

# 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  
Arthur Widdowfield

## Monthly Status Report – May 2012

### Board meeting summary

There was no meeting this month

### Legacy Management monthly site inspection summary

DOE's April 2012 Rocky Flats activities included:

#### *Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring*

- Collected and processed automated surface water sample suites with the associated grab samples.
- Collected Walnut Creek ambient grab samples.
- Collected quarterly grab samples of the Present Landfill (PLF) treatment system effluent.
- Collected samples in Woman Creek upstream and downstream of the Original Landfill (OLF).
- Collected a special grab sample at the 995A seep in support of the investigation into an americium exceedance at surface water monitoring location GS10 in South Walnut Creek.
- Began second quarter 2012 groundwater sampling.
- Completed measuring second quarter 2012 water levels.

#### *Groundwater Treatment Systems*

Routine inspections of the treatment systems were conducted as follows:

- East Trenches Plume Treatment System (ETPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- Mound Site Plume Treatment System (MSPTS): DOE reports the system is functioning normally.
- Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS): DOE reports optimization of the system is ongoing. Samples were collected and submitted for analysis to evaluate system performance.

#### *Ecology*

- Planted pond A-3 wetland area with 49 peachleaf willow, 7 plains cottonwood, and 310 coyote willow.
- Continued field evaluations of weed spray areas.

- Conducted wetland water level surveys.
- Completed Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse (federal endangered species) inspections and repaired erosion wattles at Functional Channel (FC) -1 and the SPPTS.

*Site Monitoring & Maintenance*

- There were no significant changes to report at either landfill.
- Breaching work completed at dam A-3.
- Articulated concrete block installation and grouting were completed as part of the PLF dam breach project. In addition, grade work, surveying, and topsoil replacement (to prepare for re-vegetation) were also completed.

Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations Update—DOE’s Office of Legacy Management

<b>Fiscal Year 2011</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2012</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2013 requested</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2013 House mark</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2013 Senate mark</b>
\$170.87 million	\$169.6 million	\$177.95 million	\$173.95 million	\$177.95 million

Refuge-to-Refuge-to-Park Greenway

In early May, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Governor Hickenlooper, Senator Udall, Representative Perlmutter, and local elected officials (including Stewardship Council members), gathered at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal to announce the expansion of the refuge-to-refuge greenway that Secretary Salazar previously announced. The initiative, which is part of the Secretary’s Americas Great Outdoors initiative, seeks to link via trails the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, and the Two Ponds Refuge (in Arvada). The recent announcement included another link—a trail extending from Rocky Flats to Rocky Mountain National Park.

According to the *Denver Post*, Secretary Salazar and Governor Hickenlooper signed a pact launching a 10-member steering committee and deploying senior state and federal officials to build the system. The *Post* further reports that “The overall project - along with projects in New York, St. Louis and Los Angeles - is expected to draw from the \$700 million a year Salazar is trying to secure from Congress for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

The initiative, which brings together federal, state and local jurisdictions, will utilize existing trails and corridors, but also build new ones. One new trail runs from the Arsenal 3.2 miles along Sand Creek. It is scheduled for completion this summer.

Industrial Hemp at Rocky Flats?

In the waning days of the 2012 Colorado legislative session, legislators gave final approval to a bill sponsored by Rep. Wes McKinley that would pave the way for using industrial hemp for remediation projects. The bill, H.B. 1099, requires the chairs of the House and Senate agriculture, livestock and natural resources committees to appoint a taskforce to study the effectiveness of using industrial hemp to remediate soils.

The study would last ten years and focus on an area totaling no more than 500 acres. The bill specifies that the taskforce should be made up of a soil expert from a Colorado university or college, an expert in radioactive material detection and leeching, an expert in phytochemistry, a horticulturist and three Colorado residents “educated and interested in the specialized use of industrial hemp.”

Despite its passage, implementation faces ongoing obstacles, including the fact that cannabis, including industrial hemp, remains illegal under federal law.

### Site Document Update

None at this time.

### Stewardship Council update

Next meetings:

June 4

September 10

November 5