

THE SISKIYOU DAILY NEWS

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\$3 million expected for Siskiyou with Secure Rural Schools reauthorization

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House Resolution 2, titled, "The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015," makes changes related to access to healthcare and physician payments.

The large resolution, which contains more than 500 sections, was also successfully used as the vessel for extending SRS funding, which was introduced in 2000 to offset the loss of proceeds to counties from timber sales on federal lands within their borders.

SRS funding expired in 2013, greatly reducing timber offset payments to 39 of California's 57 counties.

According to Rural County Representatives of California, Siskiyou County is expected to receive \$3,913,502 worth of funds it would have received in 2014 if SRS had not expired. The 2015 estimate is \$3,718,777.

The county board

of supervisors joined RCRC in its push to have the SRS funding reinstated, writing letters to key legislators to find a way to pass the measure.

RCRC Chair Lee Adams said in a recent press release, "SRS funding is critical to California's rural counties, and we appreciate the reauthorization provided by Congress and the President.

"It's now time to identify a long-term, stable funding source for forested counties and local schools to maintain vital programs, and avoid interruptions in services and operations."

The federal government is required to make the payments within 45 days, according to the release.

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