



COLORADO
Department of Local Affairs
Division of Local Government

MEMORANDUM: ACTION REQUIRED

To: Boards of County Commissioners in Affected Forest Counties
Cc: County Chief Administrators in Affected Forest Counties
Office of the State Treasurer
Colorado Counties, Inc.
From: Mia Gonzales, Department of Local Affairs
Date: August 8, 2022
Re: **Forest Service FY 2022 SRS Payments to States Title Election Form**

With the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act by P.L. 117-58 (the Act), the Department of Local Affairs must collect each participating county's election to receive payment and to allocate among Titles for the upcoming year (payment year 2023). Following the receipt of all elections, the Department of Local Affairs will certify and transmit the election results to the U.S. Forest Service.

The election process is available only for counties receiving the Secure Rural Schools Act (or "full payment amount") method for FY21. Counties paid in FY21 under the 1908 Amended Act (or "traditional 25% method") will remain classified as this designation for the FY22 payments cycle and no allocation elections for these counties will be accepted.

Instructions for electing allocations and a report containing estimated earnings figures from FY21 are included. Each qualifying county must allocate among Titles based on its FY21 distribution category (minor, moderate, or major). Please refer to the included attachments for your county's distribution category and to help determine which allocations your county would prefer. A county that fails to elect to allocate between Titles will be considered to have elected 80-percent for Title I for schools and roads. The remaining 20-percent will be made available to the U.S. Forest Service under Title II for special projects on federal lands.

The election to receive payment and designate your county's allocations among Titles must be completed electronically and should be submitted once by a single representative of the county.

The deadline for completing the electronic form to the Department is Thursday, September 1st 2022.

Electronic Form for Submission: [FY 2022 Secure Rural Schools Payments to States Title Election Form](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns about the process. You may reach me at (303) 864-7744 or mia.gonzales@state.co.us.





National Forest Payments An Overview for Colorado Counties

The Federal program commonly known as National Forest Payments has undergone many changes over the years. Its origins lie in the 1908 act to create federal revenue sharing from leases and timber receipts from National Forests located within counties. Over time, and with the decline in timber production, there have been changes that have altered how each county can have its payments calculated.

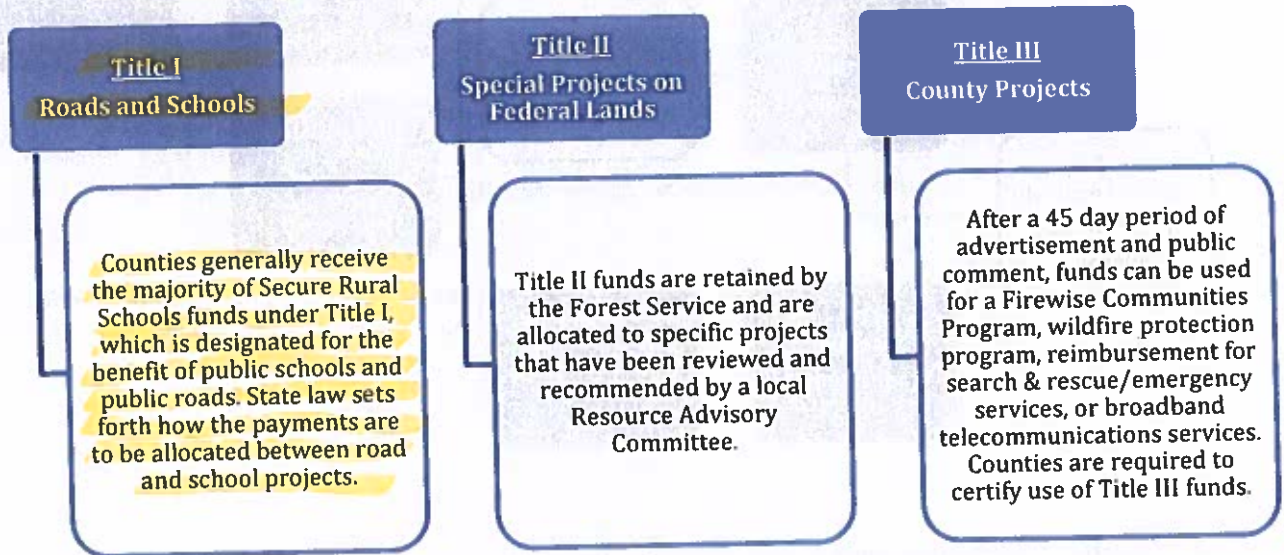
1908 Act Amended (“Traditional 25% Payment”)

In 1906, a law passed to transfer 10 percent of the forest receipts to states to support public roads and schools. Two years later, Congress ratified an Act (1908 Act) to expand payments to the states from 10 percent to 25 percent. In 2008, the original 1908 Act was amended and payment became 25 percent of average gross receipts over the previous 7 years rolling average. Currently, there are 5 counties in Colorado (73 nationwide) that are receiving payments under this methodology. The Act is fixed and does not need to be reauthorized.

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (“Full Payment”)

By the year 2000, after decades of declining agency revenues, Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (SRS) to help stabilize the funds available to rural counties. The Act created an alternative methodology of calculating amounts to be paid to counties, but required additional restrictions on portions of funds for counties which selected the new payment methodology. Payments are divided into three distinct categories, or Titles. The Act must be reauthorized by Congress. In the event it is not, the 1908 Act (as amended) will go into effect.

Secure Rural Schools Act - Titles



Please visit the U.S. Forest Service website for more in-depth information and additional requirements:
www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/secure-rural-schools/categories