



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mendocino N.F.
Supervisor's Office

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File Code: 1950

Date: August 24, 2011

Andrew Orahoske
Conservation Director
Environmental Protection Information Center
145 G Street, Suite A
Arcata, CA 95521

Dear Mr. Orahoske:

This is to confirm our response to your emails and attachments of July 20, 2011 that requested "supplemental NEPA re: cannabis cultivation on the Mendocino National Forest". Forest Planner Mike Van Dame discussed this matter earlier with you over the telephone.

Cannabis cultivation on federal lands is a criminal activity, not a federal action, and therefore NEPA does not apply. Therefore, we do not foresee conducting any stand-alone NEPA for cannabis cultivation. NEPA requires only that we consider the effects of non-federal actions to the extent that they would interact cumulatively with the effects of actions proposed by the Forest Service.

Regarding Mendocino National Forest (MNF) actions that have existing decisions, we will evaluate site-specific information that comes to our attention regarding actual cultivation effects that may interact cumulatively with the effects of the MNF action. The evaluation will be conducted and documented according to guidance in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 18 (enclosed).

Regarding MNF proposed actions for which decisions have not been issued, we will also evaluate site-specific information that comes to our attention regarding actual cultivation effects that may interact cumulatively with the effects of the proposed action. In these cases, documentation of any such effects will occur in the NEPA documents that support each decision.

In neither case are we required by NEPA to speculate regarding cumulative effects related to future criminal acts. Therefore, our cumulative effects analyses will be limited to consideration of actual, site-specific effects of cannabis cultivation.



Regarding the potential need to amend the forest plan, I do not see a connection with the cannabis cultivation problem. Cannabis cultivation is an illegal act of individuals and criminal organizations, whereas the forest plan's purpose is solely to guide Forest Service management actions. However, if you have specific management direction in mind that you think needs to be amended, please discuss it further with Mike (mvandame@fs.fed.us; (530) 934-1141).

Sincerely,



LEE D. JOHNSON
Acting Forest Supervisor

~~Enclosure~~