

# **BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE**

**JERRY W. SMITH  
SHERIFF-CORONER**



**DATE** : August 2, 2011

**RELEASED BY** : Sgt M Rolph

**CONTACT #** : 538-7389

On August 2, 2011 the Butte County Sheriff's Office Special Enforcement Unit along with the United States Forest Service raided a known marijuana garden near the Cresta Power House on Hwy70, in Pulga. The marijuana garden was found during a routine aerial over flight early in June. The Special Enforcement Unit was able to enter the marijuana garden undetected while the Forest Service set up outside the garden. As the Deputies cleared the marijuana garden they encountered a lone suspect in the upper growing area. The suspect was later identified as Humberto Lepe-Cervantes, 25, of Jalisco, Mexico. One of the Deputies confronted Lepe-Cervantes and attempted to take him into custody. When the Deputy attempted to take Lepe-Cervantes into custody he grabbed the Deputy's handgun and tried to remove it from the holster. The Deputy was able to quickly subdue Lepe-Cervantes and handcuff him without further incident. No other suspects were captured in the marijuana garden.

The Special Enforcement Unit and Forest Service searched the site for evidence and found multiple camp sites, one main kitchen area, an abandoned kitchen, and two marijuana processing areas with a scale, packaging material and drying racks. A total of 6,018 growing mature marijuana plants and 550 pounds of processed marijuana was removed from the site.

Lepe-Cervantes was booked into the Butte County Jail for felony marijuana cultivation, possession of marijuana for sale, and felony resisting an Officer. Lepe-Cervantes currently has no bail due to an INS hold.



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