



# Allagash

WILDERNESS WATERWAY

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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



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### Report Required

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) is administered by the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). A seven-member Advisory Council works with the Waterway manager in developing and maintaining a strategic plan for the Waterway and advancing its mission and goals. The Council is required to report annually to the Director of BPL on the state of the Waterway. Similarly, the Commissioner of the department is required to report annually by March 1st to the Legislature’s joint standing committee on 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 (12 MRSA §1890 A-C). This report is submitted to meet both reporting requirements.

## MISSION AND GOALS

**Mission Statement: Preserve, protect and develop the maximum wilderness character of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway by ensuring its ecological integrity and optimum public use through careful management as a wilderness area in the historic and modern context of a working forest.**  
(AWW Strategic Plan, 2010)

In support of this mission, the following documents provide principal guidance for managing the Waterway. The 2010 Strategic Plan ([http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get\\_involved/advisory\\_councils/docs/strategicplan.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/advisory_councils/docs/strategicplan.pdf)) and the 2012 AWW Management Plan ([http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get\\_involved/planning\\_and\\_acquisition/management\\_plans/allagash\\_wilderness\\_waterway.html](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/planning_and_acquisition/management_plans/allagash_wilderness_waterway.html)). include several goals and objectives, as well as guiding principles, policies and strategies toward this end.

- Maine Statutes: 12 MRSA Chapter 220, Subchapter 6 Allagash Wilderness Waterway, §1871-§1891-B
- Rules and Regulations for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, as amended February 22, 2017
- Memorandum of Agreement between the Maine Department of Conservation (now DACF) and the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, February 2002
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway Strategic Plan, AWW Advisory Council, October 2010
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway Management Plan, Bureau of Parks and Lands, December 2012

## Report from the AWW Advisory Council

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council met publicly four times in Augusta in 2017. Our meetings were held in the A.C.F. Committee room at the Cross State Office Building and were broadcast over the web. As always, the public is included and their comments are welcome, making for a well-rounded meeting, with everyone's concerns heard.

I would first like to introduce two new members of the Council. First is Josie Allen, who will be taking over the Wilderness Recreation position left vacant by Dave Allen. Josie is owner of Macannamac Camps on Haymock Lake, adjacent to the Waterway. She is involved recreationally on a daily basis in the surrounding area. Secondly, I would like to introduce Peter Bourque, who will be filling the Natural Resources Planning and Management position left vacant by the unexpected passing of Alan Hutchinson in late August. Peter is a retired Inland Fisheries and Wildlife biologist who went to work there in 1963 and rose through the ranks and retired as Director of Fisheries in 2011. Both of these folks have a lifetime of experience in their respective fields. They will no doubt be a great asset to the Waterway.

Over the course of our quarterly meetings, Matt LaRoche, our superintendent, brings us up to date on all aspects of the Waterway, its workings and happenings since our last meeting. There is no question his presentations generate some very healthy discussions within the Council and are the basis for great conversations and decisions.

Several rule changes came to pass in 2017 that were initiated by the Council. These include alternate snowmobile and aircraft access and a new foot trail to the locomotives. All changes were fairly benign and passed with no opposition. These changes are an example of how good things can happen on the Waterway for everyone when we all work together.

The replacement of the outlet structure at Lock Dam has been extensively discussed at all of our meetings, and I am glad to report that the final design is coming together. Thanks to Matt and a group of folks with widely diversified interests who have agreed on a structure that will cover everyone's interests. The improved road access necessary to reach the site was finished this summer and if all goes well, the project will be underway and finished in October or November of 2018.

After a discussion I had with former Council member Don Cyr, we have somewhat switched gears on the restoration of the Boarding House at Churchill Dam. It is felt by the Council that it would enhance the possibilities of a restoration project if we first seek status on the National Historic Register. Tom Desjardins, Director of Parks and Lands, has taken on the job of doing just that. I am very pleased to report that great progress is being made. Michael Goebel-Bain of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and Tom visited Churchill Dam this

summer. They took photos and collected material to be used in the nomination. In our December meeting, Tom reported that the material was being processed and all looked very favorable for not only the Boarding House but the Store House. If everything goes as planned, the nomination should be completed sometime in 2018.



The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation continues its work on its Storied Lands and Waters Project with parts one and two completed in early 2017. With a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, Bruce Jacobson has again been contracted by the Foundation to complete the project. The next part of the project includes a long range interpretive plan and educational assessment, which is well underway and should be available in early 2018. This project, when completed, will be a very valuable guide for not only those who manage the Waterway, but for everyone who uses the Waterway or has an interest from afar.

I firmly believe the Waterway is in a good place now, a place where everyone is working together toward the same goals. Let us not forget that no matter what activity we pursue in the Waterway, we all go and enjoy it for the same reasons.

Submitted per Title 12 MRSA §1890-A  
 January 13, 2018  
 Brent D. Hardy, Chair AWW Advisory Council

### AWW Advisory Council Members - February 2018

Seat	Name
1. Natural resource planning & mgmt.	Peter Bourque
2. Fisheries or wildlife conservation	David Basley
3. Wilderness recreation	Joanne Allen
4. Cultural & historic conservation	Melford Pelletier
5. Public	Brent Hardy, Chair
6. Sustainable forest management	Toby Pineo
7. National Park Service	Jamie Fosburgh

## FY 2017 Allagash Wilderness Waterway Budget

Allotment Source	FY-17 Q1	FY-17 Q2	FY-17 Q3	FY-17 Q4	Total
General Fund (all other)	\$55,000	\$24,000	\$18,000	\$24,994	\$121,994
AWW Account (all other)	\$8,397	\$14,950	\$9,845	\$18,275	\$51,467
AWW Account (capital)	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$45,000	\$115,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$93,397</b>	<b>\$63,950</b>	<b>\$42,845</b>	<b>\$88,269</b>	<b>\$288,461</b>

### 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, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Revenue from fees for FY17 totaled \$193,508.24.

Fiscal Year	Revenues from Fees
2012*	\$130,222.95
2013	\$102,268.08
2014	\$115,173.84
2015	\$101,261.23
2016	\$131,502.11
2017	\$193,508.24

\*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. Revenue to the AWW Acct was \$127,095.88

Fiscal Year	Revenue to AWW Account
2012	\$61,612.12
2013	\$50,894.10
2014	\$49,778.99
2015	\$45,562.28
2016	\$52,155.00
2017	\$127,095.88

**AWW Endowment Fund:** \$7,789.80. is in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway endowment fund. This is an interest bearing trust account at the Department of Treasury.

**AWW Donations Account:** \$9745.36 was in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway donations account as of June 30, 2017.



AWW Video Photo

## Allagash Wilderness Waterway Fiscal Year 17 Expenditure Report (July 1, 2016—June 30, 2017)

Expenses - FY17	AWW Acct (dedicated revenue)	General Fund (gen'l operations)	Loon Acct (dedicated revenue)	Poland Spr. Acct (dedicated revenue)	Donations Acct (dedicated revenue)	TOTAL
Salary and Benefits		517,733.16				517,733.16
Professional Services	481.52	910.00				1,391.52
Water tests		350.00				350.00
Gas (for equipment)		2,805.95				2,805.95
Lodging, Meals, Mileage		1,489.94				1,489.94
Electric		163.94				163.94
Other utilities		83.35				83.35
Misc. Rents		98.00			1,365.00	1,463.00
Rental of State Vehicle		30,000.00				30,000.00
State Vehicle Operations		104.98				104.98
Rental of Private Equipment					772.00	772.00
Repair - Equipment		4,020.06				4,020.06
Repair - Boats		3,406.65				3,406.65
Repair - Roads and Grounds	17,500.00	1,691.70				19,191.70
Repair - Buildings	779.04	19,719.19				20,498.23
Repair - Misc.		284.99				284.99
Trash Removal		149.85				149.85
Snow plowing		1,009.30				1,009.30
General Operations		1,160.22				1,160.22
Employee Training		2,586.00				2,586.00
Food		585.64			2,471.68	3,057.32
L.P. Gas		4,227.17				4,227.17
Natural Gas		306.79				306.79
Fuel Oil		358.61				358.61
Firewood		2,661.20				2,661.20
Misc. Supplies (Industrial, etc.)		12,521.05				12,521.05
Technology (Radios, etc.)		1,763.31				1,763.31
Clothing		3,249.42				3,249.42
Printing and Publishing		2,294.03			3,229.05	5,523.08
Equipment		16,943.98				16,943.98
Administrative Charges*	3,147.85				1,315.09	4,462.94
CAP Buildings & Improvements	10,104.00					10,104.00
CAP Infrastructure & Improvements	31,395.00					31,395.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>63,407.41</b>	<b>632,678.48</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>9,152.82</b>	<b>705,238.71</b>

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

**CASH BALANCE IN AWW ACCT AS OF 7/01/17 = \$241,394.46**

### Expenditures from the AWW Capital account included:

- Lock Dam Road upgrade
- Roof & solar panel repairs at Churchill Dam Shop (all but \$500.00 reimbursed by Risk Mgmt.)
- MCC crew costs (80% reimbursed by RTP grant)
- Replaced guardrails on Churchill Dam



## Recreation - Visitor Use

Total public use for the waterway increased by 1% in 2017: this is the fifth straight year for an increase in total visitor days for the AWW. Day use increased by 17%, sporting camp use decreased by 2% and total camping nights decreased by 6%.

Camping nights for May and June were down slightly from 2016. July camping nights were up slightly from the previous year, but camping nights for September were down 29% from the previous year.

Visitation to the Tramway Historic District jumped from 524 people in 2016, to 1,866 in 2017. This number is probably still under-reported because many people visit the trains/tramway while staying in the North Maine Woods for other reported activities.

The May 3rd ice-out date on the Waterway headwater lakes was normal. Good spring fishing lasted until the end of June. We had about normal use by anglers during the spring fishing season.

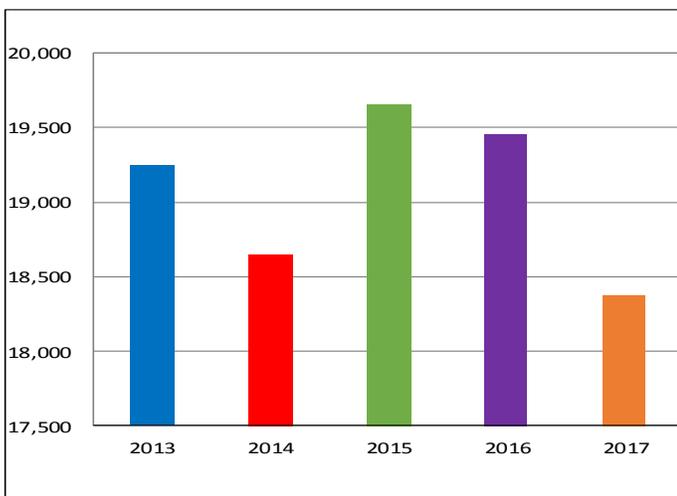
The Waterway had good water levels for canoeing through July, but the lack of rain and warm temperatures in August and September cut the canoe season short for all but the most experienced paddlers.

The warm, dry months of August and September 2017 most definitely had a negative impact on camping use by canoeists and anglers. The river dropped below 300 cfs in the Town of Allagash for the first time since 2009. Several canoe groups cancelled their Allagash trips due to the low water conditions. These conditions also kept brook trout from moving into the brooks and streams until the very end of open-water fishing season.

Year	Parties	Persons	Camping Nights	Sporting Camp Days	Day Use	Total Visitor Days
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
2016	1,276	4,262	19,459	3,919	9,530	32,908
2017	1,070	4,132	18,379	3,829	11,130	33,335

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

### Five Year Camping Use Comparison



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 2017 there were 8 permits issued to 4 exempt organizations.

Year	Exempt Organizations	Permits Issued
2014	3	6
2015	4	8
2016	3	7
2017	4	8

## Education and Interpretation

### Education and Interpretation

We had 19 young people participate in the AWW Junior Ranger program in 2017. All participants were given a tour of the History Center, five visited the locomotives, two visited the tramway. All received AWW puzzles, tee shirt, Smokey Bear promotional material and Junior Ranger certificates. This was our biggest year since beginning the program.



The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation (AWWF) has sponsored the preparation of an Interpretive Plan and Historic Resource Assessment for the Waterway, titled "Storied Lands and Waters," which will be completed in 2018. The Interpretive Plan will offer a variety of ways in which to engage visitors with the natural and historic features of the Waterway. The plan will also include a more formal educational component for use by schools, youth organizations and others.

### Outreach

Matt and Ruth LaRoche staffed a booth at the Cabin Fever Reliever show in Brewer during the last weekend in February 2017. Matt also made a special presentation at the show on how to prepare for an Allagash canoe trip.

Matt gave a presentation to the Milo Kiwanis about the trains/tramway.

Matt gave a presentation to the Moosehead Historical Society about how to prepare for an Allagash Wilderness Waterway canoe trip.

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.

**The following informational and other AWW materials are available at no cost, unless noted, at the Bureau of Parks and Lands, 106 Hogan Road, Bangor, ME 04401, Tel. 207- 941-4014**

### Brochures:

- Allagash Wilderness Waterway map and guide
- Rules & Regulations for Recreational Use of the AWW
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway Special Fees, Tips for Visitors, and more

### Other:

- Registration tag for temporary canoe storage on the AWW
- AWW 50th anniversary prints (\$50.00 each)
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway Decal (\$2.00)

Information available online at [www.maine.gov/allagash](http://www.maine.gov/allagash):

- The 2014 AWW video series that has had over 16,000 views and has been a tremendous tool for educating potential visitors to the Waterway.
- Views and descriptions of the AWW campsites on Google Earth

## Historic Preservation

AWW staff continue to support and promote the historical aspects of the Waterway by collecting, interpreting, and displaying artifacts which they or visitors have found.

At the Tramway, extraordinary volunteer Roger Morneau hooked up the steam pipe between the boilers and the engine. At the trains, AWW Rangers and Joe Powers from the BPL Boating Program, reinstalled the original front boiler door on locomotive #2 and the original smoke stack on locomotive #1. These parts, which were taken many years ago, were returned to the Waterway by volunteer Ed Cullivan, who negotiated their return.



Crew restores boiler door on locomotive #2



Joe Powers welds the original smoke stack back on locomotive #1

The Historic Resource Assessment included in the Allagash Foundation's "Storied Lands and Waters" project includes the first comprehensive inventory of the historic resources of the Waterway and recommendations for their treatment and interpretation.

Maine Historic Preservation staff have found that both the Boarding House and the Store House at Churchill Depot qualify for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.



2017 AWW Crew: Standing left to right: Steve Day, Ray Lewis, Jay Young, Lily Tuell, Kevin Brown, Trevor O'Leary, Matt LaRoche, Ruth LaRoche. Kneeling: Ed Palys, Bob Johnston, Tyler Stockwell, Barb Pineau. Josh Plourde is missing.

Steve Day Photo

## Staff Training

New employees were provided boat operation training by Chief Ranger Kevin Brown. Employees hired in the last two years were provided an excellent two-day chainsaw training course provided by Forest Ranger Sam Heffner. Kevin Brown took the following courses: Skills for Making Great Decisions and Introduction to Microsoft Excel. All AWW employees received training at staff meetings and on the job training in the following:

- Bureau of Labor Standards mandated training
- Emergency Operations Plan
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Radio communications and use
- Wildfire size-up and suppression
- Principles of Wilderness Management

## Forest Operations Notifications

In 2017, there were a total of 23 active forest harvest notifications (FONS) within the mile zone of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

- One notification was for a harvest within a mapped visual area of the AWW. The visual area harvest application was inspected prior to harvest activity by the AWW Superintendent, and Jacob Guimond, Forester with the Bureau of Parks & Lands. The visual area harvest application was approved with conditions to minimize the visual impact of the harvest area, associated skid trails, and log landings.
- Four of the 23 harvest notifications were for pre-commercial thinning of young spruce and fir stands adjacent to the Waterway.
- Four notifications were received for road construction within the mile zone. All of the roads were in areas not viable from the watercourse. All seven 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 two applications for road construction within the ¼ mile new construction zone. These were approved with the conditions that the roads be seeded and blocked at the mile zone after harvest. These roads will not be visible from the watercourse or provide access to a sensitive area of the Waterway.
- There was one application for trail construction within the ¼ mile new construction zone.
- There were no applications for the use of herbicide within the mile zone.

## Projects Accomplished by Staff, Volunteers, and Contactors in 2017

### Chamberlain Lake District:

- Placed rock of various size, up to the bottom of the spillways, on the upstream side of Telos Dam (stop gap repair for leakage).
- Rebuilt the log steps at Boy Scout Campsite.
- Replaced ramps on both ends of the snowmobile bridge between parking lot and Chamberlain Lake.
- Repaired and installed new roof on shed behind ranger station.
- Installed a new solar power system at Nugent's Camps.
- The last 500 Ft. of the Lock Dam Road was surfaced with ripped ledge.
- Made renovations to the Lock Dam Camp.

### Allagash Lake District:

- Built and installed bog bridge on the Allagash Mountain fire tower trail.
- Cleared blowdowns and brushed back the fire tower trail.

### Eagle Lake District:

- Established a new campsite on the south end of Eagle Lake (Breezy Point).
- Replaced several rotten logs on the east side of the ranger station.
- Hauled and spread several yards of superhumus at Lone Pine Campsite.
- Installed new outhouse roofs at Pumphandle and Ziegler Campsites.
- Replaced picnic tables and tarp poles at Priestly Point, Pillsbury Island and Scofield Point Campsites.

### Churchill Dam District:

- Repaired the damaged roof and solar panels on the shop.
- Built and installed a new screen door on the ranger station.
- Built and installed a wooden cover for the safety ring buoy at the dam.
- Reroofed and stained the woodshed at AWW Headquarters.
- Made improvements to the parking area to accommodate vehicles with canoe trailers.
- Rebuilt and painted a Scott Canoe.
- Replaced picnic tables and tarp poles at: Churchill Dam and Jaws Campsites.

### Umsaskis District:

- Installed stone steps and rip-rap on the upstream end of the Long Lake Dam portage trail
- Installed stone steps and rip-rap at Chisholm Brook Campsite.
- Hauled and spread superhumus at Ledges Campsite.
- Replaced eight windows at the ranger station.
- Stained the work shop at the ranger station.
- Trimmed out two doors and replaced the screen door at the ranger station.
- Replaced the outhouse door at Jalbert Campsite.
- Replaced picnic tables and tarp poles at: Sam's, Meadows and Long Lake Dam Campsites.
- Closed in the gable ends of the cover over the spring at Lost Popple Campsite.

### Michaud Farm District:

- Applied Perm-a-chink between all the logs at the ranger station.
- Stained the ranger station and shed.
- Hauled and spread superhumus at Tower Trail and Outlet Campsites at Round Pond.
- Painted the floors at the Round Pond Camp.
- Cleared blowdowns and cut brush on the Round Pond Tower Trail.
- Replaced picnic tables and tarp poles at: Allagash Falls, Deadwater North, Back Channel, Inlet, Outlet, and Round Pond Rips campsites.



Chris Silsbee Photo

Superhumus stockpiled for spreading at Lone Pine Campsite



Steve Day Photo

Stone Steps and Rip-rap at Long Lake Dam Portage Trail



Steve Day photo

Stone Steps and Rip-rap at Chisholm Campsite

## Dam Reports

**Churchill Dam** – rebuilt in 1997, is a 24 ft. high by 460 ft. long earthen and concrete structure used to store water and provide recreational flows in the Allagash River. It is also managed to provide optimal 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 wall during the observation period.

**Lock Dam** – is an historic dam that changed the course of water that originally flowed north to the St. John River; this water now flows south down the East Branch of the Penobscot River. The structure is a 140-year-old earthen dam that is 15 ft. high by 280 ft. long. The timber facing on the dam was replaced with rip-rap during the winter of 2008-09. The last 30 ft. of the spillway pipe was replaced in 2012. The existing spillway grate and outlet pipe were installed in 1961, are in poor condition and should be replaced.

Baker Design Consultants prepared a condition assessment and repair recommendations for Lock Dam. Their final report of August 19, 2016 recommends that the existing sluice pipe and gate be replaced. Pinnacle Hill Engineering has been contracted to design a replacement and oversee the construction of the new outlet structure.

The design team, Maine DIF&W biologists, and BPL staff met at Lock Dam in July 2017 to measure water flows and the stream channel and discuss options for fisheries enhancement downstream from the dam. A proposed flow regime was agreed upon and a new outlet structure designed to meet these requirements. BPL hosted a stakeholder meeting in October, 2017, including representatives from Maine DIF&W, Maine Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC), Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, contract engineers and BPL. The design was further modified to reduce the visibility of the outlet structure and be consistent with the river's Wild River status under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The existing culvert and gate lifting mechanism will be replaced with a 4 ft. by 8 ft. precast concrete culvert downstream from the gates. The section upstream from the gates will be a 10 ft. by 6 ft. box culvert. The larger diameter upstream section and bend away from the campsite will reduce hazardous conditions at the inlet. The replacement outlet structure will allow managers to maintain an adequate flow of water in Martin Stream at all water elevations and simulate spring flows (250 cfs). The new outlet will be wood-faced on the upstream side of the dam, and the gate lifting mechanism will be placed back from the intake to minimize visibility. The cost of the outlet replacement is estimated at \$600,000. Funds will be allocated from AWW Capital Account, matched with federal dollars from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The project is scheduled for August/September, 2018.



**Telos Dam** – is a remnant of the timber crib dams that were once common in Maine's north woods, which were used to move logs and pulpwood to downstream mills. The structure is a 20 ft. high by 240 ft. 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; and there is significant leakage under the emergency spillway on the north end of the dam. The wooden timbers are weathered and show signs of decay. The four primary gates were replaced and the lifting mechanisms rebuilt over a five-year period with the last gate being replaced in 2012. Bureau staff continue to monitor movement of the piers. AWW staff applied wood preservative to the ends of timbers above the waterline in the fall of 2015.

Baker Design Consultants also prepared a condition assessment and repair recommendations for Telos Dam. Their final report of August 25, 2016 recommends reconstructing the upstream face and channel aprons to correct leaks associated with structural deterioration. This will require a coffer dam and pipe to maintain water flow during the repair work. The repair cost is estimated at over \$1,000,000, which is not currently available. The repairs at Lock Dam are deemed more critical and will be undertaken first.

Stopgap measures outlined in the Telos Dam report and approved by the Maine LUPC and the Army Corps of Engineers have been employed until repair funds can be identified. These measures included placing burlap bags filled with bark and stone into void areas (major leaks) and placing clean stone of various sizes in front of the skirting below the sluiceways. The bark bags were not successful, but staff were able to place rocks along the entire upstream side of the dam to the bottom of the spillways from a barge-mounted tractor. Staff observed that the whirlpool disappeared and leakage was immediately reduced on the north end of the dam. It will be interesting to see if the leakage remains at a reduced level when the lake is at full pond in the spring.

## Volunteers

During 2017 we had 116 individuals donate 658 hours to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. This is a slightly higher number of volunteers and hours than 2016. The value of these volunteer hours is over \$6500.00!

Volunteers helped Waterway staff accomplish the following tasks during 2017:

- Replacement of smoke stack on the train
- Campsite maintenance
- Cutting and peeling tarp poles
- General maintenance
- Brush clearing
- Building picnic tables and installing tarp poles
- New campsite development
- Lock Dam camp improvements



Bob Johnston Photo

Scout troop #39 from Scarborough, Maine helped set up the new Breezy Point campsite at the south end of Eagle Lake.

## Special Activity Permits Issued

- Wood turtle survey – University of Maine at Presque Isle
- Can Am Crown Sled dog race



University of Maine Presque Isle Wood Turtle Survey Team 2017

## Incidents

There were 20 recorded incidents in the Waterway during 2017. The most serious was a heart attack death at Nugent's Camps. Ranger Jay Young assisted by transporting EMTs to the scene and transferring the body to Chamberlain Bridge by boat. One summons was issued by the Maine Warden Service at our request for an intentional violation of AWW rules. An ice fisherman took a snowmobile out on Allagash Lake. He later plead guilty to the offence and paid a \$100 fine.

### The Waterway had the following incidents in 2017:

- 1 – Death by heart attack at Nugent's Camps.
- 4 – Attempts to locate:
  - Winter fishing party failed to return to Nugent's Camps. Rob Flewelling and Matt LaRoche found them at Farm island on Eagle Lake and escorted them back to Nugent's.
  - 2 -Medical emergencies at home. Jay assisted the group out of Allagash Lake. Kevin assisted the group to Churchill Dam.
  - Two Unity College students failed to return from the trains in April. Jay pulled them out of a ditch.
- 1 – Snowmobile through the ice.
- 2 – Noisy groups at Round Pond.
- 2 – Lost persons:
  - Youth camper walked away from his group on Churchill Lake.
  - Youth camper got separated from his group on Mud Pond Carry, and spent the night in the woods.
- 3 – Boating assists:
  - 2 – overturned canoes, one on Churchill Lake, one on Allagash Lake.
  - 1 – swamped canoe in Chase Rapids.
- 1 – Fishing rule violation.
- 2 – AWW rule violations:
  - Snowmobile on Allagash Lake (described above).
  - Removal of artifact at Churchill Dam.
- 1 – Forest fire at the tramway.
- 1 – Break-in at Churchill Boarding House.
- 2- Evacuations:
  - Sickness
  - Serious cut with a knife

There was one written warning issued in 2017.



Chase Rapids Tip-Over (Steve Day Photo)

## Superintendent's Report

The winter season began with nearly full winter campgrounds at Chamberlain Bridge and Kellogg Brook. We sold 43 of the 48 available sites, and most were booked for the entire winter season on the first day of availability.

The ice fishing was reported as good by most anglers with some very nice native brook trout, togue and whitefish being caught. The ice was out on all the Waterway headwater lakes by May 3rd.



We had a normal spring, with most runoff occurring in late April. We filled our reservoirs behind Churchill Dam and Telos Dam by the end of May and went into July with the lakes at full pond. The water went down quickly as the summer progressed, and the river was low from mid-July through September. The river reading in the Town of Allagash went below 300 cfs in late August, a first under my tenure as Superintendent.

The low water impacted our public use as people cancelled their plans to canoe the Waterway because of the water conditions. The unusually warm fall temperatures and low water also had a negative effect on fall fishing.

One of the major accomplishments for the year was the implementation of stopgap measures to reduce the leakage at Telos Dam. Rangers built a barge big enough to float a 3000-pound tractor, strapped the tractor to the barge, hired an excavator to fill the tractor bucket with rocks, and pulled the barge along the front of the dam with ropes, dumping the rocks in front of the dam. We placed rock up to the bottom of the spillways across the entire front of the dam. The leakage was immediately reduced, and we will see what the leakage looks like with a full pond in the spring.

A new campsite was developed on the south end of Eagle Lake called Breezy Point and the fifth campsite cell at the Jaws Campsite was designated as a separate campsite called Churchill Ridge.

We had an MCC crew for four weeks in September. The crew came with an outstanding leader in Rachel Herr, who kept the crew motivated and completed some very nice

stone step/rip-rap projects at Chisholm Brook Campsite and at the Long Lake Dam portage trail.

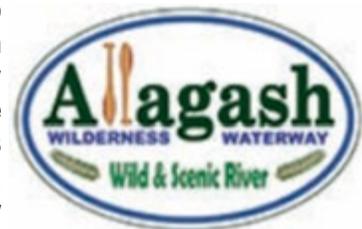
We had some outstanding volunteers that stayed at the Lock Dam camp for 5-weeks. They performed many maintenance tasks on the building, including the jacking and leveling of the building. The camp has not looked this good since Dot and Milford Kidney lived there.

The AWW Foundation is funding a detailed interpretive program document for the Waterway called, "Storied Lands and Waters." That program with an education component is nearly complete.

The first steps have been completed for placing the boarding house and store house at Churchill Dam on the National Historic Register. An inspection of the buildings was completed by Maine Historic Preservation in August. This site visit confirmed the value of these two properties as historic structures. The process for formal designation of these two properties to the Register is ongoing.

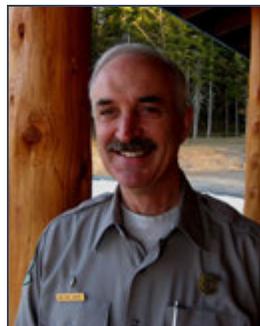
We continue to receive several letters a year praising Waterway staff for going out of their way to provide quality, professional and friendly service to visitors .

It has been a privilege to oversee the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) for the past nine years. The staff has been great to work with, they all care deeply about this wild and scenic



river that flows through the heart of Maine's industrial forest. The forest landowners that own over three million acres that surround the Waterway have been very good to work with, and they voluntarily go out of their way to minimize the impact of harvest operations on the Waterway.

A huge thank you to the support staffs in Bangor and Augusta who help with funding, administrative and public support for the Waterway.



Respectfully submitted,  
**Matthew LaRoche**  
 Superintendent  
 Allagash Wilderness Waterway

## University of Maine at Presque Isle AWW Wood Turtle Survey



A research team from the University of Maine at Presque Isle received a Special Activity Permit to work in the Waterway in June and July of 2017. The team surveyed the lower reaches of selected Allagash tributary streams to document resident wood turtle populations. The team consisted of Professor David Putnam and students Caleb Ward, Gannon Pratt, Alyssa Dougherty, Samantha Boyce and University of Maine at Fort Kent student, Samantha Beaulieu. The research was conducted in collaboration with Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) biologist Derek Yorks. The crew's 2017 work was cut short by high winds that made boat travel unsafe. They hope to continue their surveys in 2018.

Wood turtles occur statewide in Maine and inhabit forested Waterways that are cool and clear, with slow to medium flow, and substrates typically consisting of sand, gravel, and cobbles. They make extensive use of forested uplands where they spend summer months foraging and seeking nesting sites. The species is listed as a Species of Special Concern by the MDIFW, a status indicating that biologists are monitoring the species. In many parts of the wood turtle's range outside of Maine the species is officially listed as endangered or threatened, and it is currently being considered for threatened or endangered status by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Two key threats to wood turtles are roadkill and illicit collecting for pets. Roads that closely parallel water courses are detrimental as the turtles must cross them repeatedly during the summer as they move between riparian and upland habitats. Impassable culverts on brooks used by wood turtles as travel corridors can also force them to cross the road rather than follow the channel. The Allagash enjoys conditions that favor wood turtle conservation practices because of the relatively large set-back of roads from the waterways.

From "Allagash Waterway Wood Turtle Survey, June 2017," by David Putnam, University of Maine at Presque Isle.



### To plan a trip or learn more about the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, contact the following:

- Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry**  
**Bureau of Parks and Lands**  
**Northern Region Parks Office**  
 106 Hogan Road, Bangor, ME 04401  
 (207) 941-4014  
[www.maine.gov/allagash](http://www.maine.gov/allagash)  
[www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com)
- North Maine Woods, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 421  
 Ashland, ME 04732  
 (207) 435-6213  
[www.northmainewoods.org](http://www.northmainewoods.org)
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**  
 State House Station 41  
 Augusta, ME 04333  
 (207) 287-2871  
[www.maine.gov/ifw/](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/)



**Additional Photo Credits:** Several photos used in this report are from the nine-part Allagash Wilderness Waterway video series prepared for the Waterway in 2014, which is viewable on-line at [www.maine.gov/allagash](http://www.maine.gov/allagash). The videos were prepared by Patrick A. Bonsant. **AWW Logo Credit:** Jocelyn Hubbell at Parks & Lands adapted the AWW logo to reflect the national Wild and Scenic River status of the Waterway.



AWW Video Photo

## Allagash Wilderness Waterway Administration 2017

*Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:*  
*Walter E. Whitcomb, Commissioner*



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



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**[www.maine.gov/allagash](http://www.maine.gov/allagash)**



AWW Video Photo