

# OPERATION YUROK

Monitoring the theft of water

Search warrants were served at 43 locations on and near the Yurok Reservation.



More than 15,000 plants were eradicated.



Suspected growers were cited. Their cases will be forwarded to tribal, federal and state courts.



The grows are devastating the environment.



Tens of thousands of gallons of water is wasted everyday to irrigate clandestine cannabis farms.



This 4in. pipe was diverting the entire flow of this stream, until Operation Yurok shattered it.



Each plant uses up to 6 gallons of water a day. This 5,000 gallon Aqua Dam, found off Johnson's Rd., was fed by a spring.



More illegal water diversions fill large, tarp-lined pools. The one on the right is in a creek bed.



# Giant water tanks are used to feed thirsty plants.



Leaking pipes, just like this one, were found at nearly every site.



The majority of the plants still needed a month or more of irrigation to become marketable.



The premature plants, which have no value, were left to decompose.



The Yurok Watershed and Public Works Departments chipped all of the budding plants.



# More marijuana heads to the chipper.



Only one grow site produced a few mature plants, but the small crop was confiscated.



The farms threaten cultural resources like the bear grass (on the left). Liquid fertilizers contaminate fish-bearing streams.



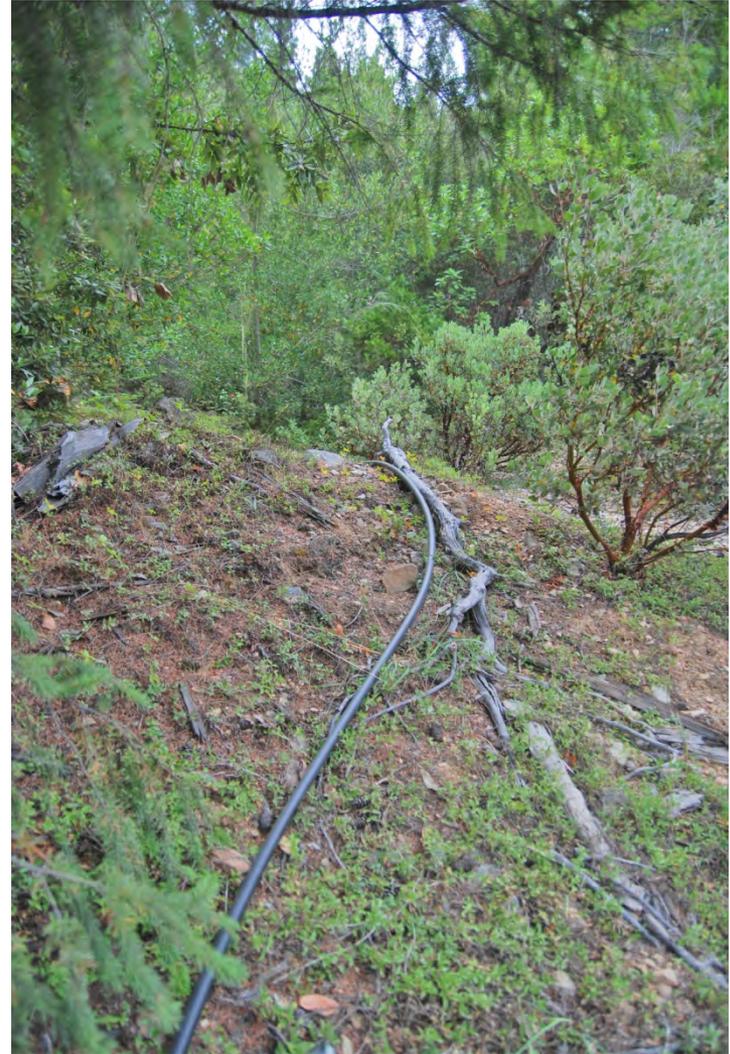
Piles of debris were found at almost every site, including this one off of Mitchell Road.



# And this site off of Bald Hills Rd.



Miles of plastic pipe is scattered throughout the forest.



Fungicides and herbicides were used at the illegal sites.



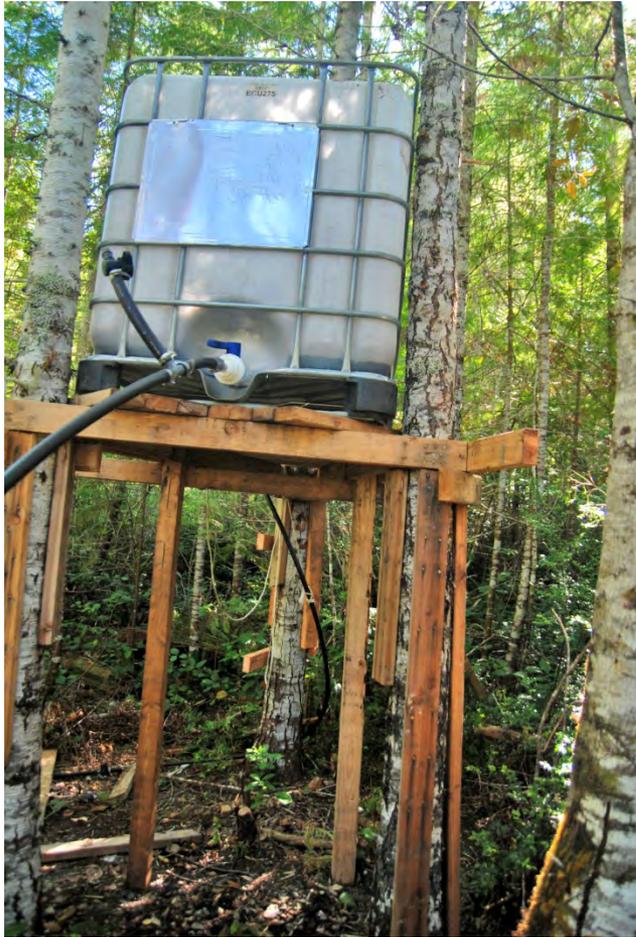
Tons of river-polluting, dry and liquid fertilizers were found at the grow sites.



High nitrate fertilizers quickly exacerbate algal problems on the river.



300 gallon containers of fertilizer were a common item found at the grow sites.



Pre-mixed bags of potting soil contain contaminants that damage the ecosystem.



Gas and hydraulic fluids were not disposed of properly and threaten wildlife.



This gas spill was only a few feet away from a house. The shoddy dwelling was surround by dry brush.



Most of the growers lived in seasonal shacks. The structures were built without permits and had sketchy electrical wiring.



The sewage from these “outhouses” and septic lines threaten drinking water systems.



There were dozens of illegal clear cuts like this one.



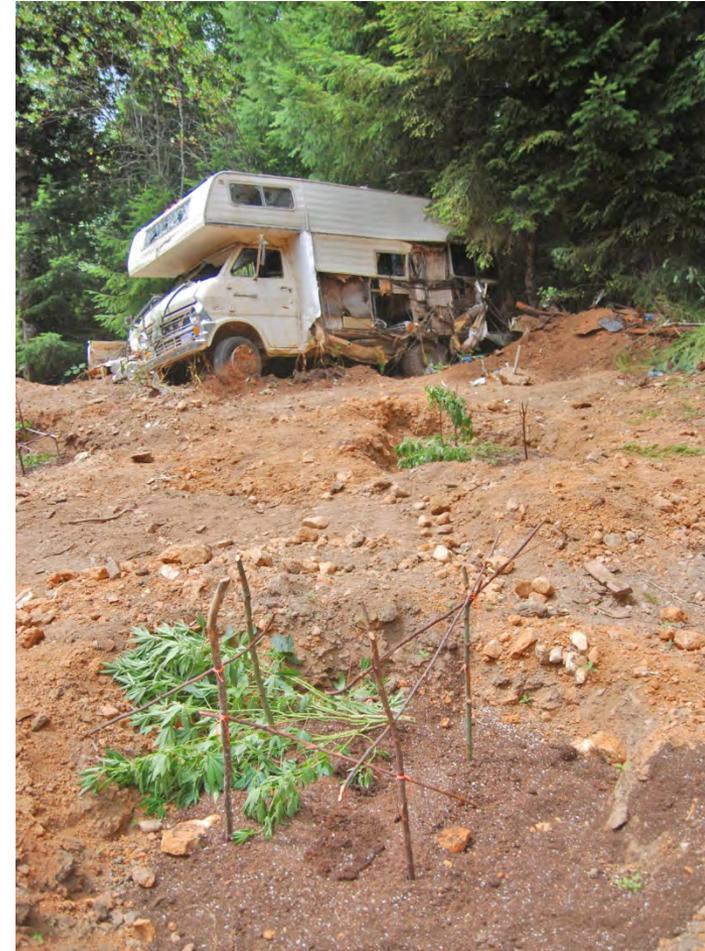
# And these two.



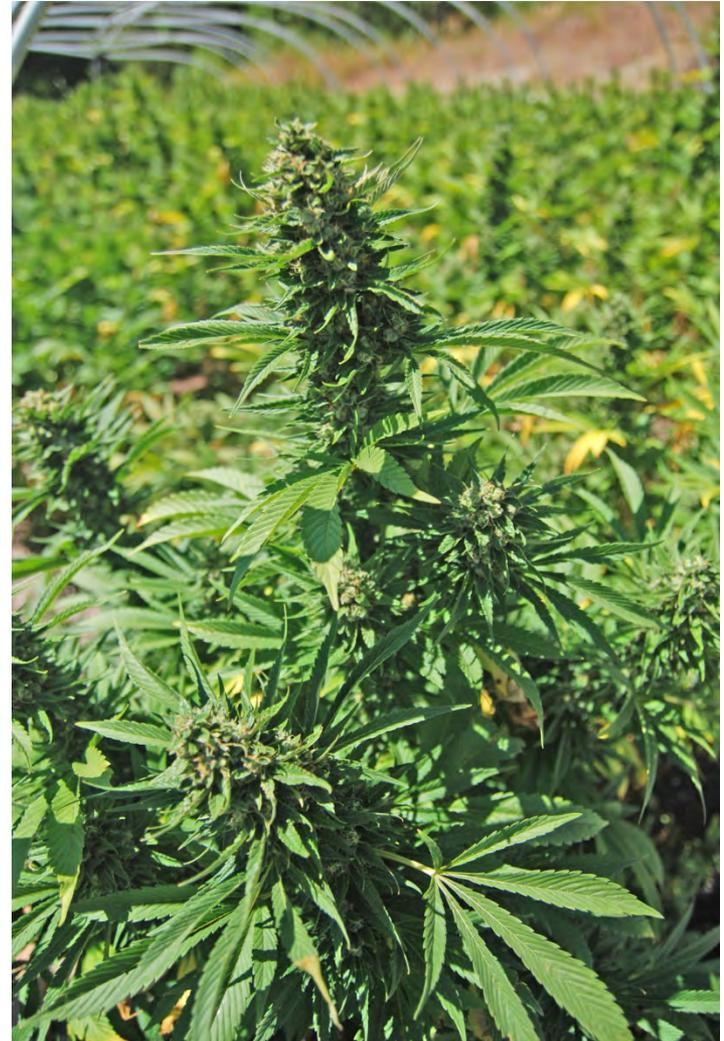
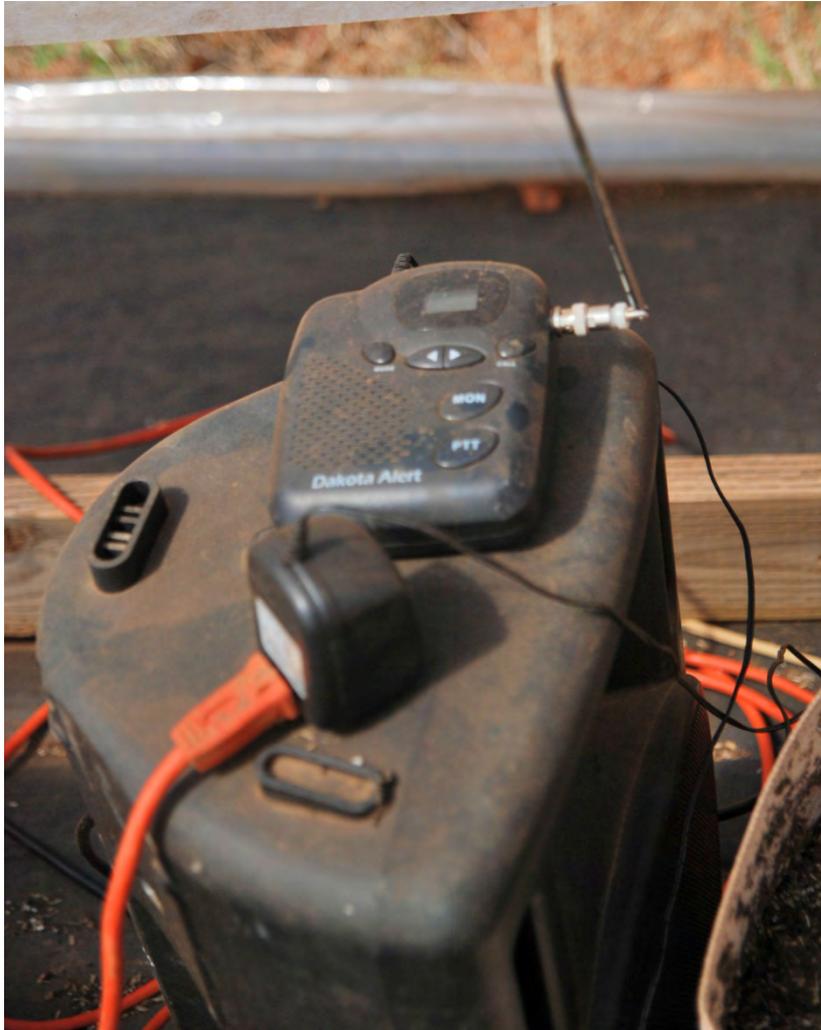
Growers used an excavator to make holes for plants.



Heavy machinery was used carve out hillsides. In the rainy season, these sites will dump sediment into the creeks.



Wireless warning systems were a common feature at the grow sites.



There was only one supposed medical marijuana grow. It was removed along with the rest.



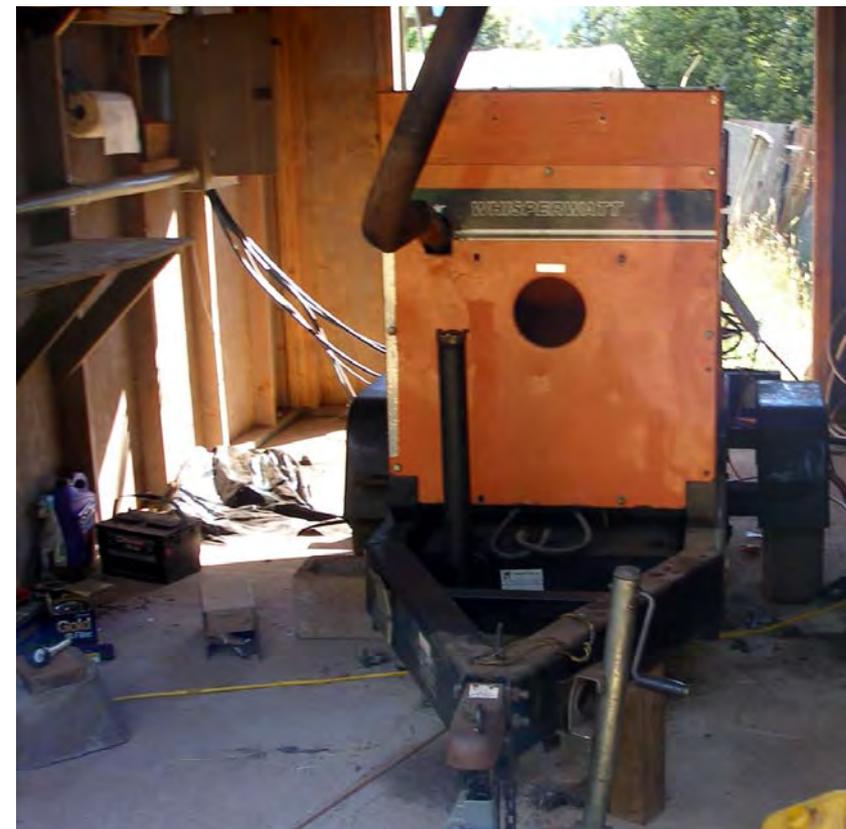
This large indoor grow was eradicated before plants were even put into pots.



# Infrastructure associated with the grows was destroyed.



# Yurok Public Safety confiscated items used to cultivate marijuana.



# Law enforcement collaboration

- Operation Yurok consisted of tribal, federal and state law enforcement officers including: California National Guard Counterdrug Taskforce, Bureau of Land Management, BIA, Humboldt County Sheriffs Office, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Humboldt County District Attorney's office, Marin County Sheriffs office and Calfire.

The multi-agency task force will be back next year to eradicate any illegal pot growers that try again.

