



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

G-1

For the meeting of: November 4, 2014

Date: October 24, 2014

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Estelle Fennell

Subject: Presentation on Clean Up Efforts Related to Marijuana Grow Sites in Humboldt County.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisor hear the presentation and take appropriate action, if required.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: Dr. Mourad Gabriel, Executive Director of the Integral Ecology Research Center will give a presentation to the Board of Supervisors on recent efforts to clean up trespass grow sites in Humboldt and Trinity Counties. The effort was a multi-agency effort with goals to document all toxicants found at marijuana cultivation sites on public and private lands and investigate all impacts to biotic and abiotic resources, remediate dismantled cultivation sites to restore habitat and remove risks to wildlife, determine if there are long-term impacts of toxicants on the environment, and model landscape-scale risk to wildlife habitats using data collected at sites.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

Signature: Estelle Fennell

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature

REVIEW:

Auditor County Counsel Personnel Risk Manager Other

TYPE OF ITEM:

- Consent
Departmental
Public Hearing
XX Other Special Presentation (15 minutes)

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.

Meeting of:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor Seconded by Supervisor

- Ayes
Nays
Abstain
Absent

Per Order of the Chair

and carried by those members present the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: Nov. 4, 2014
By: Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

Operation Synopsis: October 13-16th, 2014

Project Name: *Science with Solutions: Documentation, remediation and monitoring of the ecological impacts of marijuana cultivation on endangered species within California's Public and Tribal Lands*

Reclamation Organizers: Dr. Mourad Gabriel and Dr. Greta Wengert (IERC); Lt. R. Paul Gaske, Capt. Holly Spada, Capt. Nathaniel Arnold (CDFW-LED); Josh Smith (Watershed Center); Rick Fleming (ERT); Dan Ehresman (NEC); Craig Benson (RCAA); Alex Cousins (TCRCD)

Grant Principal Investigators: Dr. Mourad Gabriel, Dr. Greta Wengert (IERC); Dr. Deana Clifford (CDFW-WIL); Mark Higley (Hoopa Tribe)

Organizations Involved:

Governmental: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Law Enforcement Division & Wildlife Investigations Laboratory), US Forest Service, Army and Air National Guard, and Hoopa Tribe

Non-Governmental: Integral Ecology Research Center (IERC), The Watershed Center, Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD), Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA), Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC), Weaverville Volunteer Fire, and Environmental Reclamation Team of the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew (ERT)

Support: Logistical and financial support was contributed by the above-mentioned entities. Funding for the scientific documentation and reclamation of trespass marijuana sites was provided through a Section 6 grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Integral Ecology Research Center with the following goals:

1. Document all toxicants found at marijuana cultivation sites on public and private lands and investigate all impacts to biotic and abiotic resources
2. Remediate dismantled cultivation sites to restore habitat and remove risks to wildlife
3. Determine if there are long-term impacts of toxicants on the environment
4. Model landscape-scale risk to wildlife habitats using data collected at sites

Additional funding for reclamation was provided by a CalRecycle grant.

Number of trespass sites cleaned: 7

Location of sites: Six Rivers National Forest, Humboldt County (3 sites); Shasta-Trinity National Forest (1 Site), Trinity Alps Wilderness (3 sites), Trinity County

Watershed impacted: Trinity River

Personnel per day: 50 (14 Law Enforcement; 11 National Guard; 25 Science Team & Volunteers)

Total water diversion restored to watersheds: 67.5 million gallons (per grow season)

Total amount of fertilizer used at sites: 8,188 pounds

Total amount of rodenticide used at sites: 104 pounds

Insecticide used at sites: 560 gallons of usable insecticide

Carbofuran used at sites: 68 ounces of concentrated carbofuran (reconstitute to 60-70 gallons)

Garbage removed: 205 bags (50 gal) and 8.5 miles of irrigation line (collective total of 4 tons)

Net loads: 32 net loads (average: 250 pounds per net)

129th ANG Rescue HH-60G Pave Hawk refuels during net load operations: 1 (total for week)

