



Rocky Mountain Arsenal
National Wildlife Refuge Complex

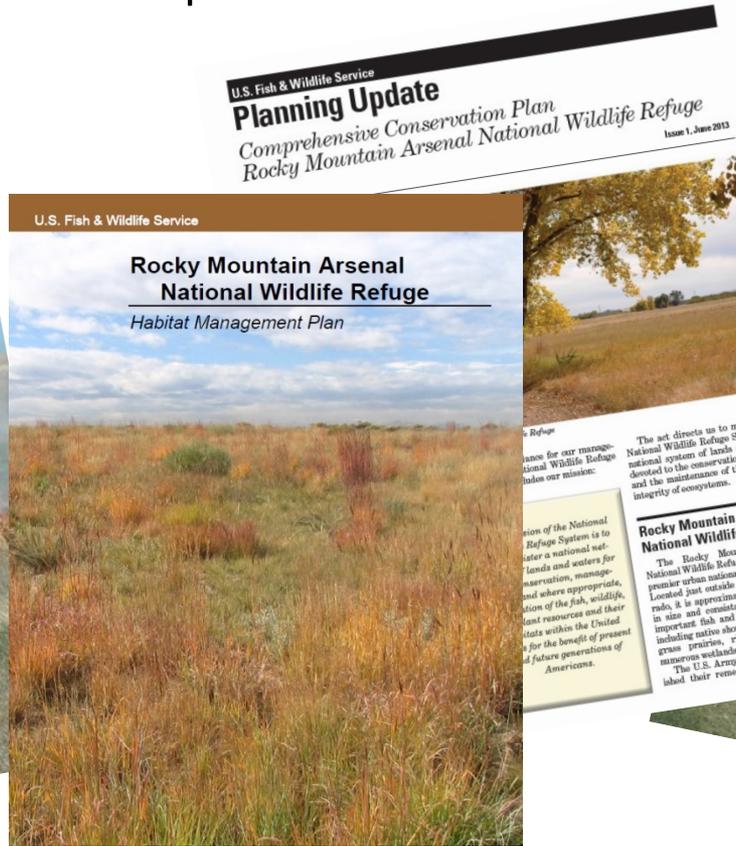
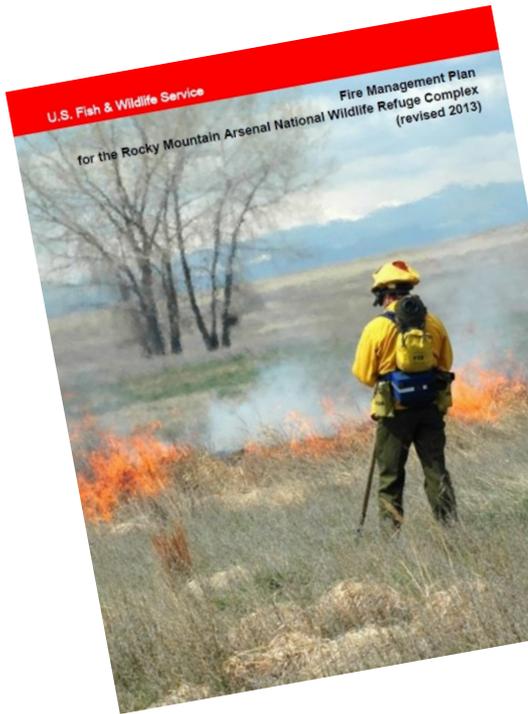
Commerce City Council – March 3, 2014



The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Complex includes three of our nation's premier urban wildlife refuges. Located amidst Colorado's Front Range communities, these refuges provided important habitat to fish and wildlife and hosted over 300,000 visitors this year. 2013 included significant highlights and several weeks where our refuges were closed from flood damage and a federal government shutdown.

Regional Director's Fiscal Year 2013 Priorities

Develop a timeline outlining steps and milestones for possible reintroduction of black-footed ferrets at Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) National Wildlife Refuge, including the completion of the RMA Habitat Management Plan.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Planning Update
Comprehensive Conservation Plan
Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge
Issue 1, June 2013





Rocky Flats NWR - In January, the FWS accepted transfer of an additional 623 acres in the southwestern corner of the Refuge (pictured above).

Rocky Mountain Greenway



In February, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Governor John Hickenlooper, and Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood to announce the first connection of the Rocky Mountain Greenway (from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway).

Junior Duck Stamp Contest



2013 Best in Show - Nadezha Lyapunova, 17
(Blue-winged teal, colored pencil)



6th Annual Fishing Frenzy



Sponsored by Commerce City Parks & Recreation, Bass Pro Shops, and the Refuge ... Fishing Frenzy saw 626 participants in 2013! The event is scheduled for April 12th in 2014.



Wildland Fire Program

In 2013, two wildfires were suppressed in the Complex. On April 1st, a successful prescribed burn was completed of the U.S. Army's Basin F. The Complex also acquired a new Type 6 engine this year.



The Complex also supports the nation's interagency wildland fire program (Jesse Fernandez on assignment at the Deschutes National Forest near Sisters, Oregon. The Mid-Plains Interagency Handcrew (also pictured near Sisters, Oregon) stages from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR and completed three 14-day assignments this summer.)

Connecting Youth and Nature



Programs were impacted by budget reductions, but the Complex still saw 20,000 school children participate in environmental education programs.



Thank you to our volunteers!



In 2013, volunteers provided 8,197 hours of service at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR, 1,875 hours at the Two Ponds NWR, and 30 hours at Rocky Flats NWR. This is equal to almost five full-time employees. Their work included the construction of a new bird/pollinator garden at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Visitor Center and countless other programs and projects.



September Flood Damage



On September 12th, the region received historic rainfalls. Flash flooding caused the Havana Pond dam to breach. Floodwaters were held at an old railroad embankment, but caused extensive damage keeping the Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR closed for several weeks.





#Ivory Crush





CRUSH

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

On November 14th, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service crushed 6 tons of illegal African elephant ivory at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR. In the months that would follow, China, France and Hong Kong would also crush tons of confiscated ivory.

2nd Annual Bison Roundup



In 2007, 16 bison were imported to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR from the National Bison Range in Montana. Our bison herd is thriving and reached 89 animals this year. After this roundup and in support of the DOI Bison Initiative, animals were successfully relocated to Neal Smith NWR in Iowa and Sullys Hill National Game Preserve in North Dakota.

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Scene & herd



Heritage's bison face overruling development and increasing tourism



By [Author Name]

The bison face of the city of Denver is a symbol of the city's heritage and its commitment to the environment. The bison face is a symbol of the city's commitment to the environment and its commitment to the environment. The bison face is a symbol of the city's commitment to the environment and its commitment to the environment.

Jobs report is good news for economy

By [Author Name]



RECOVERING
A SPRING
TYPHOON HITS
THE STATE

RECOVERING
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THE STATE



2013 Staff Photo



(left to right) Terry Wright, Abby Wright, Ed Tagliente, David Lucas, Analisa Rodriguez, Tom Haight, Matt Dickenson, Jim Baer, Mindy Hetrick, Bruce Hastings, Ruby Rodriguez, Annette Ursini, Seth Beres, Sherry James, Joel Colvin, Scott Whiteaker, Susan Drobniak, Tom Ronning, Ralph Garcia, Ben Fernandez, Steve Tukua, Brian Fairchild, William Kutosky, Mark Kalitowski

Not present: John Davis, Holly D'Oench, Jared Fallon, Jesse Fernandez, Nick Kaczor, Chris Spivey

Revision of the RMA Refuge Master Plan

In 2013, the Refuge began to revise its 1996 Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). It will be replaced in 2015 with a new Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP).

- Commerce City has agreed to be a cooperating agency and member of our planning team.
- Public scoping began August 7, 2013 and concluded October 11, 2013 (extended for two additional weeks). Four public meetings were held (Reunion, Stapleton, Commerce City, Montbello/Green Valley Ranch).
- The USGS has also completed focus groups in several locations with a focus on connecting new audiences and our neighbors.

Major Issues & Challenges

- Supporting increased visitation (planning for 1 million visitors annually)
- Improved access (within the refuge & modes of transportation)
- Increased programming for visitors / environmental education programs
- Master planning boundaries & adjacent landscapes
- Reintroduction of endangered black-footed ferrets
- Retaining the history/significance of the site while shifting attention to a future direction for the Refuge

Draft Vision Statement

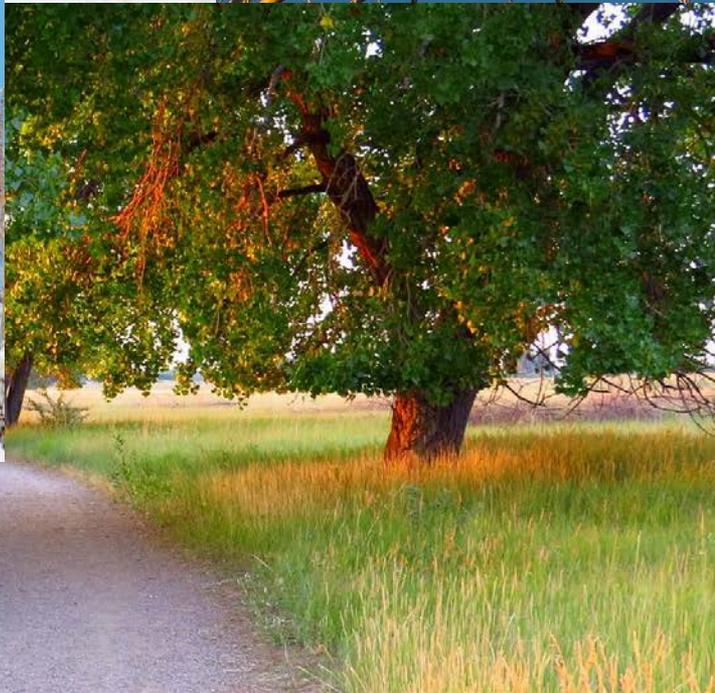
"As the sun rises, bison thunder across the prairie, red-tailed hawks soar overhead, and the urban bustle begins. Lands once known for their agricultural and industrial uses are valued today as our nation's premier urban wildlife refuges where time moves at nature's pace and wildlife have the right-of-way. Propelled by strong public and private partnerships, Refuge stewards at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Two Ponds, and Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuges continue to work to repair and regenerate wildlife habitat. These prairie oases nestled within Colorado's Front Range communities, welcome visitors from near and far and foster an appreciation for nature by connecting people with the land for generations to come."

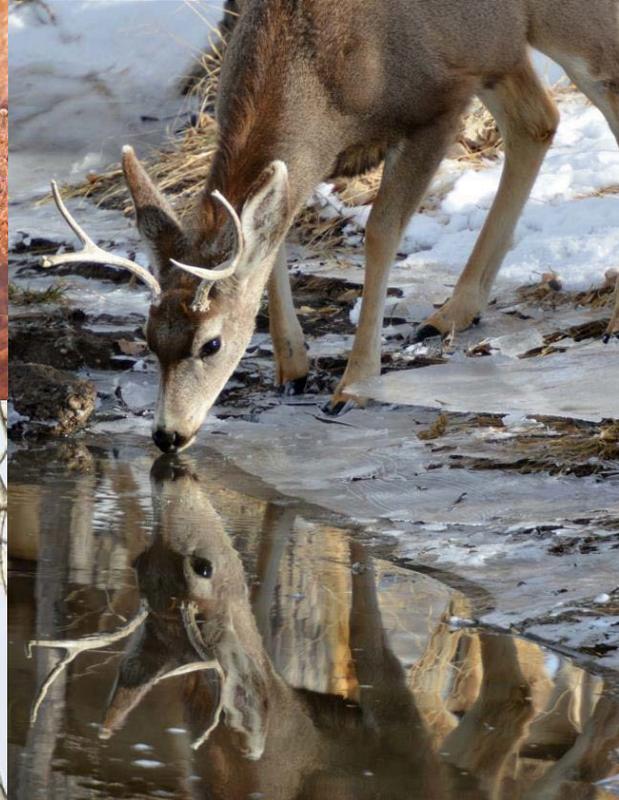
Timeline (through end of 2014)

- Scoping – August-October 2013
- Visitor Services Workshop – October 29th & 30th
- Vision & Goals – January 8th & 9th
- Transportation Workshop – January 27th & 28th
- Alternatives Workshop – February 24th & 25th
- Objectives Workshop – March 10th-12th
- Consequences Workshop – March 24th & 25th
- *Additional meetings / writing a draft plan & environmental impact statement*
- Internal Briefings – summer 2014
- Release of draft plan / public comment begins – late Fall 2014

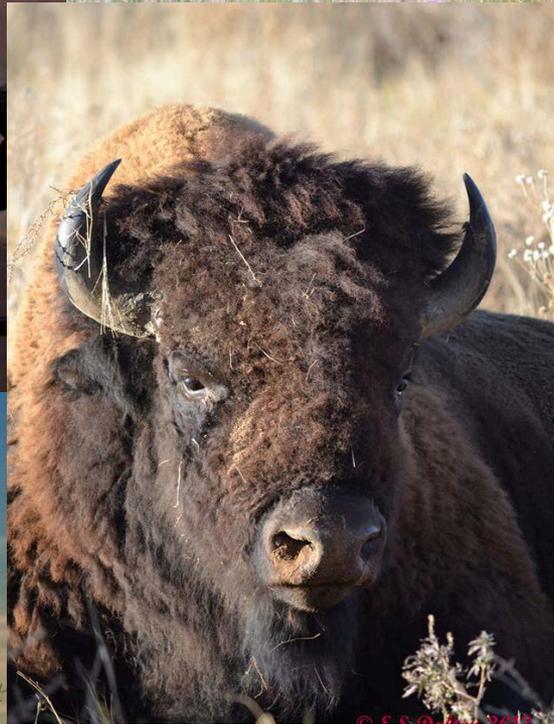
From our Facebook Friends







Wanda Schneider
PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN



Questions?

