

**Lassen National Forest Trespass Marijuana Cultivation Site  
Reclamation Plan and Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report**



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Two large trespass marijuana complexes and an additional single grow site were assessed by Integral Ecology Research Center's Science Team (IERC), USFS-LEI and California National Guard Counterdrug CBRN Task Force September 20-23, 2016. Both complexes (named "Screwdriver Complex" and "Potato Patch Complex") as well as the Alder Creek grow site are located on the Lassen National Forest. Screwdriver Complex falls within Shasta County and Potato Patch and Alder are located in Tehama County. A total of 23 camp sites and 24 trash pits were discovered among all sites. It is estimated that approximately 442 bags of trash will be generated at these complexes with a combined weight of 17,680 lbs. In addition, combined there is an estimated 40 miles of irrigation line present with an estimated combined weight of 16,000 lbs. This will require a minimum of 35 net loads and 32 cobiner loads for removal. Operational time for completion for each complex is highly dependent on personnel experience, health and weather conditions. A short operational window is feasible with numerous personnel; however, a more pragmatic and safe approach will require a 3-4 day operation per site with a total of 20 people. Presumptive pesticide tests on pipe infrastructure at all cultivation sites, standing marijuana plants as well as personnel clothing and gear post assessment each day yielded negative results for the detection of either carbamate or organophosphate pesticide residuals. Based on the massive size of the complexes, the level of water theft, food and refuse left behind in addition to numerous accounts of restricted and banned toxicant use, it is imperative that these complexes are completely reclaimed in order to detour further Drug Trafficking Organization impacts within these watersheds.

### **SCREWDRIVER COMPLEX**

This large trespass marijuana grow site complex is located on the Lassen National Forest on the western slope of the Cascade/Sierra Nevada junction zone. The grow complex is situated within mixed mature coniferous forest with sections of open woodland where the cultivation plots were located. The complex has three large cultivation plots and one small plot. There are three separate and distinct sites within this complex labeled Screwdriver 1, Screwdriver 2, and Screwdriver 3. Each of these sites has a large central campsite, a large cultivation plot and several trash pits. Water

diversions and water supply to plots and campsites were located and were sourced out of Poison and Screwdriver Creeks.

Orientation of the Screwdriver complex is roughly in a north to south fashion with Screwdriver 1 on the east side, Screwdriver 2 on the west side, and Screwdriver 3 directly below both and to the south. There is a small cultivation plot nestled between Screwdriver 1 and 2 and Screwdriver 3. The complex runs north to south for 1.3 miles with a 960ft elevation loss and west to east for 0.58 miles with an estimated footprint impact of over 250 acres.

### **POTATO PATCH COMPLEX**

This large trespass marijuana grow site complex is located on the Lassen National Forest on the western slope of the Cascade/Sierra Nevada junction zone. The grow complex is situated within mixed mature coniferous forest with sections of open woodland and brush on steep and rugged terrain where cultivation plots were located. The complex has 15 cultivation plots varying in size. Each cultivation plot is connected by trail systems or source line trails. Each of these sites has a campsite and/or trash pit located nearby. Water diversions and water supply to plots and campsites were drawing from five independent tributaries of Deer Creek.

Orientation of the Potato Patch complex is roughly in a West to East fashion with the southern portion parallel to Highway 32. The complex runs West to East for 1.15 miles and North to South for 0.65 miles with a 1,600ft elevation gain from HWY 32 to the top of the complex source lines. The complex has an estimated footprint impact of over 290 acres.

### **ALDER CREEK GROW SITE**

This mid-sized trespass marijuana grow site is located on the Lassen National Forest on the western slope of the Cascade/Sierra Nevada junction zone. The site is situated within mixed mature coniferous forest with sections of open woodland and brush on steep and rugged terrain where cultivation plots were located. The site has only one cultivation plot roughly 1 acre in size. There is one camp and one small trash pit to the southwest of the camp.



Top to bottom: Unknown bottles placed in buckets with “Danger and Warning” flagging and placed in a visible location within Screwdriver1 plot; back-back sprayers near Screwdriver1 Camp; and finally, bucket with unknown bottles near Screwdriver1 Camp.



Top to bottom: Screwdriver2 Campsite with nearby trash pits; unknown bottles placed in buckets with “Danger and Warning” flagging and placed in a visible location within Screwdriver3 plot; partial view of the 4.3acre plot of Screwdriver3.



Top to bottom: One of several campsites within the Potato Patch complex with nearby trash pits; the level of water diversions and amount of pipe directed to cultivation plots.