

Excessive Clearcutting

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

Pacific Lumber (Maxxam) and Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) use clearcuts and comparable harvest types in forests where selection forestry is economically practicable, silviculturally appropriate, and ecologically preferable. SPI is also clearcutting large percentages of its forests over short timeframes, raising concern about cumulative environmental impacts. While clearcutting represented only 2% of SPI's logging operations in 1995, it represented 87% of SPI's operations in 1999.ⁱ SPI's annual clearcutting also increased from 943 acres to 23,823 acres between 1992 and 1999 – an increase of 2,246%.ⁱⁱ SPI's average clearcut size also increased from 46 acres in 1991 to 361 acres in 1999.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Bowater Co. highlights problems with the SFI's exemptions for salvage logging. Bowater continues to establish loblolly pine plantations on the Tennessee portion of the Cumberland Plateau – despite the fact that pines are poorly suited to the Plateau's soils, and inevitably support outbreaks of the Southern pine beetle.^{iv} Bowater has used clearcuts far in excess of 120 acres when logging such plantations after recent outbreaks.^v

Companies in Canada may also not be following the SFI limits on clearcutting. Abitibi-Consolidated, for example, has created at least 10 clearcuts in Ontario that exceed 640 acres (260 ha), with one planned cut being 8,635 acres (3,454 ha).^{vi}

ⁱ Lippe et al (2001).

ⁱⁱ Shih (2000). This increase far exceeds increases in SPI's land holdings, which increased by only roughly 200% during comparable periods. (Associated Press, "Sierra Clearcutting on Rise," May 4, 2000.)

ⁱⁱⁱ *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. 2000. "The King of Stumps." June 28, 2000, San Francisco, CA.

^{iv} Cielo Sand, Tennessee ForestWatch, LaFollette, TN, personal communication, June, 2003.

^v Cielo Sand, Tennessee ForestWatch, LaFollette, TN, personal communication, June, 2003.

^{vi} Tan (2003).