



## MEMORANDUM

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**MEETING TYPE:** Board of County Commissioners

**MEETING DATE:** October 10, 2023

**ITEM NAME:** SRS Title 3 Notice

**SUBMITTED BY:** Carl Young, County Administrator, and  
Brittney Ciarlo, Emergency Manager

**SUMMARY:** The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination of Act of 2000, as reauthorized (the “SRS Act”), requires Counties to seek public comment on the use of funds received under the Title 3 of the SRS Act. County staff proposes to continue our current uses (1) carrying out activities under the Firewise Communities Program, and (2) reimbursements for search and rescue activities on Federal Lands as well as to add a third use, developing and carrying out community wildfire protection plans.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Motion to approve opening a 45 day public comment period on the proposed uses of Title 3 Funds effective Thursday October 12, 2023.

**BACKGROUND:** This additional use will support County goals around protection of County Infrastructure and Resiliency.

**BOARD ACTION TAKEN:**

APPROVED

DENIED

OTHER

SIGNATURE OF THE CHAIR: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES:

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

### **Title III – Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000**

Notice is hereby given that Huerfano County has opened a forty-five (45) day period effective October 12, 2023 to accept written comment from the public on the application of payments received by the County pursuant to Title III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination of Act of 2000, as reauthorized (the “SRS Act”).

**Comment Period:** Written comments will be accepted immediately through November 27, 2023 and can be mailed or hand-delivered to:

Office of the Board of County Commissioners  
Attention: Brittney Ciarlo, Emergency Manager  
401 Main Street, Suite 201  
Walsenburg, CO 81089

Comments may also be submitted using this form: <https://wkf.ms/45e4700>

**Comment Purpose:** Huerfano County is eligible to receive approximately \$18,405 in revenues for 2024 under Title III of the SRS Act for application to certain statutorily defined purposes specified in Title III. These purposes are generally categorized as:

1. carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program;
2. reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols;
3. cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to the emergency service;
4. develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans; and
5. provide or expand access to broadband telecommunications services;

**Proposed Use:** The County currently uses Title III funds to (1) educate and assist communities in Huerfano County carry out activities necessary to become recognized as a Firewise Community, renew such recognition, or conduct authorized Firewise Activities in communities that already have such recognition; and (2) as a reserve, until spent, available to reimburse the County for search and rescue or other emergency services occurring on qualifying Federal lands that meet the standards set by applicable laws and regulations should the need arise.

The County proposes to continue the above uses and add a third use, developing community wildfire protection plans that meet the standards set by applicable laws and regulations and carrying out activities under those plans.

Huerfano County intends to apply the Title III funds to these expenditures and it is this application on which public comment is invited.

**Additional Information:** Information regarding Title III funds is available from the [US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service online resources for the SRS Act](#).