



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository
Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Building 128
Commerce City, Colorado 80022-0001



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SERVICE PROPOSES FACILITY TO DISPOSE OF UNUSABLE WILDLIFE PARTS AND PRODUCTS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the release of a draft Environmental Assessment addressing plans to build a facility at the National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository to safely dispose of unusable parts of eagle carcasses and contraband wildlife products.

The Repository, which is located within the Rocky Mountain Arsenal in Commerce City, Colorado, and operated by the Service's Office of Law Enforcement, salvages dead eagles for religious use by Native Americans. It also stores and disposes of wildlife products that have been abandoned or forfeited to the government, making hundreds of items available each year to support the educational activities of schools, museums, and other organizations.

The proposed facility will enable the Repository to properly manage and dispose of unusable parts of eagle carcasses and illegal wildlife products that have no educational use. The facility will reduce this material to ash, which can be disposed of at off-site landfills.

The draft Environmental Assessment examines environmental impacts associated with the proposal to construct this facility. This study also looks at alternative ways to provide for the proper long-term disposal of decomposed and unusable eagle carcasses, parts and feathers as well as unusable wildlife products.

The draft Environmental Assessment is currently available for public review on the following website <http://www.le.fws.gov/eaglerepository.htm>, at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Visitor Center, and at the public library in Commerce City. A public meeting to present the proposal, answer questions and receive comments will be held at the Commerce City Recreation Center on Tuesday, September 28, at 7:00 p.m. The public comment period will extend until October 20, 2004. The Service encourages people to submit their comments or suggestions via e-mail to the above website or by writing to the National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository, Attn: Bernadette Atencio, Bldg. 128, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Commerce City, CO 80022.

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