
News Release

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For Immediate Release

Local Governments in Washington State Receiving About \$6.5 Million in PILT Payments for Tax-Exempt Lands

The Bureau of Land Management will send just over \$199 million on September 20 to approximately 1,900 local governments across the United States in accordance with the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Act. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton announced this year's payment is \$65 million more than last year's payment.

Washington state will receive \$6,559,026 in PILT payments, representing about a 55 percent increase above the previous year. The payments are being distributed to 35 counties and the city of Grays Harbor, with Chelan County receiving the largest share of \$1,036,813 and Okanogan County the second largest at \$998,239.

PILT payments offset the loss of tax revenue to localities caused by the presence of tax-exempt federal land within their jurisdictions. According to Acting BLM Director Nina Hatfield, the PILT payments are important to the economic well-being of communities. "PILT payments help fund vital community services, such as firefighting and police protection, and construction of hospitals and public schools," Hatfield said. The BLM has distributed more than \$2.7 billion in PILT payments to local governments since the program's inception in 1977.

The BLM distributes the congressionally appropriated PILT payments to eligible units of local governments across the nation and its territories each year. Payments are made for tax-exempt federal lands in the National Park and National Forest systems, federal lands administered by the BLM, lands dedicated to federal water resources development projects, and lands withdrawn from the public domain in other categories.

The BLM calculates the payments using the PILT Act formula, based on population and the amount of federal land within an affected county or census area. These payments are in addition to federal revenues transferred to the counties under other programs, such as income generated from use of federal land for livestock grazing and timber harvesting.

All states except Rhode Island, which has minimal federal land, are receiving PILT funds for fiscal year 2001, which ends Sept. 30. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands also receive PILT payments. The states with counties that collectively receive the largest amounts this year are, in approximate dollar amounts, rounded to nearest million: California (\$21 million), New Mexico (\$18 million) Alaska: (\$13 million), Montana (\$16 million), and Utah and Colorado (\$15 million each). Additional information about PILT payments is available on the BLM's website at <http://www.blm.gov/pilt>.

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Payments in Lieu of Taxes - Washington State		
Local Unit of Government	FY 2000 Payment	FY 2001 Payment
Adams County	9,167	12,711
Asotin County	48,429	66,305
Benton County	30,932	44,275
Chelan County	698,706	1,036,813
Clallam County	105,048	251,018
Clark County	0	109
Columbia County	113,505	153,259
Cowlitz County	3,590	4,971
Douglas County	34,745	56,130
Ferry County	200,400	343,156
Franklin County	24,005	34,381
Garfield County	70,415	95,278
Grant County	115,879	166,255
Grays Harbor City	28,841	50,903
Island County	286	3,099
Jefferson County	141,395	243,630
King County	36,675	52,988
Kittitas County	214,223	348,129
Klickitat County	10,861	17,225
Lewis County	50,078	72,617
Lincoln County	51,803	74,475
Mason County	32,540	56,687
Okanogan County	647,134	998,239
Pacific County	1,919	2,747
Pend Oreille County	219,255	350,319
Pierce County	161,985	241,785
San Juan County	1,834	2,712
Skagit County	251,156	382,064
Skamania County	89,328	129,457

Payments in Lieu of Taxes - Washington State		
Local Unit of Government	FY 2000 Payment	FY 2001 Payment
Snohomish County	211,869	329,752
Spokane County	1,159	1,673
Stevens County	132,368	214,059
Thurston County	0	0
Wahkiakum County	0	0
Walla Walla County	18,177	25,881
Whatcom County	396,164	592,511
Whitman County	15,899	23,008
Yakima County	55,448	80,405
State Total	4,225,218	6,559,026

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