
PEREGRINE AUDUBON SOCIETY



April 13, 2021
Peregrine Audubon Society
PO Box 311
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: [OA_2021-0002 \(Cannabis Cultivation - Chapter 22.18\)](#)

April 19, 2021 Board of Supervisors Public Hearing

Dear Board Members and Staff,

Peregrine Audubon Society understands that you are considering adopting a new Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance that will establish a discretionary use permit process that allows for the expansion of cannabis cultivation to rangeland and permits up to 10% of a parcel to be put into production. We are strongly opposed to opening up the Mendocino County Rangeland Zone to cannabis production, especially without an EIR.

As a local Chapter of the National Audubon Society, our mission is to promote the conservation of birds, wildlife, and their natural habitats. We feel that this proposal would have a very negative impact on the ecosystems and wildlife of our county. Impacts include, but are not limited to, loss of habitat for resident and migrating birds, loss of fish habitat and the destruction of watersheds, and reduction of native plant species. The oak woodlands of Mendocino County are a critical habitat for hundreds of wildlife species. This ordinance would result in fragmentation of our rangeland that includes thousands of acres of oak woodland. Coupled with increased demands on an already limited water supply, the cumulative impacts of opening rangeland to cultivation will have a catastrophic impact on wildlife.

We encourage the BOS to follow the precautionary principle and take the time to develop a responsible long term strategy for cannabis regulation that protects our county's unique resources and complies with the overarching policies of the Mendocino County General Plan regarding our Biological Resources. Please note that the Mendocino County General Plan specifically recognizes the importance of oak woodlands and intact habitats.

Policy RM-24: Protect the county's landscapes by restricting conversion and fragmentation of timberlands, oak woodlands, stream corridors, farmlands, and other natural environments.

Policy RM-25: Prevent fragmentation and loss of our oak woodlands, forests, and wildlands and preserve the economic and ecological values and benefits.

We also encourage you to allocate the necessary funding to support the planning and enforcement personnel required.

Thank you for your work to create, adopt, and enforce responsible cannabis cultivation regulations.

Sincerely yours,

Peregrine Audubon Society

<http://www.peregrineaudubon.org/officers.html>

Submitted for PAS by Helen Menasian, Vice President