

# Downeast Lakes Land Trust Receives Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

*Certification from  
Rainforest Alliance and a  
Landowner of the  
Year Award*

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."

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](http://www.downeastlakes.org), and questions or comment are welcome by phone (207-796-2100) or email ([downeastlakes01@earthlink.net](mailto:downeastlakes01@earthlink.net)).

Downeast Lakes Land Trust, along with Alden Mingo of Robbinston, also recently received a Maine Landowner of the Year Award from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The trust was nominated by the Grand Lake Snowmobile Club.

The focus of this award is to provide awareness and recognize landowners who provide public access to private land for all outdoor recreation. This includes snowmobiling, riding all terrain vehicles, fishing, hunting, trapping, camping, hiking, skiing and general outdoor use and access to the state's natural resources.

"These individuals and nominating associations are a model of the strong landowner-user relationships needed to ensure public access to private land," said Maine Warden Service Captain Joel Wilkinson. "These partnerships benefit all of us who engage in these outdoor activities and care about the future of our recreation."