

Standing Rock Scrap Tire Removal Project

Standing Rock Indian Reservation encompasses all of Corson County in South Dakota, and Sioux County in North Dakota. Tribal EPA personnel were extremely concerned with the high number of scrap tires that were ending up in piles and/or scattered at various locations across the Reservation (*Some of them are even brought in from outside the reservation boundaries*). These abandoned scrap tires posed a health, safety, and environmental hazard to area residents, and the project sponsors were determined to do everything they could to alleviate this hazard. One of the biggest hurdles, and most challenging reality, was the high cost associated with collecting and hauling the tires to an approved landfill or recycle center.

Project sponsors requested RC&D assistance to help coordinate and locate funding sources for a scrap tire collection and recycle project on Standing Rock (SR). Tatanka RC&D (Bison, SD) and Dakota Prairies RC&D (Bismarck, ND) have since been providing assistance for this project that began in earnest in 2007. As the project took root, additional partners became involved: NRCS, SR Conservation District, SR Solid Waste Dept. SR Roads Dept., and SR Law Enforcement. The partners worked together to coordinate the tire collection campaign, and to provide funding and volunteers to get it started. Funding for the first removal phase was provided by: Dakota Prairies, the SR Conservation District, SR EPA, and the SR Solid Waste Department. Tribal Roads Dept. and Tribal Law Enforcement provided equipment, fuel and department and inmate labor to get the tires hauled to the two collection sites, and load the trucks for final delivery to the recycler. Over 90 ton of scrap tires (approximately 6400 tires) were removed in Phase I, at a cost of almost \$19,000, plus many hours of donated time and labor.

In June, 2009, the **Dakota Prairies RC&D Council** was awarded a **\$25,000 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation** to provide needed funding for **Phase II of the Removal Project**. With this latest infusion of funding, another 125 ton of scrap tires were removed, cleaning up all of the tires from the Fort Yates site. There are still just as many tires at one other site, and partners are now gearing up to implement Phase III of this important community project. About one-half of the removed tires are shredded for recycling, and the other half are utilized in an approved landfill.



Some of the tires collected at the Fort Yates Site.



Only a few tires left at the Fort Yates Site, after Phase II of the project .



Local Jail inmates assist with the loading process.



Tribal EPA representative Martin Gipp being interviewed by local TV media.