



United States Department of Interior
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Bureau of Land Management

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DUMP REMOVED FROM PUBLIC LAND

Story and photos by MARK E. JACOBSEN
BLM MCFO Public Affairs

RICHEY – Crews from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Miles City Field Office recently completed the removal of a dump site located 25 miles north of Richey.

The remote dump site was estimated to have been used off and on for around 70 years and straddled both public and private land. The project represented a cooperative effort between the BLM and Richland County, who waived the county landfill dump disposal fees to expedite the clean up.

On-site BLM Engineering Equipment Operator Lloyd Butcher reported that truck and equipment costs for the project were around \$8,000 and the dump yielded 16 semi-trailer loads of refuse which were transported to and deposited in the county landfill.

The site encompassed approximately two acres. Two-thirds of the dump was on federal land and one-third on private property, scattered across a ridge top and down into a ravine. A considerable amount of scrap wood was present and was burned by BLM fire crews prior to the main cleanup operation.

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According to BLM Realty Specialist Brian Lynnes, the purpose of cleaning up older dumps such as this one is to remove what is not only an eyesore, but also a handy spot to conceal hazardous material.

“These older dumps are prime targets for future dumping, to include toxic waste,” said Lynnes. “By removing this dump, we also hopefully remove the temptation to dump.”

The dump contents consisted of glass, cans, scrap wood, old fencing and scrap metal. Fortunately, no hazardous waste was found.

Dumping is illegal on federal property and persons who witness this type of activity are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement agency or BLM Law Enforcement Ranger Lori Harbaugh, at (406) 233-2800.

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