

## Trash Talk 2

As many of you are already aware, there are some big changes happening at the transfer station. After months of looking over the data, observing how things “flow,” looking for ways to cut costs, and asking for public input, the Clearwater County Board of Commissioners have decided to increase solid waste fees. The increase was advertised in the Clearwater Tribune, a public hearing was held, and the Resolution was signed into effect as of March 1, 2021.

There have been many questions asked from the public, and the Commissioners would like to clear up any confusion out there. First off, we are aware that there are many people who live further out in the county and do not make daily or weekly trips to town. They generally will bring their trash every few weeks, so there will be a pick-up load, if it is household trash, there will be no charge for Clearwater County residents. This applies to both sites.

Waste such as construction and demolition materials, roofing material, furniture, carpet, and large bulky items are not covered under the residential solid waste fee. These wastes and other materials are subject to additional charges. Residents, contractors, and businesses will be charged when bringing in debris from remodel, roofing, construction, tear downs, and clean ups (anything other than normal household kitchen and bathroom waste). These loads will be charged at \$77.00 per ton. All garbage and debris from out of county will be charged \$5.00 per bag or \$77.00 per ton, at the Orofino transfer station. The cost at the Timberline (Weippe) site will be level pick-up bed load: \$20.00, pick-up bed with racks: \$40.00, trailer loads: \$60.00 and dump truck loads: \$80.00. Again, this does not apply to household garbage.

The cost for Solid Waste to dispose of tires has increased resulting in a fee increase for us to accept them. The new cost is \$2.50 per tire or \$5.00 if it is on a rim.

Refrigerators, freezers, and A/C units are now \$5.00 each to dispose of. Solid waste has guidelines and costs associated with the disposal of these items. At this time, we feel that \$5.00 each will cover the cost of proper disposal.

Another big change is requiring proof of residency and service address at the Transfer Station. Residents of Clearwater County disposing of solid waste or any other materials at the Orofino and Timberline Transfer Stations shall produce proof of residency and service address from which waste material was generated prior to disposal. Acceptable documents for proof of residency and service address include current county tax bill with solid waste fee shown, current city utility bill, current electrical bill, vehicle registration and/or driver’s license matching residential user and service address from which the solid waste material was generated. We have a lot of out of county and state plates come into the sites, and we are wanting to verify that we are not getting trash from out of the county.

The hope of the Commissioners is to get the Solid Waste department solvent, and feel that by implementing the fee increases, verifying residency, and other cost saving measures, that can be achieved.