

**STATE OF MAINE
LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF)	
FISH RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES)	Pre-Filed Direct Testimony of
CONCEPT PLAN)	Ked Coffin
ZONING PETITION ZP 768)	

On behalf of Aroostook Timberlands LP, Allagash Timberlands LLC, and Maine Woodlands Realty Company (collectively, Irving), Ked Coffin is submitting this pre-filed direct testimony in support of the Fish River Lakes Concept Plan.

I. QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND

My name is Ked Coffin. I am the regional forester for Irving Woodlands LLC's forestry operations in Maine. I received a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management from the University of Maine at Orono in 1993. Prior to achieving my forestry degree, I spent 3 summers working for Irving Woodlands as an intern and upon graduation was hired for a full-time position. I am a licensed professional forester and have over 25 years of experience practicing long term sustainable forest management in the woods of Aroostook County. My career at Irving Woodlands has allowed me a unique opportunity to become actively involved with almost every aspect of sustainable forest management across the forest management value stream. I am proud to work for Irving Woodlands because we have owned and managed land in Maine since 1947, and our owners have demonstrated a long-term commitment to our region that is not based on mediocrity.

The following is a brief description of that commitment and how the principles of Outcome Based Forestry will be applied to the Concept Plan area as sustainable forestry management.

LANDOWNER COMMITMENT

The principles of sustainable forest management -- ecological sustainability, economic viability and social responsibility -- are the core values that we are committed to and that guide our 100-year management planning strategy at Irving Woodlands. Sustainability means that we

want to be known as good stewards of natural resources and wildlife. We are committed to meeting all legal requirements where we operate. We want to be partners with our workers, contractors, suppliers and customers. We strive to be good neighbors and we actively work to support our communities. We provide traditional recreational opportunities on our lands. During my career at Irving Woodlands, I have had the privilege to witness the following core values turn to action and become a part of a culture that is focused on sustainability across the forest products value chain.

➤ Continuous Improvement:

- We are committed to continuously improving every aspect of our management and our operations.
- We follow a management system and dedicate staff resources to finding and implementing continuous improvement utilizing “LEAN”, “Six Sigma” and “DMAIC” methodologies to drive and sustain it.

➤ Management Planning and Implementation:

- We are committed to developing technologically advanced Management Plans for all our lands.
- The primary purpose of our management plan is to determine an ecologically sound, economically appropriate and socially responsible strategy in our local area. This includes consideration of:
 - ✓ Landscape habitat and biodiversity objectives;
 - ✓ Sustainable harvest levels for each major tree species group;
 - ✓ Leading silviculture investment objectives;
 - ✓ Measurable environmental management system;
 - ✓ State of the art precision forestry tools for planning;
 - ✓ Scientific research and support; and
 - ✓ Science based decision making.

➤ Third Party Certification:

- We achieve and will maintain Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certifications for our Maine timberlands.
- We also implement an effective and verified ISO 14001 registration for all operations and all the lands we manage.

➤ Public Monitoring Summary:

- We prepare an annual summary of our management activities and the state of our forest inventory and habitats on our Maine timberlands, and make that summary available to the public.

➤ Outcome Based Forest Management:

- We are committed to meeting all terms and requirements related to our Outcome Based Forestry (OBF) management agreement with the State of Maine.
- Management of our forestry operations is fully consistent and on track to meet the goals and objectives of our OBF agreement with the Maine Forest Service. Rather than applying the requirements of the Forest Practices Act that govern clear-cuts and separation zones, OBF requires us to consider multiple additional factors in our forestry operations.

These criteria and some of the steps to implement them are:

- ✓ Soil productivity
 - Implement standard operating procedures to avoid significant reduction to site productivity.
- ✓ Water quality, wetlands and riparian zones
 - Implement standard operating procedures to protect water quality and aquatic habitats.

- Procedures meet or exceed current regulatory guidelines, and thus improve natural resource protections over existing standards.
- ✓ Timber supply and quality
 - Improve the quantity and quality of high value saw logs and veneer products on the landscape.
- ✓ Biological diversity
 - Maintain an appropriate balance of forest cover types and age classes.
 - A proportion of the land base is maintained in “old forest” conditions meeting specific wildlife and habitat requirements.
 - All lands reviewed and catalogued for rare or outstanding features representing key habitats.
 - Sites are screened to identify special wildlife habitats, rare plants and other unique landscape features for retention during harvesting operations
 - All identified deer wintering areas are managed consistent with habitat objectives developed in consultation with Maine’s Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department.
 - Policies and best management practices are developed to protect long-term habitats such as the examples listed above.
- ✓ Economic and social considerations
 - We are growing the workforce by ensuring a vibrant and healthy forest that can provide jobs for the long term.
 - Management activities provide wood to our mills and other regional mills at costs allowing for competitive pricing.

- We maintain continuous communication with a wide spectrum of stakeholders.
- We provide historic and traditional recreational opportunities by making our lands open to the public in a way that is consistent with other needs, including public safety and protection of the environment.
- ✓ Forest health
 - We protect the forest from fire, insects and disease
 - Annual silvicultural investments such as planting and pre-commercial thinning are utilized to enhance the health and vigor of the young forest.
- ✓ Non-timber forest products
 - Non-timber forest products, such as gravel, fiddleheads and burls, are utilized when their usage doesn't compromise other forest management objectives.
- ✓ Aesthetics
 - Landscape level training for staff
 - GIS visual sensitivity layer has been developed for use by foresters for landscape planning in visually sensitive areas.
 - UMFK professorship is developing a visual sensitivity model that leverages latest precision forestry tools for landscape planning.
- ✓ Public accountability
 - Maintain independent third-party certification on the lands we manage.
 - Report annually to the Maine Forest Service on our results under OBF.

In summary, I would like to say that I am thankful for my time working for a cutting-edge forest products company that is committed to responsible resource management, the people, the communities and the economy of the Aroostook County and the State of Maine.



Ked Coffin
Date: May 1st, 2018

STATE OF MAINE
COUNTY OF Aroostook

Personally appeared before me the above-named Ked Coffin and made oath that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Dated: 5/1/2018


Notary Public

My commission expires:

Cheryl A. Thibeault
Notary Public
My Commission Expires:
February 23, 2021