

*Natural. Valued. Protected.*

# Vegetation management in Ontario's forests



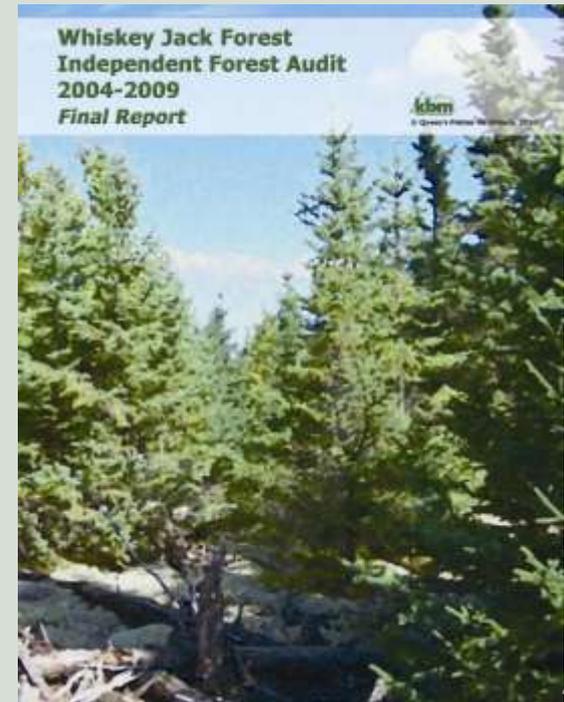
- It is ecologically important to renew all species in our forests, including conifers.
  - Many wildlife species require conifers
  - It is a legal responsibility under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act
- Vegetation management is essential for renewing conifers
- There are laws, policies and procedures to protect human health and the environment.

The ***Crown Forest Sustainability Act*** requires the forest to be renewed:

“Large, healthy, diverse and productive Crown forests and their associated ecological processes and biological diversity should be conserved”

- If Crown forests are harvested, the challenge is to renew them to a state that is consistent with their pre-harvest condition and forest management objectives.

- The 2011 Ontario Auditor General's Report discussed Ontario's regeneration standards and declining tending and site preparation.
- This report also cited recent Independent Forest Audit reports that expressed concern about inadequate tending and site preparation.



# Some species that depend on conifer:

- American marten
- Moose & deer (winter cover)
- Woodland caribou
- Heather vole
- Spruce grouse
- Blackburnian warbler
- Pine warbler
- Blue-headed vireo
- Pine grosbeak
- Red-breasted nuthatch
- Red crossbill

- Vegetation management is necessary to maintain conifer in forests

Northern forests are adapted to periodic disturbance



**Photo: Edmonton Journal**

# Insects!



Jack pine budworm, Merrit Township  
– M.Francis





Chapleau District – John Stephens,  
MNRF



Chapleau Forest

# What is vegetation management?

- Managing plants to meet an objective
  - industrial rights-of-way (e.g., hydro)
  - agriculture
  - forestry

In forests, vegetation is managed in renewing the forest following harvest:

- To prepare sites so new trees can be planted
- To control weeds and brush threatening survival and growth of new trees





Dryden, 1989

## Bending Lake Research site

Jack pine - tended  
and untended



# Thunder Bay - white spruce



White pine age 11



# Algoma forest





- Environmental effects
- Human health (workers, bystanders, public)
- Effectiveness
- Cost







Gordon Cosens forest 2009 15 yr  
spruce plantation



Sapawe forest 2005, post spray

Much research has been conducted in Ontario and elsewhere to evaluate alternatives to herbicides:

- Mechanical site preparation
- Prescribed fire
- Manual cleaning
- Grazing animals (*Kalmia*)
- Modified harvest
- Large planting stock







## *Environmental Assessment Board:*

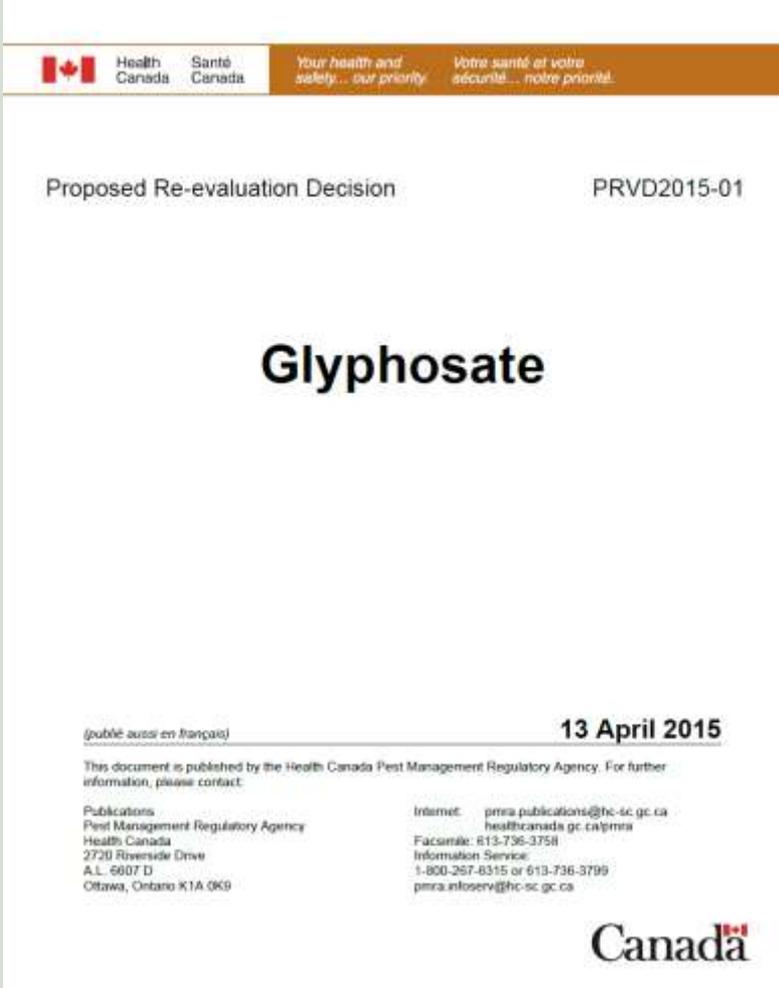
Herbicide tending is  
essential

“We became convinced by the evidence of expert witnesses that **herbicide tending is essential** to the regeneration of future conifer timber supply, but nevertheless we looked carefully at the evidence for all indications of adverse environmental effects or danger to public health. We were reassured by the evidence we heard about the approval for **safe use of these herbicides** in forestry by the Federal and Ontario governments, the United States and other jurisdictions.”

safe use of these herbicides

## Health Canada (Pest Management Regulatory Agency)

- Regulatory decisions
- Analysis of research data
- Periodic re-evaluation
- Works with other regulatory agencies worldwide



Health Canada Santé Canada

Your health and safety... our priority. Votre santé et votre sécurité... notre priorité.

Proposed Re-evaluation Decision PRVD2015-01

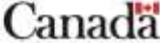
# Glyphosate

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- Follow all Health Canada and MOECC regulations
- Why are you spraying?
- Public notification
- Opportunity for public input
- Values protection
- Spray program planning (safety, security, communications)
- Forest Operations Compliance



- We are not trying to maximize production!



# Most glyphosate is used in agriculture



- Vegetation management is essential for renewing conifer in the forest.
- There are laws, policies and procedures to protect human health and the environment.

For more information go to:

[www.forestinfo.ca](http://www.forestinfo.ca)



**THANK YOU!**