BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MEDIA RELEASE

JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER

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RELEASED BY **: Sgt Marty Rolph**

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On October 6, 2011 during the early morning hours the Butte County Sheriff's Office Special Enforcement Unit along with members of the Sheriff's K9 unit and the United States Forest Service raided a large marijuana garden in the Big Bar area of the Feather River Canyon. Deputies were able to use the ambient sounds of a localized snow storm to enter the marijuana garden undetected. While Deputies were searching the marijuana garden they encountered a suspect inside the kitchen area. The suspect spotted the Deputies as they made their way up the hill to the kitchen and fled on foot. Deputies deployed a K9 but the suspect was able to elude capture due to the rugged terrain.

Deputies continued to the camp and located a raised sleeping area with two sleeping bags and blankets. Also located was a loaded Ruger P89 9mm Semi-auto handgun. Under the raised sleeping area Deputies located 24.78 pounds of processed marijuana.

The kitchen, which was located next to the sleeping area, contained camp stoves, propane tanks, pot and pans, canned foods, fertilizers and pesticides. The kitchen, as with the sleeping area, was covered with a large sheet of black plastic strung 6' above the ground. The suspects utilized the surrounding vegetation to conceal and cover the kitchen and sleeping area.

On the hillside approximately 25 yards below the kitchen/sleeping area, Deputies located 3328 growing female marijuana plants which were eradicated.