



Conservation Council *of* New Brunswick
Conseil de conservation *du* Nouveau-Brunswick

Make Room for Change

Summary Recommendations to Standing Committee

Lois Corbett, Executive Director, Conservation Council of New Brunswick, June 22, 2021

Acknowledgement

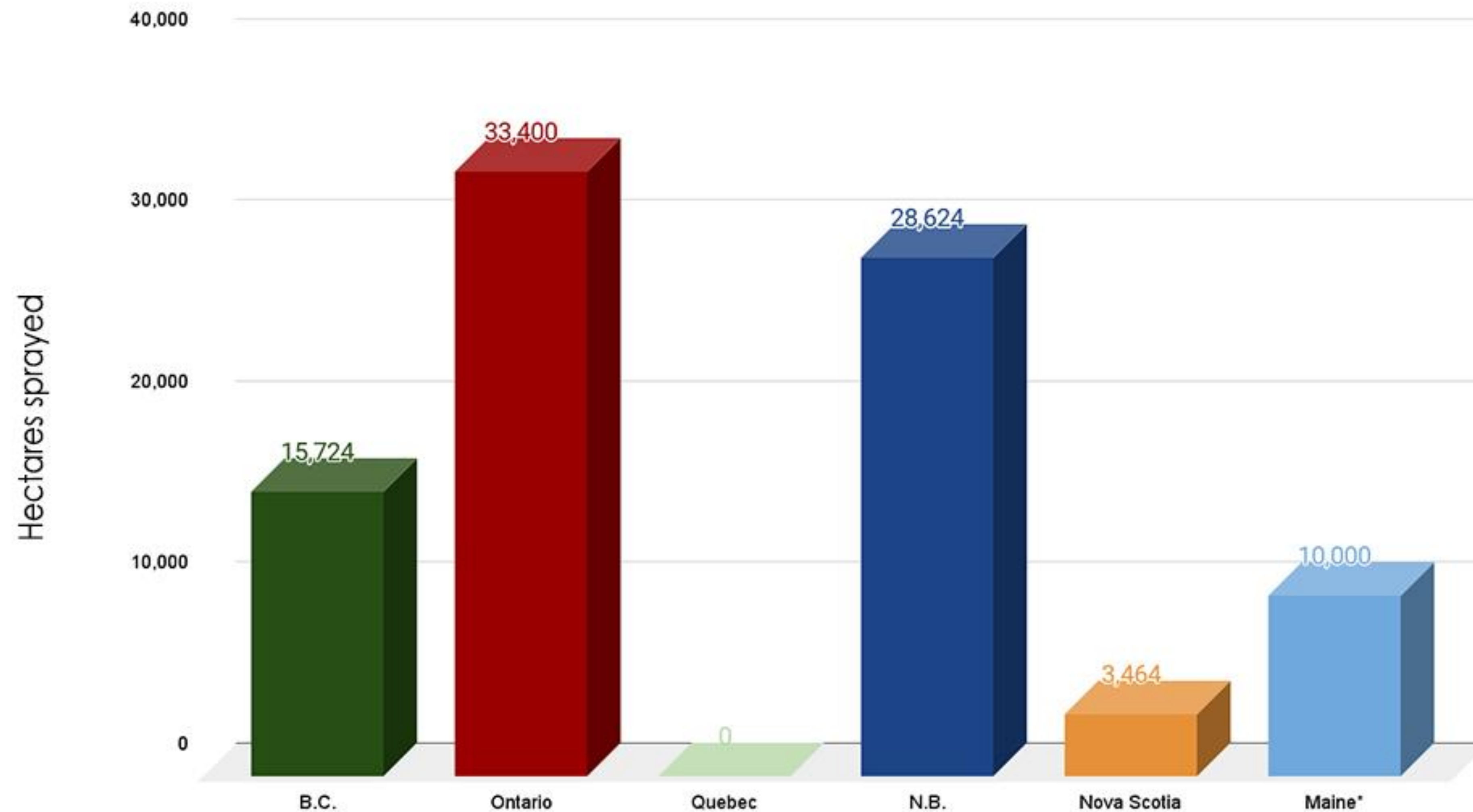
As a provincial organization, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick acknowledges that it carries out its work on the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq and Peskotomuhkati peoples. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which these nations first signed with the British Crown in 1726. CCNB commits to continue to work closely with the Nations on whose unceded territory we work and live.

Summary

- Focus on Crown Forests
- Extent of use in NB forests
- New in science
- What's behind the bans?
- Quebec
- Recommendations



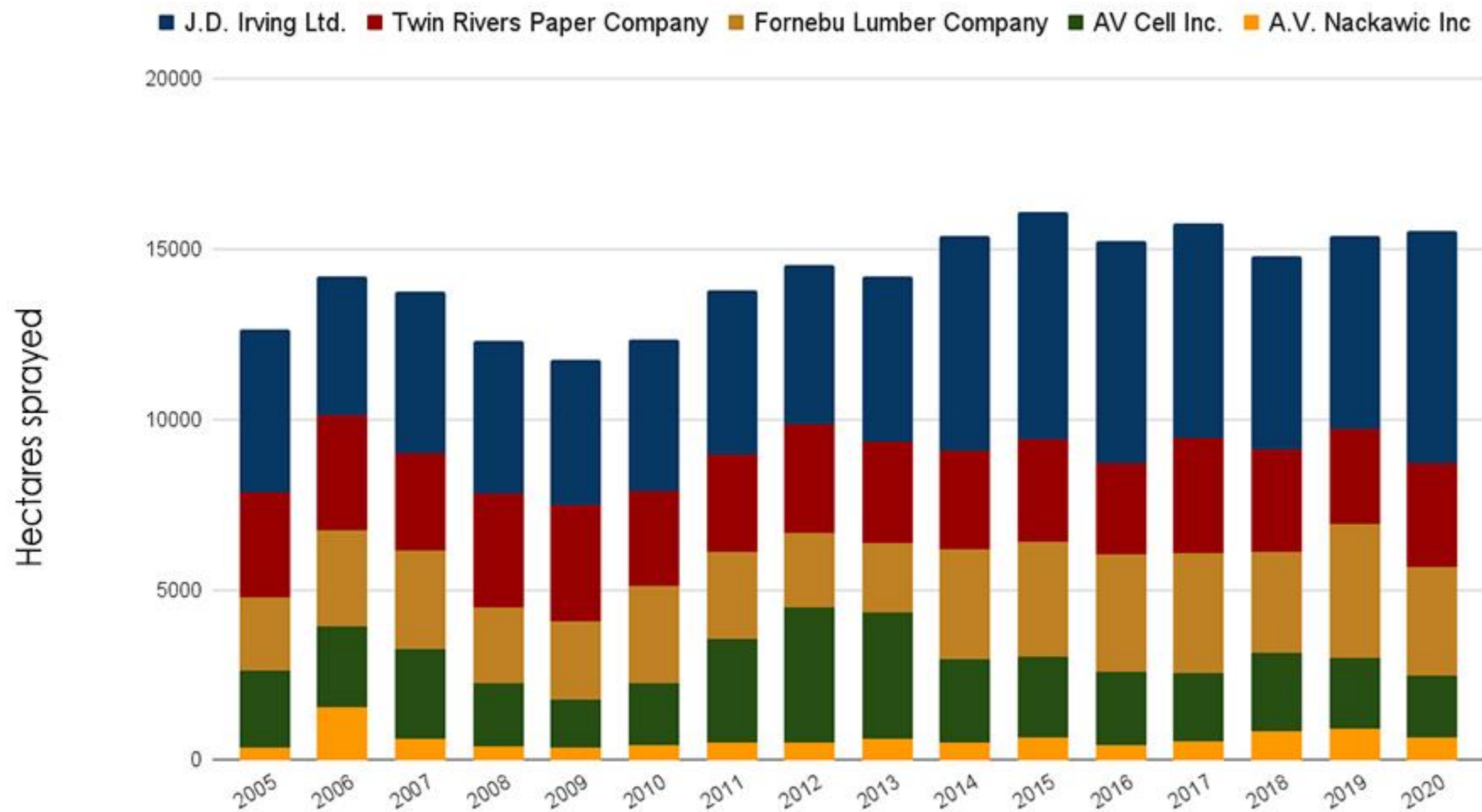
Total Forest Sprayed with Glyphosate, 2014



*Note: Maine Gov., all forests 10-year average

Data source: N.B. Chief Medical Officer of Health, 2016 report

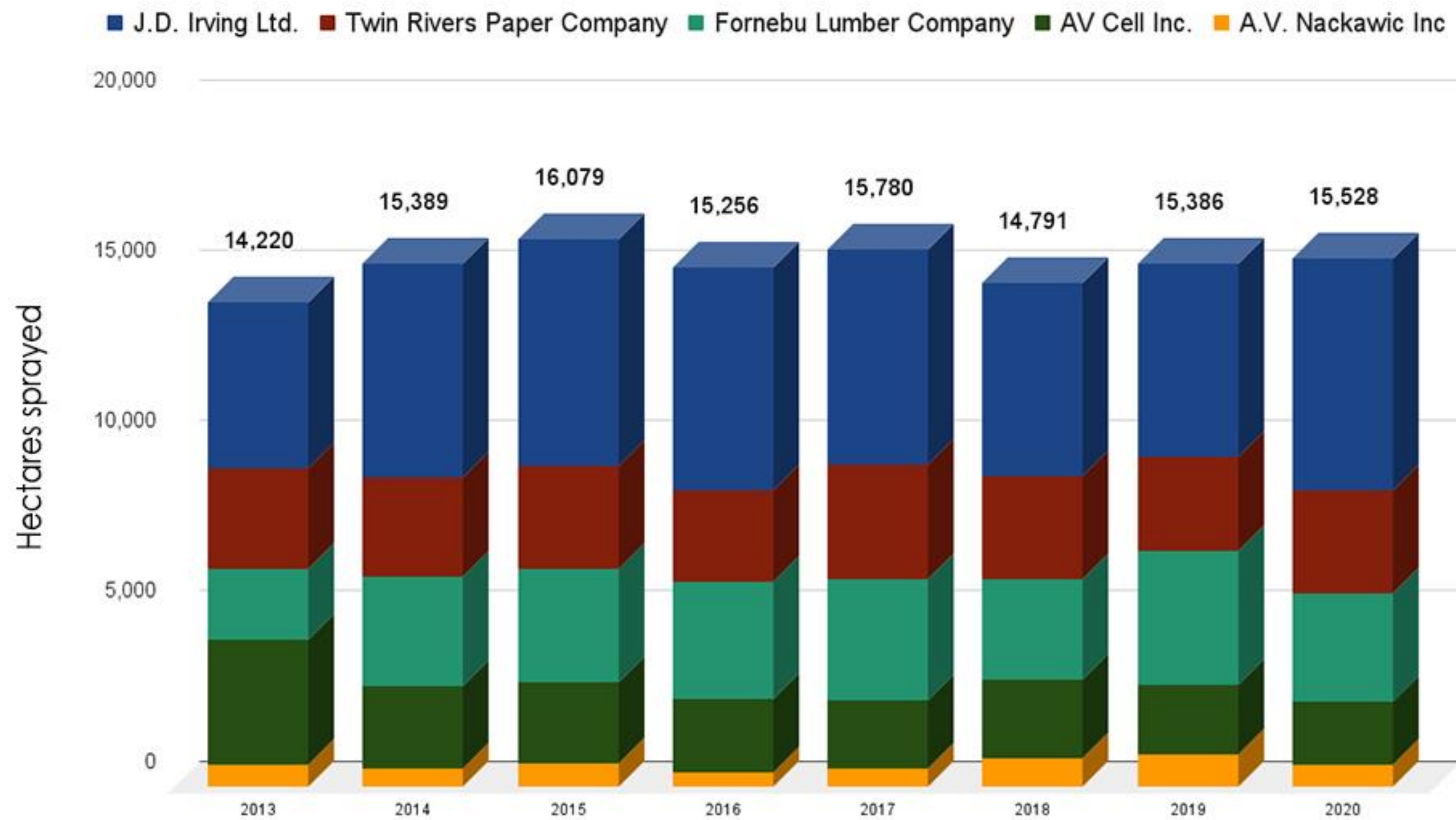
Area of New Brunswick Crown Forest Sprayed by Industry



*Note: Maine Gov., all forests 10-year average

Data source: NRCan

Area of New Brunswick Crown Forest Sprayed by Industry



*Note: Maine Gov., all forests 10-year average

Data source: NRCan

Glyphosate-Based Herbicides Alter the Reproductive Morphology of *Rosa acicularis* (Prickly Rose), Alexandra R. Golt and Lisa J. Wood* Front. Plant Sci., 16 June 2021

Glyphosate remains in forest plant tissues for a decade or more, May 20, 2021 | 1:59 PM

The herbicide glyphosate persists in wild, edible plants: B.C. study, Feb 20, 2019

Review article

Front. Environ. Sci., 04, May 2021

Pesticides and Soil Invertebrates: A Hazard Assessment

Hébert MP, Fugère V, and Gonzalez A. (2019) “The overlooked impact of rising glyphosate use on phosphorus loading in agricultural watersheds,” first published online Dec. 5, 2018. Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment. 17: 48–56.

**Widely used weed killer harming biodiversity
Study examines resilience of freshwater ecosystems
contaminated by Roundup herbicide
PUBLISHED: 2 MARCH 2021**

Where is Glyphosate Use Banned?

Up-to-date as of April 2021

Full list available at: www.baumhedlundlaw.com

- Germany: Germany's cabinet passed legislation in February of 2021 to ban glyphosate by 2024. German farmers will need to reduce the use of glyphosate until the ban takes effect in 2024. Certain retail stores in Germany have already pulled glyphosate-based herbicides like Roundup from shelves.
- Belgium: Banned the individual use of glyphosate. In 2017, Belgium voted against relicensing glyphosate in the EU. The country was also one of six EU member states to sign a letter to the EU Commission calling for "an exit plan for glyphosate..."
- Denmark: The Danish Working Environment Authority declared glyphosate to be carcinogenic and has recommended a change to less toxic chemicals. Aalborg, one of the largest cities in Denmark, issued private-use glyphosate ban in September of 2017. In July of 2018, the Danish government implemented new rules banning the use of glyphosate on all post-emergent crops to avoid residues on foods.
- French Agriculture Minister Didier Guillaume recently confirmed that his country would eliminate glyphosate use by 2021 with limited exceptions
- Scotland: Aberdeen cut back its use of herbicides and Edinburgh's City Council voted to phase out glyphosate. In November of 2017, five of Scotland's six EU parliamentarians voted in favour of a motion that would phase out glyphosate by 2022.
- In June, 2019, Victorian (Australia) Minister for Environment Lily D'Ambrosio confirmed there was a Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) review into how glyphosate products are used on public land.

Consensus Statement, Health Scientists, 2016

[Concerns over use of glyphosate-based herbicides and risks associated with exposures published in Environmental Health, June 2016](#)

1. GBHs are the most heavily-applied herbicide in the world and usage continues to rise;
2. Worldwide, GBHs often contaminate drinking water sources, precipitation and air, especially in agricultural regions;
3. The half-life of glyphosate in water and soil is longer than previously recognized;
4. Glyphosate and its metabolites are widely present in the global soybean supply;
5. Human exposures to GBHs are rising;
6. Glyphosate is now authoritatively classified as a probable human carcinogen; and,
7. Regulatory estimates of tolerable daily intakes for glyphosate in the United States and European Union are based on outdated science.

What's Driving Government Action?

- IARC report (2015)
- New scientific evidence
- Public concern
- Lawsuits

A person in a plaid shirt and waders is fly fishing in a river. The background is a misty forest with autumn-colored trees. Three callout boxes are overlaid on the image, connected by thin lines to the person.

What New Brunswickers say about the state of their forest

76% say they **don't want** herbicides such as **glyphosate** in the forest

87% want government to keep promise for **more protected land**

NBers' top concern about their forest?
Clearcutting and logging

Living Without Herbicides in Crown Forest, Quebec

How did that happen?

- Government sets up a BAPE (Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement) Commission to review use
- Organized a broad public hearings process, heard from over 2,000 citizens, scientists, academics, and environmental and conservation groups (1991)
- Analyzed relevant scientific data and produced a report with recommendations to government
- A key recommendation was that herbicide use be stopped completely within five years of the adoption of the report by government. BAPE reasoned that five years provided adequate time for industry to adapt
- Government adopted that recommendation and produced its 1994 forest management strategy, which committed to banning herbicide use in Crown forests by 2001

With two exceptions:

- blueberry operations in Lac St. Jean region; and,
- power line right of ways. Both very small proportions of forested landscape.
- Round two — where BAPE was asked to review the strategy in 1997
- That report recommended that the government stick to its commitment to phase out herbicide use by 2001, saying that the sharp decline in glyphosate use indicated increased knowledge of and experience with alternative treatment tools
- Policy to prohibit use adopted by government in 2001

Review by Canadian Forest Service of Quebec's Vegetation Management

Paper by Thiffault, N. and Roy, V., in *European Journal of Forest Research*, 2011

- Vegetation management is critical
- Release (i.e. treatment for preferred species growth) mainly done mechanically with crews
- On most sites, vegetation management is based on early reforestation, the use of tall planting stock, and intensive mechanical release
- Brings crop trees to the “free-to-grow” stage without the use of herbicides and without resulting in major effects on vegetation diversity
- **“This vegetation management strategy is an asset in the implementation of ecosystem-based management.”**
- Authors recognized that there are, of course, challenges with this alternative practice, especially in the management of plantations where the objective is to maximize fibre production

Recommendations

- **Scale back on clearcutting starting this year**

- cap size based on ecosystem
- cap proximity
- stop paying for spraying
- much wider buffer zones for water and wetlands
- announce policy intention to phase out herbicide use in forestry on Crown lands
- make broad strides towards ecological forestry
- ban herbicide use

- **Reform *Crown Lands and Forests Act* with ecosystem protection, and fairness, at its heart**

- Negotiate with First Nations
- Increase public involvement (hold public hearings every 10 years)
- Address all values and uses (other crops, tourism, wildlife, outfitters, etc.)
- Increase transparency — **subject management plans to EIA**
- Restore private woodlot owners' timber objective as primary, before Crown lands objective
- Consider appointing a Chief Forester with annual reporting duties

Thank you



Lois Corbett, Executive Director, Conservation Council of New Brunswick

lois.corbett@conservationcouncil.ca