


To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Seth Grigg, IAC Executive Director 

Date: October 21, 2024

RE: IAC Natural Resources Litigation Policy Fund

In April, the IAC Board of Directors made a change to the Natural Resources Litigation Policy Fund (NRLF) to allow funds to be used on pre litigation work in addition to assisting with litigation expenses. The change will enable IAC to hire a dedicated policy advisor to work with participating counties in developing natural resource management plans, model land use ordinances related to natural resources, coordinating county comments of federal and state natural resources rule making, and engaging more broadly in federal natural resource management and public lands advocacy. Funds will also be used to retain outside consultants to advise IAC on natural resource and public lands policy issues in ways that will lead to a reduction in future litigation.

Counties currently participating in the fund will continue to have access to the funds, including expanded policy support for natural resource planning and management and public lands access challenges. Participating counties will also continue to be eligible for litigation assistance in lawsuits related to natural resource management and public lands access. Counties that are either behind in their assessments or that haven't historically participated in the fund may begin receiving benefits from the fund by either paying any outstanding NRLF assessments or, for those counties that have not participated in the fund, paying the equivalent of two years of prior assessments plus the current year assessment.

Broadening eligible uses for the NRLF will expand IAC's ability to work with, coordinate, and advocate on behalf of NRLF member counties in natural resource and public lands policy, including assisting participating counties with natural resource planning best practices, coordinating county comments on federal land management and natural resource policy decisions, and better coordinating the concerns of participating counties with the state and other neighboring state associations of counties. Only those counties participating in the NRLF will have access to the expanded policy support, including the new policy advisor for public lands and natural resources, outside consultants and advisors, and coordination with neighboring state associations. Participating counties will also continue to have access to the NRLF to assist with IAC Board approved litigation expenses related to natural resource management, public lands access, and policy support related to the approved litigation.

IAC is excited to expand on the policy support provided to NRLF participants and appreciates the support of those counties currently participating in the NRLF. Please contact IAC Executive Director Seth Grigg with any questions about the NRLF, including expanded services and how your county can participate in the fund.