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STATE OF UTAH

SCHOOL & INSTITUTIONAL TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION

675 EAST 500 SOUTH, SUITE 500

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84102

TOOELE SCOUTS CLEAN UP GRAVEL PIT

More than 80 scouts and their leaders, from the Tooele District, spent their Saturday cleaning up a gravel pit south of Stockton, Utah. On Saturday, September 19, 2009, after a campout in the pit and competitions, the scouts used garbage sacks provided by Tooele County for the pickup. The county offered to pick up the filled bags and take them to the Tooele dump.

The gravel pit is located on a section owned by the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). The gravel pit has turned into an illegal shooting range/trash dump over the past several years. Thousands of shotgun and rifle shells litter the ground. Large boxes, bottles, clay pigeons and the occasional washing machine serve as targets. The targets and all of the spent shells are left in the pit.

The scouts, ages 11 through 14, were from 14 Tooele scout units. The idea of the cleanup was suggested at a district roundtable meeting. The scouts were scheduled to have a campout and games competition and added this community service to their weekend.

Matt Imlay, activities chairman for the district, said, "We try to instill a sense of personal responsibility in the boys. Hopefully, this experience will guide their future actions." The scouts were also surprised to learn that the land was not public land as some assume, but that the gravel pit was there to make money for the public schools of Utah.

SITLA is an independent state agency that manages 3.4 million acres of Utah trust lands for the benefit of Utah's schools and other public institutions. Money generated from the school trust lands is deposited in the state Permanent School Fund, a perpetual endowment that annually distributes income to each K-12 public school in Utah.

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Photos available on request