

Information and General Services Department

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

FROM:	Steve Monaghan – IGS-Emergency Management
<u>TO</u> :	Board of Supervisors
MEETING DATE:	January 11, 2021

SUBJECT: Public hearing to approve the Forest Reserve Title III spending plan in the amount of \$27,500 for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and \$27,5000 for Fiscal Year 2022-23, designating the Firewise Communities Program as the sole spending plan

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution.

<u>FUNDING</u>: Forest Reserve Title III funds to be allocated in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23. The total funding available is \$27,500 in FY 2021-22 and \$27,500 in FY 2022-23, with no impact to the General Fund.

BACKGROUND: The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS Act), was enacted to provide five years of transitional assistance to rural counties affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. SRS funding continued to be extended in subsequent years and has currently been funded through FY 2021-22 but at diminishing levels with significant restrictions. Current funds are from federal FY 2020 and FY 2021, with payments corresponding to the County for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22. Funds are limited to carrying out the Firewise Communities program and reimbursement of County Search and Rescue efforts on National Forest lands.

To date, the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has helped 64 communities attain and maintain certification as Firewise Communities. With funding from the Forest Reserve Title III funds, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County proposes to recertify 23 existing Firewise Communities and certify 40 communities currently on the waitlist.

On November 16, 2021, the Board of Supervisors tentatively approved the following projects to be funded with the FY 2021-22 and 2022-23 Forest Reserve Title III Funds, pending public comment:

Agency	Project	FY/Amount
Fire Safe Council of Nevada	Firewise Communities Expansion	FY 2021-22 \$27,500
County		
Fire Safe Council of Nevada	Firewise Communities Expansion	FY 2022-23 \$27,500
County		

The Clerk of the Board filed notice of public hearing on the proposed spend plan on November 24, 2021 in <u>The Union</u> and on November 26, 2021 in the <u>Sierra Sun</u>. The 45-day public comment period has passed. Staff recommends that the Board adopt the attached Resolution, which approves the projects listed above for the total amount of \$55,000, which represents available funds.

Item Initiated by:Jenn TamoApproved by:Steve Monaghan