

HB 560 Opposition Testimony

2/16/09

Presented by:

Mark Nelson, Program Manager for the Lake County Solid Waste Management District;
Chair Montana Recycling Association; Board member Recycle Montana, Inc.; Board Member of the
Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2/16/09
HB 560

Today I am here on behalf of Lake County, where I manage two landfills, seven rural container sites, one transfer station, and a brand new recycling center. I am opposed to HB560. To quote The Handbook of Landfill Operations, "Many people have been seriously injured or killed while scavenging at landfills.

Salvaging as defined in the Solid Waste Association of North America's Manager of Landfill Operations or MOLO course is the "**controlled**" separation of recyclable or reusable materials. "Controlled," means that the separation is actively monitored by solid waste operators. Monitoring would require hiring additional employees by the operators, something not represented in this bill, there is no fiscal note showing local impact.

Scavenging as defined in the MOLO course is the "**uncontrolled**" separation, where an operator does not monitor the separation and in fact generally prohibits it. A scavenger is a one who illegally removes materials at any point in the solid waste management system. I believe any authorization of salvaging will ultimately lead to uncontrolled scavenging.

MACO, the Montana Association of Counties, has established a working group to try to reduce potential risks and hazards associated with solid waste operations. As a member of that working group, I can comfortably tell you our recommendation will be to continue to prohibit salvaging at all solid waste facilities. Nothing in HB 560 provides the insurance to necessary protect the solid waste district.

There is virtually no way to comply with Section 2, lines 27 through 30, of this bill. Any attempt to protect human health and safety, and the environment, while maximizing salvaging is for all practical purposes mutually exclusive.

A short list of what a salvager might find besides the goodies he's looking for at a landfill include: blood-borne pathogens, sharps and needles (I've seen gallon buckets of syringes thrown into dumpsters), pesticides, asbestos, hazardous and toxic materials, gases and fumes, along with lots of dust. Other hazards also exist at landfills, such as heavy equipment, compacting and covering the waste on a daily basis, as required by state and federal regulations. When an 80,000 - pound compactor runs over something like a can of oil or pesticide, the spray can go a long way. Garbage trucks and self-haulers dumping their trash have enough trouble not running into each other without having to watch for salvagers too.

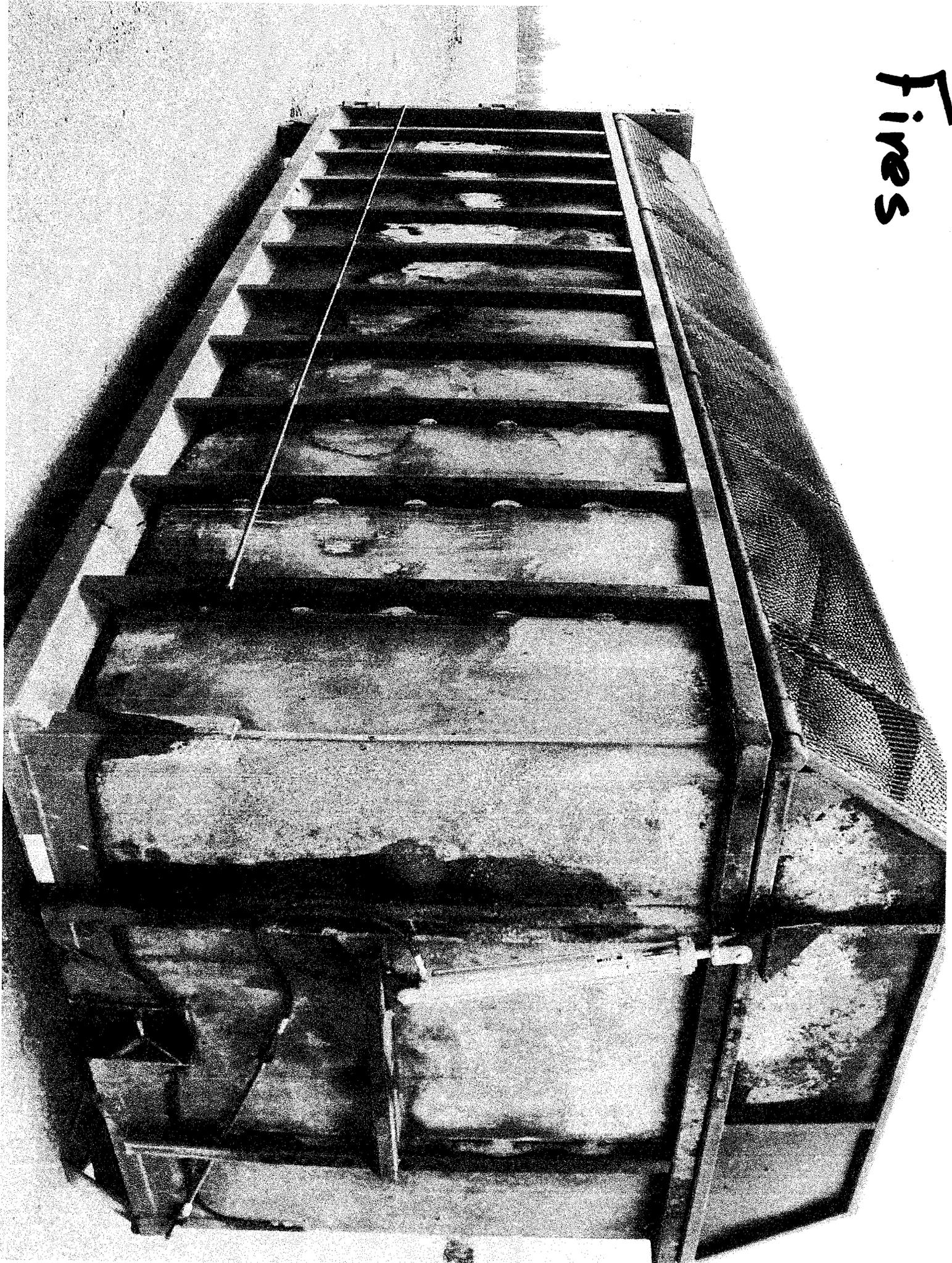
On January 12, this committee heard Rep Dickenson's bill HB35 to create a revolving loan account to fund recycling machinery and equipment. On January 31, this committee tabled HB35. That bill would do more to reduce the amount of waste sent to Montana's landfills and to help local governments and private entities start up recycling and waste reduction programs than this bill, HB 560, ever will. No responsible solid waste system operator will allow salvaging at his or her landfill or any other solid waste facility. The only way to divert solid waste effectively and safely from final disposal is to do it **before** it gets to a disposal site. Please table HB560 and if you really want to affect recycling in Montana, bring back HB35 and pass it into law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Heavy Equipment



Fires



TOXIC MATERIALS

Meridian Beverage Company, Inc
Atlanta, GA (800) 728-1481

15 1/8 x 10 1/2 x 6

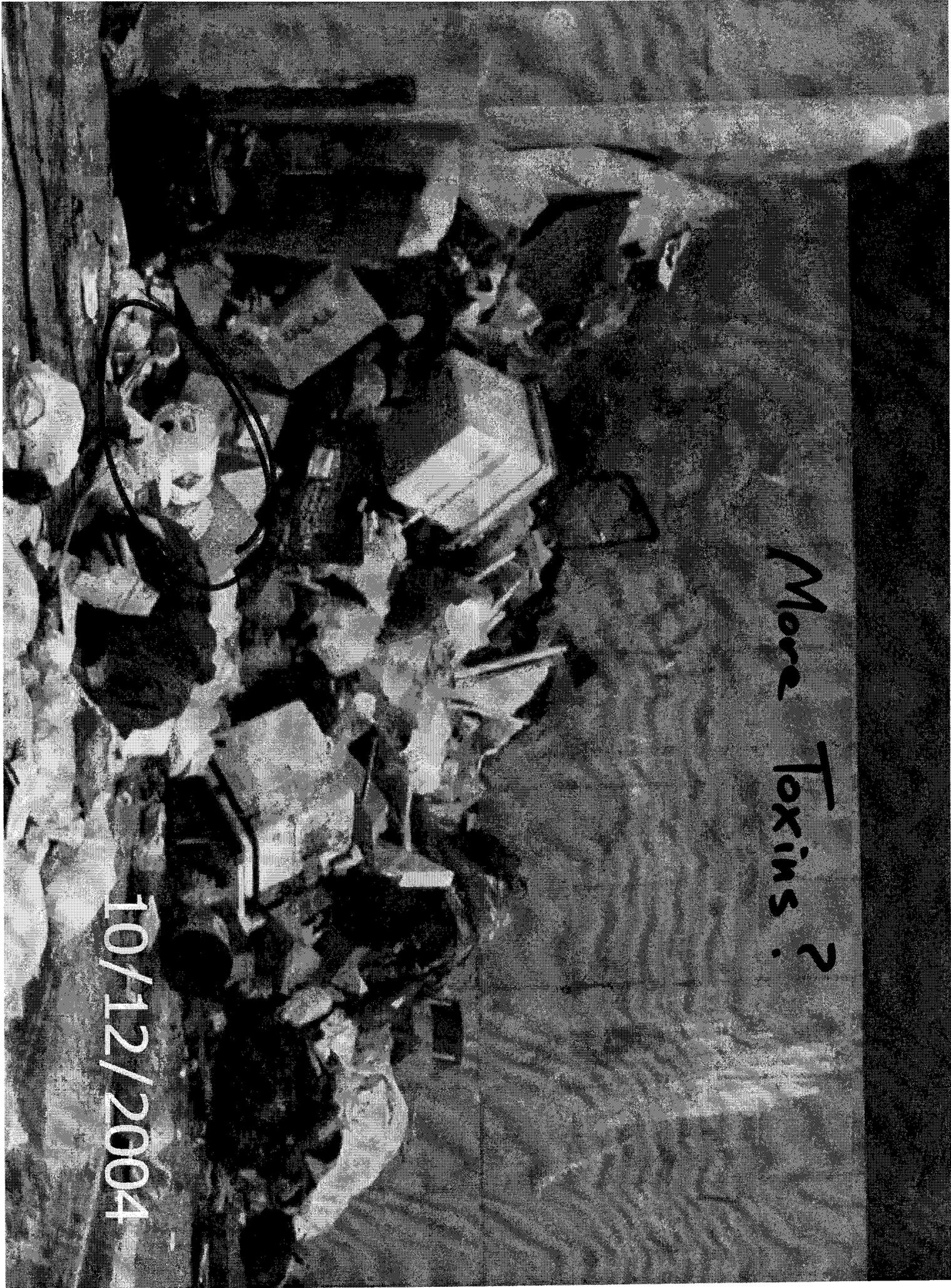
FIRST
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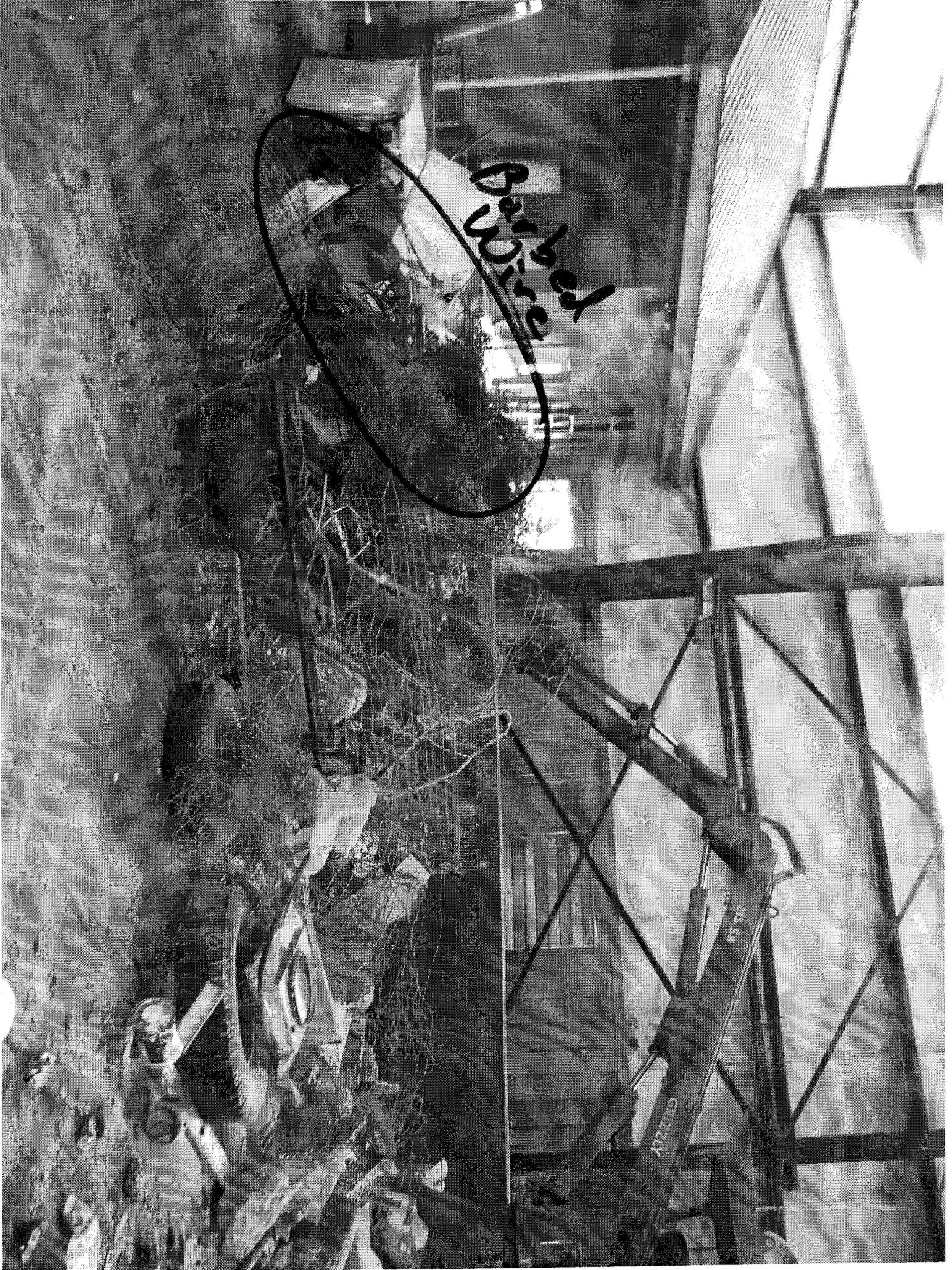


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More Toxins?

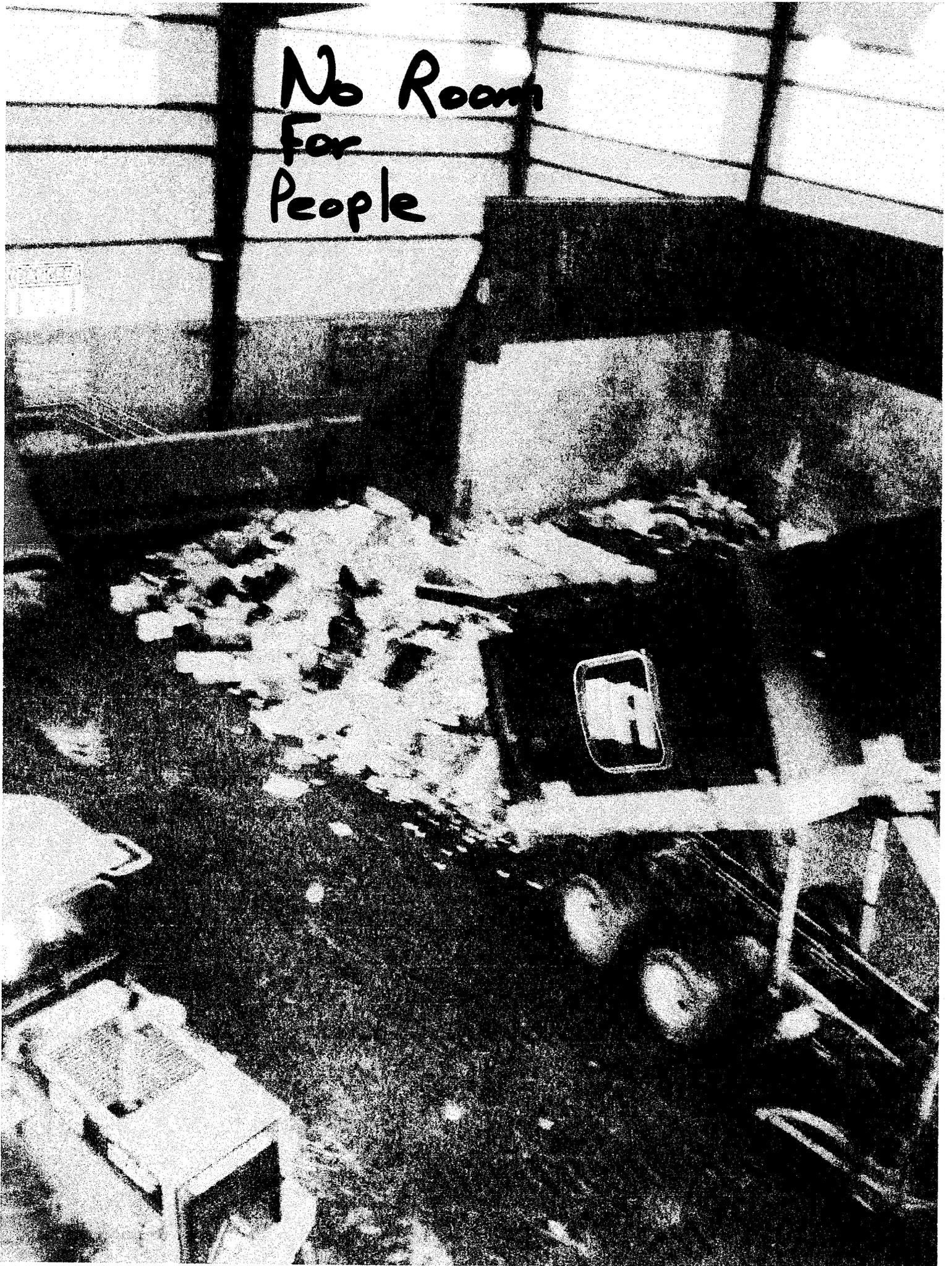
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Pond Area

No Room
For
People





The Future "Montana the Last Best Place"?



Lake County recycles 6-700 Tons of scrap metal now

