

From: [Harriet Hill](#)
To: [Lippre, Suzanne](#)
Cc: MRichardson@co.humboldt
Subject: Agricultural Exclusive (AE) Timber Production principally permitted use
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 3:14:33 PM

Suzanne – Please forward this message to the Planning Commissioners. Thanks.

Dear Planning Commissioners:

During the Planning Commission meeting on May 2, 2019 I learned that the Timber Exclusive Zone had been eliminated. This zone would have excluded all uses other than Timber Production. However, under the May 2, 2019 Zoning Text Amendments, the Timber Production use within the Agricultural Exclusive zone could include other types of agriculture. My major concern is that this would allow cannabis grows to be included in Timber Production areas.

In general, our County's remote timberlands provide the most suitable habitat for fish and wildlife simply because of the relative lack of human disturbance. But of course, their isolation has more recently made them ideal for illegal cannabis grows. The rampant deleterious impacts from the many large illegal grow operations on these public and private forest lands are well known. (See <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/illegal-marijuana-growing-threatens-california-national-forests/> which includes a National Geographic video of a raid on a massive grow in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest)

Thus, the fish and wildlife habitat within the County's less remote timberlands have become even more critical for many species. For this reason, I strongly encourage the Commission to recommend that the Planning Department insert language in the Proposed Amendment to "AE -Agriculture Exclusive Zone" prohibiting cannabis cultivation in the Timber Production category. Clearly, even legal cannabis grows have detrimental effects to fish and wildlife such as artificial light, generator noise, pesticides and herbicides, runoff, and the destruction and fragmentation of habitat created by greenhouses and outdoor grows. If no cannabis growing is allowed for Timber Production uses, this will at least provide more natural intact wildlife habitat while the timber matures.

Thanks very much for considering these comments.

Harriet Hill, Eureka

707-268-0262

cc: Michael Richardson, Humboldt County Planning Department