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WILDERNESS WATERWAY
2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Maine Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and 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 2016. 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.



2014 BPL/NCFT Campsite Survey: Carry Trail

Report from the AWW Advisory Council

I would first like to thank outgoing chair, Toby Pineo, for his leadership over the past year. Getting situated and back on track was difficult for all members after Rick Denico's passing. Thank you Toby. I would also like to welcome our newest member of the council, Dave Basley, who succeeds Rick Denico as fisheries representative. Dave is a retired IF&W fisheries biologist and has a long history of work on and around the Allagash River System. Dave's expertise in the Allagash will no doubt be of great value to the council and management when making decisions.

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council met formally three times in 2016 in the AFC Committee Room of the Burton Cross Building. Each meeting is broadcast over the web and open to the public. All meetings included detailed reports from AWW Superintendent Matt LaRoche about ongoing operations and the work of his rangers and volunteers on the waterway.

One thing I have learned about Matt and his position as Superintendent is the diversity of areas he must address. Whether it is Public Relations promoting the AWW, financial reports and budgets, or just plain twisting a wrench with a ranger repairing equipment, he knows how to get the job done.

Without question the event of the year was the 50th Anniversary celebrations at Churchill Dam and the Town of Allagash. I personally attended the Churchill Dam celebration and will tell you up front that it was over the top of anything I could have expected. Attendance was somewhere between 600 and 800 people. The diversity of the AWW users was more than impressive with canoeists, fishermen, hikers, hunters and back country snowmobilers, just to name a few. Although there were many things to do such as blacksmith demonstrations and the Lombard Loghauled, one thing that was very impressive was having the Boarding House open for viewing. A lady named Amanda Baker, who is involved in the Ashland Logging Museum, took on the task of cleaning out years of dirt and debris, both upstairs and down. She brought in items of the period to each room in the building. All the items were labeled, identified and out for people to look at and touch. On top of all this she gave an oral accounting of logging operations on the Allagash from the early 1900's to present every hour on the hour lasting 45 minutes in front of 35 to 40 interested people. Our thanks go out to her for sharing her knowledge of this history.

The success of this celebration is no doubt a product of Matt and his very dedicated rangers' attention to detail and interactions with the public.

Over the course of our three meetings many topics were discussed and included two guest speakers. The first speaker was Dave Struble, an expert on the subject of spruce budworm outbreaks. Dave used maps to show how the budworm infestation

moves and its possible effects on the waterway and surrounding areas.

Throughout our meetings discussions have continued in detail of how to proceed with the stabilization and restoration of the Boarding House at Churchill Dam. Everyone agrees this is a worthy project and one that should be undertaken. The management plan calls for the upkeep and maintenance of this



building. At our September meeting our guest speaker was Fred Krone, who is a grant writer from Monson, Maine. He has 15 years of experience in grant writing for projects such as the Boarding House. Mr. Krone presented a wealth of information to the council members and answered many questions regarding possible funding and the process to achieve it.

At our September meeting, Paul Johnson from the AWW Foundation, outlined plans for a project to be taken on by the Foundation in collaboration with the AWW. This project will be funded by the Foundation through grants acquired by them and contracted out to Bruce Jacobson. The project will be a cultural and historic resource assessment for use in future planning in the AWW. I am pleased to say that the project is well underway and several members of the council, as well as others are working with Bruce reviewing the project as it goes forward.

The Lock Dam and Telos Dam assessment reports contracted to Baker Design Consultants have been completed. Matt presented them at our September meeting and outlined each report in detail. A lengthy discussion ensued and questions on how to proceed with each dam were answered and discussed by everyone in the room. The exact course of action to be taken will be discussed over the next year and hopefully a plan at how to address both dams will be made.

Submitted per Maine Statutes – February 6, 2017

Brent D. Hardy, Chair AWW Advisory Council



Photo by Deborah Gardner

FY 2016 Allagash Wilderness Waterway Budget

<i>Allotment Source</i>	FY-16 Q1	FY-16 Q2	FY-16 Q3	FY-16 Q4	Total
General Fund (all other)	\$55,000	\$24,000	\$18,000	\$24,994	\$121,994
AWW Account (capital improvements)	\$35,089	\$40,072	\$24,543	\$63,186	\$207,919
Total	\$90,089	\$64,072	\$42,543	\$88,180	\$329,913



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, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Fiscal Year	Revenues from Fees
2011	\$97,562.91
2012*	\$130,222.95
2013	\$102,268.08
2014	\$115,173.84
2015	\$101,261.23
2016	\$131,502.11

*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
2011	\$55,007.80
2012	\$61,612.12
2013	\$50,894.10
2014	\$49,778.99
2015	\$45,562.28
2016	\$52,155.00

AWW Endowment Fund: \$6,193 is in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway endowment fund. This is an interest bearing trust account at the Department of Treasury.

AWW Donations Account: \$28,671.54 was in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway donations account as of June 30, 2016.



Allagash Wilderness Waterway Fiscal Year 16 Expenditure Report (July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016)

	AWW Account <small>(dedicated revenue)</small>	General Fund <small>(general oper- ations)</small>	Loon Account <small>(dedicated revenue)</small>	Poland Account <small>(dedicated revenue)</small>	Donations Account <small>(dedicated revenue)</small>	TOTAL
Expenses - FY16						
Salary and Benefits		533,869.97				533,869.97
Professional Services		539.51			14,500.00	15,039.51
Water tests		520.00				520.00
Gas (for equipment)		7,542.01				7,542.01
Lodging, Meals, Mileage		1,234.12				1,234.12
Electric		189.05				189.05
Other utilities		108.05				108.05
Misc. Rents		96.00				96.00
Rental of State Vehicle		30,458.56				30,458.56
State Vehicle Operations		312.08				312.08
Repair - Equipment		13,153.39	27.99			13,181.38
Repair - Boats		3,970.99				3,970.99
Repair - Roads and Grounds	566.42	3,594.15				4,160.57
Repair - Buildings		15,444.96				15,444.96
Repair - Misc.		562.35				562.35
Trash Removal		272.40				272.40
Snow plowing		197.09				197.09
General Operations		807.25				807.25
Employee Training		1,895.00				1,895.00
Food		392.17				392.17
L.P. Gas		5,591.04				5,591.04
Natural Gas		219.18				219.18
Fuel Oil		178.99				178.99
Firewood		111.88				111.88
Misc. Supplies (Industrial, etc.)		9,301.56				9,301.56
Technology (Radios, etc.)		2,539.92	119.94			2,659.86
Clothing		5,273.50				5,273.50
Printing and Publishing		1,143.37				1,143.37
Equipment		12,270.02				12,270.02
Administrative Charges*	96.58		25.66		2,472.54	2,594.78
Material Purchases for Resale		4,533.80				4,533.80
CAP Equipment					11,699.00	11,699.00
CAP Buildings & Improvements	18,802.00					18,802.00
CAP Infrastructures & Improvements	5,621.99					5,621.99
TOTAL EXPENSES	25,086.99	656,322.36	173.59	0.00	28,671.54	710,254.48

CASH BALANCE IN AWW ACCT AS OF 7/01/16 177,705.99

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

Expenditures from the AWW Capital account included:

- Lock and Telos Dam assessments
- New solar power system at Michaud Farm



Photo by Rex Turner

Recreation

Total public use increased by 3% in 2016, the fourth straight year in which total visitor days increased on the AWW. Day use increased by 12% and sporting camp use by 4%, but total camping nights decreased by 1%.

It was a very strange year for camping on the waterway. The summer started out with strong visitation by fishermen and canoeists during May and June. Camping nights increased a whopping 22% in June, and in July it was up slightly from the 2015 season. However, camping use for August was down by 1,828 camping nights - a 29% decrease from the previous year. This drop in camping use in August was exclusively by nonresidents. It may be that the drought that the rest of the northeast was experiencing during the summer of 2016 kept nonresident canoeists away.

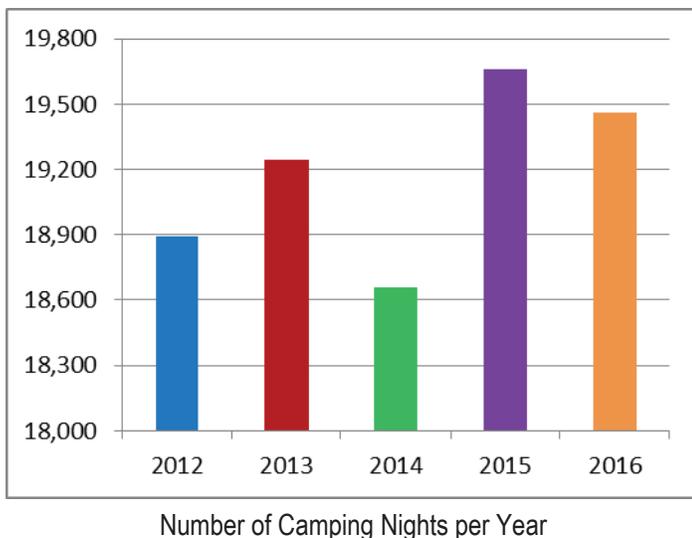
The waterway had excellent water flows throughout most of the canoe season and the spring fishing was very good through June. The May 4th ice out date on the waterway headwater lakes was about normal.

The warm, dry conditions that most of New England experienced during the summer of 2016 finally arrived in the waterway by mid-September and we had almost no precipitation through the month of October. The fall fishing season was almost nonexistent due to the drought conditions. Even with these dry conditions use by canoe parties increased during the month of September. Many groups changed trip itineraries and stayed on the headwater lakes only. September canoe trips continue to increase in popularity, primarily by older canoeists who are seeking opportunities for solitude and viewing wildlife.

Year	Parties	Persons	Camping Nights	Sporting Camp Days	Day Use	Total Visitor Days
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
2016	1,276	4,262	19,459	3,919	9,530	32,908

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

Five Year Camping Use Comparison



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 2016 there were 7 permits issued to 3 exempt organizations.

Year	Exempt Organizations	Permits Issued
2013	3	5
2014	3	6
2015	4	8
2016	3	7

Education, Interpretation, and Historic Preservation

Proposed Rule Changes

The AWW received the Governor's approval to proceed with several rule changes as outlined below. A summary of the proposed changes was published in four major newspapers with statewide distribution on December 21, 2016. Stakeholders and interested parties were notified by email on the same date. The public comment period ended on January 21, 2017. The waterway received no requests for a public hearing and no opposition to the proposed rule changes. However, there were seven people who requested more information or had questions about the proposed changes. These rule changes were approved and became effective February 22, 2017.

The rule changes:

- Allow the development of a foot trail to the locomotives in T8 R13.
- Delete Telos Landing in T5 R11 as an authorized aircraft access location, and add Webster Lake Inlet in T6 R11 as an authorized aircraft landing location.
- Add 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
- Delete 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 only 19 snowmobile access points to the watercourse.

Historic Artifacts

AWW staff continues to support and promote the historical aspects of the Allagash Waterway by collecting, interpreting and displaying artifacts that are found by both staff and visitors. One addition to the Churchill Depot History Center was a setting pole that was made and used by Fred King. Fred King guided many trips on the AWW during the 1970's and 80's. Also donated to the History Center was an oxen yoke and log branding hammer which were once used for logging.

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 at the show on how to prepare for an Allagash canoe trip.

Matt made a "how to prepare for an Allagash canoe trip" presentation at AMC's Gorman Chairback Lodge for 23 young people.

Ranger Chris Silsbee made an AWW presentation at a Boy Scout District Round Table meeting in Waterville.

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.



2014 BPL/NFCT Campsite Survey: High Bank

The AWW Video Series that came out in May, 2014 has had almost 13,000 views. This has been a tremendous tool for educating potential visitors to the waterway.

New AWW Brochure The AWW received a \$12,227 grant to design and print a new full color, high quality AWW map & guide, which has been very well received by visitors to the waterway.



Photo by Cindy Day

2016 AWW Crew with 50th Anniversary Canoe donated by Rollin Thurlow to benefit the AWW Endowment Fund Front left to right: Bob Johnston, Steve Day, Matt LaRoche, Kevin Brown, Evan Smith—Volunteer, Josh Plourde, Barb Pineau, Lily Tuell, Ed Palys, Trevor O’Leary, Jessica Beckett. Absent: Ray Lewis, Jay Young, Ruth LaRoche

Staff Training

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 classes in Augusta with the Bureau GIS coordinator, Gena Denis. Trevor O’Leary took an online “Solar Power for Professionals” course. Trevor is now our “in house” expert on solar power systems. Regular training was completed on the job and at staff meetings during the year. That training included: Bureau of Labor Standards mandated training; emergency operations planning; standard operating procedures; radio communications and use; wildfire size-up and suppression; and Wilderness First Aid and CPR.

Forest Operations Notifications

In 2016, there were 30 active forest harvest notifications (FONS) within the mile zone of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW).

Eight 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 landowner 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.

One of the 30 harvest notifications was for pre-commercial thinning of young spruce and fir stands adjacent to the waterway.

Seven 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 was one application for road construction within the ¼ mile new construction zone. This was approved with the conditions that it be seeded and blocked at the mile zone after harvest. This road will not be visible from the watercourse or provide access to a sensitive area of the waterway.

There were three applications for the use of herbicide within the mile zone. One was for road side brush control and the other two were for aerial spraying to control hardwood competition and release softwood stems.

Projects Accomplished by Staff, Volunteers, and Contactors in 2016

◆ Chamberlain Lake District:

- ◇ Engineering assessments were completed for Telos and Lock Dams.
- ◇ Upgraded the access road at Lock Dam from a winter to summer road.
- ◇ 20 bags of superhumus were hauled to Ledge Point Campsite to cover compacted soil/roots.
- ◇ Replaced the bog bridging on the outhouse trail at Lock Dam Campsite.
- ◇ Graveled and installed water bars on Lock Dam portage trail.

◆ Allagash Lake District:

- ◇ Installed stone steps, rip-rap, and superhumus on Little Allagash Falls portage trail.
- ◇ Shingled the roof of the Allagash Lake Ranger Station.
- ◇ Removed rotten mud sills and installed cement pads at ranger station.

◆ Eagle Lake District:

- ◇ Installed new “Entering and Leaving AWW” signs at Johns Bridge.
- ◇ Built/installed new cover over the spring at Scofield Cove Campsite.

◆ Churchill Dam District:

- ◇ Made some enhancements to the public drinking water system at Churchill Dam.
- ◇ The 10” X 10” guardrails were replaced on deck of Churchill Dam.
- ◇ Installed a new ramp to the outhouse at Bissonette Bridge.
- ◇ Stained the AWW Headquarters building.
- ◇ Repaired and painted the ceiling in the main room at AWW Headquarters.
- ◇ Removed the weather station at Churchill Dam.
- ◇ Built a ramp to the Boarding House to improve access.

◆ Umsaskis District:

- ◇ Installed stone steps and rip-rap on the downstream end of the portage trail at Long Lake Dam.
- ◇ Replaced table, tarp poles and fire pit at Gray Brook, Sandy Point and Sweeney Brook Campsites.
- ◇ Repaired the spring and relocated the waterline at Umsaskis (old AWW headquarters).
- ◇ Removed a camping “cell” at Chisholm Brook Campsite.
- ◇ Painted the small bedroom at the Umsaskis Ranger Station.
- ◇ Stained shop and wood shed at Umsaskis Ranger Station.
- ◇ Replaced the wood shed with a smaller shed at Umsaskis Ranger Station.
- ◇ Re-ditched, installed culvert, graded, and spot graveled the Camp Drake access road.

◆ Michaud Farm District:

- ◇ Installed a new solar power system at the Michaud Farm Ranger Station.
- ◇ Built/installed new skirting for Michaud Farm Ranger Station.
- ◇ Delivered and spread several yards of superhumus at Allagash Falls Campsite.
- ◇ Replaced rotten planking and extended walkway on the Allagash Falls portage trail.
- ◇ Installed stone steps, rip-rap, water bars, and gravel on the Allagash Falls portage trail.
- ◇ Replaced tables and tarp poles at: Five Finger South, Ramsay Ledges, and Cunliffe Depot Campsites.
- ◇ Replaced the cooking stove and woodstove at the Round Pond Camp (T13 R12).
- ◇ Built an addition to the shed at Michaud Farm ranger station.

◆ AWW:

- ◇ A new full color map and guide was produced and printed.
- ◇ Several fireplaces were rebuilt and new fire grates were installed.
- ◇ Cleared, re-blazed, and painted four miles of AWW boundary line.



Allagash Falls Portage Trail—Before



Allagash Falls Portage Trail—After

Dam Reports

Churchill Dam – rebuilt in 1997 is a 24 ft. high x 460 ft. long earthen and concrete structure used to store water and provide recreational flows in 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 above retaining wall to monitor movement in 2012. There has been no movement in the retaining wall during the observation period since 2012.

Lock Dam – this historic dam changed the course of water that originally flowed north down the Allagash into the St. John River; to a southward flow down the East Branch of the Penobscot River. The structure is a 140 year old earthen dam 15 ft. high x 280 ft. long. The timber facing on the dam was replaced with rip-rap during the winter of 2008 – 2009. The last 30 ft. of the spillway pipe was replaced in 2012. The existing spillway grate and outlet pipe was installed in 1961; it is in poor condition and should be replaced. (See Photo below.)

The Bureau of Parks and Lands contracted with Baker Design Consultants 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.



The assessment report for Lock Dam (8/19/2016) recommends that the existing sluice pipe and gate be replaced. 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. The above repair is a significant expense, estimated at \$500,000. The bureau has identified the funds necessary to make these repairs. The bureau is working with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to ensure that the design of a new outlet structure and water management plan addresses the issues of fish habitat enhancement/protection. Also, the bureau is seeking input from IF&W regarding the timing and minimum flow requirements during the repair project. The bureau is contemplating undertaking this work in late summer 2018.

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 ft. high x 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. 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 continues to monitor movement of the piers which has shown some minor movement. AWW staff applied wood preservative to the ends of all timbers that were above the waterline in the fall of 2015, during the normal low water period.

Baker Design Consultants issued an assessment of Telos Dam on 8/25/2016. Initial recommendations are to reconstruct the 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. These repairs will also be a significant expense, estimated at over \$1,000,000. The bureau has not identified the funds to make these repairs. The repairs at Lock Dam are deemed to be a more critical need and will be undertaken first. Stopgap measures outlined in the report will be employed at Telos Dam to buy time until the money can be identified, including the introduction of burlap bags filled with bark and stone into the void areas (major leaks) and placing clean stone of various sizes in front of the skirting below the sluiceways. The Land Use Planning Commission and Army Corps of Engineers have already signed off on the stopgap measures. This work is scheduled for late summer 2017.

Volunteers

During 2016 we had 128 individuals donate 544 hours to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. This is slightly fewer volunteers and volunteer hours than in 2015. The value of these volunteer hours is over \$6,000!

Volunteers helped waterway staff accomplish the following tasks during 2016:

- Transporting and spreading superhumus on campsites
- Campsite maintenance
- Cutting and peeling tarp poles
- General maintenance
- Filling bags with superhumus
- Building picnic tables and installing tarp poles
- 50th Anniversary Celebration:
 - * Preparation and cleanup
 - * Blacksmith demonstration
 - * Boarding House Tours
 - * Cooking
 - * Bean-hole beans

Special Activity Permits Issued

- Can-Am sled dog race, for crossing the AWW at Round Pond in T13 R12.
- Rory Strunk – film highlighting the lore of Gardner Defoe's Allagash trips from the early years of the AWW.

Incidents

There were 12 recorded incidents during 2016 in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

The most serious involved a lone kayaker who mistakenly went over Allagash Falls in late August. Luckily, he was found by some passing canoeists who rendered aid and notified the State Police using their satellite communication device. Ranger Trevor O'Leary and volunteers provided rescue and evacuation. The kayaker miraculously survived, but he did spend a week in the hospital and two weeks in rehabilitation.

- 2 assists with broached canoe in Chase's Carry Rapids.
- Harassment of other park visitors
- Report of injured Bald Eagle
- Investigated report of a drone at Jalbert's Sporting Camps
- Assisted visitor whose snowmobile was stuck in a hole in the ice
- Investigated report of siltation in Musquacook Stream.
- 4 medical emergencies
- Injured knee
- Broken arm (evacuation)
- Shoulder injury (evacuation)
- Broken bones in hand (evacuation)

There were no written warnings issued in 2016.

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

- Allagash Wilderness Waterway 50th anniversary prints (\$50.00 each)
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway brochure (informational map and guide)
- 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

Information available online at www.maine.gov/allagash includes:

- AWW video series
- Views of Allagash Wilderness Waterway campsites on Google Earth



Photo by Rex Turner

Superintendent's Report

The highlights of the year centered around the 50th anniversary of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. We had two celebration events, one at Churchill Dam and the other in the Town of Allagash. Both events were very well attended. The costs associated with the events were totally covered by donations received from companies and organizations interested in the waterway.

The waterway commissioned wildlife artist Mark McCollough to paint a scene below Allagash Falls. The painting was reproduced as prints, signed and numbered by the artist. Proceeds from the prints will be deposited into the AWW Endowment Fund. To date we have about 100 prints still available for sale.

Northwoods Canoe Company built and donated a 50th anniversary special edition wood canvas canoe to the waterway. The canoe along with paddles and life jackets were offered at an online auction hosted by the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. The sale of these items netted the Endowment Fund over \$5,000.00.

Churchill Dam came alive with activity on the weekend of July 23rd. All the campsites in the area, plus the field that we opened for camping between the ranger station and the barn were filled with campers. Hundreds of people came for the day to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this nationally acclaimed Wild and Scenic River. We estimated a crowd of over 1000 people at peak attendance. It truly was a great day at Churchill Dam!

A second celebration event was held in the Town of Allagash and at Michaud Farm on the north end of the waterway. This event was planned in cooperation with the Town of Allagash. The celebration was well attended with most people coming from the St. John Valley. At peak, we estimated a crowd of 600 – 800 people. I couldn't help but think that 50 years ago the creation of the AWW was not very popular among the residents of Allagash, and today the town was helping the AWW celebrate a half century of conservation. They say, "Time heals all wounds." This certainly seems to be the case with the residents of the St. John Valley.

The waterway hosted a Maine Conservation Corps mini-team (3-people) for seven weeks last summer. The crew made some major improvements to the portage trails at Little Allagash Falls, Long lake Dam and Allagash Falls. They built rock steps, water bars, and rip-rap; and hauled gravel and spread superhumus at these badly eroded sites. These improvements were well constructed and should last for many years to come. The project was funded by waterway donations and a Recreational Trails Program grant.

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) sent their work crew and volunteers to Lock Dam later in the summer to help waterway staff spread gravel and install two water bars on that portage trail. The NFCT crew also helped install cedar shingles on the recently reconstructed woodshed at Lock Dam.

The ice was out on all the waterway headwater lakes by May 9th.

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.

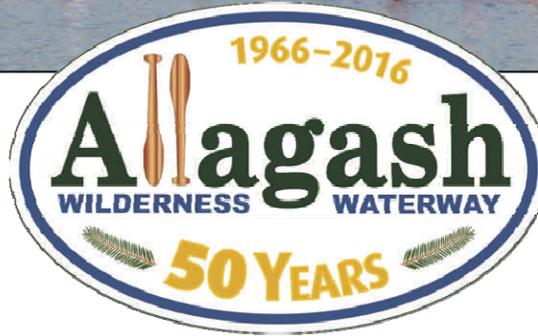
Camping use was very strong at the start of the season, and we expected to have a record year heading into August. However, camping plummeted in August, down 29% from the preceding year. Since the drop in use was totally by nonresidents, the drought that affected the rest of the northeast may have kept many canoe trippers away. Our overall camping use was only down 1% for the entire summer season.

On a sad note, long time ranger Brady Scott passed away on October 15, 2016. Brady was a colorful character who was truly an Allagash Legend. He was one of my mentors, he had a lot of patience with me, and he showed a young ranger the ways of an experienced woodsman. Thank you Brady for all you did for me!

We had an exceptional staff on the waterway this year. They worked together for the betterment of the waterway, provided outstanding service to the public, and diligently kept AWW facilities clean, well maintained, and safe for our visitors. I would like to thank the waterway crew for their help in making the 50th anniversary celebrations such a huge success. Chief Ranger, Kevin Brown was invaluable for his help with planning the celebration at Churchill Dam and Ranger, Trevor O'Leary was instrumental in planning the event in the Town of Allagash and at Michaud Farm.



Respectfully submitted,
Matthew LaRoche
Superintendent
Allagash Wilderness Waterway



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

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



Additional Photo Credits: *This page*—Canoes in a row by Steve Day. Remaining photos, also by Steve Day, show sights and activities from the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Waterway at Churchill Dam. **Front Cover**—Image from a photo by Rex Turner. **Back Cover**—Photos of moose, fox, partridge, loon and turtle by Steve Day. Photo of frog from 2014 Bureau of Parks & Lands/Northern Forest Canoe Trail (BPL/NFCT) Campsite Survey.



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