

by the numbers

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)

By: Jay Syverson

ISAC Fiscal Analyst



Every year the federal government sends checks to hundreds of local governments, mostly counties, to compensate them for foregone tax revenue. These so-called payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) are doled out to local governments that contain tax-exempt federal land and provide government services related to public safety, housing, social services, transportation and the environment. The payments are calculated based on the number of exempt acres in a given county and its population. In 2007, local governments across the country will receive a total of \$232.1 million in PILT revenue. But Iowa counties receive just 0.1% of that money.

This year 26 Iowa counties will share just \$266,000 in federal PILT money, for an average of \$10,250 per county. That's less than the \$400,000 that the Department of the Interior (DOI) spends administering the program. The payments range from \$121 in Jasper County to over \$56,000 in Marion County. Six other counties received more than \$10,000 in federal PILT money this year (Appanoose - \$37,000; Clinton - \$11,000; Jackson - \$12,000; Johnson - \$35,000; Louisa - \$14,000; Polk - \$28,000). Marion County contains almost 40,000 acres of federal entitlement land. Jasper County, in contrast, has just 84 acres of federal entitlement land. Two counties (Iowa - 3 acres; Lee - 16 acres) have acres of entitlement land but get no PILT money, presumably because the acreage is so small. The federal entitlement land acreage count includes lands in the national forest and park systems and lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Corps of Engineers, among others. According to the DOI, the federal government collects about \$4 billion annually on that land from various commercial activities, including oil and gas leasing, livestock grazing and timber harvesting. Some of that revenue is shared with the local state or county, but the bulk is deposited in the U.S. Treasury and used to fund PILT and many other government programs.

Nationally, New Mexico is the state that gets the most PILT money - \$23 million (or 10% of the total) in 2007. California and Utah also receive more than \$20 million annually in PILT funding, with Alaska close behind at \$19 million. Fourteen states (including U.S. territories) receive even less PILT money than Iowa, and Rhode Island doesn't get any PILT funding. The 2007 PILT appropriation, which matches the highest funding level ever, is 65% of the authorized amount of \$358 million. For more information visit www.doi.gov.

ISAC meetings

Fall School Update 2007

By: Jerri Noboa

ISAC Meetings Administrator



The Marriott has finally opened the new restaurant and bar on the skywalk level. It is called Rock River. The new restaurant will be able to accommodate 50 more people. Rock River offers menus and buffets for breakfast and lunch and then at dinner will transform into a fine-dining atmosphere. Breakfast will be offered starting at 6:30am and the buffet until 9am. Lunch is from 11am - 2pm and the dinner is 5pm - 10pm.

The Marriott has also moved the lounge from the concierge floor down to the mezzanine and the concierge floor has added amenities of large flat screen TVs. If you want access to the concierge lounge you have to request it at the time you check-in.

The ISAC Board of Directors adopted a new hospitality room policy at their July board meeting. The policy states: 1) All hospitality rooms held in conjunction with an ISAC school must be approved in advance by ISAC. ISAC shall advise conference attendees that accepting food or drinks at non-approved hospitality rooms may potentially violate Iowa's gift law. 2) Hospitality rooms of affiliates, exhibitors and silver and gold level sponsors shall be approved contingent upon room availability. Other requests may be approved at ISAC's discretion upon payment of an amount equal to an exhibit booth rental. 3) Hospitality rooms shall not be open during regularly scheduled ISAC events. 4) Hospitality rooms shall close at designated times, and the rooms shall be vacated. 5) If these policies are not observed, ISAC reserves the right to refuse future requests to host a hospitality room.

Be sure to check the ISAC website for affiliate agendas, on-line-registration and any updates on which presidential candidates have agreed to come speak at the conference.