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Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Bureau of Land Management and members of the Eastern Nevada Narcotic Task Force caution those venturing into Nevada public lands anytime to be mindful of the potential for the discovery of hidden marijuana fields.

An issue that has plagued every neighboring state of Nevada is now becoming an issue within our own back yard. In the wake of the two most recently discovered marijuana fields in Lincoln County there is increased potential for contacts between hikers, hunters and other public lands users in remote locations with those people who tend to these fields. Potential grow locations could be in areas where there is readily available water, such as rivers, creeks springs, and washes.

While there was no direct contact between the growers and the public in the two recent Lincoln County incidents, there have been documented contacts between growers and the public in other parts of the State.

With hunting season in full effect around the state, there exists the potential for other discoveries and contacts with growers. The two recent grows discovered in Lincoln County were hidden in among juniper and pine trees. The trees, sage, and other foliage provide natural cover that makes it difficult to not only find the plants from a roadway or trail, but also from the air.

There are some things those who go into the remote areas or live near them should keep in mind. You should always let someone know where you are headed and when you hope to return. People should be aware of their surroundings, and be cautious of places where tents are seen in areas where recreational activities don't usually occur. Vehicle traffic into and out of a remote area should be taken notice of, especially if it's the same pattern or vehicle. Often vehicular traffic is not detected at all. Other indicators people might come across in remote wilderness areas could be freshly tilled soil, black plastic irrigation pipe, man-made creek pools, trash piles, downed tree limbs, and very well used trails.

Public land users who see anything that seems out of place or out of the ordinary, whether they suspect it's illegal or not, are encouraged to report their findings to local law enforcement.

Remember: Do not investigate, if you see it, get out immediately.

A person who comes upon a field should leave the area the same way they came in, because that was the way that didn't lead them to a confrontation with a grower. A GPS coordinate is helpful

for law enforcement to find the location later, but is not necessary, especially with safety being a concern. Law enforcement officers can act based upon a description. And even if only one plant is found, officers may still go to the area and look.

Anyone who suspects such criminal activity or discovers what they believe to be stands of growing marijuana in rural locations should call the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office at 775-962-5151, the BLM Caliente Field Office at 775-726-8100 or the Eastern Nevada Narcotics Task Force at 775-289-1660 or 775.741.6510.