



Brenda McGruder &lt;bmcgrude@lawrence.sd.us&gt;

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**Invoice - National Center for Public Lands Counties**

1 message

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**Kade Haley** <kade@sdcountycommissioners.org>

Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:00 PM

To: "Lawrence Auditor - Brenda McGruder (auditor@lawrence.sd.us)" &lt;auditor@lawrence.sd.us&gt;

Greetings County Auditors and Commissioners!

On behalf of the SDACC Board of Directors, we are writing to urge your support for the National Association of Counties (NACo) initiative to establish the National Center for Public Land Counties.

Support of this program was passed unanimously by the SDACC Board of Directors on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. As stewards of your county's interests, it is crucial that we recognize the significant role NACo plays on behalf of counties at the national level and the potential benefits of this new center.

We strongly encourage you to consider your support for the National Center for Public Land Counties. This one-time investment in our future will pay dividends for years to come by safeguarding our interests, promoting responsible land management, and fostering collaboration among counties nationwide.

This one-time payment represents only 1% of the total LACTF dollars your county received. Thanks to NACo's unwavering efforts at the national level, these funds were sent directly to counties instead of the state, allowing you to maintain local control and assure their effective use.

**Attached to this email is the invoice itself, as well as detailed information regarding the Center.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your positive response. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Best,

*Kade Haley*

Deputy Director

South Dakota Association of County Commissioners

South Dakota Association of County Officials

211 E Prospect Ave


Pierre, SD 57501

(605) 224-4554

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**2 attachments**

 **Center for Public Lands Counties Packet.pdf**  
2573K

 **Lawrence County, South Dakota.pdf**  
160K

Lawrence County, South Dakota

TO: South Dakota Association of County Commissioners  
211 E Prospect Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501

National Center for Public Lands Counties (The Center) Request

FORMULA: Total LACTF Dollars received = \$892,318.92

TOTAL x .01 = \$ 8,923.19

TOTAL NATIONAL CENTER FOR PUBLIC LANDS contribution = \$ 8,923.19

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To: South Dakota Association of County Commissioners

From: Lawrence County

Amount of Claim - - - \$ 8,923.19

Audited and Allowed \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairperson

State of South Dakota )

ss.

County of Lawrence

The South Dakota Association of County Commissioners (SDACC) certifies this to be a just and true claim for payment which conforms to authority granted by law.

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: \$8,923.19**

**Total Dues Submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

**This office will submit your payment to NACo on your behalf.**

Dear County Commissioners and Auditors,

On behalf of the SDACC Board of Directors, we are writing to urge your support for the National Association of Counties (NACo) and their initiative to establish the National Center for Public Land Counties. As stewards of your county's interests, it is crucial that we recognize the significant role NACo plays on behalf of counties at the national level and the potential benefits of this new center.

NACo has been a steadfast advocate for counties across the United States, working tirelessly to address the unique challenges and opportunities faced by county governments. With a long history of promoting effective and efficient county governance, NACo has proven itself to be an invaluable resource for counties in South Dakota and nationwide.

The establishment of the National Center for Public Land Counties represents an exciting development that holds immense promise for counties like yours. Here are some of the key reasons why contributing to this initiative is of paramount importance:

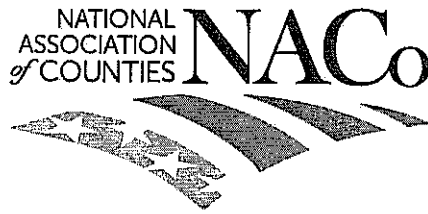
- **A Unified Voice:** NACo serves as the unified voice of county governments at the national level. By supporting the National Center for Public Land Counties, we strengthen our collective voice and increase our ability to influence federal policies and legislation that directly impact our counties.
- **Resource Hub:** The center will serve as a central hub for information, research, and resources related to public lands, natural resource management, and conservation. This will be an invaluable asset for our county as we navigate the complexities of land use and environmental policies.
- **Policy Advocacy:** NACo has a proven track record of advocating for policies that benefit counties, including funding for essential programs and initiatives. Contributing to the National Center for Public Land Counties ensures that our county's interests are represented and advocated for effectively.
- **Networking and Collaboration:** The center will facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing among counties facing similar challenges related to public lands and natural resources. This collaborative environment can lead to innovative solutions and best practices that benefit us all.
- **Economic Opportunities:** Public lands play a significant role in our county's economy, whether through tourism, outdoor recreation, or resource extraction. The center can help us maximize the economic potential of these lands while ensuring responsible stewardship.
- **Environmental Conservation:** As caretakers of our natural resources, it is crucial that we actively engage in efforts to protect and conserve our public lands. The center will provide valuable resources and expertise in this regard.

By supporting the National Center for Public Land Counties, we not only enhance our counties' ability to navigate the complexities of public land management but also contribute to the broader well-being of counties across the nation. Our participation will help shape the policies and initiatives that impact us directly, ensuring that your county's unique needs are considered in the decision-making process.

We strongly encourage you to consider your support for the National Center for Public Land Counties. This one-time investment in our future will pay dividends for years to come by safeguarding our interests, promoting responsible land management, and fostering collaboration among counties nationwide.

This one-time payment represents only 1% of the total LACTF dollars your county received. Thanks to NACo's unwavering efforts at the national level, these funds were sent directly to counties, instead of the state, allowing you to maintain local control and assure their effective use.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your positive response. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the office.



October 14, 2022

Dear state association executive,

County governments are a leading voice in the intergovernmental partnership with federal lands management agencies. We work with officials from all levels of government, private stakeholders and other interested parties to reduce fuel loads on federal lands, prudently develop our natural resources to meet the nation's economic needs, improve local economies, enhance recreational access to public lands, and conserve our lands and waters for future generations.

Understanding our unique role, Congress has invested record sums in programs to support public lands counties—including Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT), Secure Rural Schools (SRS), and other revenue sharing programs—in recent years, while also granting new authorities to federal lands agencies to broaden the scope, pace and scale of their on-the-ground resource management work with local governments.

To truly benefit from these unique opportunities and investments, counties must accelerate our evidence-based research, peer information exchanges, and overall understanding of our lessons learned, emerging trends analysis, and priority public policy issues. Therefore, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Western Interstate Region (WIR) Boards of Directors both moved at the 2022 NACo Annual Conference in July 2022 to proceed with developing a National Center for Public Lands Counties (The Center).

The Center will weave together the narrative around public lands counties and the national interest in our prosperity by showing how public lands are interconnected with the country's needs. As just one example, a wildfire on federal land near a major water source could jeopardize water quality in a large metropolitan region. The Center will give public lands counties an enhanced opportunity to share these stories with their peers, policymakers, the media, think tanks and other key influencers to demonstrate how prosperous public lands counties create a prosperous America. The Center will also utilize digital media, such as podcasts and video interviews, and develop written county profiles focused on:

- County partnerships with federal agencies, states, tribes and other counties to reduce wildfire risk, responsibly develop energy and minerals, improve public access to federal lands, protect watersheds, conserve species and their habitat, and protect our national parks and other natural treasures
- County investments of PILT, SRS and other natural resource revenue payments to benefit our citizens and surrounding public lands
- The different economic drivers in rural vs. urban public lands counties
- Development and implementation of county natural resource management plans and baseline socioeconomic data for environmental analyses
- Resource values of federal lands compared to nearby privately owned lands

- Meeting the unique challenges facing public lands counties, such as housing affordability for residents and federal employees, ensuring a stable tax base to deliver critical services, and managing infrastructure on federal lands

For the Center to meet its mission and serve as a long-term tool for public lands counties, a voluntary investment from state associations representing public lands counties is needed. NACo staff, state associations of counties executives and county officials set a fundraising goal of \$15 million over the next two years to hire the necessary staff to conduct this critical research and keep the Center on a sustainable financial course. Initially, the Center will need 1-2 hard-working, passionate and talented writers who can help us tell the county story. We will then build staffing capacity as appropriate.

We ask that you meet with your members and determine what your state association can pledge as a voluntary contribution to the Center. NACo staff will reach out early next year to collect contributions. These funds will be managed under NACo's 501(c)(3) research foundation and will not be used for partisan political purposes.

The Center will be governed by a body consisting of the WIR Executive Committee, the NACo Public Lands Policy Steering Committee Chair and Vice Chairs, the state association executive from the WIR Immediate Past President's home state, and the NACo CEO/ Executive Director. The governing body will meet on a regular basis to provide updates to county officials, the WIR Board of Directors and the NACo Board of Directors on the Center's financial health, research priorities and media efforts. The Center will also issue an annual report on the previous year's work and vision for the future at the annual WIR Conference.

Should you have any questions, we encourage you to reach out to Jonathan Shuffield, NACo Legislative Director for Public Lands, at 512.965.7268 or [jshuffield@naco.org](mailto:jshuffield@naco.org).

Sincerely,



Matthew D. Chase  
CEO/Executive Director  
National Association of Counties

# **National Center for Public Lands Counties**

**Advancing the policy and practice study of America's public lands counties**

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Powered by the Western Interstate Region  
and the NACo Research Foundation



## **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BETTER UNDERSTANDING THE COUNTY ROLE IN RESPONSIBLE LAND, WATER AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

- **County governments are leaders in the intergovernmental partnership** with federal lands management agencies
- **We work with officials from all levels of government, private stakeholders and other interested parties** to reduce fuel loads on federal lands, prudently develop our natural resources to meet the nation's economic needs, improve local economies, enhance recreational access to public lands, and conserve our lands and waters for future generations
- **With improved understanding of our unique role, Congress has invested record sums recently to support public lands counties**, including Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT), Secure Rural Schools (SRS), and other revenue sharing programs
- **Congress also granted new authorities to federal lands agencies** to broaden the scope, pace and scale of their on-the-ground resource management work with local governments
- **HOWEVER, we must continue to tell the county story**, research innovation practices, nurture and build new relationships and networks, and address the mounting challenges and opportunities facing public lands counties

**National Center for Public Lands Counties**

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## NATIONAL CENTER FOR PUBLIC LANDS COUNTIES

- **Counties must research, evaluate and share lessons learned about the critical county contribution to sustainable resource management and evidenced-based practices for developing and enhancing collaborative partnerships, including public-private-community collaborations and intergovernmental coordination**
- **Therefore, the NACo and WIR Boards of Directors both moved at the 2022 NACo Annual Conference in July 2022 to proceed with developing the National Center for Public Lands Counties**
- **The Center will weave together the narrative around public lands counties and the national interest in our prosperity by showing how public lands are interconnected with the country's needs. For example, a wildfire on federal land near a major water source could jeopardize water quality in a large urban region**
- **The National Center for Public Lands Counties will be an essential resource for public lands counties by sharing these stories with county officials, intergovernmental partners, the media, think tanks and other key influencers to demonstrate how prosperous public lands counties create a prosperous America**

**National Center for Public Lands Counties**

Powered by NACo's Western Interstate Region and the NACo Research Foundation

## MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

- **MISSION:** Advance the policy and practice study, research, and learning networks for America's public lands counties
- **IMPERATIVE:** Enhance the long-term policy and practice research, capacity and information exchange of elected and appointed leaders from America's public lands counties, including with federal and state policymakers, key stakeholders and influencers, the media, and the general public
- **OBJECTIVES:**
  - Enhance the understanding of national, state and county policymakers and influencers of the unique policy and practice issues facing America's county officials in areas with federal public lands
  - Develop the policy and practice research, case studies, public forums, and learning networks necessary to advance and inform our nation's policies and practices (including at the federal, state and local levels) impacting public lands counties
  - Foster intergovernmental relationships and dialogue on the intersection of federal, state and local policymaking and practices across the broad range of issues facing public lands counties, such as: landscape health, wildfire risk mitigation, watershed protection, economic competitiveness and job creation, enhanced public access to federal lands and waters, species management, and biodiversity health
- **FUNDRAISING GOAL:** \$15 million over two years to establish a new research fund, known as the National Center for Public Lands Counties, within the NACo Research Foundation and co-governed with NACo's Western Interstate Region (WIR) leadership

### National Center for Public Lands Counties

Powered by NACo's Western Interstate Region and the NACo Research Foundation

## FUNDRAISING GOAL

- For the National Center for Public Lands Counties to meet its mission and serve as a long-term tool for public lands counties, a **voluntary investment** from state associations representing public lands counties is needed
- NACo staff, state associations of counties executives and county officials set a **fundraising goal of \$15 million over the next two years** to build the staff capacity and partnerships to conduct this critical research and keep the Center on a sustainable financial course
- **State association executives are asked to meet with their members and determine by January 31, 2023** what their state association can pledge as a voluntary contribution to the Center
- These funds will be **managed under a 501(c)(3) within the NACo Research Foundation to support WIR's collaboration** with the National Center for Public Lands Counties. *These funds will not be used for any partisan political purposes*
- **Initially, the Center will need 1-2 hard-working, passionate and talented writers** who can help us tell the county story and conduct and develop key research to meet the National Center's goals. We will then build staffing capacity, unique programming and impactful resources as appropriate

### **National Center for Public Lands Counties**

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## GOVERNANCE

- **Advisory Council will consist of:**
  - WIR Executive Committee (President, First Vice President, Second Vice President & Immediate Past President
  - NACo Public Lands Policy Steering Committee Chairman and Vice Chairs
  - State Association Executive from the WIR Immediate Past President's Home State
  - NACo CEO/Executive Director
  - NACo Legislative Director for Public Lands will serve as staff liaison to the Governing Board
- **Governing Board will meet on a regular basis** and provide updates to the WIR Board of Directors and NACo Board of Directors on the National Center's financial health, research priorities and media efforts
- **The Center will also issue an annual report** on the previous year's work and vision for the future at the annual WIR Conference

**National Center for Public Lands Counties**

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# NACCO

STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER AMERICA.

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