

From: Pete C**** [Pete.C****@Verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2005 5:46 PM
To:
Subject: NPS: What's more dangerous than bears in the parks?

<http://hkshooter.net/url/?nps2>

Park hikers cautioned about pot farms

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (UPI) -- There is something more dangerous than bears for hikers in national parks to look out for -- illegal pot farms with heavily armed guards.

Authorities report illegal marijuana farms run by Mexican drug cartels and protected by booby traps and guards carrying AK-47s in national parks such as Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon, the San Francisco Chronicle said.

National Park Service officials testified in Congress this week that illegal drug production in national parks, forests and other federal lands had grown into a multibillion-dollar business in recent years -- mostly concentrated in California.

Last year, National Park Service officers seized about 60,000 marijuana plants, with an estimated street value of \$240 million, from parks in California.