

Slide Show Text from 5/2/2002 Meeting

Background

- The 25% Fund Act, also known as the Act of May 23, 1908, was enacted to provide states 25% of all revenue received during any fiscal year from each National Forest.
- These revenues are collected from timber sales, mineral sales, grazing fees, and other revenue sources.
- Funds are to be used for the benefit of public schools and public roads of the county or counties in which such National Forest is situated.
- Revenues have fluctuated over the years and have sharply declined in recent years in rural counties because of the drop in timber sale receipts.
- On October 30, 2000, the President signed Public Law 106-393 (H.R. 2389).
- This law is called the “Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000” (commonly known as *Payments to States*)

Goals of the Act

- Stabilize payments to counties to provide funding for schools and roads.
- Invest in projects and create employment opportunities that:
 - Improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure (e.g, roads, trails).
 - Implement stewardship projects that enhance forest ecosystems.
 - Restore and improve land health and water quality.
- Improve cooperative relationships among the people that use and care for Federal lands and the agencies that manage these lands.

Payments

- For each year 2001-2006, the new law allows a State to receive an amount equal to the average of the State’s three highest 25% payments within fiscal years 1986-1999.
- Counties elect which method (Full Payment vs. 25% Payment).

Lincoln County Payment

- Lincoln County elected the Full Payment Amount.
- Potential changes in total payments for Lincoln County (actual amount is determined by State): \$2.86 million in 2000\$5.66 million in 2001

2001 Lincoln County Payment

- Total Payment \$5,658,720
- Title I Roads and Schools \$4,809,911.39 (dependent on State's process)
- Title II Projects on Federal Lands (0 elected for FY01)
- Title III County Projects \$848,807.88

80-85% of Total Payment

- Called Title I Projects
- States shall distribute Title I payments among all eligible counties in accordance with the Act of May 23, 1908 and section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911.
- Will continue to be used for funding schools and county roads (same as the historic 25% Fund).

15-20% of the Payment may be used to fund:

- Title II Projects: Special projects on Federal lands or non-Federal land projects that benefit resources on Federal lands.
- Title III Projects: County projects

Title II Projects

- Projects on National Forest System lands or on non-Federal lands where projects benefit resources on Federal land.
- Examples include: watershed restoration, fuels management, noxious weed control.

Title II Examples of Projects

- Road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration.
- Watershed restoration and maintenance.
- Soil productivity improvement.
- Improvements in forest ecosystem health.
- Restoration, maintenance, and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat.
- Control of noxious weeds.
- Reestablishment of native species.

Title II Funding Limitations

- At least 50% of all Title II project funds shall be used for projects that are primarily dedicated to:
 - Road maintenance, decommissioning, or obliteration.
 - Restoration of streams and watersheds.

Title II Implementation

- May enter into contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements with States and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners and others.
- Best value contracting

Title III Authorized Uses

- Search, rescue, and emergency services.
- Community service work camps.
- Easement purchases.
- Forest-related educational opportunities.
- Fire prevention and county planning.
- Community forestry.

What is a Resource Advisory Committee?

- A collaborative group of 15 non-agency individuals representing a diversity of interests.
- Three-year appointments, with reappointment by Secretary of Agriculture.
- Operate under rules of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Role of the Resource Advisory Committee

- To review and recommend Title II projects to the Secretary for funding.
- To coordinate with the Forest Service in recommending projects.
- To provide frequent opportunities for stakeholders to participate in project development.

Websites for More Information

- **Payments to States:**
 - www.fs.fed.us/r1/forest_range/payment_to_states/payments_index
 - www.fs.fed.us/payments/
 - www.r5.fs.fed.us/pay2states
- **Watershed Programs:**
 - www.usda.gov/stream_restoration/
 - www.fs.fed.us/largewatershedprojects/
 - <http://water.montana.edu/watersheds/>
 - www.kootenairivernetwork.org

More Websites

- **Wildlife and Fisheries:**
 - www.fwp.state.mt.us/habitat/
- **Community Forestry:**
 - www.dnrc.state.mt.us/forestry/CommunityForestryManagement/