

FORESTS: Sierra Pacific drops logging plans after Calif. climate suit (08/25/2009)

Debra Kahn, E&E reporter

A timber company in California is withdrawing plans to log 1,600 acres in the Sierra Nevada, after an environmental group sued earlier this month over the project's effect on greenhouse gas emissions.

The Center for Biological Diversity sued California two weeks ago in the Superior Court of Tehama County over its approval of Sierra Pacific Industries' logging plans in the Sierra Nevada. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection violated the California Environmental Quality Act by approving the plans without looking at the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from clear-cutting, CBD claimed ([ClimateWire](#), Aug. 14).

In approving the project, the state called the cuts carbon-neutral within a 100-year time frame because new trees would replace those that had been cleared. Therefore, no additional measures were necessary to mitigate the project's carbon footprint, it decided ([E&ENews PM](#), Aug. 13).

Brendan Cummings, public lands director for CBD, said SPI confirmed its withdrawal earlier this afternoon. SPI and CDF did not return calls for comment.

Two dozen additional plans to log more than 12,000 acres in California are moving through the approval process. Cummings said his group was poised to sue again. "If CDF approves those plans, with the same flawed analysis of those previous ones, then we'll be back in court," Cummings said. "My best guess is these other plans are going to be amended in some way or attempt to backfill the analysis to explain why clear-cutting is of benefit to the atmosphere."