

### **Ken Salazar – Secretary of the Interior**

Ken Salazar was born in 1955. He received a bachelor's degree from Colorado College and a law degree from the University of Michigan.

From 1987 to 1994, Salazar served as chief legal counsel and executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. In that capacity, he created the Youth in Natural Resources program and wrote a state constitutional amendment creating Great Outdoors Colorado, a land conservation effort.

Salazar was twice elected as Colorado's attorney general, in 1998 and 2002, where his key initiatives were gang violence, consumer protection, and prosecution of sex offenders. He also established an Environmental Crimes Unit.

In 2004, Salazar was elected to the U.S. Senate. According to a profile, Salazar "has earned a reputation as a centrist during his four years in the Senate. He has pushed to temper energy exploration in the Senate even as he has backed offshore drilling oil drilling and subsidies for ranchers on public land."

#### **Sources:**

Eilperin, Juliet. *Obama to Name Salazar as Secretary of Interior*. THE WASHINGTON POST, December 17, 2008.

Office of United States Senator Ken Salazar. *Biography of Senate Ken Salazar*. Retrieved on December 17, 2008, from <http://salazar.senate.gov/bio/index.html>.