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May 10, 2017

## **Assemblymember Jim Wood Announces \$1.5M for Environmental Cleanup of North Coast Illegal Cannabis Grow Sites**

SACRAMENTO—The Brown administration, a passionate proponent of environmental protection, is providing \$1.5 million in the state budget to fund environmental cleanup of illegal cannabis grow sites in Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino Counties.

"These illegal grow sites do untold damage to forests and wildlife along the North Coast and with Assemblymember Wood's leadership, we're doing something about it," said Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

"Our beautiful pristine forests have become havens for these illegal grow sites," said Assemblymember Jim Wood, who represents these North Coast counties. "These illegitimate growers have continued to ignore not only state laws for farming cannabis, but have left these sites ravaged by lethal chemicals, clear cutting and thousands of pounds of trash."

The worst chemicals used at these illegal sites are often-banned rodenticides which are used to keep animals away, but in fact often kill pacific fishers, deer and bear as well as the animals that prey upon them such as mountain lions, bobcats, hawks and spotted owls. One-eighth teaspoon of the pesticide carbofuran, a banned pesticide which is used by rogue growers, can kill a bear. These toxins remain in the ground and eventually run off into rivers and streams, destroying everything in their path, including endangered fish species such as Coho salmon.

"These funds will go to our well-established Fisheries Restoration Grant Program which was created to address declining populations of wild salmon and steelhead trout, and deteriorating fish habitat in California," said California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Charlton H. Bonham. "The \$1.5 million will help us continue to clean up the egregious environmental damage, specifically to California's waterways, caused by illegal marijuana cultivation sites."

The illegal clear cutting creates dangerous kindling for forest fires when the fallen timber is not removed from the area. Chemical ponds are dug and filled with hazardous liquids. The trash left

behind includes generators, piping, storage tanks, thousands of butane canisters, other fuel and abandoned weapons. Excavated pits are used to store weapons and then covered with debris. All of this creates a dangerous environment for firefighters, law enforcement and recreational hikers.

"The importance of this funding cannot be underestimated," said Trinity County Supervisor Judy Morris. "The future health of our watersheds, fisheries, forest and communities depends on the health of both private and public lands, in which public lands make up a significantly large portion of Trinity County. The cleanup of these areas will also serve to deter any future rogue growing activity, since the associated infrastructure is a significant cost. We are extremely grateful that the Governor's office and Assemblymember Wood are continuing to address this extremely important issue."

The funding will be included in the Governor's May Revise budget which will be released on Thursday, May 11.

"I am grateful to the Governor's Administration for recognizing the importance of cleaning up these environmental disasters," said Wood, "and look forward to making progress on returning our North Coast areas to their pristine state."

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Assemblymember Jim Wood (D- Healdsburg) represents the 2nd Assembly District, which includes all of Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt and Mendocino counties, plus northern and coastal Sonoma County, including the northern half of Santa Rosa.