Downeast Lakes LAND TRUST ®

Winter 2013 Volume 7, Issue 1

Downeast Lakes Traditions

Forests and Lakes—For People—Forever ®

West Grand Forest Easement In Place

Milestone for 21,870-acre Community Forest Project
Vast Landscape Conserved around Grand Lake Stream

On December 18, 2012 the West Grand Lake Community Forest project reached a great milestone. The State of Maine acquired a conservation easement on the 21,870-acre property in and near Grand Lake Stream from the Lyme Timber company. These lands are now permanently protected from development and will always be available for traditional outdoor recreation. Even more visitors on West Grand Lake and Big Lake will appreciate the lakeshores and scenic views. The easement allows continued forest management by the landowner.

Downeast Lakes Land Trust partnered with Maine to propose the project to the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program. The Forest Service selected this locally-led project as the #1 national forest conservation priority in 2011, awarding over $5.5 million. The Land for Maine's Future Board awarded $1,250,000 to the project, which was the top-scoring conservation project in the most-recent round of grant proposals.

Additional funding has been provided by the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, the Open Space Institute, the Pew Charitable Trusts Northeast Land Trust Consortium, and many other foundations, businesses, and individuals.

The West Grand Lake Forest easement is the last tract to be conserved of the 370,000-acres originally identified as priorities in the 2001 Downeast Lakes Conservation Proposal developed by the trust. We are extraordinarily grateful to the many people that supported this vision.

See Special Map Insert

Focus Shifts to Funding Forest Purchase and Enabling Local Stewardship

By successful purchase of the easement, Downeast Lakes Land Trust's option agreement with Lyme Timber has also been extended.

We now have three additional years (through 2015) to raise another $7 million to purchase the property for management as a Community Forest. This acquisition will allow local people to become the stewards of the property for the long term with conservation-oriented forest management. As we do on the 33,708-acre Farm Cove Community Forest, we will focus on wildlife habitat, public recreation, and a sustainable timber economy.

Lyme Timber has been an excellent partner throughout this project, but they do not intend to be a long-term owner of the property. Community Forest purchase is an opportunity to ensure future management will be sensitive to local concerns and priorities. It will avoid the risks of future owners responding unpredictably to short-term economic opportunities or external constraints.

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View over Big Musquash Stream to West Grand Lake.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Love of the Land and People

The first thing I must do here is to celebrate the conservation of our West Grand Lake Community Forest property, the easement held by the State of Maine having been finished late in 2012. My special thanks go to Mark Berry, DLLT executive director, who worked both tirelessly and expertly to see this phase of the project through.

And of course I want also to thank all you supporters, without whom, needless to say, we would have long since fallen short of our objectives. DLLT hopes that you may continue to offer your support, financial and otherwise, as we forge onward...because our work is not yet done. We must raise an additional seven million dollars to buy the land outright, so that we can add it to the community forest the trust already owns.

Summer is high season for our town and its environs, though they do provide ample opportunity for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, and snowshoeing; but while the winter prevails, you may want to dream up some warm weather visits and to introduce friends and family to our area if they have not yet experienced its splendors and its fine people. You may want to participate in a DLLT event or one of our education programs. You can find information on each at www.downeastlakes.org.

Conservation is of course of major importance, but it is part of a larger vision that the trust has fostered from its very foundation: namely to bring local stewardship to local resources, not only to protect them but also both to add local jobs in the woods themselves and to attract visitors and residents who will keep the neighborhood's economy vital and growing now and far into the future.

Once again, hats off to all who have helped us to get so far. Let's keep it going.

Sincerely,

Syd Lea

MISSION

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust contributes to the long-term economic and environmental well-being of the Downeast Lakes region through the conservation and exemplary management of its forests and waters.

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Downeast Lakes LAND TRUST ®

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Inspiration & Vision for Success

When I first visited Downeast Lakes Land Trust over seven years ago, I was inspired by the vision and dedication of the volunteer Board of Directors, and the support that had already led to acquisition of the first Community Forest parcels near Grand Lake Stream. I was excited by the opportunity to play a role in securing conservation of other important properties around the village and contributing to the economic vitality of Downeast Maine.

I have taken great pleasure in sharing the story of this community and its motivated leaders with people across Maine and around the country – including many of you who will be reading this. Meeting the special people who are dedicated to helping others and conserving the extraordinary natural resources of Downeast Maine is a privilege.

The past year was perhaps our most successful ever. I hope that each of you shares in the great satisfaction of all of us who have contributed to this effort.

It is nothing short of extraordinary to describe that a village the size of Grand Lake Stream has, in just a few years, created a land trust, attracted partners and supporters, and permanently conserved 370,000 acres and hundreds of miles of lake shore.

All of this has been possible because of you – the individuals who dedicate your time, energy, and money to conserving the natural resources that will bring a brighter future to our community, state, country, and world.

The vision of Downeast Lakes Land Trust and Grand Lake Stream is not yet complete. We have a major hurdle ahead to raise sufficient funds to purchase the West Grand Lake Forest property and ensure future local stewardship and conservation-oriented management. We have a permanent responsibility to continue to improve our management of our existing Community Forests, delivering more value – in habitats, recreation, quality of life, and employment – to our community. We're excited to have a great opportunity to improve our education programs, and our work in communicating with you and the public.

We will continue to succeed every time someone plans their next trip to Grand Lake Stream. We will succeed every time someone enjoys the spectacular views across our lakes, or the flash of a salmon in the stream. We will succeed each time a local resident finishes a productive day's work in the woods or on the water. We will succeed each time a child discovers the joy of the outdoors. We will succeed each time a family comes to the realization there is no place they would rather live, and finds a way to build a life in our community.

Thank you for being part of this success.

Sincerely,

Mark Berry

Please Note:

Change of Mailing Address:

Downeast Lakes Land Trust
3 Water St. PMB 75
Grand Lake Stream, ME 04668

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Corporate Partners support our vision for the economic and environmental well-being of Grand Lake Stream and the Downeast Lakes Region. These businesses made gifts in 2012, and are featured on downeastlakes.org through 2013.

In addition to the contributions highlighted below, two Maine businesses made major pledges to the West Grand Lake Community Forest Project in 2012 through their associated foundations. The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation committed $30,000 and the Machias Savings Bank Foundation committed $10,000.

Other businesses contributed to Downeast Lakes Land Trust in 2012 through their employee matching grant programs. Thank you also to these companies, and to the donors who created the matching grant opportunities!

Sunrise ($5,000 or more)

- Bangor Daily News

Brook Trout ($1,000 or more)

- Bangor Savings Bank
- Chet's Camps
- Finite Carbon
- Grand Lake Lodge
- Hanscom's Construction
- International Motel
- The Lyme Timber Company
- Macdonald Page & Co.
- Orion Timberlands

Grand Laker ($250 or more)

- Bailey's General Construction
- Darrow Wilderness Trip Camp
- Davis Forestry Products, Inc.
- Furbush Roberts Printing Co.
- Grandy Oats
- Leen's Lodge
- Machias Savings Bank
- Prock Marine Company
- Weatherby's

DOWNEAST LAKES

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Get more information and keep up to date at

www.downeastlakes.org

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History & Heritage

Bamboo Fly Rod-Making course with Dave Van Burgel, Mon. - Fri., Apr. 15 - 20 (all day) *Town Building.*

Map, Compass & GPS Course Mon., Wed., Thu., May 13, 15, &16 (9 am- 3 pm) *Town Building.*

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) Workshop, Fri., Jun. 21, 9 am - 4 pm, *Town Building.*

Explorations & Adventures

Tuesdays, Jul. 9 - Aug. 13 9:30-12 noon.

Weekly educational activities for children ages 6-12 (all ages welcome). Rain or shine. Watch for 2013 program details during the spring.

DLLT Annual Picnic

Sunday, Jul. 28, 12-2 pm.

11th Annual Meeting. Lunch served at 12. By reservation; RSVP to info@downeastlakes.org.

West Grand Lake Race

Sunday, Aug. 4 This will be the ninth annual race on West Grand Lake. Races for everyone, with awards and picnic lunch. Bring a canoe or kayak, and register before 10:15 am.

Community Events:

Sat., May 18, 7:00 am Fishermen, Family, & Friends Breakfast *GLS Historical Society, at Town Building.*

Sat. - Sun., Jun. 1-2, 4 am - 4 pm. Togue Tournament, West Grand & Pocumcus Lakes. *GLS Chamber and MDIFW.*

Wednesday, Jul. 4, 7 am - 9 pm Grand Lake Stream, America Bigger and better every year. All meals available, food all day. Many activities and games. Also:

9 am Race for Grand Lake Stream. 3 mile foot race - walkers and runners.
11 am Parade

Sat.-Sun., July 20-21, 8:00 am Tribes of the Dawn Land Cultural Heritage Days

Fri. & Sat., Jul. 26 & 27 Grand Lake Stream Guides Association Dinners

Sat. & Sun., Jul. 27 & 28 10 am – 5 pm. Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival. See www.grandlakestreamfolkartfestival.com.

THREE-YEAR EDUCATION PROGRAM GRANT

Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust awards $285,000

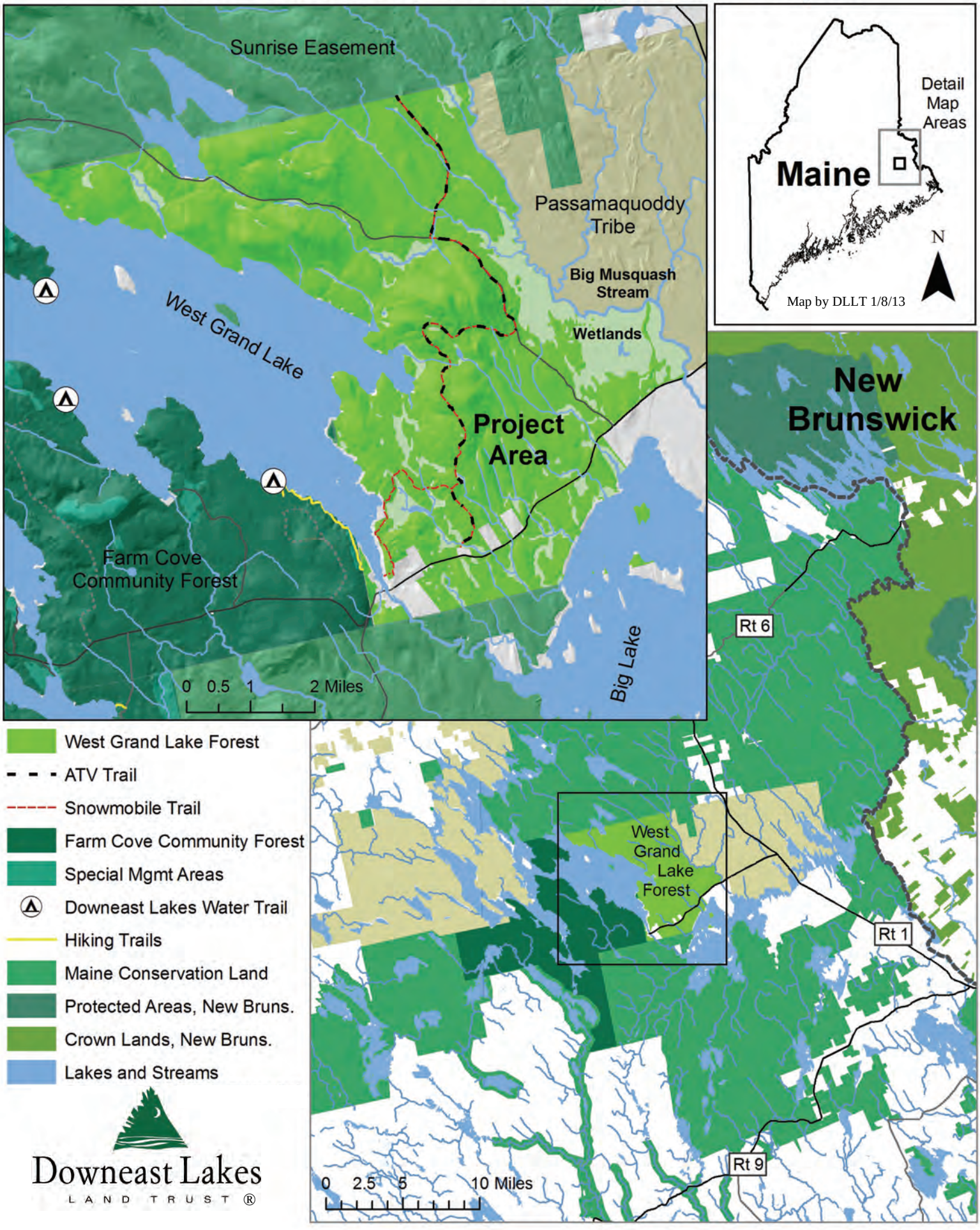
The Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust is a private foundation established by Barbara "Bee" Wheatland upon her death in 2010. Its mission is to assist organizations dedicated to the conservation and economic development of forestlands, timberlands, and other natural resources in the State of Maine, as well as related education, research, and other activities supporting the environmentally compatible use and preservation of these resources.

Bee had a deep lifelong love for the Maine woods and commitment to responsible stewardship of the land. She was actively involved in the development of forestry certification practices, hardwood processing facilities, individual ownership of working forestlands, and innovative approaches in the economic development of Maine's natural resources to provide employment opportunities for Maine residents.

This grant will allow Downeast Lakes Land Trust to substantially expand and improve upon a strong volunteer-based education program and build strong connections between local residents and visitors to the natural resources of our community forests.

The trust is now seeking to hire a professional Education & Communications Manager - see p. 6.

West Grand Lake Community Forest Project



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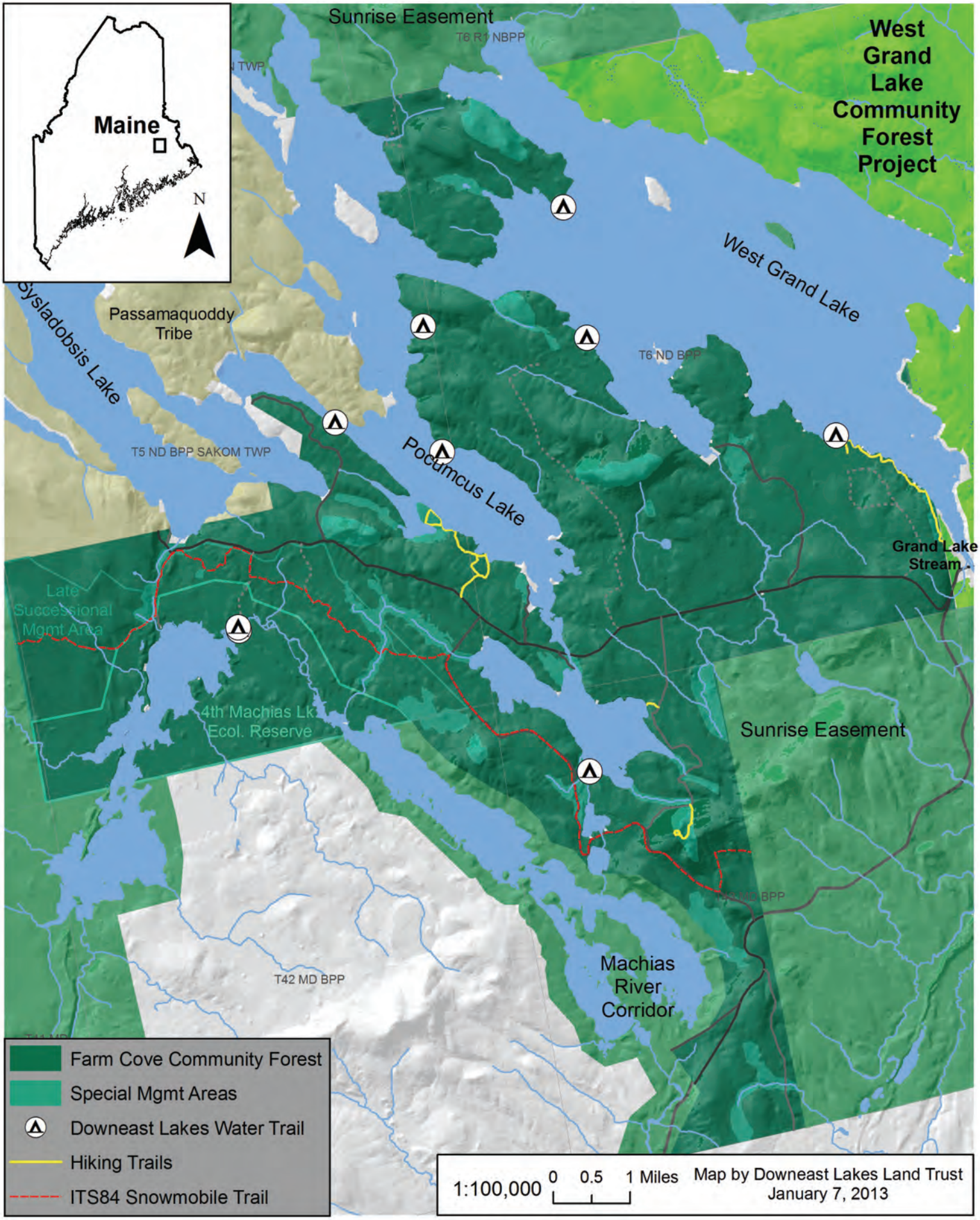
Farm Cove Community Forest



Cianbro Commits: Will Not Propose an East-West Highway Route through the Sunrise Easement

In January, Cianbro Corporation Program Manager Darryl Brown and GIS / Engineering Coordinator Cory Verrill met with representatives of Downeast Lakes Land Trust to provide an update on the proposed East-West Highway corridor.

Cianbro committed to Downeast Lakes Land Trust that it will **NOT** propose a highway corridor that crosses through any portion of the Sunrise Easement or the Farm Cove Community Forest.

The Cianbro proposal is for a privately-financed toll highway extending across Maine from Calais to Coburn Gore. Company officials hope to boost shipping across Maine, the Northeastern states and Atlantic Canada. An exact route has not been made public, but media coverage has included reference to following the Stud Mill Road. This raised the possibility that a route would be proposed through the 312,000-acre Sunrise Easement. The Sunrise Conservation Easement is held by the New England Forestry Foundation, and a public access easement on the same acreage is held by the Maine Division of Parks and Public Lands. Supporters of Downeast Lakes Land Trust played an essential role in funding acquisition of the Sunrise Easement through contributions to the Downeast Lakes Forestry Partnership. The Sunrise Easement extends from Forest City in the north to Cooper in the south.

Cianbro officials explained that they are looking at routes that would pass from Calais south of the Baring Unit of Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge before turning west. The route may cross Route 9 and connect with the Stud Mill Road at a point west of the Sunrise Easement.

Cianbro is proposing to create a multiple-use recreational trail within the highway corridor, to maintain local vehicle access, and to create wildlife crossings including vegetated overpasses and underpasses. The private toll road would be open to public and commercial use and would have 6-8 interchanges along its length.

Sunrise County Economic Council partnered with Cianbro to host public informational meetings about the East-West Highway proposal on January 18th in Eastport and Calais.

The proposal has attracted both support and opposition across Maine. For more information:

Cianbro Corporation: www.cianbro.com

Stop The Corridor: www.stopthecorridor.org

Wind Power Proposal Revised

In May, 2011 we reported on a proposal to construct a 27 turbine wind power development that would have been visible from many of the Downeast Lakes. On April 20, 2012, Maine's Land Use Regulatory Commission formally voted to deny the project application. The Commission cited the scenic impact of the project as the primary reason for its denial, and also noted the significance of the Downeast Lakes region as a destination for outdoor recreation that sustains a tourism based economy, with sporting camps a cultural and recreational resource worthy of protection.

After changes in Maine's regulatory framework for the Unorganized Territories, First Wind proposed a revised version of the project to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection on October 3, 2012. The revised project calls for 16 turbines with a maximum height of up to 459 feet.

On December 7, DEP announced they would hold a public hearing on the proposal, citing the earlier denial. A hearing date is not yet scheduled, but DEP's deadline for a final decision is July 13, 2013.

For more information:

Maine DEP: www.maine.gov/dep/land/sitelaw/selected-developments

First Wind: www.firstwind.com

Partnership for the Preservation of the Downeast Lakes Watershed: www.ppdlw.org

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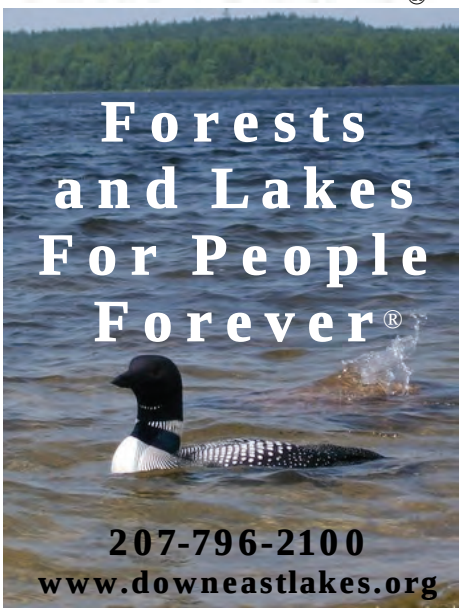

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WE'RE HIRING!

Downeast Lakes Land Trust is pleased to announce that we are hiring an Education and Communications Manager. We are seeking a dynamic leader with exceptional skills. We encourage our supporters to consider whether they may know a strong candidate, and inform them of the opportunity.

With an outstanding Community Forest resource under our management, and strong cooperative relationships within our community, DLLT has an opportunity to develop and expand our education and communication program. We seek to build stronger connections between residents, visitors, and the natural resources that sustain the economy, while educating future generations and building their appreciation for the natural environment and sustainable use of forest resources.

The Education & Communications Manager will lead development and expansion of DLLT's education program and assume substantial responsibilities for communications including print and online materials and media relations.

This is a full-time position. Initial funding for the first three years is secured due to a major grant from the Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust (see p. 4), and the position is expected to be permanent. The complete position description, and application instructions, are available at www.downeastlakes.org.

Map Insert Inside: Farm Cove & West Grand Forests

VISIONARIES FILM PROFILE OF DLLT

To Air on MPBN & PBS stations

The Visionaries documentary series for public television is hosted by Sam Waterston (The Killing Fields, Law & Order, The Newsroom) and highlights the stories of people all around the world that are working to make a positive difference in their community and beyond.

DLLT is honored to be featured by Visionaries in the 3rd episode of their 18th season, and is grateful to underwriters including Bangor Savings Bank, Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Rich and Judy Guggenhime, Jerry and Pam Hamza, Lyme Timber, and Weatherby's Sporting Lodge.

The profile of DLLT will be aired by Maine Public Broadcasting Network on Thursday March 21st at 10 pm and on Saturday March 23rd at 11 am. Visionaries is also carried by many PBS stations. Check the link at www.downeastlakes.org to find broadcast times.