

Operation Synopsis: April 1-2nd 2015

Executive Summary: A two-day operation on United States Forest Service and Hoopa Tribal Lands resulted in six trespass marijuana cultivation sites being fully remediated. All six sites had all of their material pre-staged for pick up by California Department of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division (CDFW-LED), Army National Guard, Integral Ecology Research Center (IERC), Hoopa Tribe and Northern California Reclamation Coalition previously in 2014. In the current operation on April 1-2, 2015, CDFW-LED provided air support to remove the infrastructure while ground support was provided by CDFW-LED, Army National Guard, IERC, Hoopa Tribe and US Forest Service (USFS). Over 5 miles of irrigation line and 3 tons of trash were removed from these sites in these two days. Several creeks that were 100% diverted had their water supplies restored as a result of this effort.

April Reclamation Organizers: Dr. Mourad Gabriel and Dr. Greta Wengert (IERC); Lt. R. Paul Gaske (CDFW-LED), and Mark Higley (Hoopa Tribe)

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

Organizations Involved:

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

Non-Governmental: Integral Ecology Research Center, The Watershed Center, Trinity County Resource Conservation District, Redwood Community Action Agency, Northcoast Environmental Center, and Environmental Reclamation Team of the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew

Logistic and Financial Support: Support was contributed by the above-mentioned entities. Funding for the scientific documentation and reclamation of trespass marijuana sites on USFS lands 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. Additional funding for reclamation was provided by a CalRecycle grant. Funding for the scientific documentation and reclamation of sites on Hoopa Tribal lands was provided by US Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Wildlife Grants and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Air Support: Support was provided by CDFW-LED Air Team, Robinson R44 Helicopter.

Number of trespass sites cleaned: 6

Location of sites: USFS Six Rivers National Forest (1 site: large multi-plot, multi-year complex), Hoopa Tribal Lands (5 sites within the Mill Creek and Supply Creek drainages)

Watershed impacted: Trinity River

Personnel: 20 (5 CDFW-LED, 2 USFS-LED, 4 National Guard, 7 Science Team, 2 CDFW Air Support)

Total amount of irrigation line removed: 27,700 ft (5.25 miles)

Garbage removed: 133 bags (55 gal each)

Estimated amount of trash removed: 6,100 lbs

Net loads: 67 net loads

