



## **Forest Society Policy on Herbicide and Pesticide Application for Forest Management Operations**

**Revised: May, 2003**

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests lands are managed according to the standards of the American Tree Farm program (since 1963) the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC green certification since 1999) and the forest industry's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI since 2000). Forest Society land management practices and policies are reviewed annually by independent FSC auditors, while every five years Society lands undergo more extensive review by both FSC and TF inspection teams.

Field practices incorporate the principles promoted by the publication "Good Forestry in the Granite State," which embraces the concepts of ecosystem-based forest management. In short, the Forest Society takes a holistic approach to forest management, mimicking nature and natural processes wherever possible. Since 1901, the Forest Society has not relied on herbicides to meet our forest management goals. The Forest Society has not and does not plan to use pesticides to control pest outbreaks.

The following circumstances could necessitate herbicide or pesticide applications:

- The need to protect native species integral to maintaining biological diversity from invasive non-native species.
- The need to control vegetation hazardous to recreation use (e.g. poison ivy).

If an herbicide or pesticide application is necessary, the Forest Society will base a decision to apply these chemicals on an assessment of the following factors:

- Potential impact to native flora and fauna.
- Whether the application is necessary to continue the Forest Society's mission.
- Impact on public health.
- Impact on scenic vistas.
- Public perception and concerns.

In the event that the Forest Society makes a decision to apply herbicides or pesticides, the following precautionary measures will be taken.

- All applications will, at minimum, adhere to both New Hampshire statutory regulations and administrative rules and federal EPA guidelines for herbicide and pesticide applications.
- All applications will be carried out under the supervision of a licensed applicator.
- All applications will be conducted with the goal of minimizing the use of these chemicals.
- All sites will be examined closely for sensitive natural areas, prime recreation areas and other locations where it may be necessary to take precautionary measures, and appropriate steps will be taken to protect these areas.
- To the extent possible, all applications will be timed to prevent and/or minimize conflicts with wildlife (for example, migrating and breeding birds, amphibians, etc.).
- All Forest Society properties where herbicides or pesticide application is to occur will be posted with appropriate signs, as suggested by the Environmental Protection Agency. All abutters within 500 feet of the spray area will be informed of the product to be sprayed and the timeline for application.