

**ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

December 13, 2019 9:00 am – 11:20
Cross State Office Building, RM 214, Augusta, Maine

Council Members Present: Josie Allen, Haymock Lake; Dave Basley, Ashland; Peter Bourque, Farmingdale; Brent Hardy, Dedham, Chair; Toby Pineo, Hampden. Melford Pelletier, Soldier Pond;

Others Present: Jim MacCartney (National Park Service); Andy Cutko, Ron Hunt, Jim Vogel, Cindy Bastey (Bureau of Parks & Lands); Matt LaRoche (Allagash Waterway); Bob McIntosh, Paul Johnson (AWW Foundation); Greg Shute (Chewonki); Jym St. Pierre (Restore); Cathy Johnson (NRCM)

Room Introductions

Chair Brent Hardy asked attendees to introduce themselves. He then introduced Jim MacCartney as the Council member-to-be representing the National Park Service. Like Jamie, Jim has many years' experience managing Wild and Scenic Rivers for NPS. (*Scribe's note: Jim was officially sworn in as a Council member following this meeting.*)

Approval of 6-14-19 minutes

Peter Bourque noted that he was absent from the June Council meeting. Melford moved, and Pete and Toby seconded approval of the minutes. All approved.

Directors Report – Andy Cutko

Andy Cutko reported on his 3-day visit to the Allagash with Commissioner Amanda Beal in August, when they visited sites from Telos Dam to Allagash Falls. His impressions: 1) the professional and capable staff have the unique skill set required for Allagash: being comfortable alone and self-driven yet liking people; 2) the timelessness of the place, which reflects little change over 40-50 years; and 3) the effects of time on the infrastructure, which is worn and needs attention in some places. He hopes both he and the Commissioner can visit in the winter. Brent said hopes the Council continues to have a good relationship with the Director. Josie said they appreciate the Director visiting the Waterway and gaining a first-hand experience of it.

Operations and maintenance review for 2019 – Matt

Matt also appreciated the visit by the Director and Commissioner. Matt indicated he plans to continue at the AWW through 2020.

Water levels:

- We had good water levels for canoeing for most of the season. We were above 1000 cfs for about half the season.
- We only went below 500 cfs one time, that was during the first week of August.
- We met October target levels for togue spawning:
 - Telos Dam (5.5).
 - Churchill Dam (927.0), 2/10 foot above agreement level.
- Telos Dam is currently at 6.2 feet above the sill.
- Churchill Dam elevation is 927.4 above sea level.

Personnel:

- Staffing level for November/December:
 - Kevin Brown, Chief Ranger
 - Trevor O'Leary, Ranger
 - Myself
- Jay Young went on seasonal layoff on November 2nd. He is working for the Off-Road Vehicle Division during his 7-week layoff period. Jay comes back to work in the waterway on Christmas week.

Public use:

- We had a good water year with adequate water for canoeing through most of the summer and fall.
- These numbers are only preliminary, we still have a few registrations that have not come in yet.
- **Total camping nights for 2019 = 17,093. Down 11% from 2018.** (See table and chart attached at end of minutes.)
- See the chart I passed out and bar graph for a comparison with past years.
- I will have a more detailed public use report for our March meeting.
- This is the first year we have tracked access points:
 - Churchill Dam was our busiest access point for the year.
 - Followed by: Chamberlain Bridge, Allagash Lake, Indian Stream and Umsaskis.
 - Allagash Lake was our busiest point of entry in May.

Josie appreciated this data.

Projects completed in 2019

Chamberlain Bridge District:

- Repairs made to the boat launch (see photo):
 - A coating of ledge spread over entire turn-around area.
 - Crushed stone placed alongside concrete ramp.
 - Cedar grindings placed in center of turn-around.
 - New settling pool and drainage installed.
- Installed new roof on the generator shed.
- Installed new soft start water pump at ranger station.
- Replaced all old PVC water lines with new PEX tubing at ranger station.
- Repaired chimney at shop (New from roof up, upgraded from bloc to brick.)
- Relocated one of the campsites at Lock Dam to the turn-around area used during reconstruction project.
- Replaced 100 feet of bog bridge at Crow's Nest Campsite.
- Installed new cedar posts and refreshed entering/leaving AWW signs on Telos Road.

Eagle Lake District:

- Continued with Eagle Lake Ranger station repairs:
 - Replaced roof with new v-match pine, insulation and steel roofing.
 - Installed chimney
 - Rebuilt porch
 - Installed new cupboards
 - Relocated solar panels and rewired 12-volt lights
 - This has been a 3-year project that has included:
 - Sill log replacement on all 4-sides
 - Replacement of 7-logs on NE section of camp
 - New floor stringers and floor

Churchill Dam District:

- Reinstalled the repaired NWSR plaque on the rock near dam.
- Replaced sill, sistered wall studs and replaced siding on south end of boarding house.
- Built a lumber rack in the pole barn.
- Built a new canoe slip at Camp Pleasant.
- Rebuilt and painted two Scott canoes.

Michaud Farm District:

- Installed new floor at ranger station.
- Cut back roadside brush from Farm Brook to Ramsay Ledge Campsite.
- Replaced flag pole

- Located a good spot for an additional campsite on the north end of the Waterway. Collected information and had site evaluation done for a permit and submitted application. This would replace one cell

Allagash Wilderness Waterway:

- Fields and roadsides were mowed at Churchill and Telos Dams.
- Installed 4-new picnic tables with tarp poles.
- Replaced tarp poles at 5-different campsites.
- Rebuilt several firepits.
- Delivered and spread superhumus at 9- different campsites.
- Cleared the following trails:
 - Churchill Dam to Big Eddy portage trail
 - Round Pond Mountain tower trail
 - Allagash Mountain tower trail
 - Indian Stream trail
 - Tramway portage trail
 - The 19-designated snowmobile trails

Situations in 2019:

- 4 –Boating assists:
 - 2 - Swamped/pinned canoe in Chase Rapids.
 - 2 – Swamped canoes on lakes.
 - Umsaskis incident: 2- brothers swamped their canoes (lashed together) on Umsaskis Lake on 6/3/19. Scout Venture Crew 345 from Kingston NH heard cries for help and rescued 1- brother, they informed Ranger Steve Day and started searching for missing brother. 2nd brother spent 3- hours in 52° water. Missing brother was found at 9:40 pm, and brothers were brought to ranger station where they were warmed, and call was made to EMS for evacuation.
 - I doubt very much if the brother that spent 3- hours in the water would have survived without the help of the scouts and Ranger Steve Day.
 - The Scouts, Steve Day and I were recognized at the capital by Governor Mills for our actions.
- 2 – First aid/Evacuations.
- 1 – Theft
- 1 – Lost person
- 1 – Assist MFS with fire location
- 1 – Snowmobile through the ice
- 5 – Siltation events: McNally Brook, Snare Brook, Thoroughfare Brook, McCluskey Brook and Schedule Brook.

Special activity permits:

- CanAm sled dog race – crossing the AWW at Round Pond
- Search for sunken canoes using a boat and diver on Umsaskis

Training:

- Bureau of Labor Standards annual training
- MFS water quality training (class room and field workshop)
- Park Manager training (Matt & Kevin)
- Excel spread sheet online training (Trevor O’Leary)
- Managing in State Government (Trevor O’Leary)
- Boating & Canoe training (Alissa Lutz)
- Informal training at staff meetings and on the job.

Miscellaneous:

- IF&W fall field visit to Lock Dam. From Jeremiah Wood, Fisheries Biologist in Ashland:
 - He counted 12-brook trout redds in Martin Str.
 - He went out at night looking for spawning whitefish, none were observed.
 - He adjusted gate settings and determined that a flow of 20 cfs was an adequate winter flow.
- We provided a tour of Churchill Depot and the AWW headwater lakes to NM Woods staff.
- We provided a tour to ACF Commissioner Beal and BPL Director Cutko.

Follow-up Questions/Comments

Brent asked why was access to the AWW so high at Allagash Lake? Youth groups were suggested as one source. Matt thought fishing was the draw. IF&W was trying remove fish this year. Pete suggested checking to see if North Maine Woods (NMW) and Baxter State Park (BSP) reported similar camping trends.

Brent asked about a rumored purchase of property at the north end of the AWW for use as a take-out. We don't currently have a public take out there. The Director indicated that we are doing some preliminary assessment of property toward that goal but can't share more than that now. Matt said the site is in the Town of Allagash, near the bridge

Brent reported the North Maine Woods checkpoint attendants appreciated the tour provided for them by AWW staff. This will benefit relationships with those who give directions to people headed to the Waterway.

Brent asked if the old beaver dam near Lock Dam had been removed. Matt said 2 dams were removed but the beavers are returning. It will be an ongoing battle.

Pete asked what had caused the siltation events. Matt said they were all road-related issues, except at Schedule Brook, where the cause was not found. He said siltation usually occurred on roads or at log landings. Josie asked about the procedure for correcting the siltation problem. Josie asked about the process for dealing with siltation events. Matt said that AWW staff will get a report and verify an event by observation. They then report it to the Maine Forest Service who deals with the landowner. After the landowner does the required remedial work, AWW staff surveils for compliance. MFS offers training in preventing siltation, which AWW staff has taken. The training is also offered to landowners and contractors.

Progress report on new visitor survey – Matt

The visitor survey is being conducted by a UMO grad student under direction from John Daigle (UMaine School of Forest Resources), who did the 2003 survey. Today's report is preliminary and for the period between May 24th and August 24th. The full study period is May 24th until October 19th. Visitors who completed a survey card were sent up to 3 reminder emails to complete the online survey. (The 2003 survey, a paper mail-back survey, cost about \$10,000 with postage.) Matt noted that ice-out occurred on May 7th on most AWW headwater lakes and at Allagash Lake on May 9th. The survey missed 17 days of spring use, primarily anglers. John Daigle may recommend an adjustment to survey results for the missed days. So far, we have about a 67% response rate compared to an 87% response rate for the 2003 study. UMaine is happy with the 67%. We will review the information for the full survey period at the next Council meeting.

Matt cited some results from the preliminary survey report (attached at end of minutes), which generated questions and comments. Brent noted the favorable remarks about Allagash rangers reflected well on the on the outfit. He was also surprised at how few people used guides. Matt indicated this might be misleading if guides failed to designate someone different from each of their parties to answer the survey.

Pete asked Matt to explain campsite use between Lock Dam and Churchill Dam. Matt explained that this was a section of the river for which campsite use was tabulated separately and where Indian Stream and Churchill Dam are the primary access points.

Jim MacCartney noted that shuttle use was up significantly from 20013: 64% compared to 39%. Matt indicated that equipment rental was also much higher than in 2003: 30% vs 16%.

Update on St. John Highlands new management plan – Jim Vogel

BPL Senior Planner Jim Vogel reported on the status of this plan which addresses public reserved lands abutting and around the Waterway. A draft plan went out for review in October 2019, and an Advisory Committee meeting was held in November 2019. Public comments have been coming in, including some from Matt LaRoche and others whose primary concern is the Allagash. Jim expects to wrap up the plan over the next 3-4 months and present the final plan at public meetings – possibly one in Ashland and one in Allagash. There is still time to adjust plan recommendations based on input from the AWW Council. He identified issues that might be of concern to the Council.

1) Closing Kellogg Brook campground to both camping and storage of camping units (trailers, shacks, etc.,) and moving summer storage of units to the Chamberlain Bridge parking area. The campground is illegal under LUPC regulations. Matt is opposed to summer storage of units at the Chamberlain parking area, which is a high-profile AWW location with other uses during the year. Based on current levels of use (+/- 10 units), winter camping at Kellogg Brook could be transferred to the winter campground at Chamberlain. If storage of camping units is to continue to be allowed at all, it should be off-site but close enough to the Waterway to be used. Public Lands has agreed to look at other options for storage. Josie thought it was good to remind people that the property they're using for camping or storage is private or restricted, and personal units should be removed as required by rules.

2) Improving vehicle access to Round Pond Mountain tower by moving the current gate closer to the tower. The tower is outside the AWW one-mile zone. Both the road in this area and the tower are being improved for public use. Moving the road gate to a point about ¼ mile from the tower would make the tower an accessible day use destination. Possible concerns are hikers from the Waterway encountering drive-in visitors and drive-in visitors hiking down to the Waterway, where the trail ends at a campsite. Matt wanted the gate a mile from the tower. Jim thought they would go ahead with the proposed plan but monitor use at the tower and at the campsite.

3) Improving both Round Pond Mountain Tower and Allagash Mountain Tower. Both towers, situated on public reserved lands, are being rebuilt, and new cabs will be installed in the spring of 2020. Access to the Allagash Tower will be primarily be over the Carry Trail (+/- 1 mi) and the Allagash Mountain Trail (+/- 1mi). Neither of these trails goes through a campsite. The trail to Round Pond Mountain Tower starts at the Tower Trail Campsite and is +/- 2.5 mi to the tower. The hike is popular with paddlers after a long time on the water. The location of the trailhead at the campsite is not ideal, but the wet ground around the site doesn't offer an immediate alternative.

4) Timber harvesting in the AWW One-mile zone will be avoided from May 15 to September 15 whenever possible, with exceptions allowed for justified need.

5) Leaving the Indian Stream gate at its current location. Matt accepted this recommendation but felt signage to the boardwalk trail that runs from Lock Dam Road to Eagle Lake should be improved so that people know where to go. Brent reminded the group that the Council supported moving the gate to allow people to get dunnage to the trailhead and believed that this would not affect wilderness character. He would still like to see the gate moved while retaining the parking area where it is. Pete repeated that he wanted to allow off-loading at the boardwalk. Andy thought there would be further discussion of this situation.

AWW Foundation update – Bob MacIntosh or other

Bob McIntosh, President of the AWW Foundation, updated the Council on its activities over the year.

- Denise St. Peter has been hired as a part-time coordinator for the group with assistance from Phyllis Jalbert.

- AWWF received an MOHF grant of \$20,000 matched by \$15,000 from an anonymous donor to help start the Allagash Explorer pocket guide. In 2019 they contracted with an interpretive writer to prepare the guide text. They hope to publish the guide by spring or early summer 2020.
- In their Youth on the Allagash project, AWWF partnered with Chewonki to outfit and guide students on the river. They invited school board reps and teachers to join the trips to build adult and community confidence in the program. They had two **student** trips in 2019 – **one from** Ft. Kent and **one from** Madawaska. They hope to have 4 trips in 2020: one from the Katahdin Region and three from the St John Valley.
- AWWF is developing a Natural Resource initiative over the next 6 months. This will be a condition assessment as a base for monitoring protocols to measure change.
- 2020 is the 50th anniversary of the designation of the AWW as a Wild and Scenic River. The Foundation plans to participate in celebrations at Churchill Dam, and they are considering other activities throughout the year.

Brent said he would like to see a Council rep invited to meetings of Bureau staff and Foundation reps. Bob McIntosh said Foundation meetings and minutes are open. The Bureau and Foundation could discuss this afternoon.

Josie asked if the natural resource project would identify info gaps in flowers and plants. Bob said the initial effort would focus on collecting existing info and identifying gaps in that info.

Discussion on more comprehensive ways to monitor public use – Josie

Josie proposed that we delay this discussion until the next meeting (March) when Matt will have the results of the recent visitor survey. She distributed notes on a “Proposed Visitor Use Data Base for AWW” for discussion at the next meeting.

Boarding House discussion – Ron

Ron outlined the process for developing a project to upgrade the Boarding House. The Bureau of Real Estate Management (BREM) in the Dept. of Admin. and Finance needs to approve an improvement plan, hire a consulting engineer to develop specifications, and handle the bidding procedure. As the Boarding House is a historic structure, consultation with Maine Historic Preservation is also needed to ensure improvements are appropriate. BPL must identify funding sources, which will likely include the AWW dedicated account and matching funds from the federal Land and Water fund. State bond funds may be another source. The scope of improvement project envisaged by NPS rep. Chilcoat (2015) was to secure and stabilize the building at a cost of about \$85,000. Brent felt the project has to be more than stabilization or it will take forever to get the building in a condition to suitable for Waterway use. We need to move forward with the project and get the money that is needed to get the building as we want it.

Elect new Chair for 2020

Brent expressed his pleasure at being able to serve as AWW Council Chair for the past two years, but family affairs require his time in the immediate future, and he must step down from the position. He asked for nominations for Council Chair for 2020. Pete nominated Dave Basley and Melford seconded the nomination. The Council approved unanimously, and Dave accepted the post.

Meeting Dates for 2020

Following the pattern of the last few years, the following will be Council meeting dates for 2020:

Friday, March 13	Friday, September 18
Friday, June 12	Friday, December 11

Other Comments

Jym St Pierre asked to make some comments.

- He recommends there be a public comment period at each Council meeting.
- When he was at LURC, they got ahead of siltation by going directly to the landowners as the parties responsible to act. He finds the current siltation events alarming.
- He is also concerned about new roads appearing in the mile zone and moving closer to the Waterway.

- He is pleased to hear about efforts to get youth involved in the Waterway. He is on the Board of the Friends of Baxter, which sponsors the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program designed to develop the next generation of environmental leaders (served 100 kids in the last 10 years). He finds the program to be a most encouraging experience. The Foundation might consider a similar program.
- He has several AWW photo posters he would like to donate to help celebrate the Allagash's Wild and Scenic River anniversary.

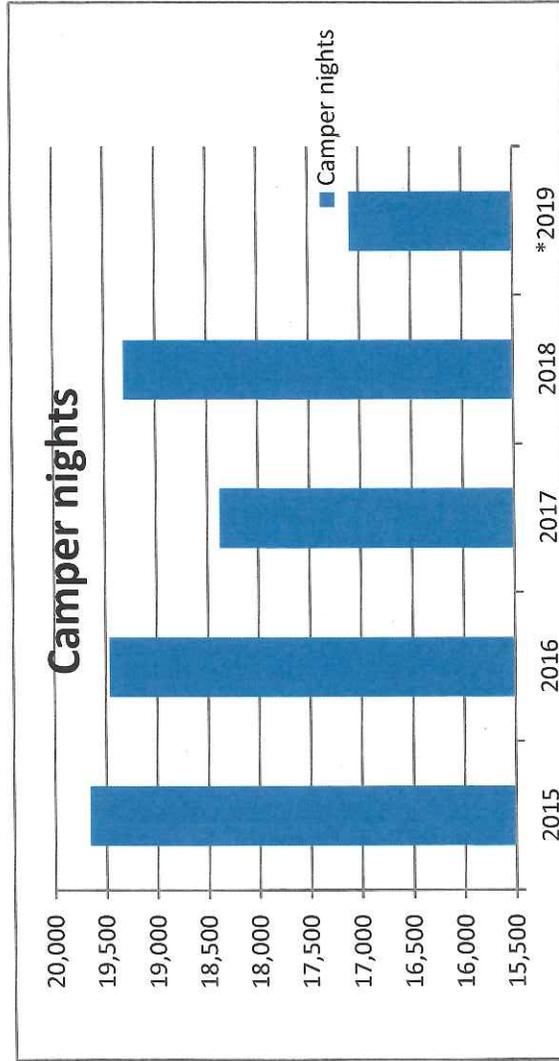
Dave noted that there are always staff changes for agencies, landowners and loggers, and ongoing training in siltation prevention is needed. Pete noted that he had success identifying and reducing siltation by working jointly with a **MWS (Maine Warden Service)** pilot and landowners.

Brent agreed the attention to youth is very important. We are only 2 generations away from our own youth, and those generations of young have missed outdoor experiences. Exposure is critical.

Melford moved adjournment, Pete seconded the motion and the Council voted to adjourn at 11:20 am.

Year	MAINE RESIDENTS						NON RESIDENTS					
	No. Campers	No. Nights	Camper Nights	Under 10	<10 camp. nights	No. Campers	No. Nights	Camper Nights	Under 10	<10 camp. nights	Total camper nights	
2010	2,273	2,946	8,788	86	~	1,902	2,178	9,797	29	~	18,585	
2011	2,172	2,877	9,018	~	262	1,987	2,256	10,672	~	139	20,091	
2012	2,162	2,635	7,920	129	336	1,960	2,270	10,476	35	160	18,892	
2013	2,118	2,871	8,310	82	234	2,031	2,501	10,498	42	205	19,247	
2014	1,182	2,466	7,349	46	146	2,067	2,334	10,952	42	209	18,656	
2015	2,178	2,848	8,778	80	206	2,018	2,417	10,437	49	237	19,658	
2016	2,250	3,009	9,000	87	261	2,012	2,388	10,013	38	185	19,459	
2017	2,136	2,703	8,353	71	240	1,889	2,130	9,625	36	158	18,376	
2018	2,075	2,662	8,357	68	242	2,164	2,232	10,520	40	186	19,305	
*2019	1,909	2,470	7,653	67	215	1,868	2,042	9,139	21	86	17,093	

*Totals available to date



Allagash Wilderness Waterway Visitor Survey Preliminary Report

Summary:

All of the data reported below is from questionnaires completed between **June 10, 2019 and September 13, 2019**. These visitors visited the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) between **May 24, 2019 and August 24, 2019**. At this point, we have **154 usable surveys**. **Counting only visitors that received all four reminder emails, our current response rate is about 67%**. **221 contact cards** have been distributed and only twenty emails were not contactable. The amount of visitors surveyed is lower than the 2003 study, but we still have a month and a half of contact information collection to go. Our response rate is also lower than the 2003 study (87%), but we suspect this is because we are using an email survey and because we did not contact users who visited the AWW before May 24th. The contact period for the 2003 study was March 2003 thru November 2003 while our study period is May 24th, 2019 until October 19, 2019. Information that is new to this study is the economic data and the vehicle transportation used by visitors. **The economic data needs more analysis and will be presented in a later report.**

Visitor Use Characteristics:

- **Two-person parties make up about 38% (59 parties)** of parties surveyed compared to 33% in 2003. Parties with 12 people or more account for about **10% (16 parties)** of parties surveyed compared.
- About **42%** of parties were made-up completely of family. About **30%** of parties were made up of friends. The most popular groupings in 2003 were families with 33% and family and friends with 29%.
- **For the 2019 study, visitors were screened to make sure they were at the AWW for more than 4 hours.** About **95%** of parties survived stayed at least one night on the AWW. While this is down 3% from 2003, the reason for this might be more day trippers were captured in this survey than in the last.
- **44%** of visitors visited in the month of June, but the most popular month in 2003 was May with 28%.
- **This is the first visit to a remote or undeveloped river for about 16%** of visitors which is 6% more than in 2003.
- **47%** of visitors stayed 3-4 nights, **29%** 5-6 nights, **10%** 7 nights or more, and **13%** 1-2 nights. In 2003, 39% of visitors stayed 3-4 nights, 28% stayed 5-6 nights and 18% of visitors stayed a week or more.
- The most common wildlife that visitors have seen is bald eagle (**95%**), moose (**85%**), and loon (**81%**). In 2003, a moose was seen by 91% of visitors, a bald eagle by 76%, and loon sightings were not offered as a response on the questionnaire.
- Other sightings noted by the 2003 study were deer (72%), blue heron (57%) and osprey (50%). Currently, the sightings are **36%**, **40%**, and **39%** respectively. These ratings might be due to lack of identification knowledge or decrease in population.

Land Transportation:

- About **64%** of visitors hired an outfitter to transport them to the watercourse this is up from 39% in 2003.
- About **77%** of visitors drove their personal vehicle at least part of the way to the watercourse.
- Of the visitors that reported driving a rental vehicle or personal vehicle, about **55%** of visitors drove a 4WD/AWD Truck.
- About **19% (23)** of visitors reported having car problems, but when asked to explain, nine visitors reported nonvehicle related issues. Of these 23 visitors, **10** had a flat tire and **4** had other vehicle issues.
- This is the first visit to the AWW for about **20%** of visitors which is 7% less than in 2003.
- **93%** of visitors felt comfortable driving to the AWW.

Water Transportation:

- About **10%** of people used two or more boat types.
- Out of 151 surveyed parties, **82%** used a canoe without a motor. Only about **18%** of people used either a motored canoe or a motored boat. 10% of people used a kayak.
- In 2003, 65% used a canoe without a motor, 26% used a motor with a canoe, 9% used a boat with motor and 9% used a kayak.
- Out of 16 users that used more than one boat type, **7 visitors or about 44%** used both a canoe without a motor and with a motor.
- About **30%** of visitors rented equipment such as canoes. This is up from 16% in 2003.
- Only **2 visitors (>0.01%)** of visitors reported using a guide to lead them down the AWW. This is down from 3% in 2003.

Visitor Satisfaction:

- Almost **99%** of visitors rated their trip to the AWW as either very good or good. There were no visitors that rated their experience as poor or very poor. This is up from 97% from the 2003 study.
- **84%** of visitors rated their trip as very good, **14%** as good and **1.3%** as fair. In 2003, Very good was 74%, good was 23%, and fair was 2%.
- Experiences or conditions receiving the highest “very important” ratings from visitors are natural environment (**89%**), exploration and remoteness (**82%**), no litter and waste (**76%**), personal and social experiences (**66%**), solitude (**62%**), and connection with nature (**59%**).
- In 2003 the “very important” ratings were natural environment (**83%**), no litter or waste (**79%**), exploration and remoteness (**73%**), personal and social experiences (**64%**), solitude (**59%**) and management conditions (**51%**). In 2019, management conditions were “very important” to **46%** of visitors.
- Experiences or conditions receiving the highest “very satisfied” rating from visitors are natural environment (**82%**), personal and social experiences (**72%**), solitude (**63%**), physical activity (**61%**), and connection with nature (**61%**).
- **96%** of visitors indicated that recreational experiences like the AWW are “extremely important”
- We will be doing an Importance Performance Analysis to further investigate the relationship of the importance and satisfaction levels.

Campsite Characteristics:

- **58%** of visitors took the first available campsite at their intended stopping point compared to **54%** in 2003.
- **66%** of visitors stated that there was always a campsite available at each place they planned to stop. **28%** of visitors stated that there usually was (at least $\frac{1}{2}$ time) a campsite available at each place they planned to stop. **7%** of visitors that they sometimes (less than $\frac{1}{2}$ time) found a campsite at each place they planned to stop. No visitors reported that they were unable to find a campsite. In 2003, the numbers were reported as **63%**, **33%**, **4%**, and **1%** respectively.
- **22%** of visitors rejected their first available campsite due to its condition. This is down from **33%** in 2003. **26%** of visitors rejected their first available campsite due to location. This is down from **38%** in 2003.
- When it comes time to pick a campsite, visitors have different values about certain attributes and conditions. Amount of litter present was scored “very important” by **64%** of visitors, level ground for a tent **54%**, dry ground **51%**, and ridge poles attached to picnic tables **50%**. The “not at all important” rating for these conditions and attributes ranges from **1%-6%**.
- The campsite conditions or attributes with the highest “not at all important” rating are as follows; letters/numbers carved on picnic table/ridge pole (**54%**), the number of trees with exposed roots (**44%**), and number of trails/paths leading into and out of my campsite (**32%**). The “very important” rating for these attributes and conditions ranges between **3% and 8%**.

Access Point Characteristics:

- Out of 99 people who had visited the AWW before, **52%** of people used both new and old access points, **40%** revisited entry points, and **9%** visited new access points. In 2003, **44%** of people used both new and old access points, **34%** revisited entry points, and **22%** visited new access points.
- **84%** of people did not request information from the Bureau of Parks and Lands before starting their trip. In 2003, **82%** of people did not request information from the Bureau of Parks and Lands before starting their trip.

Visitors use different sources to find information about the AWW. These are the percentages of people that used each method.

<u>Information Source</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>% Δ</u>
Bureau of Parks and Lands	15%	20%	5%
North Maine Woods Checkpoints	26%	16%	-10%
Been there before	61%	50%	-11%
Told by friends	28%	16%	-12%
Topographic Maps	29%	21%	-8%
Allagash Wilderness Waterway Map	52%	61%	9%
Guidebooks	18%	32%	14%
Internet/Website	17%	33%	16%
Newspaper	3%	0%	-3%
Don't Remember	1%	1%	0%
Other	13%	10%	-3%

Reasons for choosing an access point:

<u>Reasons</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>% Δ</u>
A new area, variety	8%	10%	2%
Access to good fishing or hunting	26%	16%	-10%
Been there before, familiarity	49%	42%	-7%
Close to home	3%	4%	1%
Easy Access	39%	39%	0%
Able to travel less distance for one-way canoe trip	15%	17%	2%
Able to travel more distance for one-way canoe trip	14%	17%	3%
Less Crowded	13%	9%	-4%
Other	29%	26%	-3%

Some reasons listed under other:

- Picked an access point that allowed the trip to be completed in the allotted trip time. (8 visitors)
- Visitors wanted to do the rivers versus the lakes. (7 visitors) Families with children also wanted to avoid the lakes to make it easier for the child (2 visitors).
- Some visitors wanted to do the rapids, and one group wanted to do them twice. (4 visitors)
- The outfitter or guide suggested a certain access point. (3 visitors)
- Other reasons include, but are not limited to wind (2), Campsite location (1), Beauty (1), Motor allowance (1), Car access (1), and visit museums (1).

Reasons for not choosing an access point:

<u>Reasons</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>% Δ</u>
Too far to destination	20%	17%	-3%
Too crowded	6%	3%	-3%
Too long a drive to access point	11%	12%	1%
Watercourse travel too difficult or challenging	7%	10%	3%
Time constrains	31%	39%	8%
Weather	5%	3%	-2%
Road conditions too poor	6%	1%	-5%
Wanted to visit new area	5%	5%	0%
Lack of fishing and hunting	4%	1%	-3%
Water too shallow for boating	5%	1%	-4%
Not interested in other access points	31%	31%	0%
Other	22%	16%	-6%

Some reasons listed under other:

- Visitors repeated that they did not want to paddle flat water or the lakes. (5 visitors)
- Some visitors had a set destination they wanted to visit either due to planning or attributes of the access point or nearby area. (3 visitors)
- Two visitors wanted to do the longest distance they could do in the time allotted.
- Other reasons include, but are not limited to location awareness (1), not wanting to hear boat motors (1), didn't want to use a shuttle (1), and the access points weren't recommended (1).

Campsite Information:

- About 45% of visitors entered the Allagash at between Lock Dam and Churchill Dam.
- The Churchill Dam, Allagash Falls and Inlet campsites were used by 27 parties, 25, and 17 respectively. These three campsites accounted for only 40 nights out of 624 overnights recorded.
- The end of the AWW watercourse accounts for 31% of visitor overnights. This zone includes Michaud Farm, Allagash Falls and the end of the watercourse.

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- Thank you to the North Maine Woods staff for being accommodating and our first connection with the visitors
- Thank you to the AWW rangers to help with communication and helping us contact the people that might otherwise fall through the cracks.

Notes:

- Δ= change
- Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
- All results are preliminary and subject to change as more questionnaires are submitted.
- All 2003 data is taken from Dr. John Daigle's 2005 report. (MR436)
- The 2003 study had 454 usable questionnaires. Percentages are used to account for differences in sample size.

References:

Daigle, J. J. (2005). Allagash Wilderness Waterway visitor survey.

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