

For discussion, and possible adoption as a resolution, I am submitting these findings and goals regarding trash in Round Valley:

## **TRASH December 2025**

### **FINDINGS-**

The amounts of household garbage, random trash, recyclables, household appliances and abandoned vehicles in the Round Valley Area has increased in the last decade to an unacceptable level.

There's garbage and debris on the side of the roads, down the hill from the turnouts on the state highway, in the creeks and stacking up in people's yards.

1. No recyclables buy back method is available here. The deposit a person pays on a glass bottle or aluminum container can not be redeemed without driving almost fifty miles one way. The official local transfer station will accept recyclables for free, but no longer pays for aluminum cans.
2. Disposal fees for household garbage are continuing to be more and more expensive and a lot of people here just don't have the money to properly dispose of their household garbage.
3. Appliances, such as washing machines, kitchen stoves and water heaters all wear out eventually and the official county transfer station does not accept any of these types of items. A person has to deliver the broken appliances to the transfer station in Willits to dispose of something like this. Again, the almost fifty mile one way trip assuming one has a vehicle which can transport a household appliance.
4. Certain particular parcels of land in the Valley have become casual, un-official locations for dumping garbage, appliances and broken vehicles. There are progressively more and more of these places and they are contributing to a general perception of blight and an acceptance that it is now OK to establish a garbage dump or junkyard on your property.
5. The various authorities with the jurisdiction and ability to enforce existing ordinances and civil codes for public safety or proper land use are not particularly effective. The penalties for dumping or accumulating excessive amounts of garbage, debris and abandoned vehicles on one's property are either not enforced or are not a deterrent.
6. Perhaps the greatest resource of Round Valley is the outstanding natural beauty. The increasing level of garbage scattered about and the development of dump sites is a trend which is not acceptable.

### **GOALS and PROPOSED ACTIONS**

1. Establish a recyclable buyback program and location, preferably at the county transfer station.
2. Lower the costs to properly dispose of household garbage. Determine the existing costs for the present program and attempt to arrive at cost estimates for alternatives.

3. Limit the frequency of large household appliances dumped in the creek beds and adjacent off road areas. Establish a program to accept these types of items at the established county transfer station for a minimal fee, or completely free.
4. Seek awareness from the state and federal government of our trash problem and encourage some legislation for funding allocations or secure the resources from existing funded programs to address the need for more effective trash disposal and recycling in Round Valley.
5. Limit the incentive to dump garbage off the side of the state highway and in the creek beds. Perhaps increase the number and locations of "No Dumping" signage, perhaps the signage should be bi-lingual, initiate enforcement of penalties for dumping, or even establish a form of surveillance at a few of the most notorious locations.
6. Establish a regular dialog with the County of Mendocino Solid Waste Department to collaborate with developing some alternatives for more effective trash collection and disposal.
7. Determine how other localities which seem to have less of a trash problem finance the costs of collection of solid waste.
8. Investigate how other localities enforce their existing ordinances and laws governing land use, trash and abandoned vehicles.

-Lew Chichester