

- In 2010, California School Districts and Counties received approximately \$ 49.6 million in funding from SRSCA
- 39 California rural Counties receive funding from SRSCA
- Nearly 3 million school children in California are impacted by funding from SRSCA
- Reauthorization of SRSCA is a priority for rural communities

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Partnership for Rural America Campaign

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Overview of SRSCA Contract

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act Contract (SRSCA) provides assistance to rural counties and school districts affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands.

Historically, rural communities and schools have relied on a share of receipts from timber harvests to supplement local funding for education services and roads.

The steep decline in timber sales decreased the revenues that rural communities and school districts received from these timber sales.

In response, Congress passed the “Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination

Act (the Contract)” to stabilize the payments to counties and to compensate for lost revenues.

In 2010, the Contract provided approximately \$391 million in funding to 729 rural counties and parishes across the United States.

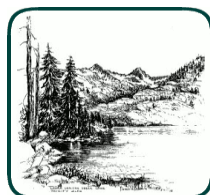
Reauthorization of the Contract is critical for resource constrained rural California counties, schools, and communities.



Redwood National Park,
Humboldt County

SRSCA Funding to California

- In 2010 California school districts and counties received \$49.6 million in funding from SRSCA
- From 2008 thru 2011, rural California is projected to receive \$205.2 million in SRSCA funding
- California’s funding from SRSCA will decline by approximately \$40.8 million, from \$49.6 million in 2010 to \$8.7 million in 2012



National Forest Counties & Schools Coalition
The Partnership for Rural America Campaign
[Http://www.PartnershipForRuralAmerica.org](http://www.PartnershipForRuralAmerica.org)

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act Funding to Rural California Counties and School Districts

2008: \$ 22,022,028
2010: \$ 17,862,312
2012: \$ 3,155,622
Fourth District
Congressman Tom McClintock
508 Cannon HOB
Washington DC, 20515
phone: (202) 225-2511

2008: \$ 22,893,140
2010: \$ 18,568,880
2012: \$ 3,280,447
Second District
Congressman Wally Herger
242 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC, 20515
phone: (202) 225-3076

2008: \$ 1,809,779
2010: \$ 1,467,932
2012: \$ 259,330
Third District
Congressman Dan Lungren
2262 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC, 20515
phone: (202) 225-5716

2008: \$ 4,094,744
2010: \$ 3,321,292
2012: \$ 586,752
First District
Congressman Mike Thompson
231 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC, 20515
phone: (202) 225-3311

2008: \$ 151,365
2010: \$ 122,774
2012: \$ 21,690
Twenty-Third District
Congresswoman Lois Capps
1110 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC, 20515
phone: (202) 225-3601

2008: \$ 6,628,433
2010: \$ 5,376,396
2012: \$ 949,814
Nineteenth District
Congressman Jeff Denham
2410 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC, 20515
phone: (202) 225-4540

2008: \$ 3,569,817
2010: \$ 2,895,518
2012: \$ 511,533
Twenty-First District
Congressman Devin Nunes
1013 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC, 20515
phone: (202) 225-2522

2008: \$ 61,169,306
2010: \$ 53,000,000
2011: \$ 45,000,000
2012: \$ 8,765,187
State of California Receipts



Senator Dianne Feinstein (D)
 331 Hart S.O.B.
 Washington, DC, 20510
 phone: (202) 224-3841

Senator Barbara Boxer (D)
 112 Hart S.O.B.
 Washington, DC, 20510
 phone: (202) 224-3553

- California received \$61,169,306 in 2008
- This number will fall to \$8,765,187 in 2012
- This is a loss of nearly \$52.4 million...

History of the SRSCA Contract



Tuolumne County

President Teddy Roosevelt developed and implemented the policy of conserving lands for multi-use. He also understood the economic challenges that this placed on rural communities. To address this challenge, a revenue sharing

plan was formulated specifying 25% of all revenues from National Forests would be returned to forested counties. This law worked for nearly a century. However, in the 1980s national resource policies substantially diminished the revenue-generating activity in the forests. In 2000 the *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act*

(P.L. 106-393) was enacted. The goal of the Act was to provide assistance to rural counties and schools affected by declining revenues from timber harvests on federal lands.

“These funds are used for schools and roads, to create employment opportunities, to maintain current infrastructure, and to improve

the health of watershed and ecosystems” (USDA Forest Service Release No. 0814, October 8, 2008).

On October 3, 2008, the *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act* (P.L. 110-343) was enacted; it reauthorized and amended SRSCA 2000 to continue, on a sliding payment scale, through 2011.

Efforts to assure that SRSCA is reauthorized are underway today.

Reauthorization of the SRSCA Contract

In California, rural counties must fund education and maintain roads on a tax base that is constrained by high child poverty rates, a limited business tax base, and a property tax base that is restricted by the tax-exempt status of national forest land within their boundaries. Secure, reliable payments from SRSCA are an essential source of revenues that enable rural communities to meet their financial obligations.

The *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act* will expire in 2011. The reauthorization of SRSCA will ensure that students receive essential educational services and that rural communities have funding for

roads, conservation projects, Search and Rescue missions (a safety structure for residents and visitors), and fire prevention programs. Funding from SRSCA also provides necessary revenue to cash-strapped rural school districts. It is important for Congress to commit the resources necessary to ensure that rural communities do not have to make further cuts to children’s education or further reduce vital services.

In 2009, counties and school districts began seeking support for the reauthorization of SRSCA to secure this important source of revenue for all rural communities and school districts.



California Redwoods

A Picture of Rural School Districts Receiving SRSCA Contract Funding

Statewide, there are over 6.3 million schoolchildren living in California counties that receive SRSCA funding. In rural Fresno County, one of California's largest-receiving counties, the poverty rate among school-aged children is 63% (Source: US Department of Education, *Free and Reduced Lunch Statistics*), a number that amounts to over 150% of the national average. Additionally, the unemployment rate in Fresno County is a staggering 16.8%, or 168% that of the national average, and an indication of the fragile economic climate that exists throughout much of rural California.



Fresno County Hall of Records

In this precarious economic environment, every dollar counts in rural communities – providing funding for children's education, the maintenance of rural roads, the preservation of national forests, and the ability to carry out search and rescue operations in rugged terrain. In 2008, rural California counties received approximately 52 million dollars in Title I funding under SRSCA, dollars that went directly to funding rural school districts – including vital programs such as special education, reading, AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), and ELL (English Language Learners) - and maintaining county roads. In Fresno County, the Fresno Unified School District - a District serving over 73,000 school-aged children - runs an AVID program designed to assist children from disadvantaged backgrounds reach their dreams of attending college. Faced with enormous budget reductions over this and the last several years, AVID - as well as numerous other beneficial programs - face uncertain futures. While not a panacea, SRSCA

The Impact of SRSCA Contract Funding on Roads and Bridges

The loss of SRSCA funding holds dire consequences for the maintenance of rural roads and county governments. This represents not only a safety issue, but an economic one as well: as tough and sometimes impassable roads negatively affect rural families, necessitating longer drives and their attendant impacts on work schedules and productivity. In 2008, Tuolumne County received approximately 1.8 million dollars in Title I funding. Of this, nearly 1.3 million was dedicated to the maintenance and repair of rural county roads. These dollars kept invaluable Road and Bridge Department workers on the job. Providing for 15 Department jobs out of a total of 32. The loss of SRSCA funding would mean an almost 50% reduction in Road and Bridge Department personnel, and would make the Department's mission of securing the safety of rural county roads nearly impossible. Indeed, these cuts do not merely mean the deferral of capital expenses or large projects – rather, they mean a cut of nearly 17% in the day-to-day operations budget of the Department. This means the elimination of snow plowing in the winter and the repairing of slides when storms roll through the county. This means rural families' safety: and it is not something that, once allowed to lapse, can be easily repaired.



Homegrown Success: California Resource Advisory Committees

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act authorized the use of the Resource Advisory Committee as a mechanism for local community collaboration with federal land managers in recommending Title II resource-benefit projects on federal lands. In 2008, California received approximately 5.7 million dollars for use in approved forest and ecosystem health projects (Source: US Forest Service, *County Payments and Allocations for FY 2008*). These projects directly benefit the rural communities in which they are implemented: providing jobs, enhancing the environment, improving recreational opportunities and contributing directly to local economies.

Take an Active Role Now: Join the SRSCA Contract Reauthorization Effort

A nationwide Partnership for Rural America Campaign was initiated by the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition in 2009. Counties in California affected by the Contract should take a leading role in the reauthorization Campaign. Interested and impacted individuals can participate in the Campaign and the grass roots efforts by becoming member of regional Coalition Action Teams.

Please call: Marc Kelley (877) 778-7252 or visit our website:

[Http://www.PartnershipForRuralAmerica.org](http://www.PartnershipForRuralAmerica.org) for more information.



Rural California's Roads