

Bret Parke is from a Southwest pioneer family committed to public service that first settled in Arizona's White Mountains in the 1870's. Gustav Becker, his great great grandfather, is often referred to as the father of U.S. Highway 60, the first transcontinental highway. Bret's grandfather, Ernest James Becker, was an Arizona Game and Fish Commissioner that was instrumental in the creation of the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the federal Alchesay national fish hatchery on the Fort Apache Reservation in Arizona.

Bret Parke has served as ADEQ's deputy director since October 2015. The appointment marked a return to ADEQ for Bret, who began his legal career at ADEQ as a volunteer staff attorney before becoming Administrative Counsel in 2010. He held that post until April 2012 when he was named Arizona's General Counsel and Chair to the Governor's Regulatory Review Committee.

As the Chair of the Governor's Regulatory Review Committee, Bret ensured regulations proposed by state agencies, boards and commissions did not exceed statutory authority, addressed stakeholder comments, met procedural requirements and transparently described the economic impact of regulations.

In his current role, Bret oversees ADEQ's implementation of Governor Ducey's Arizona Management System, which maximizes mission outcomes and ADEQ's performance through strategic goal setting, tracking Key Performance Indicators, and accelerating response to issues negatively impacting the environment, economy, and the community to ensure ADEQ is delivering more value to its customers and citizens.

Bret has a bachelor's of science degree in environmental science (1997), and a juris doctorate with a certificate in Law, Science and Technology (2004) from Arizona State University. Before beginning his legal career, he worked in Arizona as a field ecologist, organic chemist and wastewater technician. Bret's passion is to continue his family's legacy of public service, and protecting and enhancing Arizona's unique environment.