



NEWS



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Be Safe on our Public Lands

What to do if you Encounter a Marijuana Cultivation Site

Bishop, CA, June 5, 2009 – As the summer approaches, the marijuana cultivation season will begin and it is especially important to be aware of your surroundings on public lands.

Marijuana growers will be active on the national forest and other public land from now until usually the end of October. Here are some clues that you may have come across a site:

- The smell of marijuana is like a skunk, especially on hot days.
- Hoses or drip lines located in unusual or unexpected places.
- A well used trail where there shouldn't be one.
- Voices coming from an unusual place.
- People standing along roads without vehicles present, or in areas where loitering appears unusual.
- Usually plantations are found in isolated locations; in rough steep terrains (typically between 500 to 5500 elevation).
- Camps containing cooking and sleeping areas with food.
- Small propane bottles (so the grower can avoid detection of wood smoke).
- Fertilizer, weapons, garbage, dead animals.
- Individuals armed with rifles out of hunting season.

As soon as you become aware that you have entered a cultivation site, or have encountered any of the above listed situations, immediately reduce the threat by removing yourself from the area. Walk, crawl or run out the way you came in and make as little noise as possible. The growers may be present, and may or may not know that you have found their operation.

As soon as possible, contact your nearest Law Enforcement Officer with Inyo or Mono County, the US Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management. Please report as much detail about the incident as you can recall.

Over seven million plants have been seized off California public lands since 2003.