



Public Briefing Paper for
FSC® Forest Management Certification Re-Assessment of
Downeast Lakes Land Trust
in
Grand Lake Stream, Maine, USA
April 15th, 2022

Introduction – Preferred by Nature is conducting Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) Forest Management and Chain of Custody certification re-assessments of Downeast Lakes Land Trust with an office located in Grand Lake Stream, Maine. Downeast Lakes Land Trust has been certified by Preferred by Nature (formerly NEPCo) since October 16th, 2007 (NC-FM/COC-002682). The re-assessment includes forests in Maine totaling approximately 23,352 hectares. The re-assessment will begin on June 15th, 2022.

Scope of the Certification Re-Assessment – The forest management certification re-assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural, and socioeconomic aspects of the certified forests managed by Downeast Lakes Land Trust, using the *FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.1)*. To obtain a copy of these guidelines, please visit the FSC-US website (at <https://us.fsc.org/en-us/certification/forest-management-certification>) or contact Preferred by Nature directly by telephone or e-mail as listed below. Preferred by Nature is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®)¹ and this re-assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

Re-Assessment Team – The re-assessment will be conducted by:

- Charles Levesque, Lead Auditor, Forestry

Re-assessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Re-assessment organization – The Preferred by Nature auditors and Downeast Lakes Land Trust staff will meet at the Downeast Lakes Land Trust's office in Grand Lake Stream, ME on June 15th.
- ◆ Field assessments – The auditors will visit the two properties managed by Downeast Lakes Land Trust that are included in the scope of the certificate from June 15th-17th, 2022.
- ◆ Re-assessment briefing – Prior to departure, the auditors will meet with Downeast Lakes Land Trust managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – The auditors will conduct interviews with stakeholders prior to, during, and after the re-assessment.
- ◆ Draft report production – The auditors will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Downeast Lakes Land Trust. This should occur 45 days after completion of the re-assessment field work.

¹ FSC® A000535

- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Downeast Lakes Land Trust and other general stakeholder comments, Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by October 15th, 2022.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification re-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Downeast Lakes Land Trust’s forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the re-assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the re-assessment, during the re-assessment, or prior to June 24th so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows:

1. Meet with the Preferred by Nature auditor during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Carolyn Loeb, the Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating this certification re-assessment.
3. Submit written comments by mail or email to Carolyn Loeb. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of auditing Downeast Lakes Land Trust as described in this briefing.

Contacting Preferred by Nature

Carolyn Loeb, Forestry Specialist at Preferred by Nature

- ◆ Email: cloeb@preferredbynature.org
- ◆ Website: www.preferredbynature.org
- ◆ Telephone: 802-829-3306
- ◆ Mailing address: P.O. Box 99, Richmond, VT 05477, USA

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential and will be available to only the FSC and Preferred by Nature staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access Preferred by Nature’s Complaints, Appeals and Dispute resolution procedures at <https://preferredbynature.org/certification/fsc/complaints-and-resolutions>.