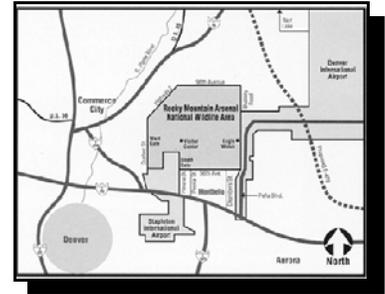


11/11/03 - Superfund
***Redevelopment of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Superfund Site
Commerce City, Colorado***

In 1992, Congress passed the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Act, which set aside this Superfund site as a national wildlife refuge. Encompassing 27 square miles and only 10 miles northeast of downtown Denver, it is one of the largest urban wildlife refuges in the United States. At one time, it was one of the largest hazardous waste sites in the world.

The Army established the Arsenal in 1942 to manufacture weapons for World War II, and after the war, leased parts of the Arsenal to private industries, including Shell Chemical. At various times, nerve gas, rocket fuel, and pesticides were produced at the Arsenal, although all production ceased after 1982. Over 600 chemicals were used at the Arsenal resulting in site contamination from arsenic, aldrin, and dibromochloro-propane.

Most of the contaminated soil is located in the central six square miles of the Arsenal, but buildings, sediments, sewers, and surface water are contaminated throughout the site, as are on- and off-site groundwater. The site was added to the National Priorities List in 1987. Numerous response actions have taken place and the remedial action is still in progress.



The restoration of the site is currently being managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which became involved with the Arsenal in 1986 when a winter communal roost of bald eagles, then an endangered species, was discovered on-site. The Service soon discovered that close to 300 wildlife species inhabit the site. The Service released a *Comprehensive Management*

Plan in 1996 which outlines development of the refuge, which will include a Visitors' Center, trails, and bike paths. While simultaneously supporting the environmental remediation and sustaining wildlife and their habitats, the plan allows for public use of the refuge through community outreach and educational programs. The refuge is currently open to the public on weekends.

Positive Economic and Fiscal Impacts

- 50 on-site jobs at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge
- Approximately \$1,300,000 in income from on-site jobs in 2003
- Almost \$810,000,000 in increased property values within a mile of the site from 1998 to 2002
- Over \$2,700,000 in increased property tax revenue for Adams County in 2002

Environmental and Social Benefits

- Created wildlife viewing opportunities in an urban area
- Improved aesthetic value of the local landscape
- Protected human health and the environment by treating contaminated groundwater, soil, and on-site structures and equipment