

NATIONAL FOREST COUNTIES & SCHOOLS COALITION

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AUGUST SEPTEMBER ACTION FY 2019, 2020 SRS Funding, SRS Long Term, Next Steps

Congress must act to reauthorize and fund the Secure Rural Schools program, long term forest management, and fire prevention. Please join with the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition in Washington D.C. to carry this message to Congress September 9, 10, 11.

OVERVIEW: Congress needs to act to reauthorize and fund the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program through the Secure Rural Schools Extension bills sponsored in the Senate by Senators Crapo (R-ID) and Wyden(D-OR) and in the House by Representatives Neguse (D-CO) and McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). The National Forest Service issued the FY 2018 Secure Rural School payments and also issued the inappropriately withheld sequestered 2018 SRS funds to Counties and School districts. Now Counties and Schools in forest communities are again facing the continued unraveling of the Secure Rural Schools safety net serving 9 million students and county citizens in 4,400 school districts in 775 forest counties in 41 states.

The Secure Rural Schools safety net program for forest communities is based on historic precedent and agreements begun in 1908 removing federal lands from local tax bases limiting local community management, economic activity and development. **The federal government and Congress have been promising an alternative to Secure Rural Schools but not delivering a long term system based on sustainable active forest management.**

NEXT STEPS: Forest communities are suffering human and economic devastation as the SRS safety net continues to disintegrate. Forest counties, communities, schools and students continue to pay the price as irreplaceable essential fire, police, road and bridge, community and educational services are reduced and eliminated as dangerous devastating fires occur year after year. **The Administration and Congress must act this year to continue the historic SRS commitment to rural counties, communities, schools, students and citizens and act on viable forest management and economic development programs.**

AUGUST ACTION: Members of Congress are home in your communities until September 8. VISIT WITH AND ASK REPRESENTATIVES to SUPPORT Forest Communities by:

- **Acting on short and long term Secure Rural schools funding, forest management and fire control as forest communities and schools fight for economic survival.** SRS is critical to support essential safety, fire, police, road and bridge, and education services.
- **Acting this year on the 2 year short term bill funding SRS for FY 2019 and FY 2020, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (S. 430, H.R. 3048)** sponsored in the Senate by Senators Crapo (R-ID) and Wyden (D-OR) and in the House by Representatives Neguse (D-CO) and McMorris Rodgers (R-WA).
- **ACTING on long term SRS funding by supporting the Forest Management for Rural Stability Act S. 1643** sponsored by Senators Crapo (R-ID) and Wyden (D-OR) to establish a trust fund providing long term funding and stability for the Secure Rural Schools program.