

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3958

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## AN ACT

To provide a mechanism for the settlement of claims of the State of Utah regarding portions of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge located on the shore of the Great Salt Lake, Utah.



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## AN ACT

To provide a mechanism for the settlement of claims of the State of Utah regarding portions of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge located on the shore of the Great Salt Lake, Utah.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Bear River Migratory  
3 Bird Refuge Settlement Act of 2002”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Secretary of the Interior and the State  
7 of Utah have negotiated a preliminary agreement  
8 concerning the ownership of lands within the Bear  
9 River Migratory Bird Refuge located in Bear River  
10 Bay of the Great Salt Lake, Utah.

11 (2) The State is entitled to ownership of those  
12 sovereign lands constituting the bed of the Great  
13 Salt Lake, and, generally, the location of the sov-  
14 ereign lands boundary was set by an official survey  
15 of the Great Salt Lake meander line.

16 (3) The establishment of the Refuge in 1928  
17 along the shore of the Great Salt Lake, and lack of  
18 a meander line survey within the Refuge, has led to  
19 uncertainty of ownership of some those sovereign  
20 lands.

21 (4) In order to settle the uncertainty concerning  
22 the sovereign land boundary caused by the gap in  
23 the surveyed Great Salt Lake meander line within  
24 the Refuge, the Secretary and the State have agreed  
25 to the establishment of a fixed sovereign land bound-  
26 ary along the southern boundary of the Refuge and

1 the State has agreed to release any claim to the lake  
2 bed above such boundary line.

3 (5) The Secretary and the State have expressed  
4 their intentions to establish a mutually agreed upon  
5 procedure to address the conflicting claims to owner-  
6 ship of the lands and interests in land within the  
7 Refuge.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
11 the Secretary of the Interior.

12 (2) REFUGE.—The term “Refuge” means the  
13 Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge located in Bear  
14 River Bay of the Great Salt Lake, Utah.

15 (3) AGREEMENT.—The term “agreement”  
16 means the agreement to be signed by the Secretary  
17 and the State to establish a mutually agreeable pro-  
18 cedure for addressing the conflicting claims to own-  
19 ership of the lands and interests in land within the  
20 Refuge.

21 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
22 of Utah.

1 **SEC. 4. REQUIRED TERMS OF LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT,**  
2 **BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE,**  
3 **UTAH.**

4 (a) SPECIFIC TERMS REQUIRED IN AGREEMENT.—

5 The Secretary shall not enter into an agreement with the  
6 State for the quitclaim or other transfer of lands or inter-  
7 ests in lands within the Refuge unless the terms of the  
8 agreement include each of the following provisions:

9 (1) Nothing in the agreement shall be construed  
10 to impose upon the State or any of agency of the  
11 State any obligation to convey to the United States  
12 any interest in water owned or controlled by the  
13 State, except upon appropriate terms and for ade-  
14 quate consideration.

15 (2) Nothing in the agreement shall constitute  
16 admission or denial of the United States claim to a  
17 Federal reserved water right.

18 (3) The State shall support the United States  
19 application to add an enlarged Hyrum Reservoir, or  
20 another storage facility, as an alternate place of  
21 storage under the Refuge's existing 1000 cubic feet  
22 per second State certified water right. Such support  
23 shall be contingent upon demonstration by the  
24 United States that no injury to water rights shall  
25 occur as a result of the addition.

1           (4) Nothing in the agreement shall affect juris-  
2           diction by the State or the United States Fish and  
3           Wildlife Service over wildlife resources management,  
4           including fishing, hunting and trapping, within the  
5           Refuge.

6           (5) If the State elects to bring suit against the  
7           United States challenging the validity of the deed  
8           issued pursuant to the agreement, and if such suit  
9           is successful in invalidating such deed, the State  
10          will—

11                   (A) pay the United States for the fair mar-  
12                   ket value of all real property improvements on  
13                   the property at the time of invalidation, such as  
14                   dikes, water control structures and buildings;

15                   (B) repay any amounts paid by the United  
16                   States because of ownership of the land by the  
17                   United States from the date of establishment of  
18                   the Refuge, such as payments in lieu of taxes;  
19                   and

20                   (C) repay any amounts paid to the State  
21                   pursuant to the agreement.

22          (6) Subject to the availability of funds for this  
23          purpose, the Secretary shall agree to pay  
24          \$15,000,000 to the State upon delivery by the State  
25          of a quitclaim deed that meets all applicable stand-

1 ards of the Department of Justice and covers all  
2 lands and interests in lands claimed by the State  
3 within the Refuge. Such payment shall be subject to  
4 the condition that the State use the payment for the  
5 purposes, and in the amounts, specified in sub-  
6 sections (b) and (c).

7 (b) WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION PRO-  
8 GRAMS.—

9 (1) DEPOSIT.—The State shall deposit  
10 \$10,000,000 of the amount paid pursuant to the  
11 agreement, as required by subsection (a)(6), in a re-  
12 stricted account, known as the Wetlands and Habi-  
13 tat Protection Account, to be used as provided in  
14 paragraph (2).

15 (2) AUTHORIZED USES.—The Executive Direc-  
16 tor of the Utah Department of Natural Resources  
17 may withdraw from the Wetlands and Habitat Pro-  
18 tection Account, on an annual basis, amounts equal  
19 to the interest earned on the amount deposited  
20 under paragraph (1) for the following purposes:

21 (A) Wetland or open space protection in  
22 and near the Great Salt Lake.

23 (B) Enhancement and acquisition of wild-  
24 life habitat in and near the Great Salt Lake.

1           (c) RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND STREAMS DEVELOP-  
2   MENT AND EXPANSION.—The Utah Department of Nat-  
3   ural Resources shall use \$5,000,000 of the amount paid  
4   pursuant to the agreement, as required by subsection  
5   (a)(6), for the following purposes:

6           (1) Development, improvement, and expansion  
7       of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails  
8       on public and private lands in the State, with pri-  
9       ority given to providing trail access to the Great Salt  
10      Lake as part of the proposed Shoshone and Ogden-  
11      Weber trail systems.

12          (2) Preservation, reclamation, enhancement,  
13      and conservation of streams in the State.

14          (d) COORDINATION OF PROJECTS.—The Executive  
15      Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources  
16      shall seek to maximize the use of funds under subsections  
17      (b) and (c) through coordination with nonprofit organiza-  
18      tions, Federal agencies, other agencies of the State, and  
19      local governments, and shall give priority to those projects  
20      under such subsections that include Federal, State, or pri-  
21      vate matching funds.

22          (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
23      authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000 for the pay-

1 ment required by subsection (a)(6) to be included as a  
2 term of the agreement.

Passed the House of Representatives April 9, 2002.

Attest:

*Clerk.*