



*"A Professional Service Agency"*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 9, 2008

## ***Limited Excavation to occur at Barker Ranch May 20***

**CONTACT: Bill Lutze, Inyo Sheriff  
(760) 878-0395**

**Independence, CA** – Inyo County Sheriff Bill Lutze announced that soil testing at Barker Ranch was inconclusive and he will authorize exploratory excavation at the site necessary to either confirm or put to rest speculation that bodies may remain there from the Charles Manson era. Limited excavation will be done beginning May 20 through about May 23 at a very few sites on the ranch where cadaver dogs gave mixed indications and subsequent soil testing was inconclusive. Additional excavation days can be added if findings during those days warrant it.

"There was no consistent response from the dogs that searched, and no conclusive findings from the soil samplings tested by top experts in the field," reported Sheriff Lutze. "Therefore, I believe the only way to determine once and for all whether there are bodies buried at Barker Ranch from the time of the Manson family is to proceed with limited excavation in a very few areas."

Four methods of testing were done at five sites on the ranch, with scientific practice awarding high confidence where all four techniques corroborate a possible find of human remains. This was not the case in any of the sites tested, but there was some corroboration on some sites, leading to the inconclusive findings.

The Barker Ranch is National Park Service property and will be closed to the public during the excavation. NPS Personnel and Inyo Sheriff's Deputies will enforce the closure.

News access will be limited to the local newspaper and radio/television outlet and a pool of representatives of other media to be chosen among the media themselves. That pool should consist of one television network that will agree to share video; one radio broadcast representative, and one print representative who will post coverage on a major news wire service. The Sheriff's Department will not consider requests to extend this pool or select its members.

*Office of the*  
**SHERIFF**  
**INYO COUNTY, CA**



**WILLIAM R. LUTZE**  
*Sheriff*

**JOHN N. EROPKIN**  
*Undersheriff*

*"A Professional Service Agency"*

Sheriff Lutze or his representative will also provide a daily briefing during the excavation. Location and an afternoon briefing time will be determined and posted on the Sheriff's Department web site by May 19. Information provided at the briefing will also be posted each day on the web site.