

LS_SDNM_RMP_1-17564

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Wildcat dump sites

Comment Number: 1

Cited Content: Currently, recreational target shooting is dispersed throughout the SDNM; however, the activity is concentrated near the northern boundary along the El Paso Natural Gas Company pipeline road, and at smaller sites adjacent to State Route 238 and Vekol Valley Road. During October-November, 2008 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) removed six tons of debris from recreational target shooting sites in these areas.

Cited Section ID: G.2 Introduction

Comment Title: Wildcat dump sites

Issue: 10657

Comment:

As a responsible target shooter, nothing is more deplorable or revolting than seeing such ugly sites while out in the Maricopa Mountain area. We understand better than anyone else how terrible these trash dumps are. Almost without exception they are located close to paved roads and so over decades they have been used for illegal dumping. But I don't believe it's fair to place the blame exclusively on recreational shooters. The vast majority of shooters bring appropriate targets that do not leave any mess behind. We also pack out our trash like any other responsible user in the area. I believe it's unfair to paint all recreational shooters, in such a bad light and then use it to deny them access to these public lands. It's hard to imagine anyone digging up fenceposts to use as targets. Emptying out a trailer filled with construction debris is not something recreational shooters tend to do. It's something illegal wildcat dumpers do. Once the trash is there, shooting it does not improve the scenery. But it doesn't make all recreational shooters responsible for the illegal dumping.

Closing the area to shooting, will not decrease the frequency of illegal dumping. Using it as an excuse to ban recreational shooting is unfair in the extreme.