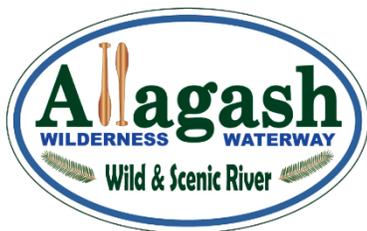




Allagash River from Henderson Brook Bridge

Photo by: Kim Deroche

Allagash Wilderness Waterway 2021 Annual Report



Bureau of Parks and Lands

March 1, 2022



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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 Superintendent 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. These matters include the AWW 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, and current challenges and prospects for the Waterway (12 MRSA §1890 A-C). This report is submitted to meet those 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:

- 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

The 2010 Strategic Plan and the 2012 AWW Management Plan include several goals and objectives, guiding principles, policies and strategies aimed toward accomplishing the mission. The plans are available online under the “Featured Links” at www.maine.gov/allagash. For the Strategic Plan, click on [AWW Advisory Council](#). For the Management Plan, click on [AWW Management Plan](#).



AWW Advisory Council Report

February 27, 2022

To: Andy Cutko, Director of Parks and Lands

The Allagash Waterway Advisory Council has had as disruptive of a year as most everyone else, as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. Although we generally meet in person quarterly, we met just twice in March and June in, 2021 remotely via a Microsoft Teams platform. These virtual opportunities provided for public participation. Our hopes for meeting in person in September and December were dashed as Covid raged on.

The Year 2021 could be considered as a year of “goings and comings” for both the AWW Staff and the AWW Advisory Council. First, we said goodbye to Superintendent Matt LaRoche at the end of March after his many years of faithful service. Matt’s years brought a great stability to the AWW and was much appreciated by a wide variety of users. We wish Matt well in his retirement and know that he will be spending many days in the North Maine Woods.

We welcomed our new Superintendent Mark Deroche, former Northern Regional Manager for Maine State Parks. Prior to his work with Maine State Parks, Mark guided at risk youth and others on wilderness experiences on the AWW. He has a passion for this river and we look forward to working with him in the years to come. We also welcomed an invaluable person, Abigail Andreasen, who will assist our Advisory Council with recording and transcribing meeting minutes.

The AWW Council had four vacancies on their seven-member council in 20/21. Peter Bourque’s, representing natural resource planning and management, term expired in July 2020. He was reappointed in early 2021. Melford Pelletier’s, representing cultural and historic preservation, term expired in October 2020. Robert O’Leary, Hampden, and formerly of Allagash Twp. was appointed to fill this slot. Toby Pineo of Irving Co., of Hampden represented forest management for a landowner or land manager with land abutting the Allagash River. His term expired in July, 2021 and he has been replaced by James O’Malley, Ft. Kent and a forester for Landvest based at Clayton Lake. David Basley, retired Fishery Biologist, representing fish and wildlife conservation had his term expire in July, 2021. He has been replaced by David Milligan, Ashland, former game warden and AWW ranger.

We thank all of our “retired” members for the invaluable skills which they brought to this Council over several years. We look forward to working with our new members as they bring their significant backgrounds and expertise to this important work.

This past year we have had no contentious issues to deal with on the AWW thanks to its professional staff. As a Council, we will continue to request that the repair and maintenance needs of the Boarding House at Churchill be at the top of the list should the Federal monies be made available and appropriated by the Maine Legislature. This Boarding House is a gem, providing an amazing logging history along the Allagash Drainage.

A new issue brought up this year was a concern for an increase in visitor numbers to the Tramway and Trains via snowmobile, and the approximately one-mile hiking trail through the woods to the trains. Kudos go to Chief Ranger Kevin Brown for learning about, and placing an infrared public use counter (DataNet) on the Tramway Trail in the winter to count snowmobiles and on the hiking trail from the spring-fall to count hikers coming into the trains. Collecting this type of data is important should conflicts arise at this location between day users and river trippers.

We appreciate all of the varied and great work performed by the whole AWW Ranger Staff.

Our thanks to the AWW Foundation who continue to raise money and develop many great projects. Although I don’t feel like I have a good grasp of everything they have accomplished, their published documents are most impressive, and their youth programs, both in the classrooms and on the river are outstanding. We are looking forward to seeing their natural resource inventory report in 2023.

Thanks to all of the BPL and AWW staffs that have helped make things happen during this very difficult year. We all hope for better things to come in 2022.

Submitted per Maine Statutes

Peter M. Bourque, Chair AWW Advisory Council

FY 2022 Allagash Wilderness Waterway Budget

Allotment Source	FY-22 Q1	FY-22 Q2	FY-22 Q3	FY-22 Q4	Total
General Fund (All Other)	\$75,000	\$30,300	\$12,593	\$16,101	\$133,994
AWW Account (All Other)	\$52,997	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$22.00	\$53,067
AWW Account (Capital)	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$100,000
Total	\$167,997	\$60,324	\$22,617	\$36,123	\$287,061

Revenue from Fees

The Bureau of Parks and Lands collects fees for the following in the Waterway: camping, portage services, sporting camp leases and tolls to cross Churchill Dam. Fiscal year reporting is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Revenue from fees for FY21 totaled \$106,968.15.

Fiscal Year	Revenues from Fees
2016	\$131,502.11
2017	\$193,508.24
2018	\$137,062.31
2019	\$180,914.32
2020	\$140,739.12
2021	\$106,968.15

Revenue to AWW Capital Improvement Fund

Maine law requires that a portion of revenues received from camping fees be set aside in a non-lapsing account to be used for capital improvements in the AWW. The calculated revenue to this account for FY 21 was \$58,234.45.

Fiscal Year	Revenue to AWW Account
2016	\$52,155.00
2017	\$127,095.88
2018	\$108,604.34
2019	\$121,804.61
2020	\$91,315.01
2021	\$58,234.45

AWW Endowment Fund: \$21,965.00 is in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway endowment fund as of June 30, 2021. This is an interest bearing trust account at the Department of Treasury.

AWW Donations Account: \$4,578.00 was in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway donations account as of June 30, 2021.



Allagash Wilderness Waterway Fiscal Year 21 Expenditure Report (July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021)

Expenses - FY21	AWW Account (dedicated revenue)	General Fund (general operations)	Consolidated Account (dedicated revenue)	Coronavirus Relief Funds (federal funds)	TOTAL
Salary and Benefits		58,573.25		496,551.91	555,125.16
Professional Services		2,423.06			2,423.06
Water tests		341.00			341.00
Gas (for equipment)		7,495.81			7,495.81
Lodging, Meals, Mileage		614.70			614.70
Electric					0.00
Other utilities		135.00			135.00
Misc. Rents					0.00
Rent - Buildings and Office		3,430.00			3,430.00
Rental of State Vehicle		35,073.98	687.73		35,761.71
State Vehicle Operations					0.00
Rental of Private Equipment					0.00
Repair - Equipment		5,628.18			5,628.18
Repair - Boats		6,253.92			6,253.92
Repair - Roads and Grounds		5,956.70			5,956.70
Repair - Buildings		9,059.78			9,059.78
Repair - Misc.					0.00
Trash Removal		81.20			81.20
Snow plowing					0.00
General Operations		491.34	103.22		594.56
Non-Employee Settlement					0.00
Occupational Health/Rehab					0.00
Employee Training		917.97			917.97
Food		210.25			210.25
L.P. Gas		5,574.70			5,574.70
Natural Gas		106.45			106.45
Fuel Oil		292.04			292.04
Firewood		450.00			450.00
Misc. Supplies (Industrial, ect.)		15,556.27			15,556.27
Technology (Radios, ect.)		7,156.53	191.46		7,347.99
Clothing		1,908.39			1,908.39
Printing and Publishing					0.00
Equipment		9,141.41			9,141.41
Grants to Public/Private Organiz.					0.00
Administrative Charges*			227.97		227.97
Material Purchases for Resale			2669.35		2,669.35
CAP Land	750.00				750.00
CAP Equipment			5000.00		5,000.00
CAP Buildings & Improvements					0.00
CAP Structures & Improvements	1,448.25				1,448.25
CAP Infrastructures & Improvements	4,000.00				4,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES*	6,198.25	176,871.93	8,879.73	496,551.91	688,501.82

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

CASH BALANCE IN AWW ACCT AS OF 7/01/21 was \$174,742.46

Recreation & Visitor Use

Total public use for the Waterway was up 25% in 2021 compared to the previous year. Total camping nights were up 64%, while day use was down 7%. Sporting camp use stayed nearly the same, with only a .5% drop for the 2021 season. The AWW experienced some of its highest camping use numbers over the past decade. This year's increase in visitation was in part a result of diminished COVID-19 restrictions, especially for Youth Camps, who vigorously returned to the AWW during July and August.

The Tramway Historic District was the Waterway's most visited day-use destination for 2021. A trail counter (DataNet) was used for the first time this season to help give more accurate data on the new Locomotive Trail. The counter was near the trail parking area from May 9, 2021, to October 30, 2021. The full day-use for that time period was 4,364 visitors. Data collected showed that most visitors came to the Trail around mid-day and that Saturday and Sunday were the most popular days, respectively. Because this is the first year data has been collected, prior comparisons are not available. Since it will be useful to identify future trends in this District, the trail counter will be placed in the same location, during the same time period, with the same calibrations, in the coming seasons.

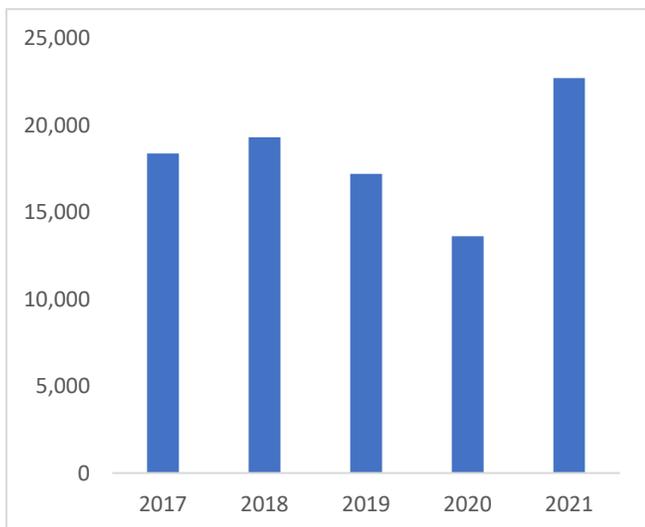
The trail counter was initially used last winter from February 8, 2021, to March 18, 2021, and was placed on the snowmobile trail between Chamberlain and Eagle Lake. Data collected showed that during that time period, 1,806 people visited the locomotives. Saturday and Sunday were the busiest days, respectively. The most active Saturday during that time period showed 208 visitors. The trail counter was placed at the same location on the snowmobile trail this season, but the counter was placed as soon as snow travel was possible.

All of the AWW lakes were free of ice on April 19, 2021. This is an earlier than average ice-out for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Lakes, making for good spring fishing that lasted until mid-June.

The Allagash River had low water levels for canoeing from mid-June through the remainder of the canoeing season. Low Allagash River water conditions did not have a significant impact on Waterway use, though some visitors chose to depart from Michaud Farm rather than end their trip at the Town of Allagash. Other parties opted to spend time exploring the Lakes.

Year	Parties	Persons	Camping Nights	Sporting Camp Days	Day Use	Total Visitor Days
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
2018	1,046	4,347	19,305	3,547	11,437	34,289
2019	946	3,869	17,207	3,562	11,865	32,634
2020	950	3,163	13,613	3,314	14,151	31,078
2021	1,195	4,969	22,711	3,295	13,137	39,143

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 more than 12 people. Due to COVID-19 concerns in 2021, only 1 exempt organization requested to use an oversized group permit. Two oversized group permits were issued to 1-exempt organization.

Year	Exempt Organizations	Permits Issued
2018	3	6
2019	3	8
2020	1	2
2021	1	2

Education, Interpretation & Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation

AWW staff continue to support and promote the historical aspects of the Waterway by collecting, interpreting, and displaying artifacts found by Rangers as well as park visitors. The artifacts are on display at the Churchill Depot History Center. The History Center is a very popular stop for all Waterway users and for many others who visit the North Maine Woods. Our Churchill Ranger staff do a great job providing interpretive tours at the History Center. The tours occur daily during our peak season and are much appreciated by our Waterway visitors. The wildland firefighter tool display created by Retired Regional Forest Ranger Alan Johnston was a welcome addition to the History Center this season.

Outreach and Education

Outgoing AWW Superintendent Matt LaRoche wrote an Allagash Wilderness Waterway column for the Northwoods Sporting Journal through April of 2021. Matt plans to continue his monthly column for the Journal but will no longer focus specifically on AWW topics.

Waterway staff are scheduling meetings with Chewonki, Kieve Wavus, and Maine High Adventure for Spring 2022. These three organizations provide many AWW youth trips as part of their camp programming. The goal for the meetings is to provide an opportunity for these trip leaders to ask Waterway staff questions about rules and regulations, safety issues, emergency operating procedures, and a variety of other topics to prepare their campers for quality adventures.

Chief Ranger Kevin Brown provides current water and ice condition information to interested people who have signed up for the AWW conditions and alerts page. The conditions and alerts page is linked to the Bureau of Parks and Lands website. These conditions and alerts are provided to 4,150 subscribers. Chief Ranger Brown also developed a new AWW Introduction and Overview PowerPoint Presentation for all staff to use when meeting with various groups and organizations.

The AWW video series produced in May of 2014 continues to be a tremendous tool for educating potential visitors to the Waterway. These videos continue to be viewed thousands of times each season. Chief Ranger Brown and Bob Johnston, Umsaskis Lake Allagash Ranger, spent time with members of the River Management Society, which includes James MacCartney, the National Park Service representative on the AWW Council. Trevor O'Leary, Michaud Farm Allagash Ranger, spent time teaching and guiding a Maine Conservation Corps group that was on the Waterway to help relocate a campsite. Ranger O'Leary also gave presentations to three youth groups sponsored by the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation (AWWF) as part of their Youth on the Allagash/Classroom to River Program. Alissa Lutz, Chamberlain Lake Allagash Assistant Ranger, traveled to Caribou to talk about careers in the Natural Resources field with Micmac youth. The AWW staff educate many Waterway visitors on a variety of topics, including the history and culture of the AWW, recreational and sightseeing opportunities, rules and regulations, safety tips, camping skills, canoeing skills, and flora and fauna.



2021 AWW Crew



Left to Right: Alissa Lutz, Jake Paris, Erin McGinty, Bob Johnston, Caleb Lewis, Kevin Brown, Dennis Hickey, Brenden Norwood, Mark Deroche, Ben Hall, Jay Young, Ed Palys and Trevor O'Leary
Missing: Ruth LaRoche

Staff Training

The remote and rugged nature of the AWW requires that Allagash Rangers are well trained and prepared for various incidents. They are often the first responders to emergencies in this vast wilderness, and visitors depend on them to provide the help they need. The AWW team meets in the early spring for two days of in-house training focused on Emergency Operation Procedures for a wide variety of incidents. The Ranger team reviews many possible scenarios, and all staff Rangers are encouraged to practice these procedures every day of the season. Some of the other specialized training Allagash Rangers completed this season are listed below:

- Bureau of Labor Standards annual trainings—All staff
- Whitewater Rescue Training—All staff
- S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaw Certification—Trevor O'Leary and Ben Hall
- Chainsaw Instructor Certification—Trevor O'Leary
- Operations & Maintenance Ranger Academy—Ben Hall
- U.S. Power Squadron Boating Training—Brenden Norwood & Dennis Hickey
- Wilderness First Aid & CPR—All staff
- Cyber Security Training—Mark Deroche, Kevin Brown and Trevor O'Leary
- Drone Pilot Training & Certification—Kevin Brown & Trevor O'Leary
- Introduction to Microsoft power Point—Trevor O'Leary

Forest Harvest Notifications

In 2021, there were ten active Forest Harvest Notifications (FONS) within the mile zone of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW).

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, Mark Deroche, Allagash Ranger, Trevor O'Leary, and Public Lands Regional Manager, Jacob Guimond. The visual area harvest application was approved, subject to conditions to minimize the visual impact of the harvest area, associated skid trails, and log landings.

Four notifications were received for road construction within the AWW mile zone. All roads were located in areas not visible from the watercourse. All roads were associated with timber harvests adjacent to the AWW. Most of roads will be blocked at or beyond the mile zone after harvest activities have ended.

There were no applications for road construction within the ¼ mile new construction zone.

There was one application for the use of herbicide within the AWW mile zone. The application for managing beech growth was approved.

Projects Accomplished by Staff, Volunteers, and Contractors in 2021

Chamberlain Lake District:

- Installed a new floor in Ranger Station bedroom.
- Installed a new door in Lock Dam Camp.
- Roadsides were mowed on the Telos Dam and Lock Dam access roads.
- Mowed the field at Telos Dam.

Eagle Lake District:

- Repaired the door in the Ranger Station.
- Built a set of steps and landing at the Ranger Station.
- Leveled outhouses at Lone Pine, Little Eagle, Farm Island, and Zeigler Campsites.
- Replaced the steps and header to outhouse at Fred King Campsite.
- Installed new tables and poles at Scofield Cove, Farm Island, Little Eagle, and Thoreau Campsite.
- Caulked and stained the new logs on the Ranger Station (not finished).
- Repaired the cabinet in the Ranger Station.
- Re-screened the windows and doors at the Ranger Station.
- Built a new canoe slip at Ranger Station.

Churchill Dam District:

- Replaced a sill log at Camp Pleasant.
- Replaced the front steps at the Ranger Station.
- Repaired leaks and replaced the feet of the solar panels on the shop.
- Worked on the trim and batten on the pole barn (not finished).

Umsaskis District:

- Replaced broken glass in the door of Camp Drake.
- Repaired the broken sill of the shed at Camp Drake.
- Re-stained the Ranger Station and sheds.
- Built handrails for the steps at Ranger Station.
- Replaced the step boards at Ranger Station.



Michaud Farm District:

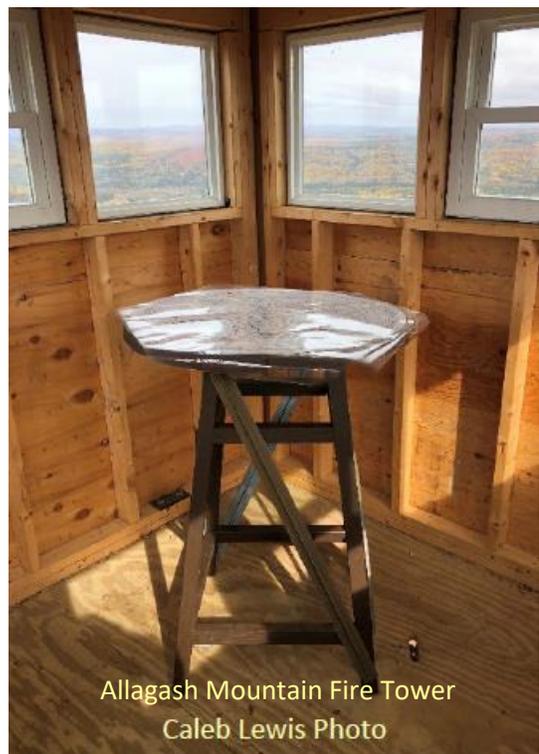
- Built a new table and tarp poles at East Twin Brook, Falls Bank, and Big Brook East Campsites.
- Built a new campsite at Twin Brook South.
- Installed new signs at Five Finger South Campsite.
- Replaced the bog bridge at Round Pond Rips and Tower Trail Campsites.
- Built a new front deck for the Round Pond Camp.
- Built new steps for the shed at Round Pond.

Allagash Lake:

- Repaired the plumbing at the Ranger Station.
- Replaced the table at Island Campsite.
- Replaced the table and map in the fire tower.

Allagash Wilderness Waterway:

- Replaced several tarp poles, leveled outhouses and repaired table benches.
- Cleared the following trails:
 - Churchill Dam to Big Eddy
 - Round Pond Mountain Trail
 - Allagash Mountain Trail
 - Second Ridge Trail (Eagle Lake)
 - Indian Stream Trail
 - Tramway Portage Trail
 - The 19-designated snowmobile trails



Dam Reports

Churchill Dam: Rebuilt in 1997, the Churchill Dam is a 24 feet high by 460 feet long earthen and concrete structure that releases water for recreational flows in the Allagash River. It is also managed to provide optimal fisheries habitat for the native fishes of the Waterway. The dam has significant cracks in the right upstream retaining wall and a discernable deflection in that same wall. AWW staff placed pins in the retaining wall to monitor movement in 2012. There has been no movement in the retaining wall since the pins were placed. The gate supporting structure received significant damage from a passing truck in 2018. The dam was hit again in the fall of 2020, and the galvanized railing on the downstream side of the deep gate was damaged. An engineer was hired to draft plans to repair the damage from these incidents, and AWW staff are considering placing steel posts to protect the dam from further damage. Construction plans went out to bid in August 2021, but no contractors bid on the repair work. The Bureau of Parks and Lands will seek new bids for those repairs in the spring of 2022.

The Churchill dam was inspected by John Skelly of the Maine Emergency Management Agency on September 4, 2020. He recommended the following:

1. Continue to monitor and record any cracking and bowing in the fishway wall abutting the road. In the event of new cracking, let MEMA know before repairing the damage.
2. All vegetation on the dam and 10-20 feet beyond the footprint should be removed and/or managed to prevent any embankment seepage.
3. Any operation and maintenance procedures for the dam, including but not limited to vegetation removal and gate mechanism operation, should be drafted and incorporated into normal operations.
4. Review operations to prevent potential overtopping of the dam, and when practicable, consider dewatering upstream and downstream faces of the dam to inspect for any signs of seepage and degradation.

Lock Dam: Located on Chamberlain Lake, Lock Dam is a historic structure that changed the course of water that originally flowed down the Allagash and into the St. John River. The water now flows south down toward the East Branch of the Penobscot River. The structure is a 179-year-old earthen dam that is 15 feet high by 280 feet long. The timber facing on the dam was replaced with riprap during the winter of 2009. The three-foot diameter spillway gate and outlet pipe, originally installed in 1961, were replaced using precast concrete in 2018. Exposed sections were faced with wood timbers. The dam has a timber crib spillway with a three-foot drop to protect against the upstream migration of invasive fish species. This dam was inspected by John Skelly from the Maine Emergency Management Agency on September 4, 2020. He recommended that vegetation on the dam and 10-20 feet beyond the footprint be removed and/or managed to prevent any further embankment seepage.

Telos Dam: At the outlet of Telos Lake, Telos Dam is a remnant of the timber crib dams that were once common in Maine's north woods. During the log driving days, these dams were used to move logs and pulpwood to downstream mills. The structure is a 20 feet high by 240 feet long, rock-filled timber crib dam. The entire structure above the sill was replaced in 1982 using the original dam design. The Bureau has monitored pier movement since 2012, and there is movement of the piers and misalignment of both the upstream and downstream dam surfaces. There is also significant leakage under the north end of the dam. The wooden timbers are weathered and show some signs of rot. In the past, some movement has been documented in the piers on the north end of the dam (piers #4 and #5). AWW staff have continued to monitor pier movement this past season, with no visible movement observed this past year. The four primary gates were replaced, and lifting mechanisms were rebuilt over a five-year period, with the last gate replaced in 2012. In 2017, Waterway staff applied a layer of rock to the upstream face and below the spillways of the dam to reduce leakage under the dam. The Bureau of Parks and Lands issued a contract to Baker Design Consultants in 2015 for a condition assessment and repair recommendations for Telos Dam. The team of engineers visited the dam in September 2015 and again in October during the low water period. A dam assessment was issued on August 25, 2016. The report recommendations include reconstruction of the upstream face and channel aprons to correct leaks associated with structural deterioration. This will require the construction of a cofferdam and pipe to maintain water flow during the repair work. The above repairs will be a significant expense, estimated at over \$1,000,000. The Bureau does not have the funds identified to make these repairs at this time.

Telos Dam was inspected by John Skelly from the Maine Emergency Management Agency on September 4, 2020. He recommended the following:

1. Continue monitoring and recording any settlement, leakage, and boils in the gate channels and piers.
2. All vegetation on the dam and 10-20 feet beyond the footprint should be removed and/or managed to prevent any embankment seepage.
3. Consider dewatering upstream and downstream faces of the dam to inspect for signs of seepage and degradation.
4. Consider replacing any damaged timbers and implementing guidance on repairs outlined in the 2016 independent consultant report.

Waterway staff will continue to make ongoing minor repairs at Telos Dam during the 2022 season to extend the life as long as possible. Waterway management is committed to seeking the necessary funds for the repair or replacement of Telos Dam.

Volunteers

During 2021, 27 individuals donated 200 hours to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Volunteers helped waterway staff accomplish the following tasks during 2021:

- Repairs to the Lock Dam Campsite
- Campsite maintenance
- Clear trails
- Stack lumber
- Removed Blow-downs
- Shovel roofs
- Build new tables and tarp poles
- Winter deliveries
- Painting/staining
- Canoe recoveries in Chase' Carry Rapids

The value of these volunteer hours is over \$2,600.00

Incidents

Many of the incidents listed below were handled by AWW staff with assistance from the Maine Warden Service or the Maine Forest Service. AWW Rangers have benefitted from the ongoing strong relationship with these entities. The rapid response of the MWS and MFS is sincerely appreciated by AWW staff and Waterway visitors.

2021 Incidents

- Capsized canoe on Eagle Lake
- Snowmobile accident
- Snowmobile through the ice
- 7 rescues in Chase's Carry Rapids
- Lost Person in Chase's Carry Rapids
- Snowshoe hare extraction from outhouse hole
- Vehicle fire
- 3 medical emergencies with evacuation
- Assisted Maine Warden Service with fishing violation
- Camper lost their medications
- Forest fire on Eagle Lake shoreline
- Sunken canoe—too much gear
- Near drowning—rescue and evacuation

Special Activity Permits Issued

- For the Can-Am Sled Dog Race to cross the Waterway at Round Pond.
- For use of a drone for a short documentary.
- For collecting water quality data at all AWW bridge crossings.



Superintendent's Report

My first official day as the new AWW Superintendent was June 20, 2021, nearly three months after my distinguished predecessor, Matt LaRoche, retired. Matt served the Bureau of Parks & Lands for 44 years, the last twelve as Superintendent of the AWW. I want to thank Matt for his many accomplishments and for leaving a solid legacy for the AWW team to build on. I also want to thank the AWW Ranger team, especially Chief Ranger Kevin Brown, who did an outstanding job preparing the Waterway for one of our busiest seasons in over a decade.

I learned a great deal on my first day as Superintendent. I was briefed by Chief Ranger Brown on the near-drowning of two individuals who attempted to cross the north end of Chamberlain Lake on May 23, 2021. Their canoe capsized in the rough, frigid waters. Luckily, they had a Garmin inReach device attached to their lifejackets and were able to hit the SOS button. AWW Chamberlain Lake Ranger Jay Young was contacted by dispatch with the SOS coordinates. Jay was fortunate to have two Game Wardens nearby to assist him on the rescue. Jay, carefully and competently, made his way twelve miles north on the rough waters of Chamberlain Lake in the Waterway's Boston Whaler. The two hypothermic canoers were plucked from the chilly waters and saved from certain tragedy. Jay later told me, "It's no biggie, it's what we do." Kevin also shared several letters of appreciation for our Waterway Rangers, who had been involved in assisting other AWW visitors during the spring season. The recipients of our Allagash Rangers' good deeds used powerful words to describe their appreciation; they suggested that the Rangers had 'saved us' and 'rescued us' from various difficult circumstances.

Later in the morning on my first day, after Kevin had left for days off, I—the new guy—received an urgent radio call reporting a missing person on Chase Rapids. The details about the ensuing rescue are plentiful and interesting, but in the late afternoon, we eventually found the individual. He was nearly four miles from where he had last been seen, sitting on the west bank of the Allagash River covered with scratches and bug bites, and noticeably traumatized. The young man did not require medical assistance and was much better after a hot shower at Headquarters. Unfortunately, due to the emotional turbulence of the event, the party ended their Allagash River trip early.

What a first day! I learned how vitally important the Allagash Rangers are to the health and safety of our visitors. I learned how important it is for our staff to be well-trained and prepared for anything. I am proud of our Waterway Rangers: for their passion, their professionalism, and for all the value they add to those who visit our remarkable wilderness.

The winter season began with the annual winter campground registration at Chamberlain Bridge. We sold 33 of the 40 available sites for the entire winter season. We also had multiple visitors winter camp on some of our shoreline campsites. Most fisherman on the headwater lakes reported positive results, and many nice brook trout, lake trout, and whitefish were caught.

We had an early ice-out this season, with all our lakes free of ice on April 19, 2021. We had a 25% increase in camping use this May and a 40% increase in June. COVID-19 restrictions were eased, and many visitors took advantage of the early spring. Fishing was reportedly good through mid-June. Allagash Ranger Trevor O'Leary, described this season's fishing as "excellent." It should also be noted that Ranger O'Leary was nominated by the Bureau of Parks and Lands for Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Employee of the Year.

Water levels on the Allagash River began to dip in mid-June and never recovered due to drought conditions. Flows averaged 300 cubic feet per second through the end of the season. Low water did not discourage use through the summer season, but we did see a 3% decrease in camping use for the month of September.

Marty Kotter was this year's visiting artist. Marty is a quilting/fiber artisan who came all the way from Ohio to spend two weeks transforming our waterway landscapes, flora, and fauna into eleven exquisite quilts. Marty donated one quilt to the AWW.

I focused primarily on AWW operations and maintenance this first season. BPL Director of Operations Ron Hunt spent three days with me conducting a pre-maintenance inspection from Telos Dam to Michaud Farm. We will conduct thorough maintenance inspections next season on all drive-to ranger stations, historic structures, and dams.

I was also fortunate to host BPL Director Andy Cutko, Director of Real Property David Rodrigues, Outdoor Recreation Supervisor Doug Beck, and two Maine Conservation Corps Stewards for three days. We visited all the AWW drive-to access points, Telos Dam, The Churchill Depot Boarding House and Barn, the new trail to the locomotives, and the new fire tower cabs. The group had the opportunity to see a bear swim across the south end of Churchill Lake.

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation (AWWF) selected Ecologist Janet McMahon to lead the Foundation's Natural Resources Inventory Project. Janet conducted four field trips this season, from Telos Dam to Churchill Dam. She gathered information on natural communities, wetlands, streams/lakes, birds, fish, other wildlife, invasive species, and climate. Janet will continue to collect data this coming season, spending most of her time on the Allagash River. The AWWF will use Janet's data to develop a Natural Resources Companion Guide similar to the Allagash Explorer. These publications will be great interpretive resources for our Waterway visitors.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Deroche
 Superintendent

To plan a trip or learn about the Allagash Wilderness Waterway:

Visit www.Maine.gov/Allagash for the following:



See 9-part Allagash video
Also on YouTube



See campsites on Google Earth



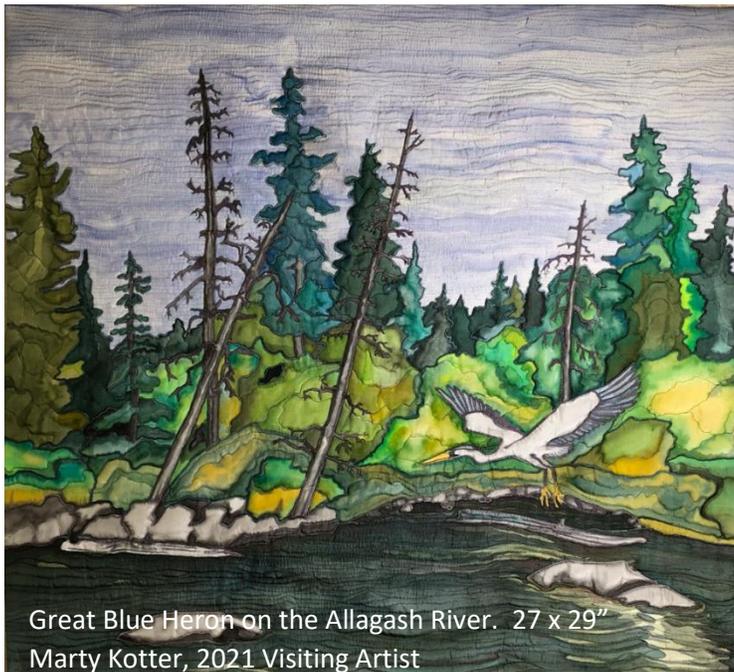
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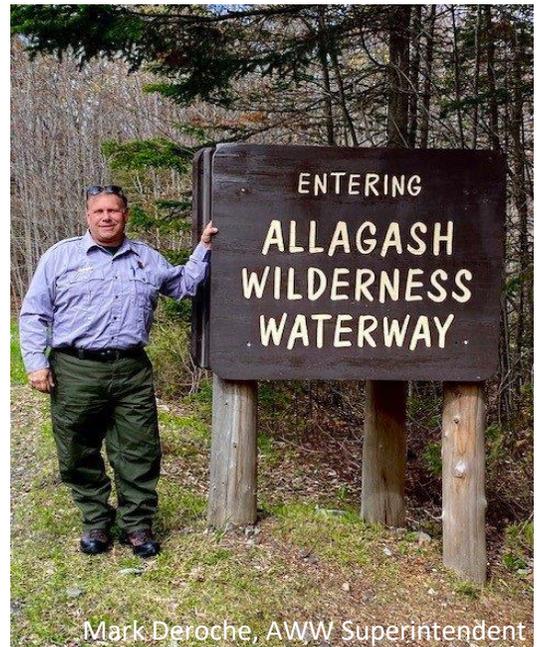
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Great Blue Heron on the Allagash River. 27 x 29"
Marty Kotter, 2021 Visiting Artist



Mark Deroche, AWW Superintendent

Additional Credits:

- A hearty thank you to all the staff in Bangor and Augusta who help with many funding and administrative projects that support the Waterway.
- **AWW Logo Credit:** Jocelyn Hubbell at Parks & Lands adapted the AWW logo to reflect its status as a National Wild and Scenic River.
- In 2020, the Waterway observed its 50th anniversary as the first state-administered component of the National Wild and Scenic River System.



THE Allagash WILDERNESS WATERWAY

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Administration 2021

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal, Commissioner



Bureau of Parks and Lands:
Andy Cutko, Bureau Director
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