

## BLM Director Robert Abbey Biographical Information

Robert Abbey, nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate August 10, 2009.

As BLM Director, Abbey provides direction and oversight for more than 245 million acres of public land and 700 million acres of on-shore subsurface mineral estate managed by the agency. In addition, BLM has trust responsibilities on 56 million acres of Indian trust lands for mineral operations and cadastral surveys. These public lands cover about 13 percent of the total land surface of the United States and more than 40 percent of all land managed by the Federal government, making BLM the Nation's largest public land manager. He oversees 11,000 employees and manages an annual operating budget of more than \$1 billion. Since becoming Director, Abbey has worked closely with other Federal, tribal, state and local governmental entities in pursuit of common goals related to the management of our Nation's natural and cultural resources.

Prior to his appointment, Abbey was a partner in Abbey, Stubbs, & Ford, LLC, a private consulting firm with offices in Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada. Abbey also served for more than 32 years in public service working with state and Federal land management agencies. He earned numerous performance awards during his career, including the prestigious Secretary of the Interior's Executive Leadership Award in 2004. After devastating wildfires burned more than 1.7 million acres in the Great Basin in 1999, Abbey served as the principal Federal agency proponent for the Great Basin Restoration Initiative, aimed at improving the long-term ecological diversity and stability of the region's ecosystems. For his work, he was recognized in 2004 by the U.S. Senate with a certification of commendation for his work on behalf of the Great Basin.

Abbey began his natural resource career with the Mississippi State Park Commission. He has served in a number of Federal positions with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the BLM, including eight years as the BLM's Nevada State Director. Abbey, a native of Clarksdale, Mississippi, is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree. He and his wife Linda have been married for 33 years and have one daughter, Leigh.