

# Secure Rural Schools - Payments

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## Payment Amounts

**1908 Act (amended) 25% payments** -view these reports if you are one of the 73 counties that elected to receive 25% payments instead of Secure Rural Schools payments (*ASR 10 series reports*).

- By State: [2021](#); [2020](#); [2019](#); [2018](#); [archive](#)
- By National Forest: [2021](#); [2020](#); [2019](#); [2018](#); [archive](#)
- By County: [2021](#); [2020](#); [2019](#); [2018](#); [archive](#)

**Secure Rural Schools payments** (*ASR 18 series reports*)

- By State & County: [2021](#); [2020](#); [2019](#); [2018](#); [archive](#)
- By National Forest: [2021](#); [2020](#); [2019](#); [2018](#); [archive](#)
- By Forest Service Region: [2021](#); [2020](#); [2019](#); [2018](#); [archive](#)

**National Forest statement of receipts** -annual income used to calculate 25% payments (*ASR 04 & 13 series reports*).

- By State: [2021](#); [2020](#); [2019](#); [2018](#); [archive](#)
- By National Forest: [2021](#); [2020](#); [2019](#); [2018](#); [archive](#)
- By Forest Service Receipt Type: [2021](#); [2020](#); [2019](#); [2018](#); [archive](#)

## Choosing your payment

*Congress periodically allows counties to choose one of two types of payments. The last opportunity was in 2013. Payment selections are locked.*

### 1908 Act (amended) 25% Payments

25% of gross receipts generated on Forest Service lands during the fiscal year is distributed. Payments are to be used to benefit public schools and public roads of the county or counties in which the national forest is situated. The annual payment is made as soon as practical after the end of the Fiscal Year. The Forest Service calculates payments and sends letters to the States advising them of the amount and of each county's percentage of the payment based on the county's acreage in the national forest. Currently, we are using 25% of a rolling 7 year average.

### Secure Rural Schools Payments

This act provides for the stabilization of payments to the states due to the decline in the timber industry and the associated receipts. The provisions of the Act include three titles, and the payments to the States are under Title I and Title III. If counties elected to receive the Secure Rural Schools payments, they also chose how the funds are allocated between the three Titles, as illustrated by the table below.

### Secure Rural Schools County Funds Distribution

Title Number	Minor Distribution (<\$100,000)	Modest Distribution (\$100,000 - \$349,999)	Major Distribution (\$350,000 and above)
Title I	100% OR	80%-85% AND	80%-85% AND
Title II	15%-20% between Titles II & III with the remainder in Title I	15%-20% between Titles II & III	13%-20%
Title III			<7%

*Note: These guidelines apply to the value of a county's distribution at the time of election (2013). Counties cannot change their elections, even if they have moved into a new distribution bracket.*

## Calculating Payments

Secure Rural Schools payments are calculated using a variety of factors including acres of Federal land within an eligible county, an income adjustment based on the per capita personal income for each county, and the 5% "sunset" reduction in the overall payments each year.

**Each eligible county's payment is calculated using multiple steps:**

Step 1. Determine the three highest revenue-sharing payments (high-three) between FY1986 and FY1999 for each eligible county, and calculate the average of the three.

Step 2. Calculate the proportion of these payments in each eligible county: divide each county's high-three average [from Step 1] by the total of the high-three averages in all eligible counties, with separate calculations for FS lands.

Step 3. Calculate the proportion of Forest Service lands in each eligible county: divide each eligible county's FS acreage by the total FS acreage in all eligible counties.

Step 4. Determine the base share for counties with FS lands: add the payment proportion [from Step 2] and the acreage proportion [from Step 3] and divide by 2.

Step 5. Calculate each county's income adjustment: divide the per capita personal income in each county by the median per capita personal income in all eligible counties, and then square the result.

Step 6. Divide each county's base share [from Step 4] by its income adjustment [from Step 5].

Step 7. Calculate each county's adjusted share: divide each county's result from Step 6 by the total for all eligible counties.

Step 8. Calculate each county's payment: multiply each county's adjusted share by the full funding amount.

# Secure Rural Schools - Categories

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The Secure Rural Schools Act breaks payments into three distinct categories, or Titles:

- **Title I** for roads and schools
- **Title II** for projects on Federal lands
- **Title III** for county projects.

Below is an explanation of each:

## **Title I - Roads & Schools**

Counties generally receive the majority of Secure Rural Schools funds under Title I, which is designated for the benefit of public schools and public roads. In years when the Secure Rural Schools Act is reauthorized by Congress, Title I payments are made from the USDA Forest Service to states. States then distribute the payment to all eligible counties. The funds must be passed through to local governmental entities for use at the county level (but not necessarily to county governments themselves). Each state must spend the funds on road and school programs, and state law sets forth how the payments are to be allocated between road and school projects. The state laws differ widely, generally ranging from 30% to 100% for school programs.

## **Title II - Special Projects on Federal Lands**

Counties typically receive 20% or less of Secure Rural Schools funds under Title II, which are used by willing Federal agencies, State and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners for protection, restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resource objectives on Federal land and on non-Federal land where projects would benefit these resources on Federal land.

Rather than being distributed to the State, Title II funds are retained by the Forest Service and are allocated to specific projects that have been reviewed and recommended by a local Resource Advisory Committee.

[Resource Advisory Committees](#) must initiate (recommend) Title II projects by September 30, 2025. Project funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2026

## **Title III - County Projects**

Funds received under Title III are used to:

- carry out activities under the [Firewise](#) Communities program
- reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols
- cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to the emergency service
- develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans.
- provide or expand access to broadband telecommunications services

In years when the Secure Rural Schools Act is reauthorized by Congress, Title III payments are made from the Forest Service to states. States then distribute the payment to all eligible counties.

**There is a required 45-day public comment period before using Title III funds. Eligible counties must first publish in a publication of local record a proposal that describes the intended use of the county funds. The county also must submit the proposal to any Resource Advisory Committee for the participating county. Counties are required to certify use of Title III funds.**

## **Certification of Funds**

**Counties are required to certify use of Title III funds.**

- The appropriate official of a county that receives funds under Title III shall submit an annual certification that the funds have been expended for the uses authorized under section 302(a) of the Act.
- Certification is to be made by February 1 of the year following the year in which the expenditures were made.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/secure-rural-schools/categories>

The certification may be in the form of conventional correspondence such as a letter, and at the option of the certifying official, attached tables, or similar graphic display. Or, the certification may employ the optional form [OMB 0596-0220](#).

Certification of expenditures of Title III funds received from the Forest Service may be submitted by:

**E-mail** (preferred method): [SM.FS.asc\\_asr@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.asc_asr@usda.gov)

Please type Title III certification/County Name/State Name subject line. **Example:** Title III certification/Delta County/Colorado.

## MAIL

Find out more about [Title III with our FAQs](#).