

**Mullan School District #392**

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Mullan Idaho, 83846

Phone: (208) 744-1118 Fax: (208) 744-1119

August 30, 2014

Dear Superintendents

Here is a very simple question "Are your Federal Forest Funds worth fighting for? If the answer is no, please discard this letter and attachment. If the answer is yes, please consider the following.

We are facing a crisis in our Federal Forest Funding. I very respectfully request that you take a minute to read the enclosed "Federal Forest Fund Alert" and consider joining us in attempting to reauthorized continued funding as well as finding a more permanent solution to the mismanagement of our National Forests.

Please also consider bringing a Board member so that they might understand the gravity of this situation.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

*Robin Stanley*

Robin Stanley, Superintendent  
Mullan School District  
President, Idaho National Forest Schools Coalition.

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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# FEDERAL FOREST FUND ALERT

You are being sent this communication because

**YOU RECEIVE FEDERAL FOREST TIMBER REVENUE AND THAT PAYMENT IS IN PERIL.**

For over a hundred years the counties, schools and federal government have co-existed in relative harmony with the agreement that was struck between Forest Chief Gifford Pinchot, the Federal Government and the rural States. However, since the passage of the Secure Rural Counties and Schools Self Determination Act of 2000, we have seen a steady decline in our receipts. Now the replacement money is in peril of not being reauthorized, forcing a return to the old twenty-five percent funding. Because the logging activity has been curtailed, going back to the twenty five percent funding will devastate our counties and schools.

After lying dormant for a few years, there is a renewed rural **grassroots** effort to find a solution to our lost federal forest dollars. According to both Senator Wyden of Oregon, and a staffer from Idaho Senator Crapo's office, the timing is right for a long term "fix". While Congress is still as tight fisted as ever, key leadership positions in both houses of Congress are supportive of our position. Now is the time to take action. After the election in November, it may be too late.

We have identified three new arguments based on moral and legal reasons to reauthorize SRS, and provide a more permanent solution to our failed forest management system.

We can no longer wait around expecting someone else to handle this for us. It is once again time for each school district and county with a "dog in the fight" to step up and join us in "Winning" a reasonable and sustainable solution to our forest management dilemma. We need a plan that allows for science based forest management, access for recreation, vocation and fire suppression, and a system to replace the lost revenue for our schools and counties.

Please join us on September 24, in Wallace, Idaho for a one day conference titled "Rallying Troops and Passing Out the Ammo". We need your help NOW, if we are going to get this done. If Not YOU, Then WHO? If Not NOW, Then WHEN? We have great speakers and will provide valuable information to move forward with a more permanent solution for our federal funding issue.

Web site and agenda for the conference can be found at <http://countieswithnationalforests.wordpress.com/> or by "googling" "Not Without A Fight Blog" and clicking on the "September Conference" heading.