



Jim Jam 2016 and Denny 2017 Grow Site Complexes Reclamation Operation Synopsis

November 9 and 14, 2017

Prepared by: Dr. Greta Wengert and Dr. Mourad Gabriel
Integral Ecology Research Center

Shasta-Trinity National Forest is home to numerous sensitive species including both game species, and non-game wildlife which are dependent on the unique critical habitat attributes that public lands within this bioregion provide. In the summers of 2016 and 2017, several large public land trespass marijuana cultivation complexes were discovered on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest managed by the United States Forest Service. Two of these sites were Jim Jam 2016 and Denny 2017. Both of these complexes lie within tributaries of the New River, a Hydrological Unit with a small population of the sensitive salmonid, spring-run chinook and a small population of federally listed coho salmon. These complexes are only a couple miles from United States Fish and Wildlife Service delineated Critical Habitat for the northern spotted owl that is listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (ECOS 2017). The sensitive species fisher has been documented to inhabit this area as well as summer steelhead within the drainage.

Both of these complexes were quickly eradicated by federal, state and local Law Enforcement in summers 2016 and 2017 to disrupt the continued misuse of these public lands. Research scientists from IERC were brought into the sites to document and ascertain the magnitude of impacts that these trespass grows caused. During initial documentation of the site, an estimated several thousand feet of irrigation line, numerous substantial water diversions, hundreds of pounds of fertilizer and several gallons of pesticides were recorded. The sites were placed on a high-priority list for documentation and reclamation due to these factors. Reclamation operations were conducted November 9 and 14, 2017.

References

Environmental Conservation Online System. 2016. United States Fish and Wildlife Service <http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/> accessed 9/2016.

Jim Jam 2016 and Denny 2017 Reclamation Statistics

Organizations Involved

Governmental: Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD), California Department of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division (CDFW), United States Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations (USFS), California Army National Guard (CANG)

Non-Governmental: Integral Ecology Research Center (IERC), The Watershed Center (TWC), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Reclamation Organizers: Drs. Greta Wengert and Mourad Gabriel, Corrina Kamoroff (IERC); Donna Rupp (TCRCD); Tom Evans and Josh Smith (TWC)

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Statistics

Number of trespass sites cleaned: Two large complexes

Location of sites: Shasta-Trinity National Forest

Watershed impacted: New River

Personnel: 22 total; IERC (4), TWC (4), TCRCD (4), CDFW (4), CANG (2), USFS (4)

Total water diversions restored to watersheds: roughly 10 million gallons

Grow site trash and infrastructure removed during reclamation: ~4200 lb (2.1 tons)

Irrigation pipe removed during reclamation: ~ 3 miles (15,840 ft)

Long-line loads: 12 loads (Total long-line flight time = 4.0 hrs)



Figure 1: One of several trash pits found within the Denny and Jim Jam trespass grow complexes on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.



Figure 2: One of the 12 helicopter loads with household trash and growsite infrastructure within the Denny and Jim Jam trespass grow complexes on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.



Figure 3, Top and Bottom Photo: A portion of the irrigation line and trash removed from the Denny and Jim Jam trespass grow complexes on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

