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Marijuana Growers Convicted

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Yesterday, a Shasta County jury convicted Guadalupe Macias-Zamora, , 54, and Jose Luis Madrigal-Ayala, 27, both of Grandview, Washington, of cultivation of marijuana and possession of marijuana for sale in connection with a June 2012 marijuana cultivation on Fiddlers Road in rural Shasta County. The defendants were convicted following a four day jury trial before the Honorable William Gallagher.

The evidence introduced at trial showed that agents of Shasta County Marijuana Investigation Team searched a parcel of land on Fiddlers Road on June 5, 2012. On the property, agents found both defendants near a makeshift shed adjacent to a marijuana cultivation. A total of 196 marijuana plants were found growing on the property. Agents also found 99 holes in the ground in preparation for the planting of additional marijuana plants. At the scene, both defendants admitted having come to the property from Washington within the previous two months for the purpose of cultivating the marijuana.

At trial, both defendants testified and claimed that the marijuana was being cultivated by them for medicinal purposes under the auspices of the Compassionate Use Act. However, other evidence introduced at trial linked the defendants' grow site to another larger cultivation located nearby.

Both defendants are scheduled to be sentenced on October 15, 2013, at 1:30 pm in Department 9 of the Shasta County Superior Court. They each face up to three years in custody as a result of the convictions.

This case was investigated by deputies with the Shasta County Sheriff Marijuana Investigation Team with the assistance of game wardens with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The case was prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Benjamin Hanna.