

Dear Board of Supervisors,

It has come to my attention that Mendocino County rangelands are in jeopardy of being turned into permissible commercial cannabis cultivation areas. I am firmly opposed to anything that encourages greater cultivation on Rangelands.

I am a retired real estate broker, longtime resident and rancher in Potter Valley, and am most concerned that large cannabis grows are proliferating in defiance of water scarcity and environmental sanity, leading to diminished water sources, land degradation and damaged wildlife habitat. Keep local control with your ordinance and please stop allowing obvious and clearly inappropriate land use. I understand that budget, staffing and Covid 19 constraints have you in a bind, but throwing your hands up and saying we can't handle this is no solution. I would also think further expansion into rangelands would not be in compliance with the County's General Plan.

At the very least, postpone any action until more information has been disseminated and the public has a chance to respond. Maybe some good ideas will surface to make your job easier. You will surely get a fierce backlash if you quietly make it possible to expand large scale growing on rangelands.

Sincerely,

Joanthan Whipple

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