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The Army, Shell and Fish and Wildlife Service also continued the reseeding program. From October to April, crews reseeded more than 900 acres in central portions of the site that had been used to support the environmental cleanup. Those acres have been reseeded with a mix of native plants, grasses and forbs to restore them to a native short-grass prairie.

The Fish and Wildlife Service also began building and modifying roads to extend the wildlife viewing tour route. In keeping with its conservation mission, the Fish and Wildlife Service used recycled asphalt and surplus crushed concrete from the landfill and cover construction projects, which were provided by the Army and Shell. The expanded tour route will allow visitors to view new areas of the Refuge that support a variety of wildlife species. ■

New Mailing Address:

Effective May 23, the mailing address for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Remediation Venture Office and contracting organizations at the site is:

Organization Name
Bldg. No.
6550 Gateway Road
Commerce City, Colorado 80022-1748



A crew breaks up soil to prepare a field for reseeding as part of the ongoing prairie restoration.

Photo by Rich Keen/DPRA Inc.



Refuge Manager Steve Berendzen, Kin Quitugua of HawkQuest, Roger Shakely of Shell Oil and Charlie Scharmann of the Army celebrate the completion of the Refuge last fall.

Photo property of U.S. Army.



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Week-Long Celebration Planned for Visitor Center Opening Rocky Mountain Wildlife Film Festival Debuts on First Weekend

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will open its new “green” Visitor Center to the public for its first full day of operations on May 21.

To kickoff the grand opening, the 1st Annual Rocky Mountain Wildlife Film Festival will debut the evening of May 20. The festival will run from May 20-22 and again on May 27-29. It will feature more than 40 nature and wildlife documentary films from across the globe, and filmmakers and conservationists will be on hand the first weekend to discuss their films.



A bison stands at the entrance to the new exhibit hall.

Photo by Kathy Fisher/DPRA Inc.

Week-Long Celebration continued inside.

Plans Developed for Long-Term Operation and Maintenance Army to Retain 1,000 Acres, Ensure Protectiveness of Remedy

With all surface environmental cleanup work completed, the focus at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal is turning to long-term operation and maintenance of the remedy.

Although 15,000 acres of the site have joined the Refuge, the Army will permanently retain about 1,000 acres. In addition to the groundwater treatment facilities, the Army-retained land includes the landfills and consolidation areas, which are

fenced and marked. The Army and its contractor, which should be selected later this year, will manage those areas to ensure the remedy remains fully protective of human health and the environment.

Arsenal representatives will be in the community this summer to provide more information. In the meantime, here is an overview of what the work will entail—and how community members will be able to stay current and get their questions answered in the years ahead.

Landfills and Consolidation Areas
Post-closure care plans have been developed for the two on-site landfills, and Basin F Cover Area to ensure they perform as designed. A similar Long-Term Care Plan has been prepared for the Integrated Cover Area for the same purpose. In coordination with federal, state and local regulatory agencies, the Army will conduct regular inspections of those facilities. The evaluations will assess vegetation on the caps and covers, surface

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Community Information
303.289.0136

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water drainage controls, and leachate collection and detection systems. Additional inspections will take place after severe weather events to ensure no damage or soil erosion has occurred.

Water Treatment and Monitoring

Groundwater treatment will continue until all water leaving the site meets state and federal standards. Before and after the treatment systems are shut down, a multiphased monitoring program will be completed to demonstrate that water treatment goals have been met. Monitoring data will be reviewed in conjunction with the regulatory agencies.

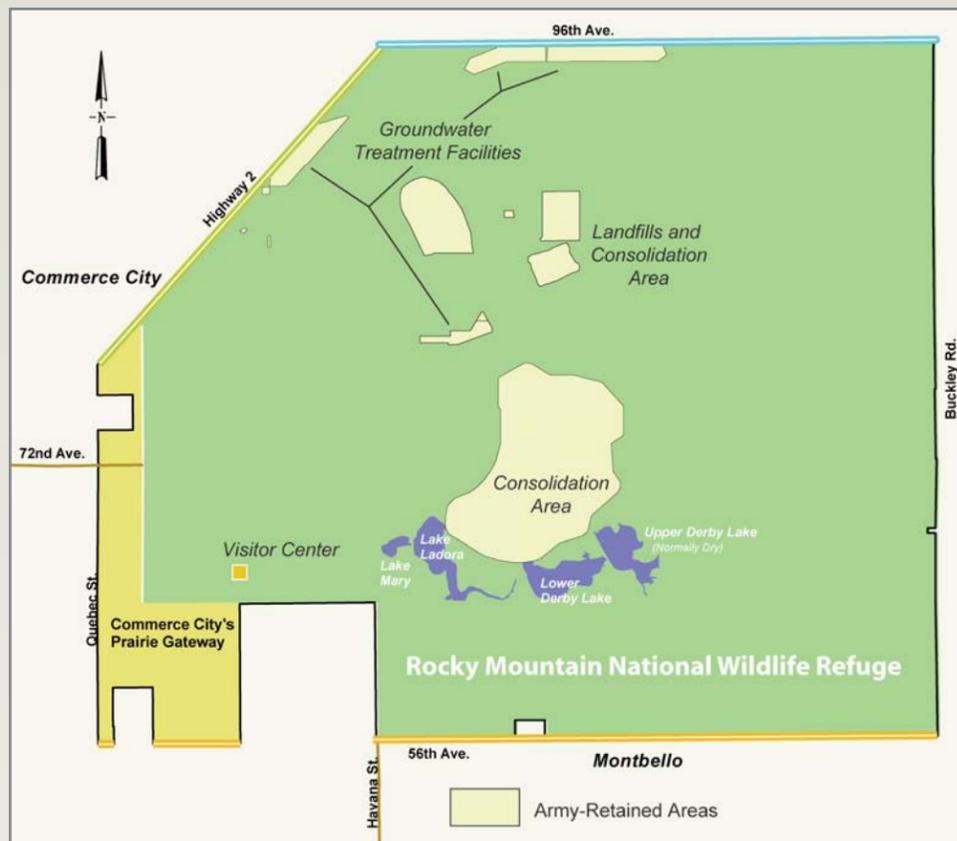
Five-Year Reviews

In cooperation with the regulatory agencies, the Army will continue to conduct Five-Year Reviews to assess whether the overall environmental cleanup remains protective of public health and the environment. The public will be notified when these reviews are occurring and invited to offer questions and concerns for consideration during the review. The public will also be notified when a draft report has been prepared and asked to submit comments.

Public Information Sources

Monitoring and inspection reports will be available for review at the Joint Administrative Documents and Records Facility at the Arsenal, as well as on the Arsenal website. In addition, the Arsenal will provide site tours or

community presentations as staffing resources permit and continue posting information and responding to residents' questions via the community information line at 303.289.0136. ■



Crews Wrap Up Remedy Work

Focus Shifts to Prairie Restoration, Refuge Road Construction

During the fall and winter of 2010, the Arsenal celebrated the completion of the Refuge and wrapped up the

few remaining construction tasks at the site.

A plant that treated water generated by landfill operations was

shut down, cleaned and transformed into a warehouse. Once the landfills were closed and covered, the plant was no longer needed. After sampling showed the facility was free of contaminants, the structure was kept for other uses, and the treatment equipment was recycled or removed for reuse. Documentation related to the official closure and transformation of the treatment plant will conclude late this summer.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is constructing an expanded route for its wildlife viewing bus

Photo by Jennifer Watson/RVO

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Employee Ideas Saved Millions

Suggestions Aided Safety, Quality and Site Transformation

After racking up \$70 million in cost-saving ideas, the Cost/Productivity Improvement Program at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal has come to an end.

"This program had an extraordinary 12-year run," noted U.S. Army Program Manager Charlie Scharmann. "It helped us draw on the innovation and expertise of our employees to make the best use of public funds as we completed the environmental cleanup of the site."

Now that the cleanup program has concluded, the Cost/Productivity Improvement Program, also known as C/PIP, has ended as well. The program was originally implemented as a way to solicit employee suggestions, recognize employees for their good ideas and help ensure taxpayer monies were used as efficiently as possible. The program also encouraged ideas

about enhancing the integrity of the environmental cleanup and improving the safety and quality of work.

Over 12 years, more than 1,100 Arsenal employees submitted ideas. Those suggestions assisted with concluding the cleanup under budget and a year ahead of schedule.

The largest savings came from a group of employees who proposed a safer, more cost-effective way to contain waste from one of the 31 cleanup projects at the site. Following review by federal, state and local regulatory agencies, the idea was adopted, resulting in an overall savings of \$22 million.

Just as important were ideas that focused on improving the overall safety of the cleanup program. For example, one project team developed a specialized tool that allowed employees to complete a task without entering confined working spaces,



which can pose dangers.

Other ideas aided in the ongoing transformation of the site into an urban national wildlife

refuge. Employees developed a technique to collect seeds from existing plants and use them to reseed other areas to restore the natural short-grass prairie. In just one year, this reseeded effort saved more than \$17,000.

U.S. Congressman Ed Perlmutter recognized the success of the program in 2009 by entering a commendation into the Congressional Record. The U.S. Army also awarded the Commander's Award for Public Service to Mark Thomson, project director for URS Corporation, Shell's contractor, who implemented the C/PIP program at the Arsenal. ■

Week-Long Celebration continued from front page.

Building and Wildlife Viewing Tours

In addition to the film festival, the week-long celebration will include "green" building talks that showcase the energy-saving and conservation features of the new Visitor Center. The building also includes interactive exhibits, which take visitors on a journey through time through the use of soundscapes, cultural artifacts and mounted wildlife. Wildlife viewing tours will be offered twice daily on a first-come, first-served basis at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. from May 20 to May 27. Call 303.289.0930 to learn more about Refuge programs.

Film Festival Showings

The first event of its kind in Colorado, the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Film Festival will include award-winning

documentaries on a range of subjects. Many of the films are being shown in the United States for the first time.

All showings will take place at the new Visitor Center in the auditorium. Tickets to each two-hour film series cost \$8 for adults and \$5 for seniors, students and military with ID.

A pass to attend the entire festival costs \$75 for each weekend. Tickets can be purchased online at ffrwr.org/nature-shop/film-festival/ through the Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges, which raises funds to support Refuge programs.

New Public Entrance to Refuge

With the opening of the Visitor Center on May 21, visitors will now access the Refuge through a new public entrance, which is northeast of the

Commerce City Municipal Center on Gateway Road. To get there, take I-70 to Quebec St. Go north on Quebec St. to Prairie Parkway. Turn right, take Prairie Parkway to Gateway Road, and turn left. The new Visitor Center is just inside the Refuge entrance at the crest of the hill at 6550 Gateway Road. ■

Tickets- \$8 for adults and \$5 for seniors, students and military with ID. A pass to attend the entire festival costs \$75 for each weekend.

Tickets can be purchased online at <http://ffrwr.org/nature-shop/film-festival>