

## Northern Cheyenne Illegal Dumping

Arnie Lafanier, Northern Cheyenne Solid Waste Coordinator:



### Campaign Hopes to End Illegal Dumping

Arnie Lafanier, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Solid Waste Coordinator, in conjunction with the Heather Latray of the Billings Area Indian Health Service orchestrated the removal of 1016.44 tons of solid waste at a cost of \$345,019.55 in 2008. The Indian Health Service works with tribal councils, utilities, and environmental staff to prioritize solid waste, water and wastewater infrastructure projects. According to Latray, "IHS attempts to serve all Indian communities, however rural, with convenient solid waste disposal sites so as to improve living standards, keep Indian people safe and healthy".

It is important to keep in mind that injuries may result from illegal dumps; examples include injuries from sharp or pointed objects and fires from flammable materials. Illegal dumps may also contribute to vector control problems, diseases spreading from rodents and insects. Jodee Dennison, Billings Area Injury Prevention Coordinator said, "It is difficult to identify the actual number of injuries that may occur on the reservation from solid waste".

The Montana Indian Country CARE Project, out of Rocky Mountain College supported the project by designing and purchasing signs for each of the sites. Signs include a photograph of the site before clean-up occurred, and the Northern Cheyenne Ordinance which prohibits illegal dumping 17(90), Code 7-7-14. Arnie Lafanier believes the signs will really help deter people from illegal dumping, "It is our hope that these signs will stop people from dumping their waste, together we can really

clean-up the reservation". The project aims to reduce illegal dumping by educating community about the cost and impact illegal dumps have on the environment. By cleaning-up illegal dump sites we can decrease injuries and disease while promoting a healthier way of life for American Indian people.

**No Dumping Signs Posted**

Site	Tons of Waste	Cost
IHS Housing	41.08	\$13,351.00
Robinson	38	\$13,295.50
Ashland Flats	79	\$29,561.25
Littlebird	55.51	\$19,428.50
Rabbit Town	97.47	\$38,013.30
Clinton Small	226	\$92,532.90
Sweet Medicine	98.27	\$31,937.50
Walking Horse Creek	174.09	\$69,636.00

**New Clean-ups as of 12/15/08**

Site	Tons of Waste	Cost
Solider Gulch	24.13	\$4,343.40
Two Moons	108.03	\$19,445.40
Fox Site	74.86	\$13,474.80