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FM-02 - 24 July 2013



Forest Management
Certification Reassessment
Report for:

Downeast Lakes Land Trust
In
Grand Lake Stream, Maine, USA

Report Finalized:	29 August 2017
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Audit Team:	Klaus Geiger, Charles Levesque
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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an independent certification assessment conducted by a team of specialists representing the Rainforest Alliance. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the ecological, economic and social performance of Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) forest management as defined by the Principles and Criteria established by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®).

The Rainforest Alliance founded its previous SmartWood program in 1989 to certify responsible forestry practices and has grown to provide a variety of auditing services. Rainforest Alliance certification and auditing services are managed and implemented within its RA-Cert Division. All related personnel responsible for audit design, evaluation, and certification/verification/validation decisions are under the purview of the RA-Cert Division, hereafter referred to as Rainforest Alliance or RA.

This report contains four main sections of information and findings and several appendices. Sections 1 through 4 of the report plus appendix I will become public information about the forest management operation and comprise a public summary of the full report that may be distributed by Rainforest Alliance or the FSC to interested parties. The remainder of the appendices are confidential, to be reviewed only by authorized Rainforest Alliance and FSC personnel bound by confidentiality agreements. A copy of the public summary of this report can be obtained on the FSC website at <http://info.fsc.org/>.

A key purpose of the Rainforest Alliance auditing is to recognize conscientious land stewardship through independent evaluation and certification of forestry practices. Forestry operations that attain FSC certification may use Rainforest Alliance and FSC trademarks for public marketing and advertising.

Standard Conversions

1 mbf = 4.8 m³
1 mbf = 2 cords
1 cord = 2.4 m³
1 cord = 0.5 mbf
1 gallon (US) = 3.78541 liters
1m³ = 0.41 cords
1m³ = 0.21 mbf
100 tons hardwood = 97 m³
100 tons softwood = 101 m³

1 acre = 0.404687 hectares

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

1.1. Scope of the certificate

Forest management enterprise (FME) information:			
FME legal name:	Downeast Lakes Land Trust		
FME legal jurisdiction:	Washington County, Maine		
Type of legal entity	501(c)3 nonprofit corporation		
Contact person (public):	Brittany Mauricette, David Montague		
Address:	4 Water Street Grand Lake Stream, ME 04668		
Tel/FAX/email:	207-796-2100/ bmauricette@downeastlakes.org		
Website:	Downeastlakes.org		
Reporting period:	Previous 12 month period	Dates	Jan 2016- Dec 2016

Note: 1 acre = 0.404687 hectares

A. Scope of Forest Area			
Type of certificate: single FMU		SLIMF Certificate not applicable	
Group or Multiple FMU	Number of group members (if applicable):		N/A
	Total number of Forest Management Units FMUs: (if applicable, list each below):		N/A
	FMU size classification within the scope:		
		# of FMUs	total forest area of FMU's
	< 100 ha		ha
	100 – 1000 ha		ha
	1000 – 10 000 ha		ha
	> 10 000 ha		ha
	SLIMF FMUs		ha
Group Certificate: List of FMUs included in the certificate scope provided in Appendix IV-a:			
Single/Multi-FMU Certificate: List of each FMU included in the certificate scope:			
FMU Name/Description	Area	Forest Type	Location Latitude/Longitude ¹
Downeast Lakes Community Forest (previously Farm Cove Community Forest)	22,491 ha	Hemlock, spruce-fir, hardwoods, lowlands	N: 45.22311 W: -67.87808
	ha		
	ha		

B. FSC Product categories included in the FM/CoC scope (FSC-STD-40-004a)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Level 1	Level 2	Species
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	W1 Rough Wood	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Hemlock, spruce, fir, white pine, white birch,

¹ The center point of a contiguous FMU or group of dispersed properties that together comprise a FMU in latitude and longitude decimal degrees with a maximum of 5 decimals.

			mixed hardwood, aspen spp., mixed species
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	W1 Rough Wood	W1.2 Fuel Wood	Mixed species
X	W1 Rough Wood	W1.3 Twigs	Mixed species
<input type="checkbox"/>	W2 Wood charcoal		
<input type="checkbox"/>	W3 Wood in chips or particles	W3.1 Wood chips	
<input type="checkbox"/>	W4 Impregnated/treated wood	W4.1 Impregnated roundwood	
<input type="checkbox"/>	W5 Solid wood (sawn, chipped, sliced or peeled)	W5.1 Fitches and boules	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non Wood Forest Products	[enter from FSC-STD-40-004a v2-0]	
<input type="checkbox"/>	other		

C. Species and Sustainable Rate of Harvest (AAC)

Latin name	Common trade name	Annual allowable cut	Actual harvest (2016)	Projected harvest for next year
Tsuga Canadensis	Hemlock	m3	5,361 m3	m3
Mixed Spp.	Mixed HW	m3	8,474 m3	m3
Populus Spp.	Aspen	m3	438 m3	m3
Picea spp.	spruce	m3	2,309 m3	m3
Mixed spp.	Spruce-fir	m3	2,436 m3	m3
Pinus strobus	White pine	m3	4,608 m3	m3
Total AAC		24,700 m3	23,626 m3	24700 m3
Total annual estimated log production:			18,411 m3	
Total annual estimates production of certified NTFP:			0 m3	
(list all certified NTFP by product type):			m3	
			m3	
			m3	

D. FMU Info

Forest zone	Temperate
Certified Area under Forest Type	
• Natural	22,491 ha
• Plantation	0 ha
Stream sides and water bodies	285 Linear Kilometers

E. Forest Area Classification

Total certified area (land base)	22491 ha
1. Total forest area	20743 ha
a. Total production forest area	16670 ha
b. Total non-productive forest area (no harvesting)	4073 ha
• Protected forest area (strict reserves)	4073 ha
• Areas protected from timber harvesting and managed only for NTFPs or services	0 ha
• Remaining non-productive forest	0 ha
2. Total non-forest area (e.g., water bodies, wetlands, fields, rocky outcrops, etc.)	1748 ha

F. Ownership/Management Classification

Ownership Tenure	Private ownership
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Management Tenure (<i>list primary tenure type for group certificates</i>)		Private management
Certified area that is: Privately managed	22491 ha	
State/Public managed	0 ha	
Community managed	0 ha	
G. Forest Regeneration		
Area or share of the total production forest area regenerated naturally	22491 ha	
Area or share of the total production forest area regenerated by planting or seeding	0 ha	
Area or share of the total production forest are regenerated by other or mixed methods (describe)	0 ha	

H. High Conservation Values identified via formal HCV assessment by the FME and respective areas			
Code	HCV TYPES ²	Description:	Area
HCV1	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).	Fourth Machias Lake Focus Area- FCCF and Wabassus Tracts	1995 ha
HCV2	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.	None. Tracts are part of globally significant forest landscape but do not meet this definition because previous harvest history altered natural patterns of distribution and abundance	0 ha
HCV3	Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.	FCCF SMA NF#16- 16 acres FCCF SMA NF#18 – 209 ac Wabassus SMA #1 – 2 ac	92 ha
HCV4	Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).	None. Forest does provide basic services of nature, but not in critical or unique situations.	0 ha
HCV5	Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).	None. The FCCF, WGL, and Wabassus tracts are not fundamental to the basic needs of local communities, however, they are essential to the local economy, and therefore indirectly to local well-being	0 ha
HCV6	Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).	None. Give the guidance provided, the FCCF, WGL, and Wabassus tracts are not specifically critical to the tribe and local community's cultural identity. However, they are an important part of the broader regions natural	0 ha

² The HCV classification and numbering follows the ProForest HCVF toolkit. The toolkit also provides additional explanation regarding the categories. Toolkit is available at <http://hcvnetwork.org/library/global-hcv-toolkits>.

		landscape, which is essential to the local economy and tribe's cultural identity	
Number of sites significant to indigenous people and/or local communities			0

I. Pesticide Use

FME does not use pesticides. (delete rows below)

1.2. Exclusion and/or Excision of areas from the scope of certificate

X	Applicability of FSC partial certification and excision policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All forest land owned or managed by the FME is included in the scope of this evaluation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	FME owns and/or has management involvement in other forest land/properties (forest management units) not being evaluated. If yes, complete sections A & D below.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is any portion of the forest management unit (s) under evaluation for certification being excised from the scope of the evaluation? If yes, complete sections B, C & D below. Conformance with FSC-POL-20-003 <i>The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification</i> shall be documented below.
A. Comments / Explanation for exclusion of FMUs from certification:	
Finding: N/A	
B. Rationale for excision of area from FMU(s) included in scope of evaluation:	
<i>Note: Rationale shall be consistent with one of the permitted conditions specified in FSC-POL-20-003, under which such certifications may be permitted.</i>	
Finding: N/A	
C. Summary of conformance evaluation against requirements of FSC-POL-20-003	
Finding: N/A	
D. Control measures to prevent contamination of certified wood with wood from excluded/excised forest areas.	
Finding: N/A	

2. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

2.1. Certification Standard Used

Forest Stewardship standard Used for assessment:	FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.0); FM-35 RA COC Standard for FME;
Local Adaptation: (if applicable)	None

2.2. Assessment team and qualifications

Auditor Name	Klaus Geiger	Auditor role	Lead Auditor
Qualifications:	Klaus Geiger is a forester with professional experience throughout the Americas. As Forest Management and Chain of Custody Associate with Rainforest Alliance Klaus conducts and leads Forest Stewardship Council field audits for projects primarily in the United States. Klaus began working for Rainforest Alliance as a Carbon Projects auditor, for which he audited forest carbon projects under six different carbon standards, including AFOLU and REDD+. Prior to working with Rainforest Alliance, Klaus researched Sri Lankan non-timber forest products by documenting species composition and mapping spatial distribution in traditional agroforestry gardens, co-managed the 8,000 acre FSC-Certified Yale School Forest, promoted sustainable agriculture techniques for over three years with the Peace Corps in Panama, and, among other experiences, cruised timber with the U.S. Forest Service in Tahoe National Park. Klaus received his Masters of Forestry from the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and holds a Bachelors of Forestry from University of Missouri-Columbia. Klaus is fluent in Spanish and conversational in Sinhala.		
Auditor Name	Charles A. Levesque	Auditor role	Auditor
Qualifications:	President, Innovative Natural Resource Solutions LLC (founded 1994). Education: B.S.F. in forest management from University of New Hampshire, 1979; ISO 14001 Lead Auditor Training, 2000. Certifications: RABQSA – Lead EMS Auditor – Environmental; Society of American Foresters Certified Forester and Certified Forest Auditor; New Hampshire Licensed Forester #281. Over 35 years of experience in forestry, natural resource consulting, natural resource non-profit management and environmental auditing. Co-author of “Forest Certification Auditing” published by the Society of American Foresters. Has lead or conducted sustainable forest management auditing on over 5 million acres in North American under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council and American Tree Farm System since the late 1990s and has lead over 100 chain-of-custody under SFI, FSC and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.		

2.3. Report peer reviewers

Consistent with FSC standards, no peer review is required for this reassessment.

2.4. Assessment schedule (including stakeholder consultation)

Date	Location /main sites	Main activities
6/9/2017	Auditor office	Calls to stakeholders, document review

		and preparation for audit
6/9/2017	Auditor office	Pre-audit conference call with DLLT
6/15/2017	DLLT Main Office	Opening meeting, documentation review, stakeholder consultation
6/15/2017	Farm Cove Community Forest and Wabassus tracts	On-site audit, document review, stakeholder consultation
6/16/2017	West Grand Lake tract	On-site audit, document review, stakeholder consultation, preliminary findings development
6/16/2017	DLLT Main Office	Closing meeting
Total number of person days used for the assessment:6.5 = number of auditors participating 2 X average number of days spent in preparation, on site and post site visit follow-up including stakeholder consultation 3.25.		

2.5. Evaluation strategy

The DLLT Certificate is a single Forest Management Unit (FMU) Certificate containing 22,491 hectares. As a single FMU Certificate no specific sampling intensity is required.

Field audit sites were chosen to include the following sites to address issues of risk and diversity: planned harvest sites, current harvesting sites, recent harvested sites, recent past road building, current road building and planned road building, culvert replacements, shorefront and stream buffers, wildlife habitat improvement areas, ecological reserve area and boundary, ATV/snowmobile trails, a relocated boat-launch, walking trails, old harvest sites for regeneration, community firewood harvesting areas, abutting camp sites, wetland areas and boundary lines at various locations.

2.5.1 List of management aspects reviewed by assessment team:

Type of site	Sites visited	Type of site	Sites visited
Road construction	6	Illegal settlement	0
Soil drainage	10	Bridges/stream crossing	5
Workshop	0	Chemical storage	0
Tree nursery	0	Wetland	3
Planned Harvest site	2	Steep slope/erosion	2
Ongoing Harvest site	0	Riparian zone	7
Completed logging	6	Planting	0
Soil scarification	0	Direct seeding	6
Planting site	0	Weed control	2
Felling by harvester	5	Natural regeneration	6
Felling by forest worker	1	Endangered species	0
Skidding/Forwarding	6	Wildlife management	6
Clearfelling/Clearcut	0	Nature Reserve	0
Shelterwood management	2	Key Biotope	0
Selective felling	1	Special management area	4
Sanitation cutting	0	Historical site	0
Pre-commercial thinning	0	Recreational site	3
Commercial thinning	3	Buffer zone	2
Logging camp	0	Local community	1

2.6. Stakeholder consultation process

The purpose of the stakeholder consultation strategy for this assessment was threefold:

- 1) To ensure that the public is aware of and informed about the assessment process and its objectives;
- 2) To assist the field assessment team in identifying potential issues; and,
- 3) To provide diverse opportunities for the public to discuss and act upon the findings of the assessment.

This process is not just stakeholder notification, but wherever possible, detailed and meaningful stakeholder interaction. The process of stakeholder interaction does not stop after the field visits, or for that matter, after even a certification decision is made. Rainforest Alliance welcomes, at any time, comments on certified operations and such comments often provide a basis for field assessment.

In the case of the Downeast Lakes Land Trust, prior to the actual reassessment process, a public consultation stakeholder document was developed and distributed by email and mail to a wide and large national database of persons/organizations that might have an interest in this audit. Through input from the Downeast Lakes Land Trust, an initial list of stakeholders was developed and public announcements were distributed to them. This list also provided a basis for the reassessment team to select people for interviews (in person or by telephone or through email). Many individuals were given phone calls and/or emails to solicit stakeholder feedback on the FME management activities relative to the FM Standards.

Stakeholder Type (NGO, government bodies, local inhabitant, contractor etc.)	Stakeholders Notified (#)	Stakeholders consulted directly or provided input (#)
FSC-US	4	0
Govt Agency	44	5
Environmental NGOs	54	1
Forestry/Forest Products NGO	27	0
Forest Industry	58	1
Academia	19	0
Labor Organizations	2	0
Contracting and Financial Institutions	12	0
Local community members	12	2

3. ASSESSMENT FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

3.1. Stakeholder comments received

The stakeholder consultation activities were organized to give participants the opportunity to provide comments according to general categories of interest based upon the assessment criteria. The table below summarizes the issues identified by the assessment team with a brief discussion of each based upon specific interview and/or public meeting comments.

FSC Principle	Stakeholder comment	Rainforest Alliance response
P1: FSC Commitment and Legal Compliance	No comments received.	No response necessary.
P2: Tenure & Use Rights & Responsibilities	1. A public agency official commented positively on shared use agreements DLLT maintains on some of its roads.	No response necessary.
P3 – Indigenous Peoples’ Rights	No comments received.	No response necessary.
P4: Community Relations & Workers’ Rights	1. Concern was voiced by one stakeholder that community members were not given proper notice for public meetings where stakeholder concerns can be voiced. 2. Workers and contractors related that DLLT and its management treats employees and contractors well and that pay and benefits are within norms for this sector.	1. Other stakeholders interviewed did not agree with the stakeholder about his concerns. Based on these interviews, documentation and direct observation, the audit team did not find evidence supporting the original stakeholder comment.2. No response necessary.
P5: Benefits from the Forest	No comments received.	No response necessary.
P6: Environmental Impact	1. A stakeholder said that DLLT forest management practice were detrimental to wildlife – particularly deer – populations on the FMU. 2. Public agency stakeholders said that DLLT was performing well and consistent with laws and regulations. 3. Another public agency stakeholder said DLLT’s forest management was very good. 4. An environmental NGO representative commented positively on DLLT’s resource management.	1. Other stakeholder wildlife experts interviewed by the audit team did not agree with the stakeholder assertion. Based on interviews and the conclusion of third-party expert opinions, documentation and direct observation, the audit team did not find evidence supporting the original stakeholder comment. 2. No response necessary. 3. No response necessary. 4. No response necessary.
P7: Management Plan	No comments received.	No response necessary.
P8: Monitoring & Assessment	No comments received.	No response necessary.
P9: Maintenance of High	No comments received.	No response necessary.

Conservation Value Forest		
P10 - Plantations	No comments received.	No response necessary.

3.2. Summary of Evaluation Findings for FSC Forest Criteria

PRINCIPLE 1: Compliance with law and FSC Principles					
Criterion 1.1 Respect for national and local laws and administrative requirements					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	FME follows laws and regulations covering their operations. No violations were noted by enforcement officials. Staff have clear respect for following laws and regulations and for doing the right thing at all times.				
Criterion 1.2 Payment of legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	FME showed records of payment of the two required taxes for these ownerships.				
Criterion 1.3 Respect for provisions of international agreements					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	FME staff understand the requirements of international agreements and their applicability on the FMU.				
Criterion 1.4 Conflicts between laws and regulations, and the FSC P&C					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	There are no conflicts between laws and regulations and the FSC P&C.				
Criterion 1.5 Protection of forests from illegal activities					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	FME mission is to encourage the recreational use of the FMU by community members and others. There are rarely any illegal activities given the nature of the organization and its community focus. The FME has well marked boundaries to assure no timber trespass and have staff out on the property constantly as well as community members who watch over the property and report any issues. There have been no known illegal activities on the FMU since the last audit.				
Criterion 1.6 Demonstration of a long-term commitment to the FSC P&C					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	The FME has a written commitment to FSC P&C on its website and interviews with staff and board indicate strong commitment to the Standard and certification.				
PRINCIPLE 2: Tenure and use rights and responsibilities					
Criterion 2.1 Demonstration of land tenure and forest use rights					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	FME has clear title to the FMU and other legal rights are clearly documented.				
Criterion 2.2 Local communities' legal or customary tenure or use rights					

Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	Some public rights of access are guaranteed by several conservation easements on the FMU. Other access is customary and the public takes advantage of the opportunity since the purpose of the ownership is for public use.				
Criterion 2.3 Disputes over tenure claims and use rights					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	DLLT is in the process of working toward a resolution for a title dispute regarding the Tower Hill fire tower. DLLT is working to resolve the dispute so the fire tower can be donated to the Grand Lake Stream Historical Society.				
PRINCIPLE 3: Indigenous peoples' rights					
Criterion 3.1 Indigenous peoples' control of forest management					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	Indigenous people have no legal rights of use on the FMU except for a donated right-of-way on a road leading to a tribal property.				
Criterion 3.2 Maintenance of indigenous peoples' resources or tenure rights					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	Indigenous people have no legal rights of use on the FMU except for a donated right-of-way on a road leading to a tribal property.				
Criterion 3.3 Protection of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	The FME has invited tribal leaders to identify sites of special significance on the FMU but none have been identified.				
Criterion 3.4 Compensation of indigenous peoples for the application of their traditional knowledge					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	No traditional knowledge from indigenous peoples has been used by the FME.				
PRINCIPLE 4: Community relations and workers rights					
Criterion 4.1 Employment, training, and other services for local communities					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	All FME staff are local and all contractors working on the FMU are local companies.				
Criterion 4.2 Compliance with health and safety regulations					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	FME policies and procedures and contracts with vendors working on the FMU all comply with health and safety regulations. Activities observed were consistent with health and safety regulations.				
Criterion 4.3 Workers' rights to organize and negotiate with employers					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	FME staff have chosen not to organize. They are aware of their right to do so.				

Criterion 4.4 Social impact evaluations and consultation					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	FME mission is dedicated to serving the community through socially and economically sensitive operations. They consult with community members and are governed by a board of mostly local residents.				
Criterion 4.5 Resolution of grievances and settlement of compensation claims					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	There have been very few grievances against the FME since its inception. Minor issues have been addressed fairly by the FME.				
PRINCIPLE 5: Benefits from the forest					
Criterion 5.1 Economic viability taking full environmental, social, and operational costs into account					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	Forestry operations on the DLLT property are planned and carried out in such a way so as to achieve specific environmental (e.g. wildlife habitat creation, focus species management [both flora and fauna]), social (e.g. promoting recreational opportunities such as ATV trails), and operational (e.g. timely road maintenance) objectives. Planned activities are reviewed by the DLLT Board of Directors and specific relevant sub-committees, and they are implemented to minimize and mitigate environmental, social and operational costs.				
Criterion 5.2 Optimal use and local processing of forest products					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	All forest products harvested from the DLLT property are cut by local harvesting companies and then processed at local plants as lumber, pulp or electricity.				
Criterion 5.3 Waste minimization and avoidance of damage to forest resources					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	DLLT has made efforts to minimize waste created and damage caused by forestry operations. Potential for utilization of forest products is linked to the industry, and DLLT staff have demonstrated local knowledge which aids them in tackling challenges posed by dynamic demand for different forest products.				
Criterion 5.4 Forest management and the local economy					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	All DLLT forest operations are conducted by companies from the local area and the timber is sold and processed at local mill facilities.				
Criterion 5.5 Maintenance of the value of forest services and resources					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	DLLT employs a variety of forest management strategies and techniques in order to restore, maintain and enhance the value of forest services and resources for environmental and social benefit.				
Criterion 5.6 Harvest levels					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	DLLT has a calculated sustained yield harvest level that is intended to add volume to the forest over time and the actual harvesting has been accomplished in a manner consistent with the level set.				

PRINCIPLE 6: Environmental impact					
Criterion 6.1 Environmental impacts evaluation					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	Environmental impact assessments were conducted as part of the revision of the DLLT forest management plan, the most recent version of which was released in 2015, and were conducted in a thorough and robust manner. Further assessments were carried out in the form of post-harvest inspection reports, which further informed staff on their activities' environmental impacts.				
Criterion 6.2 Protection of rare, threatened and endangered species					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	DLLT has a full program for protection of RTE species that includes substantial set-asides where RTE species are likely to occur and careful practices in those areas with potential RTE. There are areas with active management, and others with passive or no management, but in large part, DLLT operations are not located in places where RTE species are known to exist or may exist.				
Criterion 6.3 Maintenance of ecological functions and values					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	DLLT has classified their property under different categories to specify the level of and approach to management necessary to achieve their objectives. This includes areas that are actively managed for different timber species, as well as others that are habitat or special management areas. Further, there are areas designated as 'ecological reserves', where management activities are more hands-off, in order to restore, maintain and enhance ecological functions and values identified by the FME and consulted stakeholders.				
Criterion 6.4 Protection of representative samples of existing ecosystems					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	DLLT's classification of its lands results in the protection of the full range of representative ecosystems directly on the property. Conservation easements cover the entire property to assure no development will occur beyond forestry and recreation management functions.				
Criterion 6.5 Protection against damage to soils, residual forest and water resources during operations					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	There has been no damage against soils, residual forest and water resources during operations. The FME has good policies and procedures to protect resources during operations and field review confirmed actions are consistent with policy and in conformance with the FSC criteria.				
Criterion 6.6 Chemical pest management					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	The FME uses no chemicals as part of operations.				
Criterion 6.7 Use and disposal of chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes					
Conformance		Nonconformance	X	NCR #(s)	01/17
Finding (strength/weakness)	The FME uses no chemicals and does not store them. Contractors follow strict contracts to assure against chemical spills.				

	During the 2017 annual audit, the audit team interviewed a sub-contracted road-grader that did not have hazardous spill equipment on site or in the cab of the grader. Asked how the sub-contractor would proceed if a spill occurred, the sub-contractor responded that he would halt his activities and call a supervisor to come with a spill kit. A similar finding was raised during the 2012 reassessment audit, and as such the recurrent lack of hazardous spill equipment results in a minor non-conformity. NCR 01/17			
Criterion 6.8 Use of biological control agents and genetically modified organisms				
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	The FME uses no biological agents as part of its operations in the forest.			
Criterion 6.9 The use of exotic species				
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	No exotic species are used in the management of the FME.			
Criterion 6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses				
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	No lands have been converted to plantation or non-forest-land use.			
PRINCIPLE 7: Management plan				
Criterion 7.1 Management plan requirements				
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	The DLLT forest management plan documents fulfill the requirements of the FSC forest management Plan Criterion.			
Criterion 7.2 Management plan revision				
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	The DLLT forest management planning documents were fully revised and updated in 2015 and prior to this reassessment.			
Criterion 7.3 Training and supervision of forest workers				
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	Forest workers, both in-house staff members and outside contractors, are fully trained and a supervision protocol is in place and implemented to assure forest operations go according to plan and consistent with the FSC Standard.			
Criterion 7.4 Public availability of the management plan elements				
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	All DLLT forest management documents are available through the DLLT website.			
PRINCIPLE 8: Monitoring and evaluation				
Criterion 8.1 Frequency, intensity and consistency of monitoring				
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	DLLT outlines its monitoring protocol in its management plan. The protocol calls for regular monitoring of operations and environmental conditions during and after activity implementation, carried out by staff, contractors and community volunteers.			

Criterion 8.2 Research and data collection for monitoring					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	OBS 01/17
Finding (strength/weakness)	<p>DLLT regularly monitors forest products yield, forest growth rates and other conditions, composition and changes in flora and fauna, impacts from harvesting, and the costs and associated metrics from forest management.</p> <p>There are various NTFPs that DLLT allows community members to harvest, including firewood and fir tips to make holiday wreaths. DLLT registers each individual involved in NTFP harvests, and requests that they report back the amount of each type of NTFP collected. DLLT maintains records of community reporting on NTFP collection, though community members are not always reporting harvested amounts as requested, specifically for the fir tips. OBS 01/17</p>				
Criterion 8.3 Chain of custody					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	<p>DLLT implements an effective and cohesive Chain of Custody system documented through policies and procedures for all relevant personnel.</p>				
Criterion 8.4 Incorporation of monitoring results into the management plan					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	<p>The management plan was last updated in 2015 and incorporated monitoring results in the revisions made.</p>				
Criterion 8.5 Publicly available summary of monitoring					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	OBS 02/17
Finding (strength/weakness)	<p>DLLT maintains comprehensive annual monitoring reports that it posts to its website. Monitoring for the 2016 period occurred, and the summarized results of the monitoring indicators were communicated through public meetings and outreach, such as distributed newsletters, email messages and workshops. People who participate regularly in DLLT activities and read the newsletters would in theory have received all information that would go in to a public summary. However, the public summary of monitoring results was not posted to the DLLT website as it typically is. OBS 02/17</p>				
PRINCIPLE 9: High Conservation Value Forests					
Criterion 9.1 Evaluation to determine high conservation value attributes					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	<p>DLLT has undertaken several evaluations to determine HCVF attributes on the property, including in 2008, 2010, 2013, among other years, resulting in approximately 2,725 hectares of special management areas and ecological reserves.</p>				
Criterion 9.2 Consultation process					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	<p>DLLT conducts ongoing stakeholder consultation, particularly when identifying HCVs, which informs planning processes and activity implementation.</p>				
Criterion 9.3 Measures to maintain and enhance high conservation value attributes					
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	<p>DLLT fine-tunes its management of HCVFs to either be specially tailored active management or as a no-management area, as in the case of the ecological</p>				

	reserves. DLLT has demonstrated through documentation, and the audit team confirmed through document review, interview, and direct field observations that DLLT has implemented specific measures to maintain and enhance HCV attributes.			
Criterion 9.4 Monitoring to assess effectiveness				
Conformance	X	Nonconformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	Monitoring procedures are carried out annually on HCVF lands regardless of whether operations are located nearby. These are reported as part of the annual monitoring report published on the organization web-site, and communicated through public meetings and newsletters.			
PRINCIPLE 10: Plantations				
Finding (strength/weakness)	Not applicable. DLLT does not manage forests that meet the FSC-US definition of a plantation.			

3.3. Identified nonconformances and Nonconformity Reports (NCRs)

A nonconformance is a discrepancy or gap identified during the assessment between some aspect of the FME's management system and one or more of the requirements of the forest stewardship standard. Depending on the severity of the nonconformance the assessment team differentiates between major and minor nonconformances.

- **Major nonconformance** results where there is a fundamental failure to achieve the objective of the relevant FSC criterion. A number of minor nonconformances against one requirement may be considered to have a cumulative effect, and therefore be considered a major nonconformance.
- **Minor nonconformance** is a temporary, unusual or non-systematic nonconformance, for which the effects are limited.

Major nonconformances must be corrected **before** the certificate can be issued. While minor nonconformances do not prohibit issuing the certificate, they must be addressed within the given timeframe to maintain the certificate.

Each nonconformance is addressed by the audit team by issuing a nonconformity report (NCR). NCRs are requirements that candidate operations must agree to, and which must be addressed, within the given timeframe of a maximum of one year period.

[MAJOR] NCR#:	01/17	NC Classification:	Major	Minor X
Standard & Requirement:	FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.0), 6.7a and 6.7b			
Report Section:	3.2 Summary of Evaluation Findings for FSC Forest Criteria			
Description of Nonconformance and Related Evidence:				
While it is the DLLT policy that contractors will have the necessary equipment to address hazardous material spills, a grader operated by a subcontractor of the DLLT logging contractor on a main forest road interviewed by the audit team did not have a spill kit or other materials to deal with a hazardous material spill should one occur. This results in a minor non-conformity.				
Corrective Action Request:	Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the nonconformance.			
Timeline for Conformance:	Prior to the next annual audit.			
Evidence Provided by Organization:	PENDING			

Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING
NCR Status:	OPEN
Comments (optional):	

3.4. Conformance with applicable nonconformity reports (Reassessments Only)

The section below describes the activities of the certificate holder to address each applicable nonconformity report (NCR) issued during previous evaluations. For each NCR a finding is presented along with a description of its current status using the following categories. Failure to meet NCRs will result in nonconformances being upgraded from minor to major status with conformance required within 3 months with risk of suspension or termination of the Rainforest Alliance certificate if Major NCRs are not met. The following classification is used to indicate the status of the NCR:

Status Categories	Explanation
Closed	Operation has successfully met the NCR.
Open	Operation has either <u>not met</u> or has <u>partially met</u> the NCR.

Check if N/A (there are no open NCRs to review)

3.5. Observations

Observations can be raised when issues or the early stages of a problem are identified which does not of itself constitute a nonconformance, but which the auditor considers may lead to a future nonconformance if not addressed by the client. An observation may be a warning signal on a particular issue that, if not addressed, could turn into a NCR in the future (or a pre-condition or NCR during a 5-year re-assessment).

OBS 01/17	Reference Standard & Requirement: FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.0), 8.2.b
DLLT maintains records of reporting on NTFP collection, though community members are not always reporting harvested amounts as requested, specifically for the fir tips.	
Observation: The FME should ensure continued conformance with Indicator 8.2.b.	

OBS 02/17	Reference Standard & Requirement: FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.0), 8.5.a
DLLT maintains comprehensive annual monitoring reports that it posts to its website. Monitoring for the 2016 period occurred, and the summarized results of the monitoring indicators were communicated through public meetings and outreach, such as distributed newsletters, email messages and workshops. People who participate regularly in DLLT activities and read the newsletters would in theory have received all information that would go in to a public summary. However, the public summary of monitoring results was not posted to the DLLT website as it typically is.	
Observation: The FME should ensure continued conformance with Indicator 8.5.a.	

3.6. Certification Recommendation

Based on a thorough review of FME performance in the field, consultation with stakeholders, analysis of management documentation or other audit evidence the Rainforest Alliance assessment team recommends the following:

Certification requirements met; Upon acceptance of NCR(s) issued above	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Certification requirements not met	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subject to conformance with minor NCRs (if applicable), the FME has demonstrated that their described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest areas covered by the scope of the evaluation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	
FME's management system, if implemented as described and subject to conformance with minor NCRs (if applicable), is capable of ensuring that all the requirements of the certification standards are met across the scope of the certificate	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	
Issues identified as controversial or hard to evaluate.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	
Description of activities taken by the FME prior to the certification decision to correct major or minor nonconformity(s) identified during the assessment.	
Certificate type recommended:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest management and Chain of custody <input type="checkbox"/> Forest management only (no CoC)

Once certified, the FME will be audited annually on-site and required to remain in conformance with the FSC principles and criteria as further defined by regional guidelines developed by Rainforest Alliance or the FSC in order to maintain certification. The FME will also be required to fulfill the corrective actions as described below. Experts from Rainforest Alliance will review continued forest management performance and conformance with the corrective action requests described in this report, annually during scheduled and/or random audits.

4. CLIENT SPECIFIC BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 Ownership and land tenure description (legal and customary)

The description below is taken partly from the DLLT forest planning documents and partly from interviews:

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) was formed in 2001 for the express purpose of acquiring and protecting in perpetuity lands adjacent to the community of Grand Lake Stream, Maine, in T5 & T6ND. The trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Grand Lake Stream.

The 27,080-acre property of the initial acquisition had previously been owned and managed by Georgia-Pacific Corporation until 1999, when the property was purchased by a group of investors. The lands were managed for the investor group by Wagner Timberlands. Local concerns regarding the direction of the investor's management practices and the potential for significant lakeshore development led to the establishment of DLLT.

On May 25, 2005 the Downeast Lakes Land Trust completed acquisition of 27,080 acres on and around West Grand Lake in Washington County, Maine. The land trust worked in cooperation with the New England Forestry Foundation and Wagner Timberlands to negotiate the acquisition of the property and to place a conservation easement on the tract.

The DLLT ownership consists of the Farm Cove Community Forest, which is covered by the 2004 Conservation Easement (8,188 acres) and the 2005 Farm Cove Conservation Easement (15,332 acres), both held by the New England Forestry Foundation, Inc. These easements require managing the property as a working, community forest, while protecting the conservation values of the property. The Fourth Machias Lake Ecological Reserve exists as part of the Farm Cove Community Forest. The 3,560 acres of the Reserve are covered by a Conservation Easement, initially held by the New England Forestry Foundation, Inc., but assigned in September 2006 to Sweet Water Trust. This easement maintains the Reserve lands as "forever wild", without human manipulation, with a few exceptions. The Reserve lands remain open to non-motorized access and legal hunting, fishing, and trapping activities.

In 2008, the 6,628 acre area immediately to the south of the original purchase in T43 & T42 MD, the Wabassus Lake Tract, was added to the Farm Cove Community Forest by DLLT. All the DLLT lands are contiguous. There are several small, private lakeshore properties scattered within the boundaries of the DLLT property. All DLLT lands are open to public access and to all legal hunting, fishing, and gathering activities.

In August of 2016, DLLT acquired the West Grand Lake tract, an additional 21,860 acres to the east of the original 2 acquisitions. This tract was targeted years ago, and an agreement was struck for the Lyme Timber Company to purchase it, and sell two conservation easements to DLLT (one held by the Forest Society of Maine and one held by the State of Maine) as a first step in acquiring the whole tract, which occurred in 2016. While the 3 tract names are still used to describe sub-units of the ownership, the whole ownership is now called the Downeast Lakes Community Forest.

DLLT originally contracted with Orion Timberlands, LLC, for technical forest management services, with DLLT oversight. Beginning in 2014, DLLT hired the forester who had been managing the DLLT property for Orion to come on staff at DLLT. That forester left in 2016 and the new DLLT forester, Brittany Mauricette, was hired.

4.2 Legislative and government regulatory context

The State of Maine is among the most environmental conscious and regulated states in the United States. There exists in Maine a broad spectrum of statutes and regulations dealing with all aspects of forestland management, some Federal in origin. These include:

- Protection of water quality
- Development of shore land zones
- Streamside management zones – buffer strip widths
- Critical wildlife habitat management
- High mountain areas
- Steep slopes
- Gravel extraction
- Forester licensing
- Road construction standards
- Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species
- Zoning of unincorporated places (such as most of the DLLT property)

Rules and regulations intended to protect the environment are promulgated and enforced by a broad array of state, local and federal agencies. Agencies having jurisdiction over the management of commercial forestland in Maine are:

Maine Forest Service	Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Land Use Planning Commission	Board of Pesticide Control
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Maine Warden Service
U.S. Corps of Engineers	Board of Forester Licensing
Dept. of Environmental Protection	Municipalities
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	

Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) – The Downeast Lakes Land Trust property is within the regulatory area of the Land Use Planning Commission.

4.3 Environmental Context

DLLT's Downeast Lakes Community Forest is located within the Downeast Lakes region of Maine, which encompasses more than 1 million acres of forested lands. The Community Forest is part of the eastern lowlands biophysical region and located within two watersheds: the St. Croix River, which is the international boundary between Maine and New Brunswick, Canada, and the Machias River, which is designated as important habitat to the Atlantic salmon, a federally threatened species.

The Community Forest includes over 100 miles of shoreline on seven lakes. The topography of the Community Forest is gently rolling, with elevations ranging from 240 to 800 feet. Soils consist generally of three series formed from glacial till. The overall condition of the forest is good and recovering after a period of heavy harvesting by Georgia Pacific during its ownership tenure that ended in the late 1990s. As a result of past forest management practices, the current tree species composition is heavily skewed towards hemlock (38.2%), followed by spruce (19.9%), white pine (12.2%), and cedar (8.9%). Softwoods account for approximately 80% of the composition, and hardwoods account for less than 20%.

The Community Forest provides habitat to a diversity of fish and wildlife. The area has a long history of hunting, trapping, and fishing, and these activities continue to play an important role in the region's economy. The region maintains excellent water quality and a thriving fishery. The Community Forest contains cold-water streams that support native brook trout as well as lakes

that contain land-locked salmon. The Community Forest also provides habitat for many big game species, including moose, white-tailed deer, and black bear. Other species that occur in the Community Forest include mink, pine marten, fisher, and beaver. The Forest supports a diverse avian fauna, and has been designated as part of a Globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy.

Currently, no federally-listed rare, threatened, or endangered (RTE) species are known to be present on the Farm Cove Community Forest. Federally endangered animal species that are known to occur in the region include the golden eagle, peregrine falcon, Atlantic salmon and Clayton's copper (a butterfly). Federally endangered plant species in the region include arctic sandwort, smooth rockcress, pale jewel-weed, giant rattlesnake-plantain, white adder's-mouth, and Furbish's lousewort. Species listed as federally threatened that are known to occur in the region include: bald eagle, Canada lynx, northern bog lemming, slender cliffbrake, mountain sweet-cicely, wild coffee, wild ginger, Lapland buttercup, and small round-leaved orchis.

4.4 Socioeconomic Context

Envisioned as a community based, working forest, the 55,576 acre Farm Cove Community Forest provides a range of ecological and social values that have long supported the people and communities of the region. The Downeast Lakes Land Trust, through the implementation of their management plan, seeks to ensure the perpetuation of this recreation- and forest-based economy.

The history of DLLT lands is linked to the village of Grand Lake Stream, once the site of the world's largest tannery. Logging and hemlock bark collection were central to the economy of the area. The Downeast Lakes Region has been a mecca for the sport fishing and game since the turn of the 20th century. A strong guiding industry developed to provide services to this clientele. The forestlands of the region served the local timber and pulp industry since the advent of the paper industry in the early 1900's. DLLT lands were part of the St. Croix Paper Company lands until they were purchased by Georgia-Pacific Corporation. This area was part of a nearly 1-million-acre ownership that stretched across the U.S.-Canadian border. For years the mill required spruce and fir to run until the early 1970's when the pulping process was converted to hardwood. The area continues to be within the wood procurement circle of the Woodland Pulp (formerly Domtar [formerly Georgia-Pacific]) facility in Woodland.

The hardwood resource on DLLT lands has been significantly reduced and degraded because of past management, which in the past was driven by markets. Trees were not harvested unless a market existed for them. In a forest type such as this, this harvesting ensured the perpetual presence of a forest cover because market specifications demanded larger sized timber. The small (5–10 inch diameter), lower quality trees generally remained to grow. As market conditions changed, so did harvest methods and the amount of timber harvested from each acre. In the early 1970's, Georgia-Pacific's whole tree chipping had a dramatic impact on harvesting. Clearcutting increased. This technology affected the future DLLT lands. Hardwood areas were essentially commercially clearcut in the early 1980's. In the mid-1980's and early 1990's, markets for hemlock logs developed in Asia. Georgia-Pacific used the abundant and ever-increasing hemlock resource on their lands to supply this market out of Eastport, Maine. Much of the mature hemlock was harvested at that time. In 1999, Georgia-Pacific sold all of its Maine and New Brunswick timberlands to an investor group. Wagner Forest Management assumed management of the lands and a limited harvest was conducted in 2001.

About 90% of Maine's total land area is forested (17.7 million acres), and 95% of this area (16.9 million acres) is considered productive forestland. The percentage of forestlands in private ownership is 95%. Small, non-industrial private forest landowners manage 37% of the productive land, mostly in the southern and central portions of the state, whereas large private

forest landowners manage about 59%, mainly in the north and northeast regions of the state. State and County governments own approximately 4% of the productive forestland. The forests of Maine and neighboring states and Canadian provinces support the forest products industry and a wide variety of recreational activities, which generate 18% of the gross state product.

Maine's northern and eastern communities face economic challenges. Compounding the economic problems in northern Maine is the closure of several Maine pulp mills, which have changed ownership in recent years with some of these transfers resulting in separate owners for mills and forestlands or complete loss of business and market. Several nearby wood-fired electricity generating plants have recently closed and are now open due to a subsidy created by the Maine legislature. It is unsure as to whether these plants will remain open if the subsidy is removed. Many Maine residents are concerned about public access on these recently sold lands, which have a long history of public recreational use.

Maine is home to four federally recognized Native American peoples. These are the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac. In 1980 the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act was signed into law and included provisions for the reacquisition of tribal lands. Under the terms of the Settlement, the Penobscots and Passamaquoddies gave up future claims to their aboriginal lands in exchange for Federal trust fund and land acquisition monies. Passamaquoddy lands abut DLLT lands.

Ultimately, the Downeast Lakes Community Forest lands are now held in trust by the Downeast Lakes Land Trust as a core for the local economy based on forestry and the land and water-based recreation economies.

4.5 Workers

Number of workers including employees, part-time and seasonal workers:

Total workers	4 workers (provide detail below)	
• Local Full time employees (a:b)	2 Male	2 Female
• Non - Local Full time employees (c:d)	Male	Female
• Local Part time workers (e:f)	8 Male	3 Female
• Non- local part time workers (g:h)	Male	Female
Worker access to potable water on the work site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Full time employees making more than \$2 a day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Number of serious accidents (past 12 month period)	0	
Number of fatalities (past 12 month period)	0	

APPENDIX I: Public summary of the management plan

(NOTE: To be prepared by the client prior to assessment, Information verified by assessment team)

1. Main objectives of the forest management are:	
Primary priority:	biodiversity and increasing of nature values
Secondary priority:	recreation and outdoor activities
Other priorities:	income from harvesting and sales of roundwood; Providing hunting possibilities;
Forest composition:	
68% softwood (hemlock, fir, spruce, fir, pine, cedar, tamarack), 32% hardwood (aspen, birch, maple, ash, oak, beech)	
Description of Silvicultural system(s) used:	
selective logging with cont. forest cover	
2. Silvicultural system	% of forest under this management
Even aged management	16 %
Clearcut (clearcut size range 1.2-12.35)	20 %
Shelterwood	80 %
Uneven aged management	84 %
Individual tree selection	81 %
Group selection (group harvested of less than 1 ha in size)	19 %
Other types of management (explain)	ha
3. Forest Operations	
3.1 Harvest methods and equipment used:	Mechanical Harvesting, Feller Buncher, Grapple Skidder, Stroke delimeter, and slasher; Tree Length Chainsaw, Grapple Skidder
3.2 Estimate of maximum sustainable yield for main commercial species:	.28 cd/ac/yr
3.3 Explanation of the assumptions (e.g. silvicultural) upon which estimates are based and reference to the source of data (e.g. inventory data, permanent sample plots, yield tables) upon which estimates are based upon.	
DLLT has had a full forest inventory for the whole property performed by a professional forestry contractor. Plots are variable radius and cruise lines are systematic.	
3.4 FME organizational structure and management responsibilities from senior management to operational level (how is management organized, who controls and takes decisions, use of contractors, provisions for training, etc.).	
<p>1. Downeast Lakes Land Trust</p> <p>a. Board of Directors- responsible for establishing organizational policies and review and approval of plans and budgets.</p> <p>b. Forestry Resource Committee- Responsible for planning and recommendations of forest management plans and policies to Board of Directors. Committee includes both Directors and other community representatives.</p> <p>c. Executive Director- David Montague -Responsible for execution of management plans and policies adopted by Board of Directors. Oversees management of the community forest and other aspects of the land trust's mission, including forest conservation projects and education programs.</p> <p>d. Forest Manager- Brittany Mauricette- Responsible for implementation of harvest plans, including layout, harvest supervision, and timber sale administration. Responsible for training related to licensing and FS. COC primary contact.</p>	
3.5 Structure of forest management units (division of forest area into manageable units etc.).	

Single FMU, but with components as follows:

By Acquisition Project, then by management units:

Farm Cove Community Forest (T5ND and T6ND, acquired 2004-2005):

- Dark Cove
- McLellan Cove
- Farm Cove
- Late Successional Management Area
- Fourth Lake Ecological Reserve

Wabassus Lake Tract (T43MD and T42 MD, acquired 2008)

- Wabassus Lake

West Grand Lake Tract (T6ND and Grand Lake Stream Plt., acquired 2016)

- Bonney Brook
- Amazon
- Amazon-Musquash Ecological Reserve

3.6 Monitoring procedures (including yield of all forest products harvested, growth rates, regeneration, and forest condition, composition/changes in flora and fauna, environmental and social impacts of forest management, costs, productivity and efficiency of forest management).

Monitoring plan is presented in the Downeast Lakes Land Trust Forest Management plan, including general forest monitoring (forest inventory, regeneration, invasive and exotic species, erosion and sedimentation, unauthorized use), wildlife and habitat monitoring, and social and economic monitoring.

3.7 Management strategies for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species.

Data on rare, threatened, and endangered species, including known occurrences and potential species, has been provided by the Maine Natural Areas program and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Downeast Lakes Land Trust contracted with wildlife and wetlands ecologist Norm Famous to conduct an ecological inventory of the original 27,080-acre Farm Cove Community Forest in 2002 and 2003, prior to acquisition. In 2006, DLLT contracted with the Maine Natural Areas Program to survey for threatened and endangered species on the West Grand Tract (prior to acquisition). 14 Special Management Areas were also designated within the Wabassus Lake Tract based upon recommendations of forest ecologist Rob Bryan in the 2010 plan amendment.

In addition, each member of the forest management staff, are trained to identify any rare threatened and endangered plants that could potentially be found in the area. Prior to submitting a harvest plan, any observations of rare threatened and endangered species in the harvest area or adjacent to the harvest area are noted. If rare, threatened, or endangered species are observed after harvest plans are developed, plans will be amended as needed. If any uncertainty exists, professionals will be consulted prior to harvesting.

3.8 Environmental safeguards implemented, e.g. buffer zones for streams, riparian areas, seasonal operation, chemical storage, etc.

All LUPC regulated riparian zones are managed in accordance with the law, and Best Management Practices published by the Maine Forest Service are followed. The trust has developed riparian and lakeshore buffer management guidelines that exceed regulatory requirements.

High Conservation Value Forest (optional)

Commitment to Manage in Conformance with FSC Standards and Policies (optional)

Other Sections may be added by the FME

Section added by the FME: Focus Species approach to integrating timber and habitat management objectives.

We integrated our timber management and wildlife habitat goals through a "Focus Species Forestry" planning process. We selected a set of focal species to represent a variety of forest habitat types and have included species of particular importance to the local community.

Our list of focal species includes white-tailed deer, snowshoe hare, American marten, ruffed grouse,

American woodcock, black bear, black-throated blue warbler, pileated woodpecker, beaver, brook trout, Atlantic salmon, bald eagle, spotted salamander, and wood frog.

As an example, white-tailed deer are a focal species for management of mature conifer forest, which provides necessary winter habitat. We have mapped and designated areas for management as deer wintering habitat that will provide this resource to deer and will benefit all wildlife species that use mature conifer forest.

Additional information about management of the Downeast Lakes Community Forest is available at www.downeastlakes.org, or by contacting the Downeast Lakes Land Trust at 207-796-2100.

APPENDIX II: Certification standard conformance checklist (confidential)

The following checklist must be completed separately for each FMU evaluated. For group certification assessments, checklists completed for each group member sampled shall demonstrate full conformance with all the requirements of the FSC P&C, except those already complied with at the group level. Based on the evaluation of conformance with each indicator, a conformance determination has been assigned. Conformance with indicators is determined by the entire assessment team through a consensus-based process. Where nonconformance with the standard is documented by the team, nonconformity reports (NCR) are outlined. The following definitions apply, and are the basis for all certification assessments:

Major Nonconformance	Requirements that FME must meet <u>before</u> certification by Rainforest Alliance can take place.
Minor Nonconformance	Requirements that FME must meet, within a defined time period (usually within one year), during the period of the certification,
Observation	Observations can be raised when issues or the early stages of a problem are identified which does not of itself constitute a nonconformance, but which the auditor considers may lead to a future nonconformance if not addressed by the client. An observation may be a warning signal on a particular issue that, if not addressed, could turn into a NCR in the future (or a pre-condition or condition during a 5 year re-assessment).

For each indicator presented below, the assessment team's determination of conformance and relevant findings are presented. Where applicable, NCRs or observations are referenced under the indicator and detailed in the note section of the applicable criterion. Note: where comments have been received from stakeholders about the client's conformance related to a defined criterion, please include reference to related finding under the explanatory notes.

FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.0)

Principle 1. Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles	
Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.	
<i>Criteria and Indicators</i>	<i>Findings</i>
C1.1 Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 1.1.a Forest management plans and operations demonstrate compliance with all applicable federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal laws, and administrative requirements (e.g., regulations). Violations, outstanding complaints or	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) operations are in compliance with applicable laws and regulation according to the local Maine Forest Service enforcement person Terri Coolong. During the audit there were no observations of activities

investigations are provided to the Certifying Body (CB) during the annual audit.	inconsistent with laws and regulations. No violations or outstanding complaints or investigations were provided to the CB during the audit. The on-the-ground forester Brittany Mauricette in charge of management on the DLLT lands maintains a binder of forestry related laws in her office and has access to all via the internet. She was very knowledgeable about the laws and regulations affecting management in these unorganized towns in Maine.
Indicator 1.1.b To facilitate legal compliance, the forest owner or manager ensures that employees and contractors, commensurate with their responsibilities, are duly informed about applicable laws and regulations.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The Community Forest Manager reviewed the major laws and regulations she must follow for forest operations on DLLT property. Updates to the laws and regulations are available through the Land Use Planning Commission – the main regulatory body – and through forester emails provided regularly by the Maine Forest Service.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C1.2 All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 1.2.a The forest owner or manager provides written evidence that all applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges are being paid in a timely manner. If payment is beyond the control of the landowner or manager, then there is evidence that every attempt at payment was made.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Recent property tax bills and payment receipts and for forest land excise taxes were viewed during the audit. As a non-profit entity, property tax and the forest excise tax are the only tax DLLT is liable for, and DLLT voluntarily pays Tree Growth taxes each year.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C1.3 In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 1.3.a Forest management plans and operations comply with relevant provisions of all applicable binding international agreements. Violations, outstanding complaints or investigations are provided to the CB during the annual audit.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The Community Forest Manager demonstrated that she had access to the list of the applicable binding international agreement and that no violations of the agreements have occurred. Most are not relevant to DLLT operations.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C1.4 Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification on a case by case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 1.4.a Situations in which compliance with laws or regulations conflicts with compliance with FSC Principles, Criteria or Indicators are documented and referred to the CB.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> There are no situations in which compliance with laws or regulations conflicts with conformance with FSC Principles, Criteria or Indicators for DLLT operations.

NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.

C1.5 Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated

Indicator 1.5.a The forest owner or manager supports or implements measures intended to prevent illegal and unauthorized activities on the **Forest Management Unit** (FMU).

Conformance with Indicator: Yes No N/A

The DLLT property is a community forest and access – both pedestrian and motorized – is encouraged. Occasionally illegal activities such as game poaching has occurred in the past and this is policed by state game officers. To prevent negative effects of motorized activities in sensitive areas, some roads – especially winter roads or small spur roads off main forest roads – are closed to motorized access through barrier implementation (boulders etc). No known illegal activities have occurred in recent years on the property. The property is fortunate to have many users who also act as volunteer stewards to identify problem users when they occur.

Indicator 1.5.b If illegal or unauthorized activities occur, the forest owner or manager implements actions designed to curtail such activities and correct the situation to the extent possible for meeting all land management objectives with consideration of available resources.

Conformance with Indicator: Yes No N/A

No known illegal activities have occurred on the DLLT property in recent years.

NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.

C1.6 Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated

Indicator 1.6.a The forest owner or manager demonstrates a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria and FSC and FSC-US policies, including the FSC-US Land Sales Policy, and has a publicly available statement of commitment to manage the FMU in conformance with FSC standards and policies.

Conformance with Indicator: Yes No N/A

The DLLT FSC public commitment can be found on the organization website, FSC page: <https://www.downeastlakes.org/conservation/your-community-forests/fsc-certifications/>.

Indicator 1.6.b If the certificate holder does not certify their entire holdings, then they document, in brief, the reasons for seeking partial certification referencing FSC-POL-20-002 (or subsequent policy revisions), the location of other managed forest units, the natural resources found on the holdings being excluded from certification, and the management activities planned for the holdings being excluded from certification.

Conformance with Indicator: Yes No N/A

The only additional land owned by DLLT and not in the FSC certificate is the Yaccolucci Woods tract in Talmadge, ME. This tract is not actively managed and, as such, has been kept out of the FSC certificate.

Indicator 1.6.c The forest owner or manager notifies the Certifying Body of significant changes in ownership and/or significant changes in management planning within 90 days of

Conformance with Indicator: Yes No N/A

The addition of the West Grand Lake tract in 2016 was made known to Rainforest Alliance in August 2016 when the purchase was complete.

such change.

NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.

Principle 2: Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities
Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

<u>Criteria and Indicators</u>	<u>Findings</u>
C2.1 Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 2.1.a The forest owner or manager provides clear evidence of <i>long-term</i> rights to use and manage the FMU for the purposes described in the management plan.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT provided land deeds to show fee ownership of the Community Forest property. Additional clarity of ownership is provided with the three conservation easements held by various non-profit and government entities.
Indicator 2.1.b The forest owner or manager identifies and documents legally established use and access rights associated with the FMU that are held by other parties.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The three conservation easements covering the FMU provide various rights to the agencies and organizations hooding them. In addition, the easements give affirmative rights to the public to access the Community Forest in perpetuity and, in Maine, if a private property is not properly posted against access, the public has the right to pedestrian access the property. A limited term right of way also is provided to the Passamaquody Tribe to access a parcel of theirs just north of the DLLT land.
Indicator 2.1.c Boundaries of land ownership and use rights are clearly identified on the ground and on maps prior to commencing management activities in the vicinity of the boundaries.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Boundaries are clearly marked on the ground for the DLLT lands. In addition, the FME always re-marks or checks boundaries and improves them when necessary, such as when forest operations are nearby the boundary.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C2.2 Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 2.2.a The forest owner or manager allows the exercise of <i>tenure</i> and <i>use rights</i> established by law or regulation.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT allows full public access to the Community Forest as per the conservation easements on the FMU and the legal right to access that the public has under state law should the property not be posted. Most of the road network is open to motorized access by the public as well though it is not required everywhere by the conservation easements. Some roads are closed if the land is sensitive (i.e. winter wet road etc).
Indicator 2.2.b In FMUs where tenure or use rights held by others	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>

exist, the forest owner or manager consults with groups that hold such rights so that management activities do not significantly impact the uses or benefits of such rights.	Every year the FME has one and sometimes two public meetings to share the activities completed on the property and to gain feedback on proposed activities. These meetings are open to the public.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C2.3 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 2.3.a If <i>disputes</i> arise regarding tenure claims or use rights then the forest owner or manager initially attempts to resolve them through open communication, negotiation, and/or mediation. If these good-faith efforts fail, then federal, state, and/or local laws are employed to resolve such disputes.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT is in the process of working toward a resolution for a title dispute regarding the Tower Hill fire tower. DLLT is working to resolve the dispute so the fire tower can be donated to the Grand Lake Stream Historical Society.
Indicator 2.3.b The forest owner or manager documents any significant disputes over tenure and use rights.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT Community Forest, the FME, has demonstrated to the audit team full documentation for each significant dispute that has arisen.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

Principle 3: Indigenous Peoples' Rights
The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.

<u>Criteria and Indicators</u>	<u>Findings</u>
C3.1 Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 3.1.a Tribal forest management planning and implementation are carried out by authorized tribal representatives in accordance with tribal laws and customs and relevant federal laws.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> There are no tribal rights to the DLLT lands. A road right of way was given to the Passamaquoddy Tribe to access land to the north. This right was granted free of charge and was used to access for a timber harvest. Discussions are ongoing to determine if the right will be permanent and for what uses in the future.
Indicator 3.1.b The manager of a tribal forest secures, in writing, informed consent regarding forest management activities from the tribe or individual forest owner prior to commencement of those activities.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> There are no tribal rights to the DLLT lands.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C3.2 Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 3.2.a During management planning, the forest owner or manager consults with American Indian groups that have legal rights or other binding agreements to the FMU to avoid harming their resources or rights.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The Passamaquoddy Tribe only hold a road right of way (described above) to access a tract they own to the north. The tribe has opportunity to provide input into management planning as the public does as described above under 2.2.b.
Indicator 3.2.b Demonstrable actions are taken so that forest management does not adversely affect tribal resources. When applicable, evidence of, and measures for, protecting tribal resources are incorporated in the management plan.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> There are no tribal rights to the DLLT lands.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C3.3 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 3.3.a The forest owner or manager invites consultation with tribal representatives in identifying sites of current or traditional cultural, archeological, ecological, economic or religious significance.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT has invited tribal consultation by letter and phone calls regarding identifying sites of current or traditional cultural, archeological, ecological, economic or religious significance of the FMU.
Indicator 3.3.b In consultation with tribal representatives, the forest owner or manager develops measures to protect or enhance areas of special significance (see also Criterion 9.1).	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No areas have been identified as tribally significant on the DLLT FMU.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C3.4 Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 3.4.a The forest owner or manager identifies whether <i>traditional knowledge</i> in forest management is being used.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No traditional knowledge is being used on DLLT lands.
Indicator 3.4.b When traditional knowledge is used, written protocols are jointly developed prior to such use and signed by local tribes or tribal members to protect and fairly compensate them for such use.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No traditional knowledge is being used on DLLT lands.
Indicator 3.4.c The forest owner or manager respects the confidentiality of tribal traditional knowledge and assists in the protection of such knowledge.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No traditional knowledge is being used on DLLT lands.

NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.

Principle 4: Community Relations and Worker's Rights

Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.

<u>Criteria and Indicators</u>	<u>Findings</u>
C4.1 The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 4.1.a Employee compensation and hiring practices meet or exceed the prevailing local norms within the forestry industry.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews with FME employees resulted in confirmation that their compensations, benefits and hiring practices exceed local norms for work of this kind.
Indicator 4.1.b Forest work is offered in ways that create high quality job opportunities for employees.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews with FME employees resulted in confirmation that they believe they are given employment opportunities that valued and high quality in nature.
Indicator 4.1.c Forest workers are provided with fair wages.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews with FME employees resulted in confirmation that their compensations and benefits exceed local norms for work of this kind.
Indicator 4.1.d Hiring practices and conditions of employment are non-discriminatory and follow applicable federal, state and local regulations.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The DLLT employee handbook meets the letter, intent and spirit of this indicator and employee interviews confirmed it.
Indicator 4.1.e The forest owner or manager provides work opportunities to qualified local applicants and seeks opportunities for purchasing local goods and services of equal price and quality.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> All DLLT employees are local and the three contractors working on timber harvesting, road building and other on-the-ground work are local as well.
Indicator 4.1.f Commensurate with the size and scale of operation, the forest owner or manager provides and/or supports learning opportunities to improve public understanding of forests and forest management.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The FME's mission is to manage the FMU for the community and to provide educational opportunities on the lands for the local people. They hold conferences, seminars, workshops, trainings, and education programs of all sorts and have regular communication through newsletters and electronic means. The local store had copies of newsletters available to the public and members of the public were seen reading them.
Indicator 4.1.g The forest owner or manager participates in local economic development and/or civic activities, based on scale of operation and where such opportunities are available.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT staff and board members are active in local civic, social and economic activities. It is founded and run as a community based organization, committed to economic and environmental well-being, broad leadership and participation in local community events all easily seen at https://www.downeastlakes.org/news-events/events/ .

NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.

C4.2 Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated

<p>Indicator 4.2.a The forest owner or manager meets or exceeds all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families (also see Criterion 1.1).</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The DLLT employee handbook and personnel policy states their requirement to meet all applicable health and safety regulations and laws. Safe practices were seen being followed by staff during the audit.</p>
<p>Indicator 4.2.b The forest owner or manager and their employees and contractors demonstrate a safe work environment. Contracts or other written agreements include safety requirements.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Safe practices were being implemented By DLLT staff during the audit. The one contractor on site grading a main haul road during the audit showed no unsafe practices.</p>
<p>Indicator 4.2.c The forest owner or manager hires well-qualified service providers to safely implement the management plan.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT employees are well-qualified by training and education to carry out their jobs in management of DLLT lands. Contractors are trained under the logger training programs in Maine that have become the norm for professional timber harvesters.</p>

NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.

C4.3 The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated

<p>Indicator 4.3.a Forest workers are free to associate with other workers for the purpose of advocating for their own employment interests.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Employee interviews confirmed that they are free to associate but haven chosen not to do so.</p>
<p>Indicator 4.3.b The forest owner or manager has effective and culturally sensitive mechanisms to resolve disputes between workers and management.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Dispute resolution policy is in place in the employee handbook but has not been used.</p>

NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.

C4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated

<p>Indicator 4.4.a The forest owner or manager understands the likely social impacts of management activities, and incorporates this understanding into management planning and operations. Social impacts include effects on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archeological sites and sites of cultural, historical and community significance (on and off the FMU; 	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT has a social impact assessment written summary that describes the impact of their operations and conforms to the requirements of this indicator.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public resources, including air, water and food (hunting, fishing, collecting); • Aesthetics; • Community goals for forest and natural resource use and protection such as employment, subsistence, recreation and health; • Community economic opportunities; • Other people who may be affected by management operations. <p>A summary is available to the CB</p>	
<p>Indicator 4.4.b The forest owner or manager seeks and considers input in management planning from people who would likely be affected by management activities.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>DLLT annually holds one or two public meetings to gather input from affected community members on proposed and completed management activities. These meetings are open to the public. Additionally, DLLT meets with and discusses proposed actions with affected stakeholders on a regular basis as the need arises depending on the proposed activity and its location.</p>
<p>Indicator 4.4.c People who are subject to direct adverse effects of management operations are apprised of relevant activities in advance of the action so that they may express concern.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>See 4.4.b above. DLLT is open to discuss all of its proposed activities with potentially affected parties.</p>
<p>Indicator 4.4.d For <i>public forests</i>, consultation includes the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearly defined and accessible methods for public participation are provided in both long and short-term planning processes, including harvest plans and operational plans; 2. Public notification is sufficient to allow interested stakeholders the chance to learn of upcoming opportunities for public review and/or comment on the proposed management; 3. An accessible and affordable appeals process to planning decisions is available. <p>Planning decisions incorporate the results of public consultation. All draft and final planning documents, and their supporting data, are made readily available to the public.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The FME is not a public forest.</p>
<p>NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.</p>	

C4.5 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 4.5.a The forest owner or manager does not engage in negligent activities that cause damage to other people.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT does not intentionally engage in activities that cause damage to other people. Several years ago a bear baiting site was cut over by accident and the guide who maintained the site through granted permission by DLLT was not pleased. DLLT apologized for the incident and provided the guide, who had no legal rights to bait bear on the DLLT land, another site to move to and he did.
Indicator 4.5.b The forest owner or manager provides a known and accessible means for interested stakeholders to voice grievances and have them resolved. If significant disputes arise related to resolving grievances and/or providing fair compensation, the forest owner or manager follows appropriate dispute resolution procedures. At a minimum, the forest owner or manager maintains open communications, responds to grievances in a timely manner, demonstrates ongoing good faith efforts to resolve the grievances, and maintains records of legal suites and claims.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholders have ready access to DLLT staff to voice grievances and the board of directors routinely takes up stakeholder issues whether serious or not. An ongoing issue with a former board member was discussed with staff and the Board forestry committee chair. It is clear from interviews with this individual that no resolution of his issues will ever satisfy him. The auditor interview others with knowledge of the subject matter and issue brought up by this stakeholder and these issues were refuted by the other individuals who said that the former board member was “out to get DLLT” by any means possible.
Indicator 4.5.c Fair compensation or reasonable mitigation is provided to local people, communities or adjacent landowners for substantiated damage or loss of income caused by the landowner or manager.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT conforms to the letter and spirit of this indicator. The one incident that has recently occurred where mitigation was provided was the bear baiting site cutting described above. A new bear baiting site was provided to the guide at no cost and a new baiting permit was provided at no cost.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

Principle 5: Benefits from the Forest

Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest’s multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.

<i>Criteria and Indicators</i>	<i>Findings</i>
C5.1 Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 5.1.a The forest owner or manager is financially able to implement core management activities, including all those environmental, social and operating costs, required to meet this Standard, and investment and reinvestment in forest management.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT posts various financial documents on its website, and provides audited financial statements upon request. DLLT states its commitment to implementing core conservation and recreational management activities in its mission and goals and management plan, and provided to the audit team a documentary evidence of revenue and expenses for each of the types specified by the indicator.
Indicator 5.1.b Responses to short-term financial factors are	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>

limited to levels that are consistent with fulfillment of this Standard.	There are no reported incidences of short-term financial factors affecting DLLT fulfillment of the Standard.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C5.2 Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 5.2.a Where forest products are harvested or sold, opportunities for forest product sales and services are given to local harvesters, value-added processing and manufacturing facilities, and other operations that are able to offer services at competitive rates and levels of service.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT has provided documentary evidence to the audit team through contracts and other information that DLLT utilizes local services for contracting, sales, and other operations. The audit team confirmed this through interviews and direct observations.
Indicator 5.2.b The forest owner or manager takes measures to optimize the use of harvested forest products and explores product diversification where appropriate and consistent with management objectives.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> All possible markets are used for the forest products harvested. That is supported because the forestry contractor also purchases most of the timber and some wood is sold directly to the mill. Also, with a full-time forest products marketing staff, DLLT takes advantage of the many markets available for the harvested products. Markets used include sawmills (various species go to various sawmills), several pulpwood markets, and, more recently, wood chip fuel to biomass power plants that have reopened due to government subsidy. DLLT also participates in voluntary carbon offset schemes and sells carbon credits, a prerequisite for which is a rigorous carbon inventory across the property.
Indicator 5.2.c On public lands where forest products are harvested and sold, some sales of forest products or contracts are scaled or structured to allow small business to bid competitively.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DLLT lands are privately owned.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C5.3 Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 5.3.a Management practices are employed to minimize the loss and/or waste of harvested forest products.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The audit team observed during the field visit that DLLT makes concerted efforts with staff and contractors to minimize loss and/or waste of harvested forest products, such that timber is cut if it is either merchantable or serves as conservation or recreational purpose. Forestry operations are conducted in a way so as to take advantage of available markets, and residual woody debris is typically either redistributed or piled for animal escape cover.
Indicator 5.3.b Harvest practices are managed to protect residual	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>

<p>trees and other forest resources, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • soil compaction, rutting and erosion are minimized; • residual trees are not significantly damaged to the extent that health, growth, or values are noticeably affected; • damage to NTFPs is minimized during management activities; and • techniques and equipment that minimize impacts to vegetation, soil, and water are used whenever feasible. 	<p>Harvest areas viewed during audit had very little residual tree damage. Soil compaction and rutting is kept to a minimum. The audit team observed several areas with wetter soils and can confirm that practices implemented were effective at minimizing soil impacts, particularly rutting. Generally, the partial harvesting techniques have done little damage to residual stand as evidenced by the field results.</p>
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NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.

C5.4 Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.

<p>Indicator 5.4.a The forest owner or manager demonstrates knowledge of their operation’s effect on the local economy as it relates to existing and potential markets for a wide variety of timber and non-timber forest products and services.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> As discussed under Indicator 5.2.b, all possible markets are used for the forest products harvested. That is assured because the forestry contractor also purchases all the timber and, with a full-time forest products marketing staff, takes advantage of the many markets available for the harvested products. Markets used include sawmills (various species go to various sawmills), several pulpwood markets, and, more recently, wood chip fuel to biomass power plants that have reopened due to government subsidy. Local residents are also allowed DLLT-issued permits to collect firewood and fir tips to make holiday wreaths on a small scale.</p>
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<p>Indicator 5.4.b The forest owner or manager strives to diversify the economic use of the forest according to Indicator 5.4.a.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> During the reassessment audit, DLLT demonstrated understanding of their management practices’ effects on the local economy as well as a commitment to provide a diverse range of forest products, including NTFPs. Community use of the forest is encouraged and users are allowed to undertake a variety of economic activities (e.g. bear baiting) with a permit from the DLLT.</p>
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NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.

C5.5 Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.

<p>Indicator 5.5.a In developing activities on the FMU, the forest owner or manager identifies and defines appropriate measures for maintaining and/or enhancing forest services and resources that serve public values, including municipal watersheds, fisheries,</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT has defined and taken appropriate measures for restoring, maintaining, and enhancing forest services and resources that serve public values. DLLT is a community forest, as evidenced through public statements of purpose, workshops</p>
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carbon storage and sequestration, recreation and tourism.	and seminars, and regular use by clubs of various kinds (e.g. ATV club). DLLT restores and enhances forest services through implementation of best management practices, and regularly takes action to improve the conditions of the forest resources on the ground (e.g. improving fish passage with bottomless-arch culvert installations).
Indicator 5.5.b The forest owner or manager uses the information from Indicator 5.5.a to implement appropriate measures for maintaining and/or enhancing these services and resources.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> As a public-facing entity, DLLT has frequent contact with stakeholders of all kinds which also helps ensure their accountability. As such, DLLT provides a full suite of public services to maintain and enhance the mission and vision created by the founders of the non-profit.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
<p>Indicator 5.6.a In FMUs where products are being harvested, the landowner or manager calculates the sustained yield harvest level for each sustained yield planning unit, and provides clear rationale for determining the size and layout of the planning unit. The sustained yield harvest level calculation is documented in the Management Plan.</p> <p>The sustained yield harvest level calculation for each planning unit is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • documented growth rates for particular sites, and/or acreage of forest types, age-classes and species distributions; • mortality and decay and other factors that affect net growth; • areas reserved from harvest or subject to harvest restrictions to meet other management goals; • silvicultural practices that will be employed on the FMU; • management objectives and desired future conditions. <p>The calculation is made by considering the effects of repeated prescribed harvests on the product/species and its ecosystem, as well as planned management treatments and projections of subsequent regrowth beyond single rotation and multiple re-entries.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>DLLT has up to date forest inventory data and documentation on the sustained yield harvest level(s) and total allowed for DLLT operations. Reporting since first year of operation in 2004-5 shows harvest levels consistent with sustained yield calculated levels. Source information includes forest Inventory data and harvest load entry documentation, and DLLT has also used growth and yield modelling to inform their management planning.</p>
Indicator 5.6.b Average annual harvest levels, over rolling periods of no more than 10 years, do not exceed the calculated	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Data shows harvest since purchase in 2005 to be consistent with sustained yield

sustained yield harvest level.	harvest levels calculated. DLLT maintains an Excel document AAC workbook showing this.
Indicator 5.6.c Rates and methods of timber harvest lead to achieving desired conditions, and improve or maintain health and quality across the FMU. Overstocked stands and stands that have been depleted or rendered to be below productive potential due to natural events, past management, or lack of management, are returned to desired stocking levels and composition at the earliest practicable time as justified in management objectives.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Calculated data from AAC Excel file shows increasing volume levels for the large original ownership from 2005. The goal of all harvesting is to assure that the property stocking increases substantially. During the 2012 reassessment audit the goal was to bring stocking up to a desired 20+ cords per acre, and the updated 2015 technical forest management plan shows that a stocking of 22 cords/acre was intended to be reached by 2035, but in fact had been achieved by the management plan's publication. Now the goal is 24 cords/acre by 2050, and the field audit and documentation review demonstrated the harvesting plans necessary to reach the stocking goal are being carried out.
Indicator 5.6.d For NTFPs, calculation of quantitative sustained yield harvest levels is required only in cases where products are harvested in significant commercial operations or where traditional or customary use rights may be impacted by such harvests. In other situations, the forest owner or manager utilizes available information, and new information that can be reasonably gathered, to set harvesting levels that will not result in a depletion of the non-timber growing stocks or other adverse effects to the forest ecosystem.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial NTFP collection (balsam fir tips) is carried out on a small scale by a few individuals. "Tippers" apply for a permit to be issued by DLLT, which could not, since the practice began, be considered a sufficiently large commercial operation that significantly and negatively impact affected forest resources.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

Principle 6: Environmental Impact	
Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.	
<i>Criteria and Indicators</i>	<i>Findings</i>
C6.1 Assessment of environmental impacts shall be completed – appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources – and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 6.1.a Using the results of credible scientific analysis, best available information (including relevant databases), and local knowledge and experience, an assessment of conditions on the FMU is completed and includes: 1) Forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and associated natural disturbance	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The DLLT property has performed, commissioned, and drawn from multiple credible scientific assessments of forest community types, RTE species, habitats and species of management concern, water and riparian resource considerations, soil resources and historic conditions. These are referenced throughout the forest management plan and inform day to day activities as well as long-term

<p>regimes; 2) Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species and rare ecological communities (including plant communities); 3) Other habitats and species of management concern; 4) Water resources and associated riparian habitats and hydrologic functions; 5) Soil resources; and 6) Historic conditions on the FMU related to forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and a broad comparison of historic and current conditions.</p>	<p>operational strategies. In addition to the forest management plan, relevant documents include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryan, R.R. 2007. Focus Species Forestry: Integrating Management for Timber and Biodiversity in Maine. Maine Audubon, Falmouth, ME • Moesswilde, Morten, Best Management Practices For Forestry: Protecting Maine's Water Quality, Department of Conservation, Maine Forest Service Forest Policy and Management Division. • Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Maine Forest Service, The Forestry Rules of Maine, 2014 • Haberstock, A.E., H.G. Nichols, M.P. DesMeules, J.Wright, J.M. Christensen, D.H. Hudnut. (2000). Method to identify effective riparian buffer widths for Atlantic salmon habitat protection. Journal of the American Water Resources Association 36 (6) , 1271–1286 doi:10.1111/j.1752-1688.2000.tb05726.x
<p>Indicator 6.1.b Prior to commencing site-disturbing activities, the forest owner or manager assesses and documents the potential short and long-term impacts of planned management activities on elements 1-5 listed in Criterion 6.1.a.</p> <p>The assessment must incorporate the best available information, drawing from scientific literature and experts. The impact assessment will at minimum include identifying resources that may be impacted by management (e.g., streams, habitats of management concern, soil nutrients). Additional detail (i.e., detailed description or quantification of impacts) will vary depending on the uniqueness of the resource, potential risks, and steps that will be taken to avoid and minimize risks.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Before any timber harvesting, road work or other activities occur on the ground at DLLT, a full operational plan is developed that is reviewed, amended and approved by the DLLT Forestry Committee and DLLT Board of Directors. The timber harvest plans are developed in-house by the Community Forest Manager on staff, as is the road work plan. These plans include detailed description of resources using the best available information from the plan documents and also outside sources should that be needed. The plans note the sensitive resources, no harvest areas, buffers for several reasons including water and wildlife habitat concerns or special management areas. Detail maps are also included that are later provided to feller-buncher operators or cut-to-length processor operators for their GIS systems on-board.</p> <p>Harvest inspections and reporting occur regularly once operations begin. Brittany Mauricette is doing these once every week during the operations. Once the operation is complete they do a final closure inspection with the same report. A report form is used for this purpose.</p> <p>The Forestry Committee and Board members get a field tour property pre- harvest and after closeout. The committee gets regular written and verbal reports at the committee meetings.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.1.c Using the findings of the impact assessment (Indicator 6.1.b), management approaches and field prescriptions are developed and implemented that: 1) avoid or minimize negative short-term and long-term impacts; and, 2) maintain and/or enhance the long-term ecological viability of the forest.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Completed operations viewed in the field demonstrated that impacts to the land are kept to a minimum. Activities are minimized in sensitive areas, especially related to water and riparian zones and also special management areas identified in the forest management plan documents.</p>

<p>Indicator 6.1.d On public lands, assessments developed in Indicator 6.1.a and management approaches developed in Indicator 6.1.c are made available to the public in draft form for review and comment prior to finalization. Final assessments are also made available.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DLLT forests are privately owned.</p>
<p>NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.</p>	

<p>C6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled.</p>	
<p>Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.</p>	
<p>Indicator 6.2.a If there is a likely presence of RTE species as identified in Indicator 6.1.a then either a field survey to verify the species' presence or absence is conducted prior to site-disturbing management activities, or management occurs with the assumption that potential RTE species are present.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT has identified more than two thousand hectares that they have identified as special management areas or ecological reserves in a proactive campaign to restore, maintain and enhance the conservation values of each. Pre-harvest and post-harvest reports indicate likely and verified presence of RTE species, and management is adjusted accordingly.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.2.b When RTE species are present or assumed to be present, modifications in management are made in order to maintain, restore or enhance the extent, quality and viability of the species and their habitats. Conservation zones and/or protected areas are established for RTE species, including those S3 species that are considered rare, where they are necessary to maintain or improve the short and long-term viability of the species. Conservation measures are based on relevant science, guidelines and/or consultation with relevant, independent experts as necessary to achieve the conservation goal of the Indicator.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The special management areas and ecological reserves limit the intensity and extent of management DLLT allows itself and contractors to perform in those areas. As previously stated, pre- and post-harvest reports aid in the verification of sensitive species and habitats, which are mapped in the DLLT system. Wetlands in particular are targeted as sites with a high probability for RTE species presence. Management prescriptions and silvicultural plans are drafted with this knowledge at hand, ensuring that harvest operations are undertaken in a way to facilitate the short- and long-term viability of the species in question.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.2.c For medium and large public forests (e.g. state forests), forest management plans and operations are designed to meet species' recovery goals, as well as landscape level biodiversity conservation goals.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DLLT forests are privately owned.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.2.d Within the capacity of the forest owner or manager, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting and other activities are controlled to avoid the risk of impacts to vulnerable species and communities (See Criterion 1.5).</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> There is hunting, fishing and trapping on the DLLT property – in fact, these activities are encouraged as part of the community forest approach and mission of the organization as well as the conservation easements that cover the forest. The enforcement and control of these activities are left to the state personnel who are in charge of this. The DLLT monitoring system, however, reviews those activities as a matter of course. There have been no problems with these activities since</p>

	the inception of the DLLT.
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NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.

C6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:

- a) **Forest regeneration and succession.**
- b) **Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.**
- c) **Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.**

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.

<p>Indicator 6.3.a.1 The forest owner or manager maintains, enhances, and/or restores under-represented successional stages in the FMU that would naturally occur on the types of sites found on the FMU. Where old growth of different community types that would naturally occur on the forest are under-represented in the landscape relative to natural conditions, a portion of the forest is managed to enhance and/or restore old growth characteristics.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The most under-represented successional stage on the DLLT property is old-growth forest types. DLLT has identified and restricted management (i.e. no harvesting) on the existing old-growth forests, and is employing a management style that is increasing timber stocks over time. This approach to management will favor larger diameter size classes in a way that will increase the presence of old growth forest on DLLT land, which will then become part of the more protected management regime the FME employs for such forests.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.a.2 When a rare ecological community is present, modifications are made in both the management plan and its implementation in order to maintain, restore or enhance the viability of the community. Based on the vulnerability of the existing community, conservation zones and/or protected areas are established where warranted.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT has conservation easements on every acre of its ownership assuring long term protection. Part of that includes the Ecological Reserve area which covers most of the HCVF area identified. Additionally, the plan documents identify a series of special management areas.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.a.3 When they are present, management maintains the area, structure, composition, and processes of all Type 1 and Type 2 old growth. Type 1 and 2 old growth are also protected and buffered as necessary with conservation zones, unless an alternative plan is developed that provides greater overall protection of old growth values.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> There is old growth being maintained/recruited on the DLLT ownership that was identified in 1984. The old growth area on the slope of Farm Cove Mt. (SW slope) is about 57 acres and another on Wabassus Mt. adds another 2 or more acres. These areas are in the GIS system and are no-harvest zones. DLLT has also identified an area adjacent to the ecological reserve that they are recruiting for old growth and managing accordingly. This "Late Successional Management Area" is identified in the GIS and totals approximately 1,444 hectares. The conservation easement documents identify most of these areas.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.b To the extent feasible within the size of the ownership, particularly on larger ownerships, management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat conditions suitable for well-distributed populations of animal species that are characteristic of forest ecosystems within the landscape.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The forest management plan and the Focus Species Addendum to the plan are designed vis-à-vis "focus species" management style to result in a varied forest property that provide for habitat for well-distributed populations of animal species that are representative of habitats of the region, such as white tailed deer and American marten, among others.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.c Management maintains, enhances and/or restores</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>the plant and wildlife habitat of Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) habitat for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands; b) habitat for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent aquatic habitats; c) habitat for species that use riparian areas for feeding, cover, and travel; d) habitat for plant species associated with riparian areas; and, e) stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic ecosystem. 	<p>DLLT RMZ policy in the forest management plan results in on-the-ground activities that yield the outcomes covered in this indicator. These practices include installation of circular and bottomless arch culverts to allow for natural processes to occur as much as possible, as well as beaver impact control measures to protect the integrity of aquatic habitats. Riparian and RMZ sites viewed in the field during the audit showed protections well-beyond law and regulation requirements. In many cases, the field forester made decisions that resulted in RMZ protection beyond the DLLT policies because of circumstances identified on the ground.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.d Management practices maintain or enhance plant species composition, distribution and frequency of occurrence similar to those that would naturally occur on the site.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT plans and practices are all directed to working with the existing vegetation and habitats found and to maintain and/or change habitat vegetation to fit what naturally would be found growing on these sites.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.e When planting is required, a local source of known provenance is used when available and when the local source is equivalent in terms of quality, price and productivity. The use of non-local sources are justified, such as in situations where other management objectives (e.g. disease resistance or adapting to climate change) are best served by non-local sources. Native species suited to the site are normally selected for regeneration.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT conducts a very limited amount of planting and conforms to the indicator when planting is done, as demonstrated through documented procedures and management records made available to the audit team.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.f Management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat components and associated stand structures, in abundance and distribution that could be expected from naturally occurring processes. These components include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) large live trees, live trees with decay or declining health, snags, and well-distributed coarse down and dead woody material. Legacy trees where present are not harvested; and b) vertical and horizontal complexity. <p>Trees selected for retention are generally representative of the dominant species naturally found on the site.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> There has been a little tree planting in the past by DLLT with American chestnut or black spruce to supplement some natural regeneration in patch cut areas. DLLT does not plan on tree planting in the next 5 years and likely beyond. There is some seeding of landings and disturbed areas such as those from road building or culvert replacement. Seed mixes tend to be non-invasive mixes with clover, timothy and other normal seed mix expected. Seed generally is provided by contractors and comes from the local source.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.g.1 In the Southeast, Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and Pacific Coast Regions, when even-aged systems are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit as described in Appendix C for the applicable region.</p> <p>In the Lake States Northeast, Rocky Mountain and Southwest</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The DLLT Management plan demonstrates conformance with this indicator and meets the Northeast Regional requirements under Appendix C in the standard in that silviculture favoring natural regeneration is employed. DLLT is only employing even-aged systems in small acres in the recent year's harvests otherwise the harvesting and management is generally directed towards uneven aged system. Only small 2-5 acre patch cuts are being used on some small pole</p>

<p>Regions, when even-aged silvicultural systems are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit in a proportion and configuration that is consistent with the characteristic natural disturbance regime unless retention at a lower level is necessary for the purposes of restoration or rehabilitation. See Appendix C for additional regional requirements and guidance.</p>	<p>stands to create more diversity in these stands and provide additional wildlife habitat for early successional species.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.g.2 Under very limited situations, the landowner or manager has the option to develop a qualified plan to allow minor departure from the opening size limits described in Indicator 6.3.g.1. A qualified plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is developed by qualified experts in ecological and/or related fields (wildlife biology, hydrology, landscape ecology, forestry/silviculture). 2. Is based on the totality of the best available information including peer-reviewed science regarding natural disturbance regimes for the FMU. 3. Is spatially and temporally explicit and includes maps of proposed openings or areas. 4. Demonstrates that the variations will result in equal or greater benefit to wildlife, water quality, and other values compared to the normal opening size limits, including for sensitive and rare species. 5. Is reviewed by independent experts in wildlife biology, hydrology, and landscape ecology, to confirm the preceding findings. 	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>DLLT does not conduct harvests that are beyond the FSC Standard requirements for opening sizes. The forest plan says that wildlife openings, the only reason for making small clearcuts, are to be between 2-10 acres. On-site auditor observation confirms implementation of this guidance.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.h The forest owner or manager assesses the risk of, prioritizes, and, as warranted, develops and implements a strategy to prevent or control invasive species, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a method to determine the extent of invasive species and the degree of threat to native species and ecosystems; 2. implementation of management practices that minimize the risk of invasive establishment, growth, and spread; 3. eradication or control of established invasive populations when feasible: and, 4. monitoring of control measures and management practices to assess their effectiveness in preventing or controlling invasive species. 	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The DLLT property has several invasive plant species: three honeysuckles, two buckthorn species, Japanese barberry, Asiatic bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, multiflora rose, and garlic mustard. None of these are extensive infestations and DLLT is currently monitoring the location to assure there is no spread. Invasive species tend to be an insignificant issue in the Grand Lake Stream area. The plan regarding invasives is to continue to monitor where the few known species are and to generally monitor during the normal course of work by staff and volunteers. Any re-seeding of landings or other areas with scarified soils is to use mixes containing local and no invasive species.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.i In applicable situations, the forest owner or</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>manager identifies and applies site-specific fuels management practices, based on: (1) natural fire regimes, (2) risk of wildfire, (3) potential economic losses, (4) public safety, and (5) applicable laws and regulations.</p>	<p>The Grand Lake Stream area of Maine has a relatively low forest fire risk. DLLT has addressed this small threat by having a comprehensive road network in place. Local fire response teams area available should a forest fire occur.</p>
<p>NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.</p>	

C6.4 Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.

<p>Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.</p>	
<p>Indicator 6.4.a The forest owner or manager documents the ecosystems that would naturally exist on the FMU, and assesses the adequacy of their representation and protection in the landscape (see Criterion 7.1). The assessment for medium and large forests include some or all of the following: a) GAP analyses; b) collaboration with state natural heritage programs and other public agencies; c) regional, landscape, and watershed planning efforts; d) collaboration with universities and/or local conservation groups.</p> <p>For an area that is not located on the FMU to qualify as a Representative Sample Area (RSA), it should be under permanent protection in its natural state.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The DLLT Ecological Reserve (https://www.downeastlakes.org/conservation/your-community-forests/ecological-reserve/) and Special Management Areas created by DLLT address the RSA issue directly—they were created specifically to protect and facilitate the restoration, maintenance and enhancement of unique resources on the property.</p> <p>The remaining part of the DLLT ownership is also protected with conservation easements. All RSAs in the region are found on the DLLT properties. The forest plan and Focus Species Addendum describe this in full.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.4.b Where existing areas within the landscape, but external to the FMU, are not of adequate protection, size, and configuration to serve as representative samples of existing ecosystems, forest owners or managers, whose properties are conducive to the establishment of such areas, designate ecologically viable RSAs to serve these purposes.</p> <p>Large FMUs are generally expected to establish RSAs of purpose 2 and 3 within the FMU.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The DLLT Ecological Reserve Special Management Areas address this directly. Thus, there is no need to conduct an assessment beyond the DLLT boundaries to address the RSA issue because of the Ecological Reserve Special Management Areas.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.4.c Management activities within RSAs are limited to low impact activities compatible with the protected RSA objectives, except under the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) harvesting activities only where they are necessary to restore or create conditions to meet the objectives of the protected RSA, or to mitigate conditions that interfere with achieving the RSA objectives; or b) road-building only where it is documented that it will 	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The Ecological Reserve area and Special Management Areas on the DLLT ownership were created with the intention of managing them with the intent of protecting the nature of these areas. In the case of the Ecological Reserve, no new activity will occur by policy and the conservation easement itself held by Sweet Water Trust. The activities in the Special Management Areas are, likewise, appropriate with the intention of low impact activities. Audit team observations during the field audit confirmed that the practices are following the conservation</p>

contribute to minimizing the overall environmental impacts within the FMU and will not jeopardize the purpose for which the RSA was designated.	easements and the forest management plan and its addenda.
Indicator 6.4.d The RSA assessment (Indicator 6.4.a) is periodically reviewed and if necessary updated (at a minimum every 10 years) in order to determine if the need for RSAs has changed; the designation of RSAs (Indicator 6.4.b) is revised accordingly.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The DLLT forest management plan was last updated in 2015 and prior to that in 2010 when a new component added for the Wabassus tract. The Focus Species Addendum was also added at that time. The policy documents update reviewed the issue of RSAs, according to the DLLT executive director. Nothing was changed as a result of that revision because the Ecological Reserve and Special Management Areas, including the new ones added to the Wabassus tract, were adequate to address the RSA issue.
Indicator 6.4.e Managers of large, contiguous public forests establish and maintain a network of representative protected areas sufficient in size to maintain species dependent on interior core habitats.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DLLT lands are privately owned.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C6.5 Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 6.5.a The forest owner or manager has written guidelines outlining conformance with the Indicators of this Criterion.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT uses the Maine BMP manual as its written document to conform to this indicator. It also has further language in its forest management plan technical report on pages 12-18.
Indicator 6.5.b Forest operations meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of the Criterion where the operation takes place.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Field conformance was readily demonstrated on DLLT operations during the field audit. DLLT has become a leader in Maine in replacing small culverts on fish holding streams with large open bottom culverts. Several new ones were shown to add to the over a dozen existing ones installed. More are planned.
Indicator 6.5.c Management activities including site preparation, harvest prescriptions, techniques, timing, and equipment are selected and used to protect soil and water resources and to avoid erosion, landslides, and significant soil disturbance. Logging and other activities that significantly increase the risk of landslides are excluded in areas where risk of landslides is high. The following actions are addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slash is concentrated only as much as necessary to achieve the goals of site preparation and the reduction of 	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Field operations viewed during the audit were shown to meet the requirements of this indicator. Special care is taken to only operate wetter ground during the frozen winter months and BMP techniques are used throughout the operations consistent with the Maine BMPs. The newly acquired West Grand Lake tract includes some forest road areas needing significant BMP work to bring them up to standards. The DLLT staff described the plans to be undertaken over the next several years to do that.

<p>fuels to moderate or low levels of fire hazard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance of topsoil is limited to the minimum necessary to achieve successful regeneration of species native to the site. • Rutting and compaction is minimized. • Soil erosion is not accelerated. • Burning is only done when consistent with natural disturbance regimes. • Natural ground cover disturbance is minimized to the extent necessary to achieve regeneration objectives. • Whole tree harvesting on any site over multiple rotations is only done when research indicates soil productivity will not be harmed. • Low impact equipment and technologies is used where appropriate. 	<p>It should be noted that while all variety of logging equipment is used during harvests, and on areas that can handle more conventional logging equipment, DLLT typically uses a whole-tree or tree-length harvest system if disturbance can be kept to a minimum. However, DLLT prefers cut-to-length systems when it is necessary to minimize soil disturbance and damage – especially in winter months when damage is even less with this kind of equipment.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.5.d The transportation system, including design and placement of permanent and temporary haul roads, skid trails, recreational trails, water crossings and landings, is designed, constructed, maintained, and/or reconstructed to reduce short and long-term environmental impacts, habitat fragmentation, soil and water disturbance and cumulative adverse effects, while allowing for customary uses and use rights. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to all roads and trails (temporary and permanent), including recreational trails, and off-road travel, is controlled, as possible, to minimize ecological impacts; • road density is minimized; • erosion is minimized; • sediment discharge to streams is minimized; • there is free upstream and downstream passage for aquatic organisms; • impacts of transportation systems on wildlife habitat and migration corridors are minimized; • area converted to roads, landings and skid trails is minimized; • habitat fragmentation is minimized; • unneeded roads are closed and rehabilitated. 	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The DLLT forest management plan and technical plan discuss the road system and maintaining it to assure conformance to BMPs. Much ongoing road work and planned work was reviewed during the audit and demonstrated the significant planning and investment being undertaken to bring up and keep the road system to high standards and consistent with BMPs.</p> <p>A long-standing sub-marginal boat access to one of the many lakes and ponds adjacent to DLLT land was replaced at great expense with a new one a ways away. The sub-standard one was closed off to vehicular use.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.5.e.1 In consultation with appropriate expertise, the forest owner or manager implements written Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) buffer management guidelines that</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Great care was demonstrated in laying out forest treatments to minimally affect riparian zones on the property. Every riparian area is flagged and contractors are</p>

<p>are adequate for preventing environmental impact, and include protecting and restoring water quality, hydrologic conditions in rivers and stream corridors, wetlands, vernal pools, seeps and springs, lake and pond shorelines, and other hydrologically sensitive areas. The guidelines include vegetative buffer widths and protection measures that are acceptable within those buffers.</p> <p>In the Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Southeast, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Coast regions, there are requirements for minimum SMZ widths and explicit limitations on the activities that can occur within those SMZs. These are outlined as requirements in Appendix E.</p>	<p>provided with maps, GPS files and instructions to assure minimal effects on these important areas.</p> <p>The written guidelines are found in the forest management plan technical portion.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.5.e.2 Minor variations from the stated minimum SMZ widths and layout for specific stream segments, wetlands and other water bodies are permitted in limited circumstances, provided the forest owner or manager demonstrates that the alternative configuration maintains the overall extent of the buffers and provides equivalent or greater environmental protection than FSC-US regional requirements for those stream segments, water quality, and aquatic species, based on site-specific conditions and the best available information. The forest owner or manager develops a written set of supporting information including a description of the riparian habitats and species addressed in the alternative configuration. The CB must verify that the variations meet these requirements, based on the input of an independent expert in aquatic ecology or closely related field.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No variations to SMZ requirements were used by the FME.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.5.f Stream and wetland crossings are avoided when possible. Unavoidable crossings are located and constructed to minimize impacts on water quality, hydrology, and fragmentation of <i>aquatic habitat</i>. Crossings do not impede the movement of aquatic species. Temporary crossings are restored to original hydrological conditions when operations are finished.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Many stream and wetland crossings were viewed during the field audit as part of review of forest treatments in recent years. All were consistent with BMPs and the DLLT written guidelines in the forest management plan technical section.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.5.g Recreation use on the FMU is managed to avoid negative impacts to soils, water, plants, wildlife and wildlife habitats.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>There is much recreational use on the FMU as it is the express purpose of the ownership to grant extensive access and encourage it. Despite that, no significant negative impacts to soil, water, plants or wildlife were noted during the audit.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.5.h Grazing by domesticated animals is controlled to protect in-stream habitats and water quality, the species composition and viability of the riparian vegetation, and the banks</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>There is no grazing that takes place on the FMU.</p>

of the stream channel from erosion.	
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C6.6 Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 6.6.a No products on the FSC list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides are used (see FSC-POL-30-001 EN FSC Pesticides policy 2005 and associated documents).	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The FME policy is to not use chemicals on their forest operations.
Indicator 6.6.b All toxicants used to control pests and competing vegetation, including rodenticides, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are used only when and where non-chemical management practices are: a) not available; b) prohibitively expensive, taking into account overall environmental and social costs, risks and benefits; c) the only effective means for controlling invasive and exotic species; or d) result in less environmental damage than non-chemical alternatives (e.g., top soil disturbance, loss of soil litter and down wood debris). If chemicals are used, the forest owner or manager uses the least environmentally damaging formulation and application method practical. Written strategies are developed and implemented that justify the use of chemical pesticides. Whenever feasible, an eventual phase-out of chemical use is included in the strategy. The written strategy includes an analysis of options for, and the effects of, various chemical and non-chemical pest control strategies, with the goal of reducing or eliminating chemical use.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The FME policy is to not use chemicals on their forest operations.
Indicator 6.6.c Chemicals and application methods are selected to minimize risk to non-target species and sites. When considering the choice between aerial and ground application, the forest owner or manager evaluates the comparative risk to non-target species and sites, the comparative risk of worker exposure, and the overall amount and type of chemicals required.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The FME policy is to not use chemicals on their forest operations.
Indicator 6.6.d Whenever chemicals are used, a written prescription is prepared that describes the site-specific hazards	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The FME policy is to not use chemicals on their forest operations.

and environmental risks, and the precautions that workers will employ to avoid or minimize those hazards and risks, and includes a map of the treatment area. Chemicals are applied only by workers who have received proper training in application methods and safety. They are made aware of the risks, wear proper safety equipment, and are trained to minimize environmental impacts on non-target species and sites.	
Indicator 6.6.e If chemicals are used, the effects are monitored and the results are used for adaptive management. Records are kept of pest occurrences, control measures, and incidences of worker exposure to chemicals.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The FME policy is to not use chemicals on their forest operations.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations)	

C6.7 Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance not demonstrated for all indicators.	
Indicator 6.7.a The forest owner or manager, and employees and contractors, have the equipment and training necessary to respond to hazardous spills.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> While it is the DLLT policy that contractors will have the necessary equipment to address hazardous material spills, a grader operated by a subcontractor of the DLLT logging contractor on a main forest road did not have a spill kit or other materials to deal with a hazardous material spill should one occur. NCR # 01/17
Indicator 6.7.b In the event of a hazardous material spill, the forest owner or manager immediately contains the material and engages qualified personnel to perform the appropriate removal and remediation, as required by applicable law and regulations.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> No spills were noted and the FME said that none had occurred in any recent years on the property.
Indicator 6.7.c Hazardous materials and fuels are stored in leak-proof containers in designated storage areas, that are outside of riparian management zones and away from other ecological sensitive features, until they are used or transported to an approved off-site location for disposal. There is no evidence of persistent fluid leaks from equipment or of recent groundwater or surface water contamination.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> No hazardous materials were seen stored on the FMU. Contractor contracts contain language requiring proper storage and clean-up of these materials during operations on the FMU.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) See NCR # 01/17	

C6.8 Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.	
Criterion Level Remarks:	
Indicator 6.8.a Biological control agents are used only as part of a pest management strategy for the control of invasive plants,	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

pathogens , insects, or other animals when other pest control methods are ineffective, or are expected to be ineffective. Such use is contingent upon peer-reviewed scientific evidence that the agents in question are non-invasive and are safe for native species.	The FME does not use biological control agents.
Indicator 6.8.b If biological control agents are used, they are applied by trained workers using proper equipment.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The FME does not use biological control agents
Indicator 6.8.c If biological control agents are used, their use is documented, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with state and national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. A written plan will be developed and implemented justifying such use, describing the risks, specifying the precautions workers will employ to avoid or minimize such risks, and describing how potential impacts will be monitored.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The FME does not use biological control agents.
Indicator 6.8.d Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are not used for any purpose.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The FME does not use GMOs.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C6.9 The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 6.9.a The use of exotic species is contingent on the availability of credible scientific data indicating that any such species is non-invasive and its application does not pose a risk to native biodiversity.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Only herbaceous species in conservation seed mixes have been used by DLLT. While DLLT stated that some of the seeds of these mixes are not native it is part of their protocol to ensure that there are no invasives as part of these seed mixes. DLLT named the seed mixes they use, which, upon review by the audit team, are determined to not contain invasive species.
Indicator 6.9.b If exotic species are used, their provenance and the location of their use are documented, and their ecological effects are actively monitored.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> See above indicator.
Indicator 6.9.c The forest owner or manager takes timely action to curtail or significantly reduce any adverse impacts resulting from their use of exotic species.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> See indicator 6.9.a.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:

- a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and
- b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and
- c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 6.10.a Forest conversion to non-forest land uses does not occur, except in circumstances where conversion entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> There have been no forest conversions on the FME.
Indicator 6.10.b Forest conversion to non-forest land uses does not occur on high conservation value forest areas (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indicator 6.10.c Forest conversion to non-forest land uses does not occur, except in circumstances where conversion will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indicator 6.10.d Natural or semi-natural stands are not converted to plantations. Degraded, semi-natural stands may be converted to restoration plantations.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indicator 6.10.e Justification for land-use and stand-type conversions is fully described in the long-term management plan, and meets the biodiversity conservation requirements of Criterion 6.3 (see also Criterion 7.1.I)	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indicator 6.10.f Areas converted to non-forest use for facilities associated with subsurface mineral and gas rights transferred by prior owners, or other conversion outside the control of the certificate holder, are identified on maps. The forest owner or manager consults with the CB to determine if removal of these areas from the scope of the certificate is warranted. To the extent allowed by these transferred rights, the forest owner or manager exercises control over the location of surface disturbances in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental and social impacts. If the certificate holder at one point held these rights, and then sold them, then subsequent conversion of forest to non-forest use would be subject to Indicator 6.10.a-d	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

Principle 7: Management Plan

A management plan – appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations – shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.

<u>Criteria and Indicators</u>	<u>Findings</u>
<p>C7.1 The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Management objectives. b) Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands. c) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection. e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics. f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments. g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species. h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership. i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used. 	
<p>Criterion Level Remarks:</p>	
<p>Indicator 7.1.a The management plan identifies the ownership and legal status of the FMU and its resources, including rights held by the owner and rights held by others.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The 2015 forest management plan technical report identifies the ownership and legal status of the ownership. Conservation easements and road access contract also defines the ownership status for DLLT.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.b The management plan describes the history of land use and past management, current forest types and associated development, size class and/or successional stages, and natural disturbance regimes that affect the FMU (see Indicator 6.1.a).</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The forest management Plan is substantial and detailed and covers the requirements of this indicator.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.c The management plan describes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) current conditions of the timber and non-timber forest resources being managed; b) desired future conditions; c) historical ecological conditions; and d) applicable management objectives and activities to move the FMU toward desired future conditions. 	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The forest management Plan is substantial and detailed and covers the requirements of this indicator.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.d The management plan includes a description of the landscape within which the FMU is located and describes how landscape-scale habitat elements described in Criterion 6.3 will be</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The Plan documents describe the landscape in the region under which the DLLT operates and addresses how the habitat elements in Principle 6 are addressed.</p>

addressed.	
<p>Indicator 7.1.e The management plan includes a description of the following resources and outlines activities to conserve and/or protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rare, threatened, or endangered species and natural communities (see Criterion 6.2); • plant species and community diversity and wildlife habitats (see Criterion 6.3); • water resources (see Criterion 6.5); • soil resources (see Criterion 6.3); • Representative Sample Areas (see Criterion 6.4); • High Conservation Value Forests (see Principle 9); • Other special management areas. 	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The forest management plan is substantial and detailed and covers the requirements of this indicator. Further, the maps that are part of the Plan and are within the GIS system, cover many aspects of this indicator.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.f If invasive species are present, the management plan describes invasive species conditions, applicable management objectives, and how they will be controlled (see Indicator 6.3.j).</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The management plan describes invasive species present on the DLLT property. Invasive species are not a major issue for the DLLT ownership.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.g The management plan describes insects and diseases, current or anticipated outbreaks on forest conditions and management goals, and how insects and diseases will be managed (see Criteria 6.6 and 6.8).</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The Plan describes insect and disease issues. Currently there are no significant pests or diseases that are affecting the forest management operations. DLLT activities for the time being are, in effect, to monitor for the presence of any pests or diseases. Additionally, carefully tailored silvicultural systems for regeneration are intended to mitigate the occurrence and propagation of any potential insects or diseases.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.h If chemicals are used, the plan describes what is being used, applications, and how the management system conforms with Criterion 6.6.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No chemicals are used on the DLLT ownership, as described in the Plan.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.i If biological controls are used, the management plan describes what is being used, applications, and how the management system conforms with Criterion 6.8.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No biological controls are used on the DLLT property.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.j The management plan incorporates the results of the evaluation of social impacts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traditional cultural resources and rights of use (see Criterion 2.1); • potential conflicts with customary uses and use rights (see Criteria 2.2, 2.3, 3.2); • management of ceremonial, archeological, and historic sites (see Criteria 3.3 and 4.5); • management of aesthetic values (see Indicator 4.4.a); 	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The evaluation of social impacts is included in the forest management plan and it addresses the requirements of the indicator. In doing so, the DLLT consulted with public agency officials, environmental NGOs, wildlife and forest ecology experts, community members as well as in-house natural resource management expertise in order to determine potential social impacts, which were then incorporated in to the management plan.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public access to and use of the forest, and other recreation issues; • local and regional socioeconomic conditions and economic opportunities, including creation and/or maintenance of quality jobs (see Indicators 4.1.b and 4.4.a), local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e), and participation in local development opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g). 	
<p>Indicator 7.1.k The management plan describes the general purpose, condition and maintenance needs of the transportation network (see Indicator 6.5.e).</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT maintains a document describing the 5-year road maintenance schedule and projected costs and other inputs. The plan is not restricted to the next five years, and actually serves as a long-term planning tool.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.l The management plan describes the silvicultural and other management systems used and how they will sustain, over the long term, forest ecosystems present on the FMU.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Silvicultural systems and other management systems used on the DLLT property are fully described in the Plan.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.m The management plan describes how species selection and harvest rate calculations were developed to meet the requirements of Criterion 5.6.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The Plan describes how it determined the sustained yield calculations. Species selection is described as part of desired future conditions discussions in the Plan and is also addressed directly in the harvest plans developed from the management Plan and approved by the Board of Directors of DLLT.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.n The management plan includes a description of monitoring procedures necessary to address the requirements of Criterion 8.2.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring procedures are described in the plan and a very comprehensive monitoring report is produced each year and posted to the DLLT website.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.o The management plan includes maps describing the resource base, the characteristics of general management zones, special management areas, and protected areas at a level of detail to achieve management objectives and protect sensitive sites.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Required maps are included in the Plan and are part of a comprehensive GIS system maintained by DLLT.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.p The management plan describes and justifies the types and sizes of harvesting machinery and techniques employed on the FMU to minimize or limit impacts to the resource.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Harvest machinery preferred to be used for operations are described in the Plan and harvest planning documents. Most operations on DLLT occur with tracked feller-bunchers, grapple skidders, delimiters, slashers and hand-felling.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.q Plans for harvesting and other significant site-disturbing management activities required to carry out the management plan are prepared prior to implementation. Plans clearly describe the activity, the relationship to objectives, outcomes, any necessary environmental safeguards, health and safety measures, and include maps of adequate detail.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Harvest plans are developed by the forest manager prior to the season the operations will occur in and are presented to and reviewed by the DLLT Forestry Committee and the Board of Directors. The DLLT Executive Director may review the plans prior to the Forest Committee as well.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.1.r The management plan describes the stakeholder</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>

consultation process.	DLLT's forest management plan was crafted after a long and ongoing stakeholder consultation process, which is described within it. The DLLT consulted with public agency officials, environmental NGOs, wildlife and forest ecology experts, community members as well as in-house natural resource management expertise.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C7.2 The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 7.2.a The management plan is kept up to date. It is reviewed on an ongoing basis and is updated whenever necessary to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances. At a minimum, a full revision occurs every 10 years.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The DLLT forest management plan was last updated in 2015 and has incorporated monitoring data since the Land Trust's inception to update it.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C7.3 Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 7.3.a Workers are qualified to properly implement the management plan; all forest workers are provided with sufficient guidance and supervision to adequately implement their respective components of the plan.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The key forest worker associated with implementation of the DLLT management plan is Brittany Mauricette. She is fully knowledgeable about the management plan and is using it to implement management activities. The audit team confirmed, through documentation review, direct observation onsite, and interviews with staff and external stakeholders that workers are qualified to properly implement the management plan, and have sufficient guidance and supervision to do so.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C7.4 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 7.4.a While respecting landowner confidentiality, the management plan or a management plan summary that outlines the elements of the plan described in Criterion 7.1 is available to the public either at no charge or a nominal fee.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Management plan documents are all available on the DLLT website. People are also reminded of that in newsletters that DLLT sends out.
Indicator 7.4.b Managers of public forests make draft management plans, revisions and supporting documentation	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DLLT lands are privately owned.

easily accessible for public review and comment prior to their implementation. Managers address public comments and modify the plans to ensure compliance with this Standard.	
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

Principle 8: Monitoring and Assessment	
Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.	
<u>Criteria and Indicators</u>	<u>Findings</u>
C8.1 The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated	
Indicator 8.1.a Consistent with the scale and intensity of management, the forest owner or manager develops and consistently implements a regular, comprehensive, and replicable written monitoring protocol.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The monitoring protocol can be found in the Focus Species addendum of the management plan documents. It is a comprehensive protocol and the annual monitoring reports that are generated from it and are posted on the DLLT website are sufficiently descriptive to meet the indicator.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C8.2 Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators:	
a) Yield of all forest products harvested. b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest. c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna. d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations. e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated. Observation 01/17 issued.	
Indicator 8.2.a.1 For all commercially harvested products, an inventory system is maintained. The inventory system includes at a minimum: a) species, b) volumes, c) stocking, d) regeneration, and e) stand and forest composition and structure; and f) timber quality.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> A new inventory was conducted for DLLT in 2010. It covers the requirements of the indicator.
Indicator 8.2.a.2 Significant, unanticipated removal or loss or increased vulnerability of forest resources is monitored and recorded. Recorded information includes date and location of occurrence, description of disturbance, extent and severity of loss, and may be both quantitative and qualitative.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> There have been no unanticipated removal or loss or increased vulnerability of forest resources of substance since DLLT was organized.

<p>Indicator 8.2.b The forest owner or manager maintains records of harvested timber and NTFPs (volume and product and/or grade). Records must adequately ensure that the requirements under Criterion 5.6 are met.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>There are various NTFPs that DLLT allows community members to harvest, including firewood and fir tips to make holiday wreaths. DLLT registers each individual involved in NTFP harvests, and requests that they report back the amount of each type of NTFP collected. DLLT maintains records of community reporting on NTFP collection, though community members are not always reporting harvested amounts as requested, specifically for the fir tips. See OBS 01/17.</p>
<p>Indicator 8.2.c The forest owner or manager periodically obtains data needed to monitor presence on the FMU of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rare, threatened and endangered species and/or their habitats; 2) Common and rare plant communities and/or habitat; 3) Location, presence and abundance of invasive species; 4) Condition of protected areas, set-asides and buffer zones; 5) High Conservation Value Forests (see Criterion 9.4). 	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Timber harvest records by volume and grade are maintained and were provided in an Excel spreadsheet. This data fulfills the requirements of Criterion 5.6. DLLT issues post-harvest reports in which the newly identified presence of any of the listed indicator issues are recorded.</p>
<p>Indicator 8.2.d.1 Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Monitoring with written reports occurs at least once per week for operations on the DLLT property. Post-harvest monitoring, which occurs at the end of the job, results in a written report after the job has been closed out. The Community Forest Manager checks the job and then the job is closed out. All reports from monitoring are maintained in the DLLT files.</p>
<p>Indicator 8.2.d.2 A monitoring program is in place to assess the condition and environmental impacts of the forest-road system.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Road monitoring is accomplished as part of regular forest management work and monitoring described above in 8.2.d.2. As with other monitoring of operations, these are written about in annual monitoring reports.</p>
<p>Indicator 8.2.d.3 The landowner or manager monitors relevant socio-economic issues (see Indicator 4.4.a), including the social impacts of harvesting, participation in local economic opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g), the creation and/or maintenance of quality job opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.b), and local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e).</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The socio-economic monitoring is part of all overall operations of DLLT as a community forest. Constant communications with members, board members and community members are part of this monitoring. As part of normal monitoring, harvest is the first key item (employment). DLLT seeks more quantitative data about use of the property. DLLT monitors its water-access campsites, hiking trails and access path – also hunting, snowmobiling, ATV, trapping. Water recreation on the lakes is the biggest part of the recreation that occurs and is well known but not well quantified due to multiple and often-remote access points.</p>
<p>Indicator 8.2.d.4 Stakeholder responses to management activities are monitored and recorded as necessary.</p>	<p>Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>DLLT has documentation of the few issues that must go before the Forestry Committee or the Board. Results of the public meetings are reported to the board</p>

	and are recorded in meetings minutes. Records of this were provided to the audit team.
Indicator 8.2.d.5 Where sites of cultural significance exist, the opportunity to jointly monitor sites of cultural significance is offered to tribal representatives (see Principle 3).	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> There are no known sites of cultural significance.
Indicator 8.2.e The forest owner or manager monitors the costs and revenues of management in order to assess productivity and efficiency.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The audit team was shown worksheets demonstrating the DLLT monitoring of management costs and revenues.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) OBS 01/17 The FME should ensure continued conformance with Indicator 8.2.b.	

C8.3 Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the “chain of custody.”	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 8.3.a When forest products are being sold as FSC-certified, the forest owner or manager has a system that prevents mixing of FSC-certified and non-certified forest products prior to the point of sale.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT has a fully-documented system for conformance to the Chain-of-Custody requirements.
Indicator 8.3.b The forest owner or manager maintains documentation to enable the tracing of the harvested material from each harvested product from its origin to the point of sale.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Records on CoC include trip tickets from previous years. DLLT maintains these written records and all CoC records for 5 years.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 8.4.a The forest owner or manager monitors and documents the degree to which the objectives stated in the management plan are being fulfilled, as well as significant deviations from the plan.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Regular monitoring allows for understanding of projections versus actual deliverables for timber, wildlife habitat acreage improved, etc. The annual monitoring plan has much detail in that regard.
Indicator 8.4.b Where monitoring indicates that management objectives and guidelines, including those necessary for conformance with this Standard, are not being met or if changing conditions indicate that a change in management strategy is necessary, the management plan, operational plans, and/or other plan implementation measures are revised to ensure the objectives and guidelines will be met. If monitoring shows that the management objectives and guidelines themselves are not sufficient to ensure conformance with this Standard, then the objectives and guidelines are modified.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The 2015 forest management plan revision process considered all monitoring done in previous years. The addition of the Focus Species management approach to the plan refined how DLLT looks at wildlife species in the context of forestry operations. DLLT found that they are now surer their management is effective in meeting plan targets for habitat.

NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.

C8.5 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated. Observation 02/17 issued.

Indicator 8.5.a While protecting landowner confidentiality, either full monitoring results or an up-to-date summary of the most recent monitoring information is maintained, covering the Indicators listed in Criterion 8.2, and is available to the public, free or at a nominal price, upon request.

Conformance with Indicator: Yes No N/A

DLLT maintains comprehensive annual monitoring reports that it posts to its website. Monitoring for the 2016 period occurred, and the summarized results of the monitoring indicators were communicated through public meetings and outreach, such as distributed newsletters, email messages and workshops. People who participate regularly in DLLT activities and read the newsletters would in theory have received all information that would go in to a public summary. However, the public summary of monitoring results was not posted to the DLLT website as it typically is. See OBS 02/17

NOTES: (CARs/Observations) OBS 02/17 The FME should ensure continued conformance with Indicator 8.5.a.

Principle 9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

Criteria and Indicators

Findings

C9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.

Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.

Indicator 9.1.a The forest owner or manager identifies and maps the presence of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) within the FMU and, to the extent that data are available, adjacent to their FMU, in a manner consistent with the assessment process, definitions, data sources, and other guidance described in Appendix F.

Conformance with Indicator: Yes No N/A

HCVF areas are all fully mapped and are in the GIS system. HCVF areas include two old growth forest areas in the north and southern part of the ownership. The HCVF areas were determined as part of the initial assessment preparation for certification. This assessment involved an analysis of all the DLLT lands according to the HCVF criteria both by staff and with assistance from professional biologists and ecologists from the State of Maine and local residents who have acted as guides on this property for decades. The result of the analyses was the current mapped HCVF.

Given the relative rarity of old growth forests in the contiguous United States, these areas are normally designated as HCVF, and all old growth must be managed in conformance with Indicator 6.3.a.3 and requirements for legacy trees in Indicator 6.3.f.

Indicator 9.1.b In developing the assessment, the forest owner or manager consults with qualified specialists, independent experts, and local community members who may have knowledge of areas that meet the definition of HCVs.

Conformance with Indicator: Yes No N/A

The original development of the HCVF areas included professional scientists as well as lay people in the community. As part of the update to the plans and HCVF areas, new experts were consulted and a wildlife ecologist was hired to develop

	the Focus Species Addendum, the key part of the plan and HCVF process. Locals were consulted with maps about special habitats such as deer habitat. General local knowledge is also constantly used as part of management.
Indicator 9.1.c A summary of the assessment results and management strategies (see Criterion 9.3) is included in the management plan summary that is made available to the public.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> All of the forest management plan components as well as all of the complete monitoring reports are posted on the DLLT website.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.	
Criterion Level Remarks:	
Indicator 9.2.a The forest owner or manager holds consultations with stakeholders and experts to confirm that proposed HCVF locations and their attributes have been accurately identified, and that appropriate options for the maintenance of their HCV attributes have been adopted.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The original consultations were done when the HCVFs were identified early in FSC certification for DLLT. These happened as part of research for the HCVFs as part of building the data and information for the HCVF designations. As part of the forest plan revisions and re-visit of the HCVF designations and development of the Focus Species Addendum, additional biologists and other experts were consulted, one was hired to work on the Focus Species plan. Community members were asked for comment as part of regular public meetings in town.
Indicator 9.2.b On public forests, a transparent and accessible public review of proposed HCV attributes and HCVF areas and management is carried out. Information from stakeholder consultations and other public review is integrated into HCVF descriptions, delineations and management.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DLLT lands are privately owned.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations)	

C9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 9.3.a The management plan and relevant operational plans describe the measures necessary to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of all high conservation values present in all identified HCVF areas, including the precautions required to avoid risks or impacts to such values (see Principle 7). These measures are implemented.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> The management plan and addenda explain fully the management recommended for the HCVF areas. One, the Ecological Reserve area, has a no management requirement except to maintain roads and trails through the area. The two HCVFs identified have buffer areas in special management zones to provide additional protection.
Indicator 9.3.b All management activities in HCVFs must maintain or enhance the high conservation values and the extent	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> DLLT applies a "hands-off" approach to the HCVFs in the FMU, save for

of the HCVF.	instances where conservation values may be at risk.
Indicator 9.3.c If HCVF attributes cross ownership boundaries and where maintenance of the HCV attributes would be improved by coordinated management, then the forest owner or manager attempts to coordinate conservation efforts with adjacent landowners.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to the Ecological Reserve HCVF near 4th Machias Lake is the State of Maine ownership which includes a continuation of this habitat. The original boundaries of this contiguous area were determined in consultation across boundaries and the management of state and DLLT lands is done similarly due to this consultation and communication that continues today.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

C9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.	
Criterion Level Remarks: Conformance demonstrated.	
Indicator 9.4.a The forest owner or manager monitors, or participates in a program to annually monitor, the status of the specific HCV attributes, including the effectiveness of the measures employed for their maintenance or enhancement. The monitoring program is designed and implemented consistent with the requirements of Principle 8.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring of the HCVF areas is part of the normal and regular monitoring that occurs on the DLLT property. The reporting of the results of the monitoring occurs with the regular monitoring and is contained in the report issued and put on the web each year.
Indicator 9.4.b When monitoring results indicate increasing risk to a specific HCV attribute, the forest owner/manager re-evaluates the measures taken to maintain or enhance that attribute, and adjusts the management measures in an effort to reverse the trend.	Conformance with Indicator: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring of the HCVF areas is part of the normal and regular monitoring that occurs on the DLLT property. The reporting of the results of the monitoring occurs with the regular monitoring and is contained in the report issued and put on the web each year. Monitoring has not revealed practices that need to be changed relative to HCVF management.
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) None.	

Principle 10: Plantation management	
Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1- 9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.	
Principle Level Remarks: Principle 10 is not applicable to DLLT's FSC FM Certificate. DLLT does not conduct plantation forest management as confirmed through interviews and on-site observations.	
NOTES: (CARs/Observations) Not applicable.	

APPENDIX V: Detailed list of stakeholders consulted (confidential)

List of FME Staff Consulted

Name	Title	Contact	Type of Participation
Montague, David	Executive Director	(207) 796-2100	Interview
Mauricette, Brittany	Community Forest Manager	(207) 796-2100	Interview
Hunt, Laura	Office Manager	(207) 796-2100	Interview
Brown, Colin	Communications and Education Manager	(207) 796-2100	Interview
Edward J. McGrath	Board Member		Interview

List of other Stakeholders Consulted

Name	Organization	Contact	Type of Participation	Follow up req ³
Tobey, David		207-796-2684	Phone interview	N
Walczyk, Sandra	Maine Forest Service	207-441-4924	Phone interview	N
Coolong, Terri	Maine Forest Service	207-215-0679	Phone interview	N
Laney, Paul	Local guide	207-796-5068	Phone interview attempt	N
Schaefer, Tom	ME Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	207-434-5927	Phone interview	N
Anonymous	ME Inland Fisheries and Wildlife		Phone interview	N
Chuck Simpson	ME Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry	207-941-4413	Email and phone interview	N
Jay Espy	Elmina B. Sewall Foundation	207-865-3810	Email	N

³ To indicate if the stakeholder has requested documented follow up on how their comments were addressed during the evaluation. TM shall provide public summary to stakeholders that request documented follow-up within 3 months of the closing meeting.

APPENDIX VI: FME map (optional)