

2010 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION CONFERENCE

Fort Collins, Colorado, Sept. 22-26, 2010



Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Visit

Sunday, September 26, 2010

8:00 am – 1:00 am

Field Trip



Come visit the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Refuge is just 10 miles northeast of Denver. This area is a 12,500-acre expanse of short grass prairie that has survived the test of time during which it has transitioned from native prairie, to use for cropland and grazing, to a World War II era manufacturing site, to an industrial site, and finally a wildlife sanctuary. It represents a very unique conservation success story and it is a place where wildlife thrives.

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In the early 1980s, an extensive environmental cleanup program was initiated on this area. In part, due to the discovery of a roost of bald eagles, this area was designated by Congress as a future National Wildlife Refuge. As environmental cleanup progressed and projects met federal and state requirements, the U.S. Army transferred 12,500 acres of land to the USFWS to establish and expand the Refuge. This Refuge is one of the largest urban wildlife refuge's in the country. An on-going massive re-vegetation effort is underway to restore more than 10,000 acres of disturbed land to native short grass prairie habitat.

The tour will begin at Refuge headquarters with a presentation on the history of the site, native wildlife and the short grass prairie ecosystem, and USFWS efforts to manage and restore habitats on this area. This will be followed with a bus/tram tour of the Refuge to observe both wildlife and the ongoing management efforts to restore native habitats. Large prairie dogs towns that attract a variety of raptors such as red-tailed and ferruginous hawks are present, and USFWS also has established a resident herd of bison on the area.

For more information, visit the Refuge website at www.fws.gov/rockymountainarsenal The trip will include water, a lunch, and transportation to and from Fort Collins.

Cost: \$30

Trip Limited to 36 People

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