



## **Dubakella Trespass Grow Site Complex Operation Synopsis**

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### **Background**

Shasta-Trinity National Forest is home to numerous game species and non-game wildlife which are dependent on the unique critical habitat attributes that public lands within this bioregion provide. In late June 2016, a large public land, trespass marijuana cultivation complex named Dubakella Grow was discovered on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest managed by the United States Forest Service. Dubakella Grow Site lies on the Salt Creek Watershed which contributes to the South Fork Trinity River, a Hydrological Unit with a salmonid population that is functionally independent with a high risk of extinction (NMFS 2014). The Salt Creek watershed is considered to be adversely impacted by illegal water withdrawals, and nutrient and pesticide loading that is associated with outdoor marijuana cultivation (NMFS 2014). This cultivation site lies within United States Fish and Wildlife Service delineated Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) that is listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ECOS 2016). Finally, adjacent previous cultivation sites (<1 mile) which Integral Ecology Research Center (IERC) is currently monitoring have detected Pacific fishers, which are a species of conservation concern, both state and federally.

The Dubakella site was quickly eradicated by federal, state and local Law Enforcement in order to disrupt the continued misuse of these public lands and over 15,000 plants were removed from an affected area of 2.96 acres. Research scientists from IERC were brought into the site to document and ascertain the magnitude of impact that this trespass grow had. During initial documentation of the site, an estimated several thousand feet of irrigation line, numerous substantial water diversions, significant tree removal, hundreds of pounds of fertilizer and several containers of illegal and restricted use pesticides were recorded. The site was placed on a high-priority list for documentation and reclamation due to these factors, and correspondingly was placed as a site for long-term monitoring for potential legacy influences. Reclamation operations were completed September 7, 2016.

Environmental Conservation Online System. 2016. United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
<http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/> accessed September 2016.

National Marine Fisheries Service. 2014. Final Recovery Plan for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit of Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). National Marine Fisheries Service. Arcata, CA.

## Dubakella Reclamation Synopsis

September 7, 2016

### Organizations Involved

**Governmental:** Trinity County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) & U.S. Forest Service

**Non-Governmental:** Integral Ecology Research Center (IERC), Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD), The Watershed Center (TWC),

**Reclamation Organizers:** Drs. Mourad Gabriel and Greta Wengert (IERC); Donna Rupp (TCRCD); Tom Evans (TWC)

**Support:** Logistical and financial support was contributed by the above-mentioned entities. Specific funding for the reclamation of this trespass marijuana cultivation complex was provided by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery Grant to TCRCD and a Section 6 grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Integral Ecology Research Center.

**Number of trespass sites cleaned:** One large complex

**Location of site:** Shasta-Trinity National Forest

**Watershed impacted:** South Fork Trinity River

**Personnel:** 14 total; TCRCD(4), IERC (6), TWC (3), USFS (1)

**Total water diversion restored to watersheds:** 11.25 million gallons (per grow season)

**Total amount of trees cut:** 149 trees

**Total amount of fertilizer used at site:** 430 pounds

**Total amount of rodenticide used at sites:** 6.6 pounds; illegal containers of zinc phosphide; aluminum phosphide (restricted-use pesticide)

**Insecticide used at sites:** 32 oz of banned toxicant Carbofuran in an illegal container.

**Grow site trash removed:** 1,540 lbs

**Irrigation pipe removed:** 9,940ft (1.88 miles)

**Estimated Cost for Reclamation: \$8,920**





**Figure 1:** [A] Substantial water diversion of 9,418 gallons (12.5ft x 16.8ft x 6.1ft) discovered on eradication day on the Dubakella grow site on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in Trinity County. [B] Post-removal of the cistern by reclamation team members.



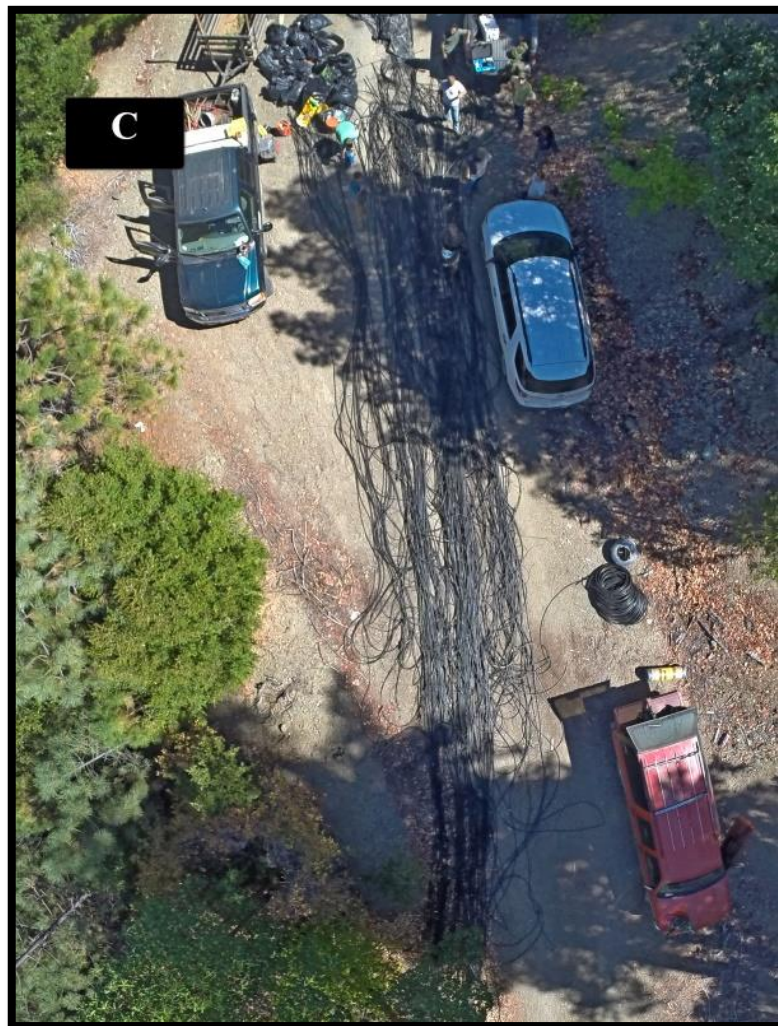
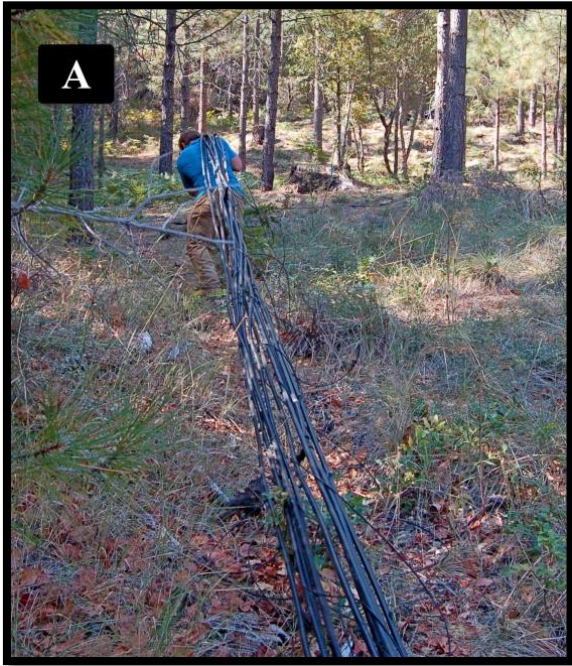


**Figure 2:** [A] Lower portion of the 2.96 acre cultivation plot in the Dubakella grow site on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in Trinity County where 15,000 plants were eradicated. [B] Upper portion of Dubakella cultivation plot. [C] Several of the 149 trees cut down by cultivators. [D] Toxicant pile containing Carbofuran, zinc and aluminum phosphide as well as several hundred pounds of soluble fertilizer less than 10 feet from Salt creek tributary.





**Figure 3 :** [A,B] Irrigation line being removed from the Dubakella grow site on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in Trinity County. [C] Aerial photo of a portion of the 1.88 miles of irrigation line removed.





**Figure 4 :** [A,B] Pre (A) and post (B) reclamation of over 1,540 lbs. of trash removed from the Dubakella site on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in Trinity County. [C] Final photo of Reclamation Team post successful operation.

