



# DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

L. Shane Nelson, Sheriff

*Proudly Serving Our Community*

April 25, 2023

Dear Property Owner and Community Member:

Since the legalization of cannabis production (marijuana, hemp, and extracts containing THC) we have all seen an influx of cannabis cultivation throughout Deschutes County. While many of these operations are acting responsibly and legally, we have found a number that have been engaging in illegal activities that negatively impact the livability in Deschutes County and potentially puts landowners, such as yourself, at risk.

We have found instances where individuals leasing lands for cannabis production have been less than honest with the landowners about what they are cultivating and the licenses and permits they have obtained. Additionally we have identified instances of a significant Drug Cartel presence, human trafficking and labor law violations, water misuse, environmental hazards, unpermitted structures, a presence of firearms and hard drugs, as well as other issues.

While the individuals leasing the land may be cited for multiple violations and in some cases criminally charged, the property owner may also be held criminally and civilly liable for what is occurring on their land. I want you protect yourself and confirm the licensing and permitting prior to leasing your land to those who wish to cultivate cannabis on your property. While the laws surrounding cannabis production in Oregon and Deschutes County can be complicated, I've listed several resources below that can help you get started.

- For information on Deschutes County ordinances regarding cannabis cultivation and processing visit [www.deschutes.org/cd/page/marijuana-land-use-0](http://www.deschutes.org/cd/page/marijuana-land-use-0).
- For more on marijuana in Deschutes County, visit the CANNAFACTS website, a new resource designed to help local residents and visitors better understand the laws and regulations surrounding cannabis in Deschutes County. ([www.canna-facts.com](http://www.canna-facts.com)). This website was created by the Deschutes County Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement (DCIMME) team, a partnership between the Deschutes County District Attorney's Office, the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, and Bend Police Department.
- The Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) is overseen by the Oregon Health Authority. Information for property owners can be found at: [www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/CHRONICDISEASE/MEDICALMARIJUANAPROGRAM/Pages/Property-Owners.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/CHRONICDISEASE/MEDICALMARIJUANAPROGRAM/Pages/Property-Owners.aspx).
- The Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) oversees Recreational marijuana. More information can be found at: [www.oregon.gov/olcc/marijuana/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/olcc/marijuana/Pages/default.aspx).
- Hemp licensing is done through the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Information on Hemp can be found at: [www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/Hemp/Pages/AboutHemp.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/Hemp/Pages/AboutHemp.aspx).

Thank you for your time and assistance in keeping illegal cannabis operations out of our County.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SHANE".

L. Shane Nelson, Sheriff