



### Quick Facts

- Confirmed May 2006
- Elected to two terms as Governor of Idaho
- Elected to one term in U.S. Senate
- Mayor of Boise, Idaho, from 1985 to 1992

# Secretary of the Interior

## *Dirk Kempthorne*

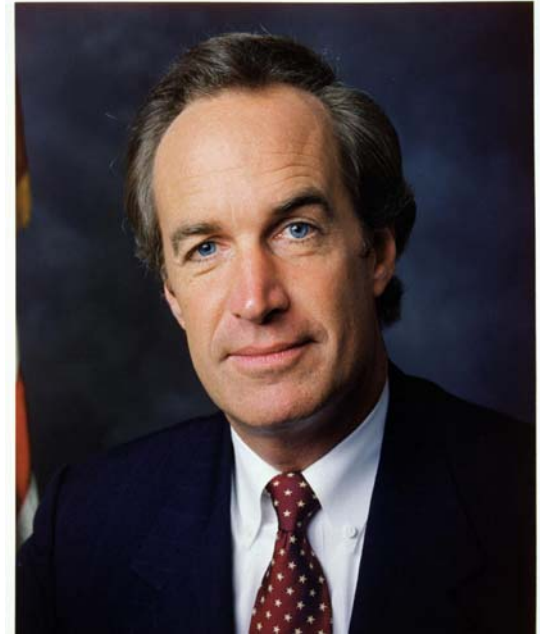
Dirk Kempthorne is the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. He was nominated and confirmed into that position in May 2006, after serving nearly two terms as Governor of the State of Idaho.

While governor, Kempthorne was heavily involved in natural resource issues, working to develop consensus on management of the State of Idaho's and the West's natural resources. First elected governor in 1998, he worked with colleagues in Oregon, Washington and Montana to develop a historic bipartisan agreement for returning salmon runs to the region.

Additionally, after devastating wildfires in 2000, Kempthorne partnered with fellow western governors and federal officials to change the approach to both forest health and wildfire management. While governor, his state developed wolf and grizzly bear management plans aimed at delisting these endangered species and returning management responsibilities for those species to the state.

Kempthorne served one term in the United States Senate (1993-1999) prior to being elected as governor. While in the Senate, he wrote, negotiated and won passage of two major pieces of legislation impacting natural resource management. One was a bill ending unfunded federal mandates on state and local governments. The other resulted in a major revision of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

From 1985 to 1992, Kempthorne was elected and successfully served as Mayor of the City of Boise, Idaho. While



mayor, he helped usher in a renaissance of the state's capital city resulting in record growth, economic development and many national honors for quality of life, business climate and family issues.

Kempthorne is highly regarded by his peers as a national leader. While governor, his colleagues elected him as the Chairman of the National Governors Association in 2003. He also has served as President of the Council of State Governments and as Chairman of the Western Governors Association. He has served on the Executive Committees of the National Governors Association and the Republican Governors Association. He also was appointed, while governor, to the National Assessment Governing Board and to the Homeland Security Task Force.

Kempthorne and his wife Patricia are both University of Idaho graduates and have two children.