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Downeast Lakes Landings

New Carbon Project Benefits DLLT

The Finite Carbon – Lyme Grand Lake Stream Improved Forest Management Project Provides Benefits from Maine to California

Improved forest management practices provide benefits to the local ecosystem, community, and economy while supporting California's cap-and-trade program

Named after the stream that flows through the town, the Grand Lake Stream community in eastern Maine greatly values its natural resources. With a population of 109, the small community is world-renowned for its excellent fishing, hunting, recreation and relaxation activities. The community's natural resources-based economy provides livelihoods for local

craftsmen, guides, sporting ventures, and forest industry workers. And with the recent implementation of the Finite Carbon – Lyme Grand Lake Stream Improved Forest Management Project, the community's newest venture at the crossroads of the environment and economy lies in carbon offset development.

To protect their community's forests and waters, improve fish and wildlife habitats, and support the natural resources-dependent economy of the community, the local residents founded the Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) in 2001. In 2012, DLLT raised funds enabling the Lyme Timber Company, a private timberland investment management organization, to grant a conservation easement to the state of Maine on 22,000 acres of forestland. The easement permanently protects the property from development and ensures sustainable timber management.

In addition, by improving management practices to increase carbon stocking levels, the forest earned carbon offset credits for use in the California cap-and-trade program. From September 2013 to September 2015, the Lyme Grand Lake Stream Forest removed and sequestered an additional 599,217 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) emissions through its improved forest management practices, which were made in accordance with guidelines specified in the California Compliance Offset Protocol for U.S. Forest Offset Projects.

The forest industry has a long history in the community. Since the early 1900s, the Lyme Grand Lake Stream Forest has served the local timber and pulp industry. Initially owned by the St. Croix Paper Company, the property was part of a nearly one million-acre ownership that stretched across the US-Canadian border. In the 1980s and 1990s, both hardwood areas and much of the mature hemlock were clear cut. In 2008, The Lyme Timber Company purchased the property with the intention of managing it more sustainably.

By incentivizing sustainable harvest and natural forest management practices that achieve denser, bigger, older and a diverse mixture of native tree species, the California Forest Protocol fosters the sequestration of additional forest carbon above and beyond the anticipated baseline, which is the carbon stocks that would be expected under typical commercial forest management for the 100-year duration of the project. The protocol provides detailed and rigorous standards for forest projects to earn offsets for the additional carbon in its reservoir, addressing the project's eligibility, management, monitoring and calculation requirements. Eligible management activities include increasing the stocking of trees on understocked areas, increasing the overall age of the forest by increasing rotation ages, increasing forest productivity by thinning diseased and suppressed trees, and managing competing brush and short-lived forest species. Forest owners are required to protect the forest for at least 100 years.

In addition to benefits for the climate through greater carbon storage, the Lyme Grand Lake Stream Forest Project achieves significant benefits for the forest ecosystem. Natural forest management practices support wildlife conservation, biological diversity, improved water quality and habitat restoration. The improved ecosystem will benefit the flora and fauna who call Grand Lake Stream home, including the moose, white-tailed deer, black bears, bobcats,

180 species of birds, native landlocked salmon, brook trout, and smallmouth bass. Forest protection is also appreciated by members of the community and visitors who visit the forest to hike, camp, swim and participate in other recreational activities.

"The Finite Carbon – Lyme Grand Lake Stream IFM Project protects the ecological vitality of the forest, promotes native species and mixed age growth in the forest, and increases the carbon storage functionality of the forest significantly," stated Peter Stein, a Managing Director of The Lyme Timber Company. "We are proud to be part of a project that will enhance carbon storage and preserve forest values for generations."

The sale of carbon offsets helped the Downeast Lakes Land Trust purchase the 22,000-acre property from Lyme Timber in July 2016. The acquisition was completed as part of an eight-year, $19.4 million campaign and helps fulfill a broader community-led effort to conserve 370,000 acres in the Downeast Lakes region.

Carbon offsets enabled a small, rural community land trust to conserve a large amount of land, protecting it from fragmentation and conversion to other uses. The project guarantees environmental benefits while creating a revenue stream for conservatively managed timberlands.

Members of the community are supportive of the project as the improved management of timberlands preserves forestland for future generations and supports a sustainable forest products economy. The project illustrates how a small group of people can have tremendous power and impact in addressing climate change.

This is the second carbon offset project involving the Downeast Lakes Land Trust. In 2013, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) issued nearly 200,000 offset credits on a 19,118 acre parcel within the community forest, which was the first issuance of compliance forestry offsets for the California emissions trading program.

New Trail Opens In The Downeast Lakes Community Forest!

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust recently celebrated the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend with a group hike along a newly-created trail in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. A group from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) built the trail this summer, along with clearing brush on other DLLT trails. Beginning near the historic Grand Lake Stream fire tower, the "Tower Hill Trail" meanders through mixed woodlands, travels up and over a hardwood ridge, and ends at Bonney Brook Road. The trail is an "out-and-back" trail, measuring 1.1 miles each way.

Parking for this trail is located at the Grand Lake Stream Dam. Hikers can cross the dam and follow the snowmobile trail east to the Grand Lake Stream fire tower. The trailhead is on the right, after passing the tower. In the future, DLLT plans to extend the Tower Hill Trail to create a loop that will include the shoreline of Bonney Brook Lake.

"The Tower Hill Trail explores a beautiful stretch of woods that is very accessible from Grand Lake Stream," said DLLT Education and Outreach Manager Colin Brown. "Opening this trail gives residents and visitors another option for great hiking in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest."

DLLT maintains several hiking trails in the Downeast Lakes Community Forest. For more information about the Tower Hill Trail or others, please contact DLLT at (207) 796 – 2100 or email cbrown@downeastlakes.org.

Upcoming Programs

October 26 - Maine Forest Insects

Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) is pleased to host Maine DACF's Allison Kanoti for an exciting presentation that explores the important roles that various insects play in the Maine woods. Kanoti, a forest entomologist, presents "Aliens and Superheroes of the Forest Insect World." In honor of Halloween – Be prepared to be creeped out, frightened and amazed by the forest insect world around us. Tales of body snatching, alien terrors for trees, and the superheroes of the forest await you! Meet at the Grand Lake Stream School Building at 6 pm. 1 credit hour will be offered for qualifying certifications. For more information, please contact DLLT at (207) 796 – 2100 or email cbrown@downeastlakes.org.

November 27 - Evergreen Extravaganza

On Sunday, November 27, join Downeast Lakes Land Trust (DLLT) staff and volunteers as we celebrate the start of the holiday season with an Evergreen Extravaganza! The Grand Lake Stream School Building will be transformed into an early winter wonderland of crafts, delicious treats, children's activities, and more. Self-guided stations will be set up to create your own wreaths, sprays, and other balsam holiday decorations. This event is free and all ages are welcome. Meet at the GLS School Building from 1 – 4 pm. For more

information, please contact DLLT at (207) 796 – 2100 or email cbrown@downeastlakes.org.

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