



Quick Facts About Rocky Mountain Arsenal



- The Rocky Mountain Arsenal was originally a 27-square mile, 17,000-acre site, located 10 miles northeast of downtown Denver.
- It is roughly the size of Manhattan Island.
- In 1942, the Arsenal became operational in just six months to serve as a deterrent against Japan and Germany using chemical weapons during WWII.
- The Arsenal produced chemical and incendiary weapons for the conflicts of the Cold War. In 1946, the Army leased manufacturing facilities to private industries. Shell Oil Company came to the Arsenal in 1952 and produced agricultural chemicals until 1982.
- All production stopped at the Arsenal in the early 1980s and the site's mission shifted to environmental remediation and restoration.
- The Arsenal's Remediation Venture Office (RVO) is a unique teaming partnership between the U.S. Army (lead agency), Shell Oil Company, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The RVO's sole purpose is to facilitate the safe, timely and cost-effective cleanup program and to continue transitioning the site to a National Wildlife Refuge.
- The EPA, State of Colorado and Tri-County Health Department provide regulatory oversight of the cleanup program.
- The surrounding communities played an integral role in the development of the Arsenal's remediation program, cleanup designs and transition into a national wildlife refuge. The Arsenal continues to have an active community involvement and outreach program.
- As cleanup is completed, land is transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with the 1992 Refuge Act. To date, about 80 percent of Arsenal land has been removed from the EPA's National Priorities List.
- Once the cleanup is finished, the Army will retain approximately 1,000 acres of land to maintain its on-site landfills, consolidation areas and groundwater treatment systems.
- The Army and Shell's \$2.4 billion cleanup program is on schedule and within budget to be completed in 2010.
- All of the major contaminated soil cleanup projects identified in the 1996 Record of Decision are complete, and the site has moved into the clean construction phase. This phase involves moving clean soils and materials to build protective covers over landfill and consolidation areas.
- In 2007, the EPA honored the site with its national Land Revitalization Award.
- Extensive recycling and reuse efforts at the site earned the Arsenal the Business Recycler of the Year Award from the Commerce City Citizens for Recycling.

Safety Record

- The Arsenal was the first environmental cleanup site in the country to be awarded with the Occupational Safety and Health Association's (OSHA) prestigious Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), which is the highest workplace safety award the agency bestows. The program recognizes outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have established exemplary occupational safety and health programs.
- By 2007, four organizations working at the Arsenal were certified in OSHA's VPP and the site continues to be a national leader in workplace safety.

The Wildlife Refuge

- The establishment of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge became a reality in 2004, when 5,000 acres of land were transferred from the U.S. Army to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service following remediation. In 2006, the Refuge expanded to more than 12,000 acres following an additional land transfer. By the time the cleanup is complete in 2010, the Refuge will be 15,000 acres.
- There are more than 330 species of wildlife at the site, including bald eagles, deer, burrowing owls and wild bison.
- In 2003, 917 acres of land on the western portion of the site were removed from the EPA's National Priorities List and sold to Commerce City. The proceeds from the sale will be used to build a new Refuge Education and Visitor Center that will serve as the gateway to the Refuge. This land, now known as the Prairie Gateway, boasts commercial development, youth soccer fields and a Colorado Rapids soccer stadium.
- The Refuge provides environmental education programs, eight miles of hiking trails, wildlife viewing opportunities and site tours for the public.
- Since 1990, more than 383,000 people have enjoyed the Refuge.

For more information about RMA, public participation opportunities and environmental cleanup, please call (303) 289-0136 or call (303) 289-0930 to inquire about site tours, Refuge activities, volunteer opportunities, and environmental education programs.