

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4301

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2006

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain parcels of land acquired for the Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal features of the initial stage of the Oahe Unit, James Division, South Dakota, to the Commission of Schools and Public Lands and the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks of the State of South Dakota for the purpose of mitigating lost wildlife habitat, on the condition that the current preferential leaseholders shall have an option to purchase the parcels from the Commission, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Blunt Reservoir and
5 Pierre Canal Land Conveyance Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. BLUNT RESERVOIR AND PIERRE CANAL.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) BLUNT RESERVOIR FEATURE.—The term
9 “Blunt Reservoir feature” means the Blunt Res-
10 ervoir feature of the Oahe Unit, James Division, au-
11 thorized by the Act of August 3, 1968 (82 Stat.
12 624), as part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin
13 program.

14 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
15 means the Commission of Schools and Public Lands
16 of the State.

17 (3) NONPREFERENTIAL LEASE PARCEL.—The
18 term “nonpreferential lease parcel” means a parcel
19 of land that—

20 (A) was purchased by the Secretary for use
21 in connection with the Blunt Reservoir feature
22 or the Pierre Canal feature; and

23 (B) was considered to be a nonpreferential
24 lease parcel by the Secretary as of January 1,

1 2001, and is reflected as such on the roster of
2 leases of the Bureau of Reclamation for 2001.

3 (4) PIERRE CANAL FEATURE.—The term
4 “Pierre Canal feature” means the Pierre Canal fea-
5 ture of the Oahe Unit, James Division, authorized
6 by the Act of August 3, 1968 (82 Stat. 624), as
7 part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin pro-
8 gram.

9 (5) PREFERENTIAL LEASEHOLDER.—The term
10 “preferential leaseholder” means a person or de-
11 scendant of a person that held a lease on a pref-
12 erential lease parcel as of January 1, 2001, and is
13 reflected as such on the roster of leases of the Bu-
14 reau of Reclamation for 2001.

15 (6) PREFERENTIAL LEASE PARCEL.—The term
16 “preferential lease parcel” means a parcel of land
17 that—

18 (A) was purchased by the Secretary for use
19 in connection with the Blunt Reservoir feature
20 or the Pierre Canal feature; and

21 (B) was considered to be a preferential
22 lease parcel by the Secretary as of January 1,
23 2001, and is reflected as such on the roster of
24 leases of the Bureau of Reclamation for 2001.

1 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the
3 Commissioner of Reclamation.

4 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
5 of South Dakota, including a successor in interest of
6 the State.

7 (9) UNLEASED PARCEL.—The term “unleased
8 parcel” means a parcel of land that—

9 (A) was purchased by the Secretary for use
10 in connection with the Blunt Reservoir feature
11 or the Pierre Canal feature; and

12 (B) is not under lease as of the date of en-
13 actment of this Act.

14 (b) DEAUTHORIZATION.—The Blunt Reservoir fea-
15 ture is deauthorized.

16 (c) ACCEPTANCE OF LAND AND OBLIGATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a term of each convey-
18 ance under subsections (d)(5) and (e), respectively,
19 the State may agree to accept—

20 (A) in “as is” condition, the portions of
21 the Blunt Reservoir Feature and the Pierre
22 Canal Feature that pass into State ownership;

23 (B) any liability accruing after the date of
24 conveyance as a result of the ownership, oper-
25 ation, or maintenance of the features referred

1 to in subparagraph (A), including liability asso-
2 ciated with certain outstanding obligations asso-
3 ciated with expired easements, or any other
4 right granted in, on, over, or across either fea-
5 ture; and

6 (C) the responsibility that the Commission
7 will act as the agent for the Secretary in ad-
8 ministering the purchase option extended to
9 preferential leaseholders under subsection (d).

10 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE.—An
11 outstanding obligation described in paragraph (1)(B)
12 shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon,
13 the State.

14 (3) OIL, GAS, MINERAL AND OTHER OUT-
15 STANDING RIGHTS.—A conveyance to the State
16 under subsection (d)(5) or (e) or a sale to a pref-
17 erential leaseholder under subsection (d) shall be
18 made subject to—

19 (A) oil, gas, and other mineral rights re-
20 served of record, as of the date of enactment of
21 this Act, by or in favor of a third party; and

22 (B) any permit, license, lease, right-of-use,
23 or right-of-way of record in, on, over, or across
24 a feature referred to in paragraph (1)(A) that

1 is outstanding as to a third party as of the date
2 of enactment of this Act.

3 (4) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS OF CONVEYANCE
4 TO STATE.—A conveyance to the State under sub-
5 section (d)(5) or (e) shall be subject to the reserva-
6 tions by the United States and the conditions speci-
7 fied in section 1 of the Act of May 19, 1948 (chap-
8 ter 310; 62 Stat. 240), as amended (16 U.S.C.
9 667b), for the transfer of property to State agencies
10 for wildlife conservation purposes.

11 (d) PURCHASE OPTION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—A preferential leaseholder
13 shall have an option to purchase from the Secretary
14 or the Commission, acting as an agent for the Sec-
15 retary, the preferential lease parcel that is the sub-
16 ject of the lease.

17 (2) TERMS.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
19 subparagraph (B), a preferential leaseholder
20 may elect to purchase a parcel on one of the
21 following terms:

22 (i) Cash purchase for the amount that
23 is equal to—

24 (I) the value of the parcel deter-
25 mined under paragraph (4); minus

1 (II) ten percent of that value.

2 (ii) Installment purchase, with 10 per-
3 cent of the value of the parcel determined
4 under paragraph (4) to be paid on the date
5 of purchase and the remainder to be paid
6 over not more than 30 years at 3 percent
7 annual interest.

8 (B) VALUE UNDER \$10,000.—If the value
9 of the parcel is under \$10,000, the purchase
10 shall be made on a cash basis in accordance
11 with subparagraph (A)(I).

12 (3) OPTION EXERCISE PERIOD.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—A preferential lease-
14 holder shall have until the date that is 5 years
15 after enactment of this Act to exercise the op-
16 tion under paragraph (1).

17 (B) CONTINUATION OF LEASES.—Until the
18 date specified in subparagraph (A), a pref-
19 erential leaseholder shall be entitled to continue
20 to lease from the Secretary the parcel leased by
21 the preferential leaseholder under the same
22 terms and conditions as under the lease, as in
23 effect as of the date of enactment of this Act.

24 (4) VALUATION.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The value of a pref-
2 erential lease parcel shall be its fair market
3 value for agricultural purposes determined by
4 an independent appraisal less 25 percent, exclu-
5 sive of the value of private improvements made
6 by the leaseholders while the land was federally
7 owned before the date of the enactment of this
8 Act, in conformance with the Uniform Ap-
9 praisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisition.

10 (B) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—Any dispute
11 over the fair market value of a property under
12 subparagraph (A) shall be resolved in accord-
13 ance with section 2201.4 of title 43, Code of
14 Federal Regulations.

15 (5) CONVEYANCE TO THE STATE.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—If a preferential lease-
17 holder fails to purchase a parcel within the pe-
18 riod specified in paragraph (3)(A), the Sec-
19 retary shall convey the parcel to the State of
20 South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and
21 Parks.

22 (B) WILDLIFE HABITAT MITIGATION.—
23 Land conveyed under subparagraph (A) shall be
24 used by the South Dakota Department of
25 Game, Fish, and Parks for the purpose of miti-

gating the wildlife habitat that was lost as a result of the development of the Pick-Sloan project.

(6) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Proceeds of sales of land under this Act shall be deposited as miscellaneous funds in the Treasury and such funds shall be made available, subject to appropriations, to the State for the establishment of a trust fund to pay the county taxes on the lands received by the State Department of Game, Fish, and Parks under the bill.

(e) CONVEYANCE OF NONPREFERENTIAL LEASE PARCELS AND UNLEASED PARCELS.—

(1) CONVEYANCE BY SECRETARY TO STATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks the non-preferential lease parcels and unleased parcels of the Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal.

(B) WILDLIFE HABITAT MITIGATION.—

Land conveyed under subparagraph (A) shall be used by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks for the purpose of mitigating the wildlife habitat that was lost as a re-

1 sult of the development of the Pick-Sloan
2 project.

3 (2) LAND EXCHANGES FOR NONPREFERENTIAL
4 LEASE PARCELS AND UNLEASED PARCELS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—With the concurrence
6 of the South Dakota Department of Game,
7 Fish, and Parks, the South Dakota Commission
8 of Schools and Public Lands may allow a per-
9 son to exchange land that the person owns else-
10 where in the State for a nonpreferential lease
11 parcel or unleased parcel at Blunt Reservoir or
12 Pierre Canal, as the case may be.

13 (B) PRIORITY.—The right to exchange
14 nonpreferential lease parcels or unleased parcels
15 shall be granted in the following order or pri-
16 ority:

17 (i) Exchanges with current lessees for
18 nonpreferential lease parcels.

19 (ii) Exchanges with adjoining and ad-
20 jacent landowners for unleased parcels and
21 nonpreferential lease parcels not exchanged
22 by current lessees.

23 (C) EASEMENT FOR WATER CONVEYANCE
24 STRUCTURE.—As a condition of the exchange of
25 land of the Pierre Canal Feature under this

1 paragraph, the United States reserves a per-
2 petual easement to the land to allow for the
3 right to design, construct, operate, maintain,
4 repair, and replace a pipeline or other water
5 conveyance structure over, under, across, or
6 through the Pierre Canal feature.

7 (f) RELEASE FROM LIABILITY.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of con-
9 veyance of any parcel under this Act, the United
10 States shall not be held liable by any court for dam-
11 ages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or
12 occurrence relating to the parcel, except for damages
13 for acts of negligence committed by the United
14 States or by an employee, agent, or contractor of the
15 United States, before the date of conveyance.

16 (2) NO ADDITIONAL LIABILITY.—Nothing in
17 this section adds to any liability that the United
18 States may have under chapter 171 of title 28,
19 United States Code (commonly known as the “Fed-
20 eral Tort Claims Act”).

21 (g) REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING CONVEYANCE OF
22 LEASE PARCELS.—

23 (1) INTERIM REQUIREMENTS.—During the pe-
24 riod beginning on the date of enactment of this Act
25 and ending on the date of conveyance of the parcel,

1 the Secretary shall continue to lease each pref-
2 erential lease parcel or nonpreferential lease parcel
3 to be conveyed under this section under the terms
4 and conditions applicable to the parcel on the date
5 of enactment of this Act.

6 (2) PROVISION OF PARCEL DESCRIPTIONS.—

7 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with
9 the Commission, shall provide the State a full legal
10 description of all preferential lease parcels and non-
11 preferential lease parcels that may be conveyed
12 under this section.

13 (h) CURATION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS.—

14 The Secretary, in consultation with the State, shall trans-
15 fer, without cost to the State, all archeological and cul-
16 tural resource items collected from the Blunt Reservoir
17 Feature and Pierre Canal Feature to the South Dakota
18 State Historical Society.

19 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is

20 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
21 \$750,000 to reimburse the Secretary for expenses in-
22 curred in implementing this Act, and such sums as are
23 necessary to reimburse the Commission and the State De-
24 partment of Game, Fish, and Parks for expenses incurred

- 1 implementing this Act, not to exceed 10 percent of the
- 2 cost of each transaction conducted under this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives July 24, 2006.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.