

Circus Waste

Now that the monsoons have put the fires out, over at the fire cache you might see someone line up 15 chainsaws in a row and run the dozer over them. You might see someone cutting up ATVs with a cutting torch. You might see someone cutting the handles off piles of hand tools. They cut the handles off flush with the metal so it's a pain in the ass to get the old handle out. They bring good money on EBay. They're very high quality and they're not available for sale to the public. You might see a pile of high quality metal fuel jugs; every one bashed in with an axe. Someone will be cutting up piles and piles of sleeping bags, most of which could be easily cleaned and given to homeless folks. I've seen and heard dozens of firsthand accounts of wanton waste after fires. Pallets of new chainsaw parts. Pallets of hand tools. Thousands of feet of hose. Hundreds of meal packs... Dumped in a hole and buried. I heard one firsthand account of armed guards at the landfill to prevent scavenging. This is typical of the day to day operation of the U.S. Forest Service. The official Forest Service policy that everything that is disposed of must be so thoroughly destroyed that it can never be used again, in combination with the desire for new equipment every year, has been in place for at least 45 years that I know of. Almost all of it is good used equipment, bought and paid for by the American taxpayer. Every other government agency auctions or donates their used equipment. If you look into it, you'll be appalled at the level of waste.