

**Resolution 2011-93**

**A Resolution Supporting Creation of a Community Forest Trust Pilot Program in the State of Idaho**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Congress has perpetually recognized special obligations to local governments and communities where the federal government has extensive ownership; and

**WHEREAS**, when federal forests were first established, the premise and promise was that local communities would welcome federal ownership as they would benefit both from the economic activity on federal forest lands and would receive a portion of the revenues generated from the sale of timber and other resources on those federal lands; and

**WHEREAS**, federal law requires that 25% of the receipts from national forest resource sales be returned to the counties where those lands are located; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in 2000, the U.S. Congress recognized that revenues from national forest activities had declined significantly and moved to meet the obligation to local governments and communities by enacting the Secure Rural School and County Self Determination Act (SRS); and

**WHEREAS**, this law established transfer payment schedules for federal monies to be paid from the U.S. Treasury directly to the counties, proportionate to the funds lost from timber harvest revenues, in order to meet the obligations of federal ownership; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2000, this law has been reauthorized twice and is now up for reauthorization again; and

**WHEREAS**, the SRS funding was always intended to be an interim measure that would be in place only until new programs on federal forest lands were established that would provide reliable and sustainable revenue to local counties; and

**WHEREAS**, that transition has not come to pass, instead, federal forest management has declined, and with it, so too has the revenue to the U.S. treasury and local counties; and

**WHEREAS**, new Forest Service programs targeted at landscape level forest restoration and fuels reduction have faltered or not come to fruition;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Kootenai County Board of Commissioners, that they do support a community forest trust pilot and believe it would provide stability in federal forest payments to forest counties and generate local jobs that will raise tax revenues in the respective jurisdictions.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011.

KOOTENAI COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
W. Todd Tondee, Chairman

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Daniel H. Green, Commissioner

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Jai Nelson, Commissioner

ATTEST:  
CLIFFORD T. HAYES, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk