

Report Illegal Cannabis Grows on Public Lands

Call **888-334-2258** or Text to **847411** (TIP411)
CalTIP app info: wildlife.ca.gov/caltip

The public remains one of the best sources for reports of illegal cannabis cultivation activity on your federal, state and county property. Cannabis cultivation is never allowed on public lands. If you see environmental crimes or other criminal activity, report it.

SIGNS OF ILLEGAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION ON PUBLIC LANDS:

- Irrigation materials, such as black hoses and drip lines.
- Dams or waterholes in unusual places often lined with tarps or black plastic.
- Trash in unusual places, such as food wrappers, toothbrushes, drink containers, fertilizer bags and pesticide containers.
- Unusual rock formations or trail markers that may indicate a path.
- Evidence of digging, such as garden tools, plant pockets, leveling or terracing of soil.
- Cut brush and trees, stacks of dead vegetation cut by hand tools.
- A skunk-like smell, especially on hot days.



Above: Water hole lined with plastic tarp in an unusual place.



Above: Irrigation materials such as polyethylene piping (polypipe).



Above: Large amounts of trash scattered throughout an area.



An illegal grow discovered at the Cosumnes River Preserve.



Wildlife officers cleaning up an illegal cannabis grow on your public lands. Common items include irrigation tubing, trash, spent propane tanks and camping equipment.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND AN ILLEGAL GROW:

- Go back the way you came and get to safety immediately.
- If you encounter someone suspicious near a suspected illegal grow, remain calm, and appear nonthreatening. Do not be confrontational.
- Do not touch any trash or dead wildlife associated with an illegal grow, especially containers with fluid or powdered substances inside, which may contain toxic pesticides that are harmful to human health.
- If it is safe to do so, get the GPS location of the site and take a picture of any landmarks.
- **Call the CalTIP number at (888) 334-2258, text an anonymous tip to 847411 (TIP411) or report via the CalTIP app.**

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Illegal cannabis growers are typically in remote areas and are trying to stay hidden, reducing the likelihood of public interaction.
- The public is more likely to stumble across indicators of an illegal grow such as polypipe, garbage or illegal water diversion rather than the growers themselves.
- Since water is a critical component for cannabis cultivation, illegal grows may occur within the vicinity of creeks, streams or lakes.

HOW CDFW RESPONDS TO THIS PROBLEM:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) officers dedicate teams to eradicate illegal cannabis grows on both private and public lands. Wildlife officers then pursue criminal charges against illegal cultivators, remediate public lands impacted by illegal cultivation and provide public safety.
- Environmental scientists in CDFW's cannabis program are developing a long-term monitoring program to better understand the impacts of cannabis cultivation on California's native fish and wildlife. This statewide initiative focuses on monitoring habitat, water quality and changes to species distribution, among other important scientific measurements.



Airlift cleanup of polypiping from an illegal grow at the Tehama Wildlife Area. Remote areas are especially difficult to clean up and such efforts cost thousands of dollars.



wildlife.ca.gov/cannabis