Public Law 98-157
98th Congress

An Act

To authorize rehabilitation of the Belle Fourche irrigation project, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the general plan for the Belle Fourche project, South Dakota, heretofore authorized for construction by the Secretary of the Interior, May 10, 1904, pursuant to the Reclamation Act of 1902 (32 Stat. 388), is modified to include construction, betterment of works, water conservation, recreation, and fish and wildlife conservation and development. As so modified, the general plan is reauthorized under the designation “Belle Fourche unit” of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin program.

Sec. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”), is authorized to negotiate and execute an amendatory repayment contract with the Belle Fourche irrigation district covering all lands of the existing Belle Fourche project. This contract shall replace all existing contracts between the Belle Fourche irrigation district and the United States.

(b) The period of repayment of the construction and rehabilitation and betterment costs allocated to irrigation and assigned to be repaid by the irrigation water users shall be not more than forty years from and including the year in which such amendatory repayment contract is executed.

(c) During the period required to complete the rehabilitation and betterment program and other water conservation works, the rates of charge to land class in the unit shall continue to be as established in the November 29, 1949, repayment contract with the district, as subsequently amended and supplemented; thereafter, such rates of charge and assessable acreage shall be in accordance with the amortization capacity and classification of unit lands as then determined by the Secretary.

Sec. 3. (a) All miscellaneous net revenues of the Belle Fourche unit shall accrue to the United States and shall be applied against irrigation costs not assigned to be repaid by irrigation water users.

(b) Construction and rehabilitation and betterment costs of the Belle Fourche unit allocated to irrigation and not assigned to be repaid by the irrigation water users nor returned from miscellaneous net revenues of the unit shall be returnable from net revenues of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin program within fifty years from and including the year in which the amendatory contract authorized by this Act is executed.

Sec. 4. The provision of lands, facilities, and project modifications which furnish recreation and fish and wildlife benefits in connection with the Belle Fourche unit shall be in accordance with the Federal Water Project Recreation Act (79 Stat. 213), as amended.

Sec. 5. Appropriations heretofore or hereafter made for carrying on the functions of the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for credits, expenses, charges, and costs provided by or incurred under

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Belle Fourche irrigation project.

48 USC 391.

Contract.

Repayment period.

16 USC 460f-12 note.
Rules and regulations.
Contracts.

this Act. The Secretary is authorized to make such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 6. The Secretary is authorized to amend existing contracts and enter into additional contracts as may be necessary to implement and facilitate any future agreement between the Belle Fourche irrigation district and non-Federal entities involving the sale of Belle Fourche project water for use by such non-Federal interest for other than irrigation purposes: Provided, That the net proceeds from such transactions between the Secretary, the Belle Fourche irrigation district, and such non-Federal interest shall be paid to the United States as reimbursement of the cost of the works authorized by this Act, that such transactions are not in violation of applicable State laws, and that such transactions shall be subject to the consent and conditions of the State of South Dakota to such water use by such non-Federal interest in accordance with the laws of South Dakota and the provisions of the Belle Fourche River Compact between the States of Wyoming and South Dakota to which the consent of Congress was given in the Act of February 26, 1944 (ch. 64, 58 Stat. 94).

Sec. 7. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated beginning October 1, 1984, for the rehabilitation and betterment of the irrigation facilities of the Belle Fourche unit and recreation and fish and wildlife measures as authorized by this Act, the sum of $42,000,000 (based on January 1981 prices), plus or minus such amounts, if any, as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in construction cost indexes applicable to the types of construction involved herein.

Sec. 8. Any new spending authority described in subsection (c)(2)(A) or (B) of section 401 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 which is provided under this Act shall be effective for any fiscal year only to such extent or in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

Approved November 17, 1983.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 448:

HOUSE REPORT No. 98-415 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
SENATE REPORT No. 98-138 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
June 15, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 31, Nov. 1, considered and passed House, amended.
Nov. 3, Senate concurred in House amendments.