

# Conservation Innovation Update

The Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest



Join us on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 11 am EDT (8 am Pacific) for a live, online discussion of the emerging *Lessons from Moosehead Lake*.

Both Peter Howell of the Open Space Institute (OSI) and Ted Koffman of Maine Audubon have closely followed the recent decision of the Maine Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC) regarding Plum Creek's proposed developments on Maine's legendary Moosehead Lake. Both guests will consider the ramifications of the recent LURC ruling and its implications for the future of the land conservation in the Northern Forest.

Register [here](#) for this online event.

Dear Colleagues in Conservation:

The Program on Conservation at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University, along with the Conservation Finance Forum, will be hosting an expert chat on December 8th with two experts on conservation in northern New England.

Both of our guests have for years been considering the potential impact of Plum Creek's proposed development project in the Moosehead Lake Region of Maine. Howell was a lead author of a widely read OSI report on the proposed development, and has testified before the state legislature on the topic. Before terming out, Koffman sat for eight years in the legislature, and was for six years the House chair of the legislature's Joint Natural Resources Committee. Since May of 2009 he has been executive director of Maine Audubon. Koffman and Howell have pushed, sometimes in differing ways but consistently with the public interest in mind, for an acceptable balance of conservation and land development in the Pine Tree State.



Peter Howell serves as the Executive Vice President, Conservation Finance and Research Programs at the Open Space Institute, a land conservation organization based in New York. Previously, Mr. Howell worked for almost a decade in environmental philanthropy. He was the program director for the environment at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, where he oversaw the distribution of almost \$100 million for land conservation in the United States. He also worked as a program officer at the Wallace Funds, directing an

\$18 million national initiative focused on creating and improving urban parks. A former award-winning newspaper reporter, he was the Associate Director of Public Affairs and Development at SOBRO, an economic development corporation in the South Bronx, and as Assistant Business Manager at Time Magazine. Mr. Howell has a bachelor's degree in political science and comparative literature from Wesleyan University and an MBA from Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ted Koffman began his tenure as Maine Audubon's executive director last spring. Prior to joining Maine Audubon he spent twenty five years working at College of the Atlantic, an ecologically oriented institution in Bar Harbor. There he established the statewide Eco-Eco Civic Forum (eco-eco stands for ecology and economics) to engage business, environmental, academic and civic leaders in discussions about the environment and economy in Maine's future. His experience in the public policy arena led to his successful campaign for the State Legislature, where he formed and chaired the Community Preservation Advisory Committee, an incubator for smart growth policy development. He also chaired the Joint Committee on Natural Resources, where he championed migratory shorebird protection measures, historic building renovation incentives, and model electronic waste (e-waste) recycling legislation. In 2007 Ted sponsored the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a cap and trade program for CO2 that involves an auction of emission allowances, the proceeds from which are devoted to energy efficiency investments in Maine.



The conversation with Koffman and Howell will be hosted by Jim Levitt (Harvard Forest, Harvard University). Matt Zieper of the Trust for Public Land's Conservation Finance Program will also be on hand to help field listener questions.

We look forward to participation in the online session by colleagues from the domestic and international conservation community. You can sign up to listen and submit live questions during the course of this expert chat with Peter Howell and Ted Koffman by logging onto the event page ([click here](#)) on the Government Innovators Network.

Best regards,

Jim Levitt, Editor and Director of the Program on Conservation Innovation

Kate Isenberg, Assistant Editor

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## **Peter Howell and the Open Space Institute Report on Plum Creek's Development Proposal**

*The report played a pivotal role in helping the Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC) to come to a settlement with Plum Creek*

In 2007, Peter Howell was a lead author of a report analyzing the costs, benefits, and potential risks of the controversial Plum Creek proposal for the Moosehead Lake Region of Maine. The report had a significant impact on LURC's analysis of the proposal and was apparently an important factor in the call for Plum Creek to revise its plan to be more ecologically conscious. Howell and the others at OSI recognized that development of some kind was bound to happen, and also that this development had to be economically viable for Plum Creek. This train of thought may have irritated some critics, but it appears to have allowed the parties to move forward with a clearer idea of what might be expected to appear in revised project proposals. Click [here](#) for an overview and access to the report.

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## **Maine Audubon moving forward after Plum Creek decision**

***Instead of appealing LURC's decision in court, Ted Koffman and Maine Audubon are taking steps to ensure a clearer process for future land development deals***

Throughout the process of getting Plum Creek's development proposal approved, Maine Audubon, the state's largest wildlife conservation organization, fought to minimize the negative impacts to wildlife and forest ecosystems. While Audubon does not support many aspects of the ultimate decision, it is excited about the improvements that were made from the original proposal, and about the opportunities this process has created to create clearer legislation for future conservation deals. To read an article outlining the details of Koffman's and Maine Audubon's perspective, click [here](#).

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**Santiago Seminar Advances Private Conservation Concept in Chile**

***Highlights include presentations by both the Minister of Finance, Sr. Andres Velasco, and the Minister of the Environment, Sra. Ana Lya Uriarte***

At a meeting organized on November 12, 2009 by The Nature Conservancy, a powerful pair of government officials spoke favorably with regard to a proposal now pending in the Chilean legislature to create *el derecho real de conservacion* (a legal instrument similar to a conservation easements, as reported on in earlier editions of the *Conservation Innovation UPDATE*).

If enacted into law, the proposal would break new legal ground in civil code countries in Europe and Latin America that heretofore have not been able to use "in gross" easements that protect a piece of private property from development.

Joining the ministers as speakers at the seminar were Jim Levitt, director of Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, and Henry Tepper, a Vice President of the National Audubon Society in the United States, as well as several other distinguished guests from the Chilean public, private and non-profit sectors.

Levitt distributed at the seminar a preprint excerpted from the forthcoming book, *Conservation Capital in the Americas*, which will be published in early 2010 by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in collaboration with the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School and Island Press. Thanks to funding from the David Rockefeller Center for Latin

American Studies at Harvard University, the preprint distributed at the conference included both English and Spanish language versions of the book preface by the U.S. Ambassador to Chile, Paul Simons, as well as the book chapter on the *derecho real de conservacion* written by Tepper and Victoria Alonso of The Nature Conservancy's Santiago office.

Ambassador Simons was in attendance at the conference and had the chance to discuss his enthusiasm for Chile's outstanding efforts in conservation with Minister Uriarte (both are pictured to the right). Formerly head of a Presidential Commission on the Environment, Minister Uriarte was enjoying her first full day on the job, as the Chilean Congress had just legally created the nation's Ministry of the Environment on the prior day. For more on Ambassador Simons book preface and the November 12 Seminar on Private Lands Conservation in Santiago, please click [here](#).



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## Register now for the first Western Conservation Finance Boot Camp

*Session to be held on the campus of Stanford University*

Experts estimate that the average annual funding gap for conservation financing will be between \$1.9 billion and \$7.7 billion over the next 40 years.

The conservation community is innovating to fill this enormous gap! The Western Conservation Finance Boot Camp will present the best thinking on financing mechanisms available for the west to the practitioners who need to answer some of these questions.

Registration is Open!

February 1-5 2010

Limited to 20 participants

The Western Conservation Finance Boot Camp will provide the most up-to-date innovative and successful tools available for conservationists. The week long training program will also focus on finding new sources of funding that are needed for land conservation during a recession. Come learn about the techniques from experts.

**Core Faculty:**

- Story Clark, Conservation Strategies
- Peter Stein, Lyme Timber Company

**Presenters will include:**

- Gretchen Daily, Stanford University
- Adam Davis, Ecosystem Investment Partners
- Pat O'Connell, Evergreen Capital Advisors, Inc.
- Chris Kelly, The Conservation Fund
- Chris Larson, Conservation Finance Consultant
- Jim Levitt, Harvard University and Conservation Finance Forum
- Brian Shillinglaw, New Forests

REGISTER AT: [www.islandpress.org/conservationfinance](http://www.islandpress.org/conservationfinance)

Sponsored by Island Press, the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University, Land Trust Alliance, The Trust for Public Land, and the Conservation Finance Forum.

Questions? Contact Kate Graves at [kgraves@islandpress.org](mailto:kgraves@islandpress.org)

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***Conservation Innovation UPDATE*** is a publication of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, with additional support from the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

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