

# The Reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act (County Payments)

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR RURAL  
AMERICA CAMPAIGN

2011

## FACTS ABOUT ARKANSAS COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS

- In 2008, Arkansas School Districts and Counties received approximately \$10.6 million in funding from SRSCA
- 29 rural Arkansas counties receive funding from SRSCA
- Over 197,100 school children in Arkansas are impacted by funding from SRSCA
- Reauthorization of SRSCA is a priority for rural communities

## LEARN MORE ABOUT SRSCA...

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Map of SRSCA Pay- 8  
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sional District

## Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act (SRSCA) A “Contract” between the Federal Government and Rural Counties

The Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act is a contract based upon a historic partnership between the federal government and forested counties.

In 1911, the Weeks Act authorized the purchase of lands in the eastern and southern US to protect the headwaters of navigable streams. These lands were to be maintained as National Forests and the Act required that, “five percentum of all monies received during any fiscal year from each National Forest...shall be paid to the States...for the benefit of the public schools and public roads of the county or counties in which such National Forests are situated...” In 1913 Agricultural Appropriations Bill language was added to the Weeks

Act wherein the 5% was changed to 25% of revenue generated by activity on these lands. The Clarke McNary Act of 1924 expanded the purchase authority to the rest of the US and eliminated the requirement that the lands be acquired to protect navigable waters.

The 25% return was critical to the health of rural forested county schools and services. This is especially true as nationwide National Forests include 190 million acres and can cover as much as 87% of land mass in some counties. The 25% share worked well until the 1980’s when harvesting was greatly reduced by environmental laws and public policy changes. This created a

fiscal crisis for rural counties and schools. The “contract” was in jeopardy.

In response, Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act in 2000 to ensure the terms of the contract were met. In many cases it is the only thing standing between rural counties and schools and financial ruin.

In 2008, SRSCA provided approximately \$520 million in funding to 729 rural counties and school districts across the nation.

**Reauthorization of SRSCA is critical for resource constrained rural Arkansas counties, schools and communities.**

## SRSCA Funding to Arkansas

- In 2008 Arkansas school districts and counties received \$10.6 million in funding from SRSCA
- From 2008 thru 2011, rural Arkansas is projected to receive \$ 37.5 million in SRSCA funding
- Arkansas’ funding from SRSCA will decline by 62.5% from \$10.6 million in 2008 to \$3.9 million in 2012—a loss of over \$6.6 million



**National Forest Counties & Schools Coalition**

<http://www.partnershipforruralamerica.org>

# About the Partnership for Rural America Campaign

## Take an Active Role Now: Join the SRSCA Reauthorization Effort in Arkansas

*Arkansas counties affected by the Act should take a leading role in the reauthorization Campaign.*

Participate in the Campaign and the grass roots efforts by becoming a member of a Regional Coalition Action Team.

Sign up on our website or contact: Joel Yelverton, Marc Kelley, or Carolyn Wasem at (877) 778-7252.

## Our Goal:

To renew the contract between the Federal government and rural communities through a long-term (ten-year) reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (County Revenue Sharing Programs).

## Our Purpose:

The purpose of the Partnership for Rural America is to promote the economic and social health of rural America by actively building a broad-based partnership to support the long-term reauthorization and appropriation of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

The Partnership for Rural America Campaign provides interactive maps of state and county level SRSCS payments on our website.

Link to our website to find additional information on the history of SRSCA and additional information about funding for your county or state, or **sign up to be a volunteer to support our activities on behalf of Arkansas.**

<http://www.partnershipforruralamerica.org>

## Our Partnership with the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition

A nationwide Partnership for Rural America Campaign was initiated by the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition in 2009. The Partnership for Rural America Campaign works together with the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition to provide support for the reauthorization of funding for SRSCA. The mission of the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition is to actively initiate, coordinate, and monitor activities regarding the multiple use management of public and private lands that affect their health, productivity, and sustainability; these activities also impact the economic and social vitality of forest and rural county communities, families, schools, and local governments.

Activities of the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition may include, but are not limited to:

- Monitoring and supporting full implementation of the counties and schools safety net legislation. Actively engaging with those activities which support and enhance the implementation of the legislation.
- Monitoring and engaging in development of policy, regulations, and legislation.
- Initiating and coordinating communications, media outreach, education, and public relations programs.



## Arkansas Rural Schools

Statewide, there are approximately 197,100 school-aged children living in Arkansas counties that receive SRSCA Funding. With poverty rates of 99% and 98% respectively, school districts in Lee and Phillips County (Congressional District 1) have the highest poverty rate in the state; these two counties will receive a total of approximately \$450,000 in SRSCA payments from 2008 through 2011—if SRSCA is not reauthorized, these payments will drop to approximately \$21,000 annually after 2011. The average poverty rate for SRSCA county school districts in Arkansas was 53.3% (Source; Arkansas Department of Education *Free and Reduced Lunch Statistics*). In Scott County (Congressional District 4), approximately 58% of the children enrolled in school live in poverty—in 2010, Scott County will receive approximately \$1.9 million in SRSCA funding; this will decrease to \$633,653 in 2012, if SRSCA is not reauthorized

**SRSCA dollars are critical to Arkansas's schools. The loss of SRSCA funding will have serious consequences for rural school districts.**

## Roads and Bridges

There are over 98,607 miles of public roads in Arkansas. Counties in Arkansas maintain approximately 68,832 miles of rural roads and 4,500 bridges. Most of these roads are rural and are critical to economic growth, the creation of jobs, public safety, and the social health of small communities.

**The loss of SRSCA funding will dramatically and negatively impact the ability of counties to maintain and repair local roads and bridges**

## SRSCA Payments to Arkansas 2008 through 2012 by County

County	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011 Projected	FY 2012 estimated*	Decrease from 2008 to 2012
Ashley	\$6,633	\$6,235	\$4,970	\$4,225	\$2,872	-\$3,761
Baxter	\$143,089	\$129,673	\$120,812	\$108,393	\$81,260	-\$61,829
Benton	\$11,250	\$11,468	\$10,737	\$10,737	\$10,737	-\$513
Conway	\$17,430	\$15,258	\$12,261	\$11,397	\$8,940	-\$8,490
Crawford	\$260,535	\$236,319	\$222,208	\$215,503	\$110,762	-\$149,773
Franklin	\$286,806	\$261,101	\$221,330	\$197,554	\$134,513	-\$152,293
Garland	\$321,296	\$291,494	\$276,302	\$247,706	\$206,637	-\$114,659
Hot Spring	\$571	\$567	\$549	\$549	\$549	-\$22
Howard	\$5,821	\$5,200	\$5,085	\$4,949	\$2,625	-\$3,196
Johnson	\$690,645	\$612,501	\$532,016	\$508,650	\$234,664	-\$455,981
Lee	\$77,934	\$60,644	\$43,588	\$40,804	\$23,309	-\$54,625
Logan	\$328,572	\$284,916	\$260,310	\$238,244	\$118,912	-\$209,660
Madison	\$167,455	\$157,553	\$163,238	\$157,278	\$62,718	-\$104,737
Marion	\$4,567	\$4,636	\$4,320	\$4,320	\$4,320	-\$247
Montgomery	\$1,706,641	\$1,541,655	\$1,518,228	\$1,361,522	\$575,040	-\$1,131,600
Newton	\$866,635	\$803,537	\$621,983	\$549,443	\$254,365	-\$612,270
Perry	\$381,504	\$325,434	\$296,289	\$257,245	\$170,021	-\$211,482
Phillips	\$53,034	\$43,035	\$30,161	\$27,534	\$22,421	-\$30,614
Pike	\$31,344	\$29,111	\$25,179	\$23,070	\$20,498	-\$10,846
Polk	\$1,082,005	\$979,962	\$968,060	\$892,317	\$353,839	-\$728,167
Pope	\$500,179	\$461,762	\$416,408	\$397,850	\$246,592	-\$253,587
Saline	\$146,405	\$124,858	\$112,788	\$95,264	\$101,065	-\$45,340
Scott	\$1,945,452	\$1,755,230	\$1,901,172	\$1,763,454	\$633,653	-\$1,311,800
Searcy	\$144,436	\$130,933	\$99,533	\$86,799	\$41,461	-\$102,975
Sebastian	\$38,467	\$35,477	\$34,226	\$31,337	\$32,499	-\$5,968
Stone	\$214,265	\$189,292	\$166,311	\$159,179	\$78,833	-\$135,431
Van Buren	\$106,917	\$94,932	\$81,187	\$71,228	\$41,468	-\$65,449
Washington	\$29,928	\$30,406	\$28,359	\$28,359	\$28,359	-\$1,569
Yell	\$1,022,315	\$934,505	\$850,200	\$846,688	\$365,686	-\$656,629
Total	\$10,592,132	\$9,557,694	\$9,027,808	\$8,341,598	\$3,968,618	-\$6,623,514

\*Source: USDA Forest Service, Estimated county share of 25% payments for FY 2010. When the SRSCA expires at the end of fiscal year 2011, payments to states will be a 25-percent share of a rolling 7-year average annual receipts.

**There are approximately 2,598,742 acres of National Forest land in the state of Arkansas; the average SRSCA payment per acre was \$3.03 in FY 2010.**

Source: ASR Final Payment Summary Report PNF (ASR-10-01)

# Resource Advisory Committees

The SRS Act authorizes the use of RACs as a mechanism for local community collaboration with federal land managers in recommending Title II projects on federal lands or that will benefit resources on federal lands. The geographic boundaries of the RACs are determined locally by Forest Service officials in consultation with county and tribal officials and other stakeholders. The RACs are formed to ensure efficient and effective advice to Forest Supervisors and District Rangers responsible for approving and implementing the projects. Each RAC is assigned a Designated Federal Official to serve as the Forest Service point of contact.

The RAC's duties include reviewing proposed forest management projects in accordance with the SRS Act and making recommendations to the Forest Service and providing opportunities for interested parties to participate in the project development process. RAC duties have been expanded to include monitoring of project progress and making recommendations for appropriate changes to projects being monitored.

It is the Forest Service's responsibility to ensure that RACs are balanced and diverse with equal representation from industry, environmental groups, elected officials and local people as outlined in the SRS Act.

## **Officers and Membership in Resource Advisory Committees**

Each RAC shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Committee members shall be representative of the interests of the following three categories:

### **Category A**

- Organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester groups
- Developed outdoor recreation, off highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation vehicles
- Energy and mineral development interests; or commercial or recreational fishing interests
- Commercial timber industry
- Federal Grazing or other land use permittees or represent non-industrial private forest land owners, within the area for which the RAC is organized

### **Category B**

- Nationally recognized environmental organizations
- Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations
- Dispersed recreational activities
- Archaeological and historical interests
- Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed associations

### **Category C**

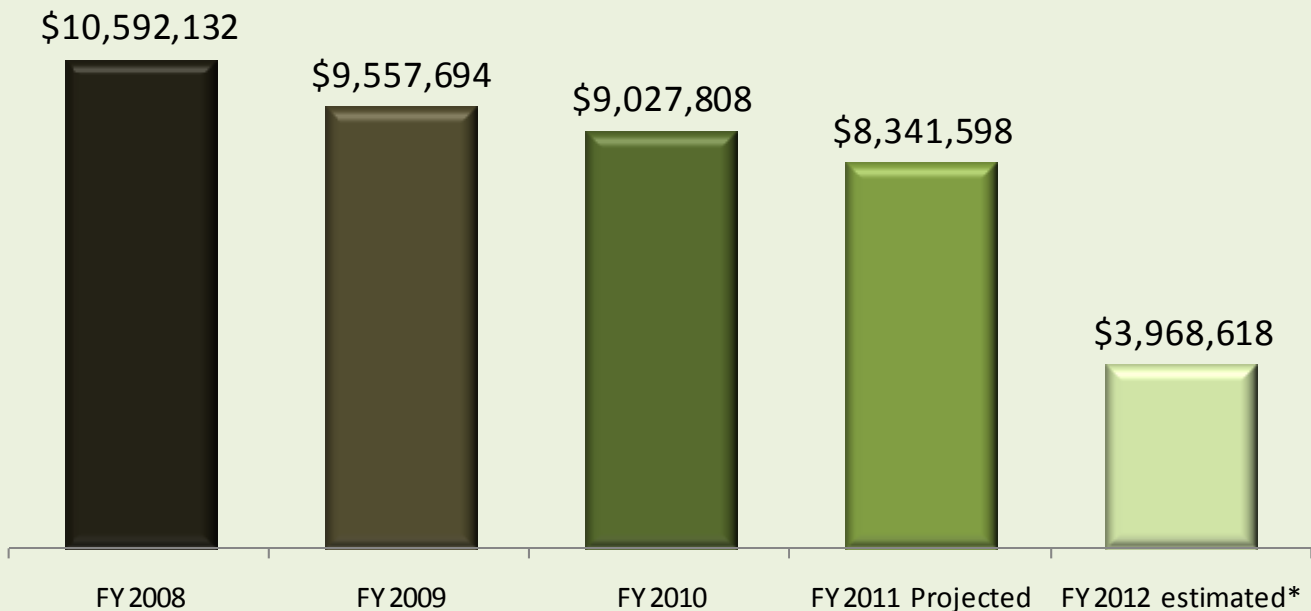
- State elected official or their designee
- County or local elected official
- American Indian tribes within or adjacent to committee area
- School official or teachers

*Source: U.S.D.A Forest Service*

## SRSCA Payments to Arkansas 2008 through 2012 by Congressional District

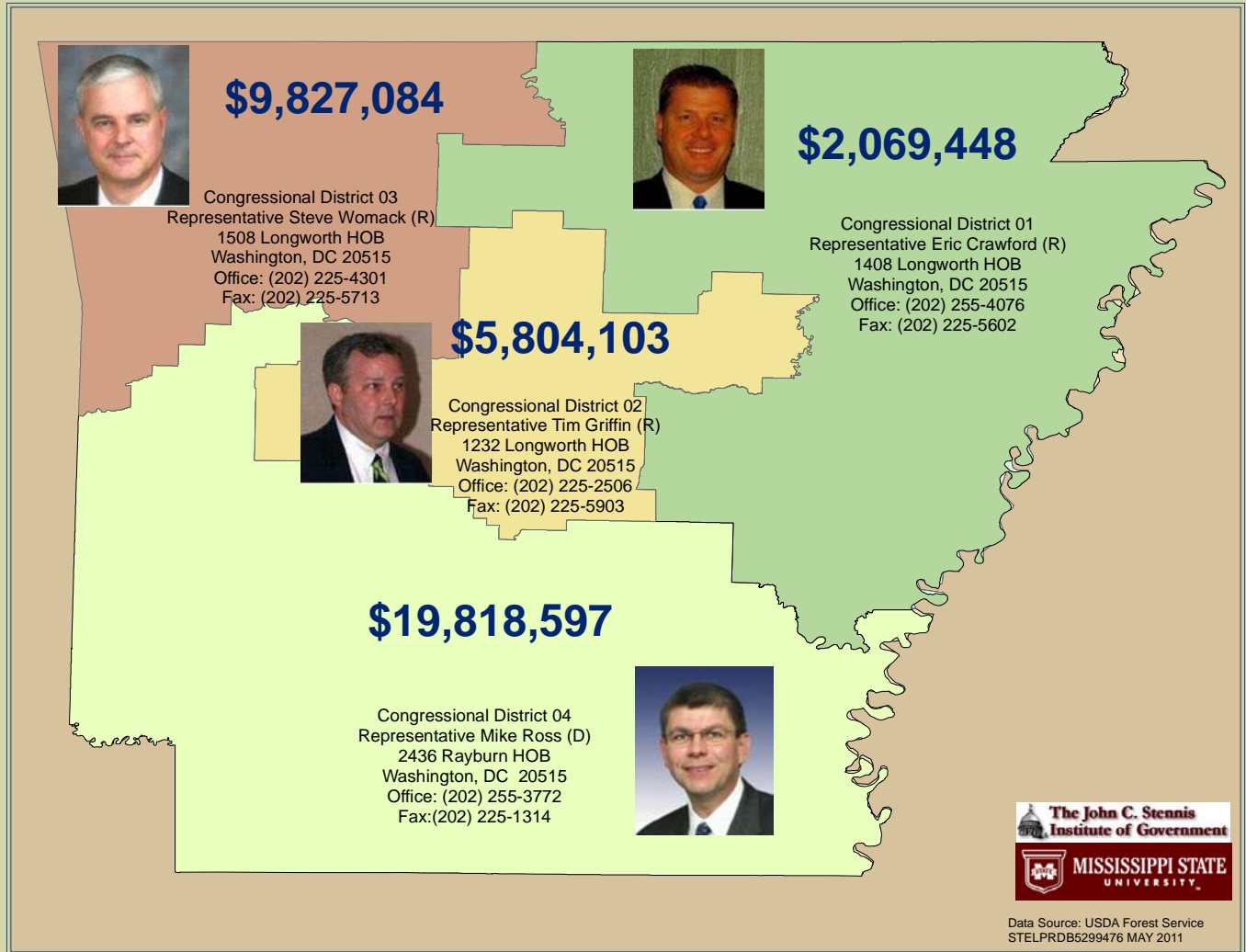
Congressional District	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011 Projected	FY 2012 estimated*	Decrease from 2008 to 2012
Eric Crawford (District 1)	\$632,757	\$553,577	\$460,405	\$422,709	\$247,284	-\$385,474
Tim Griffin (District 2)	\$1,674,570	\$1,494,987	\$1,352,724	\$1,281,822	\$687,181	-\$987,389
Steve Womack (District 3)	\$2,856,468	\$2,614,760	\$2,254,826	\$2,101,031	\$1,119,529	-\$1,736,940
Mike Ross (District 4)	\$5,428,336	\$4,894,371	\$4,959,854	\$4,536,036	\$1,914,624	-\$3,513,712
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,592,132</b>	<b>\$9,557,694</b>	<b>\$9,027,808</b>	<b>\$8,341,598</b>	<b>\$3,968,618</b>	<b>-\$6,623,514</b>

### State of Arkansas Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act Receipts 2008 - 2012



# SRSCA PAYMENTS TO ARKANSAS

## 2008—2011: \$ 37,519,233



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- Arkansas received \$10,592,132 in 2008
- This number will fall to \$3,968,618 in 2012
- This is a loss of approximately \$6.6 million

### TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE NOW

Partnership for Rural America Campaign

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