

Jim Abbott

Associate State Director

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management - California



Associate State Director Jim Abbott brings broad and diverse experience to his current role as number two in BLM-California to State Director Mike Pool. He and Pool oversee 15.1 million acres of public lands in California and another 1.5 million in northwestern Nevada, and a workforce of more than 900 employees in 16 offices, with Abbott primarily focusing on ensuring the agency's workforce, systems, and budget all operate smoothly, as well as ensuring responsiveness to constituent and resource management needs.

A native of Chicago, he has a degree in recreation management from Colorado State University. He has experience in both staff and management positions, working in the recreation, wilderness, realty, planning, and oil and gas programs. A 33-year career veteran, he previously served in California in Bakersfield and Palm Springs, where he was instrumental in working with local partnerships in what are now the Carrizo Plain National Monument and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

Other job postings include associate district manager in Las Vegas, Nevada; field office manager in Bakersfield; assistant field office manager in Palm Springs; and various staff positions in Colorado and Utah. Before returning to California, he served in Washington, D.C. as the national land exchange team leader.

Abbott said he seized the opportunity to return to California for his current job in 2001 because he enjoys the State's challenges and opportunities associated with its diverse population, landscapes, and resources. "Working in California and managing the public lands in this ever-changing natural and political landscape is an exciting challenge. Both Mike and I believe the best approach is developing partnerships and collaborative processes to help the public reach consensus on how public lands should be managed. These lands will continue to play a vital role in addressing current and future challenges, such as climate change and renewable energy, as well as supporting local economies and providing for quality of life needs."

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