

News for Release

February 7, 2014

Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District

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www.trashmatters.org

Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District Seeks Volunteers to Help Create Fish Habitat out of Christmas Trees

On Saturday, February 15, 2014, volunteers are invited to help create structures for fish habitat on Ocean Lake, near Pavillion. This project -- a partnership among Wyoming Game & Fish, the Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District, and Inberg-Miller Engineering -- provides an opportunity to recycle Christmas trees while improving the structure of the lake.

According to Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District supervisor Andy Frey, "Volunteers are essential to the success of this project. We encourage the community to come out, enjoy the day, and help increase fish habitat at Ocean Lake."

Since December 26, the District has collected 630 discarded live Christmas trees -- cleaned of tinsel and decorations, of course -- which will be transported to the frozen surface of Ocean Lake. Once there, volunteers and staff members will wire the trees together and attach cinder blocks as weights. The resulting formation creates the inland equivalent of an artificial reef. When the ice melts, the weighted trees will sink, providing structure for fish and improving the overall lake health.

Volunteers should meet at the boat landing on Long Point at 8 am, and bring pliers or wire cutters, and warm clothes. The project should be completed early afternoon.

For questions about disposal of waste or the District's operations, contact the District Office in Lander at (307) 332-7040 or visit www.trashmatters.org.