



2018 Annual Report



**Maine Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands
March 1, 2019**

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Report Required

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) is administered by the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). A seven-member Advisory Council works with the Waterway manager in developing and maintaining a strategic plan for the Waterway and advancing its mission and goals. The Council is required to report annually to the Director of BPL on the state of the Waterway. Similarly, the Commissioner of the Department is required to report annually by March 1st to the Legislature’s joint standing committee on conservation matters regarding the state of the Waterway, including its mission and goals, administration, education and interpretive programs, historic preservation efforts, visitor use and evaluation, ecological conditions and any natural character enhancements, general finances, income, expenditures and balance of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Permanent Endowment Fund, the Department’s annual budget request for the Waterway operation in the coming fiscal year and current challenges and prospects for the Waterway (12 MRSA §1890 A-C). This report is submitted to meet both reporting requirements.

MISSION AND GOALS

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

In support of this mission, the following documents provide principal guidance for managing the Waterway:

- 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 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](#).

Report from the AWW Advisory Council

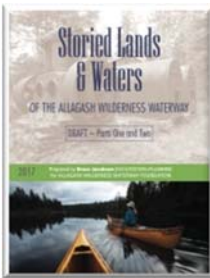
December 26, 2018

To: Tom Desjardin, Director of Parks and Lands

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council met four times in Augusta in 2018. All meetings were open to the public and their comments are appreciated by the Council. As always, our meetings were broadcast over the web from the Legislature's Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee room in the Cross Building.

I would like to thank Matt and his very dedicated Rangers for their contributions to the Waterway. It is evident when reading Matt's weekly reports that many of the Rangers have talents above and beyond their everyday work expectations. Repairs to solar systems, computer systems, outboard motors and snowmobiles are just a few. These talents no doubt save the Waterway both time and money.

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation's "Storied Lands & Waters" project came to a conclusion in early 2018. This 300-page document, designed to guide future projects and to be used as an interpretive and educational tool, will be invaluable in the years to come. The content will be useful to visitors and others who may never visit the Allagash, but wish to understand its history and beauty.



An item that generated some controversy was the possible moving of the Indian Pond Road gate. This gate is on an active logging road on Public Land and controls access to Lock Dam. Public Lands is in the process of updating the management plan for this area. It was suggested in one of their public meetings that the gate be moved up the road several hundred feet to accommodate folks using the bog walk trail to Indian Stream on Eagle Lake, a legal access. After much discussion by the Council and conversation with Superintendent Matt LaRoche, our opinion was that the gate move would create no adverse effect on the Waterway. Following our discussions, a letter was sent to Public Lands stating our thoughts. We now await Public Lands decision as to the fate of the gate.

The replacement of the Lock Dam outlet structure has been a regular topic of discussion at our meetings for over two years. I am glad to say that construction by American Concrete and Emery Lee & Sons started on September 5th and wrapped up well ahead of schedule. I was fortunate to visit the site twice during construction and spoke with Jimmy Lee, who updated me on their progress. To say the least, this was an impressive piece of work. Not only are we saving a badly needed dam, but the positive impact to the Eagle Lake fishery from increased water flows in Martin Stream will no doubt be a great benefit to spawning fish. Biologists hope that whitefish will return to Martin Stream to spawn and improve a devastated fishery in Eagle Lake. All stakeholders should be proud and happy with the result of this project. A great deal of thought was put into this by everyone involved. This is another example of how great things happen when everyone works together.

The Boarding House at Churchill Dam continues to be another of our regular topics of discussion at all meetings. We have continued our pursuit of recognition of the Boarding House and Storehouse for placement on the National Historic Register. In October, the Maine

Historic Preservation Commission met and approved the proposal, which has now been sent to Washington for final approval by the US Department of the Interior. The Council feels that having the Boarding House on the National Historic Register will enhance opportunities for to gain funding for the stabilization and eventual restoration of this building which is so rich in Allagash history.

Although we lack funds to stabilize the Boarding House, volunteers have already begun work. David Flanagan, a longtime supporter of the Waterway, and a group of dedicated friends began work on the building two years ago when they made temporary repairs to the leaky roof. This year, David and his crew repaired or replaced floor joists and wall studs and then replaced the worn bottom courses of exterior siding. This was done to protect the under-structure of the building from further deterioration. David also had specialty knives machined in order to shape exterior siding that would match that used on the building. At its December 2018 meeting, the Council recognized David for his many contributions to the Waterway by presenting him a print of the 50th Anniversary painting of Allagash Falls.



Jocelyn Hubbell Photo
BPL Director Tom Desjardin and AWW Volunteer Dave Flanagan

The year 2018 has no doubt been a very productive year with several projects completed. The Council and all stakeholders have worked excellent together, achieving good results for the waterway. It is my feeling that the Waterway continues to be in a good place, one in which everyone who goes there can find the experience they are looking for.

Submitted per Maine Statutes

Brent D. Hardy, Chair AWW Advisory Council



Jocelyn Hubbell Photo

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council

Seated L-R: Melford Pelletier, Cultural and Historic Resource Preservation; Brent Hardy, Chair – Public member; David Basley, Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation; **Standing L-R:** Jamie Fosburgh, National Park Service; Peter Bourque, Natural Resource Planning and Management; Toby Pineo, Sustainable Forest Management/Abutting Landowner; Josie Allen, Wilderness Recreation.

FY 2019 Allagash Wilderness Waterway Budget

Allotment Source	FY-19 Q1	FY-19 Q2	FY-19 Q3	FY-19 Q4	Total
General Fund (All Other)	\$55,000	\$30,300	\$15,593	\$21,101	121,994
AWW Account (All Other)	\$33,067	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$53,067
AWW Account (Capital)	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
Total	\$148,067	\$40,300	\$25,593	\$21,101	\$235,061

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, 2017, through June 30, 2018. Revenue from fees for FY18 totaled \$137,062.61.

Fiscal Year	Revenues from Fees
2013	\$102,268.08
2014	\$115,173.84
2015	\$101,261.23
2016	\$131,502.11
2017	\$193,508.24
2018	\$137,062.31

Revenue to AWW Account

From revenues received from camping fees, Maine law requires that a portion of that amount be set aside in a non-lapsing account to be used for capital improvements in the AWW. The table below shows the calculated revenue to this special account. Revenue to the AWW Acct was \$108,604.34

Fiscal Year	Revenue to AWW Account
2013	\$50,894.10
2014	\$49,778.99
2015	\$45,562.28
2016	\$52,155.00
2017	\$127,095.88
2018	\$108,604.34

AWW Endowment Fund: \$8,492.98 is in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway endowment fund. This is an interest bearing trust account at the Department of Treasury.

AWW Donations Account: \$16,921.08 was in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway donations account as of June 30, 2018.



Steve Day Photo

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Fiscal Year 18 Expenditure Report (July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018)

Expenses - FY18	AWW Account (dedicated revenue)	General Fund (general operations)	Loon Account (dedicated revenue)	Poland Spring Account (dedicated revenue)	Donations Account (dedicated revenue)	TOTAL
Salary and Benefits		517,224.41				517,224.41
Professional Services	10,000.00	166.60				10,166.60
Water tests		510.00				510.00
Gas (for equipment)		10,570.80				10,570.80
Lodging, Meals, Mileage		1,154.06				1,154.06
Electric		12.54				12.54
Other utilities		115.18				115.18
Misc. Rents						0.00
Rent - Buildings and Office		2,020.00				2,020.00
Rental of State Vehicle		37,656.33				37,656.33
State Vehicle Operations		49.77				49.77
Rental of Private Equipment						0.00
Repair - Equipment		9,545.38				9,545.38
Repair - Boats		3,063.32				3,063.32
Repair - Roads and Grounds		3,355.98				3,355.98
Repair - Buildings	2,821.36	10,188.36				13,009.72
Repair - Misc.	388.88					388.88
Trash Removal		119.30				119.30
Snow plowing						0.00
General Operations	7.71	1,316.17				1,323.88
Non-Employee Settlement						0.00
Occupational Health/Rehab						0.00
Employee Training		199.00				199.00
Food		493.88				493.88
L.P. Gas		7,237.64				7,237.64
Natural Gas		339.86				339.86
Fuel Oil		382.66				382.66
Firewood						0.00
Misc. Supplies (Industrial, etc.)	349.69	14,796.23				15,145.92
Technology (Radios, etc.)		1,153.37				1,153.37
Clothing		1,826.73				1,826.73
Printing and Publishing		2,540.91				2,540.91
Equipment		8,355.89				8,355.89
Grants to Public/Private Organiz.						0.00
Administrative Charges*	2,297.28	5.07				2,302.35
Material Purchases for Resale						0.00
CAP Equipment					2,199.60	2,199.60
CAP Buildings & Improvements						0.00
CAP Structures & Improvements						0.00
CAP Infrastructures & Improvements	28,171.77					28,171.77
TOTAL EXPENSES**	44,036.69	634,399.44	0.00	0.00	2,199.60	680,635.73

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

**In addition to FY18 cash expenditures, \$835,121 was encumbered in FY18 for capital contracts associated with the Lock Dam project. These FY18 encumbrances will be reported as FY19 expense in the 2019 Annual Report.

CASH BALANCE IN AWW ACCT AS OF 7/01/18: \$550,428.11



New Snowmobile 2018

AWW Staff Photo

Recreation & Visitor Use

Total public use for the Waterway increased by 3% in 2018. This is the fourth straight year with an increase in total visitor days: up 9% over the last 5 years. Day use increased by 3%; sporting camp use decreased by 7%; and total camping nights increased by 5%.

Camping nights for May, June and August were up slightly from 2017. July use was close to that of 2017, but camping nights for September and October were down slightly from 2017.

The Tramway Historic District was the Waterway's most visited day use destination - at 1,602 people; but that was down by 264 people from 2017. This number is probably still under-reported because many people visit the trains/tramway while staying in the North Maine Woods for other reported activities.

The May 7th ice-out date on the AWW headwater lakes was normal. Good spring fishing lasted until the end of June. There was above average use by anglers during the spring fishing season.

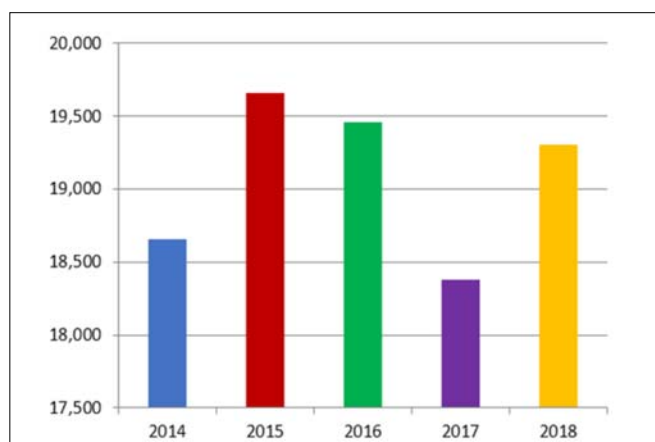
The Waterway had good water levels for canoeing through July, but the lack of rain and warm temperatures in August and September cut the canoe season short for all but the most experienced paddlers.

The warm dry period from August to October this year had a negative impact on camping use by canoeists and anglers. The river dropped to 224 cfs in the Town of Allagash for the first time since 2001. Several canoe groups cancelled their Allagash expeditions or switched to trips on the AWW headwater lakes because of the low water. These same conditions kept brook trout from moving into spawning areas until the very end of the open water fishing season.

Year	Parties	Persons	Camping Nights	Sporting Camp Days	Day Use	Total Visitor Days
2013	1,167	4,273	19,247	4,213	8,117	31,577
2014	1,033	4,037	18,656	3,612	8,414	30,682
2015	1,137	4,196	19,658	3,737	8,547	31,942
2016	1,276	4,262	19,459	3,919	9,530	32,908
2017	1,070	4,132	18,379	3,829	11,130	33,335
2018	1,046	4,347	19,305	3,547	11,437	34,289

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

Five-Year Camping Use Comparison



Number of Camping Nights per Year

Oversize Group Permits

Group camping on the AWW is limited to 12 people. In the past, several organizations were allowed an exemption to this limit. These groups have been grandfathered and are given a permit to allow groups in excess of 12 people. In 2018 there were 6 permits issued to 3 exempt organizations.

Year	Exempt Organizations	Permits Issued
2015	4	8
2016	3	7
2017	4	8
2018	3	6

Education, Interpretation & Historic Preservation



AWW Foundation President Bob McIntosh presents "Storied Lands & Waters" report to Superintendent Matt LaRoche.

"Storied Lands & Waters of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway" is a newly created assessment of the historic and cultural resources of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. The report presents a detailed look at the exceptional assets of the Allagash for scholars, scientists, historians and the public. It also advances

teaching and learning opportunities for Maine's teachers and classrooms. The assessment was a collaborative effort between the Bureau of Parks and Lands and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation. Funding for the report was provided by the Foundation. The Maine State Library has created a digital archive of the report. A download of the document is available at <https://digitalmaine.com/books/112/>.

In August 2018, project author Brue Jacobson, Foundation members and Bureau staff were able to talk further about the project in a television segment of "Bill Green's Maine" (WCSH) filmed in the Waterway, and in discussion on WERU Community Radio's "Talk of the Town."

Bureau staff, members of the Foundation and Advisory Council reviewed the many recommendations of the project and agreed to focus on the following in the near future:

- Preserve the Boarding House, Lock and Telos Dams, Allagash Mountain Fire Tower and Jalbert family log books.
- Develop baseline documentation for historic and cultural resources.
- Create an interpretive program ("Allagash Explorer") in print and digital formats for youth and adults.
- Update the natural resources inventory and incorporate into the interpretive program.
- Establish a "Lock Dam Working Camp" for work crews, researchers, writers or others working in or for the Waterway.
- Provide opportunities for scholarly resource research available in the Waterway.

AWW staff continue to support and promote the historical aspects of the Allagash Waterway by collecting, interpreting, and displaying artifacts found in the course of their work and by Waterway visitors.

Extraordinary volunteer Roger Morneault finished hooking up the steam pipe between the boilers and the steam engine at the Tramway Historic District. He also installed the smoke stack that was laying on the ground next to the boilers.

Dave Flannigan organized a group of volunteers that replaced the bottom few courses of siding on the Boarding House located at Churchill Depot. This project included the sistering 56 floor joists and 70 wall studs. The siding was specially made to match the existing siding on the building. Siding and other materials were generously donated by Viking Lumber.

The Boarding House and Storehouse at Churchill Depot have been nominated by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to the National Register of Historic Places. Formal designation of these two buildings to the register awaits the approval of the US Department of the Interior.

Outreach

Matt and Ruth LaRoche staffed a booth at the Cabin Fever Reliever show in Brewer during the first weekend in March 2018. Matt also made two special presentations at the show on how to prepare for an Allagash canoe trip.

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

The AWW Video Series that came out in May, 2014 has had almost 18,000 views. It has been a tremendous tool for educating visitors before they come to the Waterway. The video and Google Earth program are linked to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway conditions and alerts page at: www.maine.gov/allagash.

Potential visitors can view campsites along the Allagash Wilderness Waterway on Google Earth. The program features a short description of each campsite, a picture of the site from the water and a close-up photo of the campsite.

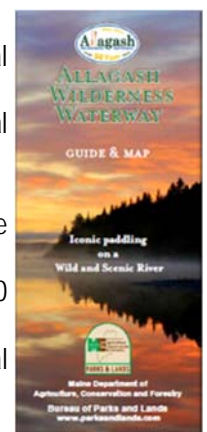
The following informational and other AWW materials are available at no cost, unless noted, at the Bureau of Parks and Lands, 106 Hogan Road, Bangor, ME 04401, Tel. 207- 941-4014

Brochures:

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

Other:

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





Staff Training

New employees were provided boat operation training by Chief Ranger Kevin Brown. All employees attended and passed a two-day Wilderness First Aid and CPR class. Kevin Brown took a Microsoft Excel course. All AWW employees received training at staff meetings and on the job training in the following:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Bureau of Labor Standards mandated training | Methods of compliance |
| Emergency Operations Plan | Safety |
| Death/Serious injury notifications | Archeological sites |
| Standard Operating Procedures | Geology of AWW |
| Radio communications and use | How to clean a gas refrigerator |

Forest Operations Notifications

In 2018, there were 26 active forest harvest notifications (FONS) within the mile zone of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW).

- Two notifications were for harvests within mapped visual areas of the AWW. The visual area harvest applications were inspected prior to harvest activity by the AWW Superintendent, and Jacob Guimond, Forester with the Bureau of Parks & Lands. The visual area harvest applications were approved with conditions to minimize the visual impact of the harvest, associated skid trails and log landings.
- Seven 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 three applications for road construction within the ¼ mile new construction zone. These applications were approved with the condition that the roads be and blocked at or beyond the mile zone after harvest. These roads will not be visible from the watercourse or provide access to a sensitive area of the waterway.
- There were three applications for the use of herbicide within the AWW mile zone. Two applications were for roadside brush control and one application was for aerial spraying on 269 acres, to prepare previously clear-cut stands for tree planting. All applications for herbicide use within the mile zone were approved.

Projects Accomplished by Staff, Volunteers, and Contactors in 2018

Chamberlain Lake District:

- Lock Dam: Replaced outlet structure and reroofed camp and bunkhouse
- Reroofed woodshed at Chamberlain Bridge Ranger Station.
- Telos Dam: Filled hole under one of the flood gates with stone and replaced sluice planking that washed away in spring highwater.
- Kellogg Brook Camp: Replaced decking and built half-wall on porch; replaced bathroom floor and installed new shower; replaced batteries in solar power system
- Chamberlain Bridge Shop: Replaced rotted rear siding and installed new LED light fixtures
- Tramway: Finished connecting steam pipe from boilers to steam engine and replaced smoke stack on boilers
- Round Pond Camp (T6 R11): Replaced batteries and two solar panels in the solar power system
- Mowed fields and roadsides at Telos Dam
- Replaced tables/tarp poles at High Bank, Shady and Lost Spring campsites.
- Delivered/spread superhumus at Ledge Point, McCarren, and Donnelly Point campsites

Allagash Lake District:

- Cleared trail to Allagash Mountain fire tower and patched the roof on the tower cab
- Assisted IF&W with trap netting 200 toad for stocking at Crescent Pond
- Replaced bog bridging on Carry Trail portage and Allagash Mountain trails
- Delivered/spread superhumus at Ed's, Island and Cove campsites
- Enlarged "Lifelight" landing zone behind the Islands campsite.

Eagle Lake District:

- Eagle Ranger Station: Replaced sill logs on two sides, jacked and leveled camp, installed new floor stringers, subfloor and finished floor; and installed new window
- Replaced tables/tarp poles at: Thoreau, Priestly Point, Scofield Point campsites.
- Delivered/spread superhumus at Breezy Point, Lone Pine and Scofield Point campsites

Churchill Dam District:

- Built a 24' X 48" pole barn
- Boarding House: Sistered rotted floor joists and wall studs; replaced bottom courses of siding on three walls with "like kind" siding; built shutters and covered broken windows
- Cleaned and repainted lake level gauge on dam
- Installed new docks and anchoring system at the canoe launch
- Painted walls and ceiling of main room at headquarters
- Mowed fields and roadsides at Churchill Depot
- Replaced tables/tarp poles at Churchill Dam campsite
- Delivered/spread superhumus at Churchill Ridge campsite

Umsaskis District:

- Replaced bog bridging on trail from parking lot to Sandy Point
- Ranger Station: Installed new solar light fixtures in office and kitchen and trimmed out interior doors
- Landvest replaced American Realty Road Bridge Umsaskis/Long Lake thoroughfare
- Replaced table/tarp poles at Sam's campsite
- Delivered/spread superhumus at: Lost Popple and Ledges campsites

Michaud Farm District:

- Replaced 180 feet of bog bridge on Allagash Falls portage and Round Pond Mountain trails
- Cleared, blazed and painted one mile of common boundary with Public Lands.
- Replaced table/tarp poles at: Allagash Falls, Cunliffe, Croque Brook, Inlet campsites
- Delivered/spread superhumus at Tower Trail and Outlet campsites

Other:

- "Storied Lands and Waters" report completed (AWW Foundation)
- Voice Over Internet phone service was installed at the Churchill and Chamberlain Ranger Stations

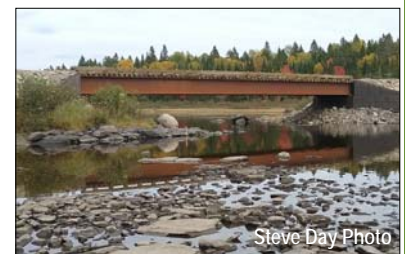


AWW Staff Photo

High Bank Campsite on Telos Lake



Trevor O'Leary Photo

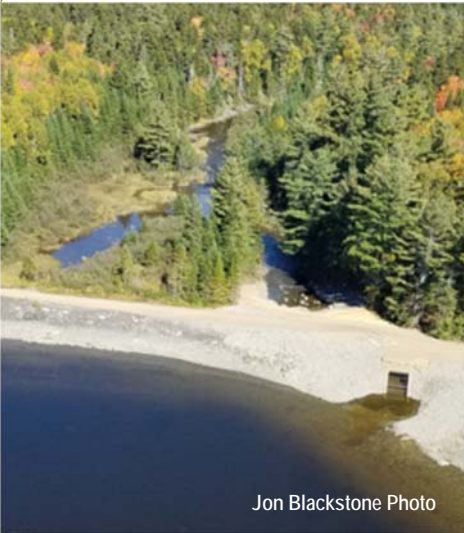
Nathan Fuller & Ben Hall
Eagle Lake Ranger Station Rehab

Steve Day Photo

New Realty Road bridge at Umsaskis
Thoroughfare

Dam Reports

Churchill Dam – Rebuilt in 1997, this is a 24 ft. high by 460 ft. long earth and concrete structure used to store water and provide recreational flows in the Allagash River. It is also managed to provide optimal habitat for the native fishes of the Waterway. The dam has significant cracks in the right, upstream retaining wall and a discernable deflection in that same wall. In 2012, AWW staff placed pins in the retaining wall to monitor movement. There has been no movement in the wall since the pins were placed..



Jon Blackstone Photo

New Lock Dam Gate on Chamberlain Lake

Lock Dam – This is the historic dam (formerly Chamberlain Lake Dam) that changed the course of water that once flowed north into the St. John River, to one that now flows south into the East Branch of the Penobscot River. The structure is a 177-year-old earth-en dam that is 15 ft. high by 280 ft. long. The timber facing on the dam was replaced with rip-rap during the winter of 2008 – 2009. The 3-foot diameter spillway gate and outlet pipe, installed in 1961 was replaced with a new outlet structure in 2018.

The new outlet was designed with input from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), Maine Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC), Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, and AWW Advisory Council. It was constructed of precast concrete sections, and 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. The structure is designed to provide a

flow of 250 cfs, which will simulate a spring flushing flow. Dam designers expect that the spring flow will clean the stream bed and enhance spawning habitat for whitefish and brook trout in Martin Stream. The new outlet will also provide for a higher flow (30 cfs) in winter when fish eggs are subject to freezing.



Matt LaRoche Photo

New Lock Dam Outlet Structure on Martin Stream

The new outlet is a win-win for all stakeholders. It maintains water levels in Chamberlain and Telos Lakes, provides recreational flows for canoeists and fishermen and enhances fish spawning and rearing downstream from the dam. The outlet was constructed with a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, and is in full compliance with the Waterway's National Wild and Scenic River designation. The project cost over \$800,000, 50% of which was covered by a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and 50% was funded by the AWW Capital Improvement Account.

Telos Dam – This dam is a remnant of the timber crib dams that were once common in Maine's north woods, which were used to move logs and pulpwood to downstream mills. It is a 20 ft. high by 240 ft. long rock-filled, timber crib structure. 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 upstream and downstream surfaces of the dam; and there is significant leakage under the emergency spillway on the north end of the dam. The wooden timbers are weathered and show signs of decay.

The four primary gates were replaced and the lifting mechanisms rebuilt over a five-year period with the last gate being replaced in 2012. In 2017, Waterway staff applied a layer of rock to the upstream face and below the spillways of the dam. This effort was a stop-gap repair to reduce leakage under the dam. During the spring of 2018, several 6"x6" sluice timbers washed out from the spillway of the "so called" tainter gates. These timbers were replaced and the void under the timbers was filled in with rock.

The Bureau of Parks and Lands issued a contract to Baker Design Consultants in 2015 for a condition assessment and repair recommendations at Lock and Telos Dams. The team of engineers visited the dams in September 2015, and again in October, during the normal low water period. The dam assessment report was issued on August 25, 2016 and recommended reconstruction of the upstream face and channel aprons to correct leaks associated with structural deterioration. This will require construction of a coffer dam and pipe to maintain water flow during the repair work. Estimated at over \$1,000,000 these repairs will be a significant expense for which funds are not currently available. The repairs at Lock Dam were deemed to be more critical and were undertaken first.

Waterway staff will continue to make repairs at Telos Dam to extend its life. Waterway management is committed to letting funds accrue in the AWW Capital Improvement Account to the level needed for repair or replacement of Telos Dam.

Volunteers



AWW Staff Photo

Materials supplied by Dave Flanagan for Boarding House Repairs, August 2018



By permission from R. Morneault

Roger Morneault and crew restoring the smoke stack at the Tramway in winter 2018

During 2018 we had 114 individuals donate 733 hours to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. This is a slightly higher number of volunteers and hours than in 2017. The value of these volunteer hours is over \$7,300!

In addition the previously noted volunteer efforts at the Boarding House and Tramway, volunteers helped Waterway staff accomplish the following tasks during 2018:

- Moving bog bridge planks at Allagash Falls
- Campsite maintenance
- Clearing trails
- General maintenance
- Brush clearing

- Building pole barn at Churchill Depot
- Roofing
- Spreading superhumus



Trevor O'Leary Photo

Westbrook Boy Scout Troop #83 helped move bog bridge material from the landing above Allagash Falls to a location on the portage trail.

Special Activity Permits Issued

- Can Am Crown Sled Dog Race to cross the Waterway at Round Pond
- "Like a Shot Entertainment" film productions for filming at the Tramway

Incidents

There were only three recorded incidents during 2018 in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. The most serious incident involved a youth's asthma attack on Long Lake. Steve Day made the call out for an ambulance and coordinated the evacuation.

No summonses or written warnings were issued by Waterway staff this year.

The waterway had the following incidents in 2018:

- 2 – Attempts to locate:
 - One family emergency with evacuation.
 - One In-Reach S.O.S.
- 1 – Boating Assist



Staff training for emergency medical assistance

Matt LaRoche Photo

Superintendent's Report

The 2018 winter season began with nearly full winter campgrounds at Chamberlain Bridge and Kellogg Brook. We sold 40 of the 48 available sites, and most were booked for the entire winter season on the first day of availability. The ice fishing was reported by most anglers to be good with some very nice native brook trout, togue and whitefish having been caught. The ice was out on most of the Waterway headwater lakes by May 7th, and Allagash Lake was the last lake to become clear of ice on May 9th.

We had a normal spring, with most runoff occurring in late April. We filled our reservoirs behind Churchill and Telos dams in early May, but the lakes and river dropped quickly in late May and June. Once the water level went down, it stayed low all summer, except for an occasional rise associated with limited rainfall. The river reading in the Town of Allagash went below 225 cfs in early September and stayed at that level nearly the entire month.

The low water did not seem to impact our public use, and people came despite the conditions. Many parties stayed on the headwater lakes or took out at Michaud Farm because of the low water on the river. The unusually warm fall temperatures—which now seem to be the norm, and the low water conditions limited fall fishing visits.



Jon Blackstone Photo

New Lock Dam Gate and Outlet

The major accomplishment of the year was the replacement of the outlet structure at Lock Dam, which had been in the planning stages for several years. State agencies (Maine IF&W and LUPC), federal agencies (Army Corps and National Park Service) and other stakeholders were all involved with the functional and visual design and of the new outlet. The result is a

real benefit for canoeists, anglers, environmentalists and the economy of Northern Maine. Link to a PowerPoint of the project is located at: www.maine.gov/allagash.

A Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) crew worked in the Waterway for two weeks in July. The crew, along with the staff at Michaud Farm, the John Martin Scholarship Intern, and volunteers replaced 180 feet of bog bridge on the portage trail around Allagash Falls.

An outstanding group of volunteers stayed at the Lock Dam Camp for two weeks. They performed many maintenance tasks on the building, including installation of new shingles on the camp and bunk house.



Trevor O'Leary Photo

Rebuilt Bog Bridge Portage Trail at Allagash Falls

The AWW Foundation completed the "Storied Lands and Waters" project, a heritage resource assessment and interpretive plan for the Waterway that was presented to the Bureau of Parks and Lands in June. That report will guide interpretive planning for the Waterway in the years to come.

Both the Boarding House and Storehouse at Churchill Depot were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). Formal placement of the buildings on the Register awaits approval by the US Department of the Interior.

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

It has been a privilege to oversee the Allagash Wilderness Waterway for the past ten years. The staff has been great to work with, and they all care deeply about this wild and scenic river that flows through the heart of Maine's industrial forest. The forest landowners that own over three million acres that surround the Waterway have been very good to work with, they go out of their way to minimize the impact of harvest operations on the Waterway.



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



Respectfully submitted,
Matthew LaRoche
Superintendent
Allagash Wilderness Waterway

Other Projects



Aneccdata.org/Maine Biological Lab

Maine Amphibian Survey

Scott Lindemann, a University of Maine student pursuing his master's degree in Wildlife Biology, worked on a statewide survey of amphibians in Maine. He and an undergraduate student stayed at Churchill Dam in the AWW during their survey of north-western Maine. Their work confirmed snapping turtle sightings in the Waterway at Churchill Dam in T10 R12 and at the intersection of Henderson Brook and Blanchet Road in T13 R12. These are the first recorded sightings of snapping turtles in the AWW, and suggest that snapping turtles may be well established in this watershed.



Bob Johnston Photo
10 05 2018

Trap Netting Togue

In October 2018, AWW staff assisted the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife with trap-netting 200 togue at Allagash Lake. The togue were then stocked in Crescent Pond (T9 R15) to help lower the smelt population there and



DIF&W Image

benefit the whitefish population. Togue from Allagash Lake are considered native to Crescent Pond and therefore comply with the IF&W heritage fish stocking policy.

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

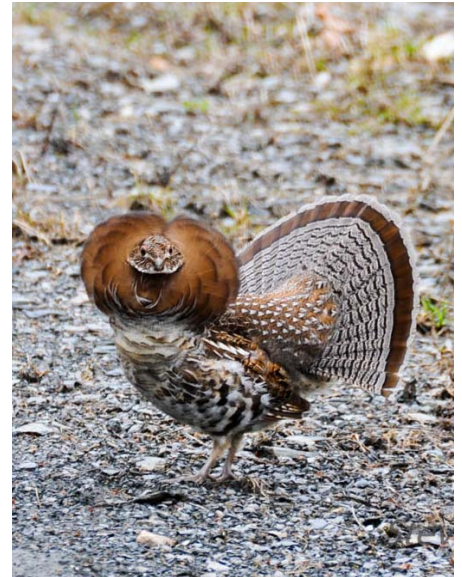
- Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry**
 Bureau of Parks and Lands
 Northern Region Parks Office
 106 Hogan Road, Bangor, ME 04401
 (207) 941-4014
www.maine.gov/allagash
www.parksandlands.com
- North Maine Woods, Inc.**
 P.O. Box 421
 Ashland, ME 04732
 (207) 435-6213
www.northmainewoods.org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



Steve Day Photo

Additional Photo Credits:

- Front and Back Cover photos** by Steve Day, Seasonal Ranger in the Umsaskis District of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. See more of Steve's striking photography on the AWW website at www.maine.gov/allagash.
- Several photos used in this report are from the nine-part **Allagash Wilderness Waterway video series** prepared for the Waterway in 2014, which is viewable on-line at www.maine.gov/allagash. The videos were prepared by Patrick A. Bonsant.
- 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 will reach its 50th anniversary as a Wild & Scenic River.



Allagash Wilderness Waterway Administration 2018

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Amanda Beal, Commissioner



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



AWW Administrative offices:
106 Hogan Road, Bangor, Maine 04401-5640
Telephone: 207-941-4014 Fax: 207-941-4222

www.maine.gov/allagash

