

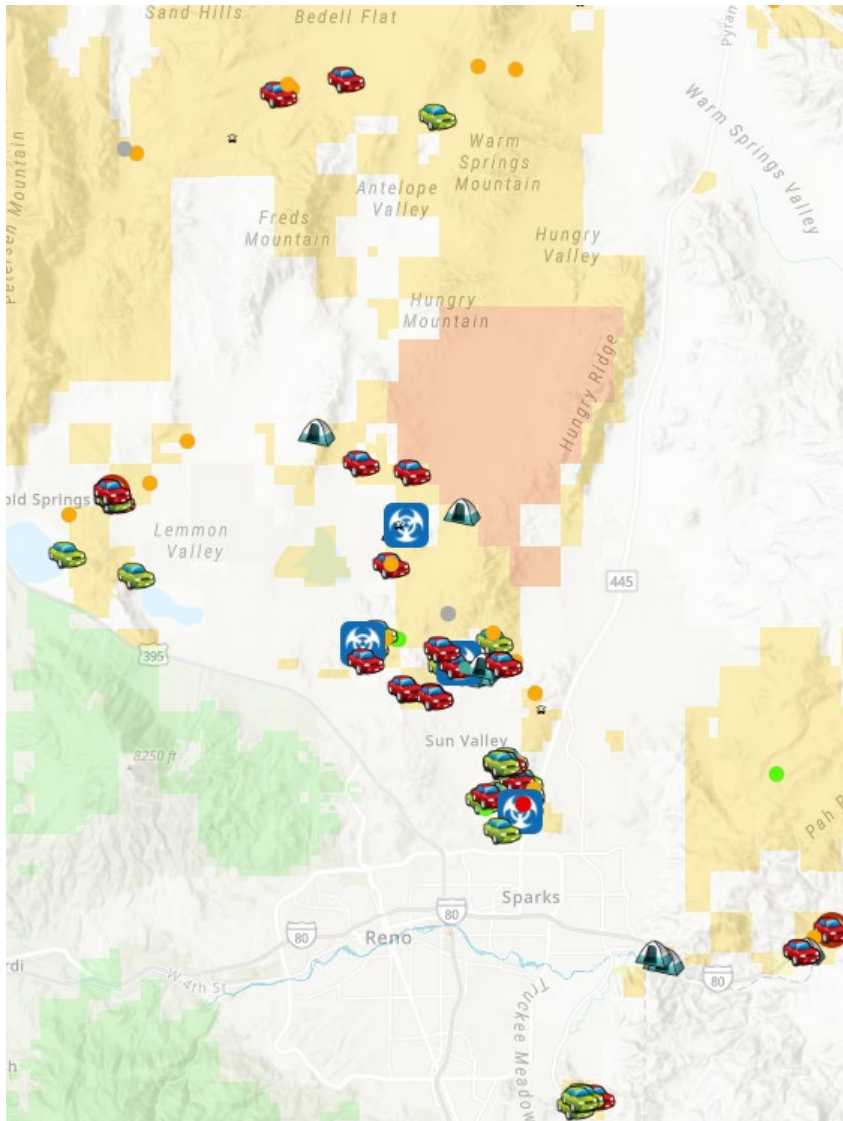


# BLM Response to Illegal Dumping -Reno Area

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ENFORCEMENT RANGER

NEVADA ZONE 1



# OVERVIEW: Reno Area

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One ranger oversees the greater Reno area, managing 1.7 million acres across five counties: Southern Washoe, Storey, and parts of Sierra, Plumas, and Lassen in California covering the smallest area of all Rangers in Northern Nevada but serves the highest population.

Day-to-day activities primarily focus on urban interface issues, which include:

- Illegal dumping of household and commercial/industrial waste
- Target shooting incidents
- Homeless encampments
- Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, along with associated camping and parties
- Vehicle dumping



EXAMPLE: Homelessness

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# EXAMPLE: Vehicle Dumping

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## EXAMPLE: Commercial and Household Dumping

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# EXAMPLE: Shooting Related Trash

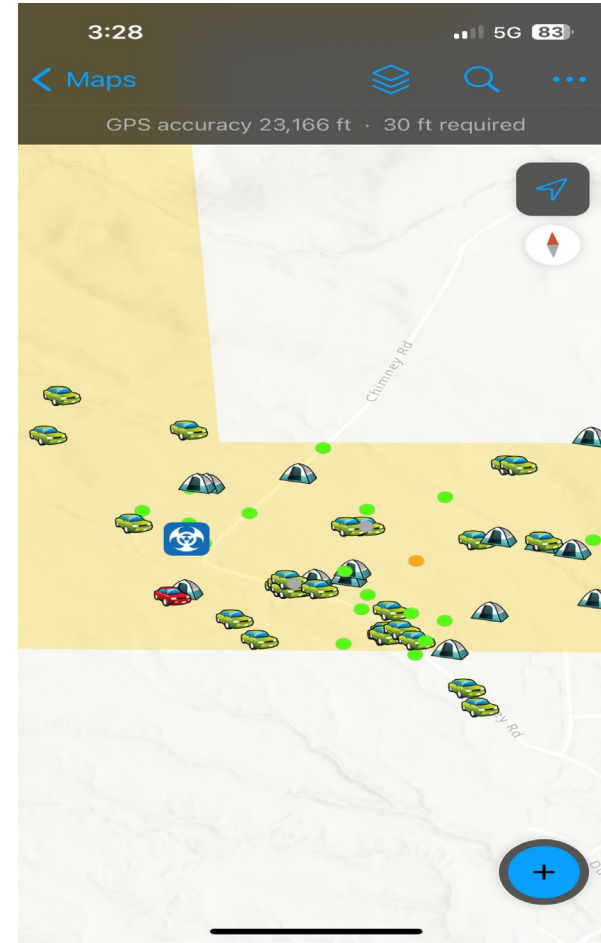
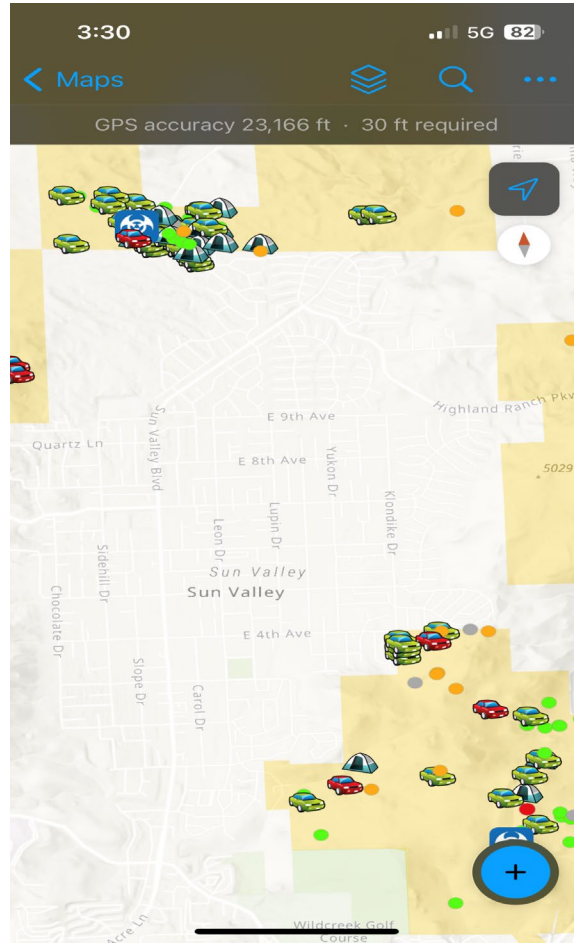
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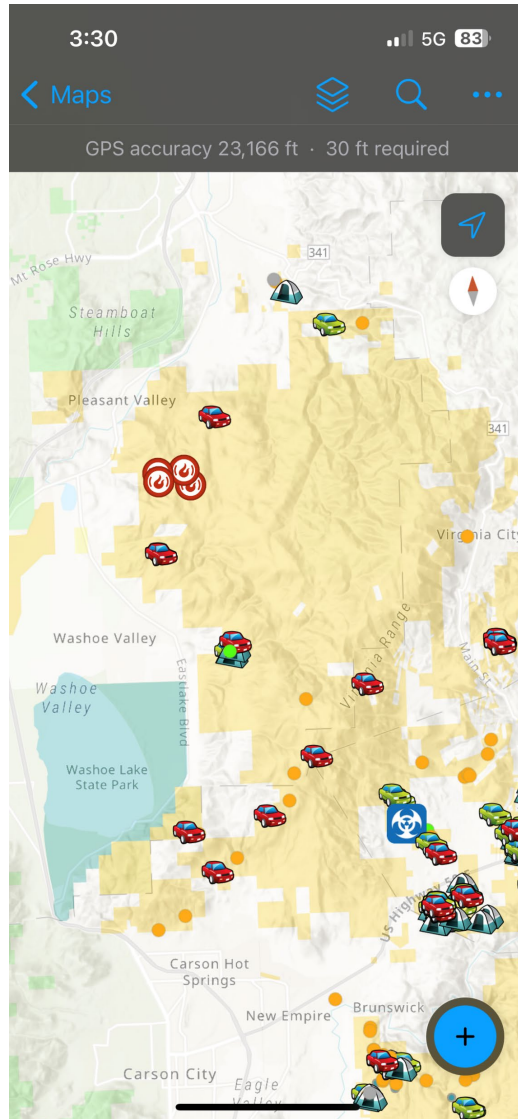
The issues can be categorized into three main areas:

- **Improper Target Practices:**
  - Utilization of cans, bottles, and similar items as targets without proper disposal, leading to litter.
  - Neglect in cleaning up spent shells, boxes, and other targets after shooting.
- **Larger Item Dumping:**
  - Illegal disposal of larger items, such as TVs and furniture, which are often shot at by individuals.
- **Leaving Behind Shooting Materials:**
  - Shooters leaving wooden target stands and pallets as a “courtesy” for others, which are eventually damaged or destroyed.

Additionally, the most found item, aside from bottles and cans, is spent helium tanks from parties. Enforcing regulations is particularly challenging because much of the litter consists of small items. Observing individuals throughout their shooting activities and subsequent trash disposal is time-consuming and complex.

# Sun Valley: High Urban Interface





# South Truckee Meadows and Washoe Valley

In the South Truckee Meadows basin, issues are statistically fewer and more dispersed. The area features limited Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, with notable locations including:

- Hidden Valley: Historically, known for homeless camps, along with occasional abandoned vehicles and shooting-related trash.
- Toll Road/Geiger Grade Area: Experiences sporadic dumping activities.
- Washoe Valley: Contains small parcels within the basin, resulting in lower impact recreational use.

The Virginia Range has larger swaths of land, where Jumbo Grade is the most heavily utilized area. Here, target shooting is scattered, and dumping locations are less predictable. Additionally, OHV and equestrian activities are frequently observed throughout the region.



# Enforcement Approach



To enhance enforcement and address issues, the following strategies are implemented:

- **Proactive Patrols:** Prioritize high-volume and high-incident areas to ensure effective monitoring and quick response.
- **Public Engagement:** Focus on consensual public contacts to build relationships and increase community trust.
- **Criminal Activity Response:** Conduct enforcement contacts when crimes in progress are observed.
- **Local Engagement:** Develop relationships with residents to serve as "eyes and ears" in the community, aiding in problem identification.
- **Incident Investigation:** Thoroughly investigate reported dumping sites and those encountered during patrols, looking for any identifying information.
- **Witness Interviews:** Speak with witnesses to gather additional information related to dumping incidents.
- **Surveillance Analysis:** Review surveillance footage, when applicable, to identify suspect vehicles involved in illegal dumping.
- **Cleanup Facilitation:** Organize cleanups to combat the "broken windows theory," which highlights how visible signs of disorder can lead to increased dumping activity.
- **Community Partnerships:** Collaborate with organizations such as Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, as well as various off-road and cleanup groups, to enhance cleanup efforts and community awareness.



# INVESTIGATIONS

**To address illegal dumping involves traditional investigative techniques, including:**

- **Thorough Investigation:** Digging through trash to uncover documents and labels containing names and addresses, such as bills and receipts.
- **Locating Responsible Parties:** Attempting to identify the individual responsible for the dumping. This process can take multiple days and is not always straightforward, as the dumper may not be the individual who left the trash.
- **Diverse Situations:** The responsible party may include paid cleaners or dumpers, prior tenants' mail, or multiple residents involved in the activity.
- **Utilizing Resources:** If the responsible party cannot be found at the identified residence, other resources are leveraged, including checking law enforcement databases for new addresses and searching social media for additional information.

**Challenges leading to potential dead ends or cold cases include:**

- The absence of identifiable names or addresses in the dumped materials.
- The dumper might not have a current address or could be homeless.
- Residents may have paid someone for disposal services but cannot identify that individual.

This same investigative routine applies to abandoned vehicles, ensuring a thorough search for evidence and accountability.



# Game Cams: The Force Multiplier





# Two Main Types of Cameras:

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## CELLULAR ENABLED:

Great for Low traffic areas or dumping hot spots.

### Benefit:

- Real-Time Monitoring: Photos are delivered in real-time, allowing for the identification and catching of dumpers in the act.

### Cost:

- Higher Expenses: The technology can be more expensive, and the data management can be resource-intensive.
- False Triggers: There is a possibility of receiving numerous unwanted images due to false triggers, complicating the review process.

## NON-CELLULAR:

Great for high volume areas where most traffic is not dumping.

### Benefit:

- Post-Discovery Review: Once a dump is found, the memory card can be reviewed to potentially identify the suspect involved in the dumping.

### Cost:

- Delayed Discovery: This method does not provide real-time monitoring, which means that dumps can remain undiscovered for weeks, allowing for continued illegal activity.

**\*\*In the case of both camera types, the trash must usually be visible to make the case works best for larger items or large loads of trash.**

# Success Example Non-Cellular

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# Success Example Cellular





# LIMITATIONS: A license plate helps.







# Cleanups/Partnerships: Teamwork!

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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) faces limitations, as it does not have a dedicated budget, staff or equipment to address trash dumps. However, there is some funding available for the cleanup of hazardous materials (HAZMAT).

To facilitate cleanups, BLM partners with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB), which coordinates most public land cleanups in the greater Reno area. The Reno area Ranger plays a vital role in organizing impromptu cleanups in collaboration with local off-road and cleanup groups, including:

- Hill's Angels 4x4
- Reno Area Dirt Riders (RAD)
- Friends of Moonrocks
- The Desert Pigs

Additionally, BLM benefits from the efforts of numerous volunteers who regularly pick up trash and litter at popular sites like Moonrocks on a weekly basis, helping to maintain the cleanliness and safety of public lands.

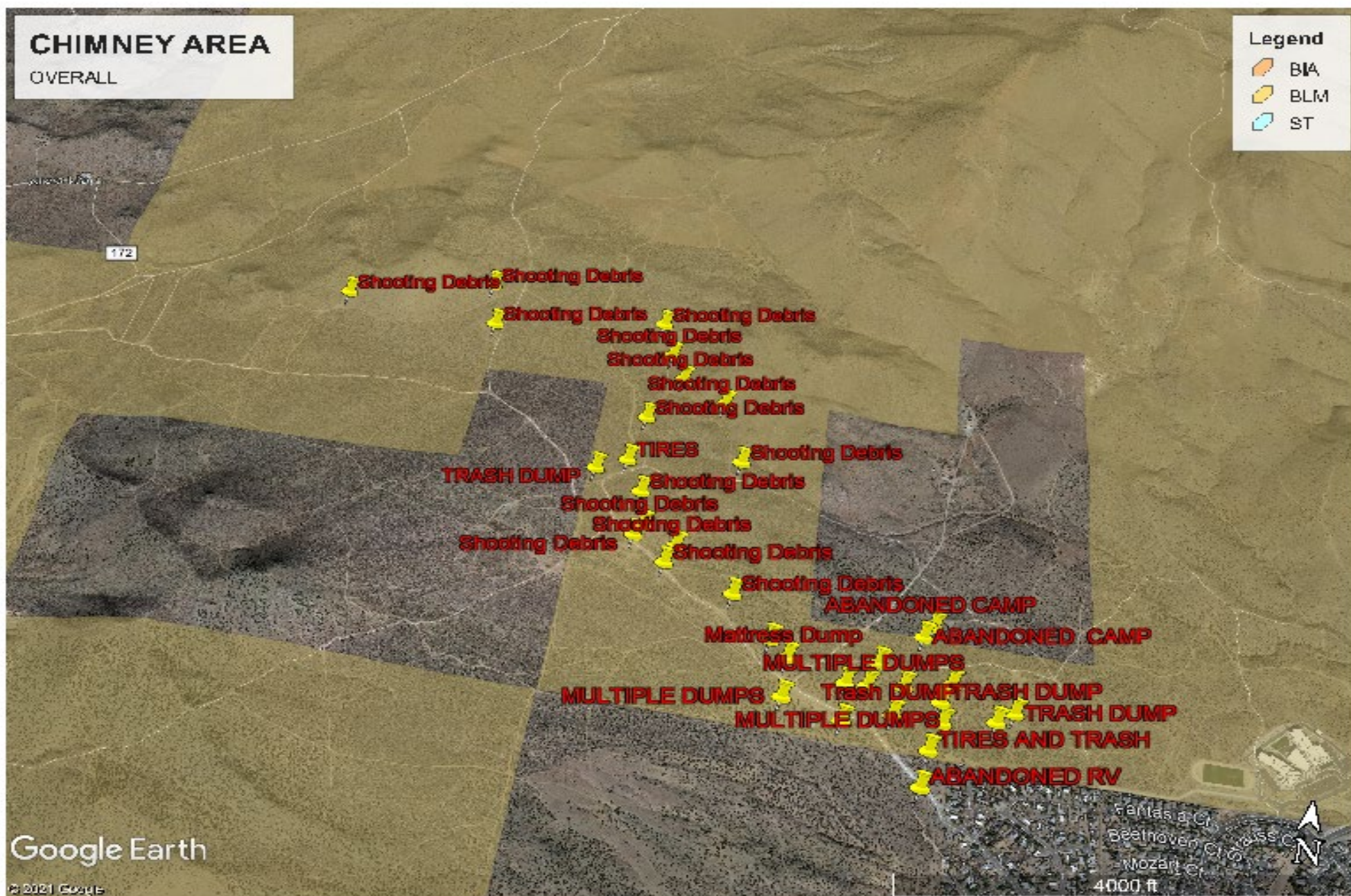


# CHIMNEY AREA

OVERALL

## Legend

- BIA
- BLM
- ST



Google Earth

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4000 ft

Gallop Cr  
Beethoven Cr  
Mozart Cr  
Miss Cr





# Take Aways:

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Proactive management strategies, particularly through urban interface camping closures, have resulted in a significant reduction of trash and vehicle accumulation related to homelessness.

Similarly, proactive law enforcement, characterized by a consistent patrol presence and prompt investigations leading to accountability, has effectively reduced the dumping of household and commercial waste as well as shooting-related trash. Increased patrol presence combined with educational efforts has also contributed to a decline in shooting-related litter.

Additionally, partnerships and organized cleanups have successfully restored many areas, making them less appealing for dumping activities. As a result, new dumping sites are more easily identifiable.