

“The Illegal Dumping ‘Dirty Dozen’ Continues in 2013”

It’s Awards’ time in Lincoln County ---- for the hard work of Lincoln County children and youth at the Lincoln County Fair and unfortunately, for the annual Lincoln County ‘Illegal Dumping Dirty Dozen.’ You be the judge of the ‘Dirty Dozen’ winner . . . Is this the No. 1 illegal dumping site in Lincoln County?

This one? (Caption: Alpine Village Dumpster site, 8/7/13)



Or this one? [Caption: San Patricio Compactor site; 8/7/13]



Or this one? [Caption: Highway 37 Wolf Springs Compactor site, 8/6/13]



Greentree Solid Waste Authority: Keeping Lincoln County clean, green and beautiful!

The answer is ‘none of the above.’ It’s now official: the Sun Valley Compactor site north of the Alto Post Office has the dubious distinction of moving up to the No. 1 position in Lincoln County’s “Dirty Dozen”. While much of the illegal dumping at Sun Valley comes from non-Sun Valley residents, contractors and tourist visitors, the site continues to be on the GSWA Dirty Dozen each year.

Here’s the rest of this year’s notorious ‘Dirty Dozen’:

- No. 2 – Enchanted Forest
- No. 3 – Ski Run Road, USFS Monjeau Road
- No. 4 – Highway 37 Wolf Springs compactor site
- No. 5 - Cedar Creek compactor site
- No. 6 - Highway 48 – Laughing Horse Lane
- No. 7 – Glencoe compactor site
- No. 8 – Ranches of Sonterra
- No. 9 – Gavalin Canyon Road
- No. 10 – Dawson Road [Capitan area]
- No. 11 – Sandia Road [Capitan area]
- No. 12 – Dean Road [Capitan area]

Not only does illegal dumping clutter the scenic beauty of Lincoln County and Mescalero but it also causes delay of essential services such as forest slash pickup as grapple trucks and manpower are diverted to illegal dumping pickup. Earlier this week for example, GSWA slash pickup equipment was diverted away from forest slash pickup to clean up 94 cubic yards of illegally dumped material from all the way from Indian Divide to Arabella. And, the illegally dump site pick up isn’t done yet.

GSWA manages over 760 trash disposal sites across Lincoln County outside of the Village of Ruidoso. Approximately 53 large sites are monitored daily, typically before Noon, by the GSWA Field Operations/Security Coordinator. Security camera evidence at many sites identifying dumpers is collected and turned over to the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Department and County Attorney, who are charged with prosecution responsibility under a Lincoln County Ordinance and under New Mexico State law. Fines up to \$5,000 per day can be imposed. Large-scale, severe cases are also turned over to the NM Solid Waste Bureau, who has been investigating a range of serious violations in Greentree Solid Waste Authority: Keeping Lincoln County clean, green and beautiful!

Lincoln County since early Spring 2013. Some of these investigations ultimately are turned back over the Lincoln County Attorney for prosecution.

“Illegal dumping monitoring and clean-up at solid waste sites is a courtesy service for County resident GSWA customers” stated GSWA Operational Supervisor Debra Ingle. “Municipal GSWA customers from Corona, Carrizozo, Capitan, Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs are charged for this service, but not rural County residents. It should be a matter of community pride for **all** County residents to properly dispose of solid waste and to join together to prevent others from dumping illegally along County and Forest Service roads, and State highways.”

Ingle went on to say” We encourage local residents to get involved in keeping these sites clean by reporting illegal dumpers to the County Sheriff’s office, taking pictures and getting license plate numbers.” “We will occasionally leave non-toxic illegal dumping on the ground for a week or two to illustrate the extent of the problem to nearby residents and to motivate them to monitor sites themselves as small groups of residents have done in several County locations.”

“We also conduct large scale recycling events such as the upcoming Tire and White Goods Appliance Recycling Event in Ruidoso September 27 and 28 and the annual E-Waste Recycling event Saturday November 2nd as ways of reducing illegal dumping across the County and in Ruidoso” stated Ingle.

State and federal law enacted as far back as the 1980s prohibits dumping of any trash outside of approved containers to prevent soil and groundwater contamination.

The prohibition of placing trash outside of approved containers is not limited to Lincoln County. Trash disposal and collection sites across New Mexico are increasingly subject to greater restrictions, requiring closed top roll-off containers, locked and fenced areas not open 24 hours a day to ensure resident safety around potentially hazardous materials, equipment and conditions. Unfortunately, illegal dumpers dump anyway on the open ground. **They dump; other citizens pay.**

To report illegal dumping reporting, contact the Lincoln County Sheriff at **1 - 800 687-2419**, or the New Mexico Illegal Dumping Hotline at **1-800-867-7666**, or www.nmed/swb/Solid Waste and Dumping Complaints.

Greentree Solid Waste Authority: Keeping Lincoln County clean, green and beautiful!