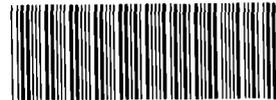


4/1/95



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Rocky Mountain  
Remediation Services, L.L.C.  
... protecting the environment

# MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 30, 1995 5400.1

TO: R. Roberts, RMRS Remediation Services, Bldg. T893B, X4869

FROM: *M.B. Murdock*  
M. B. Murdock, Ecology, Bldg. T130B, X3560

SUBJECT: INSERTS FOR INTERIM MEASURE/INTERIM REMEDIAL ACTION DECISION  
DOCUMENT: 903 PAD AND WINDBLOWN SOILS (OPERABLE UNIT 2) - MBM -  
104 - 95

Enclosed electronic and hard copy versions of revised sections to insert into the appropriate sections of Appendix A of the Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action Decision Document: 903 Pad and Windblown Soils (Operable Unit 2) draft document (version 10/12/95). If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Should you have comments or require further information, please call me at extension 3560.

MBM:mbm

Attachments:  
As Stated

cc:  
C. S. Evans  
J. D. Krause  
ERP Record File (2)

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### Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Threatened and Endangered Species

American Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) and Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), federally listed as endangered species, are observed seasonally at the Site. A pair of Peregrine Falcons has nested in the Flatirons, a few miles to the northwest of the Site, for several years. This species uses the Buffer Zone as casual foraging range during the spring, summer, and fall. Numbers of wintering Bald Eagle have been increasing along the Front Range for the past several years. Observations of the species at the Site and within the vicinity have increased since the Baseline Study (DOE 1992). Observations during 1993 (DOE 1994a) and 1994 (DOE 1995a) showed an increase in observations on-site. The Site is considered an opportunistic foraging area for Bald Eagles. The only Bald Eagle nest in the Rocky Flats vicinity is at Standley Lake, and to date it has not yet been used for a brood. Indications are, however, the locale may eventually be used to raise a brood of Bald Eagles.

No federally listed threatened species are currently known to inhabit the Site. Appropriate habitat exists at the Site for Ute Ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), a threatened orchid species known to occur approximately eight miles to the north of the Site in Boulder County. Searches in 1992, 1993 (ESCO 1993), and 1994 (ESCO 1994), however, have failed to identify any individuals at the Site.

### Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Special-Concern Species

Nine federal C-2 candidate species occur at the Site. Eastern Short Horned Lizards (*Phrynosoma douglassii brevirostra*), a C-2 federal candidate species, occupy the xeric mixed grasslands and the adjacent drier mesic mixed grasslands areas at the Site where surficial deposits of Rocky Flats Alluvium occur. These small, inconspicuous lizards have been recorded site-wide, but their secretive habits makes accurate population estimation difficult without a through search fro the species. Northern Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) are occasional visitors to the Site, largely during migration. There is little appropriate habitat to support this forest dwelling species at Rocky Flats other than as a casual visitor. Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*) has been observed at the Site. Western Burrowing Owls (*Athene cunicularia hypuges*), a C-2 federal candidate species, have been observed in prairie dog colonies at the Site, and in areas immediately adjacent along the north and east boundaries. Burrowing Owls were first recorded at the Site in 1993 (DOE 1994a), and were again recorded in 1994 (DOE 1995a). Ferruginous Hawks (*Buteo regalis*) are fall and winter residents of the Site and the surrounding vicinity (DOE 1994a, DOE 1995a). The Site is most important to Ferruginous Hawks as winter range. Loggerhead Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) were removed from the list of candidate species in November 1994, however, the local USFWS office (Region 6) is contesting that decision. Ornithologists continue to be concerned by the decline in numbers of both Loggerhead Shrikes and Northern Shrikes. Small numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes are observed year-round at the Site and breeding is suspected (DOE 1995a, DOE 1994a). More recently, Black Swifts (*Cypseloides niger*) and Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis subulatus*), both C-2 federal candidate species, have been recorded at the Site (RMRS 1995).

The Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*), a C-2 federal candidate species,

is known to occupy riparian corridors and impoundment margins at the Site. Trapping at the Site has furnished habitat affinity data (DOE 1995b) and population locations (DOE 1992, DOE 1994b). The Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse is currently under review by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for listing as threatened or endangered. A petition to list the species was submitted to the USFWS in August 1994. The USFWS 90 Day Finding found merit to the petition, and research into the actual status of the species is ongoing. No listing is imminent, however, due to the moratorium on listing of threatened or endangered species by the USFWS that was recently enacted by the Congress.

Three Colorado Species of Special Concern occur at the Site. Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius americanus*) are casual visitors to the site during migration (DOE 1995a, DOE 1994a). The Site is not within traditional summering or breeding grounds, but suitable foraging habitat exists. Greater Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis tibida*) are frequently observed flying over the Site during spring and fall migrations (DOE 1992, DOE 1994a, DOE 1995a). While suitable foraging habitat exists and stop-overs may occur at the Site, no individuals of this species have been observed on the ground foraging. American White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) have been observed at several impoundments on the Site during the spring and summer seasons (DOE 1992, DOE 1994a, DOE 1995a).

References for Threatened and Endangered Species Section

- DOE. 1995a. 1994 Annual Wildlife Survey Report, Natural Resources Protection and Compliance Program. Golden, Colorado. April 24, 1995.
- DOE. 1995b. Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, Ecological Monitoring Program 1995 Annual Report. Golden, Colorado. May 31, 1995
- DOE. 1994a. Resource Protection Program Annual Wildlife Survey Report. Golden, Colorado. April 29, 1994)
- DOE. 1994b. Ecological Monitoring Program Annual Report. Golden, Colorado. January 21, 1994.
- DOE. 1992. Baseline Biological Characterization of the Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitats at Rocky Flats Plant. Golden, Colorado. September 1992.
- ESCO. 1994. Report of Findings Ute Ladies'-Tresses and Colorado Butterfly Weed Surveys. Rocky Flats Buffer Zone. Jefferson Co., Colorado. September 13, 1994.
- ESCO. 1993. Report of Findings Ute Ladies'-Tresses and Colorado Butterfly Weed Surveys. Rocky Flats Buffer Zone. Jefferson Co., Colorado. September 24, 1993.
- RMRS. 1995. Special Concern Species for the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site. Golden, Colorado. September 20, 1995. (A list.)
- Weber. 1974. A Botanical Inventory of the Rocky Flats AEC Site. University of Colorado, Boulder. Boulder, Colorado.

Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Sensitive Environments Habitats (Riparian Corridors, Wetlands, and Associated Habitats)

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) defines wetlands as "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" (U. S. Department of Defense, 1987 *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual*). The most recent wetlands delineation at the Site was performed by personnel from the USACE during 1993 (USACE 1994). This delineation undertook to identify and map, as comprehensively as possible, all jurisdictional wetlands at the Site. The USFWS wetland classification method was used during mapping at the Site. Wetlands were mapped using a global positioning system, and a final wetlands map for the Site was produced (USACE 1994).

Palustrine emergent wetlands are the most common wetland type at the Site. The largest complexes of this type occur in the Rock and Woman Creek drainages. Smaller complexes are found in the Walnut Creek drainage. Palustrine scrub wetlands are also abundant on the Site, and occur in all three major drainages. Other wetland types identified include forested wetlands, open-water palustrine habitats. Riverine habitats are very limited, and short reaches exist along Woman and Walnut Creeks. The largest extent of this habitat is found along the wider, braided channel of lower Rock Creek. Lacustrine habitat was not present at the Site. While a large number of wetlands were identified on the Site (nearly 1100), the total area of jurisdictional wetlands (191 acres) represents only three percent of the total acreage at the Site (USACE 1994). Wetlands typically support cottonwoods, willows, cattails, rushes, sedges, and associated hydrophytic forbs and grasses.

In addition to jurisdictional wetlands, ecologists also classify shrublands as sensitive habitats. The Sensitive Habitats Map (EG&G 1993) identified sensitive habitats as all wetlands, wet meadows, all shrublands, and riparian woodland complex areas. These are areas that provide habitat to wetland species, and wetland-associated species. Ecologically, all sensitive habitats are important to wildlife and plants.

References for Sensitive Habitats (Riparian Corridors, Wetlands, and Associated Habitats)

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1994. Rocky Flats Plant Wetlands Mapping and Resource Study. Omaha District. December 1994.

EG&G. 1993. Draft Rocky Flats Plant Wetlands and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Plan. Golden, Colorado. April 1993.