

## **Mark Berry**

Thank you. Governor LePage. I'm here to speak on behalf of one community on the intersection between conservation and economy. Grand Lake Stream and Washington County have a long heritage as a destination for outdoor recreation. Downeast Lakes Land Trust was founded in 2001 by Guides, lodge owners, and residents who recognized that our economic and environmental well-being depend on our forests, lakes, and streams. With many partners we have conserved 450 miles of lakeshore and 350,000 acres of forests and wildlife habitats with guaranteed public recreational access. These forests sustain over 1,000 jobs through the timber industry.

Downeast Lakes Land Trust manages over 33,000 acres as a Community Forest for wildlife habitat, public recreation, and the timber economy. The Maine Department of Conservation and the Land for Maine's Future Program have been essential to our success and we look forward to a continued partnership. We are working to conserve 22,000 acres around Grand Lake Stream, with the support of residents who voted unanimously in town meeting to contribute \$40,000. The West Grand Lake Community Forest project is also the top national priority for the federal Forest Legacy Program.

I encourage you to learn more at [downeastlakes.org](http://downeastlakes.org) and to visit Grand Lake Stream. Our economy depends on our forests, lakes, fish, and wildlife. People choose to visit, live, and work here because of our spectacular environment and quality outdoor recreation.

Thank you.

Remarks at "Maine People and the Environment" roundtable with Governor LePage  
January 20, 2011 at the Augusta Civic Center  
Event sponsored by the Natural Resources Council of Maine [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org)