

**(Washington, D.C.) – Congressman Wally Herger issued the following statement regarding an amendment to the FY2010 Interior Appropriations bill he supported that would provide \$25 million for Forest Service law enforcement to combat drug production on federal lands. Drug production on federal lands by heavily armed illegal immigrants represents a real and growing threat to citizens in the Second Congressional District. You can see a video of the Congressman speaking out in favor of the drug enforcement amendment [here](#) .**

“Last night the House of Representatives took a positive step to deal with a serious ongoing problem in our national forests. Millions of acres of federal lands in Northern California are being overrun by marijuana cultivation. I joined Texas Congressman Lamar Smith in support of a successful amendment to dedicate \$25 million for the Forest Service to combat drug production on federal lands. In addition to the illegal cultivation of marijuana, those responsible are willing to harm or kill to protect their enterprise.

“This week, two men fired automatic weapons on law enforcement officials during a raid on a marijuana garden in Shasta County that was located just a few hundred yards from a popular fishing and recreation area. Furthermore, just last week two officers with the Lassen County Sheriff's Department were shot when they came across another marijuana garden on public land. Thankfully, these officers survived their injuries, but it is simply a matter of time before innocent lives are lost. I will continue working with the proper authorities and organizations to ensure the federal government does its part to address this real and growing problem.”

**Note** – The bill passed by a margin of 254-173. Congressman Herger voted against the complete bill because of an overall funding level that was 17% higher than last year, and other policy concerns, including dramatically increased funds for regulatory programs at the Environmental Protection Agency and a 28% increase in funding for federal land acquisition. The Senate will consider its comparable appropriations measure later this year, at which point the House and Senate will reconcile the differences between their bills and present a final bill to the President. As that process occurs, the Congressman will work to maintain the funding commitment secured through the amendment passed by the House.