

## HR 5592

Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Native Americans

**Introduced:** Jun 24, 2010

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power. (Jun 29, 2010)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/5592>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Rehberg, Denny [R-MT-At Large]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 29, 2010

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Native Americans

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 S 3290	Identical bill	<b>Jul 22, 2010:</b> Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-741.

## Summary (as of Jun 24, 2010)

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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

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- **Jun 29, 2010:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power.
- **Jun 24, 2010:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 24, 2010:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.