

2013 Payments to Counties Wayne National Forest

In 2013, Ohio counties received an average of \$2.37/acre (\$2.22-\$2.94/acre) for National Forest lands within their counties. In addition monies were also paid for road projects, cooperative law enforcement, and volunteer fire department support.

As of the end of Fiscal Year 2013, the Wayne had 244,187 acres within the Forest boundary. Although national forests do not pay property taxes for the land managed by the federal government, there are funds paid in lieu of taxes to compensate local governments for the land taken off the tax rolls.

On October 2, 2013 Congress passed a one year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act as part of HR 527 Helium Stewardship Act. The funds are distributed to counties based on NF acreage within the county. The money is given as Title I funds which must be used for roads and schools. However 20 percent may be designated as Title II or Title III funds – no Ohio Counties chose to do this. Title II funds must be used for resource management activities, and Title III funds should be used for reimbursement for emergency services on federal lands, community wildfire protection plans, etc. There were also different options for funds received and Lawrence County made a different choice than the other counties, choosing the old 25% rather than the SRS payment.

Counties also receive Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds granted under the PILT Act. The U.S. Department of Interior administers PILT funds for all government agencies. Counties received different amounts of PILT dollars based on the amount of other federal dollars received in the past year. Because counties also made different choices in past years their PILT payments vary considerably.

County	NF acreage*	Entitlement Acres for PILT Payment	PILT payment	Title I Payments to States	Mineral Payments	Total Payment to County	Average \$ Per Acre
Athens	18,807	18,640	\$8,966	\$29,116	4,095	\$42,177	2.24
Gallia	18,450	17,563	17,441	21,960	3,747	43,148	2.34
Hocking	26,001	26,000	13,364	38,640	5,714	57,718	2.22
Jackson	1,643	1,701	686	2,608	374	\$3,668	2.23
Lawrence	75,332	73,415	147,157	17,845	15,331	180,333	2.39
Monroe	24,620	24,405	19,958	33,287	5,336	58,581	2.38
Morgan	3,369	3,334	1,107	7,101	731	8,939	2.65
Noble	716	694	230	1,725	152	2,107	3.94
Perry	22,391	22,331	7,411	43,993	4,868	56,272	2.51
Scioto	11,666	11,625	8,156	17,388	2,555	28,099	2.41
Vinton	1,901	1,869	620	3,656	411	4,687	2.47
Washington	39,602	39,601	42,494	41,455	8,649	92,598	2.34
TOTAL	244,187	241,375	\$267,590	\$258,774	\$51,963	\$578,327	2.37

*In 2014 the USDA Forest Service converted to a system of computing acres electronically which may not always match deed acres. Acres may not match past totals. All acres managed as national forest are not entitled to PILT payments.