

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
Kim Griffiths

2023 Work Plan

Approved, October 31, 2022

Mission:

The mission of the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) is to provide continuing local engagement on activities occurring at the Rocky Flats site ("Rocky Flats" or "site") regarding long-term stewardship of residual contamination and refuge management; to provide a forum to track issues related to former site employees, including but not limited to long-term health benefits and pension programs; to provide an ongoing mechanism to help maintain public knowledge of Rocky Flats and the ongoing needs and responsibilities regarding contaminant management and refuge management; and to provide an ongoing forum to engage on all other issues pertinent to Rocky Flats, as determined by the Stewardship Council Board of Directors (Board).

Background:

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

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) 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, local and Tribal governments in the vicinity of the site, as well as 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 LM 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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certification that the site has been cleaned to the agreed-upon regulatory standards. In July 2007, DOE conveyed jurisdictional responsibility of nearly 4,000 acres to the Department of the Interior for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Additional lands were conveyed in 2014.

USFWS opened the Refuge for guided tours in 2015 and for public recreation in 2018. Additional trails will open in the Refuge in the coming years.

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 is to understand and engage on the various issues regarding the cleanup and post-closure management of Rocky Flats, as well as to provide a forum to foster discussions among DOE, the regulatory agencies, and community members.

2023 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, track the effectiveness of site remedies, and understand the impacts to human and ecological receptors.
3. Track the progress made in treating contaminated groundwater at the groundwater treatment systems, including the ongoing uranium treatment evaluation at the Solar Ponds Plume Treatment System (SPPTS).
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 ongoing investigation into the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in site groundwater and surface water.
6. Track the effectiveness of the remedy implemented to address slumping at the Original Landfill.
7. Track issues related to slumping along North Walnut Creek.

8. 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.
9. Continue engaging in DOE, CDPHE, and/or EPA assessment(s) of remedy operations and effectiveness.
10. Track development of and, as applicable, participate in conversations regarding resumption of air quality monitoring to establish baseline prior to wildfire.
11. Work with DOE on implementing its LMPIP, including the meetings DOE identified in the LMPIP.
12. Review DOE budgets for implementation of DOE responsibilities.
13. Understand potential legal and regulatory issues regarding implementation of the Rocky Flats Legacy Management Agreement and related site documents; provide this information to the Stewardship Council and to the community.
14. Work with DOE and the regulators to understand technical data regarding implementation and effectiveness of cleanup remedies and long-term controls; communicate this information to the Stewardship Council and to the community.
15. Transmit to appropriate DOE officers and employees any questions and/or concerns of governments, persons, and entities regarding Rocky Flats.
16. As opportunities allow, continue to work with DOE on the development of interpretative signage for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
17. Support the ongoing efforts of 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.
18. Track the development of the Jefferson County Parkway as it relates to Rocky Flats.
19. Track Congressional actions/decisions affecting potential mineral development at Rocky Flats and engage as needed.
20. Examine the potential impacts of climate change on site remedies, focusing on climate adaptation and resilience, including shock events and changes over the long term.

Former Rocky Flats Workforce
LSO Activity

Overview:

Many of the former site workers are the constituents of the Stewardship Council governments. Further, the Rocky Flats Homesteaders, which represents more than 1,800 former site workers, sits on the Board of the Stewardship Council. For these and other reasons, as noted in the Stewardship Council's Intergovernmental Agreement, worker issues will, as needed, continue to be an important component of the Stewardship Council's work. At this time, worker issues largely revolve around claims under the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). Workers address claims on an individual basis.

2023 Activities:

1. Forward worker concerns, as necessary.

Outreach
LSO Activity (two exceptions noted)

Overview:

As the LSO for Rocky Flats, a core responsibility for the Stewardship Council is providing a forum to help engage people on 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, as well as providing ongoing interface with the delegation on site-specific issues and concerns.

2023 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. Take public comment on issues related to DOE and USFWS responsibilities at Rocky Flats.¹
4. Evaluate Congressional action affecting DOE and USFWS and administrative action that could affect Rocky Flats.²
5. Maintain communication with federal and state legislators, as appropriate, and track potentially impactful federal and state legislation as needed.
6. Provide opportunities at meetings and in between meetings for education on site-related issues and relevant 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 monitoring data and other relevant site-specific information, recognizing that not all communication between DOE and Rocky Flats constituencies will flow through the Stewardship Council.

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge
Non-LSO Activity (one exception noted)

Overview:

One of the Stewardship Council's roles is to engage on issues related to the development and management of the Refuge. In September 2018, USFWS began allowing public recreation at the Refuge.

¹ Issues related to USFWS are a non-LSO activity.

² Issues related to USFWS are a non-LSO activity.

In addition, USFWS and DOE are discussing a partnership to develop a visitor's center. That center would be sited on refuge lands, with USFWS taking lead on the public engagement process. As the LSO for Rocky Flats, the Stewardship Council would work with DOE on that agency's role in developing the visitor center. (That work with DOE is an LSO activity.) USFWS would 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.

2023 Activities:

1. Reengage USFWS with the goal of obtaining ongoing briefings on management issues, visitor data, and other pertinent information related to the Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge and Rocky Flats.
2. Track agency and Congressional action affecting funding for USFWS and the Refuge. Engage as needed.
3. Track issues related to the development of interpretative signage for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.³ Engage as needed.
4. Continue to track issues related to the development of trails on the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
5. Track issues related to the development of a trail network connecting the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, and Rocky Mountain National Park.
6. Forward information regarding the Refuge to the Board and the public, as appropriate.

Business Operations

LSO Activity

Overview:

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

2023 Activities:

1. Work with DOE to ensure the Stewardship Council continues to meet its responsibilities as the LSO for Rocky Flats.
2. Operate the Stewardship Council in compliance with state and federal regulations.
3. Conduct a 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 an annual report on activities.
8. Appoint community members to the Board (two seats).

³ As noted above, as the LSO for Rocky Flats, the Stewardship Council will work with DOE on that agency's partnership with USFWS in developing interpretative signage. The item identified in this part of the work plan only concerns USFWS's role.