

# East Grand-Weston Forest Legacy Project



A Proposal to the Maine Forest Legacy Program

Submitted by The Conservation Fund

June 16, 2014

THE  
CONSERVATION FUND

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June 16, 2014

Maine Forest Legacy Committee  
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry  
State House Station #22  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Committee Members:

I am pleased to submit the enclosed application for the East Grand – Weston Forest Legacy Project to Maine’s Forest Legacy Committee.

The East Grand – Weston project will conserve 4,504 acres of productive forestland and 23.7 miles of undeveloped shorefront on four lakes through a working forest conservation easement. This is the second project of the two-phase East Grand Watershed Initiative that will protect 12,021 acres and over 30 miles of shoreline in the East Grand Lake region on the international border of eastern Maine and New Brunswick, Canada.

A conservation outcome for these lands will secure productive and sustainably managed forestlands, expand recreational resources, and protect important wildlife habitat – all important economic drivers for the East Grand regional economy.

The project builds upon significant accomplishments and investment by the Forest Legacy Program and is located within a broader landscape of over 1.4 million acres of conserved lands in the US and Canada.

I appreciate your consideration of this Forest Legacy proposal and look forward to continued partnership.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke above the name.

Tom Brown Boutureira  
New England Field Representative

**A. Maine Forest Legacy Program Summary Information Form**

*Date: June 16, 2014*

*Project Title: East Grand-Weston Forest Legacy Project*

*Project Location (township and county): Weston, Aroostook County*

*Name, Address, Telephone Number and Contact Person of Landowner:*

New Forest Fund IV, LLC.  
c/o The Conservation Fund  
1655 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1300  
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3199  
Phone: (703) 525-6300  
Contact: Lawrence Selzer

*Name, Address and Telephone Number and Contact Person of Partner Organization:*

The Conservation Fund  
PO Box 931  
Machias, Maine 04654  
Phone: (207) 255-1478  
Contact: Tom Boutureira

*Land Protection Method (easement or fee) and Management Entity Proposed:*

The land will be conserved through a working forest conservation easement to be held by the State of Maine's Bureau of Parks & Lands.

*Abstract of Project:*

The East Grand-Weston Forest Legacy Project (the Project) will protect 4,504 acres of productive forestland directly on the international border of eastern Maine and New Brunswick, Canada. The Project will protect over 23.7 miles of shoreline on East Grand Lake, Deering Lake, Bracket Lake and Sucker Lake, Class A headwaters of the St. Croix International Waterway. The State of Maine's Bureau of Parks & Lands (BPL) will hold a working forest conservation easement on all 4,504 acres associated with the Project.

The Project is part of a larger, two-phase East Grand Watershed Initiative that will conserve 12,021 acres of high value forestlands and over 30 miles of undeveloped shoreline. In FY'13, Phase I of the Project received \$1.8 million in Forest Legacy Funding for 7,526 acres of fee and easement lands in the adjacent Town of Orient. The Project connects to 91,300 acres of prior Forest Legacy investments totaling \$18.3 million: Nicaous Lake (FY'00 - completed); Machias I & II (FY'04, '06 - completed); Lower Penobscot (FY'07, '08 - completed); West Grand Lake (FY'11 - completed) and East Grand/Orient (FY'13 - funded). The Project is contiguous to a remarkable 1.4 million acres of conserved forested landscape spanning both sides of the international border. The Project lands constitute the most significant view from Maine's Million Dollar View Scenic Byway and will conserve key cultural resources important to the federally recognized Passamaquoddy Tribe.

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$9,626,000.00

Total Acquisition cost: \$9,485,000.00

Total Pre-acquisition costs: \$ 141,000.00

Total Forest Legacy Funding Request: \$6,550,000.00

FY16 FLP Funding Request: \$4,750,000.00

Matching Funds to be provided (\$ and source) (must equal at least 25% of the Total Project Cost):  
 Matching Funds for the Total Project equal 32% (\$3,076,000.00) and are of non-federal origin.  
 Sources include the Land for Maine's Future Program, private contributions, and foundation grants.

Annual Management Costs and Easement Stewardship Endowment Commitment:

The annual stewardship cost for the East Grand Watershed Initiative is estimated at \$4,000 which requires a stewardship endowment of \$100,000. The Conservation Fund is committed to raising those stewardship funds as part of the larger project fundraising.

Tract Name	Project Phase	Town	Fee or CE	Size (acres)	Tract Cost	Pre-Acquisition Costs	FLP Funding	Non-Fed Cost Share	Status
Monument Brook (I)	Phase I	Orient	Fee	6,076	\$3,035,000.00	\$ 76,000.00	\$ 1,230,000.00	\$1,881,000.00	FY13 Funded
Million Dollar View (I)	Phase I	Orient	CE	1,450	\$ 570,000.00		\$ 570,000.00		FY13 Funded
Million Dollar View (II)	Phase II	Weston	CE	3,523	\$5,200,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 4,180,000.00	\$1,195,000.00	Proposed FY16
Meetinghouse Point (II)	Phase II	Weston	CE	981	\$ 680,000.00		\$ 570,000.00		Proposed FY16
				12,030	\$9,485,000.00		\$ 6,550,000.00	\$3,076,000.00	
							\$	9,626,000.00	
							<b>Overall Cost Share %</b>		
							68%	32%	




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Applicant Signature

**B. Maine Forest Legacy Program  
Minimum Required Criteria**

**1. *Parcels must be within Maine's Forest Legacy Area.***

The Project parcels are located in the town of Weston (Aroostook County), which is included in Maine's Forest Legacy Program area.

**2. *More than 50% of land must meet definition of commercial forest land (land used primarily for growth of trees to be harvested for commercial use, but does not include ledge, marsh, open swamp, bog, water and similar areas, which are unsuitable for growing a forest product or for harvesting for commercial use even though these areas may exist within forest lands).***

The East Grand-Weston Project is made up of two parcels. The Million Dollar View/Weston Forest totals 3,523 acres and is 94% operable as commercial forestland. The Meetinghouse Point/Weston Forest totals 981 acres is 88% operable as commercial forestland.

**3. *Parcels must be threatened by conversion to non-forest use (contain characteristics making it attractive to changes so that traditional uses are at risk such as: close proximity to public roads and/or utilities; short travel time from population centers; existence of scenic values and water resources such as streams/rivers/ponds/lakes; or presence of outdoor recreation opportunities). It is recognized that pre-acquisition of land may occur by a land protection partner at the request of the State as part of the land protection strategy for particular parcels. In this case, the parcels must have been threatened by conversion to non-forest use prior to pre-acquisition to meet the Minimum Required Criteria for Maine's Forest Legacy Program.***

Maine's Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) and The Conservation Fund (TCF) had the mutual understanding that pre-acquisition of the 12,021 East Grand lands was necessary to secure a conservation outcome. TCF's engagement in this Project literally bought time, but its pre-acquisition and transitional ownership do not constitute permanent protection. Prior to TCF's purchase, the lands were owned by a Timber Investment Management Organization and were on the open market and at risk of conversion to non-forest use, liquidation harvesting and/or subdivision for development. Three individuals representing private and corporate interests were actively pursuing purchase of significant forested and shorefront acreage. An extensive woods road system and inholdings at Dark Cove, Little River Cove, Cedar Point and Davenport Point provide ample opportunity for access and utilities. These existing amenities as well as the gentle terrain of the property would allow for expanded road and infrastructure development to serve extensive lakefront and lake view homes, second homes, or resort development. Lakefront adjacent to existing development, directly accessible to US Route 1, and served by existing road and utilities is particularly susceptible to conversion to non-forest use.

**4. *Proposed holder of right, title, or interest in parcel must be among those cited in Maine's Statewide Forest Resource Assessment.***

The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands will hold conservation easements on the full 3,523 acres at Million Dollar View - Weston and the full 981 acres on Meetinghouse Point.

**5. *To the extent that it has the legal authority to do so, the landowner must guarantee unencumbered foot access to the parcels.***

The landowner will provide unencumbered foot access to the parcels on all 4,504 acres of easement lands.

**6. Landowner must guarantee access on the parcels for non-motorized recreational uses.**  
The landowner will guarantee public access on all acreage for non-motorized recreational uses, including hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, and wildlife watching.

**7. Proposal must meet Forest Legacy Program match requirements (the Forest Legacy Program will pay no more than 75% of the total project costs).**

At least 25% of the total project cost in the form of non-federal match will be provided.

**C. Maine Forest Legacy Program Scoring Criteria  
(for applications that meet Minimum Required Criteria)**

Maximum Total Points: 110

**IMPORTANCE CRITERIA (30 points maximum):**

**1. Identify total size of project (0 pts if < 10,000 Acres; 5 pts if >10,000 Acres):**

The East Grand Watershed Initiative is a two-phase project totaling 12,021 acres.

The East Grand-Weston Forest Legacy Project is the second phase and consists of two parcels totaling 4,504 acres and 23.7 miles of undeveloped shoreline on four lakes:

1. Million Dollar View – Weston (3523 acres); and
2. Meetinghouse Point (981 acres).

**2. Describe to what extent the project contains each public value (1 pt for each public value significantly represented by the project; 0 additional pts if project is of primarily regional significance; 4 additional pts if project is of state significance; 8 additional pts if project is of national significance):**

**a. Economic benefits from timber and potential forest productivity**

The Project lands have been under continuous forest management for over 100 years. They have achieved dual-certification through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The Project lands supply forest products to local mills for international, national and regional markets and provide one year-round job managing the forest and 3-5 part-time jobs for operations annually.

The Project lands are managed primarily for forest products and average 14.12 cords/acre with a conservative average growth rate of 1/3 cord per year. The forest products industry employs 3,500 workers in Aroostook and Washington counties in timber harvesting, lumber mills, biomass plants, trucking and railroad transport, and equipment sales for a combined value of \$26 million annually. The Project lands serve four regional mills which employ over 2,000 people in three Maine counties: Woodland Pulp & Paper (paper pulp to China); Lincoln Paper & Tissue (national specialty paper); Old Town Fuel & Fiber (national pulp and biofuel); and J.M. Huber (construction board).

Fertile soils (Thorndike, Howland and Burnham types), adjacency to other large timberland tracts, good interior road systems, and proximity to U.S. Route 1 provide the infrastructure and conditions for the Project lands to remain as productive, sustainable forests that will continue to provide economic benefits to local residents.

**b. Economic benefits from non-timber products**

The St. Croix is a Canadian Heritage River, attracting large numbers of US and Canadian canoeists and kayakers to the region. The Project protects 23.7 miles on five lakes in the upper St. Croix River watershed, a tourist destination for decades. It includes 18 miles on East Grand Lake alone which accounts for the highest number of angler-days per year: 36,000 out of 75,000 in the entire watershed. Recreation is second to wood harvesting and processing as the St. Croix watershed's most important natural resource-based industry.

The St. Croix region represents Maine's highest density of employment in sporting camps and guiding businesses, bringing in \$5.45 million annually to the regional economy. Those businesses create a trickle down economy that generates valuable state and federal tax revenues from sales of fishing tackle, fuel, licenses, food and seasonal and year-round accommodations. Snowmobiling has

allowed the region to expand into a year-round outdoor recreation destination. The Project lands are part of the broader MATS 101 and ITS 105 motorized recreational trail systems.

The recreational sporting economy for guiding, fishing and hunting is augmented by these forestlands being well managed and open to the public. The shoreline of the Project lands has historically been used by guides for camping, picnicking and swimming and the St. Croix International Waterway Commission maintains one official campsite on the project lands on Norway Point. The Project will add water access recreational sites to Work Point, Birch Point, and Meetinghouse Point in consultation with the Waterway Commission and local guides.

Maine's Million Dollar View Scenic Byway – recognized by Congress in the National Scenic Byways Program of the Federal Highway Administration – spans 8 miles (with over 7.5 miles located in Weston) along the height of land on U.S. Route 1. The Project area provides the dominant view of from the Million Dollar View Scenic Byway for 4.5 miles. As one indication of tourist interest in the Project area, a visitor log book at the Million Dollar View Scenic Byway's lookout had 2,300 entries in one month, with visitors from 30 states, 6 Canadian Provinces, and 6 foreign countries.

For the past 100 years, local residents have been using the Project lands for tipping fir boughs for wreath making as an important seasonal economic activity along with brown ash harvesting by Native American basket makers.

### ***c. Public recreation opportunities***

Public recreation on the Project lands includes hunting, fishing, trapping, snowshoeing and other pedestrian uses, in addition to boating, wildlife observation, snowmobiling, and ATV use. Throughout historical industrial ownership of these forestlands, public access has been a customary granted privilege. Securing these access privileges as a *right* through conservation easements is a primary objective of this Project.

Through organized forums and outreach, the local communities have expressed a desire to expand recreational infrastructure to provide new opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism. As a result, TCF is working with the local schools to engage students in the mapping and layout of trails, and day-use sites on the Project parcels in coordination with the St. Croix International Waterway Commission and local guides.

The St. Croix International Waterway is a bi-country cooperative venture to protect and jointly manage the St. Croix River which is designated as a Canadian Heritage River and is one of Maine's twenty designated Outstanding Rivers. East Grand Lake – at the northern reaches of the St. Croix waterway – is home to one official recreational site (Norway Point) on the US side while the Canadian side hosts six sites. Recreational use increased by 120% between 1990 and 2007 based on St. Croix International Waterway Commission surveys. The Project seeks to ensure access from the water on East Grand Lake and to restore the take out sites at Work Point, Birch Point, and Meetinghouse Point and cooperatively manage these with the St Croix International Waterway Commission to boost Maine's offerings in the Waterway.

The Project lands also provide important connector trails linked with the MATS 101 and ITS 105 motorized trail systems which help support a year-round motorized recreational tourism economy.

***d. High-value plant and animal habitat as identified by state, regional, or federal programs:***

The Project area conserves international breeding habitat and wildlife travel corridors for the U.S. Federally Threatened Canada Lynx. The regional Enfield office of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife received numerous local lynx siting reports in 2013 and 2014 by local residents and confirmed existence of lynx in the Project area. Additionally, the lands are suitable habitat for the U.S. Federally Endangered Eastern Cougar and Gray Wolf should they repopulate.

The Project lands provide important habitat for 34 of 91 USFWS priority trust species. For 13 of those 34 species, the Project lands provide particularly high value habitat in comparison with the rest of the Gulf of Maine watershed.

The St. Croix International Waterway Commission and Maine Department of Marine Resources have surveyed 29,620 Atlantic salmon habitat units (suitable spawning and rearing habitat) in the St. Croix River watershed. The St. Croix River is also one of four original landlocked salmon watersheds in Maine.

In April 2013, the State of Maine passed legislation to remove barriers in fish ways to allow sea-run alewives – a Species of Concern by the National Marine Fisheries Service – to migrate upriver with full access to the St. Croix River. In addition to their recreational value, alewives are a native species in the watershed and are a food source for Ospreys, Cormorants, Bald Eagles and Great Blue Herons – the latter two being state listed Species of Concern. In addition, alewives are a critical component to rebuilding and sustaining a ground fishery in the international waters of the Gulf of Maine.

The premier cold water fishery in East Grand Lake supports an abundance of Landlocked Salmon, Lake Trout (Togue) and Brook Trout, all identified in Maine & nationally as Species of Greatest Conservation Need. East Grand Lake has a population of Eastern Brook Floaters, a fresh water mussel Species of Concern for the State of Maine.

According to the Maine Aquatics Database, Deering Lake has a 98% native fishery and Brackett Lakes has a 93% native fishery. Sucker Lake has 100% native fish species (warm water), has never been stocked, and the outlet stream and lake provide habitat for smelt – an extremely valuable forage fish that is a principal food source for a variety of Maine's sport fish. It is well documented that the overall health and quality of Maine's landlocked salmon fisheries are largely dependent on smelt population abundance.

Black Ducks are an International Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the U.S. and Canada and the Bald Eagle is a Threatened Species in Maine. The Project area is adjacent to Bald Eagle nests and the lands provide critical core habitat for both species.

There are two MEDIFW significant waterfowl and wading bird habitats in the Project area. Located along the outlet and stream at Sucker Lake is an important sedge meadow, grassy shrub marsh and cedar swamp encompassing 49 acres of high-value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat. A second 31-acre site defined by its grassy shrub marsh and fen borders the south end of Davenport Cove.

The Project is located near a 3,375 acre Deer Wintering Area (DWA #100231) located in the towns of Orient and Amity with 1,752 acres located at Monument Brook in Orient to be held and managed by BPL as part of Phase I of the East Grand Watershed Initiative. Protection of associated habitat and travel corridor in the Project area will ensure the DWA's protection and

long term viability for the white tailed deer herd. The Project area will extend and conserve a corridor of undeveloped habitat spanning from the Canadian side of the border southward into northern Washington County.

***e. Water supply and watershed protection, and/or containing important riparian areas, wetlands, shorelines, or river systems***

The Project lands include the northern headwaters of the 1,649 square mile St. Croix River watershed which straddles both countries and is the largest freshwater source for Passamaquoddy Bay. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) considers East Grand Lake of high water quality.

Water quality in the lakes and streams of the upper watershed (throughout the Project area) is rated Class A by the Province of New Brunswick and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Class A waters are suitable for drinking water and for fishing, recreation in or around the water, and as habitat for fish and other aquatic life. No discharges to these waters are allowed that have a quality lower than the receiving waters. Water quality is essential for continuing a vibrant sport fishing and guiding industry in the region.

The East Grand-Weston Project contains a total of 23.7 miles of undeveloped shoreline on East Grand Lake (18 mi.), Deering Lake (2.10 mi.), Brackett Lake (2.55 mi.), and Sucker Lake (1.05 mi.).

Roy Bouchard of MDEP notes that the greatest method of maintaining water quality in a watershed is through conservation of lakeshore. Protecting these lakes and waterways from new development will prevent water quality degradation in the future. Bouchard also observes that water quality has a direct affect on maintaining strong property values, a viable fishery and related tourism.

***f. Scenic resources***

Maine's Million Dollar View Scenic Byway – recognized by Congress in the National Scenic Byways Program of the Federal Highway Administration – spans 8 miles (with over 7.5 miles located in Weston) along the height of land on U.S. Route 1 and offers breathtaking views of the Project area and the mountainous region of western New Brunswick, Canada. The Byway provides a significant wildlife viewing area for the moose, birds, bear, and deer common to this region of the state.

In June 2011, interpretive signage was installed by the Northern Maine Development Commission in cooperation with the Maine Department of Transportation at two scenic lookouts along the Scenic Byway in Weston. The signage focuses on the history of timber and sporting camps and notes community milestones and local landmarks. The Scenic Byway looks east over farmland and the forested shores of the Project lands, the length of East Grand, Brackett, and Deering Lakes and the hills of western New Brunswick. To the west, it affords stunning views of Mount Katahdin.

The views from the water on East Grand Lake, Deering Lake, Brackett Lake and Sucker Lake are notable as well. The undeveloped shorelines of the lakes, pocket beaches, coves and wetlands offer unparalleled views prized by all those who venture onto the water.

***g. Historic/cultural/tribal resources of significance as formally documented by a government agency or nongovernmental organization.***

Continuous settlement in the upper St. Croix watershed dates back at least 10,000 years. The local Passamaquoddy Tribe has lived here for hundreds of years. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Passamaquoddy Tribal Historian have documented one Native American site on the Project property (#125.006) where stone tool fragments were found. Additionally, an

historic Native American canoe route connecting three major watersheds – the St. John, St. Croix, and Penobscot – traverses the Project area. The Maliseet Water Route was a main thoroughfare connecting the Penobscot River, Mattawamkeag River, and Baskahegan Stream to East Grand Lake. The water route then continued south via the St. Croix River to Cobscook Bay and Greater Machias Bay or north to the St. John River. In addition, Native American basket makers have historically harvested brown ash in the East Grand Watershed Initiative area.

**3. Describe access to the project for recreational purposes: (0 pts if foot access to the parcel is not being guaranteed and/or vehicle access to project will not be available; 5 pts if foot access to the parcel is being guaranteed and vehicle access to the project will be available; scoring will recognize that vehicle access to certain lands such as high elevation parcels may not be appropriate).**

Foot access to the parcel will be guaranteed and vehicle access to the property will be available. Water access to the traditional camping and picnic sites located on the property will also be guaranteed. Winter access includes local snowmobile trails that traverse the Project lands.

**4. Describe the future forest management objectives, what entity will be responsible for future forest management and how the property will be sustainably managed to protect the values identified in #2. Scoring is based upon the degree to which future forest management will be consistent with the Land for Maine's Future Program's most current policy for working forest easements: (0 pts if not consistent; 5 pts if highly consistent).**

The working forest conservation easement will follow the template developed by the Land for Maine's Future Program and will require that the fee owner prepare a comprehensive multi-resource forest management plan. Conservation easement provisions will mandate a healthy, sustainable forest that improves stocking over time and protects the values identified in #2 above. Currently the lands are managed in accordance with dual-certification through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

**THREATENED CRITERION (20 Points Maximum)**

**5. Describe the extent to which the values identified in #2 are under threat of loss or conversion to non-forest uses (or were under threat prior to pre-acquisition). Describe the type, severity and imminence of the threat. Include a description of any legal protections that currently exist on the property; landowner circumstances; adjacent land use; and physical attributes of the parcel that could facilitate conversion: (5 pts if threat of loss or conversion is low; 10 pts if threat of loss or conversion is moderate; 20 pts if threat of loss or conversion is high).**

In recent years there has been a trend toward declining year-round population in the St. Croix River watershed's municipalities as residents move to unincorporated and waterfront areas (Sochasky 2008). The 2010 census illustrates this point with a decline in population in the nearby service center of Houlton (-5.5%) and increases in Amity (+19.6%), Orient (+1.4%), and Weston (+12.3%) – towns within the Project area. According to the Town Office in Weston eight new building permits for shorefront development were issued on East Grand Lake since 2012.

The Project is in a region that includes watersheds projected to experience the greatest increases in housing density on U.S. private forests by 2030 (White & Mazza, 2008). Available shorefront properties in the area have been highly desirable and quickly developed, primarily for second homes.

Maine's Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) and The Conservation Fund (TCF) had the mutual understanding that pre-acquisition of the 12,021 East Grand lands was necessary to secure a conservation outcome. When TCF purchased the holding in December 2011 it literally bought time but its pre-acquisition and transitional ownership do not constitute permanent protection. Prior to TCF's purchase, the lands were owned by a Timber Investment Management Organization and were on the open market and at risk of conversion to non-forest use, liquidation harvesting and/or subdivision for development. Three individuals representing private and corporate interests were actively pursuing purchase of significant forested and shorefront acreage.

While the property appears remote it is easily accessible. A one hour flight to Bangor, Maine accesses the northeast urban concentration of Boston and New York City. Bangor is 100 miles south of the property. There are also two Canadian border crossings within 15 miles of the Project.

Legal Protections: There are no deed, donor or organizational restrictions or other encumbrances that would prohibit future development of the property. TCF's pre-acquisition of the 12,021 acres provided the necessary time to secure a conservation outcome but its transitional ownership does not constitute permanent protection.

Landowner Circumstances: The Conservation Fund, through its New Forest Fund, LLC, was able to deploy capital to pre-acquire the parcels and act as an interim landowner while securing a conservation outcome. This is dependent on raising the necessary Forest Legacy funds to place a working forest conservation easement on the parcels to be held by the State of Maine. Inability to do so would force TCF to place the unencumbered properties back on the open market to recoup its capital investment.

Adjacent Land Use: There are inholdings along Dark Cove, Little River Cove, Cedar Point, and Davenport Point within the Project area. The camps and homes are accessed by a road system that either crosses or fringes the Project lands, and utilities are accessed across the property from US Route 1. The Project area is vulnerable to extensive development under existing Maine zoning and laws.

Physical Attributes of Parcel: The terrain and soils of the property would easily allow for expanded road, utility and infrastructure improvements for expanded lakefront and lake view homes, second homes, or resort development. The Project lands boast 4,504 acres with 23.7 miles of lakefront adjacent to existing development, directly accessible to US Route 1, and served by existing road and utilities, making them highly susceptible to conversion to non-forest use.

**STRATEGIC CRITERION (30 points maximum)**

***6. Describe the property's relevance or relationship to conservation efforts on a broader level. Describe the scale of the broader conservation plan, the scale of the project's contribution to that plan, and the placement of the project within the plan area. Describe whether the project is adjacent to or otherwise located so as to significantly enhance the values of existing conservation land. (0 pts if property is not part of a broader conservation plan; 15 pts if the property makes a modest contribution to a conservation effort and is near already protected lands; 30 pts if the property significantly advances a landscape scale or watershed-based conservation strategy through infill and/or key linkages and supports previous conservation investments.)***

International: The St. Croix International Waterway and Commission were created through legislation and a memorandum of understanding between the Province of New Brunswick and the

State of Maine, establishing international goals and policies for management that seek to preserve and celebrate a corridor heritage, maintain ecological integrity and support the region's resource-based economy. The Project fulfills critical components of this major international management plan to protect the economies, forests, ecology, and recreational resources and promote visionary planning for the St. Croix River boundary corridor.

National: The U.S. Department of the Interior's America's Great Outdoors Initiative (AGO) highlights Maine's "Keeping Maine's Forests" Initiative which prioritizes the Downeast Lakes Region of which this Project area is a part. The goals are citizen driven forest conservation with economic, ecological, recreational, and tribal benefits. The Project's partnership with the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands, Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Passamaquoddy Tribe and local stakeholders fulfills the AGO's mission by conserving 4,504 acres (as part of the larger 12,021-acre East Grand Watershed Initiative) of working forest, protecting natural and cultural resources, and guaranteeing public access and uses.

The Project fulfills the mission of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, to protect, restore and enhance marine and freshwater fish populations. The Project fulfills the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife's priorities to protect habitat for Endangered Atlantic Salmon, Wild Brook Trout and other freshwater fisheries and to protect the headwaters of the St. Croix River and watershed of East Grand Lake.

Lands of tribal importance to the federally recognized Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Tribes are linked by this Project. Conserved tribal lands to the southeast are accessed by the historic Maliseet Native American canoe route connecting three major watersheds--the St. John, St. Croix, and Penobscot. The trail traverses the Project area from Monument Brook south across East Grand Lake. The conservation of the Project lands protects the headwaters of this historic canoe route and one Passamaquoddy archaeological site.

The Northern Border Regional Commission, authorized in the 2008 USDA Farm Bill, identified the Northern Forest region as a model for sustainable development in economically distressed areas. Aroostook County, Maine is specifically included in this program. Through strong local engagement, the Project is generating community led economic initiatives in the region involving tourism and agriculture, recreational planning, job training programs with the schools, and support of regional healthcare initiatives.

Regional: The Northern Forest Sustainable Economy Initiative, developed in 2008 by the Northern Forest Center, seeks to "keep the forests, forests!". Primary program goals to protect and enhance economic and ecological services derived from the forested landscape are served by the Project's conservation of working forest, public access, dual 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification and ancillary ecological benefits of water quality and wildlife habitat protection.

State: Maine's Forest Action Plan of June 2010 focuses on maintaining a sustainably managed, economically viable working forest land base. The Project is structured to meet the Plan's critical goals of preventing forest conversion and fragmentation, supporting rural economies and Maine's forest products industry, and providing large contiguous habitats needed to allow species to adapt to a changing climate.

A strong partnership with Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MEDIFW) is ensuring that the State Wildlife Action Plan's Species of Greatest Conservation Need are protected through the tailored management of these lands. This is accomplished through the Project's dual 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification and through management consultation with the regional office of MEDIFW.

**Complementary Protected Lands:** The Project's international scope builds key landscape and watershed scale linkages. Project lands connect to 342,000 additional acres of Maine conservation land, as well as 394,000 acres of Canadian Crown Lands, by way of the St. Croix River International Waterway and Penobscot River watershed.

The East Grand-Weston Project serves as a link within 1.4 million acres of land already conserved in this trans-national region. The Project is a keystone in a network of lands that provide connectivity for working forest lands and a forest based economy, water resource protection, preservation of wildlife habitat and travel corridors, and recreational and tourist opportunities across the international border on the St. Croix International Waterway between the United States and New Brunswick, Canada.

The East Grand-Weston Project connects to 91,300 acres of prior Forest Legacy investments totaling \$18.3 million: Niatous Lake (FY00 - completed); Machias I & II (FY04, 06 - completed); Lower Penobscot (FY07, 08 - completed); West Grand Lake (FY11 - completed) and East Grand/Orient (FY13 - funded). The Project is Phase II of the larger two-phase 12,200-acre East Grand Watershed Initiative that will protect over 30 miles of unprotected shoreline on East Grand Lake, Longley Lake, Deering Lake, Brackett Lake and Sucker Lake. It will also protect 1,752 acres of Deer Wintering Area (DWA 100231) located in Orient.

The Project area is part of the 110-mile long St. Croix River watershed, much of which is permanently protected. Critical habitat for Federally Endangered Atlantic Salmon is identified on the East Grand Watershed Initiative lands and noted in the Federal Register. The salmon habitat will be protected with State ownership of 6,076 acres as part of Phase I: East Grand/Orient that includes headwaters of the Penobscot River. The Penobscot boasts the highest returning population of Federally Endangered Atlantic Salmon of any river in Maine, and is the focus of a national restoration initiative.

**READINESS FACTORS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: (30 points maximum)**

***7. Describe the degree of match being provided as a percentage of the Total Project Cost (the Total Project Cost is the sum of acquisition and pre-acquisition costs, but does not include stewardship endowment; do not include funds raised for stewardship endowment as match): (0 pts. if percent match is <50%; 5 pts. if percent match is 50% or greater)***

At least 25% but less than 50% of the total project cost will be provided in the form of non-federal match.

***8. Describe the degree of project readiness including the status of each of the following:***

***a. Preliminary appraisal***

The preliminary appraisal was completed in March 2014.

***b. Agreement on easement or fee acquisition conditions between landowner and state***

The Conservation Fund and the State of Maine are in agreement on the easement conditions which will be guided by the working forest easement template established by the Land for Maine's Future Program.

***c. Cost-share commitment has been obtained from a specified source:***

The Conservation Fund will cover necessary costs not covered by administrative funds through private donations and grants.

**d. Signed option or purchase and sales agreement is held by the state or at the request of the state**

The Conservation Fund pre-acquired the full 12,021 acres of Phase I and Phase II lands from Typhoon LLC on December 12, 2011 and holds the land in fee simple ownership. TCF and BPL had the mutual understanding that pre-acquisition of the 12,021 East Grand lands was needed to secure a conservation outcome. TCF's pre-acquisition and transitional ownership do not constitute permanent protection.

**e. Title search is completed**

A title search was completed when TCF purchased the lands from the prior owner. An updated title commitment is complete for the Phase I: East Grand/Orient Forest lands. Title will need to be updated for the East Grant-Weston lands prior to conveying the easement to BPL.

**f. Minerals determination is completed**

Yes. Mineral rights remain with the fee simple title of the Project lands.

**g. Stewardship plan or multi-resource management plan is completed**

Current management is guided by a multi-resource management plan. The Project lands are dual-certified by SFI and FSC.

(1 pt for each readiness factor completed, up to 5 pts maximum).

**9. Describe the nature of ongoing management and stewardship of the fee or easement parcel. If fee, describe the potential for the parcel to generate revenue through timber harvesting, recreational fees, or other revenue streams directly connected to the parcel. Describe the annual management and stewardship costs of the parcel and the size of endowment needed to cover these costs using, in the case of easements, the model recommended in BPL's Monitoring Costs and Stewardship Endowment Levels for Maine Working Forest Easements <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/forestlegacy.shtml> or more recent BPL guidance, or, in the case of fee lands, most recent BPL guidance on the issue. Describe landowner or conservation partner's commitment to raise the necessary endowment. (0 pts if easement without commitment to raise full stewardship endowment; 20 pts if easement with commitment to raise full stewardship endowment; 10 pts if fee parcel with no or partial endowment commitment; 20 pts if fee parcel with commitment to raise full stewardship endowment or applicant demonstrates that land management will yield sufficient revenue, beginning at closing, to fully support land stewardship)**

The property is currently managed as working forestland and for recreation use. Property improvements including road and trail maintenance are ongoing. The Project lands are dual-certified under SFI and FSC programs. The Town of Weston seeks assistance to maintain revenue equal to the town property taxes over time and is open to a variety of strategies to do so.

The annual stewardship cost for the East Grand Watershed Initiative is estimated at \$4,000 which requires a stewardship endowment of \$100,000. TCF is committed to raising those stewardship funds as part of the larger project fundraising.

## **D. Maps of Project Area**



**East Grand Phase II - Weston - FY' 16 Forest Legacy Program**

**Legend  
Forest Legacy Projects  
(91,292 acres)**

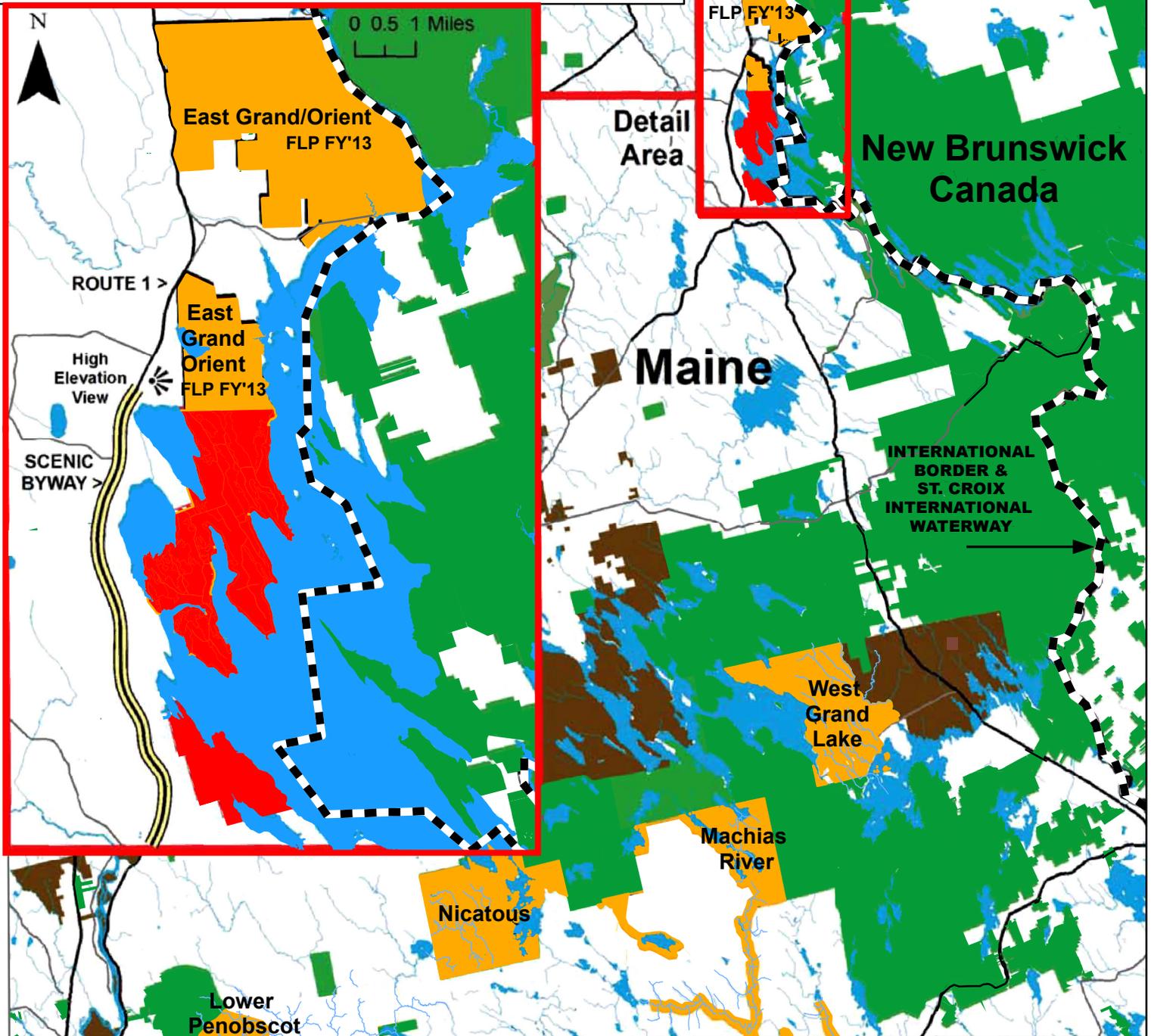
-  East Grand/Orient  
FLP FY'13 7,526 acres
-  West Grand Lake  
FLP FY'11 21,870 acres
-  Machias River  
FLP FY'04; 06 20,606 ac
-  Lower Penobscot  
FLP FY'07 17,684 acres
-  Nicatous Lake  
FLP FY'00 20,268 acres
-  Mattawamkeag Lake  
FLP FY'01 3,338 acres
-  Other Conserved Land  
Fee and Easement
-  Passamaquoddy &  
Penobscot Tribal Land

 Million Dollar View  
Scenic Byway

 International Border &  
St. Croix Intl Waterway



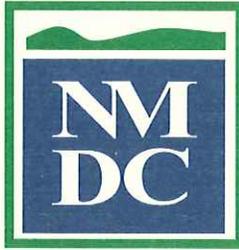
0 5 10 Miles



**E. A signed Memorandum of Understanding between the lead State agency and the lead land protection partner (NGO) which describes the extent of the NGO's commitment to raise funds for a stewardship endowment by the date of closing or an explanation of planned alternative approaches or commitments to stewardship.**

To be developed following project approval to address the entire East Grand Watershed Initiative.

## **F. Letters of Support**



## Northern Maine Development Commission

June 6, 2014

Tom Brown Boutureira  
The Conservation Fund  
PO Box 931  
Machias, Maine 04654

Dear Tom:

I am writing to express our support for the East Grand Watershed Initiative and your current application to the Forest Legacy Program for the Phase II: East Grand – Weston project.

Northern Maine Development Commission's (NMDC) mission is to serve the northern Maine region with effective regional community planning and economic development. We strive to be the driving force of economic and community development for northern Maine, motivated by the commitment, teamwork and integrity of the people at NMDC. We also value strong partnerships.

We are supportive of your approach to weave forestland conservation with economic development goals for the region. Keeping this land as productive working forest while also protecting wildlife habitat and guaranteeing public access for recreation is a key ingredient for the growth of the region.

Your work with the East Grand Schools to provide job skill training in GPS, surveying, carpentry, gardening/farming, and nutrition is welcome support and a great way to prepare our young residents to enter into higher-education or a marketable trade. Your support of the East Grand Health Center to complete their first-ever internal audit of finances and policies & procedures, Community Health Needs Assessment, and strategic plan will help that institution deliver higher-quality healthcare results.

NMDC is a key stakeholder in the development and promotion of the Million Dollar View Scenic Byway. Conservation of the East Grand Watershed Initiative lands is essential to the scenic values of the Byway and its role as an economic engine for the region. The expanded recreational opportunities afforded by your project will add amenity to the region so that we can keep visitors longer and drive more tourist dollars into the local economy which translates into more jobs.

We wish you the best of luck with your Forest Legacy Program application and hope this project is successful.

We look forward to continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Robert Clark, Executive Director



Equal Opportunity Lender/Agency

[www.nmdc.org](http://www.nmdc.org)

11 West Presque Isle Rd., PO Box 779, Caribou, ME 04736  
Voice: (207) 498-8736, Toll Free in ME: 1-800-427-8736, Fax: (207) 493-3108, TTY: (207) 498-6377

# Greater East Grand Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 159

Danforth, Maine 04424

[www.eastgrandlake.net](http://www.eastgrandlake.net) \* [info@eastgrandlake.net](mailto:info@eastgrandlake.net)

June 6, 2014

Tom Brown Boutureira  
The Conservation Fund  
PO Box 931  
Machias, Maine 04654

Dear Tom,

I am writing to express our support for the East Grand Watershed Initiative and your current application to the Forest Legacy Program for the Phase II: East Grand – Weston project. The project balances managed forestlands, wildlife conservation, community economic development, and public recreation.

The Greater East Grand Lake Area Chamber of Commerce actively promotes the scenic beauty and natural resources of our region which is a premier destination for outdoor recreation. Protection of the lakes and the surrounding forest lands will conserve fish and wildlife habitat essential to the guiding and lodge industry and support local outdoor traditions including hunting, fishing, ATV and snowmobiling, and low-impact recreation. The guarantee of public access and the expanded recreational opportunities afforded by your project will add amenity to the region so that we can keep visitors longer and drive more tourist dollars into the local economy which translates into more jobs and successful business.

Several of our Chamber members work directly in the forest products industry. We are pleased to see that a goal for these properties is for them to remain in active forest management. This will benefit the local communities who rely on well-managed forests and a sustained supply of forest products for employment. We also appreciate your commitment to community economic development and your projects with the local schools, farmers and gardeners, and the East Grand Health Center.

This balanced approach offers a great long-term solution for a region dependent on these woods and waters for livelihood and enjoyment. We look forward to the Conservation Fund working with the town of Weston to develop economic opportunities which will enhance the tax base for future generations.

We wish you the best of luck with your Forest Legacy Program application and hope this project is successful.

Sincerely,

*Heather Zakupowsky*

Heather Zakupowsky  
President, Greater East Grand Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

June 11, 2014  
Tom Boutureira  
The Conservation Fund  
P.O. Box 931  
Machias, Maine 04654

Dear Tom,

The Northern Forest Center strongly supports your application to the Forest Legacy Program for Phase II of the East Grand Watershed Initiative. The mission of the Northern Forest Center is to advocate for the Northern Forest region and help its communities benefit from forest-based economic and conservation initiatives. This project is directly on point with that mission.

The Northern Forest Center is very familiar with the project, having facilitated the New Markets Tax Credit Financing which played a key role in the acquisition of the 12,000 acre East Grand Woodlands by The Conservation Fund in December 2011. A key to the ultimate success of the project has been securing the funds for a conservation easement on the property. However that job was only partially completed by the conservation easement that was effectuated on the Orient portion of the property.

It is critical that the Phase II easement, on the Weston portion, be secured. Among other things, this will protect the great majority of the undeveloped shoreline on the East Grand Woodlands, preserve the spectacular scenic view from the Million Dollar View Scenic Byway, and protect the late-successional forest and steep granite cliffs in the Meetinghouse Point section.

The Conservation Fund is doing an impressive job in supporting a number of community initiatives, which together with the easements make the project a milestone in the combination of conservation values, economic development and community benefits.

Sincerely,



Rob Riley  
President



## St. Croix International Waterway Commission

P.O. Box 610, Calais, ME 04619 *and* P.O. Box 2, St. Stephen, NB E3L 1W9  
Tel: (506) 466-7550 Cell: (506) 467-7558 Fax: (506) 466-7551 email: staff@stcroix.org

May 22, 2014

Tom Brown Boutureira  
The Conservation Fund  
PO Box 931  
Machias, Maine 04654

Re: Forest Legacy Phase II – East Grand/Weston

Dear Tom:

It is with pleasure I write in support of the Conservation Fund's Phase II efforts on the East Grand Initiative. The St. Croix International Waterway Commission applauds the actions of the Conservation Fund, the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust, and their partners on their achievements in Phase I.

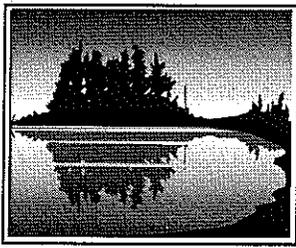
The St. Croix International Waterway Commission is responsible for the implementation of an integrated management plan for the watershed. Land conservation efforts in Maine and New Brunswick have been, and will continue to be, a critical priority in land management along the waterway. On the Maine shores of East Grand and North Lake, conserved and publicly accessible land are in short supply, particularly for wildlife habitat and human recreation.

We therefore support the Conservation Fund in its Forest Legacy efforts for Phase II conservation easement. The additional 4504 acres of land under conservation easement in East Grand will secure a lasting legacy.

The SCIWC would also like to offer its support in any capacity within its means to help see this project through to fruition.

Sincerely,

Abby Pond  
Executive Director



The Nature Trust of New Brunswick Inc.

La Fondation pour la protection  
des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick Inc.

P.O. Box 603, Stn A Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5A6

June 9, 2014

Tom Boutureira  
The Conservation Fund  
PO Box 760  
Machias, Maine 04654

Dear Tom,

I am writing on behalf of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick (NTNB) to express our support of the two-phase East Grand Watershed Initiative – a 12,000 acre project in Orient and Weston, Maine that balances managed forestlands, wildlife conservation, community economic development, and public recreation.

We understand that you are presently seeking funding from the Forest Legacy Program for Phase II of this project which will protect 4,504 acres on four lakes in Weston, Maine. Given our shared international border and ongoing cross-border collaborations, NTNB is keen to see this project succeed.

Protection of these lakes and the surrounding forests will conserve fish and wildlife habitat essential to the guiding industry and support local outdoor traditions including hunting, fishing, and recreation. We are also happy to hear about expansion of recreational sites in the St. Croix International Waterway.

NTNB was established in 1987, is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to land conservation in the province, environmental stewardship, outreach, and education. To date, NTNB has conserved 37 nature preserves in the province, consisting of over 5500 acres of pristine forests, beautiful beaches, rocky shorelines, wetlands brimming with biodiversity, and more. Many of these host trails which can be used by visitors and residents of the province of New Brunswick.

We wish you the best of luck with your Forest Legacy Program application and hope this project is successful.

Sincerely,

Renata Woodward



PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE  
73 COBB ROAD  
ENFIELD, ME  
207-732-4132

CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK  
COMMISSIONER

June 9, 2014

Dear Tom,

Enclosed please find comments associated with Phase II of The Conservation Fund's East Grand Watershed Initiative (EGWI).

Phase II of the EGWI builds on the work accomplished with Phase I (7,500+ acres) in Orient located just north of Weston. Phase II if implemented would add another 4,500 acres of conserved land to the effort, 3,500 + acres of which would join the 1,450 acre Phase I Easement area for a combined total of almost 5,000 unfragmented acres.

The most important benefit to wildlife associated with the EGWI is the large blocks of unfragmented wildland that will be conserved. Large blocks of unfragmented forestland are critical to a variety of species regardless of their home range size requirements. Large unfragmented parcels as identified in Phase II also provide connectivity and preserve and enhance wildlife travel corridors that eventually could be lost to development. Miles and miles of undeveloped shoreline along four area lakes and associated wetland habitat types will also benefit wildlife that rely on these riparian areas for some part of their annual habitat requirements.

Although to a lesser extent than the Phase I Fee acreage, there are historical records of deer using the Phase II (3,500 + acre) parcel during the winter months. As detailed with the Phase I Fee area, these wintering habitats are critical to deer, and the potential to include some level of deer wintering area management in Phase II would further enhance opportunities to meet the critical winter habitat needs for deer. When combined with the Phase I Easement parcel, potential for connectivity to the Phase I Fee wintering area (DWA 100231) becomes an important possibility.

The 981 acre Phase II Easement parcel also includes two Inland Waterfowl/Wadingbird Habitats (IWWHs). These IWWHs are included as Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) under Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA). Both IWWH 204471 and IWWH 115332 are rated as Moderate Value and are two of just three IWWHs found in that portion of Weston east of Route 1. Although included as a SWH under NRPA, these fragile wetland habitats can still be negatively impacted by nearby development and timber operations. Supporting the Phase II EGWI would remove such potential threats.



PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE  
73 COBB ROAD  
ENFIELD, ME  
207-732-4132

CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK  
COMMISSIONER

In summary, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) supports Phase II of The Conservation Fund's East Grand Watershed Initiative. Wildlife and their respective habitats will benefit from the inclusion of these large unfragmented parcels of forestland and associated wetland habitat types especially when combined with the Phase I effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Caron

*Mark A. Caron*

Regional Wildlife Biologist-Enfield  
Tel: (207) 732-4132 ext: 4008  
Fax: (207) 732-4405  
E-mail: [mark.caron@maine.gov](mailto:mark.caron@maine.gov)



## EAST GRAND SCHOOL

31 Houlton Road, Danforth, ME 04424

Tel: (207) 448-2260

Fax: (207) 448-7880

[www.eastgrandschool.org](http://www.eastgrandschool.org)

Dawn Matthews  
Principal Pre-K-12  
[dmatthews@eastgrandschool.org](mailto:dmatthews@eastgrandschool.org)

Ruth Ann Cowger,  
Guidance Director  
[rcowger@eastgrandschool.org](mailto:rcowger@eastgrandschool.org)

June 12, 2014

Tom Brown Boutureira  
The Conservation Fund  
P.O. Box 760  
Machias, Maine 04654

Dear Tom,

I am writing to share my support of the East Grand Watershed Initiative – a 12,000 acre project in Orient and Weston, Maine. I appreciate the approach to balancing conservation with managed forestlands, habitat protection, economic development, education, wellness, and recreation. These are all critical elements for the present and future of our region.

East Grand School has enjoyed our collaborations with your organization and appreciate the GPS receivers purchased for students to complete the trails mapping and planning project. The students were responsible for contacting neighboring landowners to gain permission. They received instruction by The Conservation Fund's contract surveyors, Kip and Micah Swallow, in how to use the GPS units to collect field data and then process the information in the mapping software. These skills are directly transferrable to careers in engineering, surveying, recreational and comprehensive planning, cartography, and other applications. The students are proud of the recreational trails map they produced and we look forward to expanding the trail system next school year.

We are also excited to advance our community garden and nutrition program in 2014-2015 in partnership with The Conservation Fund and to explore expansion of our recreational sciences program so that students learn carpentry and land stewardship skills.

We appreciate The Conservation Fund's commitment to these community programs and look forward to continued partnership.

We wish you the best of luck with your Forest Legacy Program application and hope this project is successful.

Sincerely,

Dawn Matthews  
Principal  
East Grand School



201 Houlton Road  
Danforth, Maine 04424  
Tel. 207. 448.2347  
Fax 207-448-2313

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June 10, 2014

Tom Brown Boutureira  
The Conservation Fund  
PO Box 760  
Machias, Maine 04654

Dear Tom,

I am writing to express the East Grand Health Center's support of the two-phase East Grand Watershed Initiative – a 12,000 acre project in Orient and Weston, Maine that balances managed forestlands, wildlife conservation, community economic development, community wellness, and public recreation. Specifically we voice support for your Forest Legacy Program application for Phase II of this project which will protect 4,504 acres on four lakes in Weston, Maine.

Protection of these lakes, trails, and the surrounding forests will conserve fish and wildlife habitat and support a healthy lifestyle through traditional recreational uses and access to the outdoors. Studies show that outdoor time and regular exercise reduces stress, chronic disease and obesity.

People usually don't equate conservation organizations with health care centers. It has been a great pleasure collaborating with The Conservation Fund to secure resources to conduct an internal audit and I am very excited to launch forward on our first-ever Community Health Needs Assessment. This information is critical for us to deliver the highest quality services to meet the needs of our residents.

We wish you the best of luck with your Forest Legacy Program application and hope this project is successful. I look forward to continued collaboration with TCF.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff W. Hamm".

Jeff Hamm  
Administrator  
East Grand Health Center



PO Box 201  
Columbia Falls, ME 04623  
(207) 483-4336  
(207) 483-6057 FAX  
[dsf@panax.com](mailto:dsf@panax.com)  
[www.mainesalmonrivers.org](http://www.mainesalmonrivers.org)

June 8, 2014

Tom Boutureira  
The Conservation Fund  
PO Box 760  
Machias, Maine 04654

Dear Tom,

Thank you for drawing my attention to the East Grand Watershed Initiative – a 12,000 acre project in the towns of Orient and Weston, Maine. The project will be a big step forward to help balance managed forestlands, fisheries and wildlife conservation, community economic development, and public recreation.

The Downeast Salmon Federation is fully supportive of this project and is particularly encouraged to know that water quality protection will be adequately incorporated in to future use of this landscape. As you know, we have worked over a number of years to recover Anadromous species in this watershed – including alewives and Atlantic salmon.

It is particularly important that Phase II of this project, for which you are presently seeking funding from the Forest Legacy Program, will protect 4,504 acres in Weston with frontage on Brackett, Deering, East Grand, and Sucker lakes. Protection of these lakes and the surrounding forest lands will conserve fish and wildlife habitat essential to the guiding industry, coastal commercial fishing and support local outdoor traditions including hunting, fishing, trapping, ATV and snowmobiling, and low-impact recreation. We also applaud your achieving dual-certification – SFI and FSC – to demonstrate responsible management and commitment to community.

We wish you the best of luck with your Forest Legacy Program application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dwayne Shaw', written in a cursive style.

Dwayne Shaw  
Executive Director

*The Downeast Salmon Federation operates the:  
Downeast Rivers Land Trust, Wild Salmon Resource Center & Pleasant River Hatchery  
(and is progressing toward establishment of the East Machias Aquatic Research Center)*



Downeast Lakes Land Trust  
4 Water Street  
Grand Lake Stream, ME 04668  
(207) 796-2100

**Forests and Lakes – For People – Forever®**

June 4, 2014

Tom Boutureira  
The Conservation Fund  
PO Box 760  
Machias, Maine 04654

Dear Tom,

I am writing on behalf of the Downeast Lakes Land Trust to express support of the East Grand Watershed Initiative – a 12,000-acre project in Orient and Weston, Maine that balances managed forestlands, wildlife conservation, community economic development, and public recreation.

We have the understanding from you that Phase II of this project, for which you are presently seeking funding from the Forest Legacy Program, will conserve 4,504 acres in Weston with frontage on Deering, Bracket, Sucker, and East Grand lakes, and that conservation of forest lands adjacent to these lakes will conserve fish and wildlife habitat essential to the guiding industry and support local outdoor traditions including hunting, fishing, ATV and snowmobiling, and low-impact recreation.

We appreciate that this project lies in the watershed of the East Branch of the St. Croix River, a short distance north of the 370,000-acre our trust has been involved in conserving since our founding in 2001. Your project enhances our earlier work by expanding important conservation protection in the St. Croix watershed.

We wish you the best of luck with your Forest Legacy Program application and hope this project is successful.

Sincerely,

Mark Berry  
Executive Director