

# RESERVED WATER RIGHTS COMPACT COMMISSION



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Senator Dick Barrett  
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June 4, 2013

Montana Legislators  
Interested Citizens and Parties

RE: Report on the Proposed CSKT – Montana Compact

Dear Montanans:

Governor Bullock has directed the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission (RWRCC) to prepare a report addressing the questions raised during the 2013 Legislative session about the water rights compact negotiated with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). The compact was approved by the RWRCC and brought to the Legislature as HB 629. The compact bill was tabled in the House Judiciary Committee. The Governor's directive is articulated in the letter documenting his veto of SB 265, an act extending the suspension of water rights adjudication and requiring an interim study of the compact. The letter is available at:

<http://leg.mt.gov/bills/2013/AmdHtms/SB0265GovVeto.pdf> (updated July 9, 2013)

In order to ensure that the report addresses all relevant questions and issues, I am asking for input from interested parties. We would like to hear from you regarding your questions and concerns about the proposed compact. It will be very helpful to the RWRCC if, for specific questions and concerns, you reference the applicable section of the proposed compact generating the issue. For those concerns that don't relate to specific parts of the compact, please provide specific information to help RWRCC understand the cause of your concern.

For access to compact and appendices:

The compact (including the Unitary Management Ordinance) in bill format as considered by the 2013 Legislature as HB 629 is at:

[http://leg.mt.gov/bills/2013/hb0699/HB0629\\_1.pdf](http://leg.mt.gov/bills/2013/hb0699/HB0629_1.pdf) (updated July 9, 2013)

The compact and all appendices are located at:

<http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/rwrcc/Compacts/CSKT/Default.asp>

If you would like to receive a disk with the compact and appendices included, please contact:

Sonja Hoeglund, RWRCC, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601

406-444-6843

[shoeglund@mt.gov](mailto:shoeglund@mt.gov)

**Please send your comments by July 1, 2013 to:**

Arne Wick, RWRCC

PO Box 201601

Helena, MT 59620-1601

Email [AWick@mt.gov](mailto:AWick@mt.gov)

The compact addresses some of the most pressing natural resource issues facing our state. Your assistance in reviewing and commenting on the proposed Compact is important, and we hope you will take time to help.

Regards,

Chris Tweeten, Chair,

Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission