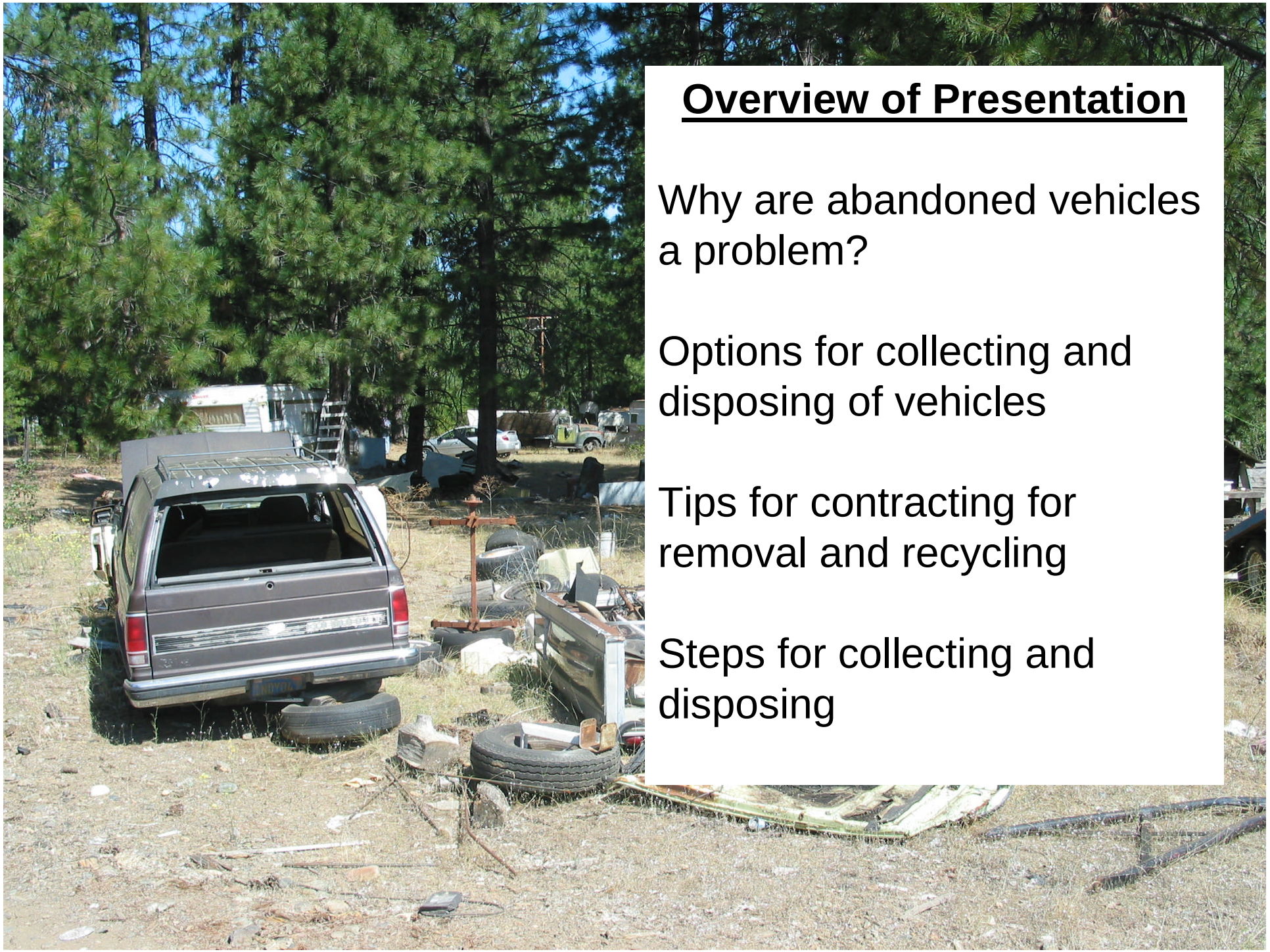
Abandoned Vehicle Abatement

Nancy Sockabasin, Tribal Solid Waste Team
415-972-3772 or sockabasin.nancy@epa.gov



Overview of Presentation

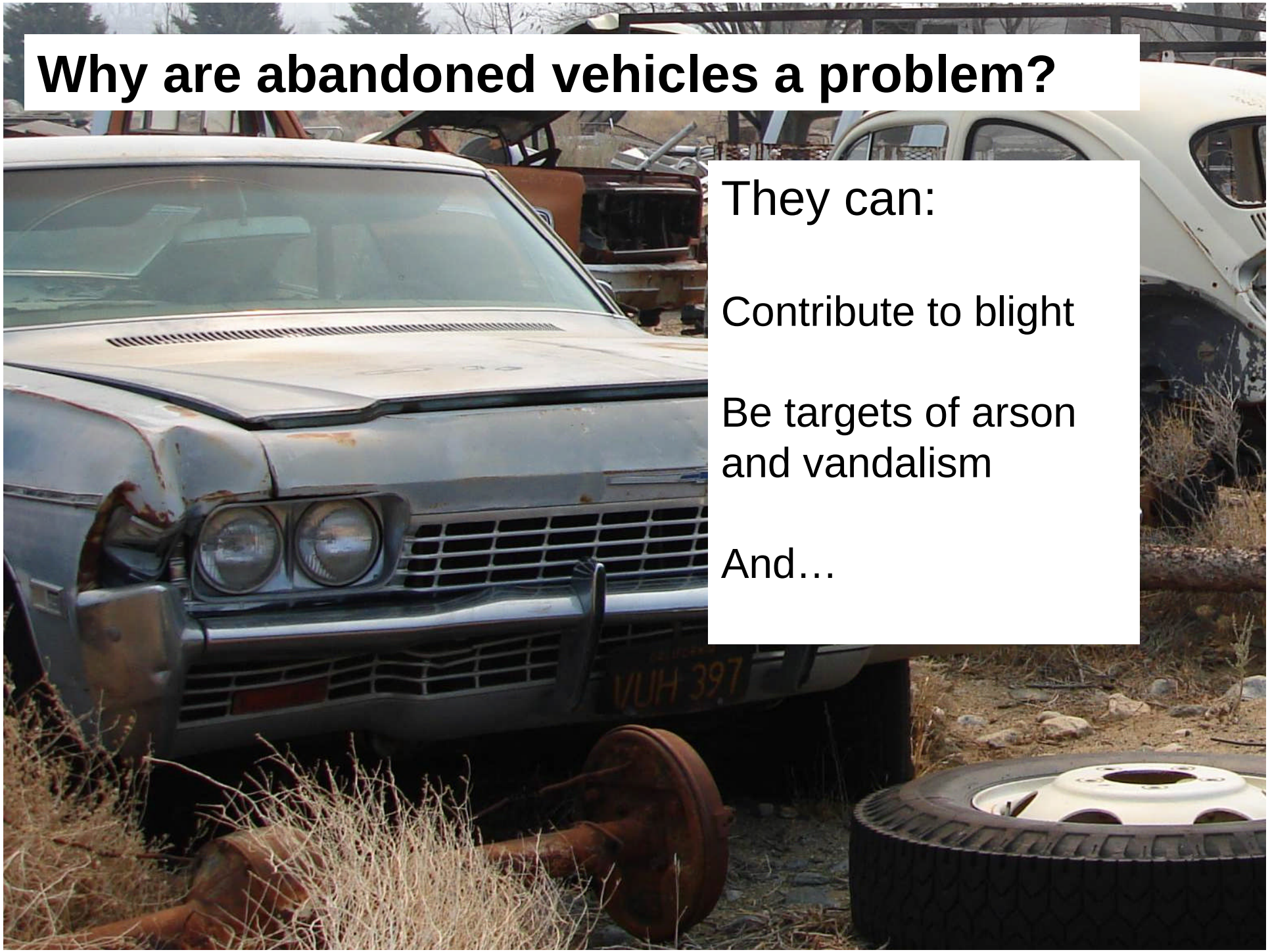
Why are abandoned vehicles a problem?

Options for collecting and disposing of vehicles

Tips for contracting for removal and recycling

Steps for collecting and disposing

Why are abandoned vehicles a problem?



They can:

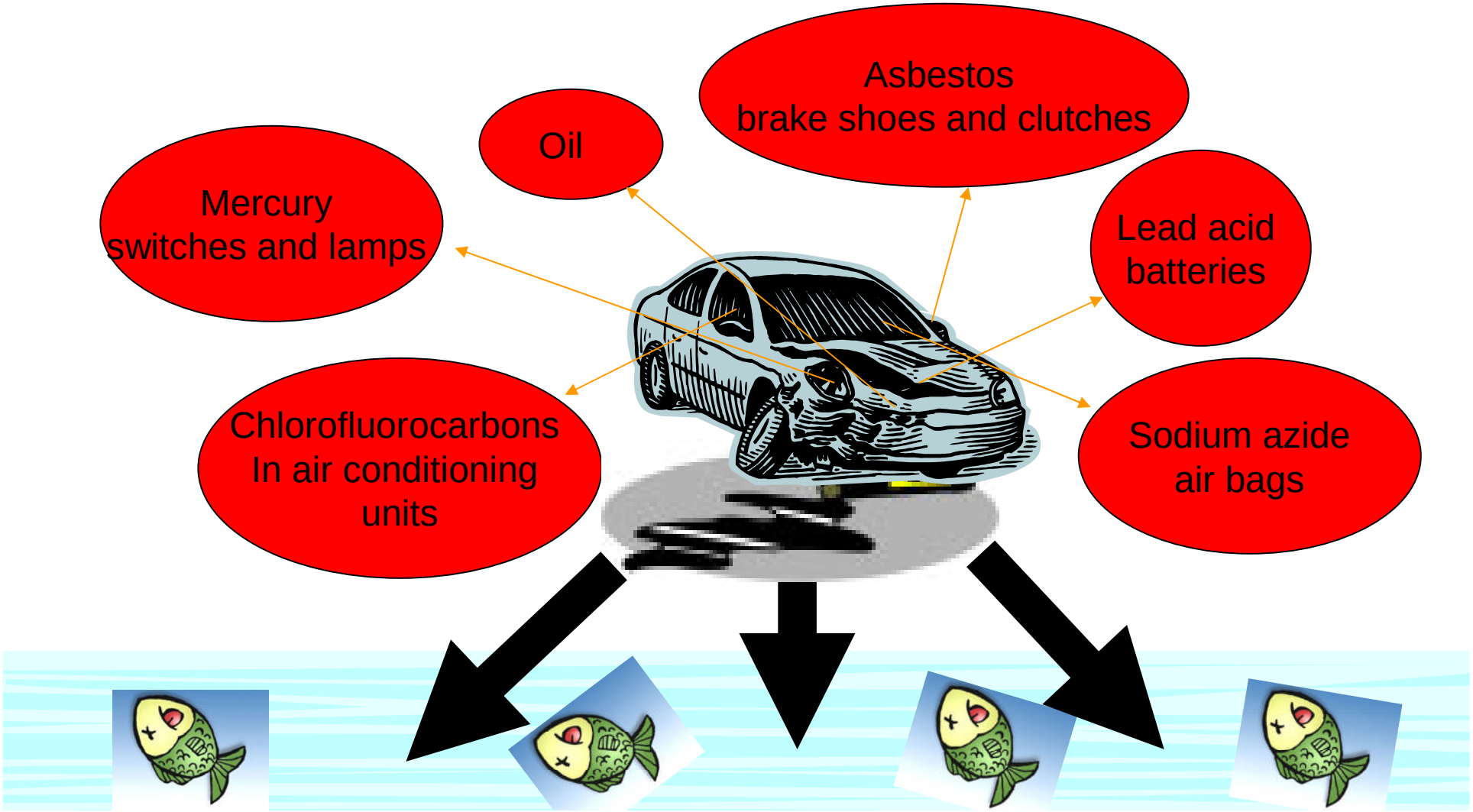
Contribute to blight

Be targets of arson and vandalism

And…

They lead to more abandoned vehicles being dumped!

Abandoned vehicles contain fluids that can be hazardous when released to soil, groundwater and surface water



Options for collection and disposing of abandoned vehicles

Option 1: Tribe collects and processes vehicles and sells scrap metal to a metal scrapping

Tribe

Options for collection and disposing of abandoned vehicles

Option 2: Tribe collects and transports all vehicles and contracts with a metal recycler for crushing, hazardous waste removal and recycling.

Tribe

Contractor

Options for collection and disposing of abandoned vehicles

Option 3: Tribe contracts for all transport, car crushing, hazardous waste removal, and metal recycling.

Contractor

Factors Affecting Cost and Revenue

- The price of scrap metal
- Proximity of the metals recycler to the tribal lands.
- If the tribe already owns heavy machinery.
- How many vehicles are collected.
- Where the vehicles are found.

Tips for contracting for vehicle removal and recycling

When contracting for vehicle processing and crushing, you may want to request the following, in addition to a price quotation:

- Site safety and cleanup plan
- Business licenses
- Proof of insurance/liability
- Crushing and removal plan
- Does vendor take refuse?
- Does vendor remove oil-stained soils?
- How will the contractor handle fluids, mercury switches, batteries and tires
- Proof of appropriate certifications and licenses (i.e., certification for recovery of Freon, Commercial Driver's License)

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

Step 1: Plan your collection program

- Establish who will coordinate the program.
- Determine which components the tribe will contract for.
- Develop a protocol for identifying & collecting vehicles.

Things to consider include:

- Will the tribe offer to accept inoperable vehicles from tribal members' property or only abandoned vehicles? Will there be a charge?
- How can requests be made?
- How will vehicles collected be documented?

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

Step 1: Plan your collection program

- Create a health and safety plan
- Provide training to staff to ensure proper handling of equipment, spills, and safe vehicle transport.

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 2: Identify vehicles for collection

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 2: Identify vehicles for collection

Ways to identify vehicles for removal:

- Owner requests vehicle to be removed

- A community member or tribal member requests a vehicle to be removed

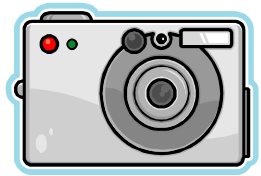
- Tribal staff observes an abandoned vehicle

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

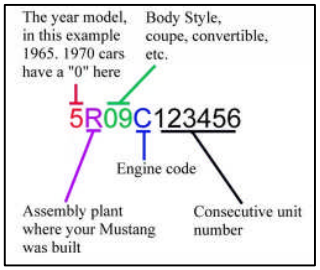
- Step 2: Identify vehicles for collection

Collect the following basic information, including:

- Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates to identify the location



- Photograph of vehicle



- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) (typically on dash, door, or frame)

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 3: Complete appropriate paperwork

If someone (usually the owner) requests the vehicle's removal:

Ask the requestor to fill out an authorization form and sign the title of the vehicle over to the tribe (or contractor)

Authorization form should include:

- Does the requestor have a title?
- Does the requestor own the vehicle? If no, who does?
- Does the requestor have permission from the owner to remove the vehicle?
- Vehicle make
- Vehicle model
- Color
- Year
- License Number
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
- Reason for removal
- Signature granting the tribe to collect the vehicle(s) listed

VEHICLE REMOVAL WORK ORDER FORM

Work Order # _____

Requested By: _____ Today's Date: _____

Phone Number: Request By Date:

Village/Location: _____ Alternative Contact: _____

# of Vehicles Requested: _____ Alternative Contact Phone #: _____

VEHICLE INFORMATION
(Complete for Each Vehicle)

Make: _____ Model _____ Color: _____ Year:

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) _____ License Plate: _____

Reason for Removal (Circle As Appropriate)

A. No longer want B. In way of construction C. Taking up space D. Does not work/run E. Owner Deceased

F. Owner Incarcerated G. Other (Describe) _____

Does the Requestor have a Title for the vehicle? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does the Requestor own the vehicle? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "No", please explain: _____

Does the Requestor have permission or remove the vehicle? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Location/GPS: _____

Please provide a map of the vehicle location on the back of this Order Form

I, _____ [NAME], hereby give the [TRIBAL AUTHORITY NAME] the authority to remove the aforementioned vehicle(s), after having given the [TRIBAL AUTHORITY NAME] the proper documentation.

Authorization Signature: _____ Date: _____

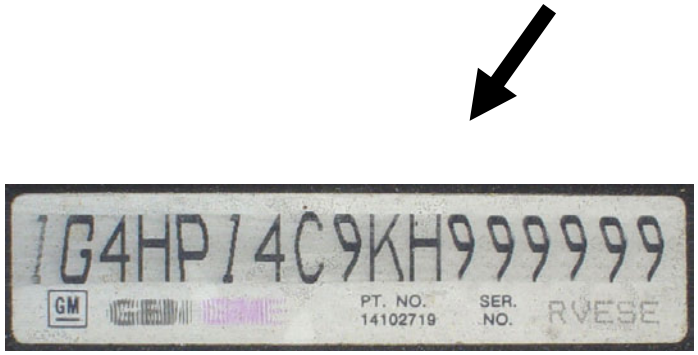
Tribal Authority Representative Signature _____ Date: _____

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 3: Complete appropriate paperwork

If the owner is unknown or the vehicle is abandoned:

Research the pink slip (title to the car) and/or the vehicle identification number (VIN)



Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 3: Complete appropriate paperwork

If the vehicle has been stolen:

Then it should be impounded or the insurance company should be contacted by the local police department.

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 3: Complete appropriate paperwork

If the vehicle has not been reported stolen and the requestor is not the registered owner, or if the vehicle was removed from tribal land with no individual requestor:

A letter should be sent to the registered owner notifying them that their car has been found and they have two weeks to notify the tribal agency if they would like to claim it.

(Note: If the registered owner would like to claim the vehicle, they should be notified that it is their responsibility to transport/move the vehicle.)

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 4: Transport the vehicles

Photo from Tohono O'odham Nation

Decide if the tribe will transport the vehicles or contract for transportation.

Decide if the vehicles will be transported to a central location or directly to an auto dismantler.

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 5: Process the vehicles

Photo from the Hopi Tribe

Decide if the tribe will process the vehicles or contract for processing.

Ensure that either the tribe or contractor has a hazardous waste management plan.

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 5: Process the vehicles

In areas where fluid removal and storage takes place, maintain a spill kit with the following:

- Absorbent material
- Oil dry
- Shovel and broom
- Disposal bags, extra barrels/drums, or other containers
- Safety glasses
- Disposable and rubber gloves
- Rolls of heavy plastic

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- **Step 5: Process the vehicles**

Remove fluids on a concrete pad or over an area that is lined and covered with sand If possible, remove fluids under a covered area.

Place fluids into secondary containers

If any spilling or leakage is encountered, be prepared for immediate cleanup and containment.

Store fluids in appropriate containers (never mix fluids) in a covered area that provides for secondary containment. Antifreeze and oil may be recycled.

Photo from the Hopi Tribe

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- **Step 5: Process the vehicles**

After removing fluids, Remove the tires from the rims in order to recycle the rims with the vehicles

Remove components that may be recycled (i.e., catalytic converters, batteries)

Remove mercury switches, which should be disposed of as hazardous waste

Remove and dispose of gasoline tanks.

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 6: Crush the vehicles

Photo from the Hopi Tribe

If crushing occurs on tribal land it should take place over a lined or concrete area.

Arrange for a dumpster to be placed in the vehicle storage yard for placement of loose metals.

Post a sign stating:

- "No Trespassing"
- The name of the tribe
- Contact information

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 7: Cleanup and removal

Vehicle cleanup at the Hopi Tribe

If the crushing occurs at the metal recycler no cleanup plan is needed. However, if the vehicles are collected and crushed on tribal land, ensure that a cleanup plan is in place and followed.

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 8: *Evaluation, Record Keeping, and Reporting*

<u>Evaluation</u>

Evaluate each step of the process for:

- What was successful,
- What could be improved, and
- What might you do differently in the future?

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 8: *Evaluation, Record Keeping, and Reporting*

Record Keeping

- Number of vehicles
- Where vehicles were removed from
- Vehicle licenses or identification numbers
- Removal forms
- Copies of contracts for hauling, crushing and metals recycling
- Copies of the outreach plan, health and safety plan, and the cleanup plan
- Program evaluation document

Steps for collecting and disposing abandoned vehicles

- Step 8: *Evaluation, Record Keeping, and Reporting*

<u>Reporting</u>

Report to the:

- Community
- tribal council
- any agency contributing funds

Report on the:

- number of vehicles removed
- tons of metal recycled
- gallons of fluids properly recycled or disposed of