



March 22, 2022

## **BC Timber Sales Proceeding with More South Coast Forestry Herbicide Spraying**

The public agency BC Timber Sales is continuing its long-standing use of chemical herbicide applications on public forests to kill native hardwood species including alder, western maple and cottonwood in regenerating cutblocks.

The agency is currently advertising its 5-year Pest Management Plan that authorizes herbicide use on all BC Timber Sales cutblocks in the Chilliwack Forest District for the duration of the plan. This district stretches from Hope all the way to Squamish. There is no legal recourse to stop this plan from proceeding.

The herbicides that will be authorized include glyphosate, triclopyr, and 2,4-d. Aerial helicopter application of these herbicides will be authorized, along with backpack spraying.

Glyphosate is the controversial herbicide used in Roundup that is subject to ongoing lawsuits related to its carcinogenicity. It has also been found to contaminate vegetation for up to 12 years and to have impacts on freshwater zooplankton at small quantities and to be toxic to aquatic organisms.

“Despite the claims, the rules do not provide adequate or strict protection of waterways,” states Stop the Spray BC spokesperson James Steidle. “The Integrated Pest Management Act regulations only require a 10 meter setback to major waterways when spraying from a helicopter, allows the direct spraying of the vast majority of dry creeks, and authorizes direct spraying of small marshes less than 264 square feet. Drift has been documented to reach 800 meters and these dry creeks and small marshes at the time of spraying in late August are usually much larger and productive the rest of the year.”

The public has until March 27<sup>th</sup> to submit comments to the Chilliwack BC Timber Sales office at [forests.chinooktimbersalesoffice@gov.bc.ca](mailto:forests.chinooktimbersalesoffice@gov.bc.ca).

“The entire basis for this program is both unethical and counter-productive,” continues Steidle. “We are exposing fisheries and wildlife in our public forest to toxic chemicals so that we can remove the hardwood species that are exponentially more fire-resistant, reduce flooding, cool landscapes because of higher albedo, support exponentially more wildlife, and sequester more carbon.”

“This program literally mal-adapts our forests to climate change, makes fire and flooding worse, kills off the deciduous species that Indigenous culture and identity revolved around, yet we continue to spend taxpayer dollars to carry out these questionable objectives.”

The forests around Chilliwack are some of the most intensely sprayed forests in British Columbia, along with Prince George.

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