Annual Monitoring Report Summary
Downeast Lakes Land Trust,
Farm Cove Community Forest

2014

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I. Introduction

Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) periodically monitors its forest to ensure that its management objectives for wildlife, recreation, timber production, and environmental protection are being met. Some items, such as the inventory of standing timber, are conducted periodically. Others, such as monitoring timber harvest operations, may be conducted on a weekly basis as operations are ongoing. This annual report summarizes the monitoring information for members of the land trust, members of the local community, and for others interested in the results of DLLT's management. For more information on DLLT's forest management, please contact the land trust or visit www.downeastlakes.org. The monitoring update includes annual summaries for the operating year December through November, beginning with the 2010 operating year in December, 2009 when the winter harvest began. (In some years, winter harvest may not begin until January; in these years the operating year will match the calendar year). Periodic monitoring data that are updated every 5-10 years are included in Section III.

This report covers the 33,708-acre Farm Cove Community Forest as acquired by Downeast Lakes Land Trust in 2005 and expanded in 2008 by acquisition of the 6,628-acre Wabassus Lake Tract. The management plan addendum for the Wabassus Lake Tract was completed and adopted June 15, 2010. At the present time, all of the management plans are being consolidated into one seamless documents, based on the same principles as in past years.

II. Annual Monitoring Update

Timber Harvest

Timber Harvest Summary	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
Species	**Prod.**	**Cords**	**Prod.**	**Cords**	**Prod.**	**Cords**	**Prod.**	**Cords**	**Prod.**	**Cords**	**Prod.**	**Cords**
Hemlock	Stud	2925.8	Stud	1782.8	Stud	1856.5	Stud	1838.2	Stud	336	Stud	1045.9
Hemlock	Pulp	2015.3	Pulp	1330.7	Pulp	2343.8	Pulp	1595.6	Pulp	1824	Pulp	2214.4*
Hemlock	Logs	12.3			Logs	307.9						
Spruce	Logs	971.0	Logs	428.6	Logs	422.1	Logs	304.5			Logs	402.8
Softwood	Pulp	244.4	Pulp	750.3	Pulp	366.9	Pulp	401.8	Pulp	1069	Pulp	849.6
Softwood	Stud	0	Stud	267.5	Stud	88.2	Stud	100.4	Stud	350	Stud	573.9
Pine	Logs	0			Logs	9.6			Logs	217	Logs	
Hardwood	Pulp	836.4	Pulp	2326.7	Pulp	1815.6	Pulp	781.6	Pulp	1702	Pulp	1351.5
Hardwood	Logs	1.3	Logs	6.5	Logs	4.0						
Hardwood	Veneer	0.3	Veneer	2.9	Veneer	0.1						
Hardwood	Firewd	18.4										
Subtotal (without biomass)[1]		7025.2		6896.1		7214.7		5996.0		5499		6483.1
Biomass[1]	Chips	2238.8		2365.2		2302.4		973.8		2153		1480.8
Biomass[2]										1296		
Total w. biomass:		9264.0		9261.3		9517.1		5022.2		8949		7963.9

[1] Biomass sales are typically incidental to planned harvest volumes and are composed of tops or limbs that are not considered within timber inventory. In 2008, 705 cords of hemlock pulp wood was marketed as biomass fuel due to market conditions; this volume is included in hemlock pulp in the table above, not in the biomass volume. In 2009, 112 cords of biomass included in the figures above was harvested during maintenance of the Farm Cove Dam Road.

[2] Biomass in 2013 was also generated from a wildlife habitat project that had no commercial timber sale, in this case the biomass was generated from the entire tree, not merely the tops. In 2014 poor markets resulted in 789 cords to be chipped. This was counted as round wood and deducted from the allowable harvest, rather than biomass byproduct.

Other Forest Products

DLLT, as part of its community forest management, routinely issues permits to local users of forest products, subject to policies and procedures approved by the DLLT Board of Directors.

In 2014, DLLT issued permits for gravel, firewood, and "tips" for wreath-making.

Gravel: 3 permits issued, 70 cubic yards total
Firewood: 17 permits issued for up to a total of 26 cords
Tipping: 4 permits issued

Unanticipated Removal or Loss

DLLT staff and forestry contractors monitor the forest for unanticipated loss due to insects, disease, wind, fire, excessive browsing by animals, and timber theft during routine management operations. DLLT also uses reports from members and others who use the forest to keep informed of changes in the forest.

No unanticipated losses occurred in 2014.

Regeneration

DLLT staff, board members, and forestry contractors monitor forest harvest areas to determine if regeneration is occurring as anticipated and intended in forest harvest plans. Qualitative or quantitative inspections generally will occur within three years of harvests intended to encourage regeneration.

2013-2014:

2011 Regeneration and Monitoring Statement

Background: As specified in the management plan, 2011 harvest regeneration monitoring was conducted in June 2015. All harvest types were visited, despite the fact that regeneration was not a goal for all harvest areas. This also gives forest managers an opportunity to see any other progress in the development of post harvest stands. If undesirable conditions are observed, they were noted to avoid those conditions in the future.
Results: All intended regeneration harvests were successful. Some areas had unexpected results, but were by all standards considered acceptable. Many of the harvests were not intended to be traditional establishment harvests, and stocking of residual trees were of sufficient abundance. Regeneration was also found in these areas as well however. An asterisk (*) notes a treatment type where regeneration was the primary objective.

Detailed Results:
Harvest area #1-a, Winter 2011*
This area has regenerated very well, with a mix of red maple, birch, poplar, and pine. Initially, poplar was the most abundant species, but it appears that moose brose has resulted in considerable loss of stems per acre, and a considerable set back to the remaining stems. Other species show little impact. Time will tell if the harvest will mature to intolerant hardwoods or not.
Harvest area #2, Winter 2011
This area was not a regeneration harvest. There was very little regeneration present due to the closed canopy nature of the harvest. No unexpected results were observed.
Harvest area #3 Winter 2011
No regeneration goals were set for this harvest. All other objectives were met. Some regeneration is evident. No other impacts were observed.
Harvest Area #4 Winter 2011
This area was not a regeneration harvest. There was almost no regeneration present due to the closed canopy nature of the harvest. No unexpected results were observed.
Harvest Area #1 Summer 2011. There was no significant amount of regeneration established, nor was any expected. The stand appears in good health, and no adverse impacts to the lake sore was observed.
Harvest Area # 2 Summer 2011*
Some new regeneration was observed but much of the regeneration was pre-existing. All things considered, the regeneration levels are acceptable.
Harvest Area # 3 Summer 2011
This harvest area was not intended to established regeneration, although a mixture of species has been introduced. Poplar and Yellow birch can be found throughout the stand as new and advanced regeneration. All other objectives were met.
Harvest Area # 4 Summer 2011*
Regeneration was the primary purpose of the harvest. Significant quantities of newly established regeneration has been achieved. Yellow and paper birch are abundant. Red maple and pin cherry is also common. All other objectives were met.
Harvest Area # 5 Summer 2011*
This harvest area has adequate amounts of regeneration. Some areas where a significant amount of an opening is occupied by trail, regeneration is sparse, and raspberry regeneration is high. Some additional regeneration appears to be established in adjacent areas through diffuse light. Harvest objectives were met.

Focus Species Habitat Management Activities

Management for specific "focus species" is used to benefit species of interest to the local community and to provide habitat for the full range of wildlife species found on the forest. The management plan sets out specific management activities for these species.

Deer Wintering Areas

DLLT has a major goal of restoring deer wintering areas. Management activities include both building the area of mature forest softwood cover through partial harvesting in historic deer wintering areas (primary and secondary cover), harvesting to create openings that will produce browse and regenerate the forest to ensure a steady supply of future winter cover, and seeding landings to create summer food for deer and other species.

Deer Wintering Area Management Activities							
Habitat and Activity	**2008 (ac)**	**2009 (ac)**	**2010 (ac)**	**2011 (ac)**	**2012 (ac)**	**2013 (ac)**	**2014 (ac)**
Partial harvests (selection, initial shelterwood, and intermediate harvests)	0	Appr. 20	0	34	0	93	0
Regeneration harvest openings (patch-cut, overstory removal, and clearcut	0	0	Appr. 40	9 acres	0	0	0
Herbaceous seeding[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Management consistent with DWA 5-year operations plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other Monitoring:							

In summer 2010, harvests were conducted in and near the edges of the Burroughs Brook deer wintering area corridor, primarily within stands designated as never cover or non-cover. Harvest objectives included increasing the growth on existing regeneration and improving the establishment of new regeneration. This harvest should help non-cover areas to develop into secondary cover in the future.
In the winter of 2013, a harvest in the Hayes brook deer management area was conducted. The objective was to remove hardwood and pine, which was abundant throughout no-cover and never cover forest types. Although a group shelterwood system was established in a 25 acre block, this is considered a "partial harvest" as is the single tree selection system implemented elsewhere. Inland Fisheries and Wildlife reviewed the harvest plans and gave their approval.

Snowshoe Hare

The best snowshoe hare habitat is created by even-aged regeneration harvests in softwood-cover. The "regeneration harvest openings" for deer wintering area management is also used to monitor the amount if snowshoe hare habitat created.

Grouse and Woodcock

Grouse and woodcock management is based on creating a number of patches of different age classes in aspen and birch stands. The following monitoring elements have been included to track progress toward objectives outlined in the management plan.

[1] DLLT also keeps track of species and location of species used in herbaceous seeding.

Grouse and Woodcock Management

Annual Monitoring Element	Goal	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of grouse/woodcock unit plans developed	Not yet specified	One*	One*	None	Two	Two	One	None
Cumulative number of units under active management	Not yet specified	One*	Two*	Two	Four*	Six	Eight	Eight
Number of acres harvested (clearcut or overstory removal) in management unit blocks	Not yet specified	4	1.2		32	15.7	45	0
Number of acres of herbaceous seeding	Not yet specified	Landings seeded spring 2009	Landings seeded summer 2009	Landings seeded summer 2010	Landings Seeded Summer 2011	Landings Seeded Summer 2012	Landings Seeded Summer 2013	Landings Seeded Summer 2014

* In the 2008 summer harvest, a set of seven patch cut harvest blocks in a poplar-birch fire origin stand on the south side of Burroughs Brook on the Farm Cove peninsula were created to provide early-successional habitat, including habitat for Grouse and Woodcock and browse for deer and moose. Average block size was 0.56 acres, with just under 4 acres harvested in total. A complete plan for this grouse/woodcock unit has not yet been developed, but the harvest plan calls for a 10-year re-entry to harvest new ½ acre patches adjacent to the patches harvested in 2008.

* In the 2009 summer harvest, a set of 3 patch cut harvest blocks in a 28 acre poplar-birch fire origin stand east of Burroughs Brook on the Farm Cove Mountain Road were created to provide early successional habitat, including habitat for Grouse and Woodcock and browse for deer and moose. The average patch size was 0.3 acres, with under 1.25 acres harvested in total.

*In the 2010 winter harvest, 130 acres of designated Grouse/Woodcock habitat were included on the Farm Cove Peninsula. In the 2010 summer harvest, there were 22 acres of designated Grouse/Woodcock habitat included. Upon closer inspection of designated grouse areas, it was determined areas were either un-merchantable, or were currently unsuitable for grouse and woodcock management.

*In the 2011 winter harvest, 9 acres were harvested in 8 patches of between 2 and 0.5 acres each. These areas were dominated by mixed intolerant hardwoods, with some scattered hemlock and pine. This occurred on the Daugherty ridge road. In the summer of 2011, 4 clearcuts were created ranging between 3 and 6 acres in size. These patches were irregular and occurred mostly in intolerant hardwoods, with some mixed spruce and hemlock. This occurred on the Dobsis dam road.

* In the 2012 summer harvest, a plan encompassing roughly 100 acres was developed to provide early successional habitat on a rotational basis. In 2012 approximately 16 acres were clearcut in 2.5 and 4.5 acre circles along the 4th lake road between .5 and 1 mile markers.

* In the 2013 the harvest unit established in 2012 was completed, totaling 37 acres in the entire harvest unit. In addition, a new harvest unit was established on Norway point, east of farm cove. This consisted of a 40 acre stand where approximately half the area was clearcut in the form of 2 acre rectangles, in a checkerboard fashion, totaling approximately 22 acres.

The balance of aspen-birch age classes on the entire forest is also monitored periodically as cover type maps are updated (see Section III).

Black Bear

Black bear habitat management is accomplished through our creation and maintenance of young-forest openings by implementing the grouse/woodcock and deer wintering area management plans and implementation of the hard mast guidelines during harvest operations. These activities are monitored, and we conduct no separate monitoring of black bear habitat conditions or management.

Riparian Zone Management

Harvest and other operations monitoring forms are used to gather information on harvest activities within riparian management areas. A summary of problems identified (e.g., unsatisfactory performance relative to management plan guidelines or site-specific plans) and steps taken to correct problems described below.

Year	Unsatisfactory Implementation of RMZ Guidelines and Action Taken				
	Trout/Salmon	Beaver	Lake	Other Stream	Vernal Pool
2008	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed
	Action:				
2009	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed
	Action:				
2010	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed
	Action:				
2011	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed
	Action:				
2012	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed
	Action:				
2013	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed
	Action:				
2014	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed	No problems observed
	Action:				

Beaver

Habitats modified by beaver activity have been shown to be beneficial to a wide range of wildlife, including waterfowl, wading birds, migratory songbirds, and moose. Other mammals are such as deer and bear are attracted to the early flush of nutritious vegetation in spring. Recent

studies from the Moosehead lake region have found that rusty blackbirds (a declining species listed as Special Concern in Maine) were strongly associated with beaver-impounded wetlands, and olive-sided flycatcher (also Special Concern) was also found in these areas (Pelletier and Arsenault 2007). Maine has a long history of habitat management guidance that recognizes the benefits of maintaining beaver activity in the landscape, including Deifenbach et. al 2008, Foss 1999, and Bryan 2007. Only one stream in the DLLT FCCF, Burroughs Brook, has been designated as a priority beaver habitat in the Focus Species Addendum. Burroughs Brook is a slow moving stream with historic beaver use and forest cover that is less dense than that on streams with priority for brook trout and Atlantic salmon.

All streams: For each stream, DLLT used 2005 aerial photography to estimate the number of active colonies and likely historic colonies (as indicated by cover type) and length of stream affected by each. These data will be compared with future aerial photography. During the course of routine management and interviews with board members, DLLT gathers information on the number of new colonies and the number colonies abandoned each year.

Beaver Stream Reaches: Monitoring consists of tracking the number of harvests that create openings greater than 14,000 square feet that extend within 100 feet of designated beaver stream reaches (these are harvests specifically designed to enhance beaver food supplies), reporting of new beaver dams on trout streams, and on-site monitoring of conformance with riparian management guidelines described in the management plan.

Trout Streams: If reports indicate that beaver may be increasing on trout streams, DLLT will compare the current level of beaver activity with historical (2005) estimates to determine if beaver management activity may be warranted.

2005 Beaver Activity Baseline							
TWP	Stream (from E to W)	FSF Mgmt[1]	Total Length (mi)[2]	Active Colonies[3]		Historic & Potential Colonies[4]	
				No.	Total Stream Length (mi)	No.	Total Stream Length (mi)
T6	Un-named – E boundary	O	0.54	0	0	0	0
T6	Un-named – S boundary	O	0.12	0	0	0	0
T6	Un-named – S boundary	O	0.23	0	0	0	0
T6	Scott Brook	T	1.73	1	0.08	2	0.42
T6	Grand Lake Brook	T	3.3	0	0	5	1.25
T6	Rolfe Brook	T	3.43	1	0.16	8	0.97
T6	Rolfe Brook - S tributary	T	0.50	0	0	2	0.35
T6	Rolfe Brook – S tributary branch	T	1.00	0	0	.1	0.38
T6	Rolfe Brook – N tributary	O	0.71	0	0	0	0
T6	Farm Cove tributary	O	0.46	0	0	0	0
T6	Burroughs Brook	B	1.80	1	0.62	1	0.16
T6	Narrows Tributary	O	0.68	0	0	0	0
T6	Julia Brook	T, O	1.24	0	0	4	0.52
T6	**Subtotal**		**15.74**	**3**	**0.86**	**19**	**4.05**

T5	Wabassus Lake Tributary	O	1.94	0	0	1	0.17
T5	Dark Cove tributary	O	0.46	0	0	0	0
T5	Hayes Brook	T, E	1.81	1	.16	3	0.69
T5	Machias River tributary	O, E	.99	0	0	0	0
T5	Sysladobsis Lake Tributary	T	1.04	1	0.09	2	0.09
T5	Fourth Machias Lake tributary	T,E,O	0.76	0	0	1	0.14
T5	Belden Brook	T, E	2.70	0	0	0	0
T5	Dead Stream	E	0.55	0	0	0	0
T5	Fourth Machias Lake W tributary	E	0.79	0	0	0	0
T5	**Subtotal**		**11.04**	**2**	**0.25**	**7**	**1.09**
T5+T6	**TOTAL**		**26.78**	**5**	**1.11**	**26**	**4.59**

1. FSF Management: B (Beaver); T (Trout/Salmon); E (Ecological Reserve); O (Other).
2. MEOGIS H24 GIS layer (except inaccurate section of Rolfe Brook S tributary branch
3. Areas with signs of beaver activity separated by less than 0.1 mile were considered to be part of a single colony.
4. Includes deadwater sections that may have active beaver activity.

Beaver and Trout Stream Monitoring						
YEAR	Stream	**Beaver Reaches**			**All Streams**	
		# harvests within 100 ft. of designated beaver reach	Total Area within 100ft. (ac)	Stream Shade, other BMPs, and LURC rules met?(Y/N)	# New Colonies	# Colonies Abandoned
2008	No applicable harvests	0	na	na	4	?
2009	Burroughs Brook	0	na	na	0	?
2010	Burroughs Brook	2	4.5	Yes	?	?
2011		0	na	na		
2012		0	Na	Na		
2013		0	Na	Na		
2014		0	Na	Na		

Note: add new rows for each year as needed

In 2014, DLLT directors reported no new active beaver colonies.

Brook Trout / Atlantic Salmon

In 2014, DLLT and partners completed several stream restoration projects to benefit brook trout, Atlantic Salmon, and other aquatic wildlife:

Billy Brown Brook, tributary to Grand Lake Stream: bottomless arch culvert installed (on adjacent property owned by the Town of Grand Lake Stream

West Branch of the Amazon Stream: bottomless arch culvert installed (on adjacent property owned by GLS Woodlands)

S. Br. Rolfe Brook (tributary to Grand Lake Brook – Little River – Big Lake): 5 Additional flowages were restored on Rolfe Brook caused by abandoned beaver dams, possibly constructed on former splash dams from the river driving era, were removed by volunteers under a permit from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Exotic and Invasive Plants

DLLT monitors the use of exotic (non-native) species to ensure that they do not become invasive. Currently DLLT's use of exotic species is limited to planting non-invasive grasses and legumes for wildlife habitat improvement. In addition, DLLT checks for the presence of known invasive plants that may be present in the area.

Exotic and Invasive Plants							
	2008	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**
Wildlife Plantings							
Number of sites planted	5 areas; 2008 winter harvest landings and all excavated ditches	2008 summer and 2009 winter harvest landings and all excavated ditches	2009 summer and 2010 winter harvest landings and all excavated ditches	2010 summer and 2011 winter harvest landings and all excavated ditches, incl.	Winter 2012 harvest landings and excavated ditches,	Summer 2012 and winter 2013 harvest landings and excavated ditches	Summer 2013 and winter 2014 harvest landings and excavated ditches
Species	Conserv. Mix (Contains non-native grasses & legumes)	Conserv. Mix (Contains non-native grasses & legumes)	Conserv. Mix (Contains non-native grasses & legumes)	Conserv. Mix (Contains non-native grasses & legumes)	Conserv. Mix (Contains non-native grasses & legumes)	Conserv. Mix (Contains non-native grasses & legumes)	Conserv. Mix (Contains non-native grasses & legumes)
Estimated total area planted	3 acres	?	?	?	?	?	?
Seed mix does not contain species on Maine's list of invasive plants (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Location identified in GIS (Y/N)	Y (general location of harvest areas and roads)	Y (general location of harvest areas and roads)	Y (general location of harvest areas and roads)	Y (general location of harvest areas and roads)	Y	Y (general location of harvest areas and roads)	Y (general location of harvest areas and roads)
Number of sample sites checked for undesirable spread	Five (earlier plantings)	Three (earlier plantings)	Five (earlier plantings)	Three (earlier plantings)	Five(Earlier Plantings)	Three (earlier plantings)	Three (earlier plantings)
Undesirable spread noted?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Invasive Plants							
All harvest sites checked?	Yes, during routine operations and tour	Yes, during routine operations and tour	Yes, during routine operations and tour	Yes, during routine operations and tour	Yes, During routine operations and tour	Yes, During routine operations and tour	Yes, During routine operations and tour
Species found?[1]	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

[1] Describe severity or impacts of any invasive species or exotic species and develop an action plan if management is feasible and warranted.

Harvest Impacts

Harvest sites and road improvement projects are monitored by DLLT's Forest Manager, Executive Director, and Board of Directors to ensure compliance with applicable laws and Best Management Practices designed to protect soil and water quality. Harvest operations are also monitored to ensure that operations comply with silvicultural prescriptions, damage to standing timber and regeneration is minimized, sensitive sites are protected, and site-specific wildlife practices and objectives are being met.

Compliance with Harvest Guidelines							
Monitoring element/guideline	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**
Hard Mast referenced in harvest plans for applicable stands	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Satisfactory execution of hard mast guidelines during harvest	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Wildlife trees and downed logs	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Retention patches	na	na	S	S	S	S	S
Wildlife Trees retention Patch: quantitative sample of selected harvest blocks (number of blocks, performance)	na	na	S	S	S	S	S
Riparian and Lakeshores: applicable guidelines referenced in management plans	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Riparian and Lakeshores: applicable guidelines and BMPS implemented	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
BMPs beyond riparian and lakeshore zones	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
# vernal pools known prior to harvest plan:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# new vernal pools identified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vernal pools identified in harvest plans and guidelines implemented during harvest	na	na	na	na	Na	Na	Na

S – Satisfactory
U - Unsatisfactory, problem ongoing (describe below)
U/S – Unsatisfactory, problem corrected (describe below)
Except where noted above, all harvests are monitored for all elements

Unsatisfactory Harvest Conditions: Identification and Resolution

During 2014, harvest conditions were generally highly satisfactory in terms of both silvicultural and ecological objectives. The harvest contractor has continued to demonstrate a strong understanding of DLLT goals and objectives.

Road Monitoring

Road Monitoring Summary	
YEAR	**Roads Inspected, Problems Identified and Corrected**
2008	4th Lake Rd: Entire road monitored; previously approved maintenance project completed, including installation of 10 culverts, and ditching and re-shaping on portions of 7 miles of the road, and routine grading occurred. Brushing of the road way was completed in 2007. Installation of a new bottomless arch culvert at Rolfe Brook to to improve aquatic habitat and fish passage completed. Additional ditching, culvert, and graveling work is planned for 2009 and beyond.
	Farm Cove Dam Rd.: entire road monitored, brushing completed; installation of new bottomless arch culvert at Scott Brook to improve aquatic habitat and fish passage and two new nearby cross-drain culverts completed
	Farm Cove Mountain Rd: road north to Burroughs Brook monitored; ditching and surface maintenance completed as needed to support harvest activities.
	Dobsis Dam Rd: entire road monitored; surface condition poor and limited surface erosion occurring; no substantial watershed impacts but maintenance improvements recommended for recreational use as funds available. Roadside brushing was completed in 2007.
2009	4th Lake Rd: Entire road monitored; routine seasonal gradings conducted, culvert replaced at mile 8.6.
	Farm Cove Dam Rd.: Entire road monitored; culvert replaced at mile 2.8
	Farm Cove Mountain Rd: road north to Burroughs Brook monitored; ditching and surface maintenance completed as needed to support harvest activities.
	Dobsis Dam Rd: entire road monitored; surface condition poor and limited surface erosion occurring; no substantial watershed impacts but maintenance improvements recommended for recreational use as funds available.
	Third Lake Rd: on Wabassus Tract acquired 12/08: entire road monitored; surface condition poor and limited surface erosion occurring; no substantial immediate watershed impacts but maintenance improvements recommended. Arch culvert installed at Wabassus tributary stream (see “Brook Trout” above). Major erosion risk exists on section of road below Wabassus Mt with highly eroded ditch that lacks functional cross drains; drainage restoration project planned for 2010.
	43-00-0 / Little River Rd: on Wabassus Tract acquired 12/08: entire road monitored; surface condition poor and limited surface erosion occurring; no substantial immediate watershed impacts but maintenance improvements recommended. Major portions lack adequate drainage ditches or cross drains and are at risk for erosion, surface extremely rough. Restoration project planned for 2010
	42-00-0 / Little River Rd: on Wabassus Tract acquired 12/08: entire road monitored; surface condition poor and limited surface erosion occurring; no substantial immediate watershed impacts but maintenance improvements recommended. Lacks adequate drainage ditches or cross drains and is at risk for erosion, surface extremely rough. Restoration project planned for 2010
	Wabassus Mt Rd: on Wabassus Tract acquired 12/08: entire road monitored; surface condition poor and limited surface erosion occurring; no substantial immediate watershed impacts. Lower priority for restoration.
2010	4th Lake Rd: Entire road monitored; routine seasonal gradings conducted
	42-00-0 and 43-00-0 Rds: Drainage and surface restoration projects completed, including culvert installations
	88 Rd: arch culvert installed at North Br; see “brook trout” above.
	Wabassus Mt Rd: arch culvert installed at North Br; see “brook trout” above.
2011	4th Lake Rd & Little River Rd: Entire roads monitored; routine seasonal gradings conducted

	3rd Lake Rd (60-00-0): Drainage and surface restoration project completed on northern portion of road, including culvert installations
2012	4th Lake Rd & Little River Rd: Entire roads monitored; routine seasonal gradings conducted Wabassus Mt. Rd, portion of 3rd Lake Rd, portion of Dobsis Dam Rd, drainage and surface restoration project completed, including culvert installations; small culvert installation on ATV trail near Billy Brown field
2013	4th Lake Rd & Little River Rd: Entire roads monitored; routine seasonal gradings conducted Planned gradings completed on 3rd Lake Ridge Rd, Dobsis Dam Rd, Farm Cove Dam Rd, Wabassus Mt Rd. Drainage and surface restoration projects completed on portions of 4th Lake Rd, 4th Lake Landing Rd, Belden Brook Rd, 3rd Lake Ridge Rd, and Farm Cove Dam Rd, including culvert installations; approx. 10.5 miles of roadside brushing completed
2014	4th Lake Rd & Little River Rd: Entire roads monitored; routine seasonal gradings conducted Planned gradings completed on 3rd Lake Ridge Rd, Dobsis Dam Rd, Farm Cove Dam Rd, Wabassus Mt Rd Drainage and surface restoration projects completed on portions of 4th Lake Rd, including culvert installations.

Pesticides and Biological Control Agents

DLLT does not currently use pesticides or biological control agents. If in the future a need to use the agents arises, DLLT will prepare evaluate the risks, prepare appropriate application plans, and monitor use in accordance with the Farm Cove Community Forest Management Plan, the conservation easement, and Maine law and Forest Stewardship Council certification standards.

Social and Economic Monitoring

Social and Economic Monitoring							
Element	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**
Total volume of wood harvested (cords)	6425.5	7025.2	6896.1	7214.7	5022.2	5499	6483.1
Number of permanent DLLT employees	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Number of temporary DLLT employees	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Number of contractor and subcontractor employees	Appr. 10*	Appr. 10*	Appr. 10*	Appr. 10*	Appr. 13*	Appr. 13*	Appr. 10*

* contractors and subcontractor employees include forester, President, and other employees of Orion Timberlands; foreman, operators, truckers, and other employees of harvest contractors Davis Forestry Products and Tide Mill Enterprises; only harvest-related contractor employees are included here.

DLLT's board members and staff, and public meetings attended or hosted by DLLT are the major means by which DLLT monitors the public reaction to management.

2014 In the past year, DLLT has continued to hear a number of strongly positive comments from year-round and seasonal residents and visitors, as well as other conservation organizations, elected officials, and administrators. The most frequent positive comments relate to DLLT's permanent conservation of lands, including preventing lakeshore development and guaranteeing public recreational access. We also have received positive comments related to our wildlife habitat projects and road conditions on the community forest.

Common Loon Monitoring

In addition to monitoring activities directly related to management of the Farm Cove Community Forest described in this report, DLLT has had a program of monitoring common loon productivity on lakes throughout the region, a project to establish a baseline set of data on loon reproduction that began in 2001 in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Biodiversity Research Institute, and also involved Maine Audubon in 2011. This monitoring effort concluded in 2011. An executive summary of the loon monitoring report is available upon request.

III. Periodic Forest Monitoring Data

Because the following data are gathered periodically (for example, every 5-10 years), this section of the report will be only updated as new data become available.

Forest Inventory

Standing Timber

Forest inventory is the basis of good forest management. The following is a summary of the data that have been collected on the forest. A forest-wide inventory took place in 2000 on the original Farm Cove Property. An inventory of the Wabassus Lake Tract was completed in 2008. In the fall of 2014, aerial photos and stand type maps were developed.

New inventory points were completed in 2010 on the original Farm Cove Community Forest, exclusive of the Wabassus Lake Tract. After processing the cruise data collected by Fountains Forestry, the following results were compiled using the 7 Islands inventory program, MBG tools. The following table contains current cruise information (2010) and past cruise data and estimates.

Summary	Entire Ownership (excl Wabassus)	Without LSMA or Eco Reserve	Without Eco Reserve	LSMA Only	Ecological Reserve Only
Cords per Acre 2003	17	?	?	?	?
Estimated Cords per Acre 2008	18.1	17.6	17.5	17	21
Cords per Acre 2010	18.4	17.8	18.1	19.3	19.7

In 2015, this inventory information was updated in 2014 with re-measured post-harvest plots, and "grown" plot information received from Finite Carbon as part of our Carbon monitoring program. This data was processed using LMS (Landscape Management Systems) and formulas developed by the Forest Service, to update the inventory once again. The results were not surprising, there is a clear annual net gain. Harvest rates are approximately half of growth. More inventory information can be delivered upon request.

Based on the most recent ***round wood*** cruise data, the following has occurred:

- Entire Farm Cove Community Forest, not including Wabassus , 2005-2015
  - The average net (growth – harvest) increase in stocking from 2005 to 2015 was 0.35 cords per acre per year.
  - The Average Gross Growth (excluding harvest) was 0.63 cords per acre per year.
- Round wood, Outside the Late Successional Area and Ecological Reserve
  - The average net increase in stocking was 0.14 cords per acre per year.

*Numbers are based on roundwood only.

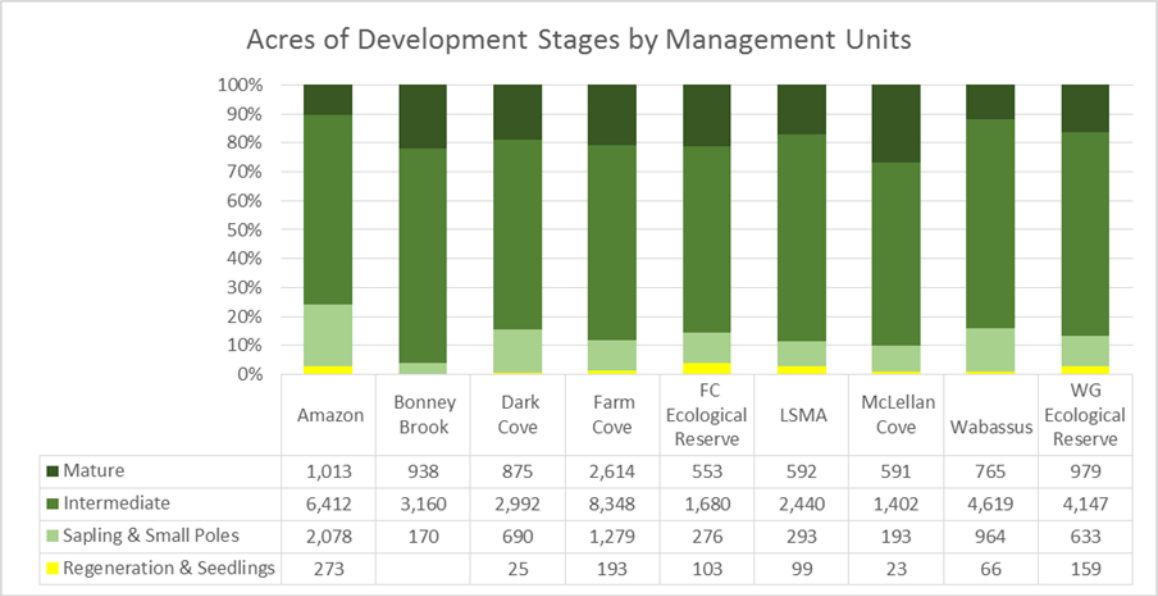
Forest inventory elements planned for the next forest-wide inventory			
Element	**Frequency**	**Strongly Recommended**	**Desirable**
Forest Inventory	Every 10 years. Last full inventory 2010. New air photos and type maps 2014. *By the end of 2015 a new inventory will be complete.	1. Tree species, size, grade and density 2. Focus Species Development Stage 3. Snags 4. Other wildlife trees 5. Invasive species 6. Aerial photography and cover type maps	1. Species distribution by canopy layer (overstory, understory, ground cover) and percent cover of each layer. 2. Shrubs, wildflowers and other herbs, ferns and bryophytes. 3. Large downed woody material

Changes in Habitat Conditions

The Farm Cove Community Forest is managed for a range of forest types and ages to provide diverse and abundant habitat for wildlife species of interest to the local community. Aerial photographs and cover type maps are used to assess forest habitat conditions for most species. To help manage the forest, the management plan has divided the forest into the following management units.

Machias-Dobsis:	West of the thoroughfare between Wabassus and Pocumcus Lakes. This unit includes the Ecological Reserve, Late Successional Management Area (LSMA), and the remaining general forest management area (Dark Cove subunit).
McLellan Cove:	North of West Grand Lake
Farm Cove:	South of West Grand Lake and east of the Wabassus-Pocumcus thoroughfare. Includes 30 acres on Kitchen Cove Point
Bonney Brook:	Areas below the milford road, and along the Bonney brook Rd
Amazon	Area to the North and South of the West Grand Lake Ecological reserve

The graph below represents forest habitat conditions as of 2015 summarized from the cover type data. The next update of the cover type maps and data is expected in or before 2025.



	Amazon	Bonney Brook	Dark Cove	Farm Cove	FC Ecological Reserve	LSMA	McLellan Cove	Wabassus	WG Ecological Reserve
Mature	1,013	938	875	2,614	553	592	591	765	979
Intermediate	6,412	3,160	2,992	8,348	1,680	2,440	1,402	4,619	4,147
Sapling & Small Poles	2,078	170	690	1,279	276	293	193	964	633
Regeneration & Seedlings	273		25	193	103	99	23	66	159

Deer Wintering Areas

Long-term monitoring of deer wintering areas is based on the percent of mapped primary and secondary cover in mapped DWA. DLLT has identified five DWA management areas totaling 7,420 acres. The objective is to have at least 25% of each DWA in primary cover and at least 50% in primary and secondary cover combined. Due ot heavy harvesting under previous ownership, none of the areas meet the DWA cover criteria.

Deer Wintering Areas- Farm Cove, Wabassus, West Grand Lake

	Primary		Secondary		Primary + Secondary			Never Cover		NA		Total	Goals Met?
DMA	%	ac	%	ac	%	ac	ac	%	ac	%	ac	ac	Yes/No
Belden Bk	43%	696	20%	335	63%	1031	373	11%	177	3%	56	1637	Yes
Burroughs Bk	36%	323	33%	292	69%	615	187	8%	73	2%	20	895	Yes
Bonney Bk	11%	202	4%	74	16%	276	770	12%	215	13%	238	1775	No
Grand Lake Bk	22%	664	13%	398	36%	1062	1727	0%	0	7%	201	2990	No
Hayes Bk	30%	639	24%	515	53%	1154	887	3%	54	3%	63	2159	Yes
Wabassus	18%	424	13%	299	31%	723	1232	12%	276	5%	106	2338	No
Whitney Cove	34%	339	28%	281	63%	620	343	2%	18	1%	5	987	Yes
Grand Total	26%	3287	17%	2194	43%	5481	5519	6%	813	5%	689	12781	No

*Total cover includes all primary, secondary, and non-cover areas.
** GL Brook was increased to match acreage of marten management area

Section II includes a summary of annual management activities in DWA.

American Marten

The management plan for American marten ("pine marten") is based on maintaining large patches (over 1,200 acres) of mature forest. Monitoring is based on periodic inventories and cover type maps (i.e., every 10 years) to quantify habitat conditions.

Marten Habitat by Management Unit								
Unit	Total Area	Potential Habitat	Primary Habitat		Secondary Habitat		Current Habitat	
	ac	ac	ac	%	ac	%	ac	%
Belden Bk	1637	1581	1074	70%	466	30%	1540	97%
Burroughs Bk	895	837	594	71%	240	29%	834	100%
Bonney Bk	1733	1496	945	67%	476	33%	1421	95%
Grand Lake Bk	2990	2769	1884	72%	736	28%	2620	95%
Hayes Bk	2159	2024	1542	83%	313	17%	1855	92%
Wabassus	2338	2195	1435	85%	259	15%	1693	77%
Whitney Cove	987	967	515	55%	414	45%	929	96%
Grand Total	12739	11869	7989	73%	2904	27%	10892	92%

Projections indicate that an average of 32% o the marten management units will meet primary habitat objectives in 20 years and 68% will meet secondary habitat objectives. The next monitoring is scheduled ca 2015 when the cover type maps will be updated.

Grouse and Woodcock

Long term potential high-value grouse and woodcock habitat is indicated by the total area and balance of development stages in the aspen-birch forest type. This is only a portion of the total

area of habitat, because grouse will also be found in young and intermediate-aged northern hardwood and hardwood-dominated mixed forests.

2005 Grouse and Woodcock Habitat Conditions						
Management Unit	**Focus Species Development Stage (ac)**				**Aspen -Birch Total**	**All Types Total**
	Early Successional R/S	**Early Successional S/SP**	**Inter-mediate**	**Mature**		
Dark Cove (exclusive of the Ecological Reserve and LSMA)	28	444	76	14	562	4,546
Whitney Cove		46	187	60	293	2,703
Farm Cove		206	422		629	11,992
Aspen-Birch Total	28	697	685	74	1,484	19,240
Total Forest Acres						25,369

Aspen-Birch, 2015					
	Column Labels				
Row Labels	Regeneration & Seedlings	Sapling & Small Poles	Intermediate	Mature	Grand Total
Amazon	8	119	157	6	290
Bonney Brook		64	505	270	839
Dark Cove		121	57		178
Farm Cove	12	76	510		598
FC Ecological Reserve		62	372		434
LSMA	61	59	438		558
McLellan Cove			148		148
Wabassus		15	209	7	232
WG Ecological Reserve	7	122	242		371
Grand Total	88	638	2639	283	3648

When examining the updated data, it's clear that the acres of aspen birch forest type is decreasing over time. The baseline (2005) data for Dark Cove, McLellan Cove, and Farm Cove had a total of 1,484 acres of Aspen-Birch forest type. That number has dropped to 924. This is due to forest succession and harvesting practices. Many aspen birch stands have developed significant shade tolerant conifer cohorts, making it difficult to justify retaining cover type.

DLLT is considering several options in preserving the presence of the forest type.

Black-throated Blue Warbler/Mature Hardwood Forest

Black-throated blue warbler is the focal species for older intermediate and mature northern hardwood forest. In 2005 about 60% of this forest type in the DLLT FCCF as a whole was in the early successional stage and 6% was in the mature stage. The objective was to increase mature northern hardwoods to 15% of the total northern hardwood area by 2015 and 30% by 2025.

With the current updated cover type maps, changes were observed. Currently, 36% of northern hardwood forest is in the early successional stage. This shows an increase in stand development. We also increased TOTAL northern hardwood acreage on the FCCF. With the new total acreage, we have actually seen a slight decrease in mature hardwood acreage, in percent cover. If the original acreage is used to calculate current mature cover, than we have actually increased to 7% mature cover.

It is believed that the increase in total acres in northern hardwood cover id due to forest succession, or possibly some minor miss typing in forest types in 2005. It is also believed that the growth rates required to achieve mature northern hardwood status is unrealistic.

Hard Mast Management

Long-term plans for hard mast include experimental planting of American chestnut and red oak by 2012. These plots and chestnuts planted prior to 2007 will be monitored.

Year	Number of plots	Year Planted	Type of Planting	Year Monitored Monitored	Results
Planted Prior to 2008	8	2006	Seedlings	2008	Qualitative inspection only; surviving seedlings appear healthy and have received only moderate browse pressure; survival appears better away from raspberry vines in old wood yards
2008					
2009					
2010					
2011					
2012					
2013					
2014					The planning of Chestnut is being reconsidered, but in a drastically different manor than before. Any future plantings will likely focus on Red oak.

Rare Species, Natural Communities, and other Special Habitats

During 2002-2003 DLLT contracted with Dr. Norm Famous and Janet McMahon to inventory the anticipated DLLT acquisition lands for the presence of rare, threatened, or endangered wildlife and plant species. The final report and recommendations were completed in August of 2007. Additional information, including a list of rare species that could potentially be observed on the Community Forest, was requested and received from the Maine Natural Areas Program,

and is summarized in the Farm Cove Community Forest Management Plan (2008). The Wabassus tract was acquired in 2009, and a focus species plan was developed in 2010. With the eventual acquisition of the West Grand Lake Tract in 2016, DLLT decided to combine all management into a single document, Downeast Lakes Land Trust Forest Management Plan (2015). DLLT's approach is to protect species by protecting their habitat, including areas designated as special management areas, late-successional forest, and ecological reserve. Monitoring for general conditions or unintended adverse impacts occurs primarily during forest harvest operations planning and implementation when harvests occur near or in special management areas.

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