St. Mary and Milk River Basins
Canadian and American Entitlements

Boundary Waters Treaty (1909)
• Equal apportionment between the two countries, with flexibility for more than one half of either river to be taken by either country to afford more beneficial use for both
• For the irrigation season, specific flow or percentages of natural flow for each country
• Established the International Joint Commission (IJC) and its decision making powers

International Joint Commission (IJC)
• 1921 - Order of the IJC clarified where flows are measured and how they are apportioned
• Flow volume is calculated every 15 days by Water Survey of Canada and the United States Geological Survey

Milk River Entitlements
• Canada entitled to 75 per cent of natural flow of the Milk River up to natural flows of 18.9 cubic metres per second and 50% of natural flows above this threshold.

St. Mary River Entitlements
• Canada entitled to 25 per cent of natural flow of the St. Mary River up to natural flows of 18.9 cubic metres per second and 50% of natural flows above this threshold.

St. Mary and Milk River Watersheds Map
St. Mary and Milk River Basins
Canadian and American Entitlements

Letter of Intent (2001)

- Mutually beneficial agreement allowing each country to use more of its allotted share during seasonal low flow periods.
- Historically, natural Milk River flows are very low in the late summer.
- Historically, natural St. Mary River flows are low prior to mountain runoff around June.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 1 - May 31</th>
<th>June 1 - September 15</th>
<th>Oct. 31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA can accumulate deficit of 9800 dam³ (8,000 acre ft.) on the St. Mary River from March 1 to May 31</td>
<td>Canada can accumulate deficit of 4900 dam³ (4,000 acre ft.) on the Milk River from June 1 to September 15</td>
<td>Deficits must be equalized by Oct. 31</td>
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Inter-basin Transfers on the American Side

- U.S. St. Mary Canal transfers part of the U.S. entitlement from the St. Mary River to the Milk River for storage in reservoirs downstream in Montana.

- Under the LOI, unless otherwise agreed to by the IJC, the U.S. can only accumulate a deficit between March 1 and May 31, however, water may be transferred throughout the year.
- When water is being transferred, recorded flow of the Milk River is much higher than the natural flow.