

ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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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
Steven Franks

2017 Work Plan

ADOPTED October 31, 2016

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 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 further open the Refuge in 2017 as it completes building the trail system.

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.

2017 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 Mound Site and Solar Ponds groundwater plume treatment systems will be a focus during 2017 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. Track issues related to additional sampling off-site and in the Rocky Flats Refuge. (Note: while the analysis might be conducted by local governments and USFWS, the issue is an LSO issue as it goes to the historic use of Rocky Flats as a weapons plant and associated residual contamination.)
7. Continue to participate in Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) meetings, including technical evaluations of data; track implementation of AMP results, which could include breaching the terminal ponds on Woman and Walnut Creeks.
8. Continue participating in DOE, CDPHE and/or EPA assessment(s) of remedy operations and effectiveness, including the CERCLA five-year review.
9. Work with DOE on implementing its Legacy Management Closure Public Involvement Plan (LMPIP), including the meetings DOE identified in the LMPIP.
10. Review DOE budgets for implementation of DOE responsibilities.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Transmit to appropriate officers and employees of the DOE questions and concerns of governments, persons and entities regarding Rocky Flats.
14. Continue to work with DOE on the development of the visitor center.
15. 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.
16. 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.

2017 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, as necessary.

Outreach

LSO Activity with two exceptions noted

Overview:

As the LSO for Rocky Flats, a core responsibility for the Stewardship Council is providing a forum 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 plays a critical role in addressing Rocky Flats issues. The Stewardship Council shall remain an important mechanism for addressing questions and concerns of the delegation, and for providing ongoing interface with the delegation on the numerous site-specific issues and concerns.

2017 Activities:

1. Hold quarterly Board meetings and provide opportunity for comment and 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:
 - o Periodic reports
 - o Email updates
 - o White papers
 - o 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.). Public access will increase in 2017.

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 will take lead on public engagement; Stewardship Council members may be involved in that process.

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

2017 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.¹ Engage as needed.
3. Be apprised of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge site conservation plan, with an emphasis on the proposed trail plan.
4. Forward information regarding the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge to the Stewardship Council Board of Directors and the public, as appropriate.

¹ 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.

5. 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

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.

2017 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.
8. Appoint community members for 2018-2019.