



BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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ILLEGAL DUMPING ON PUBLIC LANDS CREATING HAZARDS

BLM Elko Field Office law enforcement rangers are investigating a series of illegal dumping incidents in recent weeks on public lands in northeast Nevada.

BLM Ranger Jerry Vanderpool stated, "We've had quite a rash of illegal dumping activity lately. We're currently investigating dumping just outside of Elko on North 5th Street, south of Wendover, the Deeth area, Mary's Wash west of Carlin, and immediately north of Wells right off U.S. Highway 93."

Vanderpool continued, "In several cases, people have dumped garbage which includes personal information. We're following up on those situations now. Given that the fines for illegal dumping on public lands can be hundreds of dollars, it's hard to understand why people don't simply make a trip to the landfill - even if it involves an hour's drive. It boils down to the simple fact that someone has to eventually haul garbage or unwanted items to a landfill. Should it be the responsibility of the individual generating the waste or should it be public tax dollars?"

Helen Hankins, BLM Elko Field Manager, commented, "Public lands are America's front yard - or back yard - depending on your point of view. Public lands are for people to use and enjoy. No one likes to come across dirty diapers or other refuse strewn about in their favorite recreating area."

"Because the land ownership pattern in northeast Nevada is so intermixed, violators can be dumping on private lands. Besides the trashy behavior shown in dumping garbage on public lands, illegal dumping can create health and safety hazards as well. We ask that people treat public lands with the respect they deserve. The bottom line, however, is that we will investigate these illegal activities and prosecute to the fullest extent possible. We ask that if people witness illegal dumping, please contact the BLM Elko Field Office at (775) 753-0200," Hankins concluded.

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