



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY DISTRIBUTES \$425,454 FROM TIMBER AND LAND SALES: \$127,636 TO LOCAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

The Crow Wing County Board approved the distribution of \$425,454.23 in 2014 surplus revenues generated from management of tax forfeited lands in the county at its regular meeting on February 24, 2015. The funds were generated from the sale of tax forfeited properties and the selling of timber on county managed tax forfeited lands. Under the approved allocation, local cities, towns and school districts will receive \$127,636.

“Over the past five years, nearly \$5 million dollars in revenue from county managed lands has been generated for local governments,” stated Mark Liedl, Land Services Director.

“These dollars reduce tax levy spending by covering forest management costs and adding dollars to the county general fund. The funds also reduce local tax burdens by providing revenue to schools, cities, and townships in the county.”

The 2014 tax forfeited surplus revenue of \$425,454.23 represents a 54% increase over 2013 totals. Local schools will receive a total of \$85,090.85. Cities and townships within the county will receive a total of \$42,545.42. By statute, the county park and recreation fund will receive \$85,090.85, \$127,636.27 will be added to the county capital building fund and \$85,090.84 is added to the county general fund.

Exact amounts to be distributed are based upon revenue linked directly to parcels located within individual taxing districts and apportioned by percentages established in state statute.

Historically, management of tax forfeited forest lands for timber development and sales has accounted for roughly 81% of surplus revenues apportioned to local governments. In 2014 revenue from the sale of tax forfeited properties increased by 71%, and represents 45% of surplus revenues. This increase provides a boost to our schools and towns, and comes with the added benefit of returning these properties to the tax rolls.

The County manages 105,000 acres of forest land for timber production and diverse recreational opportunities for multiple users. County forest lands are managed to strict environmental standards established by both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®-C031953) certification standards.

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**Mark Liedl, Director
Land Services Department**

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Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

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