

S 3290

Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Apr 29, 2010

Current Status: Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-741.

Latest Action: Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-741. (Jul 22, 2010)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/3290>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Baucus, Max [D-MT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Apr 29, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jul 22, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 5592	Identical bill	Jun 29, 2010: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power.

Summary (as of Apr 29, 2010)

Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 - Directs the Secretary of the Interior, in providing to the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana the St. Mary River water right, to allocate to the Tribe 50,000 acre-feet per year of stored water in Lake Sherburne Reservoir as part of the tribal water right. Exempts the Tribe from any requirement to pay any costs associated with the allocation. Prohibits the allocation from being increased by any year-to-year carryover storage.

Requires the Tribe and the Secretary to enter into an agreement to lease the water allocated to the Tribe for use by the Secretary for the Milk River Project.

Requires, as part of the tribal water right, the Secretary to permanently allocate to the Tribe all remaining unallocated water in Lake Elwell.

Directs the Secretary to carry out such activities as are necessary relating to: (1) planning, design, and construction for rehabilitation and improvement of the Blackfeet Irrigation Project; (2) the completion to authorized acreage of the Blackfeet Irrigation Project; and (3) planning, design, and construction for rehabilitation and improvement of the Four Horns Dam and Reservoir and associated delivery systems of the Blackfeet Irrigation Project.

Authorizes, ratifies, and confirms a specified compact and the Birch Creek Agreement.

Holds the tribal water right in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

Establishes: (1) the Blackfeet Land and Water Development Fund; and (2) the Birch Creek Mitigation Fund.

Sets forth provisions concerning: (1) water rights in the Lewis and Clark National Forest; and (2) Milk River water rights.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 22, 2010:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-741.
- **Apr 29, 2010:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 29, 2010:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2807)
- **Apr 29, 2010:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.