

# Biography - Steve Black Strategies, Inc.



## STEVE BLACK, PRESIDENT

*Steve@steveblackstrategies.com*

Steve is a leader in energy, environmental and natural resources policy with more than 25 years of experience as an environmental and energy lawyer and in the state and Federal governments. Steve is the Founder and President of Steve Black Strategies, Inc., an energy policy consulting firm. Steve helps public and private organizations navigate the political and public policy worlds in Washington, D.C. and in Western state capitals to achieve timely and cost-effective results with positive environmental outcomes.

Steve served as Counselor to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, where he played a key role on almost all energy and public lands issues facing the United States. Steve led the Department's efforts to stand up for the first time a renewable energy program, best exemplified by the western solar plan and the successful permitting of 41 utility-scale renewable energy projects and more than 1,600 miles of transmission lines on public lands.

Steve established for the first time an enduring renewable energy program at the Department of the Interior, in partnership with states, tribes and other stakeholders. Signature achievements include the Department's first solar energy program in six western states and similar landscape-level planning efforts in Arizona, California, and Colorado. Steve understands the roles and responsibilities of the Federal land management agencies, as they relate to siting and permitting renewable energy and transmission projects on public lands, and he has current relationships with senior agency staff in Washington and throughout the West.

Steve joined the Department from Secretary Salazar's Senate staff, where he was responsible for all of Senator Salazar's energy, environment, and natural resources legislation, including the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the Renewable Energy provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Before moving to Washington, Mr. Black was Deputy Attorney General for Natural Resources and the Environment in the Colorado Attorney General's Office and prior to that he was a partner at Holland & Hart, LLP, in Denver, where he practiced environmental law.

Steve earned his J.D. (1989) and his Bachelor of Arts Degree (1982) from the University of California at Berkeley. Steve has two adult children and lives in Boulder, Colorado.

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