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INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
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ROLAND D. MARTIN
COMMISSIONER

September 16, 2010

Mark Berry, Executive Director
Downeast Lakes Land Trust
PO Box 75
Grand Lake Stream, ME 04637

Mr. Berry:

I am writing to strongly support your grant application from the Downeast Lakes Land Trust to the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture for funding your project titled ***Restoring habitat connectivity in Machias and Saint Croix River tributary streams, ME: EBTJV & NFHAP.***

Downeast Lakes Land Trust owns and manages a 33,708-acre Community Forest which is an important habitat and recreational resource in Downeast Maine. They have partnered with MDIFW, DMR-BSRFH, the MEFRO of USFWS, NRCS, and Project SHARE on 8 previous fish passage barrier removal projects, including 6 bottomless arch culvert installations and one bridge installation. The design, culvert sizing, and construction work are completed to very high standards. These projects restore streams and their associated crossings to a very natural condition with structures which are properly sized to prevent future washouts and siltation at previous problem areas.

These projects have restored stream connectivity, permitting unimpeded movement of Eastern brook trout throughout numerous subwatersheds. I consider the projects that have been done to be one of the greatest examples in the United States of proper culvert crossings over brook trout streams. Also, I expect trout populations to increase as a result of the projects that have been completed. EBTJV funding is important for Downeast Lakes Land Trust to continue this important work and I heartily endorse your project.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Merry Gallagher'.

Merry Gallagher
Research Fishery Biologist
Maine Coordinator for the EBTJV



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