


**From:** David M Wood dmwood@mines.edu   
**Subject:** Request to reconsider bans on school visits to the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge  
**Date:** January 26, 2026 at 4:48 PM  
**To:** chris.gdowski@adams12.org

DM

Dear Superintendent Gdowski,

This email is a follow-up to my brief survey of metro-area school systems (thanks to all respondents!) which a search suggested had an ongoing ban on school visits to the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. For your information, among the 7 school districts reported:

Jefferson County: no ban  
Denver Public Schools: no ban  
Boulder Valley School District: ban in place  
Westminster: (no response to two emails): ban in place  
Adams 12 Five Star Schools: ban in place  
Adams County School District 14: ban in place  
St. Vrain Valley School District: ban in place

This email contains two enclosures which bear on the science about Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge safety (and one about my credentials). I am sending it only to the representative who replied to my initial query, but I urge each to forward the email or distribute the documents to school board members for consideration.

The main document is ForSchoolBoards-Cmprs.pdf; my credentials are in DMW-RFCredsCmprs.pdf, and a multi-page PDF (FlyrSummBib.pdf) contains documents I prepared after a presentation I gave to Westminster. In the last, the first four pages are extremely information-dense, but a text summary and a bibliography follow this.

Thus there are 3 PDFs enclosed.

As you will read, I am happy to give a presentation to your school district about a compelling list of reasons to end your ban on visits. I also emphasize that I am not urging any school district to run school trips to the Refuge (as educational as this might be)--that is an academic matter. But adopting an anti-science stance on the issue is a long term liability for any school district.

**ForSchoolBoards-  
Cmprs.pdf**



**DMW-  
RFCredsCmprs.pdf**



**FlyrSummBib.pdf**



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