



BLACKFEET NATION

VOTING FOR OUR WATER RIGHTS

On April 20, 2017, tribal members will vote on whether to accept the Blackfeet Water Compact and Settlement Act. The vote would confirm the Blackfeet Nation's water rights and jurisdiction over its water, and also provide more than \$470 million (\$422 million from the federal government and \$49 million from the State) for water related projects.

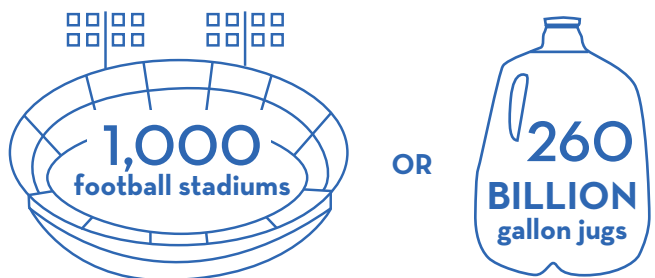
The Blackfeet Nation finalized a water rights compact after decades of negotiations with the United States and the State of Montana. With the approval from Montana, U.S. Congress and the President, tribal members will now vote for its approval.

www.blackfeetnation.com/watercompact

UNDERSTANDING THE WATER COMPACT

The Blackfeet Nation's water rights were reserved by treaty in 1855, although the exact amount has never been determined. Under Winters rights, the amount of water reserved is the amount that is needed to fulfill the purposes of the reservation for both the present and the future. The water is reserved as of the date of the treaty and cannot be lost even if it is not used.

Under the proposed compact, the Blackfeet Nation is entitled to nearly **800,000 acre-feet of water annually**, or enough to fill:

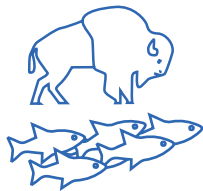


The compact also provides more than \$470 million in funding from the United States and the State of Montana for projects such as:



Recreation

Rehabilitate tribal campgrounds and develop water related recreational opportunities.



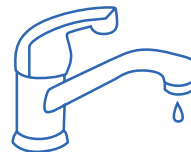
Habitat Protection

Enhance protection of aquatic lands and fisheries.



Land Purchase

Purchase agricultural lands and their associated water rights to expand our land base and create jobs to manage the properties.



Community Water Systems

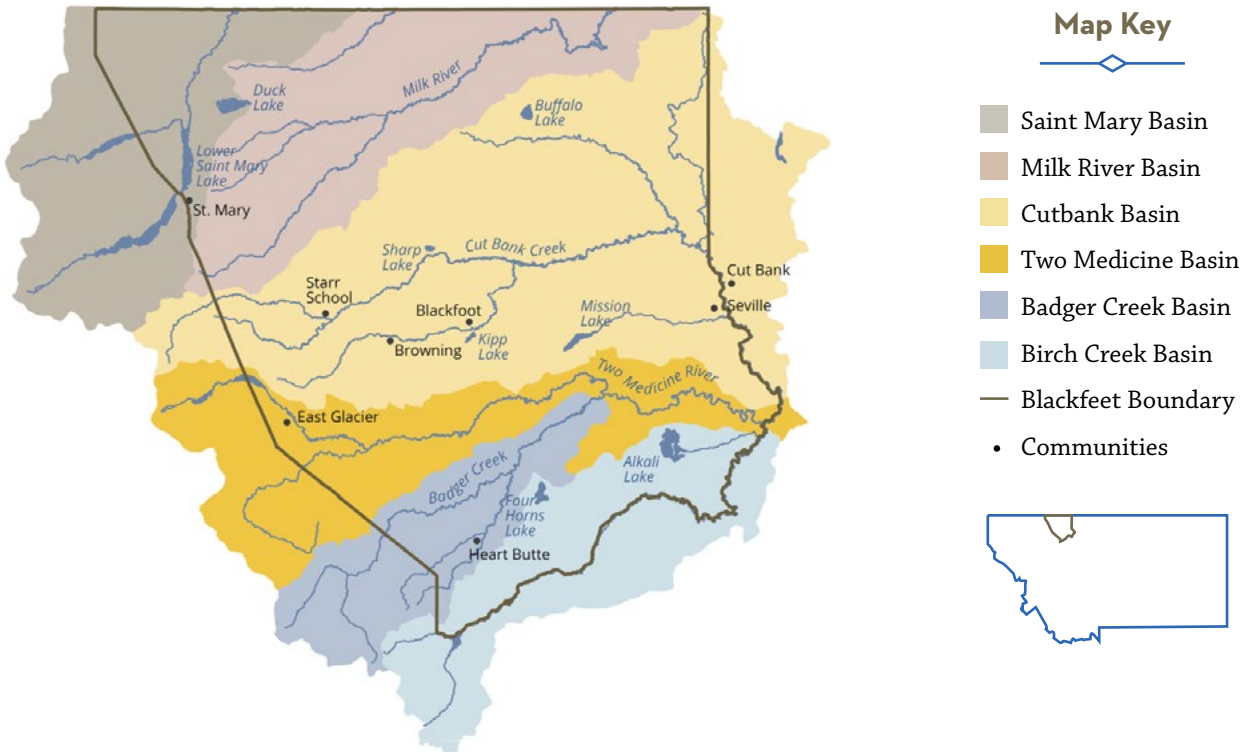
Provide improved municipal water for all communities on the Reservation to satisfy demands up to the year 2050.



Irrigation Upgrades

Construct new and upgrade existing irrigation systems on the Reservation to increase productivity.

WHERE DOES THE WATER COME FROM?



HOW WILL THE NATION BENEFIT FROM THE COMPACT?

The Blackfoot Nation will have a reliable, long-term water supply that will provide economic opportunities into the future. Water that is not used by the Blackfoot Nation can also be leased to others on and off the Reservation, with all profits reinvested in the Blackfoot Nation.

Funding from the federal government and the State of Montana will make possible many new projects—including improvements to tribal camp grounds, on-farm enhancements, and fisheries development—that will support an improved quality of life on the Reservation.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BLACKFEET NATION REJECTS THE COMPACT?

If tribal members reject the compact, our water rights will be decided in the Montana Water Court. The court will rule only on the amount of water available to the Blackfoot Nation, which will likely be significantly less, and the Tribe will not receive the \$470 million in additional funding from the federal government and the State of Montana.



WHAT'S NEXT?

The federal government and the State have approved the water agreement, and now tribal members will vote for its approval on April 20, 2017.

This brochure is designed to provide you with the information you need in order to make an informed decision when it is time to vote.

For detailed information about the compact, we encourage you to visit www.blackfeetnation.com/watercompact

