

## S 399

Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act of 2011

**Congress:** 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Native Americans

**Introduced:** Feb 17, 2011

**Current Status:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 112-492.

**Latest Action:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 112-492. (Oct 20, 2011)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/399>

### 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		Feb 17, 2011

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Oct 20, 2011

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Native Americans

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 3301	Identical bill	<b>Nov 4, 2011:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power.

Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act of 2011 - 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 allocate permanently to the Tribe all remaining unallocated water in Lake Elwell. 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.

Directs the Secretary to carry out activities necessary 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 requirements concerning: (1) water rights in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, and (2) Milk River water rights.

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### **Actions Timeline**

- **Oct 20, 2011:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 112-492.
- **Feb 17, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 17, 2011:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S904)
- **Feb 17, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.