BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MEDIA RELEASE

JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER

DATE : **10-13-2011**

RELEASED BY : **Sgt Marty Rolph**

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On October 12th, 2011 the Butte County Sheriff's Office Special Enforcement Unit served a search warrant in the 400 block of Rocky Top Road in Cherokee. When Deputies arrived at the property they were spotted by several Hispanic male adults who fled on foot into thick underbrush. The Hispanic males had been in the process of trimming a large amount of marijuana prior to the Deputies arrival. Deputies checked the surrounding area but no suspects were located.

Deputies searched the property and found a fifth wheel travel trailer that was being used as a kitchen. A second fifth wheel travel trailer found on the property was being used for weighing and packaging marijuana. Inside the fifth wheel travel trailer, Deputies located a loaded 12 gauge shotgun along with several bags of pre-weighed marijuana. As deputies searched beyond the fifth wheel travel trailers, they located a large 20' x 30' metal building. When deputies entered the building they found it was full of drying marijuana. Another shed was located on the property that was also being used to dry marijuana. Deputies also located and eradicated 91 growing female marijuana plants from the property. A total of 900 pounds of drying/trimmed marijuana would be located at the property and would have a street value of over 1.8 million dollars.

Deputies learned through their investigation that the marijuana garden was being grown for sales. The persons responsible for the marijuana garden were attempting to legitimize their illegal operation by using Proposition 215 as a disguise.