

Crow Revenue Act

Summary of text and changes made in the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute

The **Crow Revenue Act** would transfer approximately 4,660 acres of private subsurface inholdings (Hope Family Tracts) on the Crow Reservation to the Crow Tribe of Montana in exchange for 4,530 acres of federal subsurface (Bull Mountains Mineral Tracts). It would also exchange 940 acres of federal surface interests (Bull Mountains Surface Tracts) for 959 acres of private surface (Musselshell Resources Tracts) in Musselshell County which will lead to greater access to public land. Further, the bill would require that the Crow Tribe and the Hope Family enter into a Revenue Sharing Agreement for any interests developed in the Bull Mountains Tracts.

Similar to the bipartisan *Northern Cheyenne Lands Act* signed into law in 2014 that supported the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, this simple bill fixes long-standing inholdings on the Crow Reservation while also providing much needed revenue to the Crow Tribe and certainty for the Bull Mountains Mine in Musselshell County. It also increases public access to public land by exchanging landlocked public land for private land with access for public hunting.

The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) takes feedback from local hunting and public land advocacy groups and creates the new *Section 4: Unlocking Public Access*, to facilitate access to public land. The ANS exchanges 940 federal surface acres (of which only 313 acres have public access) for 959 private acres that connect with state public land. In total there will be 1,599 acres of accessible public land for a net gain of about 1,286 accessible acres. Most of which is in prime Elk hunting areas.

Section-by-section:

Section 1, Short Title:

- *Crow Revenue Act*

Section 2, Definitions:

- Bull Mountains Mineral Tracts: 4,530 acres of subsurface interest located in Musselshell County, Montana.
- Bull Mountains Surface Tracts: 940 acres of surface interests located in Musselshell County.
- Hope Family Tracts: 4,660 acres of subsurface interests located in Big Horn County, Montana, within the boundaries of the Crow Reservation.
- Musselshell Resources Tracts: 959 acres of surface interests located in Musselshell County.

Section 3, Mineral Rights to be Taken into Trust:

- Conveys to the Crow Tribe the Hope Family Tracts.
- Conveys to the Hope Family the Bull Mountains Mineral Tracts.
- Requires the Hope Family and the Crow Tribe to enter into a revenue sharing agreement for the development of any mineral and surface interests in the Bull Mountains Tracts.

Section 4, Unlocking Public Access:

- Exchanges 940 federal surface (Bull Mountains Surface Tracts) acres for 959 acres of private surface (Musselshell Resources Tracts) that increase access to state public land.

Section 5, Eligibility for other Federal Benefits:

- Savings clause ensuring the act does not affect any federal services, benefits or programs to the Crow Tribe.