



Montana Association of Counties

Serving Montana Counties Since 1909

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January 10, 2022

RECEIVED

Ravalli County
215 S. Fourth, Ste. A
Hamilton, MT 59840

JAN 14 2022

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Hello Ravalli County!

We are pleased to inform you that your annual membership to the National Association of Counties (NACo) has been renewed at \$785. This membership provides you access to research, training, advocacy, and educational materials that help in all aspects of county governance.

Additionally, your membership provides opportunities to attend conferences and conventions as well as participate in steering committees and subcommittees, which help support and define the role that NACo plays in advocating for county government.

NACo is a significant voice in all federal legislation affecting counties and was heavily involved in the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFR), and recent Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) advocating on behalf of all counties.

Montana being a western state heavily impacted by federal lands and forests, we'd be remiss if we didn't mention that NACo again achieved full funding for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program for federal public lands counties as well as secured a three-year extension of Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Program for forest counties.

These are just a few of NACo's victories for counties in 2021. Thanks to you, we are able to maintain a 100% membership, which earns us an extra seat on NACo's Board of Directors, further enhancing our Montana-specific county voice at the national level.

Your membership and partnership with NACo (and MACo) is very much appreciated, and we look forward to this new year and all the triumphs and challenges it will inevitably bring.

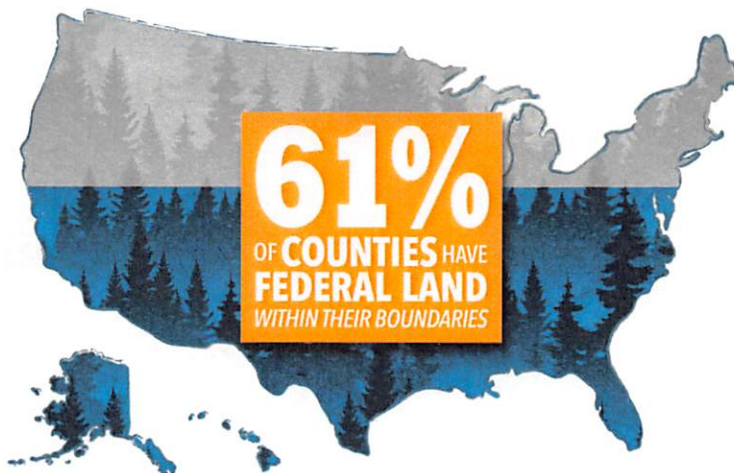
Sincerely,
Your MACo Staff

RAVALLI COUNTY, MT

2021 PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)

PILT RECEIVED FY 2021	PERCENT OF PILT ENTITLEMENT LAND	PILT ENTITLEMENT ACRES	PILT AMOUNT PER ENTITLEMENT ACRE
\$2,753,704	73.2%	1,120,319	\$2.46

FEDERAL LAND, LOCAL COMMUNITIES



61% of counties have federal land within their boundaries. Even though they are not able to collect property taxes on federal land, county governments must still provide essential services for their residents and those who visit these public lands each year. Such services include road and bridge maintenance, law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency medical, fire protection, solid waste disposal and environmental compliance.

Our ask: **Counties urge Congress to provide full funding for PILT in FY 2022 and to support a sustainable long-term approach to financing essential local services in America's public lands counties.**

BREAKDOWN OF COUNTY PILT ENTITLEMENT ACRES BY AGENCY

Bureau of Land Management	Forest Service	Bureau of Reclamation	National Park System	U.S. Army	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	Fish and Wildlife Service	Other Agencies*
0	1.12 M	0	0	0	0	0	0
(0.0%)	(100.0%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)	(0.0%)

*NACo Analysis of: U.S. Department of the Interior Data. PILT Received, FY 2021 represents the total PILT appropriations for fiscal year 2021. Total Number of PILT entitlement acres reflects the number of acres eligible for PILT payments. * Other Agencies includes acres managed by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (URC).*

PILT FUNDING CRITICAL FOR SERVICES INCLUDING:

						
ROAD AND BRIDGE MAINTENANCE	LAW ENFORCEMENT	SEARCH AND RESCUE	EMERGENCY MEDICAL	FIRE PROTECTION	SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS

SUPPORTING CRITICAL SERVICES IN FOREST COUNTIES

RAVALLI COUNTY, MT

	SRS PAYMENT, FY 2019 RECEIPTS YEAR:	PROJECTED 25% FUND PAYMENT, FY 2017 RECEIPTS YEAR:	PROJECTED FY 2017 25% FUND PAYMENT VS. FY 2019 SRS:	PERCENT OF NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE LAND:
COUNTY	\$811,002	\$34,534	-95.7%	73.7%
STATE	\$15.7 M	\$2.6 M	-83.3%	18.5%

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) Act was enacted in 2000 to compensate for steep reductions in revenues from timber harvests, which resulted from national policies that substantially diminished revenue-generating activities within federal forests. For FY 2019, the SRS program provided \$249 million for roads and schools and other critical services in 656 mostly rural counties, parishes and boroughs across the United States. The last authorization for SRS expired on September 30, 2018.

OUR ASK

Without SRS, forest counties nationwide face dramatic budgetary shortfalls. Counties urge Congress to renew its long-standing commitment to forest counties by increasing revenue sharing through active forest management and extending SRS as critical transitional funding.

Notes: The receipts year reflects when U.S. Forest Service (USFS) collects revenues from national forest lands. Without the SRS Act reauthorization, states revert to the Payments to States Act of 1908 as amended, receiving a 25 percent payment from national forest receipts. USFS estimates FY 2017 county 25 percent payments based on county shares of the national forest receipts. These estimates reflect the application of a 6.8 percent sequester to the state payments.

Sources: NACo analysis of data from the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management and Headwaters Economics analysis of the U.S. Geological Survey, Protected Areas Database.

SRS PAYMENTS ARE CRITICAL FOR SERVICES INCLUDING:



TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE



SCHOOLS



FOREST
MANAGEMENT



ECOSYSTEM
PROTECTION



PROTECTION
FROM WILDFIRE



SEARCH AND
RESCUE



EMERGENCY
SERVICES