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NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS FOR
THE BENEFIT OF SCHOOLS AND
ROADS

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culture.

In a former Idaho Forestry Bulletin, Vol. II, No. 3, "National Forests and Road Development", we discussed the payment of federal funds to the states for road development. These funds are provided for under different agricultural appropriation acts, and the allotments to any state are in proportion to the area of national forest land in that state.

In addition to these appropriated funds a certain proportion of the receipts of each national forest is made available every year for schools and roads in the counties in which the forest is situated. The first provision setting aside national forest receipts for this purpose was contained in the agricultural appropriation act of June 30, 1906.

This act stated that ten per cent of all income from each National Forest during each fiscal year should be paid at the end of the year to the state in which the forest is located. It was further provided that, since forest boundaries are independent of state or county lines, the share received by each state or county would be in proportion to the area of the forest therein. This act stipulated

that a county could not receive in such payments more than 40 per cent of the total income of the county from other sources.

In the west where the national forests are numerous there was a strong feeling that this percentage of Forest Service receipts should be increased adequately to recompense the counties for non-taxing of government land.

The agriculture appropriation act of May 23, 1908 (35 Stat. 251), increased the amount to be paid to the various states to 25 per cent of all money received from the national forests and further eliminated the proviso that there should be paid to any county no more than 40 per cent of such county's total income from other sources. This provision of the act of May 23, 1908, which is now the law governing all national forests, is as follows:--

"That hereafter twenty-five per centum of all money received from each forest reserve during the fiscal year, including the year ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and eight, shall be paid at the end thereof by the Secretary of the Treasury to the state or territory in which said reserve is situated, to be expended as the state or territorial legislature may prescribe for the benefit of the public schools and public roads of the county or counties in which the forest reserve is situated: Provided, That when any forest reserve is in more than one state or territory or county the distributive share to each from the proceeds of said reserve shall be proportional to its area therein.

The table below gives the amounts the various counties receive from the 25 per cent of forest receipts. The counties get their share through the state. The practice is to pay the state the full amount due from all forests within the state. A tabulation of areas is also furnished to the state, so that the amount each county should receive can be computed. Independent computations are made by the Forest Service, and the results should be the same as those obtained by the state.

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<u>County</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>F.Y. 1905 to</u>
	<u>1925.</u>	<u>1925 incl.</u>
Adams	3,076.95	41,889.48
Bannock	1,746.44	58,419.80
Bear Lake	2,423.43	33,174.91
Benewah	23.37	2,129.75
Bingham	--	13,769.60
Blaine	3,215.25	69,772.85
Boise	8,369.39	75,229.10
Bonner	21,289.11	165,478.85
Bonneville	5,441.34	60,164.39
Boundary	11,143.43	71,644.67
Butte	948.26	6,945.98
Camas	2,059.00	19,245.07
Caribou	3,476.03	27,258.80
Cassia	4,239.15	61,137.08
Clark	3,303.77	16,885.16
Clearwater	435.92	8,331.97
Custer	6,473.55	93,501.81
Elmore	7,559.85	56,361.41
Franklin	976.41	12,374.34
Fremont	6,715.66	85,935.72
Gem	276.18	2,439.99
Idaho	5,398.36	103,182.94
Jefferson	--	235.72
Kootenai	11,771.40	105,796.08
Latah	44.39	7,839.87
Lemhi	5,421.55	86,444.44
Madison	516.89	4,778.15
Nez Perce	--	3,467.45
Oneida	896.29	20,514.46
Power	428.12	5,251.79
Shoshone	28,790.80	308,215.79
Teton	1,165.65	7,093.11
Twin Falls	1,018.20	14,387.70
Valley	6,401.85	45,584.94
Washington	866.61	27,955.07
Totals	155,912.60	1,722,838.04

It will be observed that Shoshone, Bonner, Kootenai and Boundary counties receive the greatest revenues. These form the panhandle where the state's heaviest and finest timber grows--the Idaho white pine region. Timber is not the only source of revenue, however. Receipts from grazing fees come a close second, and the receipts from national forests throughout the United States equal about 2/3 of the timber revenue.

In Idaho the country north of Salmon River offers but little value for grazing compared with timber, but south of the river the forests include a great amount of fine grazing land, and grazing receipts are much higher. In the southern region--the yellow pine forest--timber values are considerably lower than in the white pine type.

A noteworthy thing is that expenditures by the Forest Service are annually provided for by government appropriations. The receipts from national forest business are independent of ex-

penditures, and will increase as timber sales increase and the value of timber rises. The receipts of the counties will increase in direct proportion. The 25 per cent payments have made a great advance in the past. The period of 21 years from 1905 to 1925 shows an annual average income of \$82,040.00 for the state of Idaho. The receipt of \$155,912.60 in 1925 means an increase of 90 per cent over the average.

To sum up the financial benefits accruing to the state by virtue of the presence of her national forests, we refer to the bulletin on "National Forests and Road Development". This bulletin shows that, in recognition of her national forest areas, Idaho in 1924 received \$1,453,355.90 of Federal funds for road building. Combine this with the 25 per cent receipts and you have for one year an income of \$1,609,260.50--a neat sum and only one of the many benefits realized by the state from her national forests.

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Items of Interest

Federal Road Funds Authorized for 1926

Arizona.....	\$369,746.
California.....	1,317,706.
Colorado.....	601,898.
Idaho.....	1,308,986.
Montana.....	797,285.
Nevada.....	131,001.
New Mexico.....	342,272.
Oregon.....	1,243,805.
Utah.....	286,691.
Washington.....	812,822.
Wyoming.....	397,463.

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Note:- (Statistics for this bulletin furnished by the Forest Service)