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Current Synopsis of Documentation and Reclamation Operations for the Lassen and Plumas National Forests

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Site Assessments

Between July and November 2016, scientists from Integral Ecology Research Center (IERC) documented and evaluated several marijuana cultivation sites and complexes for both Lassen and Plumas National Forests in California. A total of 9 sites and 7 marijuana cultivation complexes were documented and evaluated within this period. The seven complexes ranged widely with some containing as low as two sites and some as high as 15 sites. In this report, we define a *Marijuana Grow Site* as one or more cultivation plots with one camp/living area and a *Marijuana Grow Complex* as two or more grow sites with either two or more stand-alone or detached cultivation plots and/or two or more camp/living areas that still exhibit connectivity through human trails or irrigation water-source networks (Gabriel and Wengert unpublished Data). In total, 39 independent cultivation sites were assessed between the two National Forests.

Site Assessments and Reclamation Plans

Each individual site and complex that was assessed had a full reclamation plan generated which was provided to the US Forest Service. Each report detailed the site's landscape which included the following: cultivation plot sizes and locations, estimated amount of irrigation line (feet/meters) present in the site, number of camp sites and locations, amounts and locations of refuse, locations of known and suspected hazardous materials, total estimated poundage of refuse and infrastructure present, total amount of personnel needed to stage refuse for removal, total number of nets and cobiners needed for air operations to haul-out refuse, total amount of time needed for operational completion, total numbers of samples taken, results of field presumptive pesticide testing, access points to and from each site, and topographical imagery maps for each location.

Plumas Air Operations

Initial objectives for air operations for the Plumas NF was to remove pre-staged infrastructure from several locations in a condensed air operational period. This technique has proven to be highly effective and has reduced operational time and costs significantly. In addition to the economic savings, minimizing air operational time also generates a wider safety margin due to fight time reduction.

Amount of Infrastructure Removed

A total of 9,180 lbs of infrastructure and material was removed in a one day air operational period. This included all weights of camping and food material as well as irrigation line. The average weight removed from each of the five sites was 1,836 lbs.

Image 1: Top Photo-Reclamation team consisting of USFS personnel, IERC personnel, California National Guard Counter Drug and California Department of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement before setting off to stage material at a Plumas National Forest grow site complex. Bottom Photo- USFS personnel



Image 2: Pre-and post-reclamation efforts photos of camp infrastructure removal during an operation on the Plumas National Forest.



Image 3: *Top Photo*-One of the 18 long-line loads that were ferried to the Drop/landing zone during the single day air operation on Plumas National Forest. *Bottom Photo*- Some of the over 9,000 lbs (4.5+ tons) of trash and infrastructure removed from Plumas National forest.

