



August 4, 2014

Judy Pflueger, Chair
Trinity County Board of Supervisors
11 Court Street, Room 230
P.O. Box 1613
Weaverville, CA 96093

Trinity County Collaborative Group
1 Horseshoe Lane
P.O. Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dear Chairman Pflueger and Board Members,

The Trinity County Collaborative Group (Trinity Collaborative) recommends that you ask federal and state agencies for substantially increased efforts to combat illegal marijuana cultivation on public lands in Trinity County, due to the numerous associated afflictions, which include

- Illegal water diversions, which reduce and in some cases eliminate habitat for aquatic species and deprive downstream residents of water;
- Pollution of soils and water by unregulated use of pesticides and fertilizers and by human excrement and trash;
- Killing of fish and wildlife by growers through habitat destruction, rodenticide use, and unregulated subsistence hunting and fishing;
- Localized deforestation and increased erosion;
- Reductions in public safety because of growing-site protective measures and increased wildfire starts associated with growing operations, as well as the use of poisons and pollutants; and
- Increasingly expensive harm to the County's reputation as a desirable place to recreate or reside.



Trinity Collaborative members regard the suite of problems associated with illegal marijuana growing as a large, widespread, and steadily worsening calamity for Trinity residents and resources. The Trinity Collaborative urges you coordinate and collaborate with federal and state land management, resource management, and law-enforcement agencies to employ vigorous and effective abatement measures. In addition, we suggest that you appeal to state and federal political leaders for help in securing the improved staffing, funding, and prioritization that agencies may need to fulfill their responsibilities in this area.

We understand that a Forest Service law enforcement officer position in northern Trinity County stands vacant and that one may soon become vacant in southern Trinity. We suggest that you urge the Forest Service to fill vacant law enforcement positions as soon as possible. We stress that in our view much more is needed to combat the problems associated with public lands marijuana cultivation in the county, but timely filling of existing positions is an obvious first step.

Sincerely,

Alex Cousins
Trinity Collaborative Group