



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

MAINE FOREST SERVICE
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

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December 1, 2017

MFS comments on Fish River Lakes Concept Plan

The Maine Forest Service (MFS) review of the Concept Plan focused on Subchapter IV, section 10.30, Sustainable Forestry Management Practices.

In the first paragraph, MFS recommends removing reference to the Outcome Based Forestry (OBF) agreement and reference the Maine criteria of forest sustainability enumerated in 12 M.R.S. §8876-A, Also, change Department of Conservation to Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

MFS is confident that Irving is adhering to the OBF agreement it has recorded with MFS; however, such agreements are not transferable to subsequent owners, and state law limits agreements to five years (renewable).

In paragraph F, remove Tree Farm as a certification program. Tree Farm no longer certifies landowners with over 10,000 acres.

MFS is confident that the current protections in place through MFS Rule Chapter 27 "Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities within Unorganized and Deorganized areas of the State," along with Maine's criteria of forest sustainability provide adequate protection to protect public resources, maintain safe and healthful conditions, prevent and control water pollution, and protect fish and wildlife habitat and does not recommend additional restriction.

Sincerely,

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