

Fiscal Year

2022

Annual Strategic Plan

State/Local Agency Name: California, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Marijuana Enforcement Team

I. Domestic Cannabis Intelligence Overview:

A. Self Assessment - Summary of the previous year's activities and if the agency met last year's Annual Strategic Plan goals (include general statistical and expense results). Explain any reasons for a significant rise or drop of eradication statistics from the previous season.

In October 2020, Det. Johnston was removed from the unit and reassigned to the general investigations bureau. This position was vacant and not filled by another Marijuana Detective until March of 2020, when Det. Del Fiorentino was assigned to the marijuana unit. The new assignment required new training in operations and procedures. In past years contract employee, Rusty Noe was retained to train and monitor the unit as well as assist with overflights and planning. This function has since been fulfilled by Sgt. Wyant, the supervisor for the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Marijuana Enforcement Team.

To date, part time deputies are still used to assist the unit deputy with eradication and investigations during the season when available, along with assistance from the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), as well as the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP), DEA and the Sheriff's Detective Unit.

The marijuana cultivation operations in Mendocino County are constantly changing. In the past, a majority of the marijuana grown in this county were in remote gardens grown on the timber-lands and public lands. This year during over-flights, it was discovered there were only a few, very small marijuana gardens planted on these remote isolated lands.

Intelligence is, due to the increased efforts in the eradication of cultivators who are non-permitted/legally licensed. The cultivators are slowly moving back to the (gorilla style grows) located on lands in trespass situations. Some of these operations are on private properties, where they were never granted permission to cultivate marijuana. That being said, the majority of marijuana is now found on private lands and within plastic style hoop houses in plain view. The legalization and outlook on marijuana as a whole, has caused marijuana industry to boom, where it is found being grown in populated neighborhoods.

The legalization of marijuana and the ability to grow copious amounts of marijuana under "permits", has resulted in the overwhelming increase of marijuana being grown in back-yards and on parcels without the effort to obtain permits. The County of Mendocino has systems in place, where for a fee, a cultivator can obtain a county permit to cultivate on their own property. After obtaining a county permit, to make this operation legal, that same cultivator must then obtain a permit via the State of California. The county currently has approximately 160 permits issued, with another 969 applicants in the process. However; conducting overflights of the county of Mendocino, there are literally thousands of cultivation sites both small and large.

This results in marijuana cultivation investigations that are far more involved than the

trespass eradications of the past. The major cultivation organizations are buying or renting properties county wide and setting up grows under permits in different names. This allows them to cultivate like the old trespass operations limiting the risk of eradication based on the large numbers. This has caused the marijuana team to change the day to day operations and investigations.

Winter 2020 and spring 2021 provided time for the marijuana team to process evidence as well as refresh ongoing investigations. The marijuana unit slowed down for a lack of better terms, as the unit faced staffing challenges. This was a result of Det. Johnston being relocated, where his position was not filled for five (5) months.

The unit was then, for all intensive purpose, shut down due to the shelter in place caused by COVID-19. Field investigations were vetted on a case by case basis, with the safety/ concerns of the Covid-19 pandemic. Beings the marijuana unit was now operating with only one Sergeant and a reserve deputy-sheriff, the halt in major operations were beyond the units control, therefore funding that was allocated for certain operations were not able to be spent.

This included less expenditures in mainly aircraft costs as well as, overtime.

It is the goal of the Sheriff to continue recruiting/hiring, which would then allow personnel to be absorbed to conduct marijuana operations.

During this time, intelligence was continued to be gathered on the Cartel type operations found within Mendocino County, found to be re-establishing themselves on Tribal Lands in the area of Covelo, on the Round Valley reservations.

While furthering the intelligence gathering, it revealed the cartel members are still paying the Native American landholders large amounts of cash to use the land for marijuana cultivation sited numbering thousands of marijuana plants.

During this fiscal year, there have been several shootings within these marijuana operations. This resulted in three homicide investigations and three separate attempted homicide investigations. It has been proven, the marijuana cultivation environment has drastically changed and the violence is rising.

Further investigation and raids have revealed the same groups are responsible for multiple sites on Round Valley. Overflights conducted revealed large marijuana operations consisting of hoop houses,(makeshift greenhouse structures) all built in the same manner. The unit has requested assistance from HSI and the Customs Border Protection as well as the DEA and US Attorneys Office in this multi-agency investigation.

The unit is working with the Mendocino County Code Enforcement, as well as California Fish and Wildlife wardens to develop a process to combat un-permitted cultivation sites in the county. These sites require in all circumstance search warrants and sometimes extended investigations.

The marijuana team detective also works with the detective in charge of the "Sexual Assault Grant", to identify sexual registrants who are cultivating marijuana in violation of California state law. These particular cases change the standard cultivation charge, which is charged as a misdemeanor, to a felony.

During the spring and summer of 2021, aerial observation resulted in the identification of a few trespass cultivation sites on both U.S. Forest Service land and corporate timberlands. (Mendocino Redwood Company and Conservation Fund property) These sites were eradicated with the assistance of CAMP, Fish and Wildlife personnel. This

resulted in the seizure of several thousand marijuana plants.

Since these raids, at least 3 more sites have been identified but not eradicated to date. This increase can be attributed to the increased pressure placed on the non-permitted sites on private property.

At the present time, both law enforcement officials in the unit have not been able to attend the appropriate training required by California law to seize money during the course of their investigations. This has caused several thousands of dollars to have to be turned over to the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force for seizure.

Due to the overall size of some of these cultivation sites, the Mendocino County Sheriffs Office has seen an increase of armed subjects and overall persons at these locations.

The unit has also seen a significant increase in the seizure of processed [bud] marijuana during this period.

PLANTS 143,000
SITES 100 to date
FIREARMS 39
EST WEIGHT 175,000 pounds
ARRESTS 136
PROCESSED MARIJUANA 41,989 pounds
ASSETS SIEZED \$0.00

In years past, former contract employee Rusty Noe would facilitate an overflight school, which brought in several different agencies. This training would be held in Ukiah CA, and would cause a decent portion of the budget to be dedicated to this. This training was not held this year due to department staffing issues, as well as some restrictions still in affect by the Covid-19 guidelines.

B. Current Projections - Degree of problem in your Area of Responsibility (AOR), general geographical locations of major cultivation (regions/counties/towns/sub-divisions/parks), identity/ association of violators (individuals and organizations), and level of sophistication (e.g., booby-traps/ alarms, etc.)

Located approximately one hundred and twenty miles north of San Francisco, Mendocino County lies in the heart of the redwood empire. It is surrounded by Sonoma County to the south with Lake County to the east. Humboldt County is to the north, Trinity County to the northeast, Tehama and Glenn County border on the east. With approximately thirty-five hundred square miles, Mendocino County is one of the largest counties in the state. The property is a mix of rural areas including large tracts of corporate timberlands. The Mendocino National Forest and the Jackson State Forest make up a large portion of public land along with the Bureau of Land Management properties.

The majority of the population of the county is surrounding the incorporated cities of Ukiah, Willits and Fort Bragg. There are several smaller towns consisting of Mendocino, Gualala, Elk, Anchor Bay, Albion, Caspar, and West Port as well as the small incorporated city of Point Arena on the coast. Inland is home to the unincorporated towns of Hopland, Redwood Valley, Calpella, Potter Valley, Boonville, Covelo, Leggett, Piercy and Laytonville. The overall population of the county is approximately 87,840 people. Historically, agriculture and tourism were the two

primary sources of income to the county. That has changed with marijuana being one of the biggest employers now in the county.

The Rural nature of Mendocino County, along with the large tracts of corporate forest lands and remote public lands, along with ideal soil conditions and a long history of acceptance of marijuana cultivation by a large percentage of the population here, makes this county prime for marijuana cultivation.

The public access to the different types of land holdings makes it very easy for cultivators to infiltrate these areas and plant marijuana in large quantities. Since the 1980s when the DEA and the California Department of Justice along with the local law enforcement started addressing the marijuana cultivation problem, Mendocino County has seen a significant increase in the amount of plants grown both indoor and outdoor, while the overall law enforcement budget has decreased.

Historically, it was not uncommon to find several hundred marijuana plants at a location, which was considered large. Now, our marijuana enforcement team is eradicating locations that have in excess of twenty-thousand plants.

The legality of marijuana under current California law, places a strain on the ability to enforce marijuana laws due to the amount of investigative work needed to be conducted and the high caseloads of both the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office.

The makeup of the cultivation situation has changed with the state legalization of marijuana for recreational use. The County of Mendocino is working with the state on a permit process to allow marijuana cultivation. Illegal un-permitted cultivators are clearing large areas to grow marijuana without the proper grading permits. They are drawing large amounts of water from streams and using pesticides that leach into the water and soil. The marijuana team must identify the violator then identify their permit status before investigative action can be taken.

The marijuana team uses a formula to prioritize investigations. Reported acts of violence associated with marijuana cultivation are assigned the highest priority. The obvious environmental violations are first priority and in most cases, these are not in the county permit process. Next are the trespass cultivation sites that are identified by overflight or informant information. A priority is given to trespass grows on U.S. forest lands, BLM lands as well as the corporate timberlands. In 2018 a large decrease was seen on these lands however 2021 has shown a marked increase trespass sites on timber lands as well as private properties, resulting in the large plant seizures.

The program still provides the funds needed for a special investigative unit like the marijuana team. The marijuana team lessens the burden on the Sheriff's Office by continuing the investigation and eradication of illegal marijuana gardens and violent crime related to marijuana cultivation.

Violent crime has been a factor in the units investigations. Working with the Sheriff's Detective Unit, there have been several violent incidents, all at marijuana cultivation sites. In the past three months alone, there have been three homicides as well as three other attempted homicides.

Due to the decrease in county funding, the Sheriff has been unable to provide another deputy to increase the manpower in the unit. Currently there is a Sergeant [supervisor], one deputy sheriff and a reserve extra help deputy. If approved, the program will ask for funds to pay the reserve for six months during the marijuana

cultivation season. This would allow more flexibility to get a full-time deputy assigned to assist the program.

C. Percentage of Enforcement Spent On: Public Lands vs. Private Lands
Outdoor Cultivation vs. Indoor Grows

Public Lands	5%	Private Lands	95%
Indoor Grows	10%	Outdoor Cultivation	90%

II. State / Local Eradication Suppression Program:

A. Agency Point of Contact (POC):

Name:	Clint Wyant
Title:	Sheriff's Sergeant/Marijuana Enforcement Team Super
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Agency ORI Number:	CA0230000
City:	Ukiah
State:	California
Zip Code-Plus Four:	95482

1. Resources available from your agency: aircraft, manpower, funding, etc.

4x4 vehicles, dump truck, two industrial chippers, a rented skid steer, all-terrain vehicles, 2 full time personnel (Sheriff's Sergeant, Deputy Sheriff), 1 paid reserve Deputy Sheriff (used as needed during raid season), Agents from the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force and various deputy sheriffs from the patrol division used during peak raid season.

The sheriff's office was just gifted a 2021 Ford F-250 truck from the Howard Buffett Foundation, which will be solely dedicated to the marijuana enforcement team.

2. Methods your agency uses for eradication program: air search, informants, public awareness, intelligence, prosecutions, asset removals, etc.

The team uses fixed and rotary wing aircraft for overflights to identify cultivation sites both trespass and investigations. These are provided from The National Guard and other assets as well as rented contract aircraft. Informant information as well as information from other law enforcement agencies. The team uses the Department of Fish and Wildlife to identify environmental violations as well as identify water diversion and illegal grading impacting streams. Cal Fire identifies illegal tree removal and timber harvest.

The Mendocino County District Attorney provides legal advice as well as case review and ultimately prosecution. The Mendocino County District Attorney also provides an

investigator for asset removal and forfeiture.

The marijuana enforcement team works with the county code enforcement to identify code enforcement problems related to marijuana cultivation and the permit program. Code enforcement has recently adopted a program where violations/fines are now being issued. Major case investigations are in progress with requested assistance from Federal Agencies, DEA, HSI, FBI and the ATF, as well as the Internal Revenue Service. The Covelo cartel case is still developing and the unit will request assistance from these agencies as the case progresses. The case information will be presented to the US attorney as the case progresses. Separate cases have been referred to the federal entities, which have resulted in the suspects in those investigations being formally charged on a federal level, that resulted in federal prison sentences.

Upon request, the marijuana team will provide public awareness information. Any training requests will also be fulfilled if possible. Sergeant Wyant now authors press releases to the public at the conclusion of targeted eradication operations.

B. Who is your agency POC for the DEA Internet Capability Endeavor (DICE):¹

Name:	Clint Wyant
Title:	Sheriff's Sergeant Mendocino County Marijuana Team
Telephone No:	707-463-4556
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Address Line 2:	
City:	Ukiah
State:	CA
Zip Code:	95482

Summarize how your agency will, with its own law enforcement personnel and employees, perform the activities and duties described below:

1. Gather and report intelligence data relating to the illicit cultivation, possession, and distribution of cannabis.
2. Investigate and report instances involving the trafficking in controlled substances.
3. Provide law enforcement personnel for the eradication of illicit cannabis located within AOR.
4. Make arrests and refer to the appropriate prosecutorial authority cases for prosecution under controlled substances laws and other criminal laws.
5. Send required samples of eradicated cannabis to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Potency Monitoring Project.
6. Submit to DEA quarterly expenditure reports.

1. Gather and report intelligence data relating to the illicit cultivation, possession, and distribution of cannabis.

Information developed by the team is shared by any agency requesting the information. The team will work with WSIN and other intelligence gathering agencies upon request. Information is shared as soon as possible. During the marijuana season information and requests come from agencies all over the United States inquiring about marijuana cultivator and dealers with ties to Mendocino County. Outside agencies often intercept large quantities of marijuana, that has been identified as coming from Mendocino County. These cases often result in shared information into the sales and distribution of marijuana diverted from California. This information is shared with any State and Federal LEO that request it.

2. Investigate and report instances involving the trafficking in controlled substances.

Priority investigations have been identified as obvious commercial marijuana cultivators outside the local permitting process, major marijuana traffickers, trespass marijuana cultivators on both public and private property, as well as those involved in water diversions and serious environmental damage cases. Public safety shall be the determining factor when cases are assigned and investigated as well as the scope and size of the marijuana operation. Requests to assist other agencies will be the second priority providing assistance with both investigation and prosecution of commercial marijuana cultivators and major marijuana traffickers. The program will rely on help from the federal and state agencies of that area available such as DEA and CAMP along with HSI and Customs and Border Protection. The program works with other agencies, local, state and federal with any investigation into the cultivation and trafficking of marijuana. DEA, BLM, USFS and Department of Fish and Wildlife are a large part of the program. In addition to this activity, the program staff assists other agencies as a liaison with the District Attorney's Office. Based on the marijuana problems with cartel operations in parts of the county the program is developing a working relationship with the US Attorney's Office for federal prosecutions of major cases. The program is dependent upon information provided by citizens and other agencies. This can be a result of information provided to the program or to other agencies that relay the information to the program.

3. Provide law enforcement personnel for the eradication of illicit cannabis located within AOR.

The Marijuana Team consists of Sheriff's Sergeant Clint Wyant and Deputy Sheriff-Detective Timothy Del Fiorentino . From 2012 through 2017 the unit has been assigned a paid Reserve Deputy, Morgan Gibson who assisted during the raid season as needed. Sergeant Wyant reports to the Lieutenant in charge of the Investigative Service Bureau, who then reports to the Captain of the Field Services Division, who then reports to the Undersheriff who reports to the Sheriff.

Sergeant Wyant manages the program by conducting the daily operation including ordering supplies and maintaining the equipment. Both Sergeant Wyant and Det. Del Fiorentino conduct investigations into the cultivation and trafficking of marijuana in Mendocino County. They conduct aerial overflights to detect marijuana sites, eradicate marijuana, arrest persons responsible for marijuana related crimes, prepare and serve search warrants, prepare reports to be submitted to the District Attorney for prosecution, coordinate and assists local, state and federal agencies with investigations in the county into marijuana related crimes, facilitate training for law enforcement, public and private agencies in the identification and safety issues relating to marijuana investigations.

During peak raid times other personnel can be pulled from other divisions within the Sheriff's Office and from other county, state and federal law enforcement agencies to support the Mendocino County Marijuana Enforcement Team. This is a case by case basis, as staffing issues have been a challenge for the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Det. Del Fiorentino is responsible for maintaining files and is responsible for maintaining evidence storage and evidence taken as a result of the program activities. He also assists with the training of officers from other agencies and with the coordination of agencies involved in cases within the county.

The paid Reserve Deputy-Sheriff [Morgan Gibson], assists with the eradication of marijuana, the processing of evidence, maintenance of equipment and other duties as needed during the summer raid season. It is requested that a portion of his cost be included in the DCESP budget to allow more flexibility for the Sheriff to fund another full time deputy to the program.

4. Make arrests and refer to the appropriate prosecutorial authority cases for prosecution under controlled substances laws and other criminal laws.

The marijuana team will conduct arrests on subjects located in marijuana cultivation sites and/or those identified as suspects through investigations and submit the investigations to the District Attorney's Office. Suspects who are identified but not arrested will have their

cases forwarded to the District Attorney Office, who will determine if there is sufficient evidence to file charges on the suspects. The District Attorney will provide information and advice to the LE component of new case law or other prosecution information when needed. The team will work with the United States Attorney's Office to coordinate federal prosecution when warranted. The Marijuana Team Unit Sergeant [Wyant] will act as a liaison with other agencies.

5. Send required samples of eradicated cannabis to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Potency Monitoring Project.

The assigned Marijuana Team Deputy Sheriff - Detective, will be responsible for the submission of the requested samples. Following the NIDA guidelines the Deputy will submit samples from representative types of cultivation encountered during the program investigations. These samples will include outdoor samples from both purported medical gardens to public lands trespass cultivation sites. The samples will include indoor marijuana cultivation samples.

6. Submit to DEA quarterly expenditure reports.

All expenditure reports are processed through the accounting office. Reports are sent in a timely manner as soon as invoices are obtained.

C. Requirements for DEA Funding: denote amount of funding for each category requested by your agency to accomplish program goals.

Note: Final allocated funds will be determined by DEA/HQS and is based on the agency's abilities, effectiveness, and program objectives. All expenditures for equipment and supplies/materials will require prior approval by DEA Coordinator or Headquarters depending whether cost exceeds \$2500.

	<i>Operational Funds</i>		<i>Amount</i>
a.	Aircraft Expenses	\$	\$50,000.00
b.	Clothing & Protective Gear	\$	\$7,600.00
c.	Container/Space Rental	\$	\$44,400.00
d.	Equipment ²	\$	\$56,000.00
e.	Miscellaneous Commercial Contracts	\$	\$15,000.00
f.	Overtime	\$	\$40,000.00
g.	Supplies/Materials ²	\$	\$2,000.00
h.	Training	\$	\$5,000.00
i.	Travel/Per Diem	\$	\$9,000.00
j.	Vehicle Rental	\$	\$1,000.00
	Total:	\$	\$230,000.00

D. Audits: Grantees and sub-grantees are responsible for obtaining audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act of 1984 and federal agency implementing regulations. An independent auditor, in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards covering financial and compliance audits, shall make the audits.

Date of agency's last audit: Jun 30, 2016

III. Explain how your agency plans to coordinate with other Government Agencies (Program Participation and Resources Commitments):

A. U.S. Forest Service

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Marijuana Enforcement Team works directly with the U.S. Forest Service law enforcement division exchanging information, providing assistance/personnel to conduct investigations and coordinating marijuana enforcement on USFS property as needed. Marijuana found on USFS property is reported to the supervisor of the Mendocino National Forest, who then coordinates with the program supervisor to investigate and eradicate the marijuana. Overflights conducted by the program are coordinated with the USFS to identify trespass sites that they may not be aware of.

If suspects are apprehended or identified, a criminal complaint is forwarded to the district attorney for consideration of a criminal complaint.

B. Bureau of Land Management

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Marijuana Enforcement Team works directly with BLM law enforcement personnel exchanging information, providing assistance/personnel to conduct investigations and coordinating marijuana enforcement on BLM property.

C. National Guard

When available the marijuana team will request aircraft from the Air National Guard. The team will also at times request help from the Counter Drug team for personnel to assist with eradication and manpower. Training requests will be made for land navigation and field work.

Based on the good working relationship the marijuana enforcement team has fostered with the guard, they also now take the initiative to assist us in flights to identify illegal operations, as well as providing over-watch during the service of high risk search warrants.

D. Civil Air Patrol

In 2018, a request was placed for a series of photo missions. Based on information provided by the state Office of Emergency Service the Civil Air patrol no longer assists with counter drug missions.

As of 2021, this has not changed.

IV. Explain how your agency will support Statewide Intelligence Sharing:

A. Central repository or collection ability for eradication statistics.

The program plans on working with USFS and BLM to provide information to the area fusion centers as well as WSIN. Information is also reported to DEA through the San Francisco Field Division, DICE Program.

B. Intelligence and trends (cultivators, traffickers, distribution, etc.)

All intelligence is received by both the team Sergeant and Detective. It is assigned a priority based on safety and urgency. Identified marijuana traffickers are investigated as soon as possible. The most common case is neighborhood complaints called in over

odor and or disputes between the cultivator and neighbor. The size of these operations are now to the point, feuds are also taking place over property lines, as the cultivator's are encroaching onto neighboring properties.

Other out of area law enforcement calls regarding cultivators/traffickers caught transporting marijuana to out of state or out of the area jurisdictions, are investigated and assistance is provided by the agency providing the lead. Based on the low prices of marijuana in California the marijuana is transported out of state to areas where a higher price is demanded. The east coast is an area where marijuana can still bring prices in the two thousand per pound range. Requests from out of state are given investigative priority. Any request for intelligence from other agencies is provided and team members are always available to brief and educate local, state and federal law enforcement.

V. List equipment your Agency proposes to purchase this year with DCE/SP funds:

Note: DCE/SP funds are intended to be used to purchase supplies and equipment directly related to the program activities. Though equipment/supplies may be specifically itemized in the Operational Proposal, they are not automatically approved for purchase. LOA equipment purchases should not exceed 10% of its allocated funds. Any exemptions require DEA Headquarters approval. All expenditures for equipment and supplies/materials will require prior approval by DEA Coordinator or Headquarters depending whether cost exceeds \$2500.

The agency is requesting funding to purchase a TRACK SKID STEER & TRAILER for on-going enforcement. The SKID STEER and TRAILER were only rented during last years budget. This particular equipment has proven itself time and time again. Due to the changing ways the cultivators are preparing the sites, this equipment provides a secure and safe method of destroying the marijuana on site and reduces the time spent on the case. This allows law enforcement to safely eradicate/destroy marijuana with ease. Law enforcement no longer has to [not all cases] touch the marijuana, which could contain harmful pesticides etc. The use of this equipment has drastically reduced the time it takes to eradicate some of these operations, that contain thousands of plants. Other county law enforcement agencies have been using this equipment and also report its success in furthering eradication efforts.

VI. Training Requirements:

A. Name of Agency Training Coordinator:

Name:	Juanita Dreiling
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Telephone No:	707-463-4409
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Address Line 2:	<input type="text"/>
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State:	<input type="text" value="CA"/>
Zip Code:	<input type="text" value="95482"/>

B. Describe any training your agency intends to conduct this year to include cannabis detection and eradication schools for other Federal agencies, National Guard, and state/local officers.³

In 2021, an overflight school was scheduled to take place, but was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is currently battling staffing complications and no trainings are scheduled at this time. When staffing levels rise, the marijuana enforcement team intends to schedule a training regarding eradication, detection and preparing the case for criminal complaint.

VII. Targeted Investigations:

A. Summary of law enforcement activities which your agency is conducting and/or plans to initiate during this year.

The program plans to continue the investigations into cartel operations in the Covelo Valley. Working with Customs Border Protection, HSI, and the DEA to identify and disrupt the group using Native Tribal lands as a base for cultivation and distribution activities. The program will continue to assist other agencies with investigations into out of state marijuana trafficking. Using intelligence provided to investigate and identify the source. Investigations into environmental crimes and water diversion will continue.

Working with Fish and Wildlife officers to identify cultivators who are violating environmental laws, polluting streams and illegal grading to conduct marijuana cultivation. Working in cooperation with Fish and Wildlife has proven to be beneficial, as environmental crimes coupled with marijuana cultivation allows it to be charged as felonies, not misdemeanors.

The program will continue with assisting customs and other federal agencies with the investigation of marijuana transportation using remote and small local airfields to transport marijuana by small airplanes. This investigation is ongoing and will continue with the program providing requested assistance. During the season the program will eradicate trespass gardens using the CAMP team when available. These sites will be identified by overflights then logged for eradication operations.

B. Summary of special or enforcement operations that your agency intends on conducting during the year.

The Marijuana Team will continue to investigate and eradicate marijuana found growing on public and private lands. The focus of major investigations will be on large cultivation sites being run by cartel type gangs. The town of Covelo is still a major focus, as there is a large number of sites that still need to be eradicated and investigated.

The marijuana team will aggressively investigate BHO (Butane Honey Oil) operations and attempt to educate the public, firefighters and other first responders on signs that a BHO operation is occurring. The marijuana team continues to answer calls for service from the public on marijuana cultivation sites on private lands and will continue to work closely with the corporate timber companies to eradicate marijuana gardens on their lands, providing security for the people who work in the corporate forests. The marijuana team is an active investigative partner with US Customs and Border Protection units in the investigation of trafficking of currency and marijuana, by air, within Mendocino County. The team will continue to conduct large scale marijuana eradication efforts into the pollution of water sources within the county. Other major enforcement action into watershed areas of the county are being planned.

VIII. National Environmental Policy Issues (describe if applicable)⁴:

The marijuana team has developed a working relationship with the Health & Human Services Agency Environmental Health Department and Air Quality Control Department of Mendocino County. Environmental Health and Air Quality advised of violations involving marijuana cultivation sites that use generators and store fuel for the generators, as well as other hazardous materials. The marijuana team works with the California Department of Forestry and Fish and Wildlife regarding illegal grading, illegal timber harvesting and water diversion violations involving marijuana cultivation sites. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife regularly sends one or more Game Wardens, to include environmental scientists on day operations or multiple day operations planned by the marijuana team. The Warden's primary responsibility on these targeted operations is to identify, document and present environmental crimes to the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office Marijuana Enforcement Team has seen a significant increase in environmental crimes related to marijuana operations. The unit is locating acres of lands, where thick trees once stood, all clear cut and removed for the purposes erecting plastic style hoop houses for the purposes of marijuana cultivation.

For assistance, please contact your State DEA DCE/SP Coordinator or DEA DCE/SP Regional Contractor.

Digital Signature Field

Matthew C. Kendall

Digitally signed by Matthew C. Kendall
Date: 2021.08.09 12:52:53 -07'00'

Signature and Date of Agency Official approving Annual Strategic Plan
(PLEASE SIGN IN BLUE INK)

Matthew C. Kendall, Sheriff

Print Name and Title of Agency Official approving Annual Strategic Plan

FOOTNOTES:

1 Web-based DEA Internet Capability Endeavor (DICE) and TFOs with Firebird access to the DEA Analysis and Response Tracking System (DARTS): Effective in 2012, all participants in the DCE/SP are required to use DICE or DARTS for reporting statistics (on each incident), submission or reportable intelligence, deconfliction, and for the sharing of information.

2 None of the Asset Forfeiture Funds allocated to you may be used to purchase promotional items, gifts, mementos, tokens of appreciation, or other similar items. These will include items justified as training aids if they are embossed, engraved, or printed with the agency or program logos. All expenditures for equipment and supplies/materials will require prior approval by DEA Headquarters.

3 Web-based DEA Internet Capability Endeavor (DICE) and TFOs with Firebird access to the DEA Analysis and Response Tracking System (DARTS): Effective in 2012, all participants in the DCE/SP are required to use DICE or DARTS for reporting statistics (on each incident), submission or reportable intelligence, deconfliction, and for the sharing of information.

4 The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider the potential effects on the human environment of major federal actions. Pursuant to NEPA, DEA has published regulations under which manual eradication is normally categorically excluded from further analysis, while herbicidal eradication normally requires preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA). Any proposed use or funding or herbicides should be described in this section.