walton, Ph.D., Restoration Ecologist will be the Project Manager for this project. Richard Smith has a degree in Civil Engineering, is the President of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance Board of Directors, and will be involved in all aspects of the project. Randa Celley is CWA's Program Director and will be the Stakeholder Outreach Coordinator for this project.

Key Personnel	Wages	Estimated Hours	Rate of Compensation
Mollie Walton, CWA Project Manager	\$21,180.00	706	\$30.00/hour
Richard Smith, CWA President	\$5,895.00	262	\$22.50/hour
Randa Celley, CWA Outreach Coordinator	\$10,416.00	434	\$24.00/hour
Contract Hydrologist, Southwest Urban Hydrology	\$12,400.00	248	\$50.00/hour
Contract Forester, Ecotone Landscape Planning	\$21,080.00	248	\$85.00/Hour

Task	M. Walton Hours	R. Smith Hours	R. Celley Hours
1. Project Administration	302	54	132
2. Stakeholder Outreach	84	48	142
3. Field Meetings	240	80	80
4. Stakeholder Recommendations	40	40	40
5. Watershed Restoration Plan	40	40	40
Total	706	262	434

Project Match

Trout Unlimited (TU) personnel will be involved in this project. TU estimates that Toner Mitchell will spend 20% of his time on this project over 2 years. Mely Whiting, will spend 5% of her time over 2 years. This equals an in-kind personnel contribution to the project of \$34,984.00 from Trout Unlimited. Travel expenses are estimated by TU to be \$6,000.00 over two years. Trout Unlimited will provide this in-kind match of \$46,984.00 for the two years of the project for stakeholder engagement in Tasks 2 and 3, and for consultation and recommendations in Task 5).

For the 5 stakeholder meetings, CWA estimates that 20 people will attend the meetings which will last 4 hours each. Stakeholder time is valued at the approved volunteer rate of \$24.14 per hour. The hourly total for stakeholders will be 400 hours for a total of \$9,656.00 worth of stakeholder volunteer time offered as project match.

Total project match equals \$50,640.00.

Fringe Benefits

The Cimarron Watershed Alliance currently has three part-time employees and does not offer paid time off, health insurance, or retirement benefits. The fringe rate is calculated at 7.65% of hourly wages which includes 6.2 % for Social Security tax and 1.45% for Medicare taxes. All calculations are based upon information obtained from <https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc751>.

The total fringe benefits calculated for the three CWA employees equal \$2,868.06 on \$37,491.00 in CWA Employee wages.

Travel

Mileage is calculated at the 2018 Federal rate of \$0.545/mile. From Santa Fe to Cimarron, New Mexico is 320 miles round trip. M. Walton and subcontractors will be travelling from Santa Fe to the Cimarron Watershed to meet with stakeholders over the 2 years of the project. Total project mileage is estimated to be 14,720 miles for 42 trips for 3 people (M. Walton and the 2 subcontractors) for 16,140 round trip miles plus 1,280 local mileage for Richard Smith and Randa Celley. The total estimated mileage reimbursement costs will be \$8,022.40 for the life of the project.

Some overnight accommodation (an estimated 43 nights) will be necessary for M. Walton for project management, stakeholder, and field meetings over 2 years. Subcontractors are estimated to require lodging for 10 nights each for the 2 years of the project. Overnight per diem at \$85.00/night rate will be charged for hotel fees for the estimated 63 nights for a total of \$5,355.00.

Total travel costs equal \$13,377.40 for the 2 year project.

Equipment

No equipment purchase or rental is budgeted under the proposed project.

Materials and Supplies

All costs were based on internet searches of item price and past experience of purchasing similar items.

The CWA will need a laptop computer with an Intel Core i7 processor (\$2,000) to run ArcGIS programs (non-profit license \$322.56 is \$161.28 per year for 2 years) for the mapping and geodatabase components of the project.

CWA will also need to purchase a projector (\$250.00) and a portable projection screen (\$90.00) for stakeholder meetings.

The supplies needed to complete the project include five “Rite in the Rain” field notebooks (\$100.00 for five books at \$20.00 each), a box of printer paper (\$25.00), printer ink (\$200.00 for 4 cartridges at \$50.00), and a 1 terabyte Dropbox account subscription (\$200.00 at \$100.00/year for 2 years).

In-kind donations of materials from CWA include the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) units, digital cameras, and waders.

Total material and supply costs equal \$3,187.56

Contractual

We anticipate hiring Aaron Kauffman, Hydrologist with Southwest Urban Hydrology, LLC., for consultation and field meetings with stakeholders on potential future watershed health projects. We anticipate hiring Jan-William Jansens with Ecotone Landscape Planning, LLC for consultation and field meetings with stakeholder on potential future forest health projects.

Task	Southwest Urban Hydrology, LLC Hours at \$50/hour	Total by Task	Ecotone Landscape Planning, LLC Hours at \$85.00/hour	Total by Task
Task 3: Field Meetings and Reporting	224	\$11,200.00	224	\$19,040.00
Task 5: Project Prioritization	24	\$1,200.00	24	\$2,040.00
Project Total		\$12,400.00		\$21,080.00

No materials or supplies fees will be charged by subcontractors. Mileage and per diem costs for subcontractors are included in the Travel category of the budget narrative. CWA believes that the contractor rates are fair and reasonable based upon experience with similar project contracts and subcontractors.

Total contractual costs for the project are estimated to be \$33,480.00. Each subcontract is less than the \$25,000.00 maximum allowable for inclusion in the Modified Total Direct Costs calculation for *de minimus* rate of 10% for indirect costs.

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs

Because there will be no collection of monitoring data or ground disturbing project implementation activities, we do not anticipate needing to complete any permitting or compliance. Therefore, there are no funds budgeted for this activity.

Other Expenses

We estimate (based on experience) that each stakeholder meeting venue will cost approximately \$100.00 in rental fees. The total is estimated to be \$500.00 total for the 5 stakeholder meetings.

Indirect Costs

The CWA will charge the 10% *de minimus* rate for Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). Modified Total Direct Costs do not include the estimated \$500.00 for meeting space rentals in Task 2: Stakeholder Meetings.

Total indirect costs are calculated to be \$9,090.40.

Total Costs

The total Federal cost requested for the project is \$99,994.42 with a non-Federal cost provided by Trout Unlimited for \$46,984.00 and CWA stakeholder match of \$9,656.00 for the two years of the project.

Total estimated project cost is \$150,634.42.

Appendices

Appendix A - Project Location Map

Appendix B - Letters of Support

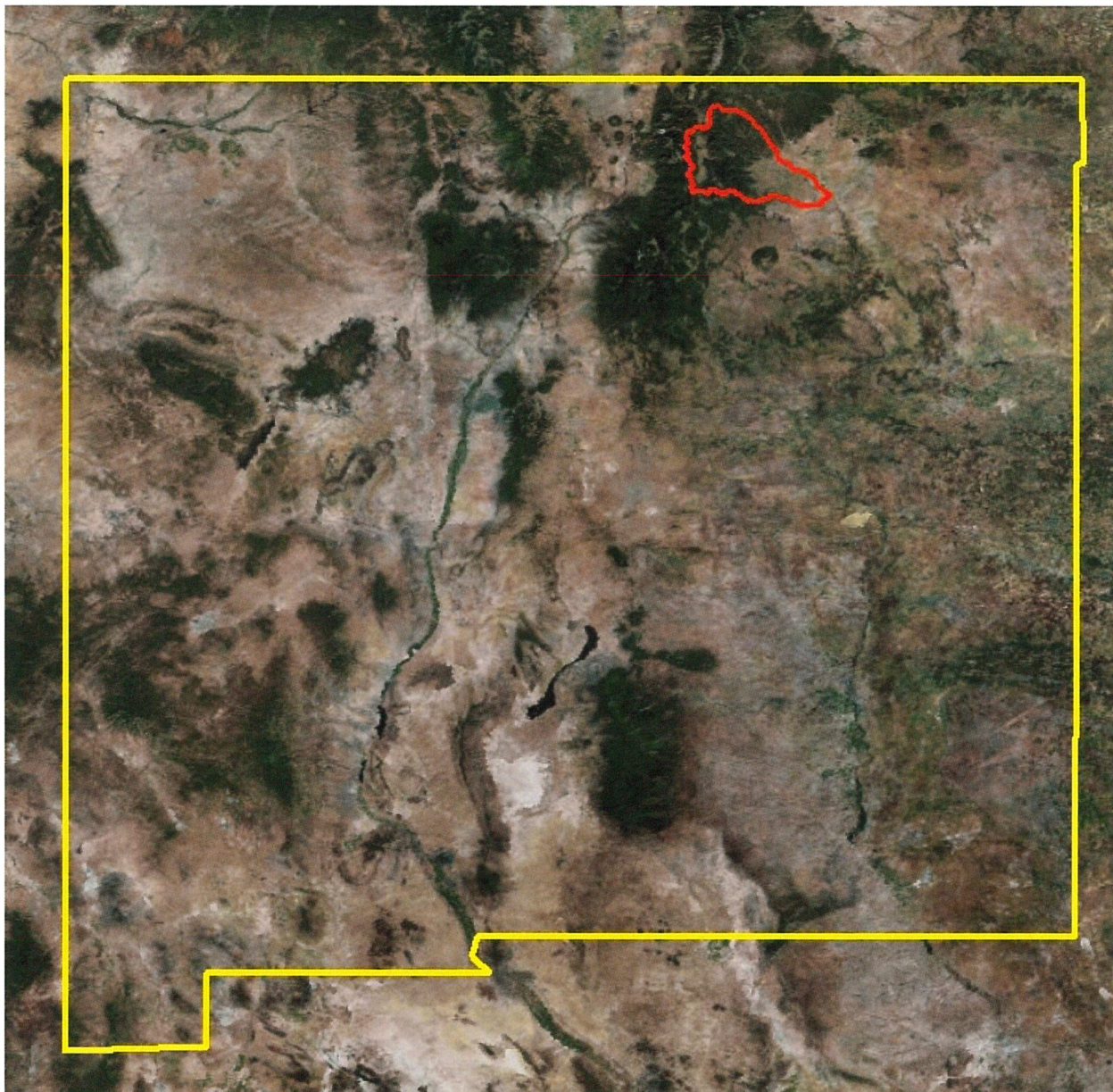
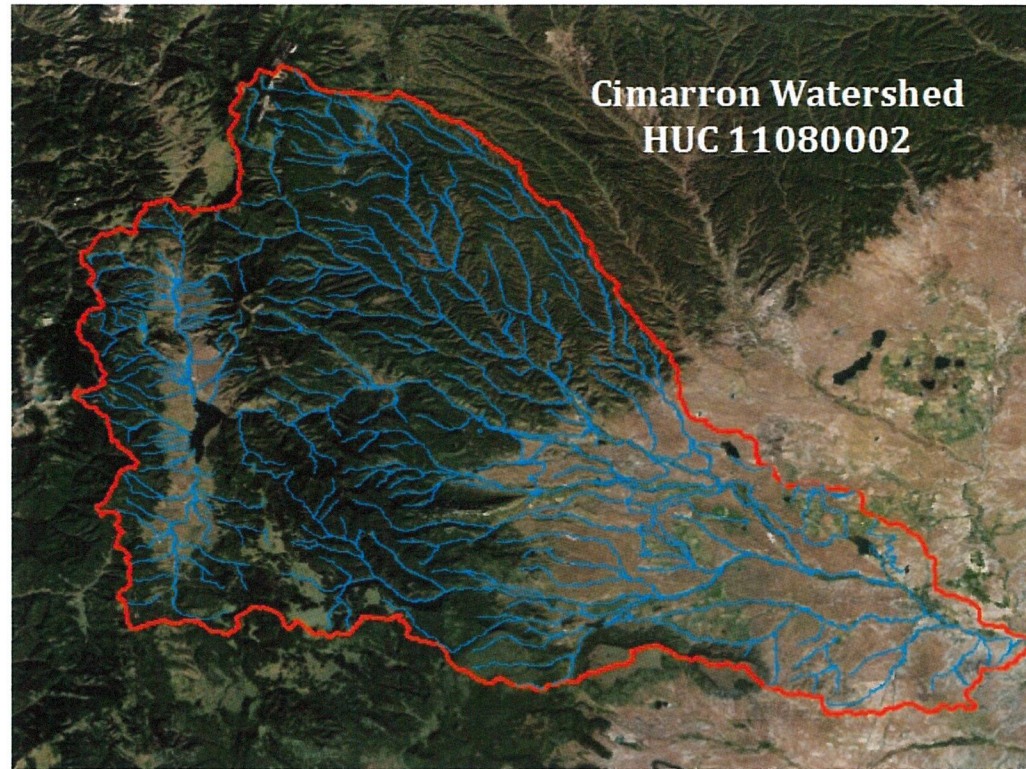
Appendix C - Official Resolution

Appendix D - Entity Identification

Appendix E - Mandatory Federal Forms



Cimarron Watershed,
Colfax County,
New Mexico



Appendix B - Letters of Support



Philmont Scout Ranch and Training Center

17 Deer Run Rd., Cimarron, New Mexico 87714 • 575.376.2281

January 22, 2018

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

Philmont Scout Ranch fully supports the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

Philmont Scout Ranch recognizes the importance of the Cimarron River. We depend on the river to deliver high quality water for our livestock, wildlife, irrigation, and recreational needs. We also welcome the opportunity to collaborate with our neighbors, ensuring a sustainable future for this vital resource.

A healthy fishery in the Cimarron River is essential to our ongoing educational outreach and guided fishing programs. The reach that flows through our property, from Ute Park to Cimarron, is a popular attraction for thousands of our youth and adult participants, as well as our seasonal and full-time employees. Maintaining the quality and resilience of the aquatic and riparian habitats is fundamental to our mission of delivering wilderness and learning adventures that last a lifetime.

As permittees under the NM Office of the State Engineer Permit No. 71, we depend on the water delivered from Eagle Nest Reservoir to maintain the productivity of our irrigated crop- and rangeland. We recognize the need for upland forest and range management practices that safeguard this water supply and the surface water that flows into the river below the dam.

We believe that the planning process outlined in this proposal will identify restoration projects and other solutions that will protect and enhance the Cimarron River well into the future. Engaging with other stakeholders throughout the planning process will create an opportunity for everyone within the Cimarron River watershed to contribute to its long-term health and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Kevin Dowling
General Manager

"Delivering Wilderness and Learning Adventures That Last a Lifetime"

HIGH ADVENTURE DEPARTMENT – BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

Trout Unlimited enthusiastically supports the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

Water related issues have long been a concern in the Southwest. Highlighting areas of actionable change and infrastructure improvement is necessary for sustaining rural communities into the future. Specifically, enhancing the function of the Cimarron watershed will improve water quality and quantity while offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Trout Unlimited has worked with CWA in the past and can vouch for the effectiveness of the group and its ability to bring a broad range of stakeholders to the table to discuss important and difficult issues affecting the Cimarron River watershed. We applaud CWA's commitment to convene these stakeholders once again to address issues related to water storage, delivery, quality, and efficiency of use in the Cimarron watershed. Projects related to many of these issues must be identified and prioritized, and Trout Unlimited is excited to be a partner in the effort.

We believe the process outlined in this proposal would enable CWA to continue its critical work in improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed, to the enormous benefit of the watersheds communities and their economies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Toner Mitchell", written over a horizontal line.

Toner Mitchell
Trout Unlimited
New Mexico Water and Habitat Program Manager
(505) 231-8860
142 Rio Seco
Santa Fe, NM 87501
tmitchell@tu.org



BUILDING 27, SUITE 3 ► FORT MISSOULA ROAD
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59804
TEL 406 542-2805 ► FAX 406 542-2810
WWW.NATIONALFORESTS.ORG

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,
National Forest Foundation is pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

Water related issues have long been a concern in this region. Highlighting areas of actionable change and infrastructure improvement is the right direction in which to move. Enhancing the function of the Cimarron River will improve water quality and quantity, offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts.

We believe that the planning process outlined in this proposal would open the door to restoration projects and other solutions that will help to bring those outcomes for the local community. Engaging community stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

The NFF has been a proud partner in supporting watershed restoration efforts through our partnership with Coca-Cola and Trout Unlimited in Comanche Creek. We're encouraged to see more efforts develop that work toward sustainable watershed management.

We are proud to join the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work.

Sincerely,

Wes Swaffar
Director, Ecosystem Services
National Forest Foundation

FIELD OFFICES

CALIFORNIA

803 2ND STREET, STE. A
DAVIS, CA 95616
530 758-2609

COLORADO

390 UNION BLVD., STE. 400
DENVER, CO 80228
720 437-0290

OREGON

805 SW BROADWAY, STE. 2100
PORTLAND, OR 97205
503 241-0467

WASHINGTON

5005 3RD AVE. S.
SEATTLE, WA 98134
206 832-8280

VIRGINIA

1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, STE. 600
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
571 366-1704

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

DELEGATION OFFICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-8962

January 11th, 2018

Darren Olson
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Mail code: 84-27814
PO Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Mr. Olson:

The New Mexico Congressional Delegation writes in support of the grant application submitted by Cimarron Watershed Alliance in partnership with Trout Unlimited in their application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program funded by the Bureau of Reclamation. The grant, BOR-DO-18-F005, will allow the Cimarron Watershed Alliance (CWA) and Trout Unlimited to sustainably enhance the function of the Cimarron River watershed for the benefit of the multiple uses supported by the river and its tributaries.

The proposed project will address issues related to water storage, delivery, quality, and efficiency of use in the Cimarron watershed. Many of the issues that will be addressed were identified in the Watershed Based Plan completed by the CWA. These issues were also illustrated in the recent Colfax Regional Water Plan, where needed projects, programs, and policies were identified.

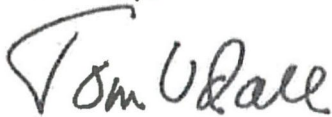
According to previous studies administered by the CWA, water supply in the Cimarron River basin falls short of demand and is particularly vulnerable to drought. The water quality, however, is generally safe overall but is vulnerable during low flows. Seasonal low flows affect the habitats of fish downstream of Eagle's Nest dam. Enhanced watershed function will improve water quality and quantity, promising positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, existing and

stakeholder engagement in identifying and possibly implementing specific projects will help ensure that these outcomes will endure over time.

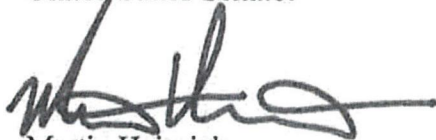
The CWA and Trout Unlimited plan to expand on these previous planning efforts by addressing identified issues and moving forward towards implementing solutions to those issues in a collaborative manner. They will do so by assessing the condition of irrigation infrastructure and developing implementable designs for its modernization. Furthermore, they will analyze water use patterns to identify opportunities to optimize flow through timing and magnitude of deliveries from Eagle Nest Lake. They will also assess the stretch of Cimarron River from Eagle Nest to Cimarron and study were improved conveyance and/or riparian storage through channel modification may be possible. Finally, they will interview ranchers and farmers to determine potential changes in their planting schedule, that is, planting and fallow rotation to augment agricultural water security.

The New Mexico Congressional Delegation proudly supports the application submitted by Cimarron Watershed Alliance in partnership with Trout Unlimited in their application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and we request that you give their application thorough consideration within your agency's guidelines.

Sincerely,



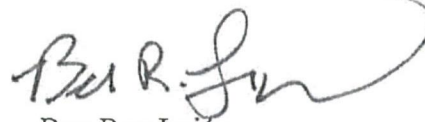
Tom Udall
United States Senator



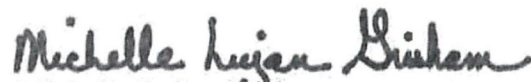
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Steve Pearce
United States Representative



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Representative



Michelle Lujan Grisham
United States Representative



Colfax County
Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 1498 • Raton, New Mexico 87740

Phone: (575) 445-9661 • Fax: (575) 445-2902

www.co.colfax.nm.us

COMMISSIONERS

WILLIAM E. SAUBLE

Chairman

1261 Circle Dot Ranch Road
Maxwell, NM 87728
(575) 375-2686

JAMES L. NEWTON

Vice-Chairman

P.O. Box 156
Springer, NM 87747
(505) 228-2485

ROY P. FERNANDEZ

Member

455 A NM SR 72
Raton, NM 87740
(575) 445-2846

MARY LOU KERN

Colfax County Manager
(575) 445-9661

RAYETTA M. TRUJILLO

County Clerk

(575) 445-5551

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

As Colfax County Commissioner for District #3, I am pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.

Water related issues have long been a concern in this region. Highlighting areas of actionable change and infrastructure improvement is the right direction in which to move. Enhancing the function of the Cimarron River will improve water quality and quantity, offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts.

The planning process outlined in this proposal would open the door to restoration projects and other solutions that will help to bring those outcomes for the local community. Engaging these stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

As County Commissioner, I am proud to join the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work.

Sincerely,

James L. Newton
Vice-Chairman
Colfax County Commission

January 22, 201

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

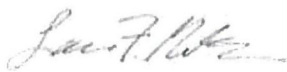
The Nature Conservancy is pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

Watershed function is essential for sustained water supplies for people and nature in our region. Planning work is needed to highlight watershed-specific areas for actionable change and infrastructure improvement. Enhancing the function of the Cimarron River will improve water quality and quantity, offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses, recreationist, and the plants and animals that depend on the river and riparian habitat.

We believe that the planning process outlined in this proposal would open the door to restoration projects and other solutions that will help to bring those outcomes for the local community. Engaging these stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

We are pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work.

Sincerely,



Laura McCarthy
Associate State Director

Tom Blaine, P.E.
State Engineer



301 East 9TH Street
Post Office Box 481
Cimarron, New Mexico 87714
(575) 376-2918 or (575) 376-2410
Fax: (575) 376-4565

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER
Cimarron, New Mexico

January 10, 2018

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

The District VII Cimarron Office of the State Engineer is pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal - **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

Water related issues have long been a concern in this region. Highlighting areas of actionable change and infrastructure improvement is the right direction in which to move. Enhancing the function of the Cimarron River will improve water quality and quantity, offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts.

We believe that the planning process outlined in this proposal would open the door to restoration projects and other solutions that will help to bring those outcomes for the local community. Engaging these stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

We are proud to join the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work. Please advise if further discussion would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Farmer".

Tim Farmer, EI
District VII Manager
Cimarron, New Mexico

TWF:twf

NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

TOPPER THORPE, Chairman, Cliff
TOM BLAINE, P.E. Secretary
BLANE SANCHEZ, Isleta
MARK SANCHEZ, Albuquerque
CAROLYN HOLLIFIELD, Roswell
SAMUEL GONZALES, Aztec
FRANKLIN McCASLAND, Tucumcari
JACK KING, Alto



BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING, ROOM 101
POST OFFICE BOX 25102
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-5102
(505) 827-6160
FAX: (505) 827-6188

January 22, 2018

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

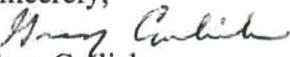
Dear Mrs. Celley,
Greg Carlisle is pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

Water related issues have long been a concern in this region. Highlighting areas of actionable change and infrastructure improvement is the right direction in which to move. Enhancing the function of the Cimarron River will improve water quality and quantity, offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts.

We believe that the planning process outlined in this proposal would open the door to restoration projects and other solutions that will help to bring those outcomes for the local community. Engaging these stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

We are proud to join the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work.

Sincerely,


Greg Carlisle

NMISC/OSE
Eagle Nest Dam Caretaker



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region 3
Carson National Forest
Questa Ranger District

P.O. Box 110
Questa, NM 87556
(575) 586-0520
Fax: (575) 586-2010

File Code: 1200
Date: January 19, 2018

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
PO Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

The Carson National Forest is pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

Water related issues have long been a concern in this region. Highlighting areas of actionable change and infrastructure improvement is the right direction in which to move. Enhancing the function of the Cimarron River will improve water quality and quantity, offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts.

We believe that the planning process outlined in this proposal would open the door to restoration projects and other solutions that will help to bring those outcomes for the local community. Engaging these stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

We are proud to join the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work.

Sincerely,

/S/ JACK LEWIS
District Ranger



Caring for the Land and Serving People

Printed on Recycled Paper



Town of Springer

P.O. Box 488, 606 Colbert Avenue, Springer, NM 87747
(575) 483-2682 Phone, (575) 483-2670 Fax

Jan 17 2018

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

Town of Springer is pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

Water related issues have long been a concern in this region. Highlighting areas of actionable change and infrastructure improvement is the right direction in which to move. Enhancing the function of the Cimarron River will improve water quality and quantity, offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts.

We believe that the planning process outlined in this proposal would open the door to restoration projects and other solutions that will help to bring those outcomes for the local community. Engaging these stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

We are proud to join the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work.

Sincerely,



Fernando Garcia
Mayor
Town of Springer



Everybody Is Somebody In New Mexico!!!



January 10, 2018

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

The Valle Vidal Grazing Association is pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

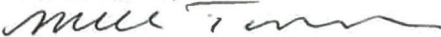
Water related issues have long been a concern in this region. Highlighting areas of actionable change and infrastructure improvement is the right direction in which to move. Enhancing the function of the Cimarron River will improve water quality and quantity, offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts.

We believe that the planning process outlined in this proposal would open the door to restoration projects and other solutions that will help to bring those outcomes for the local community. Engaging these stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

We are proud to join the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work.

Sincerely,

Mark Torres, President



Valle Vidal Grazing Association



(505) 299-5404
6100 Seagull St. NE Suite B-105
Albuquerque, NM 87109
nmwildlife@nmwildlife.org

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation is pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

Water related issues and stream flows have long been a concern in this region. Highlighting areas of actionable change and infrastructure improvement is the right direction in which to move. Enhancing the function of the Cimarron River will improve water quality and quantity, offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, businesses, sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts.

We believe that the planning process outlined in this proposal would open the door to restoration projects and other solutions that will help to bring those outcomes for the local community. Engaging a variety of stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

We support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew Black".

Andrew Black
Director of Community Relations and Education
New Mexico Wildlife Federation



P.O. DRAWER E • RATON, NEW MEXICO 87740 • (575) 445-3097
www.vermejoparkranch.com

January 23, 2018

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

Vermejo Park Ranch is pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

Having the opportunity to meet and continue discussions from the Regional Water Plan and Watershed Based Plan will provide stakeholders in the Cimarron Watershed an opportunity to forward our efforts to address drought planning, wildland fire mitigation, water management, and restoration efforts.

We believe that the planning process outlined in this proposal would open the door to restoration projects and other solutions that will help to bring those outcomes for the local community. Engaging these stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

We are proud to join the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work.

Sincerely,

Gus Holm
General Manager
Vermejo Park Ranch

CS CS RANCH, INC.

620 HIGHWAY 58
CIMARRON, NEW MEXICO 87714
E-MAIL: csranch@bacavalley.com

OFFICE: (575) 376-2827
FAX: (575) 376-2595

January 11, 2018

Mrs. Randa Celley, Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

The CS Ranch is pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed**. We have worked with the CWA for many years, and this proposal will expand upon previous planning efforts, including a NMDA/EPA Watershed Based Plan completed in 2012 and the Colfax County Regional Water Plan update in 2016. Moving the projects identified in those plans toward implementation with stakeholder support and developing initial designs and engineering is the goal of the proposal.

Water related issues have always been at the forefront of challenges facing this region, brought into even sharper relief by a decade of historic drought. Focusing on infrastructure improvement and water management are areas of actionable change and will result in a more resilient system. Enhancing the function of the Cimarron River will improve water quality and quantity, offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts throughout the region.

The planning process outlined in the proposal will address local concerns and lay the necessary groundwork for restoration projects and solutions. Four stakeholder meetings will be held in the area to seek public input, in addition to monthly reports and discussion at the regular CWA meetings. I plan to attend all of these sessions, both as a land and water rights owner and as a member of CWA. Engaging all stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to a healthier Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

We are proud to join the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work.

Sincerely,



Julia D. Stafford



January 9, 2018

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
PO Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

I am pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

Water-related issues have long been a concern in this region. Highlighting areas of actionable change and infrastructure improvement is the right direction in which to move. Enhancing the function of the Cimarron River will improve water quality and quantity, offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses and outdoor enthusiasts.

We believe that the planning process outlined in this proposal would open the door to restoration projects and other solutions that will help to bring those outcomes for the local community. Engaging these stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

We are proud to join the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Howe".

Chuck Howe
Mayor Pro-Tem
Village of Angel Fire
575-595-0061

January 20, 2018

Mrs. Randa Celley
Recording Secretary
Cimarron Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 626
Cimarron, NM 87714

Dear Mrs. Celley,

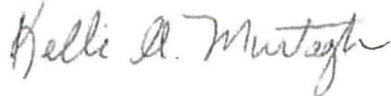
My name is Kelli Murtagh, and I am pleased to support the Cimarron Watershed Alliance's (CWA) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Proposal – **Planning: Enhancing the Cimarron River Watershed.**

Water related issues have long been a concern in this region. Highlighting areas of actionable change and infrastructure improvement is the right direction in which to move. Enhancing the function of the Cimarron River will improve water quality and quantity, offering positive outcomes for ranchers, municipalities, farmers, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts.

I believe that the planning process outlined in this proposal would open the door to restoration projects and other solutions that will help to bring those outcomes for the local community. Engaging these stakeholders in the planning process will bring us one step closer to improving the function of the Cimarron River watershed for use by many.

I am proud to join the Cimarron Watershed Alliance in this important work.

Sincerely,



Kelli A. Murtagh
Emergency Preparedness Consulting, LLC.
nmepcl@gmail.com
505-239-8483



Colfax County
Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 1498 • Raton, New Mexico 87740

Phone: (575) 445-9661 • Fax: (575) 445-2902

www.co.colfax.nm.us

COMMISSIONERS

WILLIAM E. SAUBLE

Chairman

1261 Circle Dot Ranch Road
Maxwell, NM 87728
(575) 375-2686

JAMES L. NEWTON

Vice-Chairman

P.O. Box 156
Springer, NM 87747
(505) 228-2485

ROY P. FERNANDEZ

Member

455 A NM SR 72
Raton, NM 87740
(575) 445-2846

MARY LOU KERN

Colfax County Manager
(575) 445-9661

RAYETTA M. TRUJILLO

County Clerk

(575) 445-5551

RESOLUTION 2018-06

**Board of County Commissioners Support for the Cimarron
Watershed Alliance FY2018 WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed
Management Program Phase I Grant Application**

WHEREAS, the Cimarron Watershed Alliance is applying for a grant from the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I to fund the project, Cimarron Watershed Restoration and Drought Preparedness planning for Improved Water Quality and Quantity; and

WHEREAS, the focus of this project is to sustainably enhance the function of the Cimarron River Watershed in an era of climate change, to benefit of a broad variety of values supported by the river and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, these challenges will be met with a well-organized collaborative effort to ensure the general consensus of all involved parties; and

WHEREAS, the Colfax County Commission is committed to endeavors that will enhance the efficiency of the water used 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 utilizing best management practices and improving the current infrastructure and

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

APPROVED IN OPEN MEETING THIS 22nd DAY OF JANUARY, 2018.

COLFAX COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

William E. Sauble

WILLIAM E. SAUBLE, CHAIRMAN

James L. Newton - Via Electronic Device

JAMES L. NEWTON, VICE-CHAIRMAN

R. P. Fernandez

ROY P. FERNANDEZ, MEMBER



ATTEST:

Rayetta M. Trujillo

RAYETTA M. TRUJILLO, CLERK OF THE BOARD

Appendix C - Official Resolution

Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc.

Board of Directors Resolution

On January 30, 2018, the following resolution was proposed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc.:

WHEREAS the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc. is an existing 501(c)(3) non-profit, grassroots, non-regulatory watershed organization comprised of stakeholders within the Cimarron Watershed;

WHEREAS the mission of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc. is to strive for and maintain a healthy watershed for all residents through collaborative community activities involving all stakeholders with an interest in water;

WHEREAS the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management project supports the mission of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc.;

WHEREAS the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc. is managed by and under the direction of a Board of Directors that is currently comprised of Richard Smith, James Morgan, John Celley, Julia Stafford, Timothy Herfel, Mark Torres, and Gus Holm; therefore

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors grants Richard Smith, President of the Board of Directors of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc., the legal authority to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc. with the Bureau of Reclamation for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management project;

RESOLVED, That Richard Smith, President of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc., has reviewed and supports this grant proposal for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management project;

RESOLVED, That the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc. is capable of and committed to providing in-kind contributions stated in the application;

RESOLVED, That the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc. will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc. is in full support of a grant proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management project.

Signed:



Richard Smith

President, Board of Directors, Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc.

Appendix D - Entity Identification

Employer Identification Number

20-1179179