

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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City of Golden -- City of Northglenn -- City of Thornton -- City of Westminster -- Town of Superior
League of Women Voters -- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum -- Rocky Flats Homesteaders
Arthur Widdowfield

2013 Work Plan

Approved November 5, 2012

Mission:

The mission of the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council is to provide continuing local oversight of activities at the Rocky Flats site and to ensure local government and community interests are met with regards to long-term stewardship of residual contamination and refuge management. The mission also includes providing a forum to track issues related to former site employees and to provide an ongoing mechanism to maintain public knowledge of Rocky Flats, including educating successive generations of ongoing needs and responsibilities regarding contaminant management and refuge management.

Background:

The Stewardship Council occupies two roles: (1) serving as the Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO) for Rocky Flats, and (2) engaging USFWS on the management of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO)

Legacy Management approved the LSO Plan for Rocky Flats on December 21, 2005. That Plan identifies how the main responsibilities Congress identified in the legislation authorizing the creation of LSO (Section 3120 of the Fiscal Year 2005 Defense Authorization bill) are to be carried out at Rocky Flats. These responsibilities are summarized as follows:

- Solicit and encourage public participation in appropriate activities relating to the closure and post-closure operations of the site.
- Disseminate information on the closure and post-closure operations of the site to the State and local and Tribal governments in the vicinity of the site, and persons and entities having a stake in the closure or post-closure operations of the site.
- Transmit to appropriate officers and employees of DOE questions and concerns of governments, persons, and entities referred to in the preceding bullet.

In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Stewardship Council has been tasked with helping DOE meet its public involvement obligations identified in the Legacy Management Public Involvement Plan (LMPIP) for Rocky Flats.

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge

“The Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001” established that Rocky Flats shall become a national wildlife refuge following EPA certification that the site has been cleaned to the agreed-upon regulatory standards. In July 2007 DOE conveyed jurisdictional responsibility over nearly 4000 acres to the Department of the Interior for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

In April 2005, USFWS published the Rocky Flats Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), the conservation plan for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. The CCP describes the desired future conditions of the Refuge and provides long-range guidance and management direction. Per the CCP, in the coming years USFWS anticipates developing the following “step-down” management plans, which provide specific guidance for achieving the objectives established in the CCP:

1. Vegetation and Wildlife Management Plan
2. Integrated Pest Management Plan
3. Fire Management Plan
4. Visitors Services Plan
5. Health and Safety Plan
6. Historic Preservation Plan

Due to funding restrictions, USFWS has delayed implementation of the CCP, including delaying the timeline for opening the Refuge for public access. Should USFWS take steps to open the Refuge, the Stewardship Council would work with USFWS and DOE to ensure the current access restrictions to DOE-retained lands remain effective and to address issues as needed.

Work Plan Elements

The Work Plan is divided into the following five sections:

1. DOE Management Responsibilities
2. Former Rocky Flats Workforce
3. Outreach
4. Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge
5. Business Operations

DOE Management Responsibilities

Overview:

One of the key roles of the Stewardship Council continues to be to understand and engage the various issues regarding the cleanup and post-closure management of Rocky Flats, and to provide a forum to foster discussions among DOE, the regulatory agencies, and community members.

2013 Activities:

1. Review information regarding the long-term stewardship and management of the Rocky Flats site, including but not limited to the results of the operational and performance monitoring data of site operations and DOE status reports.
2. Work with DOE on implementing its Legacy Management Closure Public Involvement Plan (LMPIP), including the meetings DOE identified in the LMPIP.
3. Review DOE budgets for implementation of DOE responsibilities.
4. Participate in DOE, CDPHE and/or EPA assessment(s) of remedy operations and effectiveness.
5. As needed, evaluate legal and regulatory issues regarding implementation of RFLMA and related site documents, and provide information to the Stewardship Council and to the community.
6. Work with DOE and the regulators to understand technical data regarding implementation and effectiveness of cleanup remedies and long-term controls, and provide information to the Stewardship Council and to the community.
7. Transmit to appropriate officers and employees of the DOE questions and concerns of governments, persons and entities regarding Rocky Flats.
8. Continue to participate in Adaptive Management Plan meetings, including technical evaluations of data.
9. Support the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum efforts to establish a museum and on mechanisms for educating successive generations about the history of Rocky Flats, particularly about residual contamination and continued need for long-term stewardship.
10. Track issues related to transfer of administrative jurisdiction over former mineral parcels from DOE to Department of the Interior for inclusion in the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
11. Track the development of Jefferson County Parkway as it relates to Rocky Flats.

Former Rocky Flats Workforce

Overview:

One of DOE's primary post-closure responsibilities is to manage the health and pension benefits of former site workers. Many of these workers are the constituents of the Stewardship Council governments. Further, the Rocky Flats Homesteaders, which represents more than 1800 former site workers, sits on the Board of the Stewardship Council. For these and other reasons, as noted in the Stewardship Council's IGA, worker issues will continue to be an important focus of the Stewardship Council.

2013 Activities:

1. Track issues related to the implementation of the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Program Compensation Act (EEOIPCA). Respond as needed.
2. Communicate worker concerns to the Administration and to members of the Colorado Congressional delegation.

Outreach

Overview:

As the LSO for Rocky Flats, a core responsibility for the Stewardship Council is reaching out to the community and providing a mechanism to educate people about Rocky Flats and the ongoing management needs. As part of this mission it remains essential that the Stewardship Council maintain close communications with DOE, EPA, CDPHE, USFWS and Congress.

The local communities have developed over the period of many years a very good working relationship with the two primary regulatory agencies that oversee the site, EPA and CDPHE. It is imperative that the Stewardship Council continue this tradition of partnership with these agencies.

The Colorado congressional delegation likewise played a critical role in addressing Rocky Flats issues. The Stewardship Council shall remain an important vehicle for addressing issues of concern to the delegation and for providing community interface with the delegation on the numerous site-specific issues and concerns.

2013 Activities:

1. Hold quarterly Board meetings and provide opportunity for public comment and public dialogue.
2. Communicate with other local officials, DOE, state and federal regulators, the Colorado congressional delegation, and other stakeholders about the Stewardship Council's mission and activities, as appropriate.
3. Seek public input and involvement on issues related to DOE and USFWS responsibilities at Rocky Flats.
4. Evaluate Congressional action affecting DOE and USFWS and administrative action that could affect Rocky Flats.
5. Maintain communication with federal and state legislators, as appropriate, and track federal and state legislation as needed.
6. Provide opportunities at meetings and in between meetings for education and feedback.
7. Work with DOE to disseminate information on the cleanup and post-closure operations of Rocky Flats.
8. Participate in local, regional and national forums.
9. Implement mechanisms for the Stewardship Council and the general public to be informed of the results of the monitoring data and other relevant information, recognizing that not all communication between DOE and Rocky Flats constituencies will flow through the Stewardship Council. Options include:
 - o Periodic reports
 - o Email updates
 - o White papers
 - o Letters

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge

Overview:

A core function of the Stewardship Council is to engage on issues related to the development and management of the future Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. This work includes tracking and addressing issues related to the interface of the Refuge to lands that DOE will retain as part of its management responsibilities. Without funding for the Refuge, there will be little management activities for the foreseeable future.

2013 Activities:

1. Track agency and Congressional action affecting funding for USFWS.
2. Track issues related to the inclusion of Section 16 in the southwest corner of Rocky Flats into the Refuge.
3. Track issues related to the development of a trail network connecting Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, and Rocky Mountain National Park.

Business Operations

Overview:

Business Operations refers to organizational management responsibilities – conducting the annual audit, submitting financial reports to DOE, adopting annual Work Plan and annual budget, etc.

2013 Activities:

1. Work with DOE to ensure the Stewardship Council continues to meet the needs as the LSO for Rocky Flats.
2. Operate Stewardship Council in compliance with state and federal regulations.
3. Conduct financial audit.
4. Prepare and adopt the annual work plan and the annual budget.
5. Submit financial reports to DOE.
6. Review and renew as necessary consulting agreements.
7. Provide annual report on activities.

Success Measurement Criteria

How the Stewardship Council will measure its success is important. Many organizations use sophisticated techniques to measure success, but these are not necessary for the Stewardship Council. Rather each year the Stewardship Council will pause and reflect on its Work Plan elements to help determine its ability to accomplish the stated mission and objectives. The review shall include an assessment of how the organization can improve in the coming year, focusing on areas of weakness and opportunities for improvement.