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## **Sunday's Visibility Event about Clearcutting~By Suzannah Hook-Rodgers**

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*"The day after the Scenic Byway event, in which Ebbett's Pass is celebrated for its scenic beauty, residents gathered to draw attention to what is not so scenic about the byway: Sierra Pacific Industries Logging Practices....Arnold, CA...26 Citizens from Arnold and other town in Calaveras County stood on Highway 4 today to let Sierra Pacific Industries know that they have had enough clearcutting and demand that SPI adopt more responsible logging practices...."*

SPI has logged or is in the process of logging 39,701 acres since 1996; approximately 26% of the entire forest in Calaveras. Sierra Pacific Industries is the second largest private landowner in the nation and the largest private landowner in California." "We are out here today to stand in solidarity with those throughout the Sierra and throughout California who are negatively affected by Sierra Pacific Industries," said Josh Bridges, a life-time resident of Calaveras County. "While we can see the effects here, the impacts are state-wide. What SPI does, has repercussions far and wide."

Of particular concern to Calaveras residents is the protection of the forests that are so vital to the economies of towns in the Sierra Nevada. Every year, millions of people throughout California and across the US flock to the Sierra to camp, hike, fish, and recreate. Sierra Pacific Industries is dismantling one of the countries most precious resources.

Participants voiced concerns regarding the various consequences of clearcutting such as the increased fire risk, the loss of plant and animal species, and the tons of pesticides and chemicals used in the clearcutting process which are then released into the air and watershed. "There are too many consequences to 'business as usual,'" said Leif Jarvie, who has grown up watching the effects of Sierra Pacific Industries logging practices, "SPI has to change."

Citizens working on the campaign point out that Sierra Pacific Industries "has not been a good neighbor." The massive clearcutting throughout the Sierra Nevada is only one example of how Sierra Pacific Industries has acted irresponsibly towards the public. SPI has recently settled one of California's largest air violations ever - \$13 million for significant air violations at four separate mills in California." says Suzannah Hook-

Rodgers.

"Fortunately, there is a better way," said Bunny Firebaugh, a thirteen year resident of Arnold, "and other companies are doing it. Sierra Pacific Industries must become certified through the Forest Stewardship Council certification, the only credible certification. They have an incredible opportunity to log in a responsible way, to both people and place, and still meet the demand for wood. We aren't against logging, we just want responsible logging."