

# Argonne National Laboratory

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Comments:

**ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY**

1075 South Yukon Street, Suite 209, Lakewood, Colorado 80226

Tuesday, May 31, 1994

Mr. Brian Anderson, Chief  
Remedial Planning and Monitoring Branch  
PMRMA  
Rocky Mountain Arsenal  
Commerce City, CO 80022

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Based on your review comments (dated 31 May 94) to the proposal submitted under the scope of Argonne National Laboratory's Proposal (P-90069, Revision 2), enclosed is a revised Statement of Work (SOW) to conduct habitat evaluations (HEP) at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. The suggested changes to the SOW did not affect the cost estimate. This work will benefit both the PMRMA and the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the record of decision for remediation.

We look forward to commencing work on this project. Following your final approval, dates can be established for the field work.

Sincerely,



Gary M. Kaszynski  
Program Manager  
303/986-1140, ext. 245

cc:

Ronel Finley, w/attachs  
Stephen Smith, w/attachs  
Pat Wilkey, ANL, w/attachs  
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## **Field Support for National Biological Survey Habitat Evaluations at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Colorado**

**May 1994**

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Area (RMANWA) comprises 6,882 hectares of land associated with the original Rocky Mountain Arsenal. This area will be transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and as part of the transfer, some remedial action will be required to conform with applicable environmental regulations. Included in the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) remediation will be the disturbance of sites with contaminated as well as uncontaminated soils. To support the cleanup program for RMA, an assessment of wildlife habitat value is needed for areas to be remediated and areas that will support remediation activities, as well as the remaining areas of RMA (or RMANWA). A proposal to perform these habitat evaluations in the summer of 1994 has been prepared by the National Biological Survey (NBS). Argonne National Laboratory would provide field support for these evaluations by providing scientific personnel to gather ecological data necessary for the evaluations. ANL will conduct the studies with in-house staff; subcontracting support will not be utilized.

Because site-specific community models are not currently available for the RMANWA, the NBS proposes to use established species models for the habitat evaluation program. These species models require quantification of a variety of habitat parameters that later will be used to develop the community models for use in management of the RMANWA in the future. Such models will provide a basis for comparisons of the effectiveness of management efforts and will allow predictions of the effectiveness of various management strategies during planning.

Argonne staff would assist NBS in the summer of 1994 (June through August). This assistance would consist of data-gathering only. Data would be gathered on a number of habitat parameters that serve as input into existing species models developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Models exist for the following species: ferruginous hawk, sharp-tailed grouse, black-capped chickadee, western meadowlark, lark bunting, eastern cottontail, and black-tailed prairie dog.

Examples of habitat parameters to be measured in the field for these species include:

- Height and percent of herbaceous and shrub canopy
- Topographic diversity
- Distances between project leader in advance of any field work. All habitats on the site would be sampled at a sufficient level to ensure confidence in the results.

It is anticipated that six staff members would be required for approximately one-month of field effort to collect information on all parameters. This effort would be divided into two, two-week efforts. Argonne scientists would work in two groups of three individuals. Each group would have a leader responsible for the overall quality of field work and group safety. OSHA 40-hour hazardous waste training would be required of all field personnel to enable access to the site. Data gathering would not involve handling of hazardous waste, but some work would be conducted in previously contaminated sites. A detailed health and safety plan would be developed prior to initiation of work.