

WHAT IS YTEP DOING ABOUT ILLEGAL DUMPING?

Yurok Tribal Laws

- Prohibiting Pollutants Ordinance– illegal dumping can result in fines up to \$ 1,500 per offense, plus clean up cost & up to 300 hrs community service.
- Vehicle Abatement Ordinance
- Blight Ordinance

Environmental Complaints

Anonymously report illegal dumping. You can get the complaint form at the Yurok Tribal website www.yuroktribe.org/departments/ytep. If no internet access, report information regarding environmental concern or damage to YTEP. For example: what, where, when, etc.

YTEP recently helped clean up 3 large illegal dumpsites on the up-river portion of the reservation. Many tons of household garbage, appliances, cars and other unwanted waste were removed from Abbot's, Roach Creek and Johnson Rd dumpsites, which required great expense and effort to remove the large amount of waste from very steep hillsides.

YTEP continues to apply for grant money to clean up illegal dumpsites and removing junk cars. Unfortunately these funding sources won't last forever, therefore it's essential that the reservation community help prevent illegal dumping.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION:

YTEP (707) 482-1822
yuroktribe.org/departments/ytep

Del Norte County Solid Waste Authority (707) 465-1100
www.recycledelnorte.ca.gov

Del Norte Disposal now called "RECOLOGY Del Norte" (For curbside garbage pick-up in Klamath)
(707) 464-4181
www.recologydelnorte.com

Humboldt Waste Management Authority (707) 268-8680
www.humboldtrecycling.org

Weitchpec Transfer Site
Highway 169

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
www.epa.gov

North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District
www.ncuaqmd.org

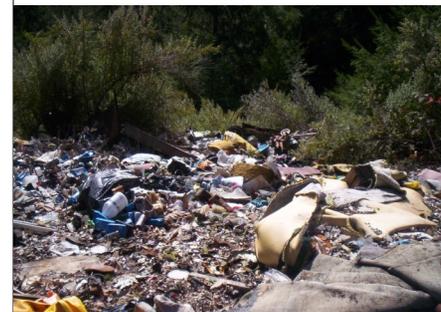
Some of the information used in this brochure was adopted from:

U.S. E.P.A backyard burning webpage
www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/backyard

www.humboldtrecycling.org

www.recycledelnorte.ca.gov

Reducing Illegal Dumping on the Yurok Indian Reservation



WHAT TRIBAL MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW TO PROTECT THEIR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Dumping household waste is a long-standing practice in many rural areas including the Yurok Indian Reservation. Toxins from illegal dumps contain dangerous chemicals that affect your health and pollute our environment.



**Yurok Tribe
Environmental Program-YTEP**

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ILLEGAL DUMPING IS A HEALTH HAZARD

Open dumping of household trash, appliances, vehicles, construction debris and other unwanted items is an outdated practice that should be discontinued. Dumping household trash off of roadsides and other places has been practiced for generations on the Yurok Indian Reservation. Dumping trash is no longer acceptable. In the past, approved and safe disposal of trash was often not easily available and required driving long distances off of the reservation. Improperly depositing trash is damaging to both our health and our environment. Garbage dumping near waterways produces many toxic chemicals. Several tribes and states, including the Yurok Tribe and the State of California have already banned improperly dumping trash.

How is Illegal Dumping Hazardous?

Garbage should only be disposed of at approved container sites such as the Weitchpec Transfer Station or the Klamath Transfer Station. Illegal dumping is not only ugly it can also be hazardous to your health; the health of plants and animals, and the health of the environment. Illegal dumps can create a public health hazard by polluting reservation soils, streams, ground water, and wildlife. Improperly disposing of waste:

- Effects drinking water because many residences rely on wells or creek water.
- Garbage can release toxic chemicals when exposed to sunlight and weathering which can contaminate soils and ground water.
- Plastics can take many years to fully break down, therefore prolonging possible exposure to toxic chemicals.
- Can kill wildlife that eat plastics by suffocating wildlife or filling their stomachs with indigestible plastics.

YUROK CULTURE

Yurok Culture teaches us to respect the land & our resources. Healthy people require a healthy environment. Many Yurok people eat acorns, berries, fish and game. Basketweavers process plant materials through their mouths. All of these resources can be contaminated by illegal dumping. Illegal dumping may cost less money than properly disposing trash but it greatly impacts our health, and culture, as well as future generations.

Alternatives to illegal dumping

- Practice the three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- Compost yard waste and other unwanted plant materials. Create a compost pile by mixing equal parts brown material with green material. Mix with a pitchfork at least once per week. Keep pile as wet as a sponge.
- Studies have shown that by Reducing, Reusing, Recycling and Composting, up to 70% of total waste can be diverted from landfills.
- Proper disposal of waste is readily available at the Weitchpec and Klamath Transfer stations.
- Yurok Tribe Blue Bag Program is a pre-paid doorstep trash pick-up for downriver residents.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

There are many free and low cost alternatives to backyard burning:

- **Reduce.** You can reduce the amount of waste you generate by using durable, long-lasting goods and avoiding disposable items; for example buy cloth diapers instead of disposable diapers. Buy products in bulk; and look for products with less packaging.
 - **Reuse.** Reusing items is another way to reduce the amount of waste you generate. Repair, sell, or donate used or unwanted items or organize a neighborhood swap event or yard sale. One person's trash is another person's treasure!
 - **Recycle.** Upriver at the Weitchpec Transfer site, cans, bottles, glass, batteries and motor oil can be dropped off for free. In Willow Creek, Popko Recycling pays for cans, bottle and glass recycling. Popko # (530) 629-2054. Plastic shopping bags are recycled at Hoopa Rays. The Klamath Transfer Station has free drop off for, plastic bottles, cans, glass and newspaper. Julindra Recycling in Crescent City pays CRV for cans, bottles and glass. Julindra # (707) 464-CANS. There are numerous used motor oil drop off locations in Crescent City. Residents on the YIR can contact YTEP for scrap metal recycling.
 - **Compost.** Composting is a great way to dispose of yard trimmings and food scraps, while creating a natural, free fertilizer. As long as you don't dispose of meat or animal parts, you should not attract wildlife.
 - **Properly Dispose of Waste.** Don't burn or dump illegally. Waste disposal is available throughout the reservation. Household waste should be taken to the Weitchpec Transfer Station or the Klamath Transfer Station. Curbside garbage service is available upriver through the Blue Bag Program. Blue Bags can be purchased at the Weitchpec Transfer Station, the Weitchpec Tribal Office or call YTEP (707) 482-1822. In the Klamath area Del Norte Disposal offers curbside waste collection service. (707) 464-4181.
- Stop junk mail.** Call 888-5-OPT-OUT