

October 10, 2011

Dear Board Members,

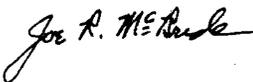
On August 27, 2011 Jere Melo was shot to death while investigating a report of illegal drug growing on land managed by Campbell Timberland Management. On August 11, 2011 Matthew Coleman was killed near Westport while conducting an investigation of illegal growing of marijuana on land managed by the Mendocino Land Trust. Both men were killed while legitimately conducting work related to the management of forests in California. Their murders have both saddened and alarmed the forestry community. They were our brothers; they were doing the work we are dedicated to.

Their murders have highlighted the invasion of both public and private forest land in California by illegal drug growers. We are alarmed by their deaths and by the recent recommendation for people to "stay out of the woods" made by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office for reasons of public safety. As you know, California's forests have contributed significantly to the state's economy and as well as to the recreational resources of the state. We cannot let illegal drug growers curtail our capacity to manage forest land nor the right of the public to enjoy the recreational benefits of the forest.

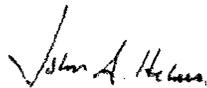
We, the undersigned, request that the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection take leadership in examining the problem of illegal drug growing in the forest of California. We believe it is time for a re-examination of past attempts by both state and federal agencies to control the problem. The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection should review approaches used by federal, state, and private land owners as well as the current practices of law enforcement agencies in dealing with the problem and means of affecting public attitudes about the problem. We believe from such an investigation new programs, policies and laws might be established that would allow Californians to take back their forests.

We are willing to participate in the examination of policies and practices toward illegal drug growing in California's forest. We have compiled the attached list of questions that we believe should be addressed the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in examining the problem. Please let us know how we can assist the process.

Sincerely,



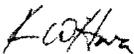
Joe R. McBride, RPF 1306
U.C. Berkeley



John Helms, RPF 730
U.C. Berkeley (Ret.)



Al Stangenberger
U.C. Berkeley (Ret.)



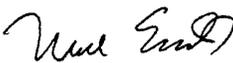
Kevin O'Hara, RPF 2694
U. C. Berkeley



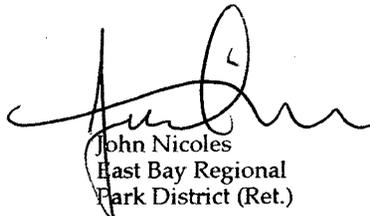
William Stewart
U. C. Berkeley



Rick Standiford
U.C. Berkeley



Neal Ewald
Green Diamond Resource
Redding, CA



John Nicoles
East Bay Regional
Park District (Ret.)

Questions for Consideration Concerning Illegal Growing of Marijuana in California Forests:

1. What is the role of local sheriffs and state and federal agents on private forest lands with regard to the control of illegal drug production?
2. What resources are available to public land management agencies to address eradication efforts?
3. How can the legacy infrastructure from eradicated gardens be effectively destroyed in order to increase the difficulty of growing repeatedly in the same location?
4. Can public land policies addressing transportation of growing equipment across public lands be changed to interdict equipment and supplies being used by illegal growers?
5. Can we effect a paradigm shift in local communities who feel that the loss of timber and fishing jobs "justifies" the need to grow Cannabis?
6. How can we change the attitude of professional foresters and others who work in our forests who have turned a blind eye to the illegal growing of marijuana in California forests?
7. How can we increase the support for local enforcement officers in their efforts to combat the problem?
8. Is it possible to regulate the sale of greenhouse and irrigation supplies when these supplies are thought to be purchased by drug growers.
9. Would increased early aerial surveillance and early interdiction be more effective than the late summer efforts that are currently being made?
10. Would establishment and enforcement of drug free zone (zones where vigorous enforcement would take place) around towns and parks in northern California be an effective strategy?
11. Could a data base of the locations of illegal gardens be established from which, overtime, we might learn something about the forest geography of the locations being used to grow marijuana?
12. Could surveillance cameras be installed on forest roads suspected as being used to supply the people tending the gardens?
13. Can a more effective reporting system be developed for professional foresters and others who work in the forest to report illegal gardens and other signs of possible illegal activities related to drug growing?

14. What might we learn from forestry official and law enforcement agencies in Oregon and Washington concerning their approaches to dealing with the problem.

15. Could the National Guard be dispatched by the Governor to assist in combating the problem?

16. Could medical marijuana dealers be required to identify the source of the marijuana they are selling in order to distinguish legally grown marijuana from illegally grown material?

17. Is there a way to enlist the support of legal growers to identify locations on state, national, and industrial forest lands where marijuana is being grown illegally?