

# 2009 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Forest County

## Payments

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

### 2. Fiscal Year

2009

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Forest County  
Payments

### 3b. GSA Committee No.

11981

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year? 5. Current Charter 6. Expected Renewal Date 7. Expected Term Date

No 03/05/2007

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year? 8b. Specific Termination Authority 8c. Actual Term Date

Yes yes 03/05/2009

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate? 10b. Legislation Pending?

Continue No

### 11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority 13. Effective Date 14. Committee Type 14c. Presidential?

P.L. 106-291 and P.L. 108-319 11/12/2000 Continuing No

### 15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 0 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 0

### Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	<b>Current Next</b>	
	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The scope and objectives are to develop recommendations for policy or legislative initiatives (or both), regarding alternatives for, or substitutes to, the payments required to be made to eligible states and counties under the provisions of law referred to in Section 320(a)(3) and (4) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Pub. L. No. 106-291). The recommendations are to be consistent with sustainable forestry, the practice of meeting the forest resource needs and values of the present without compromising the similar

capability of future generations. The duties and responsibilities are to monitor the payments made to eligible states and eligible counties pursuant to the Act, and related laws, and submit to Congress an annual report describing the amounts and sources of such payments and containing such comments as the Advisory Committee may have regarding such payments; the Advisory Committee shall make itself available to Congress for testimony or comments on the reports, required to be submitted by the Advisory Committee, and on any legislation or regulations to implement any recommendations made in such reports in any congressional hearings or any rulemaking or other administrative decision processes.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Membership shall be balanced and consist of seven members as directed by the Act: The Chief of the Forest Service or designee who has expertise in sustainable forestry; the Director of the Bureau of Land Management or designee with expertise in sustainable forestry; the Director of the Office of Management and Budget or designee; two members who are elected members of the governing branches of eligible counties; two members who are elected members of school boards for, superintendents from, or teachers employed by, school districts in eligible counties.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

Although the agency had expected the committee to be reauthorized in early FY 2008, Congress did not pass the necessary legislation. The committee did not meet in FY 2009.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this**

**committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

This kind of information is not available through any other means, which is why the committee was established to evaluate the method by which payments are made to eligible states and eligible counties under provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

These meetings are not closed meeting. (See charter)

**21. Remarks**

There has been no activity of this committee in FY2008.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Randle Phillips Executive Director

**Narrative Description**

The Forest Counties Payments Committee's duties and responsibilities are to monitor the payments made to eligible states and eligible counties pursuant to the Act, and related laws, and submit to Congress an annual report describing the amounts and sources of such payments and containing such comments as the Advisory Committee may have regarding such payments; the Advisory Committee shall make itself available to Congress for testimony or comments on the reports, required to be submitted by the Advisory Committee, and on any legislation or regulations to implement any recommendations made in such reports in any congressional hearings or any rulemaking or other administrative decision processes.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if  
Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

**Outcome Comments**

The committee did not meet in FY 2008. This committee has improved relationships between local citizens and the Forest Service. It has also improved management of national forests through citizen participation.

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

**Cost Savings Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

20

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

The Committee's September, 2006, report to Congress, added these additional recommendations to previous recommendations: Where practicable, and within similar geographic boundaries, expand the role of existing Resource Advisory Committees to include authorities and activities associated with new programs, rather than create entire new RACs. The Departments of Agriculture and Interior should develop regulations to further clarify appropriate uses of Title III funds. Current audit procedures contained in the Single-Audit Act are sufficient to ensure compliance with Federal funds received by counties. Designate a non-federal group of stakeholders to provide Congress with periodic information related to all Titles of the Act. Under Title III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, create an additional category which permits expenditure of Federal funds for activities related to law enforcement on National Forests and Oregon and California Grant lands. Further Study should be undertaken to identify additional sources of revenue from public lands that would include valuation and pricing alternatives for the use of natural resources. Fully understand the cumulative effect of creating new policies that allow program receipts to be retained and not be available for deposit into the National Forest Fund and O&C Fund for use in making payments to states and counties. Consider new policies that provide for streamlined administrative procedures for projects that address hazardous fuels reduction with the objective of avoiding catastrophic events on public and adjacent private lands.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

0%

#### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

The Committee provided Congress with recommendations including a long-term payment method described in earlier reports. Some of these recommendations are included in current legislative proposals. Over time, subsequent legislation or development of Federal regulations could implement many of these recommendations the Committee believes are necessary. The current report provides to the six committees of jurisdiction current information about implementation of Public Law 106-393. The report is intended to provide policy makers with important data and recommendations at a time when legislative proposals are being considered to re-authorize the payments and many provisions contained in the existing Secure Rural Schools Act.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

Legislative proposals are being considered to re-authorize the payments and many provisions contained in the existing Secure Rural Schools Act.

### **Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes  No  Not Applicable

### **Agency Feedback Comments**

The Committee and Agency exchange information.

### **What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Action Comments**

The Committee has made recommendations to Congress, as required by law on proposing legislation.

### **Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

### **Grant Review Comments**

NA

### **How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Other



**Access Comments**

Publication: September 2006 Report to Congress.