

State of Arizona

Statement of Federal Land Payments

Federal Land Payments
Report

October 1, 2015 through
September 30, 2016

A Report to the Arizona Legislature

Debra K. Davenport
Auditor General





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DEBRA K. DAVENPORT, CPA
AUDITOR GENERAL

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL

MELANIE M. CHESNEY
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL

Independent accountants' report

Members of the Arizona State Legislature

State of Arizona, Department of Administration

We have examined the accompanying statement of federal land payments of the State of Arizona for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. This statement is the collective responsibility of the counties' management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this statement based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with the attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the statement and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The accompanying statement of federal land payments was prepared to present the payments that the State of Arizona made to qualified local governmental subdivisions under 31 United States Code (U.S.C.) 6901 et seq.

In our opinion, the statement of federal land payments referred to above presents, in all material respects, the payments that the State of Arizona made to qualified local governmental subdivisions under 31 U.S.C. 6901 et seq. for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, based on the criteria described in Note 1.

In connection with our examination, we identified deficiencies in certain counties' internal control over the distribution of federal land payments that are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and recommendations.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the addressees and counties' managements, and for filing with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

Jay Zsorey, CPA
Financial Audit Director

January 17, 2017

State of Arizona

Statement of federal land payments

October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016

Local Unit	Federal agency making payment and payment type*										
	USFS Timber Title I (A.R.S. §11-497)	USFS Secure Schools Title III**	USFS Bankhead-Jones	ONRR/BLM Mineral Leasing (A.R.S. §37-741(B))	BLM Taylor Grazing §3 (A.R.S. §§37-723 & 725)	BLM §15 (A.R.S. §37-724)	BLM Bankhead-Jones	BLM Sale of Materials (A.R.S. §37-521)	FERC Power Sales	FWS Refuge Revenue Sharing	Total Retained
Apache County											
Cochise County	\$ 181,655										\$ 181,655
Coconino County	1,693,611	\$234,447									1,928,058
Gila County	46,000										46,000
Graham County	50,000										50,000
Greenlee County	300,000										300,000
La Paz County											
Maricopa County	388,446	31,990				\$ 258					420,694
Mohave County	9,454										9,454
Navajo County	25,000	54,741									79,741
Pima County	185,809	20,403									206,212
Pinal County	311,008	19,438									330,446
Santa Cruz County	66,004				\$7	1,619					67,630
Yavapai County	94,302	165,028									259,330
Yuma County											
Total	\$3,351,289	\$526,047			\$7	\$1,877					\$3,879,220

Abbreviations Used:

USFS—U.S. Forest Service
A.R.S.—Arizona Revised Statutes
ONRR—Office of Natural Resource Revenue
BLM—Bureau of Land Management
FERC—Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FWS—Federal Wildlife Service

* These amounts represent the monies the county retained.

** There is no state law that governs how to use the USFS Secure Schools Title III monies.

See accompanying notes to statement.

State of Arizona

Notes to statement of federal land payments

October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016

Note 1 - Basis of accounting

The statement of federal land payments (statement) was prepared on the basis of cash disbursements that the State of Arizona (State) made to qualified local governmental subdivisions during the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016, under 31 U.S.C. 6901 et seq. and is prepared in accordance with the provisions of the October 16, 1978, Comptroller General of the United States Decision B-167553. The amounts reported on this statement include only the monies the counties retained during the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

Note 2 - Reconciliation of federal land payments

The following presents a reconciliation of the amounts presented on the statement of federal land payments to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) schedule of prior year payments received by state and local governments during the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016:

Timber and Secure Schools, Title I and Title III

The State received \$11,156,048 of Timber and Secure Schools receipts, which were disbursed to the counties. Subsequently, the counties distributed \$7,278,712 for the benefit of the school districts (including accommodation schools) and retained \$3,877,336.

Bankhead-Jones

The State retains monies received from the Bankhead-Jones Act and credits them to the University of Arizona in compliance with the Enabling Act. The State received no amounts from either the USFS Bankhead-Jones or BLM Bankhead-Jones programs during the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

Mineral Leasing

The State received \$181,834 of Mineral Leasing receipts during the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. These funds are retained by the State and are not distributed to any of the counties; as such, they are not recorded on the statement.

Taylor Grazing, Sections 3 and 15

The State disbursed \$62,630 and \$94,822 of Taylor Grazing monies, Sections 3 and 15, respectively, to the counties. Subsequently, the counties distributed \$50,613 to federal grazing districts, deposited \$12,010 in a special range improvement fiduciary fund, and retained \$7 of Section 3 monies. Further, the counties distributed \$92,945 for the benefit of school districts and retained \$1,877 of Section 15 monies.

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Sale of materials

The State received \$87,097 of sale of materials receipts, which was retained in the State's permanent land funds to be applied in accordance with their respective purposes; as such, these monies are not recorded on the statement.

Power sales

The State received no revenue from FERC power sales during the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

Refuge revenue sharing

Federal Wildlife Service Refuge receipts are paid directly to the counties. There are no statutes governing the counties' use of these receipts. The State received \$49 from this program during the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

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A.R.S. §11-497. Disbursement of forest reserve monies

The treasurer shall notify the clerk of the board of supervisors and the county school superintendent of the amount received from the state treasurer as the county share of pass through monies from the United States from forest reserves, as provided in section 41-736, and thereafter the money shall be disbursed for the benefit of public schools and public roads of the county as the board of supervisors may direct.

A.R.S. §37-521. Permanent state school fund; composition; use

- A. After any appropriation pursuant to section 37-527, the permanent state school fund shall consist of:
1. The proceeds of all lands granted to the state by the United States for the support of common schools.
 2. All property which accrues to the state by escheat or forfeiture.
 3. All property donated for the benefit of the common schools, unless the terms of the donation otherwise provide.
 4. All unclaimed shares and dividends of any corporation incorporated under the laws of this state.
 5. The proceeds of sale of timber, mineral, gravel or other natural products or property from school lands and state lands other than those granted for specific purposes.
 6. The residue of the lands granted for payment of the bonds and accrued interest issued by Maricopa, Pima, Yavapai and Coconino counties, after the purpose of the grant has been satisfied, and the five percent of the proceeds of sales of public lands lying within this state sold by the United States subsequent to admission of this state into the union, as granted by the enabling act.

A.R.S. §37-723. Distribution of money received from United States; appropriations to counties

- A. All monies received by the state as its distributive shares of the amounts collected by the United States government under the provisions of the act of Congress of June 28, 1934, known as the Taylor grazing act, and acts amendatory thereof, shall be deposited with the state treasurer. The treasurer shall distribute the funds to the several counties of the state in which the public lands are located.
- B. The state treasurer shall ascertain from the proper United States officers having the records of receipts from grazing permits and leased public lands the amount of receipts from sources in this state for each year for which money is received by the state. A separate account shall be kept of the amount received from each grazing district and lease of public lands, and the state treasurer shall pay the county in which the grazing district or leased public land is located. If the grazing district or leased land lies in more than one county, each county shall receive the proportional part of the amount as the area of the grazing district or leased public land included within the boundary of the county bears to the total area of the grazing district or lease.

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- C. For purposes of this section the monies deposited with the state treasurer as provided by subsection A are appropriated to the several counties of the state in the proportions in which the counties are entitled thereto, as shown by the records of the United States officers and transmitted to the state treasurer.

A.R.S. §37-724. Receipts from lease of public lands

All monies received from leases of public lands within any county shall be placed to the credit of the school district within the county in which the land lies. If the lands do not lie within a school district, the monies shall be placed to the credit of the general school fund of the county.

A.R.S. §37-725. Receipts from grazing district fees; district treasurer; duties

- A. All monies received from grazing fees of a grazing district regularly established and including public lands within the county shall be placed to the credit of a special fund designated the range improvement fund of the grazing district which shall be given a number.
- B. The county treasurer of the county in which such public lands are located shall be the ex officio district treasurer of any federal grazing district located wholly or in part within the county, and shall be liable upon his official bond for the proper care and distribution of the monies. He shall collect, receive, receipt and account for all monies from such source, and shall pay it upon the warrant of the grazing district signed by the chairman of the board of district advisors and countersigned by the vice-chairman thereof and the regional grazer in administrative charge of the district.

A.R.S. §37-741. Public roads and public education fund; purposes; approval of expenditures by legislature; distribution

- A. There is created a special fund known as the state public roads and public education fund. There shall be deposited in the fund all monies received by the state as its distributive shares of the amounts collected by the United States government under the provisions of the act of Congress of February 25, 1920, chapter 85 (41 Stat. 437) and acts amendatory thereof, entitled, "an act to promote the mining of coal, phosphate, oil, oil shale, gas and sodium on the public domain."
- B. No monies shall be expended from the fund created by subsection A of this section without prior approval therefore by an act of the legislature. The legislature may authorize expenditures from the fund for any of the following purposes:
1. The construction and maintenance of public roads.
 2. The support of public schools or other public educational institutions.
- C. At the beginning of each fiscal year, one-half of the balance in the state public roads and public education fund shall be transferred to the state highway fund to be expended for secondary roads and one-half shall be transferred to the permanent state school fund and shall be administered as provided by section 37-521.



SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In planning and performing our examination, we considered the counties' internal control as a basis for designing our testing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the statement of federal land payments, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the counties' internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the counties' internal control.

As a result of our examination, we identified a deficiency in Apache County's internal controls that the county's management should correct to ensure that it fulfills its responsibility to establish and maintain adequate internal controls over federal land payments. We describe our finding and recommendation below.

2016-01

Apache County should distribute forest reserve monies in accordance with the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 and Arizona Revised Statutes §11-497

Criteria—The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS Act) requires the counties' Title I monies to be used for roads and schools in the manner provided for by state statute. Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §11-497 requires the counties' share of pass-through forest reserve monies from the United States to be disbursed for the benefit of public schools and public roads as the board of supervisors directs. Further, a county may allocate a disproportionate amount of forest reserve monies between public schools and public roads as long as both categories receive a real benefit.

Condition and context—Forest reserve monies for Apache County (County) were not properly disbursed for the benefit of both public schools and public roads in accordance with the SRS Act and A.R.S. §11-497. Specifically, the County disbursed \$749,268, the entire amount of forest reserve monies received, to public schools.

Effect—The County was not in compliance with the SRS Act and A.R.S. §11-497.

Cause—The Apache County Board of Supervisors decided that there was a greater need for the public schools.

Recommendation—To help ensure compliance with the SRS Act and A.R.S. §11-497, Apache County should distribute forest reserve monies to benefit both public schools and public roads.

This finding is similar to prior-year finding 2015-01.

