



COLORADO

Department of Local Affairs

Division of Local Government

MEMORANDUM: ACTION REQUIRED

To: Boards of County Commissioners in Affected Forest Counties
Cc: County Chief Administrators in Affected Forest Counties
Office of the State Treasurer
Colorado Counties, Inc.
From: Mia Gonzales, Department of Local Affairs
Date: June 9, 2026
Re: Forest Service FED FY 2026 Payments to States Election Form

As directed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) under the recent reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Community Self-Determination Act (P.L. 119-58), the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) is collecting county payment elections for federal fiscal year 2026 (payment year 2027).

Your county must choose between the following two payment methodologies:

- **The 1908 Amended Act:** Based on a 25% 7-year rolling average of National Forest receipts.
- **The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act:** SRS full payment.

The USFS has provided an interactive Adobe PDF form. Your county's specific preliminary payment estimates are included in this file.

Please note that these figures are strictly preliminary projections for the current election cycle. These estimates in no way confer the actual dollar amounts that would be received by any State or County. Actual distributions will vary based on future variables.

Special Requirement for SRS Selection

Counties electing the **SRS methodology** must also complete a second election to allocate funds between Titles I, II, and III. Your allocations are restricted based on your county's distribution category (Minor, Modest, or Major).

Need More Information on Allocation Categories or Title Rules?

- Review the [training video](#) provided by the Forest Service, which breaks down the distribution category definitions.
- Visit the official [USFS Secure Rural Schools Website](#) for a complete breakdown of statutory allocation categories and authorized uses of funds.





How to Submit Your Election

1. Watch the 15-Minute Tutorial Video:

Optional but Recommended

You can view the short [training video](#) provided by the Forest Service. This resource provides valuable context on these payments and explains how SRS allocation rules work.

2. Download the Form and Select Your Options

Download the ASR Election_COLORADO form attached to this email. Navigate to your county name, choose your payment methodology (the 1908 Amended Act or Secure Rural Schools), and if applicable, complete your allocations.

3. Return Form to DOLA:

Deadline: Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Save the final PDF and email it back to DOLA at mia.gonzales@state.co.us. DOLA will certify and transmit all county results to the Forest Service.

Key Deadlines

- **Election Deadline: Wednesday, July 22, 2026**
An eligible county's failure to make a payment election will result in a defaulted assignment to the SRS payment methodology.
- **Limit:** One submission per county by an authorized representative.
- **SRS Title Allocation Postponement Deadline: September 15, 2026** *(Only applicable if choosing Secure Rural Schools and electing to postpone your title allocation details. We strongly encourage completing everything now to avoid a second form later. Failure to allocate will result in a defaulted assignment of 80-percent for Title I and 20-percent for Title II).*

If you have any questions, please contact Mia Gonzales at (303) 864-7744 or mia.gonzales@state.co.us.

