



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

## Brent Esplin

### Missouri Basin Regional Director



Brent C Esplin is the regional director for the Missouri Basin (Interior Region 5) and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf (Interior Region 6), which collectively are the largest and most ecologically diverse regions in Reclamation.

Esplin began this position June 21, 2020. He provides leadership for the management, development and protection of water and related resources across nine states. This includes 80 Reclamation reservoirs, 20 powerplants and 93 recreational areas that host more than 14 million visitors each year. Reclamation facilities in the region deliver water to rural and urban communities, providing drinking water to more than three million people, in addition to irrigating more than two million acres of agriculture. This complex region which is inclusive of nine western states has an annual appropriated budget of approximately \$180 million and a workforce of 650 employees.

Esplin has more than 20 years of service with the Bureau of Reclamation, most recently serving as Upper Colorado Basin Regional Director; prior to that position he served as Deputy Regional Director for the Upper Colorado Basin. He also served as Area Manager for Reclamation's Montana Area Office in Billings, Montana; Deputy Area Manager for the Phoenix Area Office in Arizona; and Deputy Area Manager for the Nebraska-Kansas Area Office in McCook, Nebraska. His years of experience include successfully addressing complex water supply and hydropower production issues; working with endangered species recovery programs; implementing American Indian water rights settlements; overseeing important facility construction, upgrades and safety of dam improvements; and collaborating on key river compact issues across multiple western river systems. Esplin first joined Reclamation in 1997 as a civil engineer in the Montana Area Office.

A native of Smithfield, Utah, Esplin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering and a Master of Science degree in civil engineering, both from Utah State University.