**Duane Mecham** is a senior attorney with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Regional Solicitor's Office in Portland, Oregon. He advises several Interior agencies on federal and tribal water right matters and on compliance with the Endangered Species Act with respect to federal hydropower and irrigation projects. He has served lead federal negotiator in several federal Indian water right negotiations and currently serves as chair of the federal teams negotiating the Umatilla (Oregon) and Salish-Kootenai (Montana) Indian reserved water claims. He recently completed a detail with the Interior Secretary's Office working as acting deputy director of the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office.