



# JERE MELO FOUNDATION

Newsletter August 2017

## Take Back Our Forests

### Grant Application for Cleanup of Trespass Grows In Noyo River Watershed

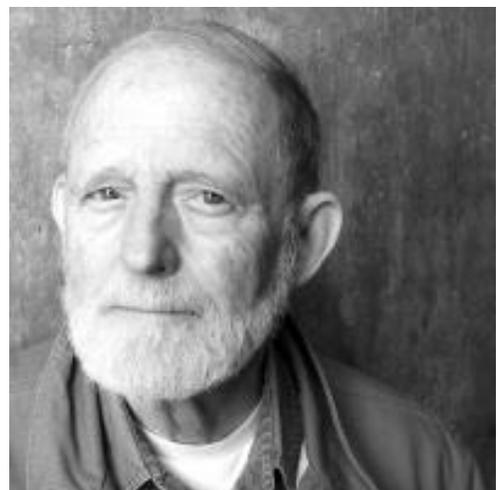
In June of this year, the Jere Melo Foundation worked with the Mendocino County Blacktail Association to apply for a grant to clean up three trespass marijuana sites in the Noyo River watershed. The grants are available through the California Department of Fish and Game's Cannabis Restoration Grant Program. Approximately \$1.5 million is available for Fiscal Year 2017-18 for projects that implement restoration of habitat most heavily impacted by cannabis cultivation in California's North Coast. Awarding of the grants is expected in November of 2017.



the Noyo River. A multitude of fertilizer containers were found on the site. When fertilizers enter streams, they allow algae blooms to flourish. This, in turn, removes oxygen from the water, further impacting fisheries habitat.



### Thank you Professor McBride



The Jere Melo Foundation wishes to recognize JOE R. MCBRIDE, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

These sites are especially disturbing as they are located in a watershed where millions of dollars have been spent to restore coho salmon



and steelhead habitat. One site illegally diverted water from a spring that supplies water to a tributary stream to



Professor McBride is the founder of the Walk in memory of Jere Melo. His idea was to do an annual walk in memory of Jere, the Jere Melo Foundation (JMF) thought it was a great idea and wanted to highlight Jere's work around trash collected in the woods, mostly of trash left in marijuana grow sites on timberland. The first year 2012 we walked in the woods and planted a tree in Jere's memory (the tree is still growing), but nobody saw us. The next 3 years Professor McBride brought his students and the t-shirts we have all collected over the years. The original artwork on the t-shirts is his design. We moved the walk to town, so people could actually see us. He and his students were also great help and great fun. Professor McBride has known Jere over several years of their involvement in forestry management. Jere was an alumnus of the Forestry Program at the University of California-Berkeley and Jere's brother, when attending Cal, took a class of Professor McBride's. Professor McBride has been unable to attend the walk last year and this year. We miss him, but the walk will continue, thanks to him.

for further information.



*Madeleine Melo and Linda Royat attend the conference dinner*

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## After Legalizing Weed, California's Black Market Could Remain Huge

By [Laurel Rosenhall](#)  
Reporter, CALmatters  
Thursday, August 3rd, 2017



Legalizing marijuana, California voters were told last year, would create a "safe, legal and comprehensive system" allowing adults to consume the drug while keeping it out of the hands of children. Marijuana would be sold in highly regulated stores, the Proposition 64 campaign promised, and California would gain new tax revenue by bringing the cannabis marketplace "out into the open."

Voters overwhelmingly bought the message, with 57 percent approving Proposition 64. But as state regulators prepare to begin offering licenses to marijuana businesses on Jan. 1, it turns out that a huge portion of the state's weed is likely to remain on the black market

That's because California grows a lot more pot than its residents consume, and Prop. 64 only makes marijuana legal within the state's borders. It also didn't give an automatic seal of approval to every cannabis grower. Those who want to sell legally must be licensed by the state and comply with detailed rules that require testing plants, labeling packages and tracking marijuana as it moves from farm to bong.

Exactly how much cannabis circulates in California is unknown because most marijuana grows—and purchases—have been illegal for so long. But economists hired by the state government estimate

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## Jere Melo Foundation Educates The Public About Trespass Marijuana Grows At The Sierra Cascade Logging Conference

In February of this year, JMF Board Members Dick Royat, Linda Royat, and Madeleine Melo attended the 2017 Sierra Cascade Logging Conference. Hundreds of people attended the conference including loggers, school children, and members of the public.'

Dick and Linda report many individuals and groups came by the JMF booth to become educated on the dangers and environmental impacts associated with

trespass grows. The booth has a large screen television with a looping video showing photographs of these hazards as well as handouts



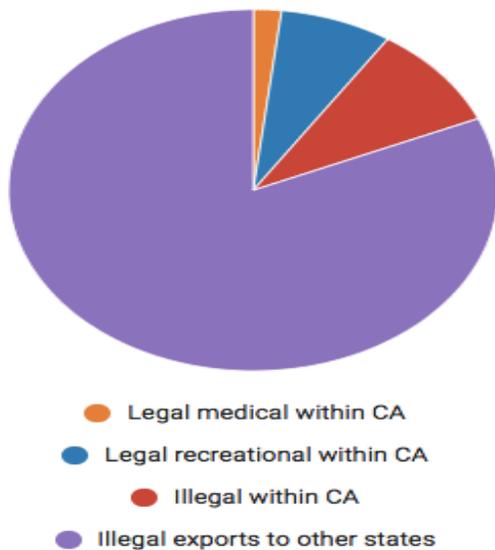
*JMF Board member, Dick Royat manning the booth at the conference.*

that California farms produce about 13.5 million pounds of cannabis each year, while state residents annually consume about 2.5 million pounds. That leaves 11 million pounds of pot that likely flows out of California illegally, according to the economic report commissioned by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, which regulates cannabis farmers. Other analyses have similarly found that roughly 80 percent of California-grown marijuana leaves the state.

Even the 2.5 million pounds of marijuana consumed within California won't all be purchased through state-sanctioned shops when they open; the economists predict about half of it will probably be sold illegally.

## Projected pot production and use in California

Economists predict that adult legal use of marijuana in California will be just a fraction of the 13.5 million pounds produced in the state.



Source: ERA Economics, Economic Impact Analysis of Medical Cannabis Cultivation Program Regulations, Jan. 2017 report. Figures are best estimates calculated by economists.

Those sales opportunities will still be there,” said Hezekiah Allen, executive director of the California

Growers Association, which represents more than 1,000 marijuana businesses in the state.

Allen surveyed his members recently and found that 85 percent hope to get a license to sell marijuana legally under Prop. 64. But many fear they won't be able to because some local governments will limit or ban pot businesses, or because prices could drop too low in the regulated market. And if they can't sell weed legally, 40 percent of the respondents to Allen's survey said they would continue operating the way they always have: on the black market.

Some long-time cannabis growers will likely go out of business, Allen said. But, “at the end of the day, a lot of businesses in general may stay outside of the regulated market.”

That means that despite the passage of Prop. 64, California cops will still have plenty of work going after illicit cannabis operations.

“You're going to see robust enforcement efforts to prevent California from becoming the staging area for drug trafficking nationwide,” said John Lovell, a lobbyist for the California Narcotics Officers Association, which opposed the ballot measure.

A spokesman for the Prop. 64 campaign said the measure wasn't intended to abolish all criminalization of marijuana but instead to allow opportunities for “operators who want to be responsible and compliant.”

“No one ever promised to completely eliminate the black market—that's like promising security cameras will completely eliminate shoplifting—but it will be significantly reduced,” spokesman Jason Kinney said by email.

He added that the state's estimates of marijuana supply and demand are unreliable because the legal marketplace created by Prop. 64 won't begin to roll out until next year. And he pointed out that some of the tax dollars generated by legal marijuana sales will go toward cracking down on illicit operations.

State officials said they are encouraging marijuana businesses to follow the rules and become part of the regulated system, while also planning how to go after those that remain in the black market.

“We are developing a formal complaint system that will allow anyone to report illegal grows or other

concerns, and then we will forward those potential issues to the appropriate (law enforcement) agencies,” said Rebecca Forée, a spokeswoman for the state’s cannabis cultivation licensing office within the Department of Food and Agriculture.

Lori Ajax, chief of the state’s Bureau of Cannabis Control, said her agency is trying to entice marijuana businesses to go legit by crafting rules that aren’t too difficult for them to live by.

“It’s making sure those people who want to be in the regulated market, that we have made a path for them, we’re not making our regulations so difficult and hard to comply with that you’re discouraging people,” Ajax said.

“First, we’ve got to get those folks in there and... then see what comes after that with enforcement.”

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## Jere Melo Volunteer Awards

The Jere Melo Foundation was proud to host the third annual Jere Melo Volunteer Awards Dinner and Silent Auction in August 2016. This award is given to a local volunteer who has gone above and beyond in their efforts to give back to the community.



Nominee Michael Beck has taken it upon himself to clean up the highways and roads of our community and has been early as 4:00AM and well after dark. He is also a member of the Fort Bragg Grange and helps at their monthly breakfasts and volunteers elsewhere as well.

Nominee Tim Bosma is a past president of the Fort Bragg Rotary, and usually found helping at the local community events when he isn’t volunteering as the auctioneer for the event. He also works with the Interact Club and serves as a judge and mentor for the

students who participate in Odyssey of the Mind. Nominee Brittany Dondanville can usually be found taking hundreds of pictures of sporting and fundraising events in support of our community’s youth and she has also literally certified hundreds of local community members in both CPR and First-aid.

Nominee Marilyn LeRoy served on the Hospital Foundation for 15 years, belongs to the Native Daughters, Botanical Gardens, Winesong, Habitat for Humanity and is a long-time volunteer for the Mendocino Study Club. She also works at the Whale Festival and provides rides for numerous coastal residents for out of town doctor appointments and volunteers as a reader for Sherwood Oaks patients.

And our winner Ruth Sparks has been the creator and driving force behind several of the Fort Bragg Garden Club’s annual events and she is responsible for the successful Read-Aloud program



in our community and she has coordinated many of the activities surrounding the Pygmy Forest Project.

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## Legislative Update: “What a Mess” By Madeleine Melo

Mike McGuire, now State Senator McGuire, asked me to talk with him one-on-one when he was running for the State Senate. Our conversation was mostly about the Jere Melo Foundation (JMF) and the mission to stop and clean up illegal trespass growing of marijuana. As we talked at one point he stopped and said something like “What a mess!”.



Yes indeed! Not only the environmental damage done by such grows is a mess, but the fact that humans live or are forced to live in such squalor while tending those grows is inhuman. The laws, in 2013 were a mishmash of city and

county efforts to make order out of chaos, “what a mess”. To Senator McGuire’s credit, and the multiple efforts of other public officials, they are trying to make law that will bring order to the authority of allowing growing, distribution and use of marijuana. The Jere Melo Foundation does not attempt to rationalize what is right and wrong in those areas, our focus is entirely on the MESS made on lands not owned by growers. The trespass on property, illegally cut trees, land erosion, water theft, the list goes on and on.

Over the last 6 years we have all learned more about marijuana and marijuana growing than anyone of us wants to know. I have read and looked-for articles about illegal marijuana grows and spend several hours a week reviewing articles about illegal trespass grows. There are volumes written about National, State, County and City laws and ordinances all pertaining to marijuana. In that massive mess, I have tried to concentrate on the mission.

It would take an entire book to catch you up. Every State that has legalized either medical or recreational marijuana has their own formula, laws, ordinances, requirements etc. There are no set procedures on how to deal with the mire of complications that have arisen from this issue. Every county in California has reported an illegal trespass grow of marijuana plants, not to mention production of other drugs. Most if not all 50 states in the union have reported an illegal trespass grow of marijuana plants.

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## Currently in California

1. California legalized recreational marijuana in November of 2016. (Medical marijuana has been legal since 1996 in California).
2. In early 2017 The Bureau of Cannabis Control was established under the Department of Consumer Affairs.  
“Then earlier this spring, the Department of Consumer Affairs’ Bureau of Cannabis Control, Department of Public Health and Department of Food and Agriculture released proposed regulations for the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act. These licensing authorities held public hearings and accepted written comments regarding the proposed regulations.”

3. “In late June, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law, the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act, which creates one regulatory system for both medicinal and adult-use cannabis. As a result, the licensing authorities will withdraw the proposed medical cannabis regulations noticed for public comment on April 28 and May 5, 2017. The withdrawal is likely to happen in early august.”
4. Most California counties and cities have adopted ordinances around the cultivation, distribution and use of marijuana, as they were required to do under the law passed last November

At the State level, the three cannabis licensing authorities are each developing new proposed regulations based on the new law for the commercial medicinal and adult-use cannabis industries. During this process, the licensing authorities will consider the robust and valuable public comment received regarding the proposed medical cannabis regulations.

The licensing authorities will use the emergency rulemaking process for the new proposed regulations. The emergency regulations are expected to be published in fall 2017. The implementation date for the issuance of commercial cannabis licenses remains the same: January 2, 2018.

For additional information about the Bureau, or to subscribe to email alerts to hear about updates as they become available, please visit their website [www.bmcr.ca.gov](http://www.bmcr.ca.gov)

In addition, you can now follow the Bureau on social media!

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## In the News:

Rep. Huffman (D-San Rafael) announced he is calling for public input on his newly unveiled draft legislation to guard communities against wildfires, provide local jobs, restore lands impaired by illegal marijuana growing operations, and protect Northern California's spectacular wild places and pristine streams on federal lands. You can write your comments to [ca02publiclands@gmail.com](mailto:ca02publiclands@gmail.com)

In addition to inviting constituents to provide

comments online, Rep. Huffman will hold four public meetings. to explain the draft legislation and take constituent questions and feedback. There will be a public meeting in Ukiah August 29, 2017 1:30-3:30 at the Ukiah Civic center in the City Council Chambers. You can read the entire draft bill at: <https://huffman.house.gov/rep-huffmans-legislation-to-protect-the-north-coast-s-spectacular-wild-places-and-rivers-0>



Figure 1 Pollution from illegal marijuana grow sites is reaching alarming levels. Mourad Gabriel of the Integral Ecology Research Center stands among trash at a site in Northern California.

You can read a California county's or city's ordinance by going to the individual web site. For instance, the city of Fort Bragg can be found at <https://city.fortbragg.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/2066> The county of Mendocino at; <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/agriculture/cannabis-cultivation>

Where are we now? It depends on who you ask-

1. "It is way better down by 20-50%"
2. "It is about the same"
3. "trespassing is way down"
4. "the black market and growing illegally will continue"
5. "the trespass grows are mainly cartels"
6. "the cost of growing legally will be too expensive and illegal grows will continue"

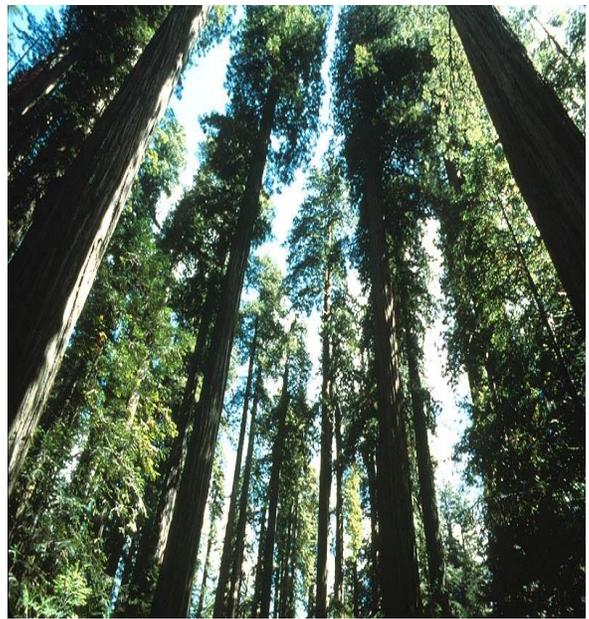
The following is a quote from a Newsweek Article, by Douglas Main- dated August 7, 2017. "There's a harsh downside to the boom in marijuana legalization and use on the West Coast: Illegal growers are polluting the environment to an alarming degree and threatening the health of people and rare wildlife in the process. Mourad Gabriel, an ecologist with the Integral Ecology Research Center in northwest California, told Reuters the problem is much worse than researchers and officials previously thought."

In closing, I will venture a private observation. In 2011, I rarely heard about illegal trespass growing of marijuana and the production of illegal drugs on someone else's property or public lands, today it is in the news nearly every day. People are becoming more educated and aware that this disaster is not just occurring in the "emerald triangle", but sadly everywhere.

I would like to think that the Jere Melo Foundation helped to educate and inform the public about this issue. Your support over the last 6 years has been heartfelt "**Thank You**".

Now as we move forward, lets really get our forest restored.

*Madeleine Melo*



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