

# ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17670  
Boulder, CO 80308-0670  
www.rockyflatssc.org

(303) 412-1200  
(303) 600-7773 (f)

Jefferson County -- Boulder County -- City and County of Broomfield -- City of Arvada -- City of Boulder  
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  
Nancy Newell

## **2016 Work Plan**

*ADOPTED October 26, 2015*

### **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. To help ensure the Board and public understand when the Stewardship Council acts in its capacity as the Rocky Flats LSO and when it engages on issues beyond its scope as the LSO, the plan now includes headers indicating “LSO” and “Non-LSO” activities.

#### 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 (non-LSO activity)

“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. Additional lands were conveyed in 2014.

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 (completed)
4. Visitors Services Plan
5. Health and Safety Plan
6. Historic Preservation Plan

In 2015, the USFWS began opening the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge for guided tours. The agency will not conduct a prescribed fire in 2016.

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## **Work Plan Elements**

The Work Plan is divided into the following five sections:

1. DOE Management Responsibilities (LSO activity)
2. Former Rocky Flats Workforce (LSO activity)
3. Outreach (LSO activity with two exceptions noted)
4. Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge (non-LSO activity)
5. Business Operations (LSO activity)

### **DOE Management Responsibilities**

#### **LSO Activity**

#### **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.

## **2016 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. Continue to identify key questions about the cleanup and ongoing management, and evaluate for remedy effectiveness and impacts to human and ecological receptors.
3. Track the progress made in treating contaminated groundwater at the groundwater treatment systems. Attention to the significant changes to the East Trenches, Mound Site, and Solar Ponds groundwater plume treatment systems will be a focus during 2016 to ensure that the systems are effectively removing contaminants from groundwater.
4. Track the ongoing investigation into the source(s) of elevated actinide levels found in surface water. Of particular note are the cyclic uranium levels in North Walnut Creek at point of compliance WALPOC, elevated levels of actinides at point of evaluation GS10 on South Walnut Creek, and elevated plutonium levels at point of evaluation SW027 in the Woman Creek drainage.
5. Track the geotechnical progress made in addressing surface slumping at the Original Landfill (OLF).
6. Work with DOE on implementing its Legacy Management Closure Public Involvement Plan (LMPIP), including the meetings DOE identified in the LMPIP.
7. Review DOE budgets for implementation of DOE responsibilities.
8. Participate in DOE, CDPHE and/or EPA assessment(s) of remedy operations and effectiveness, including the CERCLA five-year review.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Transmit to appropriate officers and employees of the DOE questions and concerns of governments, persons and entities regarding Rocky Flats.
12. Continue to participate in Adaptive Management Plan meetings, including technical evaluations of data.
13. Continue to work with DOE on the development of the visitor center.
14. Support the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum to educate successive generations about the history of Rocky Flats, particularly about residual contamination and continued need for long-term stewardship.
15. Track the development of Jefferson County Parkway as it relates to Rocky Flats.

## **Former Rocky Flats Workforce**

### **LSO Activity**

#### **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.

**2016 Activities:**

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

**Outreach**

**LSO Activity with two exceptions noted**

**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, 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.

**2016 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. (Note: Any work on this item involving DOE is an LSO activity; all other work on this item is a non-LSO activity.)
4. Evaluate Congressional action affecting DOE and USFWS and administrative action that could affect Rocky Flats. (Note: Any work on this item involving DOE is an LSO activity; all other work on this item is a non-LSO activity.)
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:
  - Periodic reports
  - Email updates
  - White papers
  - Letters

## **Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge**

### **Non-LSO Activity**

#### **Overview:**

One of the Stewardship Council's roles is to engage on issues related to the development and management of the future Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. In 2015, USFWS began taking steps to open the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Activities were limited to 2-3 guided tours during spring/summer 2015 (birds of Rocky Flats, wildflower walk, photography, etc.). In 2015, USFWS also proposed and then withdrew a plan to manage the prairie ecosystem using prescribed fire. The agency will not pursue a prescribed fire in 2016, but may use spot spraying and mowing.

In addition, USFWS and DOE are working in partnership to develop a visitor's center. That center will be sited on refuge lands, with USFWS taking lead on the public engagement process. As the LSO for Rocky Flats, the Stewardship Council will work with DOE on that agency's role in developing the visitor center. (That work with DOE is an LSO activity.) USFWS is in the process of developing its outreach plan, so it is too soon to know how the agency will engage governments and community members, or any role the Stewardship Council occupy on this issue.

The items identified in this part of the work plan only concern USFWS.

#### **2016 Activities:**

1. Track agency and Congressional action affecting funding for USFWS and Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Engage as needed.
2. Track issues related to the development of the Rocky Flats visitor center.<sup>1</sup> Engage as needed.
3. Review Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge site conservation plan, with an emphasis on the proposed trail plan.
4. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> As noted above, as the LSO for Rocky Flats, the Stewardship Council will work with DOE on that agency's role in developing the visitor center. The item identified in this part of the work plan only concerns USFWS' role.

# **Business Operations**

## **LSO Activity**

### **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.

### **2016 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.
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## **Success Measurement Criteria**

How the Stewardship Council will measure its success is important. 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.