



2023 – 03

THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE INCREASE OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNDING

WHEREAS, Cooperative law enforcement agreements have been a long-standing practice of both the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management with the purpose of providing funding to county sheriffs who have primary law enforcement jurisdiction on public lands within their respective counties; and

WHEREAS, Annual appropriations of five million dollars from the U.S Forest Service and three million dollars from the Bureau of Land management have not changed in the past decade while the costs of labor, equipment, fuel, training and support for volunteer resources have continued to rise year after year thereby reducing the number of hours and personnel who are assigned to public lands to enforce laws and investigate criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, Counties are faced with decreasing revenues from public lands that are affecting the sheriffs ability to effectively patrol USFS and BLM managed lands and, in many cases, sheriffs rely heavily on these cooperative contracts to provide public safety services to these wide swaths of public lands; and

WHEREAS, The NSA is aware that the membership of the Western States Sheriffs' Association has passed a resolution identifying cooperative law enforcement funding, and the increase thereof, as its single greatest priority related to the sheriff's ability to continue providing services to the public lands within their respective counties; and

WHEREAS, the NSA Government Affairs Committee has collaborated with the membership of the NSA Western States Policy Committee regarding this issue and concurs that congress must act in the interest of public safety on public lands, and allocate additional funding to offset the rising cost of providing services in these remote areas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National Sheriffs' Association is in support of calling on congress and the leadership of the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to increase the amount of cooperative law enforcement funding available to sheriffs with public safety responsibility on public lands and work with sheriffs to ensure equity in the distribution of those funds.