

Dear Friends of Covelo, BOS, Sheriff Kendall, and all other Interested Parties:

I have grave concerns about the marijuana situation in Round Valley.

Let me tell you briefly about my background: I owned a business in Germany with fifty employees. We recently celebrated one-hundred years in business.

I fell in love with Covelo the first time I saw it and bought a ranch here in 1979.

In 1980 I started Covelo Machine & Tool. We produced precision tools right here in Covelo, serving not only the US market, but also exporting to Mexico, Canada, and the Europe. In 1979, I gave my German company to my son, committing myself to working to improve life in Round Valley any way I could.

The Pacific Lumber Company was really the only large concern in Round Valley when I moved here. When it closed it left us with a disaster, both socially and economically.

And now we find ourselves in that position once more. We are dealing with a plague—it's not the coronavirus but the marijuana virus that is killing the valley. We are still dealing with many of the consequences of our past history. No laws seem to apply to the growers. Does it really take someone going missing just to shut down one operation?

There are hundreds of illegal operations, and everyone knows it. Why has no action been taken?

Can't we accomplish more with the all the muscle of our Sheriff, Supervisors, Building Department, and Health Department?

This is an out-of-control cancer, spreading into every aspect of our community, yet we all seem to remain so passive.

I worry for our younger generation. Is our legacy to be only a life of crime, with no education, and no meaningful work to offer our children? The only opportunities seem to be tied to marijuana—short term, with no security.

How can we use our tax dollars to improve the future of these young and the health of our valley?

How can we work with the county offices to help with enforcement and see that the laws are obeyed and respected?

Sincerely  
Roland C. Hoehne  
17 July 2020