

Dear Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services:

I am very glad to see the addition of Item G of the latest amendment to Section 10A.17.040 of the revised cannabis ordinance that says:

*All cultivation of cannabis shall not utilize water that has been or is illegally diverted from any spring, wetland, stream, creek, or river. The activities associated with the cultivation of cannabis shall not create erosion or result in contaminated runoff into any stream, creek, river or body of water.*

This is a good improvement to the RL zone permitting process, although I believe there should be **no** cannabis cultivation expansion allowed into range or timberland for many reasons. One major reason for prohibiting cannabis expansion into these zones--or in fact any water-dependent crop at this time--is the question of how and who will determine if a water source such as a spring or stream has previously been diverted, whether or not it was for crop cultivation or some other reason. I know of one such site, which would seem perfect for conversion to cannabis cultivation, but the large area of crops and garden that are currently cultivated there are completely dependent on a once natural, year-round creek that was diverted and dammed many years ago and is now causing major erosion along its banks. I hope you will not leave it up to adjacent parcel owners or neighbors to divulge this information, but rather take a professional hydrologist and a soils and erosion expert to inspect each site before you grant any permits in range land or forestland.

Also, one of the biggest negative impacts of new and current cannabis cultivation in our range and forest lands, and its related land and infrastructure development, is that which is already affecting our native wildlife. Many native species of wild animals have been suffering greatly and have been displaced by the massive wildfires and severe drought occurring in this and all other counties in California and beyond. Removing even more of their habitat and open or wooded space where they can roam freely (not in designated, artificial "corridors") will put them more at danger while creating even more conflicts with the increased number of people who are already encroaching on their territories with rural subdivisions and fenced-off access to water and food.

Please use your knowledge and authority to advise the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors against **any** expansion and development of cannabis cultivation in what's left of our wildlands and natural habitats, for the sake of what's left of the native wildlife here that depends on them.

Thank you,

D. Roble  
District 5

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