

Recycle Barrels Working

by Solveig Torvik

[Methow Grist](#)

10/17/2011

The six recycling barrels placed in [Winthrop](#) by [Methow Recycling Roundup](#) have kept some 80 to 90 garbage cans full of trash from going into the landfill over the last 24 weeks, according to Casey Bouchard, co-owner and operator of the firm. Half of the waste in the barrels was recyclable plastic, he reported at the [Winthrop Chamber of Commerce](#) meeting in the [Winthrop Barn](#) Thursday. The rest was recyclable aluminum and glass.

Glass is a sort of necessary evil," he said, alluding to its low value for recycling purposes; it costs \$80 a ton to process, he explained. "There wasn't a whole lot of glass," he added. "So it was a good program."

"The one at the [Tenderfoot](#) is always full," Bouchard noted, while the one at the visitors' center does not fill up. His firm emptied each barrel 35 times over the summer season, he added.

Recycling Roundup has an agreement with [Methow Recycles](#) in [Twisp](#) to deliver the recyclables it collects to the Twisp facility. "Our donations to Methow Recycles amount to about \$400 per month," Bouchard said. The recycling barrel program is sponsored by 10 Winthrop merchants who paid an upfront fee of \$100, plus a monthly charge of \$15 to \$25, in return for advertising space on the old wine barrels from [Lost River Winery](#). Local artist Brad Pinkerton painted the advertising on the barrels.

Bouchard is expanding the program to Twisp, where he expects to have 12 barrels in various high-traffic locations around town. He said he also hopes to add a barrel by Winthrop's new bridge. The upfront cost for merchants to participate is going up to \$150, he said, and the monthly fee also is likely to increase.