



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Salem, Oregon 97306  
<http://www.or.blm.gov/salem>



**OCT 20 2015**

Dear Partner in Forest Health and Watershed Restoration:

The Secure Rural Schools Act was reauthorized by section 524 of P.L. 114-10 and signed into law by the President on April 16, 2015. The authorized uses of title II funds remain unchanged from the original Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000.

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Program provides federal funds to counties that traditionally have been supported by timber payments. These payments make up for the loss in timber payments caused by the dramatic decline in timber harvest on federal lands that occurred in the 1990s. Title I of the Act makes the majority of the funds (approximately 85 percent) available to counties to support schools and infrastructure. Titles II and III make funds available for a variety of activities that benefit federal lands and resources in the benefiting county. Title III funds are managed by county governments and are available to organizations for a variety of activities including search and rescue on federal lands and wildfire prevention planning. For more information on Title III funds contact your local County Commissioners' Office.

Title II funds are managed by federal agencies. A Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), made up of local citizens, recommends how the funds will be spent. The Act defines a wide variety of activities that can be accomplished with Title II funds. In addition, it does not limit project applicants to federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Any individual or organization can submit an application; however, the project must benefit federal lands or resources.

The Northwest Resource Advisory Committee will review and recommend Title II projects to be funded in early 2016.

Full proposals must be submitted to the Eugene or Salem District Office by close of business on **December 14, 2015** via mail or email at [blm\\_or\\_nwrac\\_titleII@blm.gov](mailto:blm_or_nwrac_titleII@blm.gov). A proposal form is enclosed. These forms will also be available at our web site at <http://www.blm.gov/or/rac/nworrac.php>. I strongly encourage you to visit this web site for more information on this funding authority.

Once proposals are received, they will be evaluated to ensure that they comply with requirements of the Act. Projects must meet one or more of the resource objectives identified in the Act, such as:

- Road, trail, and infrastructure improvement, maintenance or obliteration;
- Soil productivity improvement;

- Improvements in forest ecosystem health;
- Watershed restoration and maintenance;
- Restoration, maintenance and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat;
- Control of noxious and exotic weeds; and
- Reestablishment of native species.

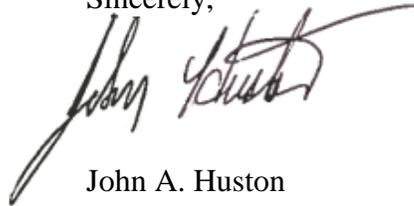
Project funds may only be used on BLM administered land and on non-BLM administered land where projects can be demonstrated to provide benefit to the resources on BLM administered lands.

Those project proposals that meet the criteria established in the legislation will be presented to the Northwest Resource Advisory Committee for their funding recommendation.

If you have any questions, please contact Secure Rural Schools, Title II Project Coordinator, Patricia Johnston at (541) 683-6181 or [pjohnsto@blm.gov](mailto:pjohnsto@blm.gov) on the Eugene District or Dave Howell at 503-375-5642 or [dohowell@blm.gov](mailto:dohowell@blm.gov) on the Salem District.

Thank you for your continued commitment to forest health and watershed restoration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Huston", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John A. Huston  
Northwest Resource Advisory Committee  
Designated Federal Official

Enclosure