Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Washoe Environmental Protection Department

Solid Waste Management Program

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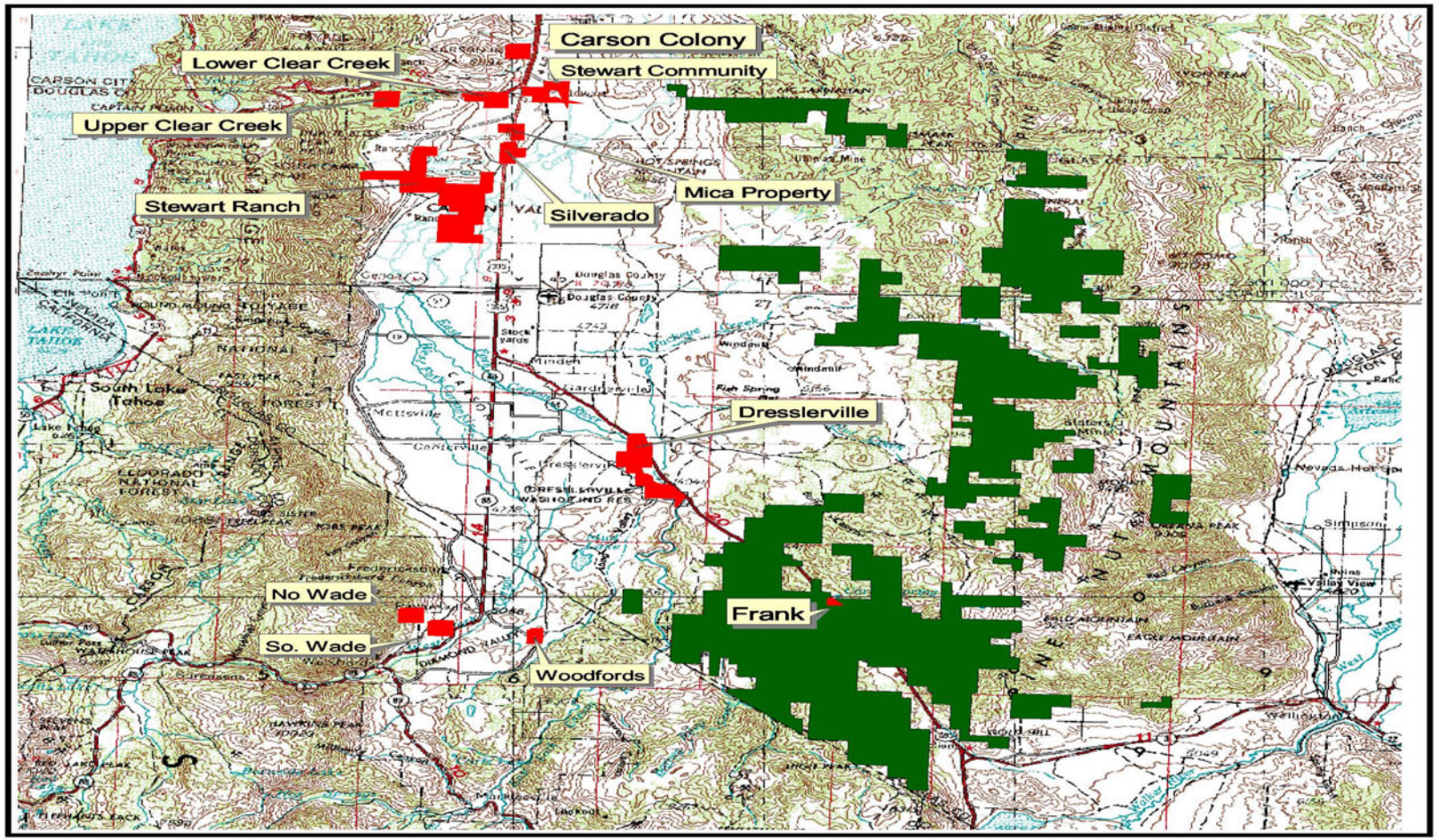
Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California
Tribal Lands



Phoebe Bender
Washoe Tribe of NV & CA
September 2003

Solid Waste Reduction Program

Solid Waste Removal:
ILLEGAL DUMPS & COMMUNITIES' CLEAN-UPS

– Reduce environmental and health risks associated with dumping in the communities and on Tribal lands and allotments

Curbside Recycling and Green Waste Program

- Reduces 64% of the Tribe's waste stream by reducing the volume of recyclable and reusable materials!

Household Hazardous Waste Removal

- Reduce residents and employees' exposure to household hazardous waste and educate communities' members

Engineered Evaluation and Schematic Design For A Recycling Transfer Station

- Reduce amount of solid waste through centralized recycling and reuse efforts

Auto Recycling Project

- Began in Fall 2002
  - Collection ongoing
  - Contractor removes vehicles/scrap metals at least annually

Auto/Scrap Metals Recycling

WEPD collects vehicles, tires, old appliances and other recyclable scrap metals from tribal members' property and from illegal dumps located throughout Tribal lands and allotments

Why Remove Abandoned Cars?

Public Health and Environmental Protection

- Child Safety
- Remove source of disease vectors
  - Rodents, mosquitoes, & flies
- Protection of groundwater
  - Leaking fluids contaminate both soil & groundwater

Auto/Scrap Metal Recycling Project Issues

- Site location – Approval
- Abandoned Vehicle paperwork
- Preventing illegal dumping at the yard

Auto/Scrap Metal Recycling Project Issues (Continued)

- Providing security for collection site
- Preventing/cleaning up vehicle fluids spills
- Finding a reputable licensed contractor for auto crushing and scrap metal removal

WEPD Auto/Scrap Metals Recycling Yard: Preliminary Tasks

- Approval to operate a vehicle/scrap metal near Dresslerville Community
- Installed security fencing
- Posted signage

Ready to Roll!

- Identify vehicles for collection
- Collect Vehicles, Appliances, & Scrap Metal
- Acquire Titles/Vehicle Release Forms
- Clear VINs with DMV

Processing Vehicles for Storage

- **Remove windows and windshields from vehicles**
- **Drain all fluids and properly store in labeled containers**
- **Remove mercury switches, catalytic converters and batteries**

Vehicle Fluids Stored Onsite As Hazardous Waste for Future Removal

- Auto fluids (e.g., gasoline, antifreeze, oil):
  - Free pick up except antifreeze
- Mixed Hazardous Waste
  - "Costly" pick up for proper disposal

Refrigerant Recovery

- Refrigerant must be removed from refrigerators, motor vehicle air conditioners, and room air conditioners prior to crushing for scrap

Waste Tire Removal

Removal Process

Auto/Scrap Yard Reaches its Storage Capacity - Time to hire a contractor to perform vehicle removal and metals' scrapping

- Request for Quotation (RFQ)
- Contractor Selection
  - Crush on site vs. removal to facility for off site crush
  - $$$ per ton vs. one-lump sum
  - Check References
- Limited Activity and Entry Permit
- Letter: "Permission to Remove Vehicles"

Contractor Selected and 2008 Project Completed!

- **Removed 50 vehicles**
- **Removed 5 loads of scrap metal and appliances**
- **Provided weigh tickets for each load**
- **Removal process took 4 days**

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

Since 2002, approximately 600 vehicles , over 3,500 tires, and thousands of appliances have been removed from Washoe lands and communities!

THANK YOU
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