

AUG 12 2013

8/9/13

Dear Board,

This letter was prompted by reading about the ground and aerial spraying of four herbicides in Somerset and Piscataquis counties to defoliate native plants for "high-value seedlings and saplings" by Plum Creek Maine Timberlands, LLC.

We are outraged that this will be allowed to happen! How can the DEP not allow a renewable, clean wind project by First Wind on Bowers Mountain for reasons of aesthetics, but the EPA and BPC can allow a month of herbicide spraying on over a thousand acres of forest? We can't see how these agencies are protecting the environment even though their titles suggest it.

Officials in positions of power and leadership have a duty to tell the truth. We hope that someone from the EPA, DEP, or BPC forewarned the people in these counties by telling them the following:

These herbicides are poisons.

They might not just kill plants.

They could harm other things that live in the forest.

They may make you and your children sick.

They might contaminate your water.

They could aeriually drift into your gardens and other places.

The deforestation could lead to serious flooding during heavy rains.

Plum Creek doesn't have to use herbicides. They can hire local people to clear the unwanted trees and brush and to do the replanting.

We believe that well-informed people usually make good decisions. We hope that you believe this too.

Sincerely,  
Susan M. Mager  
Karen Dantonio

P.S. Regarding two other issues, we feel the board should never have approved the use of GMO's in Maine and should never resort to spraying insect pests. We believe the board should use its power to protect us from these toxins not sanction their use!