



(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R. 8953**

To amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes.

---

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ZINKE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

---

**A BILL**

To amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, 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 Tribe Water  
5 Rights Settlement Amendments Act of 2024".

1 **SEC. 2. CROW TRIBE WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT.**

2 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 403 of the Crow Tribe  
3 Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–  
4 291; 124 Stat. 3097) is amended—

5 (1) by striking paragraph (11) and inserting  
6 the following:

7 “(11) **MR&I PROJECT.**—The term ‘MR&I  
8 Project’ means an activity described in clauses (i)  
9 through (iii) of section 411(e)(3)(F).”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (12)—

11 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking  
12 “SYSTEM” and inserting “PROJECTS”; and

13 (B) in subparagraphs (A) through (C), by  
14 striking “System” each place it appears and in-  
15 sserting “Projects”.

16 (b) **REPEAL OF MR&I SYSTEM.**—

17 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 406 of the Crow  
18 Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public  
19 Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3102) is repealed.

20 (2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of con-  
21 tents for the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Public  
22 Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3064) is amended by strik-  
23 ing the item relating to section 406.

24 (c) **CROW SETTLEMENT FUND.**—Section 411 of the  
25 Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public  
26 Law 111–291; 124 Stat. 3113) is amended—

1           (1) in subsection (a), by striking “to be admin-  
2    istered by the Secretary” and inserting “to be man-  
3    aged, invested, and distributed by the Secretary and  
4    to remain available until expended, withdrawn, or re-  
5    verted to the general fund of the Treasury, con-  
6    sisting of amounts deposited in the Fund under sub-  
7    section (b), together with any investment earnings,  
8    including interest, earned on those amounts,”;

9           (2) in subsections (b) and (c), by striking “sec-  
10   tion 414” each place it appears and inserting “sec-  
11   tion 415”;

12          (3) in subsection (c)—

13           (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “Sys-  
14   tem” and inserting “Projects”; and

15           (B) by adding at the end the following:

16           “(5) The MR&I Projects Account, to be estab-  
17   lished as soon as practicable after the date of enact-  
18   ment of the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement  
19   Amendments Act of 2024, consisting of—

20           “(A) amounts made available pursuant to  
21   paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 415(b) that  
22   are appropriated after the date of enactment of  
23   the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement  
24   Amendments Act of 2024; and

1           “(B) amounts to be deposited pursuant to  
2           section 415(h)(3)(B).”;  
3           (4) in subsection (e)—

4           (A) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-  
5           graph (C) and inserting the following:

6           “(C) the American Indian Trust Fund  
7           Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.  
8           4001 et seq.).”; and

9           (B) in paragraph (3)—

10           (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
11           “through (E)” and inserting “through  
12           (F)”;

13           (ii) in subparagraph (C)(i), by strik-  
14           ing “section 412” and inserting “section  
15           413”;

16           (iii) in subparagraph (E)—

17           (I) in the subparagraph heading,  
18           by striking “SYSTEM” and inserting  
19           “PROJECTS”; and

20           (II) by striking “System” each  
21           place it appears and inserting  
22           “Projects”; and

23           (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
24           lowing:

1                   “(F) MR&I PROJECTS ACCOUNT.—Funds  
2                   from the MR&I Projects Account shall be used  
3                   for expenditures by the Tribe for—

4                   “(i) planning, permitting, designing,  
5                   engineering, constructing, reconstructing,  
6                   replacing, rehabilitating, operating, or re-  
7                   pairing water production, treatment, or de-  
8                   livery infrastructure, including for domes-  
9                   tic and municipal use or wastewater infra-  
10                  structure;

11                  “(ii) purchasing on-Reservation land  
12                  with water rights; and

13                  “(iii) complying with applicable envi-  
14                  ronmental laws.”;

15                  (5) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “section  
16                  414” and inserting “section 415”; and

17                  (6) by adding at the end the following:

18                  “(i) TITLE TO INFRASTRUCTURE.—Title to, control  
19                  over, and operation of any project constructed using funds  
20                  from the MR&I Projects Account shall remain in the  
21                  Tribe.

22                  “(j) OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACE-  
23                  MENT.—The Federal Government shall have no obligation  
24                  to pay for the operation, maintenance, or replacement of  
25                  any MR&I Project.”.

1 (d) CROW CIP IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT.—The  
2 Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (31  
3 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–291) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating sections 412 through 416  
5 as sections 413 through 417, respectively; and

6 (2) by inserting after section 411 the following:

7 **“SEC. 412. CROW CIP IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
9 lish a nontrust, interest-bearing account, to be known as  
10 the ‘Crow CIP Implementation Account’, to be managed  
11 and distributed by the Secretary.

12 “(b) DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall deposit in the  
13 Crow CIP Implementation Account—

14 “(1) amounts made available pursuant to para-  
15 graphs (1) and (2) of section 415(a) that are appro-  
16 priated after the date of enactment of the Crow  
17 Tribe Water Rights Settlement Amendments Act of  
18 2024; and

19 “(2) amounts to be deposited pursuant to sec-  
20 tion 415(h)(3)(A).

21 “(c) USES.—Amounts in the Crow CIP Implementa-  
22 tion Account shall be used to carry out section 405.

23 “(d) INTEREST.—In addition to the deposits made  
24 into the Crow CIP Implementation Account pursuant to  
25 subsection (b), any investment earnings, including interest

1 credited to amounts unexpended in the Crow CIP Imple-  
2 mentation Account, shall be available for use in accord-  
3 ance with subsection (c).”.

4 (e) YELLOWTAIL DAM, MONTANA.—Subsection  
5 (b)(1) of section 413 of the Crow Tribe Water Rights Set-  
6 tlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124 Stat.  
7 3116) (as redesignated by subsection (d)(1)) is amended  
8 by striking “15 years” and inserting “20 years”.

9 (f) FUNDING.—Section 415 of the Crow Tribe Water  
10 Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–291; 124  
11 Stat. 3120) (as redesignated by subsection (d)(1)) is  
12 amended—

13 (1) in subsection (e)—

14 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
15 “SYSTEM” and inserting “PROJECTS”; and

16 (B) by striking “System” and inserting  
17 “Projects”;

18 (2) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the  
19 following:

20 “(3) JOINT SIGNATURE ACCOUNTS.—The Sec-  
21 retary shall take all actions necessary to authorize  
22 the withdrawal of funds, including principal and in-  
23 terest, held and maintained in joint signature ac-  
24 counts in accordance with the following:

1           “(A) CROW IMPLEMENTATION ACCOUNT.—  
2           In the special joint signature account named  
3           ‘CIP Account’ established pursuant to the  
4           agreement with the Tribe dated October 19,  
5           2011, for the purpose of transferring and de-  
6           positing those funds in the Crow CIP Imple-  
7           mentation Account established by the Secretary  
8           pursuant to section 412(a).

9           “(B) MR&I PROJECTS ACCOUNT.—In the  
10          special joint signature account named ‘MR&I  
11          Account’ established pursuant to the agreement  
12          with the Tribe dated September 13, 2012, for  
13          the purpose of transferring and depositing those  
14          funds in the MR&I Projects Account estab-  
15          lished pursuant to section 411(c)(5).”;

16          (3) by adding at the end the following:

17          “(j) MR&I PROJECTS ACCOUNT FLUCTUATIONS IN  
18          COSTS.—

19          “(1) INDEXING ADJUSTMENT.—Amounts depos-  
20          ited in the MR&I Projects Account pursuant to sec-  
21          tion 411(c)(5)(A) shall be increased or decreased, as  
22          appropriate, by such amounts as may be justified by  
23          reason of ordinary fluctuations in costs occurring  
24          after May 1, 2008, as indicated by the Bureau of



1 Reclamation Construction Cost Index–Composite  
2 Trend.

3 “(2) PERIOD OF INDEXING.—The period of in-  
4 dexing adjustment under paragraph (1), for any in-  
5 crement of funding, shall end on the date on which  
6 the amounts are deposited in the MR&I Projects Ac-  
7 count.”.

8 (g) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

9 (1) Section 403(9) of the Crow Tribe Water  
10 Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–  
11 291; 124 Stat. 3098) is amended by striking “(25  
12 U.S.C. 450b)” and inserting “(25 U.S.C. 5304)”.

13 (2) Section 409(b) of the Crow Tribe Water  
14 Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–  
15 291; 124 Stat. 3108) is amended, in each of para-  
16 graphs (1) and (2), by striking “section 414” and  
17 inserting “section 415”.

18 (3) Section 410(e)(1) of the Crow Tribe Water  
19 Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–  
20 291; 124 Stat. 3112) is amended—

21 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “sec-  
22 tion 414” and inserting “section 415”; and

23 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
24 “agreements with the Tribe required by sections

1           405(a) and 406(a)” and inserting “agreement  
2           with the Tribe required by section 405(a)”.

3           (4) Section 416 of the Crow Tribe Water  
4           Rights Settlement Act of 2010 (31 U.S.C. 1105  
5           note; Public Law 111–291) (as redesignated by sub-  
6           section (d)(1)) is amended, in each of paragraphs  
7           (3) and (4), by striking “section 414” and inserting  
8           “section 415”.

9           (h) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
10          for the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–  
11          291; 124 Stat. 3064) is amended by striking the items  
12          relating to sections 407 through 416 and inserting the fol-  
13          lowing:

- “Sec. 407. Tribal water rights.
- “Sec. 408. Storage allocation from Bighorn Lake.
- “Sec. 409. Satisfaction of claims.
- “Sec. 410. Waivers and releases of claims.
- “Sec. 411. Crow Settlement Fund.
- “Sec. 412. Crow CIP Implementation Account.
- “Sec. 413. Yellowtail Dam, Montana.
- “Sec. 414. Miscellaneous provisions.
- “Sec. 415. Funding.
- “Sec. 416. Repeal on failure to meet enforceability date.
- “Sec. 417. Antideficiency.”.