

# ROCKY FLATS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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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

## **2024 Work Plan**

*Approved October 30, 2023*

### **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 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.

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### **Work Plan Elements:**

The Work Plan is divided into the following five sections:

1. Organizational Assessment and Realignment
2. DOE Management Responsibilities (LSO activity)
3. Outreach (LSO activity with two exceptions noted)
4. Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge (non-LSO activity)
5. Business Operations (LSO activity)

### **Organizational Assessment and Realignment**

#### ***LSO Activity***

#### **Overview:**

March 2024 marks the completion of 18 years of the Stewardship Council. The organization continue to achieve its goal of serving as the LSO for Rocky Flats and engaging the many issues related to the use of the Refuge. With regular monitoring data showing that the cleanup remedy is operating as designed and that residual contamination above regulatory levels is not migrating onto the Refuge or into neighboring water supplies, and with the forthcoming DOE-USFWS multi-purpose center, the focus of the Stewardship Council has evolved. With this passage of time and nearly two decades of data comes the need to assess the role of the organization and realign the organization as needed. This effort will start in early 2024 with the goal of completing the realignment in 2025.

#### **2024 Activities:**

1. Initiate conversations, starting with the executive committee.
2. Identify which elements of the mission statement warrant reconsideration and/or revision.
3. Update the mission statement as needed.
4. Begin to outline steps to achieve the updated mission.
5. As necessary, issue a Request for Proposals for outside consultants to evaluate communications needs and propose changes; initiate the engagement.

### **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 with DOE and the regulatory agencies, and community members.

**2024 Activities:**

1. Review information regarding the long-term stewardship and management of the Rocky Flats site, including but not limited to the results of site operational and performance monitoring data and DOE status reports.
2. Continue to identify key questions about the cleanup and ongoing management, track the protectiveness 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 uranium treatment upgrades 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 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.
9. Track development of and, as applicable, participate in conversations regarding resumption of air quality monitoring to understand baseline conditions in the event of a wildfire.
10. Work with DOE on implementing its LMPIP, including the meetings DOE identified in the LMPIP.
11. Review Congressional funding for implementation of DOE responsibilities.
12. 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.
13. Work with DOE and the regulators to understand technical data regarding implementation and effectiveness of cleanup remedies and long-term controls; communicate this information via Board memos and/or Board meeting discussions.
14. Transmit to appropriate DOE officers and employees any questions and/or concerns of governments, persons, and entities regarding Rocky Flats.
15. As opportunities allow, continue to work with DOE on the development of interpretative signage for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
16. 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.

**Outreach**

***LSO Activity (two exceptions noted)***

**Overview:**

As the LSO for Rocky Flats, a core responsibility for the Stewardship Council is providing a forum (the Board of Directors meetings) to help engage elected officials, their staffs, and other community leaders 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, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (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.

**2024 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.<sup>1</sup>
4. Evaluate Congressional action affecting DOE and USFWS and administrative action that could affect Rocky Flats.<sup>2</sup>
5. Maintain communication with federal and state legislators, as appropriate.
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.

**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.

In addition, USFWS and DOE are discussing a partnership to develop a multi-purpose building. That building 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 facility. (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.

**2024 Activities:**

1. Track agency and Congressional action affecting funding for USFWS and the Refuge. Engage as needed.

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<sup>1</sup> Issues related to USFWS are a non-LSO activity.

<sup>2</sup> Issues related to USFWS are a non-LSO activity.

2. Track issues related to the development of the multi-purpose building and interpretative signage for the Refuge.<sup>3</sup> Engage as needed.
3. Continue to track issues related to the development of trails on the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
4. 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.

#### **2024 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. Appoint community members to the Board (two seats).

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<sup>3</sup> 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.