

# SANTA FE COUNTY

## Resolution No. 2005 -55

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### A Resolution in Support of the Reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act

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**WHEREAS**, in 1908, in response to the mounting opposition to the creation of the National Forest System in the West, Congress passed a bill which created a revenue sharing mechanism to offset the effects of removing these lands from economic development;

**WHEREAS**, the 1908 Act specified that 25 percent of all revenues generated from the multiple-use management of the National Forests would be shared with the counties to support public roads and public schools;

**WHEREAS**, it was the intent of Congress in establishing our National Forests that they would be managed in a sustained multiple-use manner in perpetuity and that the forests would provide revenues for local counties and the federal treasury in perpetuity as well;

**WHEREAS**, this revenue sharing mechanism generated from the multi-use management of the National Forests worked extremely well during the years 1908 through 1986;

**WHEREAS**, from 1986 to the present, multiple-use management of the National Forests has sharply dropped, and as a consequence, so have the revenues;

**WHEREAS**, in the late 1990s, many rural, timber-dependent communities were experiencing dramatic reductions in federal forest land revenues due to significant decreases in federal timber sales;

**WHEREAS**, payments to many rural forest schools had dropped to less than 10 percent of their historic levels, and consequently, many forest counties faced devastating losses of education funding leading to reductions in teaching staff and other education personnel,

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elimination of extracurricular programs, cancellation of school meals programs, and postponement of desperately needed building repairs;

**WHEREAS**, most counties have seen a decline of over 85 percent in actual revenues generated from our National Forests, largely as a result of the reduction in all forms of green and salvage timber harvesting;

**WHEREAS**, this revenue crisis led county and school officials to form the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition in 1998;

**WHEREAS**, the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition ("the Coalition") actively initiated, coordinated, and monitored activities regarding the multiple use management of public and private lands that effect their health, productivity, and sustainability; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coalition positively affected the economic and social vitality of forest and rural county communities, families, schools and local governments;

**WHEREAS**, in 2000, Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (PL 106-393) ("the Act");

**WHEREAS**, the Act addressed the needs of the forest counties and focused on creating a new cooperative partnership between citizens in forest counties and the federal land management agencies of the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management;

**WHEREAS**, the Act developed forest health improvement projects on public lands and simultaneously stimulated job development and community economic stability;

**WHEREAS**, the Act offered a sensible solution to the forest county education funding crisis by ensuring a predictable payment to federally impacted forest counties, regardless of the level of timber sales, effectively removing education funding from dependence on timber sales;

**WHEREAS**, the funds provided by the Act have restored and sustained essential infrastructures such as county roads, assisted school districts, and provided funds to improve the education of children in high poverty area schools;

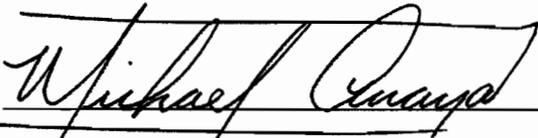
**WHEREAS**, these essential services are being supported and developed in forest counties by investing Title III funds intended to foster creativity and innovation in the selection of projects by Counties within six specified categories: search, rescue and emergency services on federal lands; community service work camps for federal lands; easement purchases; forest related educational opportunities; fire prevention and county planning; and community forestry; and

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County supports the reauthorization and enhancement of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act so it can continue to benefit the forest counties, their schools, and continue to contribute to improving the health of our National Forests.

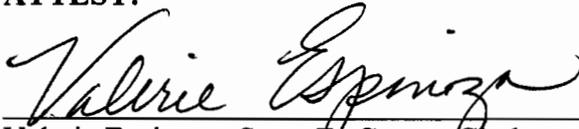
**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2005.

**SANTA FE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



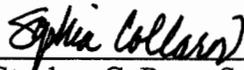
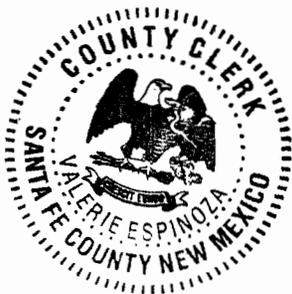
Michael D. Anaya, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
Valerie Espinoza, Santa Fe County Clerk

SFC Clerk 04/27/2005

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
for Stephen C. Ross, Santa Fe County Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )	BCC RESOLUTIONS
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss	PAGES: 3
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 27TH Day Of April, A D., 2005 at 10:38 And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1377244 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County	
Deputy _____	Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office Valerie Espinoza County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

