

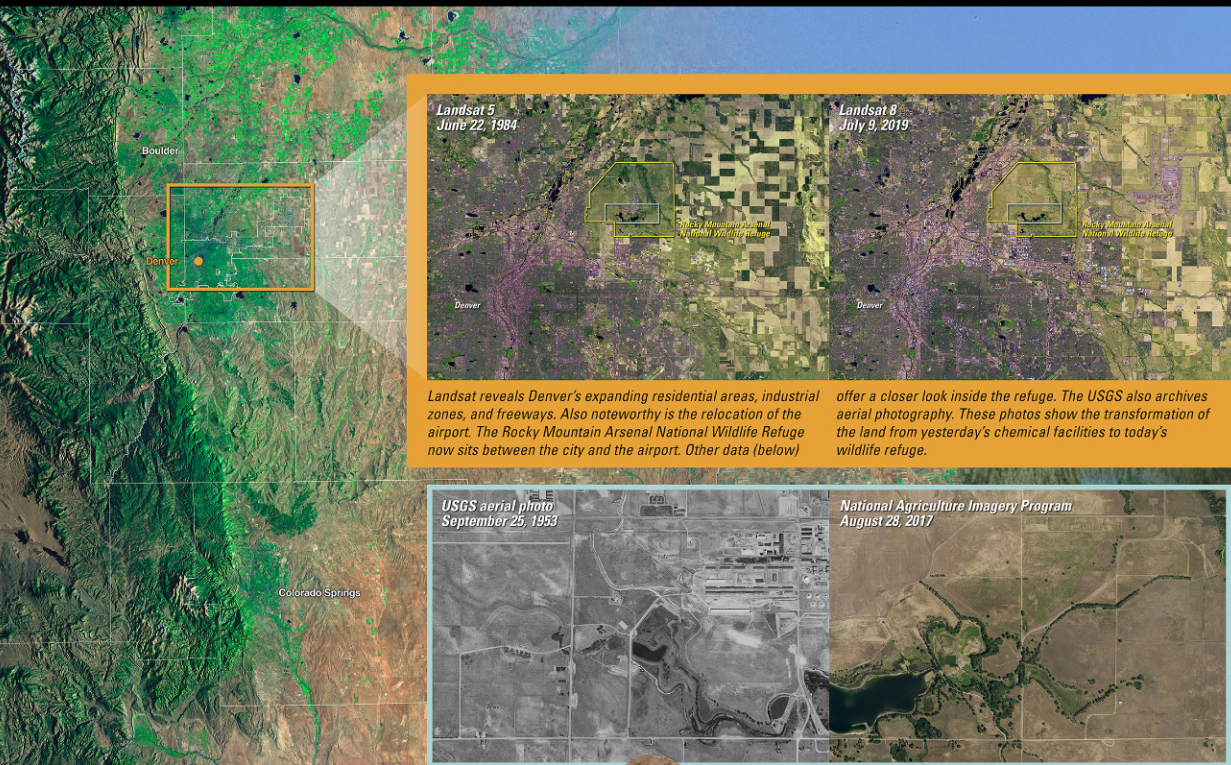
Denver's Urban Wildlife Refuge

Without question, Colorado's capital has grown and expanded over time. But 15,000 acres of land show an incredible melding of urban and natural settings.

From prairie to farmland, then to chemical weapons manufacturing and an agricultural chemicals plant, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is a place where wildlife can once again thrive. One of the largest in the country, the refuge provides a peaceful sanctuary for bison, deer, bald eagles, owls, and many other species. The Landsat satellites have captured the big picture of urban growth for nearly five decades.

The satellite mosaic of Colorado was created using Landsat 7 data and the National Elevation Dataset. All state mosaics are available for download at <https://eros.usgs.gov/image-gallery/state-mosaics>

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey



Landsat reveals Denver's expanding residential areas, industrial zones, and freeways. Also noteworthy is the relocation of the airport. The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge now sits between the city and the airport. Other data (below)

offer a closer look inside the refuge. The USGS also archives aerial photography. These photos show the transformation of the land from yesterday's chemical facilities to today's wildlife refuge.

More information

Landsat data, historical aerial photos, National Agriculture Imagery Program images, and more are archived at the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center.

The data can be freely downloaded from the USGS EarthExplorer website at <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov>

For more imagery of change over time in the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge and the Denver area, visit the USGS Earthshots page at <https://earthshots.usgs.gov/earthshots/node/117>

