

News for release

Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District

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**Agreement signed with Tribes for Reservation refuse disposal**

(Lander, Wyo.) - A cooperative agreement was reached July 15, 2013 between the Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District, and the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes (Tribes). It is believed that this agreement will create a viable long-term solution to solid waste management on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

The 3-year-long agreement is to be facilitated by the Wind River Environmental Quality Commission for the Tribes. In this agreement, the District will provide \$250,000 per year to the Tribes to fully operate and manage the solid waste management system while all disposal fees would be paid by the Tribes as per the prevailing rates established by the District. Additionally, the Tribes will staff all the sites, haul all of the waste, and provide all equipment necessary to haul and fully operate the sites.

The first six months of the agreement will be considered the "transition period" to allow the Tribes to acquire all of the necessary equipment and begin construction on necessary facilities. During this period the District will continue to haul the waste for the Tribes as needed, however, the Tribes will reimburse the District for costs associated with the hauling. All other aspects of the approved agreement will be in effect during the transition period.

The existing contract between the District and Tribes had expired June 30<sup>th</sup>. There are four transfer station impacted by this agreement, at Crowheart, Fort Washakie, Ethete and Arapahoe/Great Plains.