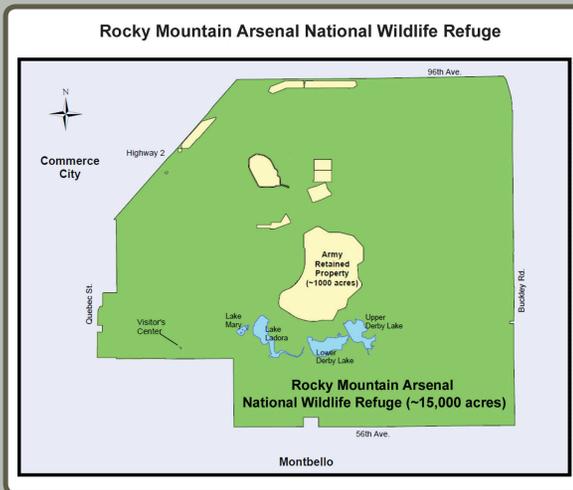


LONG-TERM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The Army retains approximately 1,000 acres containing the landfills, consolidation areas and groundwater treatment facilities. Those areas, which are fenced or marked with signs, are not part of the refuge. The landfills and consolidation areas are controlled and managed by the Army to ensure they are performing as designed, and the Army and Shell continue to share the operation and maintenance costs. Regular inspections and evaluations are coordinated with the EPA, State of Colorado and Tri-County Health Department.



The land shaded in green belongs to the refuge. The areas shown in yellow indicate the Army-retained land.

FIVE-YEAR REVIEWS

As required under the federal Superfund law, every five years the Army completes a comprehensive assessment of the environmental cleanup to ensure that it remains protective of public health and the environment. The results are published in a five-year review report, which is available for review online and at the locations listed on the back of this brochure.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Representatives at the following organizations are available to answer questions:

◦ **Tri-County Health Department**
4201 E. 72nd Ave.
Commerce City,
CO 80022
303-288-6816
www.tchd.org



Photo credit: Wendy Shattil/Bob Rozinski

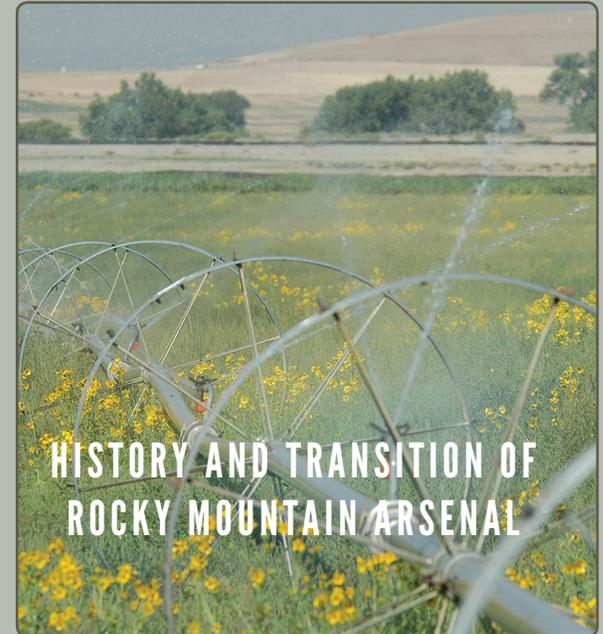
◦ **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80247
Community Information Officer
303-692-3373

◦ **Environmental Protection Agency**
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO 80202
Community Involvement Coordinator
303-312-6062

◦ **Rocky Mountain Arsenal**
Representatives from the U.S. Army,
Shell Oil. Co. and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6550 Gateway Road
Commerce City, CO 80022-1748
303-289-0300
www.rma.army.mil
www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal

Additional Rocky Mountain Arsenal information can be found online at www.rma.army.mil or by appointment at:
Rocky Mountain Arsenal
Joint Administrative Records and Design Facility
7270 Kingston Parkway
Bldg. 129
Commerce City, CO 80022
303-289-0300

Photo credit for front cover: Historical photo – Denver Post



HISTORY AND TRANSITION OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL



SITE HISTORY

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal is one of the most-studied environmental cleanup sites in the nation. It was established in 1942, following the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, which brought the United States into World War II. The Army built the facility on 17,000 acres of farmland approximately 10 miles from downtown Denver. Its mission was to support the war effort by developing chemical weapons to be used as a deterrent against the Axis powers.

As production declined at war's end, a portion of the idle facilities were leased to private companies, one of which was purchased by Shell Oil Co., to manufacture agricultural chemicals. The Army later built additional facilities for Cold War weapons production and demilitarization.

Although the Army and Shell used accepted disposal practices of the time, some contamination of portions of the site's structures, groundwater and soil occurred. Contaminants included solvents, metals, pesticides and miscellaneous manufacturing-related chemicals.

In the mid 1970s, the Army and Shell began an extensive environmental investigation and cleanup under the oversight of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State of Colorado and Tri-County Health Department. All production at the site stopped in 1982, and in 1987 the site was placed on the EPA's National Priorities List, which identifies the nation's Superfund sites.

Following the discovery of a roosting pair of bald eagles in 1986, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) began managing wildlife at the site. The discovery also led Congress in 1992 to designate the site as a future national wildlife refuge.



Workers pack Arsenal munitions during WWII. Photo credit: Historical photo – Denver Post



The Army monitors and manages the two on-site consolidation areas and two landfills (one pictured above).

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

The Arsenal's 1996 Record of Decision describes the overall rationale and framework for the cleanup. The ultimate goal of the environmental restoration was to transition the site into a premier urban national wildlife refuge and ensure that the cleanup remains protective of public health and the environment. The comprehensive \$2.1 billion environmental cleanup comprised the following actions:

STRUCTURES – More than 300 structures in the former manufacturing areas were demolished and placed in the Arsenal's landfills or covered waste consolidation areas. Approximately 150 more structures with no history of contamination were also demolished. In all, more than 10,000 tons of steel were recycled from those structures.

GROUNDWATER – Five groundwater plants were constructed beginning in the late 1970s to treat groundwater on and off the site. The systems operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will continue to operate until all groundwater leaving the site meets federal and state standards.

SOIL – Contaminated soil was excavated and placed in the Arsenal's consolidation areas or landfills. Following soil removal, those excavated areas were backfilled. Next, more than 10,000 acres of land were reseeded with native plants to establish a short-grass prairie and enhance wildlife habitat.



Burrowing owls at the refuge. Photo credit: Rich Keen, DPRA Inc.

REFUGE TRANSITION

The site's final cleanup plans were designed following extensive community input and in collaboration with the regulatory agencies. All surface cleanup work was completed in 2010. As cleanup projects were completed and with approval from the EPA and State of Colorado, the Army transferred lands to the USFWS to establish and manage as a refuge.

Today, at roughly 15,000 acres, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is one of the largest urban national wildlife refuges in the country. Open to visitors seven days a week from sunrise to sunset, the refuge supports more than 330 species of wildlife, including bison, bald eagles, black-footed ferrets, burrowing owls, deer and more. More than 350,000 visitors enjoy wildlife viewing, outdoor recreation and environmental education programs at the refuge each year.

In 2016, USA Today named the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge the 4th Best Place to View Wildlife in the United States.