

IN MY EXPERIENCE

by Val Don Hickerson, Bandon, Oregon

This is the latest in a series of fact based articles on global over-population. Immigration, both legal and illegal, and their offspring cause over 80% of population growth in the United States.

My last article told about a marijuana bust near the Snake River in Baker County. This article expands it and tells of other busts in Oregon. Here is a message I got from Oregonians for Immigration Reform (OFIR), ofir@oregonir.org. It's from an Aug. 23rd Oregonian article by Richard Cockle. "High times for an Oregon business: pot growing."

"LA GRANDE – The accidental death of a U.S. Forest service worker last week in the Monument Rock Wilderness underscores the seriousness of an unusually active marijuana-growing season across Oregon this summer.

"Steven A. Uptegrove, 52, died Thursday when he was hit by a falling snag while helping the Baker county Narcotics Enforcement Team eradicate 2,156 marijuana plants.

"The same day, Baker County authorities took down a marijuana garden with 12,023 plants about three miles away, Baker County

Sheriff Mitch Southwick said Friday.

"That makes 27,000 plants in Baker County this year' in four raids, the sheriff said, estimating the street value at maturity of each plant at as much as \$3,500.

"Statewide, law enforcement officers have shut down roughly 80 marijuana gardens so far this summer, said Harney County Sheriff Dave Glerup of Burns. Mexican drug gangs are suspected to be behind the big operations.

"Glerup used helicopters last Tuesday to take down a 5,250-plant marijuana garden at almost 6,000-foot elevation on rugged Steens Mountain south of Burns, he said. His deputies arrested 11 Latino men.

"We believe they are all Mexican cartel grows, and these are hired people," Glerup said.

Also this month:

* The Grant County Sheriff's Office last Wednesday, took down a 23,000-plant marijuana grow south of Dale, the biggest in county history. Three men and a woman, all Mexican nationals, were arrested, Sheriff Glenn Palmer said.

* On Aug. 14, police seized 1,630 marijuana plants on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. It was the fourth time since July 2007 that police had raided pot-growing operations on the reservation, all believed linked to Mexican drug gangs.

* In an Aug. 4 raid, Grant County deputies shut down a 1,530-plant growing operation and arrested five Latino men, Palmer said.

*In nearby Malheur County, deputies in early August seized more than 30,000 marijuana plants in three raids in the White Horse Creek drainage north of the Nevada border. Eight garden tenders' were arrested.

"Police say Mexico-based criminal organizations are finding it easier to grow marijuana in the United States than to smuggle it across the border. Glerup has found intricate irrigation systems of PVC pipe, hand-dug water reservoirs at natural springs filled with fertilizer to provide nutrients to the marijuana plants, and camouflaged drying racks.

"Palmer said most of the growers he's encountered are in their 20s and entered the country illegally. 'They run like the wind, and they don't like police,' he said."

OFIR said earlier, "Everyone arrested so far has been an illegal alien Mexican national. Still no protests from the Sierra Club and it's allies about the destruction of native vegetation, the usage of herbicides, the rerouting of streams or the trashing of wilderness areas. Why the silence?"

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(Includes deaths from the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, the war in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq.)

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF DEATHS IN AMERICA DUE TO ILLEGAL ALIENS SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001:

064525*

(Includes deaths due to violent criminal acts – estimated 10 per day; deaths due to negligence – estimated 3 per day; deaths due to drunk or reckless driving – estimated 12 per day.)

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Defense, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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