

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH SERVICE, U.S. SHEEP EXPERIMENT STATION-MONTANA
COMPACT**

CASE WC2014-06

ORDER GRANTING RULE 54(b) CERTIFICATION AND FINAL JUDGMENT

This matter came before the Court on the joint motion of the United States of America (“United States”) and the State of Montana for the entry of a decree confirming the reserved water rights of the United States as recognized in the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station-Montana Compact (“Compact”). The Compact is codified at Section 85-20-1201, MCA. On May 4, 2015, the Court issued its *Order Approving Sheep Station Compact*.

The May 4, 2015 Order by itself does not constitute a final judgment. To finalize Water Court proceedings, the Water Court must issue a certification pursuant to Rule 54(b) of the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure (M. R. Civ. P.).


The Water Court issued its *Order Dismissing Water Right Claims in Accordance with Article V(C) of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Sheep Experiment Station-Montana Compact* on August 7, 2015.

Accordingly, issuance of a Rule 54(b) Certification and Final Judgment is proper in this case. There is no reason to delay entry of Final Judgment, and M. R. Civ. P. 54(b) Certification is **GRANTED**.

The Court retains whatever jurisdiction is needed to facilitate the administrative process of inserting the provisions of the Compact into the State Centralized Record System, including the computer water right database maintained by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), in cooperation and coordination with the United States and the State of Montana.

In conformity with the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, it is
ORDERED that the Judgment and Decree entered on this date is the **FINAL**
JUDGMENT of the Montana Water Court regarding the Sheep Station-Montana
Compact.

DATED this 26 day of August, 2015.


Russ McElyea
Chief Water Judge

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