



ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA COMMUNICATION FORM

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| ITEM DATE: August 16, 2022 | ITEM TIME: 10:40 AM |
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|---|---|
| FROM: | Dan Strnad |
| TODAY'S DATE: | August 10, 2022 |
| AGENDA TITLE: | Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act Elections |
| CHECK ONE THAT APPLIES TO YOUR ITEM: | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X ACTION ITEM | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X DIRECTION | |
| I. DESCRIBE THE REQUEST OR ISSUE: | |
| Consideration and approval of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act Elections | |
| II. RECOMMENDED ACTION (motion): | |
| That the Routt County Board of County Commissioners approve the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (SRS) Title I election to be 85% and the Title II election to be 15%. In addition, the Board approves the SRS 85% County Title I election to be 100% allocated to the school districts in Routt County. | |
| III. DESCRIBE FISCAL IMPACTS (VARIATION TO BUDGET): | |
| PROPOSED REVENUE (if applicable): None | |
| CURRENT BUDGETED AMOUNT: None | |
| PROPOSED EXPENDITURE: None | |
| FUNDING SOURCE: Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act | |
| SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET NEEDED: No | |
| IV. IMPACTS OF A REGIONAL NATURE OR ON OTHER JURISDICTIONS (IDENTIFY ANY COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS ITEM): | |
| The County can elect to have distribute 85% of the funds distributed to school districts in Routt County based on student population counts. | |
| V. BACKGROUND INFORMATION | |
| See following page | |



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The County has historically elected the Secure Rural School (SRA) payment method versus the 25% 1908 Act payment method because the County as a whole receives the greatest amount of funds from the Federal Government. Per discussion with Mia Gonzales with DOLA the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (SRS) was completed too late in 2022 to open a full election cycle, which would have included choosing payment methods plus allocation among Titles for those choosing SRS. The Forest Service has not provided 25% 1908 Act payment method projections. However, the Forest Service has communicated that a full election cycle should be open in the summer 2023. At that time, the Forest Service will send states and counties projections to compare the different payment methods. The last full election cycle occurred in 2013 and has been in effect for all counties since then. The County can elect between Titles in 2022.

The County has historically elected to allocate 85% to the County and 15% to Title II. The 85% County funds (85% Funds) are then allocated to the School Districts based on student population counts provided by DOLA. The 2021 85% Funds are approximately \$114,000. The distribution to the school districts is reduced by "Sequestration" at the Federal level. Sequestration was an act, bill, etc. passed by the Federal Government to limit the amount of funds to be spent by the Federal Government. Typically, Sequestration represents approximately 5% or \$6,900 of the total distribution to the County. The County has the option to use the 85% funds for Road and Bridge or Schools per Colorado Revised Statute. If the County retains the 85% Fund for Roads, the 85% Funds are a deduction from the County's PILT distribution. Whereas if the County distributes the 85% Funds to the School Districts and relinquishes complete control of the 85% Funds to the school districts to spend on any reasonable school district expense the 85% Funds are not a deduction from the County's PILT distribution. There is more money in the County as a whole.

The County has an election to distribute a minimum of 15% to a maximum of 20% to Title II or Title III or a combination. Title II has been historically selected because these funds are retained by Routt National Forest and used or set aside to rehabilitate or do significant maintenance to Buffalo Pass Road in Routt County. The Forest Service has stated that in addition to the Title II funds additional funds have been acquired to assist in the rehabilitation of Buffalo Pass Road. Per discussion with Mike Mordi, Road and Bridge Director, the County has completed significant maintenance work up to Dry Lake Campground and Parking Area. However, from Dry Lake Campground to Buffalo Pass minimal maintenance work has been completed by the Forest Service in the past several years. Mike Mordi has emailed several individuals in the Forest Service to determine the plan to rehabilitate Buffalo Pass Road.

The County has not elected Title III because of the following items. Title III funds require a 45-day period of advertisement and public comment. The funds can then be used and are limited to Firewise Communities Programs, wildfire protection programs, reimbursement for search and rescue/emergency services or broadband telecommunication services and the expenditure of the funds need to be certified to the Federal Government. Total Title II and Title III funds at the 15% range are approximately \$21,000 and at the 20% range would be about \$28,000. The election of Title III funds by the County is a deduction from the PILT distribution. The election of Title II is not a reduction to the PILT distribution. The County as a whole receives the same amount of funds between PILT and SRS. However, the County could still use the PILT payment to do the same programs as Title III without the administrative requirements. The County has historically allocated 100% of the PILT payment to Road and Bridge and none to Title III programs as mentioned above. See example in spreadsheet below.



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| VI. LEGAL ISSUES: |
| NA |
| VII. CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: |
| NA |
| VIII. SUMMARY AND OTHER OPTIONS: |
| NA |
| IX. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS: |
| See item below |
| |

| Funds | Title II |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| | |
| PILT | \$ 1,800,000 |
| | |
| SRS | 150,000 |
| | |
| Title II 15% Forest Service | (22,500) |
| | |
| Net SRS to School Districts | 127,500 |
| | |
| Total Routt County | \$ 1,927,500 |

| Funds | Title III |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| | |
| PILT | \$ 1,800,000 |
| | |
| Title III 15% | (22,500) |
| | |
| Net PILT to County | 1,777,500 |
| | |
| SRS | 150,000 |
| | |
| Title III 15% | (22,500) |
| | |
| Net SRS to School Districts | 127,500 |
| | |
| Routt County | 22,500 |
| | |
| Total Routt County | \$ 1,927,500 |