

Commissioner Brenda W. Burman
Bureau of Reclamation, 2017 to 2021

On November 16, 2017, the United States Senate confirmed the nomination of Brenda Burman as the 23rd Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation. Although Mae A. Schnurr periodically was named Acting Commissioner for Elwood Mead during the early 1930s, Burman is the first woman to be confirmed and serve as Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. She brought 25 years of familiarity with western issues, with an emphasis on water and natural resources, on becoming Commissioner. This experience included service in the Department of the Interior as the Bureau of Reclamation's Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs (2006-2008) and as Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science. Burman's career also included working in Congress as legislative counsel for water and energy for Arizona Senator Jon Kyl and state agencies, including The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the Salt River Project in Arizona. She was a judicial clerk for the Supreme Court of the State of Wyoming and the Superior Court of Coconino County in Arizona and worked as an attorney in private practice in Arizona. Licensed to practice law in Arizona, Colorado and Wyoming, Burman holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.