

Welcome to Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, home to over 239 species of wildlife and over 630 species of plants. In 2001, the Refuge was created by Congress to protect xeric tallgrass prairie, a globally rare ecosystem, and to protect habitat for threatened and endangered species. The security that once protected the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant also preserved this unique expanse of Front Range habitat.

Portions of the Refuge surround a historic Cold War site. For nearly four decades, thousands of women and men worked at the Plant, building weapons components for the United States' nuclear weapons arsenal. In 1989, operations ended and the Rocky Flats Plant was added to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List of sites that needed to be cleaned up. Beginning in 1992, many of the same Cold War veterans who had built weapons components at the Plant, assisted with an unprecedented and enormously complex Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("Superfund") cleanup project to investigate and remediate the site.

Thousands of soil, water, air, and sediment samples were collected and analyzed by laboratories. This extensive evaluation of Rocky Flats was conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors, overseen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Based on the results of the investigation, it was determined that no remediation was required on Refuge lands.

The Site was closed in 2005 after the Plant was torn down and cleanup was completed. DOE Legacy Management staff continue to manage 1,300 acres located at the center of the Refuge where the former Plant was located. Please do not enter this area as groundwater treatment systems are currently operating and two closed landfills are being maintained.

The levels of residual contamination on Refuge land are very low, and meet state and federal cleanup standards and regulatory guidance. While small amounts of contamination remain above background levels, the corresponding radiation dose a visitor receives is small (<1 millrem/year, compared to the average American's annual dose of about 620 mrem). If you visited the refuge hundreds of times in a year, your dose still would be much less than a medical x-ray.

The Refuge is safe for recreation, Refuge workers, and wildlife.

For more information visit:

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge - www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_flats

Department of Energy Legacy Management – www.lm.doe.gov/rocky_flats/sites.aspx

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment - www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/rocky-flats

Environmental Protection Agency - cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0800360