

THE Allagash WILDERNESS WATERWAY

2015 Annual Report



Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands



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12 MRSA § 1891-B. Reporting

Public Law, Chapter 146 of the 123rd Legislature established reporting requirements for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway as follows:

The commissioner shall report on or before March 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over conservation matters regarding the state of the waterway, including its mission and goals, administration, education and interpretive programs, historic preservation efforts, visitor use and evaluation, ecological conditions and any natural character enhancements, general finances, income, expenditures and balance of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Permanent Endowment Fund, the department's annual budget request for the waterway operation in the coming fiscal year and current challenges and prospects for the waterway.

This document contains our report for 2015. We invite you to read about our progress and accomplishments.

Policy

The AWW Act of 1966 contains the following statutory policy language:

§1871. Declaration of policy

Whereas the preservation, protection and development of the natural scenic beauty and the unique character of our waterways, wildlife habitats and wilderness recreation resources for this generation and all succeeding generations; the prevention of erosion, droughts, freshets and the filling up of waters; and the promotion of peace, health, morals and general welfare of the public are the concern of the people of this State, the Legislature declares it to be in the public interest, for the public benefit and for the good order of the people of this State to establish an area known as the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.



*Moose near a campsite in the Umsaskis District
Photo by Steve Day*



*Lynx in Long Lake
Photo by Steve Day*

Report from the AWW Advisory Council

I would like to take this moment to publically acknowledge the outstanding work done as Chair of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council by the late Rick Denico. Rick was literally in love with the AWW, and we appreciate his dedication and steadfast determination to make it a special place to be enjoyed by all. Rest in peace, Rick.

The Council is pleased with the direction of the waterway and the leadership of its current management team. Matt has done an outstanding job of operating the waterway in not only an efficient manner, but with an extremely polite and helpful staff. There is an abundance of extremely positive anecdotal experiences that have been conveyed to the Council. Good work by all!

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) Advisory Council met publicly four times in Augusta during 2015, using the ACF committee room in the Burton Cross Building. The following topics were discussed with Matt LaRoche, Superintendent of the Waterway, and with the Acting Director of Operations and Maintenance, Ron Hunt.

Many discussions resulted from the operations update from Matt. In addition to the normal operational items, the following items were discussed in much greater detail.

1. The Council supported the purchase of the Lock Dam parcel. Rick was crucial in making this happen.
2. The Council supported the investigation into the restoration of the Churchill Dam Boarding House. A representative of the National Park Service visited the building with several members of the Council. A framework for a plan was established. There needs to be a decision made on what the final outcome is wished to be.
3. We reviewed the plans for the 50th Anniversary and offered **input. It's going to be a grand celebration!**
4. We are pleased there is proposed foot access to the train and tramway. There was significant public interest in making this happen.
5. Finally, the belt on the tramway looks very good. I have received comments on how much easier it is to envision how the whole system worked now that it is completed. The Council supports these types of efforts to restore items to their historically accurate state.

6. As seems to be a yearly event, snowmobile access points continue to be a hot button for discussion from Council members and the public.

The Council is looking forward to another productive year in the AWW. All indications are that it is well run and leaves a positive, lasting impression on the folks that are lucky enough to visit!

- Submitted per Maine Statutes - February 11, 2016

Toby N. Pineo, Chair AWW Advisory Council

Forest Operations Notifications

In 2015, there were a total of 35 active Forest Operation Notifications (FONS) within the mile zone of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW).

Nine notifications were for harvests within a mapped visual area of the AWW. Four of the visual area applications proposed to exceed the standards because of dead or dying conditions in the harvest area. All visual area harvest applications were inspected prior to harvest activity by the AWW Superintendent, and Jacob Guimond, Forester with the Bureau of Parks & Lands, and appropriate land-owner representative. All visual area harvest applications were approved with conditions to minimize the visual impact of the harvest area, associated skid trails, and log landings.

Three of the 35 harvest notifications were for pre-commercial thinning of young spruce and fir stands adjacent to the waterway.

Twelve notifications were received for road construction within the mile zone. Ten of the roads were in areas not viable from the watercourse. Two roads were constructed within mapped visual areas; they were approved with conditions to minimize visual impact. All twelve roads were associated with timber harvests adjacent to the AWW. Most roads will be blocked at or beyond the mile zone after harvest activities have ended.

There were three applications for road construction within the ¼ mile new construction zone. These were approved with the conditions that they be seeded and blocked at the mile zone after harvest. None of these roads will be visible from the watercourse or provide access to a sensitive area of the waterway. There were no applications for the use of herbicide within the mile zone.

FY 2015 Allagash Wilderness Waterway Budget

<i>Allotment Source</i>	FY-15 Q1	FY-15 Q2	FY-15 Q3	FY-15 Q4	Total
General Fund (all other)	\$55,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$24,994.00	\$121,994.00
AWW Account (capital improvements)	\$35,078.50	\$30,200.00	\$15,200.00	\$45,200.00	\$125,678.50
Total	\$90,078.50	\$54,200.00	\$33,200.00	\$70,194.00	\$247,672.50

Revenue from Fees

The Bureau of Parks and Lands collects fees for AWW camping use, relying mostly on a contract with North Maine Woods, Inc. for fee collection services. Fiscal year reporting is July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Fiscal Year	Revenues from Fees
2010	\$104,875.81
2011	\$97,562.91
2012*	\$130,222.95
2013	\$102,268.08
2014	\$115,173.84
2015	\$101,261.23

* The 2012 figure includes two commercial sporting camps, and occasional state grant reimbursement.

Revenue to AWW Account

From revenues received from camping fees, Maine law requires that a portion of that amount be set aside in a non-lapsing account to be used for capital improvements in the AWW. The table below shows the calculated revenue to this special account.

Fiscal Year	Revenue to AWW Account
2010*	\$103,103.50
2011	\$55,007.80
2012	\$61,612.12
2013	\$50,894.10
2014	\$49,778.99
2015	\$45,562.28

* The 2010 amount includes funds to correct for transfers that should have been made as a result of increased user fees for non-residents.

AWW Endowment Fund: \$693 is in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway endowment fund. This is an interest bearing trust account at the Department of Treasury.

AWW Donations Account: \$26,270.59 was in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway donations account as of June 30, 2015.



Paddling: Photo by Steve Day

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Fiscal Year 15 Expenditure Report (July 1, 2014—June 30, 2015)

	AWW Account (dedicated revenue)	General Fund (general operations)	Loon Account (dedicated revenue)	Poland Spring Account (dedicated revenue)	Donations Account (dedicated revenue)	TOTAL
Expenses - FY15						
Salary and Benefits		485,019.80				485,019.80
Professional Services					1,508.00	1,508.00
Water tests	990.00	280.00				1,270.00
Gas (for equipment)		8,083.30				8,083.30
Lodging, Meals, Mileage		614.28				614.28
Electric		223.42				223.42
Other utilities		99.41				99.41
Misc. Rents		70.76				70.76
Rent of Land		750.00				750.00
Rental of State Vehicle		32,759.67				32,759.67
State Vehicle Operations		1,609.64				1,609.64
Rental of Private Equipment	430.00					430.00
Repair - Equipment	6,524.52	12,909.53				19,434.05
Repair - Boats		1,307.37				1,307.37
Repair - Roads and Grounds	5,892.42	1,704.96				7,597.38
Repair - Buildings	27,788.73	10,483.11				38,271.84
Repair - Misc.		907.42				907.42
Trash Removal		149.40				149.40
Snow plowing		381.25				381.25
General Operations		1,679.92				1,679.92
Non-Employee Settlement						0.00
Occupational Health/Rehab						0.00
Employee Training		2,708.74				2,708.74
Food		465.74	0.72			466.46
L.P. Gas		4,320.71				4,320.71
Natural Gas		345.17				345.17
Fuel Oil		94.23				94.23
Firewood		392.33				392.33
Misc. Supplies (Industrial, ect.)		10,213.93	2.70			10,216.63
Technology (Radios, ect.)		1,557.69				1,557.69
Clothing		5,037.60				5,037.60
Printing and Publishing		1,607.05				1,607.05
Equipment		17,935.93				17,935.93
Grants to Public/Private Organiz.						0.00
Administrative Charges*	7,021.76		37.76		262.34	7,321.86
Material Purchases for Resale						0.00
CAP Equipment				11,289.00		11,289.00
CAP Buildings & Improvements	3,783.50					3,783.50
CAP Structures & Improvements						0.00
CAP Infrastructures & Improvements						0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	52,430.93	603,712.36	41.18	11,289.00	1,770.34	669,243.81

CASH BALANCE IN AWW ACCT AS OF 7/01/15 150,637.98

* Includes total of STA-CAP and DI-CAP on all expenditures and late fees.

Expenditures from the AWW Capital account included:

- Jacked and leveled new structure under Chamberlain Bridge ranger station.
- Hauled and spread gravel/shale around Chamberlain Bridge ranger station and shop area.
- Applied spray foam insulation under the two camps at Chamberlain Bridge.
- Rebuilt the two generators at Churchill Dam.



Campsite Cooking
Photo by Deborah Gardner

Recreation

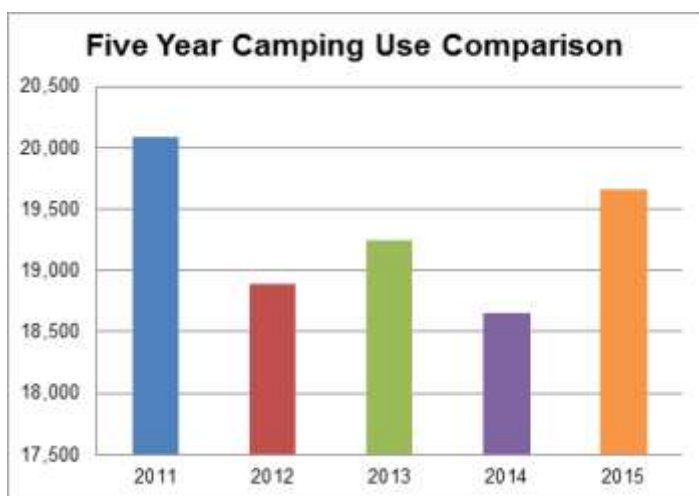
Total public use increased by 4% in 2015. Day use increased by 1%, camping use increased by 5%, and sporting camp use increased by 3%. This is welcome news after a decrease in all categories except day use last year. There is a significant amount of undocumented day use by visitors staying at North Maine Woods campsites and by camp owners staying at camps adjacent to the waterway. Nonresidents comprise approximately 60% of the camping use in the waterway. Camp groups with nonresident young people are the primary visitors during July and early August.

The waterway had excellent water flows throughout the entire canoe season and the spring fishing was very good until well into July. The May 5th ice out date on the waterway headwater lakes was about normal, this accounted for some of the increased visitation in early May - last year the ice went out on May 10th. The North Maine Woods checkpoints at Telos and Caribou opened early this year; they were up and running before ice out. This accounted for better registration of spring fishermen and a significant increase in use for May.

Because of warmer than normal autumn temperatures, fall fishing was almost nonexistent until the last week of September. This accounted for a decrease in use by fishermen during the month of September. However, fall canoe trips by small groups of family and friends are increasing in popularity.

Year	Parties	Persons	Camping Nights	Sporting Camp Days	Day Use	Total Visitor Days
2010	1,145	4,267	18,860	3,507	6,297	28,664
2011	1,087	4,159	20,091	3,702	9,768	33,561
2012	1,105	4,286	18,892	4,031	8,750	31,673
2013	1,167	4,273	19,247	4,213	8,117	31,577
2014	1,033	4,037	18,656	3,612	8,414	30,682
2015	1,137	4,196	19,658	3,737	8,547	31,942

Day use destinations were reported by visitors to North Maine Woods checkpoint attendants.



Number of Camping Nights per Year

Oversize Group Permits

Group camping on the AWW is limited to 12 people. In the past, several organizations were allowed an exemption to this limit. These groups have been grandfathered and are given a permit to allow groups in excess of 12 people. In 2015 there were 8 permits issued to 4 exempt organizations.

Year	Exempt Organizations	Permits Issued
2012	4	8
2013	3	5
2014	3	6
2015	4	8

Education, Interpretation, and Historic Preservation

Proposed Rule Changes

The AWW has proposed rule changes regarding:

- Allowing the development of a foot trail to the locomotives in T8 R13.
- Requirements to carry a concealed weapon in the AWW.
- Deleting Telos Landing in T5 R11 as an authorized aircraft access location,
- Adding Webster Lake Inlet in T6 R11 as an authorized aircraft landing location.
- Adding the following locations as authorized snowmobile access locations:
 - ◆ Russell Cove, in T8 R13
 - ◆ Woodman Cove, in T7 R12
 - ◆ Chamberlain Farm, in T7 R12
 - ◆ Drake Brook Camp, in T11 R13
- Deleting the following authorized snowmobile access locations:
 - ◆ Island Road, in T7 R14
 - ◆ Allagash Lake Carry Trail, in T14 R14
 - ◆ Ledge Campsite, in T8 R14
 - ◆ Reality Road, in T11 R13

Note: The AWW is required by Statute, Title 12 section 1882.3, to maintain 19 snowmobile access points to the watercourse.



Black Bear: Photo by Steve Day

Outreach

Matt and Ruth LaRoche staffed a booth at the Cabin Fever Reliever show in Brewer during the last weekend in February. Matt also made a special presentation on how to prepare for an Allagash canoe trip at the show.

The AWW helped sponsor a booth at the Presque Isle Sportsman's Show and provided information to Public Lands staff to be handed out at the show.

Tramway Restoration

Volunteers continued work on the tramway. A group led by Jim Young came up and installed a drive belt between the steam engine and drive mechanism. The belt was 60 feet long, two feet wide, and weighed over 200 pounds. While the volunteer crew was on site they bolted down most of the drive machinery.

The effort to restore this unique log moving device as a static display has been undertaken primarily by volunteers and funded solely by donations of money and materials. AWW staff attached an interpretive panel to the log that sits on the reconstructed section tramway rail bed.

The [AWW Video Series](#) that came out in May, 2014 has had almost 10,000 views. This has been a tremendous tool for educating potential visitors to the waterway. The video is linked to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway homepage at: www.maine.gov/allagash.

The focus of the series is to inform, educate, and prepare potential visitors to the waterway, plus inspire a higher level of visitation to this National Scenic and Wild River. The 71 minute video may be viewed in whole or by section; it is divided into the nine different segments listed below:

1. Introduction
2. Preparing for a trip to the North Maine Woods
3. Preparing for a visit to the AWW
4. Fishing
5. Allagash Heritage & History
6. Geography
7. Safety
8. Leave No Trace
9. Winter Use

New AWW Brochure

The AWW received a \$12,226.60 grant from the Federal Highway Administration's **Recreational Trails Program**, administered by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. This money will be used for the digital design work and printing of an up to date color map/brochure. The brochure is currently in development, but should be available in May, 2016.

Staff Training



Photo by Steve Day

2015 AWW Crew

Front left to right: Ed Palys, Dave Ramsey, Josh Plourde, Matthew Jackson, Shane Dufour

Back left to right: **Steve Day, Trevor O'Leary, Kevin Brown, Chris Silsbee, Kale O'Leary, Jay Young, Matt LaRoche, Ruth LaRoche**

New employees received boat training provided by Chief Ranger Kevin Brown.

The rangers assigned to the AWW headwater lakes received Maine Department of Environmental Protection water quality training and were certified to take water quality readings.

Chris Silsbee has assumed the role as the geographic information system contact person for the AWW and attended regular GIS training in classes Augusta with the Bureau GIS coordinator, Gena Denis.

Regular training was completed on the job and at staff meetings during the year. That training included:

- Bureau of Labor Standards mandated training
- Cash handling review
- Emergency operations plan
- Standard operating procedures
- Radio communications
- Harvest notifications
- Wildfire size-up and suppression

Projects Accomplished by Staff, Volunteers, and Contactors in 2015

- ◆ Chamberlain Lake District:
 - ◇ Lock Dam Lot was purchased by the AWW Foundation and Lock Dam Association and donated to the AWW.
 - ◇ **Completed an engineer's assessment of Lock and Telos Dam (final report is pending).**
 - ◇ Continued with tramway restoration:
 - Installed a 2 ft. x 60 ft. belt between the engine and drive machinery.
 - Bolted down drive machinery to recently placed bed timbers.
 - ◇ Installed all new windows in the ranger station and shop.
 - ◇ Applied superhumus to cover compacted soil/roots at:
 - Ledge Point Campsite—100 bags used on trail and campsite.
 - Chamberlain parking lot.—as a finish cover on the two new campsites
 - Ellis Brook Campsite.
 - McCarren Campsite.
 - ◇ Built replacement shed at the Lock Dam Camp.
 - ◇ **Cleared new snowmobile trail at the Crow's Nest**
(to bypass Chamberlain Lake Road when its plowed).
 - ◇ Re-stained Round Pond Camp (T6 R11).
 - ◇ Applied wood preservative to the ends of all the timbers at Telos Dam.
 - ◇ Installed new generator at the Kellogg Brook Camp.
- ◆ Allagash Lake District:
 - ◇ Constructed new wood/tool shed.
 - ◇ Replaced the gunwales on the Scott Canoe.
 - ◇ Repaired the outhouse at Little Allagash Falls, including new sills, floor, bench, and roof.
- ◆ Eagle Lake District:
 - ◇ Built a new cover for the spring at Skofield Cove Campsite.
 - ◇ Repaired the outhouse at Fred King Campsite, including the sills, floor, and steps.
 - ◇ Replaced the roof on the outhouse at Thoreau campsite.
- ◆ Churchill Dam District:
 - ◇ Installed two sets of stone steps/rip-rap at Churchill Dam Campsite.
 - ◇ Stabilized shoreline of High Bank Campsite; included Installation of 100 ft. x 6 ft. of rip-rap and plantings.
 - ◇ Repaired sills on the outhouse at the Jaws Campsite.
 - ◇ Repaired and painted the office walls at AWW Headquarters.
 - ◇ Replaced the gunwales on the 1713 Scott Canoe.
 - ◇ Rebuilt/reconditioned both generators.
- ◆ Umsaskis District:
 - ◇ Built stone steps and rip-rap at the Meadows Campsite.
 - ◇ Installed a new door at the Ranger Station
 - ◇ Installed 450 ft. of new waterline at the gear spring (old AWW headquarters) and 650 ft. at Lost Popple spring.
- ◆ Michaud Farm District:
 - ◇ Jacked up the Ranger Station 12 in., placed on new pads/sills, and leveled.
 - ◇ Re-shingled the Ranger Station roof.
 - ◇ Delivered and spread superhumus in low areas at Allagash Falls Campsite.
 - ◇ Constructed new access trail from the river to the Taylor Camp, including foot bridge.
 - ◇ Installed satellite internet connectivity and computer.
- ◆ AWW:
 - ◇ Installed 8 new picnic tables with tarp poles at various campsites.
 - ◇ Rebuilt several fireplaces and installed new fire grates.
 - ◇ Cleared, re-blazed, and painted three miles of AWW boundary line.
 - ◇ Repaired the hulls of two Scott Canoes.



Ledge Point Trail,
Chamberlain Lake District

Ledge Point Trail
Photo by Chris Silsbee.

Dam Inspection Report

The Bureau of Parks and Lands issued a contract to Baker Design Consultants in June, 2015 for a condition assessment and repair recommendations at Lock and Telos Dams. The team of engineers visited the dams in September 2015, and again in October, during the normal low water period. A draft report was issued on December 3, 2015. The final report is pending.

Lock Dam

Lock Dam is an historic dam that changed the course of water that originally flowed down the Allagash and into the St. John River; this water now flows south down the East Branch of the Penobscot. The structure is a 140 year old earthen dam; 15 feet high x 280 feet long. The timber facing on the dam was replaced with rip-rap during the winter of 2008 – 2009. The last 30 feet of the spillway pipe was replaced in 2012. The existing spillway gate and outlet pipe was installed in 1961; it is in poor condition and should be replaced.

Initial recommendations: Replacement of the sluice pipe and gate. It is contemplated that an open channel sluiceway with a gate control structure would be more in keeping with the Waterway's National Wild and Scenic River designation. The sill of the sluice needs to be lowered to the same elevation as the sill at Telos Dam to maintain an adequate flow of water in Martin Stream at all water elevations. This repair is estimated at over \$250,000. The Bureau is seeking the funds necessary to make these repairs.



Aerial View of Telos Dam by AWW Chair, Rick Denico

Telos Dam

Telos Dam is a remnant of the timber crib dams that were once common in Maine's Northwoods. During the log driving days these dams were used to move logs and pulpwood to downstream mills. The structure is a 20 feet high x 240 feet long rock filled, timber crib dam. The entire structure above the sill was replaced in 1982 using the original plans. There is some documented movement of the rock filled piers and misalignment of both the upstream and downstream surfaces of the dam. There is significant leakage under the emergency spillway. The wooden timbers are weathered and show some signs of rot. The four primary gates were replaced and lifting mechanisms rebuilt over a five year period with the last gate being replaced in 2012. Bureau technical staff continue to monitor movement of the piers. AWW staff applied wood preservative to the ends of all timbers that were above the waterline this fall, during the normal low water period.

Initial recommendations are to reconstruct upstream face and channel aprons to correct leaks associated with structural deterioration. This will require the construction of a coffer dam and pipe to maintain water flow during the repair work, estimated at over \$500,000. The bureau is seeking the funds necessary to make these repairs.

Churchill Dam

Churchill Dam, rebuilt in 1997, is a 24 foot high x 460 foot long earthen and concrete structure. It is used to store water to provide recreational flows on the Allagash River. It is also managed to provide optimal fisheries habitat for the native fishes of the Waterway.

The dam has significant cracks in the right, upstream retaining wall and a discernable deflection in that same wall. AWW staff placed pins in the retaining wall to monitor movement in 2012. There has been no movement in the retaining wall to date.

Volunteers

During 2015 we had 143 individuals donate 585 hours to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. This is a significant increase in the number of volunteers from 2014 but a decrease in the total number of hours donated. In 2014, the AWW had 79 people donate 644 hours.

Volunteers helped waterway staff accomplish the following tasks during 2015:

- Inspection and repair of the boarding house roof at Churchill Dam
- Repair of the Storage barn roof at Churchill Dam
- Moving rip-rap to High Bank Campsite on Churchill Lake
- Installed drive belt at the Tramway
- Shoreline stabilization with the N. Forest Canoe Trail crew.
- Transporting superhumus to campsites
- Campsite maintenance
- Trail improvements and brush removal
- Dead tree removal
- General maintenance
- Helping with portages
- Outhouse repairs
- Building picnic tables and installing tarp poles

Special Activity Permits Issued

- Can Am sled dog race, for crossing the AWW at Round Pond in T13 R12.

Incidents

There were 15 recorded incidents in 2015. AWW staff handled all the situations with courtesy and professionalism. We received two separate letters praising Chis Silsbee for the way he responded and handled himself at the incident with the broken ankle.

One courtesy warning was issued for illegal parking at Michaud Farm.

Waterway staff responded to the following incidents during the year:

- 1 – Assist with a death notification
- 4 – Medical emergencies
 - ◆ 1 – broken ankle (evacuation)
 - ◆ 1 – Broken ribs (evacuation)
 - ◆ 1 – Laceration
 - ◆ 1 – Sickness
- 3 – Assist with broached canoes in Chase Rapids
- 1 – Assist with swamped canoe
- 3 – Siltation events on Musquacook Stream
- 1 – Siltation event on Schedule Brook
- 1 – Break-in (tool shed at Round Pond)
- 1 – Evacuation



*Allagash Falls, East
Photo by Steve Day.*

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway provides the following materials to the public. All are free unless otherwise noted.

- *NORTHRUNNER* documentary film (\$15.00)
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway brochure (informational brochure)
- Rules and Regulations for Recreational Use of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway Special Fees, Tips for Visitors, and more (informational brochure)
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway Decal (\$2.00)
- Visitors can register their canoe and receive a tag for temporary storage on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway

These materials are available through the Bureau of Parks and Lands Bangor Office:

106 Hogan Road Bangor, ME 04401 - (207) 941-4014

Superintendent's Report

After seven years as Superintendent of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, I have to say that things are running pretty much as I had envisioned they would when I **accepted the job. As the late Tom Thornton once said, "the waterway is in a pretty good place right now."** The waterway is not a wilderness area as defined by the federal wilderness act, but the waterway truly is a wild place.

The winter season began with nearly full winter campgrounds at Chamberlain Bridge and Kellogg Brook. We sold 45 of the 48 available sites, most were booked for the entire winter season on the first day of availability.

The ice fishing was reported as good by most fishermen with some very nice native brook trout and togue being caught through the ice. Allagash Lake, which is only open for the month of February, was especially productive.

The ice was out on all the Waterway headwater lakes by May 5th.

We had a normal spring, with most of the runoff occurring in late April. Reservoirs were filled behind Churchill and Telos Dams by the end of May; we went into July with plenty of water stored for the summer canoe season. We had above average rainfall during the summer and excellent water flows for the entire canoeing season.

The cool rainy summer extended the spring fishing season into July. It was an excellent season by all accounts with nice fat healthy native brook trout in the 12– 16 inch range being commonly caught.

The spring, summer, and fall season saw a 5% increase in camping use. This increase was largely due to an increased use by fishermen in the month of May.

One of the major accomplishments for the year was the campsite restoration work that took place at three of the waterways most heavily impacted campsites. Stone steps and rip-rap were installed at: Churchill Dam, High Bank, and Meadows campsites. This work was accomplished through a cooperative effort with the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

The tramway restoration effort keeps rolling along. A volunteer group led by Jim Young installed a 60 foot long drive belt between in steam engine and the drive machinery. They also bolted down the drive machinery while at the site.

The AWW video series that was completed last year has had almost 10,000 views. This video has been very well received and has helped numerous visitors come to the Waterway better prepared and with a greater appreciation for this National Scenic and Wild River.

The Waterway has submitted changes to the rules and regulations for the AWW. The pending changes are mostly modifications to the authorized snowmobile access points. There is a proposal to move the authorized aircraft landing location from Telos Landing, to Webster Lake Inlet and authorize a maintained foot trail to the tramway/trains area.

AWW Advisory Council Chairman, Rick Denico, passed away on December 17, 2015. Rick was a strong proponent for the Waterway and was very influential in regards to maintenance/repair of the dams on the Waterway headwater lakes.

Bureau of Parks and Lands Director, Will Harris, retired in early 2015. My immediate supervisor, Tom Morrison, Director of Operations and maintenance, retired later in the year. Will and Tom were both strong supporters of the Waterway and me, they will be missed. I truly appreciate the support and advice they have given me over my tenure on the Waterway.

Ron Hunt, Regional Manager of the Southern Region Maine State Parks, has stepped in as Acting Director of Operations and Maintenance. Ron has 45 plus years of service in the Maine State Park system. He is very knowledgeable and well respected by all who know him, including me.

A huge thank you to the staff of the Waterway, they all take pride in their work and strive to keep this remote area well maintained, clean, and safe for our visitors; while striving to enhance the wilderness character of this wild river. It truly is a delicate balancing act. I also thank the support staff in Bangor and Augusta who help with funding, administrative and political support for the waterway.



Respectfully submitted,
Matthew LaRoche
 Superintendent
 Allagash Wilderness Waterway



THE Allagash WILDERNESS WATERWAY

To plan a trip or find out more about the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, please contact the following organizations:

**Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands
Northern Region Parks Office**

106 Hogan Road
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 941-4014

North Maine Woods, Inc.
P.O. Box 421
Ashland, ME 04732
(207) 435-6213

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
State House Station 41
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-2871



Left side top to bottom: Moose with calf by Julia Bayly, Volunteer group cleaning out beaver dam on North Twin Brook by Kevin Brown, Chewonki group poling up the Allagash by Chewonki, Two Owls by Steve Day. Top middle: Ranger Trevor O'Leary monitoring upstream by Steve Day. Right side top to bottom: Little Allagash Falls by Matt LaRoche, Bear & Lynx by Steve Day, Matt LaRoche with two brook trout by Mark LaRoche, Trains by Steve Day, Umsaskis Ranger Station by Kevin Brown. Bottom middle: Group paddling in Umsaskis by Steve Day. Front Cover: Chase Rapids by Steve Day. Back Cover: Lynx by Steve Day. Report Design: Katie Nemmer & Jocelyn Hubbell



Allagash Wilderness Waterway Administration 2015
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry:
Walter Whitcomb, Commissioner

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands:
Ron Hunt, Acting Director of Operations
Matthew LaRoche, AWW Superintendent

THE
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