

The Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research

Improving the economic, social, physical, and environmental health of individuals and communities through the interdisciplinary scientific study of marijuana.

First Annual Speaker Series Presents:

Silent Forests: How are Toxicants Associated with Marijuana Cultivation Impacting Wildlife on our Public and Tribal Lands?

PRESENTATION SUMMARY: In a recent long-term monitoring project on the population health of fishers, a mature forest-dwelling mid-sized carnivore warranted for listing under the Endangered Species Act, we discovered that over 80% of fishers throughout California's public and tribal lands were exposed to second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides. Interaction with law enforcement and first-hand documentation at marijuana grow sites on public and tribal lands has revealed the pervasiveness of anticoagulant rodenticides throughout the forests of California making it clear that toxicants used at these sites are the source of fisher exposure. Furthermore, much more acutely toxic pesticides are regularly found at dismantled marijuana cultivation sites, including chemicals banned for use in the United States. Beyond the toxicant risks, a host of other detrimental impacts from this practice is evident. Riparian zones are compromised, wildlife habitat is being lost to fires originating from grow sites, endangered species poached, and thousands of pounds of fertilizer are distributed. Finally, data collection efforts are often stalled and costs are increased due to safety issues for biologists.



Mourad W. Gabriel, M.S.
Wildlife Disease Ecologist

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Senior Ecologist and President, Integral Ecology Research Center



Monday, October 29 • 5:30–7:00pm
Humboldt State University • BSS Native Forum, Room 162

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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