

## **Excessive Chemical Use**

*Excerpts from "A Review of the American Forest & Paper Association's Sustainable Forestry Initiative," American Lands Alliance, November, 2003.*

Some SFI companies are actually increasing their chemical usage. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) now uses repeated, intensive herbicide applications to eliminate hardwoods and other vegetation in the course of converting and maintaining much of its 1.4 million acres of California forests as pine plantations. SPI applies herbicides as many as three times to each clearcut, to prevent regeneration of other native species.<sup>i</sup> In Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, herbicides were applied to 6,930 acres in one year alone.<sup>ii</sup> At this rate, each acre of SPI forest in these counties would be sprayed every 17 years. The need for herbicides would be greatly reduced if SPI were to continue managing its forests using selective logging techniques, manage for a natural diversity of tree species and understory vegetation, and/or use longer timber rotations.<sup>iii</sup>

In Canada, the British Columbia Environmental Appeals Board upheld appeals against Interfor's use of glyphosate herbicides, to protect medicinal and food plants, water quality, and wildlife dependent upon native plants and fish. Interfor continues using this highly toxic herbicide, as do some SFI companies in the U.S.<sup>iv</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Buckley, J. Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, Twain Harte, CA. Personal communication, June, 2003.

<sup>ii</sup> CSERC. 2000. Press Release: Clearcuts Lead to Widespread Chemical Treatments Across Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties. Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, CA. This represents roughly 5.8% of SPI's forests in these counties.

<sup>iii</sup> KPMG's certification report for SPI also recommended that SPI adopt a more site-specific approach to chemical use. (KPMG (2001).)

<sup>iv</sup> Tan (2003).