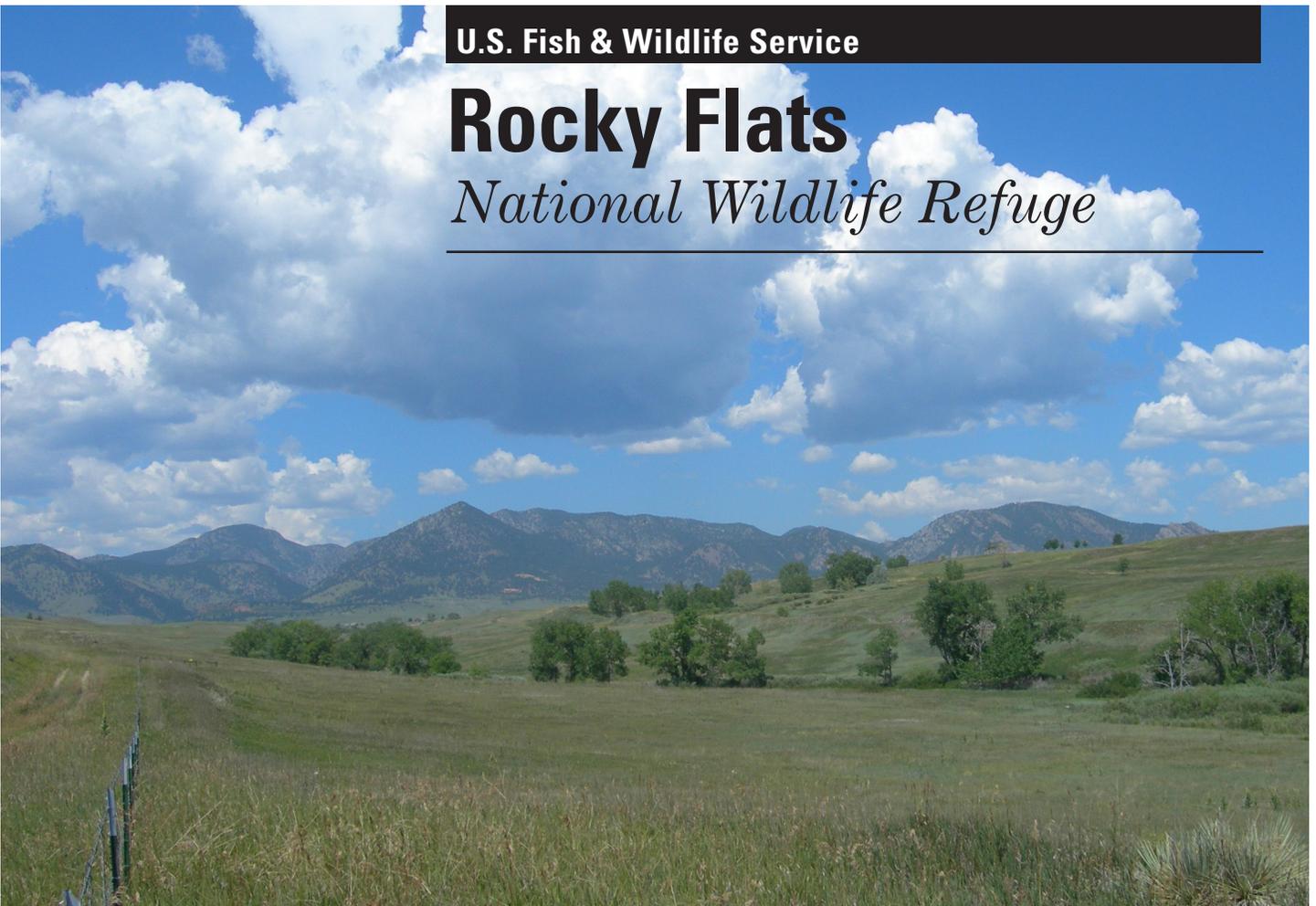


Rocky Flats

National Wildlife Refuge



Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge / USFWS

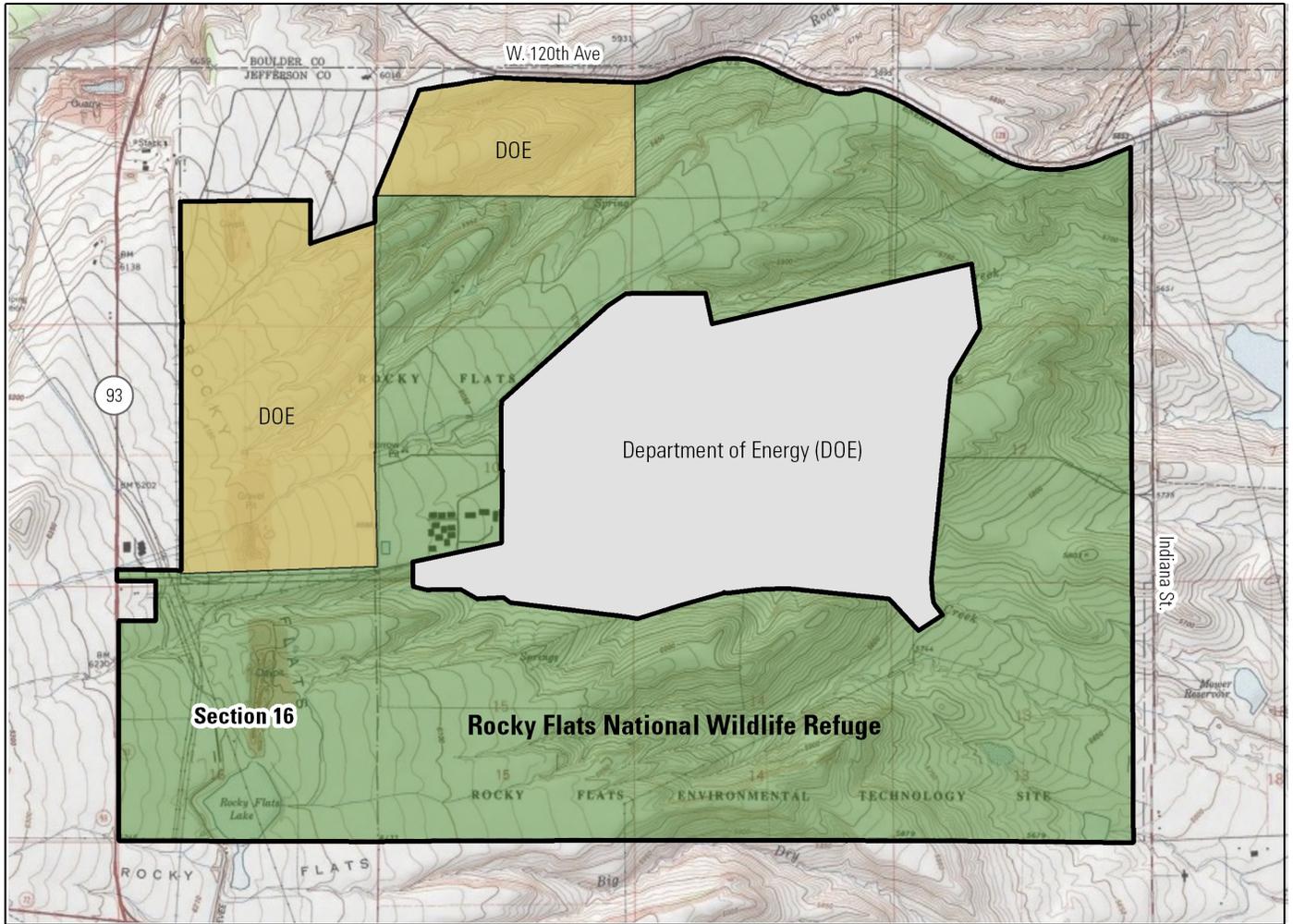
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Service) Service recently completed an expansion of Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge, which sits on the western edge of the Great Plains at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, was once a production facility for nuclear weapons components. While Congress authorized the creation of the refuge in 2001 in recognition of its ecological value and its important role as open space in the rapidly developing Front Range Urban Corridor, it was not formally transferred to the National Wildlife Refuge System until 2007 following an extensive environmental evaluation and cleanup.

In the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001 (Rocky Flats Act), Congress required that a 300-foot wide strip of land on the eastern boundary of

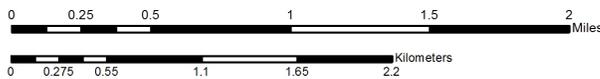
the refuge be made available for transportation improvements, subject to certain stipulations. The Service received applications for that land beginning in 2008. Ultimately, several local municipalities brought together funding for a much larger conservation initiative which would transfer the land in compliance with the Rocky Flats Act while protecting substantially more land on the western side of the refuge from mining and development. This included 617 acres previously managed by the State of Colorado known as Section 16, as well as several hundred additional acres administered by the Department of Energy that were also subject to mining. Because some of this land was outside of the approved boundary of the refuge, the Service undertook an intensive analysis of the environmental effects of a refuge

expansion to accommodate the proposed land exchange starting in mid-2011. It was concluded that there were no significant environmental impacts to the proposed land exchange and expansion, and the exchange of lands and expansion of the refuge were finalized in December of 2012.

The newly expanded refuge protects an additional 423 acres of globally rare xeric tallgrass prairie, an unusual plant community which shares affinities to tallgrass prairies far to the east as well as the Front Range to the west. The newly protected lands also include over 200 acres of known and likely habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse, a federally listed threatened species native to the refuge. The refuge is home to migratory herds of large, charismatic mammals including mule



 Approved Acquisition Boundary



Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge land exchange map

PRODUCED IN THE DIVISION OF REFUGE PLANNING
 DENVER, COLORADO
 MAP DATE: 12/31/2012
 BASEMAP: NGS_TOPQ_US_2D
 6TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
 FILE: W:\CO\RFL\MAPS\RFL_LPPEA_0711\RFL_EXCHANGE_123112

deer and elk. The newly protected lands help ensure that these and other animals will forever have a corridor linking their habitat on the refuge with other protected lands in the Rocky Mountains. In doing so, those species and the refuge will be more resilient to local disturbance like fire and larger shifts due to global climate change.

While there are no plans yet for when the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge will be open to the public, the Service is excited by the ongoing efforts to develop the Rocky Mountain Greenway. This initiative will link the refuge to a network of trails and

integrate it into a broader network of local, state, and federal lands. To keep up to date on new developments with Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, please visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/rockyflats>. If you have questions, please contact management of the Denver area National Wildlife Refuges at: 303 / 289 0533.

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