

State receives \$4.6 million

The State of Alaska recently received nearly \$4.6 million from the U.S. Department of Interior as payments in lieu of taxes, according to Interior Secretary Donald Hodel.

Nationally, a total of about \$99.5 million was transmitted to 1,917 local government units.

The annual payments are distributed to eligible units of general local governments by Interior's Bureau of Land Management to offset the fiscal impacts caused by the presence of certain tax-exempt lands within local government boundaries.

"These payments are significant to local governments, especially in our nation's more sparsely populated counties that contain large acreages of federal lands," Hodel said.

"These payments help local governmental units provide fire and police protection, search and rescue operations, road construction and other vital services," he added.

In-lieu payments go to local governments for tax-exempt federal lands administered by BLM and for national forests, national parks and national wildlife refuges. They also apply for federal water projects and some military installations.

The payments are in addition to revenues from oil and gas leases and sales of minerals, timber and other materials and products derived from public lands which the federal government also shares with state governments.