



**Downeast Lakes
LAND TRUST**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2007

Contact: Mark Berry, Executive Director, Downeast Lakes Land Trust
207-796-2100; downteaslakes01@earthlink.net

**Downeast Lakes Land Trust Receives Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
Certification from Rainforest Alliance**

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT), Maine's largest landowning local land trust, based in Grand Lake Stream, has earned Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Management certification from the Rainforest Alliance's SmartWood program. This certification means that DLLT has met a set of environmental, social and economic criteria and can sell the wood harvested from its lands as "FSC-certified" to purchasers that want to support responsible forest management.

"DLLT is committed to protecting the full range of resources in our Farm Cove Community Forest, from soils, wildlife habitat, water quality, and biological diversity to recreational opportunities and a sustainable timber supply that provides jobs for local loggers and fiber and wood for eastern Maine mills and craftspeople" said Executive Director Mark Berry. "We pursued FSC certification because it provided a rigorous and highly credible examination of our performance toward meeting these objectives."

The FSC is the global standard-setter in responsible forest management. Forest Management certification is granted to forestry operations that meet the FSC standards according to an audit by an accredited certifier such as the Rainforest Alliance. Each company in the supply chain must have FSC certification in order for a final product like lumber, plywood, furniture or paper to be sold as certified. Consumers can look for the FSC logo on wood products to know they are supporting forest management that protects biodiversity and supports local communities.

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust was founded in 2001 by Grand Lake Stream residents concerned that forestland would be subdivided, taken out of productive forestry, and closed to public access. DLLT purchased the 27,080-acre Farm Cove Community Forest in 2005 through the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership, which also protected an adjacent 315,000 acres under no-development conservation easements. DLLT's mission is to "contribute to the long-term economic and environmental well-being of the Downeast Lakes region through the conservation and exemplary management of its forests and waters."

"We are pleased to be working on the Farm Cove Community Forest with DLLT, the first land trust in Maine to earn FSC certification," said Dave Bubser, US regional manager of the Rainforest Alliance's SmartWood program. "DLLT has been very deliberate and thorough in its decision to pursue FSC

certification, taking into account the socioeconomic contributions to local communities as well as the environmental characteristics of the forest.”

Worldwide, more than six billion people rely on forest products for houses, food, energy and goods like furniture and paper. Managing our forests in a responsible way is critical to the survival of all living species. Responsible forest management provides a way to use forest resources while protecting forest ecosystems and communities. It means protecting soils, waterways and wildlife along with supporting and respecting workers and local residents.

The area of FSC-certified forestlands around the globe has nearly doubled in the past three years to a total of 224,150,873 acres. This growth has opened up a greater supply of certified wood products that include lumber, paper, furniture and decking from responsibly managed forests. Increasing consumer interest in FSC-certified products ensures that forest owners and managers have economic incentives to provide better stewardship for their lands.

Sixty-one of the 100 largest forest, paper and packing companies in the world have received FSC certification for one or more of their operations, according to a 2007 PricewaterhouseCoopers global survey. The paper and printing industries have made good progress recently in focusing on responsible supply chain decisions. In the last few years, several hundred pulp providers, mills, merchants and printers have obtained FSC certification. Companies such as Nordstrom, Inc.; Williams-Sonoma, Inc.; and Limited Brands (the parent company of Victoria’s Secret) have begun using FSC-certified paper in their catalogs and other printed materials.

FSC-certified wood is being used in building projects everywhere, from the global headquarters of Goldman Sachs in Lower Manhattan to the recent extension of the Prado museum in Spain. The market for “green” building products and services in the US is expected to grow to \$12 billion in 2007, up from more than \$7 billion in 2005, according to the US Green Building Council, a nonprofit organization that sets national green building standards.

FSC certification ensures that forestry operations meet environmental, social and economic criteria covering compliance with laws and international treaties, land-use and indigenous peoples’ rights, community relations, biodiversity conservation and maintenance of high conservation value forests, among other things.

The Rainforest Alliance, an international nonprofit conservation organization, is the world’s leading certifier of forestlands to the FSC standards. The organization has certified 103,742,985 acres of forestland and works with businesses in making more responsible choices by using market forces to protect our natural resources and support workers and local communities.

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust will use its FSC certification as a tool for educating the public about its efforts to manage its land sustainably for the benefit of its natural and human communities. DLLT’s “Forest Management Certification Assessment Report” is available to the public on its web site, www.downeastlakes.org, and questions or comment are welcome by phone (207-796-2100) or email (downeastlakes01@earthlink.net).