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Ver 12 September 2019

**FSC Forest Management  
Certification**

3rd surveillance

Report for:

**Downeast Lakes Land Trust**

in

**Grand Lake Stream, Maine, USA**

Report Finalized:	August 26, 2020
Audit Dates:	Remote audit: June 23, 2020 Onsite audit: August 5, 2020
Audit Team:	Darren Johnson, Lead Auditor
Type of certificate:	Single FMU
Certificate code:	NC-FM/CoC- 002682
Certificate issue/expiry:	October 16, 2017 October 15, 2022
Organization Contact:	Ernest Carle
Contact details:	4 Water Street Grand Lake Stream ME, 04668 United States

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## INTRODUCTION

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

This report contains various sections of information and findings and several annexes. Sections 1-4 of the report will become public information about the forest management operation and may be distributed by NEPCon or the FSC to interested parties. The remainder of the annexes are confidential, to be reviewed only by authorized NEPCon 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/>.

Dispute resolution: If NEPCon clients encounter organizations or individuals having concerns or comments about NEPCon and our services, these parties are strongly encouraged to contact relevant NEPCon regional office. Formal complaints and concerns should be sent in writing.

Impartiality commitment: NEPCon commits to using impartial auditors and our clients are encouraged to inform NEPCon management if violations of this are noted. Please see our Impartiality Policy here: <http://www.nepcon.org/impartiality-policy>

### Standard Conversions

1 mbf = 2.4 m<sup>3</sup>

1 cord = 3.6 m<sup>3</sup>

100 tons hardwood = 97 m<sup>3</sup>

100 tons = 101 m<sup>3</sup>

1 acre = 0.404687 hectares

# 1. AUDIT CONCLUSIONS

## 1.1 Audit Recommendation and certification decision

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Based on Organization’s conformance with certification requirements, the following recommendation is made:

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- Certification approved:
    - No NCRs issued
  - Certification not approved:
- 

Additional comments, including issues identified as controversial or hard to evaluate and explanation of the conclusion reached: None

## 1.2 New Non-conformity Reports (NCRs)

*Note: NCRs describe evidences of Organisation non-conformities identified during audits. NCRs include defined timelines for the Organisation to demonstrate conformity. MAJOR NCRs issued during assessments/reassessments shall be closed prior to issuance of certificate. MAJOR NCRs issued during anual audits shall be closed within timeline or result in suspension.*

- Check if no NCR(s) have been issued

## 1.3 New Observations

*Note: Observations are issued for the early stages of a problem which does not of itself constitute a non-conformance, but which the auditor considers may lead to a future non-conformance if not addressed by the organization; observations may lead to direct non-conformances if not addressed.*

- No observations

### 1.4 Conformance with Applicable Non-conformity Reports (NCRs)

*Note: this section indicates the Organisation's actions to comply with NCRs that have been issued during or since the last audit. Failure to comply with a minor NCR results in the NCR being upgraded to major; the specified follow-up action is required by the Organization or involuntary suspension will take place.*

Status Categories	Explanation
CLOSED	Operation has successfully met the NCR
OPEN	Operation has either not met or has partially met the NCR

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

<b>NCR: 01/19</b>	<b>NC Classification: Minor</b>
<b>Standard &amp; Requirement:</b>	NEPCon CoC Standard for FME 19Dec14, 1.3.3
<b>Report Section:</b>	Annex II
<b>Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:</b>	
<p>DLLT has two forest gates for the purposes of COC: 1) the mill for harvesting operations where they retain ownership of the timber and pay the logger by rate for harvesting, processing and delivering various products to the mill and; 2) stumpage, where the logger takes ownership of the timber when the tree is severed at the stump. For mill gate situations, which represent the majority of timber harvested, DLLT uses trip tickets to make its FSC claim to the buyer. For stumpage, DLLT uses a Stumpage Agreement to make its FSC claim. Trip tickets include both the FSC certificate code and claim (FSC 100%), however the Stumpage Agreements reviewed by the auditor include the FSC certificate code but not the claim (FSC 100%).</p>	
<b>Corrective action request:</b>	<p>Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above.</p> <p>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 non-conformance.</p>
<b>Timeline for Conformance:</b>	By the next annual surveillance audit, but not later than 12 months from report finalization (09/10/2020)

<b>NCR Evaluation Type</b>	On-site <input type="checkbox"/> Desk Review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Evidence Provided by Organization:</b>	Stumpage contract (agreement) signed on March 4, 2020 between DLLT and Davis Forestry Products Inc.
<b>Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:</b>	Pages 3 and 4 of the stumpage contract (agreement), section 20, includes both the FSC certificate code (NC-FM/COC-002682) and claim (FSC 100%).
<b>NCR Status:</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Comments (optional):</b>	

## 1.5 Stakeholder consultation

### 1.5.1 Stakeholder consultation process

No formal stakeholder notification was conducted as part of this audit. Specific stakeholders were contacted to gather evidence on conformance with the FSC standards evaluated during this audit.

### 1.5.2 Stakeholder comments

The table below summarizes the issues identified by the audit team with a brief discussion of each based upon specific interview and/or public meeting comments.

Principle/Subject Area	Stakeholder comment	NEPCon response
<b>P1: FSC Commitment and Legal Compliance</b>		No outstanding stakeholder issues or complaints that needed to be evaluated by the auditors were reported by FME or discovered by the auditors. Findings regarding stakeholder interactions as part of regular forest management are included under specific Criterion in Annex I.
<b>P2: Tenure &amp; Use Rights &amp; Responsibilities</b>		No outstanding stakeholder issues or complaints that needed to be evaluated by the auditors were reported by FME or discovered by the auditors. Findings regarding stakeholder interactions as part of regular forest management are

		included under specific Criterion in Annex I.
<b>P3 – Indigenous Peoples’ Rights</b>		
<b>P4: Community Relations &amp; Workers’ Rights</b>		No outstanding stakeholder issues or complaints that needed to be evaluated by the auditors were reported by FME or discovered by the auditors. Findings regarding stakeholder interactions as part of regular forest management are included under specific Criterion in Annex I.
<b>P5: Benefits from the Forest</b>		No outstanding stakeholder issues or complaints that needed to be evaluated by the auditors were reported by FME or discovered by the auditors. Findings regarding stakeholder interactions as part of regular forest management are included under specific Criterion in Annex I.
<b>P6: Environmental Impact</b>		No outstanding stakeholder issues or complaints that needed to be evaluated by the auditors were reported by FME or discovered by the auditors. Findings regarding stakeholder interactions as part of regular forest management are included under specific Criterion in Annex I.
<b>P7: Management Plan</b>		No outstanding stakeholder issues or complaints that needed to be evaluated by the auditors were reported by FME or discovered by the auditors. Findings regarding stakeholder interactions as part of regular forest management are included under specific Criterion in Annex I.
<b>P8: Monitoring &amp; Assessment</b>		
<b>P9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest</b>		No outstanding stakeholder issues or complaints that needed to be evaluated by the auditors were reported by FME or discovered by the auditors. Findings regarding stakeholder interactions as part of regular forest management are included under specific Criterion in Annex I.
<b>P10: Plantations</b>		

## 2. AUDIT PROCESS

### 2.1 Certification Standard Used

Standards Used:	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v1.1; NEPCoN CoC Standard for FME 12Sept19
Local Adaptation: (if applicable)	Not applicable

### 2.2 Audit Team and accompanying persons

Name	Role and qualifications
Darren Johnson - Lead Auditor	Darren is a Licensed Professional Forester with more than 20 years' experience in North America, Asia and Africa working with government, the private sector, indigenous groups and civil society. Areas of expertise include forest management policy & planning, conservation and climate change related activities. Darren holds a MS in Forest Ecology from Edinburgh University in Scotland and a HBSc in Forestry from Lakehead University in Canada.

### 2.3 Audit Overview

*Note: The table below provides an overview of the audit scope and auditors. See standard checklist annex for specific details on people interviewed and audit findings per site audited.*

Site(s)	Date(s)	Main activities	Auditor(s)
Off-site	May 15, 2020	Stakeholder Notification	Darren Johnson
Off-site	June 9, 2020	Preparatory call	Darren Johnson
Off-site	June 9, 2020	Review of evidence	Darren Johnson
Off-site	June 23, 2020	Opening meeting	Darren Johnson
Off-site	June 23, 2020	Review of evidence	Darren Johnson
Off-site	June 23, 2020	Staff and Stakeholder interviews	Darren Johnson
Off-site	June 23, 2020	Closing meeting	Darren Johnson
On-site	August 5, 2020	Opening meeting	Darren Johnson

On-site	August 5, 2020	Field Visits	Darren Johnson
On-site	August 5, 2020	Closing meeting	Darren Johnson
Total LOE for audit: 3 days			

## 2.4 Audit Background

### 2.4.1 Changes in FMEs' forest management and associated effects on conformance to standard requirements

DLLT has hired 2 new employees since the last audit of the FME management system in June 2019. Kendall O'Connell was hired in September 2019 as the Education and Events Coordinator and Lillian Bowen was hired in October 2019 as the Development and Outreach Manager. There have been no other significant changes to DLLT's management system.

Has the management system changed since the previous evaluation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, briefly review the changes:	
Have there been any complaints, disputes, or allegations of non-conformity with the standards raised against the Organization during the audit period:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, reference standard and criteria where corresponding findings are found in report: See FSC P1.1.a.	

## 2.5 Description of Overall Audit Process

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation and resulting restrictions a partial remote audit will take place covering all normal audit activities but will break them into two distinct steps:

**Step 1:** Remote audit covering all aspects of the audit except for field site visits, facility visits, and stakeholder consultation that must be conducted in person. The remote audit for DLLT occurred on June 23, 2020.

**Step 2:** Onsite work, to be scheduled when travel restrictions are lifted and before the end of 2020. Onsite work will focus on field observations but may include final interviews and document review that must be conducted in person.

### 2.5.1 Changes to the certificate scope

There have been no changes to the certificate scope.

## 2.5.2 Review of FME Documentation and required records

### a) All certificate types

Required Records	Reviewed
Complaints received by FME from stakeholders, actions taken, follow up communication	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: DLLT planned to conduct a harvest at a unit located at Mile One. The unit contained a portion of a DLLT designated Deer Management Area, which caused a local resident to complain. However, the DMA is not recognized as a state designated Deer Wintering Area (DWA) and so no state laws or regulations would be violated if it were harvested. Due to poor hemlock markets the harvest did not take place. See FSC P1.1.a.	
Accident records	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: No accidents recorded since the last surveillance audit.	
Training records	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	
Operational plan(s) for next twelve months	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	
Inventory records	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	
Harvesting records	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	

### 3. COMPANY DETAILS

#### 3.1 Certificate Scope

<b>Reporting period:</b>	Previous 12 month period	<b>Dates</b>	June 2019 – June 2020
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A. Scope of Forest Area	
Type of certificate: single FMU	SLIMF Certificate: not applicable
<b>New FMUs added since previous evaluation</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

B. FSC Product categories included in the FM/CoC scope			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No changes since previous report (do not complete sections below)			
	Level 1	Level 2	Species
<input type="checkbox"/>	W1 Rough wood	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	W2 Wood charcoal		
<input type="checkbox"/>	W3 Wood in chips or particles	W3.1 Wood chips	
<input type="checkbox"/>	W5 Solid wood (sawn, chipped, sliced or peeled)	W5.1 Flitches and boules	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non Wood Forest Products N1 Barks		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other		

C. Forest Area Classification			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No changes since previous report (do not complete sections below)			
1. Total certified area (land base)			ha
2. Total forested area			ha
3. Total production forest area (where harvesting occurs)		ha	$1 = 2+5$
4. Total non-productive forest area (no harvesting)		ha	$2 = 3+4$
4.a Protected forest area (strict reserves)		ha	$4 = 4a+4b+4c$
4.b Areas protected from timber harvesting and managed only for NTFPs or services		ha	

4.c Remaining non-productive forest (other uses)	ha		
5. Total non-forested area (e.g., water bodies, wetlands, fields, rocky outcrops, etc.)			ha
<b>Forest zone</b>	DROP-DOWN MENU		
Certified Area (ha) under <b>Forest Type</b>			
Natural			
Semi-Natural			
Plantation			
Stream sides and water bodies (Linear Kilometers)			

D. High Conservation Values identified via formal HCV assessment by the FME and respective areas			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No changes since previous report (do not complete section below)			
Code	HCV TYPES	Description:	Area (ha)
HCV1	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).		
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.		
HCV3	Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.		
HCV4	Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).		
HCV5	Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).		
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).		
Number of sites significant to indigenous people and communities			

<b>E. Pesticide Use</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FME does not use pesticides (if checked, do not complete below).		
FME has valid FSC derogation for use of a highly hazardous pesticide	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
FSC highly hazardous pesticides used in last calendar year		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b># of ha treated</b>
Non FSC highly hazardous pesticides used in last calendar year		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b># of ha treated</b>

### 3.1.1. Excision of areas from the scope of certificate

<b>X</b>	<b>A. Applicability of FSC excision policy</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable. FME has not excised areas from the FMU(s) included in the certificate scope.