

St. Mary and Milk River Basins

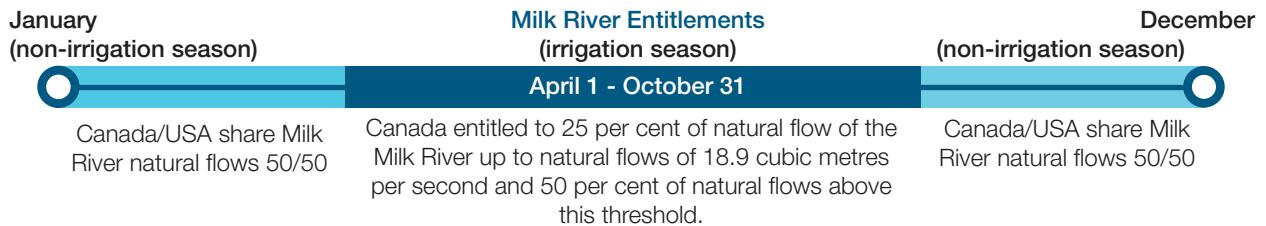
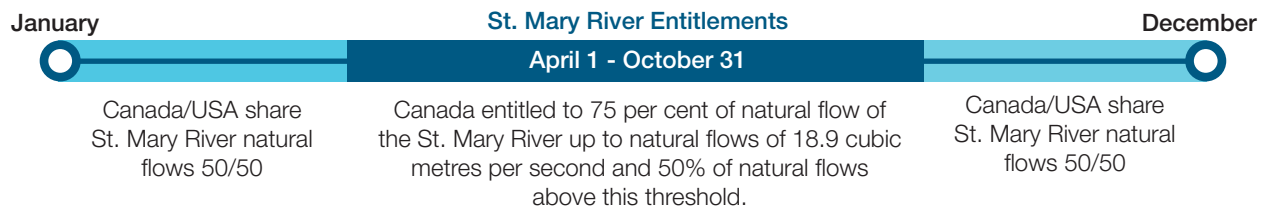
Canadian and American Entitlements

Boundary Waters Treaty (1909)

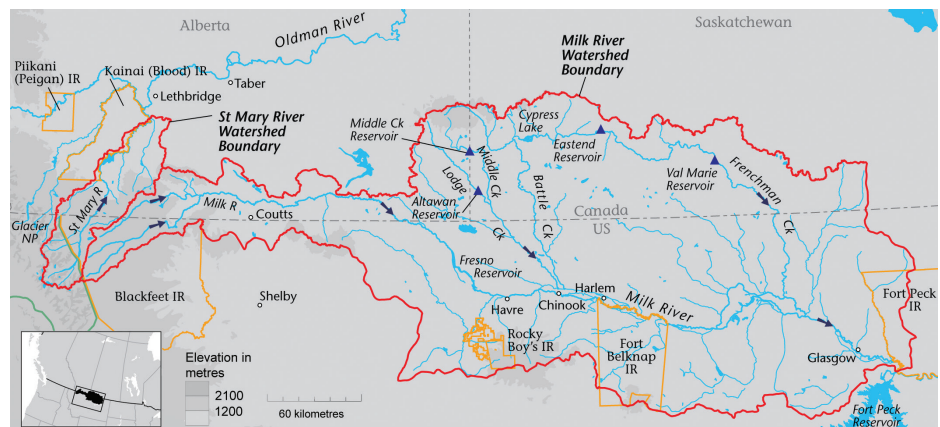
- Equal apportionment between the two countries, with flexibility for more than one half of either river to be taken by either country to afford more beneficial use for both
- For the irrigation season, specific flow or percentages of natural flow for each country
- Established the International Joint 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



St. Mary and Milk River Watersheds Map



St. Mary and Milk River Basins Canadian and American Entitlements

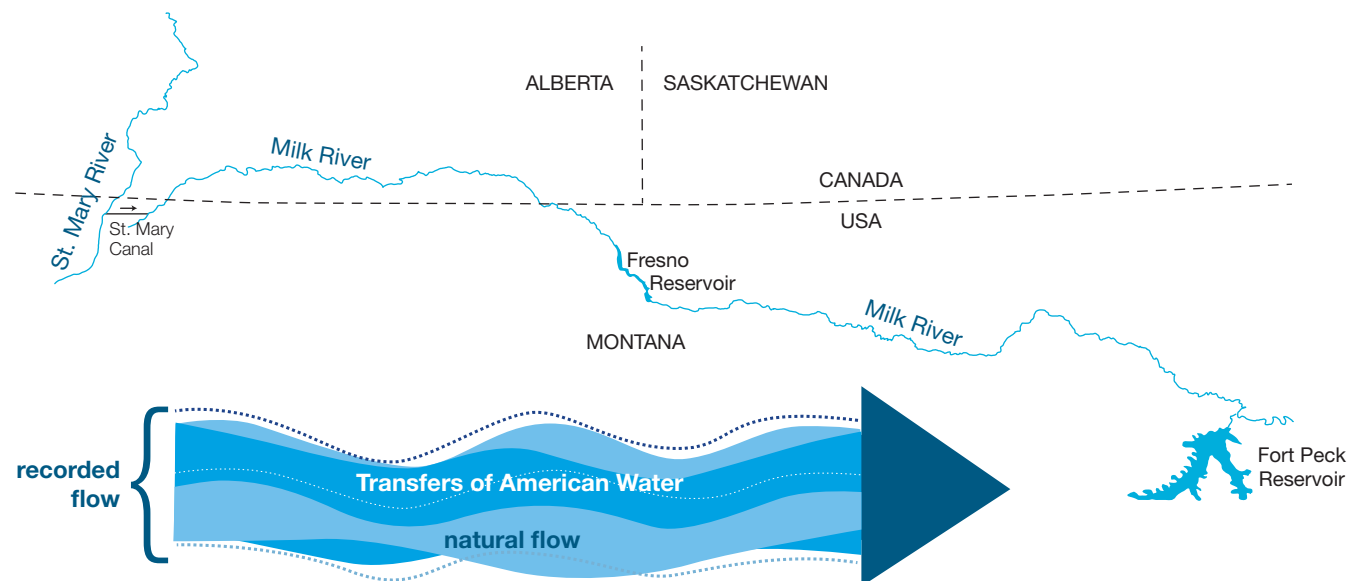
Letter of Intent (2001)

- 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.

March 1 - May 31	June 1 - September 15	Oct. 31
USA can accumulate deficit of 9800 dam ³ (8,000 acre ft.) on the St. Mary River from March 1 to May 31	Canada can accumulate deficit of 4900 dam ³ (4,000 acre ft.) on the Milk River from June 1 to September 15	Deficits must be equalized by Oct. 31

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.