

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 725

To take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit of the Crow
Tribe of Montana, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2025

Mr. DOWNING (for himself and Mr. ZINKE) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit
of the Crow Tribe of Montana, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Crow Revenue Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) BULL MOUNTAINS LEASE.—The term “Bull
8 Mountains Lease” means the Bureau of Land Man-
9 agement Lease MTM–97988 dated June 1, 2012.

(2) BULL MOUNTAINS TRACTS.—The term “Bull Mountains Tracts” means the mineral interests that—

(A) are located in Musselshell County, Montana;

(B) comprise approximately 4,530 acres of subsurface interests owned by the United States located in—

(i) T. 6 N., R. 26 E., sec. 2;

(ii) T. 6 N., R. 26 E., sec. 24;

(iii) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 4;

(iv) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 8;

(v) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 10;

(vi) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 14;

(vii) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 22;

(viii) T. 7 N., R. 26 E., sec. 24;

(ix) T. 7 N., R. 26 E., sec. 26;

(x) T. 7 N., R. 26 E., sec. 34;

(xi) T. 7 N., R. 27 E., sec. 20; and

(xii) T. 7 N., R. 27 E., sec. 22;

(C) comprise approximately 940 acres of surface interests owned by the United States located in—

(i) T. 6 N., R. 26 E., sec. 2;

(ii) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 8;

1 (iii) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 10;

2 (iv) T. 6 N., R. 28 E., sec. 8; and

3 (v) T. 7 N., R. 27 E., sec. 34; and

4 (D) are generally depicted on the map en-
5 titled “Bull Mountains Tracts” and dated Jan-
6 uary 30, 2024.

7 (3) HOPE FAMILY TRACTS.—The term “Hope
8 Family Tracts” means the aggregate mineral inter-
9 ests that—

10 (A) are located in Big Horn County, Mon-
11 tana, within the boundaries of the Crow Res-
12 ervation;

13 (B) comprise approximately 4,660 acres of
14 subsurface interests owned by the Hope Family
15 Trust located in—

16 (i) T. 4 S., R. 37 E., sec. 33;

17 (ii) T. 4 S., R. 37 E., sec. 34;

18 (iii) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 1;

19 (iv) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 2;

20 (v) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 3;

21 (vi) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 10;

22 (vii) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 11;

23 (viii) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 12;

24 (ix) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 13;

25 (x) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 14;

1 (xi) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 15;
 2 (xii) T. 5 S., R. 38 E., sec. 5;
 3 (xiii) T. 5 S., R. 38 E., sec. 8;
 4 (xiv) T. 5 S., R. 38 E., sec. 9;
 5 (xv) T. 5 S., R. 38 E., sec. 16; and
 6 (xvi) T. 5 S., R. 38 E., sec. 17; and
 7 (C) are generally depicted on the map enti-
 8 tled “Hope Family Tracts” and dated January
 9 30, 2024.

10 (4) HOPE FAMILY TRUST.—The term “Hope
 11 Family Trust” means the Joe and Barbara Hope
 12 Mineral Trust.

13 (5) LESSEE.—The term “Lessee” means the
 14 lessee for the Bull Mountains Lease.

15 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 16 the Secretary of the Interior.

17 (7) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
 18 of Montana.

19 (8) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the Crow
 20 Tribe of Montana.

21 **SEC. 3. MINERAL RIGHTS TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST.**

22 (a) COMPLETION OF MINERAL CONVEYANCES.—Not
 23 later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
 24 in a single transaction—

1 (1) notwithstanding any other provision of law,
2 including sections 3480.0–6(d)(8) and 3452.1
3 through 3452.1–3 of title 43, Code of Federal Regu-
4 lations (or successor regulations), if the Lessee of-
5 fers to relinquish the Bull Mountains Lease, the
6 Secretary shall accept the relinquishment;

7 (2) the Hope Family Trust shall convey to the
8 Tribe all right, title, and interest in and to the min-
9 eral interests in the Hope Family Tracts; and

10 (3) subject to valid existing rights, and on relin-
11 quishment of the Bull Mountains Lease, the Sec-
12 retary shall convey to the Hope Family Trust all
13 right, title, and interest of the United States in and
14 to the mineral interests and surface land in the Bull
15 Mountains Tracts.

16 (b) TRUST STATUS.—On the request of the Tribe,
17 the mineral interests conveyed to the Tribe under sub-
18 section (a)(2) shall be held in trust by the United States
19 for the benefit of the Tribe.

20 (c) NO STATE TAXATION.—The mineral interests
21 conveyed to the Tribe under subsection (a)(2) shall not
22 be subject to taxation by the State (including any political
23 subdivision of the State).

24 (d) REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENT.—Before the
25 conveyances under subsection (a), the Tribe shall notify

1 the Secretary, in writing, that the Tribe and the Hope
2 Family Trust have agreed on a formula for sharing rev-
3 enue from development of the mineral and surface inter-
4 ests described in subsection (a)(3) if those mineral or sur-
5 face interests are developed at a later date.

6 (e) WITHDRAWAL PRIOR TO EXCHANGE.—Subject to
7 valid existing rights, pending the conveyances under para-
8 graphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a), the tracts conveyed
9 under those paragraphs shall be withdrawn from—

10 (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and dis-
11 posal under the public land laws;

12 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining
13 laws; and

14 (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral
15 materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

16 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER FEDERAL BENEFITS.**

17 No amounts or other benefits provided to the Tribe
18 under this Act shall result in the reduction or denial of
19 any Federal services, benefits, or programs to the Tribe
20 or any member of the Tribe to which the Tribe or member
21 of the Tribe is entitled or eligible because of—

22 (1) the status of the Tribe as a federally recog-
23 nized Indian Tribe; or

- 1 (2) the status of the member as a member of
- 2 the Tribe.

