



Richard C. Scholl
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
- PRESS RELEASE -

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

Source: MONET Team

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As part of the annual campaign of the Mono Narcotic Enforcement Team (MONET) to combat the cultivation of marijuana in Mono County, MONET agents with the assistance of the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, National Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Mono County Sheriff, Inyo County Sheriff, Inyo Narcotic Enforcement Team, U.S.F.S., Bishop Police, and C.H.P., eradicated large sophisticated cultivation operations in Mono County on Forest Service land.

The eradications took place on the mornings of August 10 and August 12, 2009 in remote areas of the Glass Mountains and Wildrose Canyons. During the raid and eradication of one of the sites, it was determined that the grow sites had been abandoned, most likely due to the fact that there had been recent fires, and citizens who had inadvertently walked into the site(s) by accident. No suspects were arrested.

It took several hours for law enforcement to eradicate the more than 26,300 marijuana plants from the combined sites.

The potential street value of the marijuana would have been in the area of \$78,900,000 (million).

The U.S. Forest Service will go into the area for extensive clean up and restoration of the forest that was damaged by the cultivators.

MONET would like to warn outdoor enthusiasts of the dangers of locating one of these grows while enjoying the outdoors. If you see anything that looks out of place such as cleared areas of forest that should not be, fertilizer bags, black plastic pipes, large camps where there should not be, or growing marijuana, you should immediately leave the area and note the location if possible and notify the appropriate law enforcement agency. These large scale marijuana cultivators are known to be armed and will sometimes protect the gardens at any expense.

The law requires that arrest information be made available to the public. This publication may contain suspect information about individuals booked by the Mono County Sheriff's Department recently. Names of juveniles (under 18-years-old) are not public. Suspect information and ongoing investigation details are also withheld. Since most cases have yet to be adjudicated, all charges should be considered allegations. For questions/concerns regarding any information contained in this publication, contact Undersheriff Ralph Obenberger at (760) 932-7549.