



Steve Day Photo

Allagash Wilderness Waterway 2019 Annual Report

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

March 1, 2020



**In 2020, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway
celebrates 50 years as a designated compo-
nent of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers
System**



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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**.

AWW Advisory Council Report



Jocelyn Hubbell Photo

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council

Seated L-R: Melford Pelletier, Brent Hardy, David Basley, Chair.
Standing L-R: Jamie Fosburgh, Peter Bourque, Toby Pineo, Josie Allen.

January 28, 2020

To: Andy Cutko, Director of Parks and Lands

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Council met three times in Augusta in 2019. Meetings are held in the Legislature's Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee Room in the Cross Building. They are open to the public and broadcast over the internet.

At our June meeting, we met Andy Cutko, new Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands. Andy came into the position from The Nature Conservancy in Maine where he was the Director of Science. We look forward to working with Andy in the coming years. We take this opportunity to thank previous Director Tom Desjardin for his years of dedicated service guiding the Bureau. Tom was a joy to have at our meetings sharing his historical knowledge, providing a sound perspective on the issues and always adding a touch of levity to our discussions. Thank you for your service, Tom.

Our newest Council member is Jim MacCartney, replacing Jamie Fosburgh as the National Park Service representative. Jim brings ten years of experience working in the Wild and Scenic Rivers program out of Concord, New Hampshire. Welcome, Jim, we look forward to your participation.

The Lock Dam rebuild has completed its first year and is working effectively to enhance water flow and fishery habitat in Martin Stream. IFW fishery biologists confirmed that brook trout were utilizing the increased spawning habitat created by the improved streamflow. Flow through the dam to optimize fisheries management objectives will be fine-tuned with time.

The Boarding House and Storehouse at Churchill Depot are now on the National Register of Historic Places. Hopefully, this recognition will improve funding options to stabilize the Boarding House and eventually goal to make it functional. The Lock Dam Preservation Association donated \$2,638.41 to help with repairs. Roof, foundation, siding, and windows all need work, with the roof being top priority. Selection of an engineering firm to

define the scope of work to stabilize the structure would be a plausible start. State and federal dollars will be the primary sources of funds.

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation has been very successful in its efforts to improve public education of the Waterway. They anticipate that the Allagash Explorer interpretive pocket guide will be ready for distribution in the summer of 2020. They are working with school districts in the AWW gateway areas to incorporate Storied Lands and Waters lesson plans into the curricula. The Foundation funded four youth on the Allagash canoe trips: two from the St. John Valley and two from the Katahdin region. Lastly, they hope to do a natural resources assessment of the Waterway similar to the heritage resources assessment, and prepare interpretive messages for visitors.

We have been apprised of four issues in the Waterway that are being discussed in the Public Lands' St. John Highlands management plan. These involve the Kellogg Brook camping and trailer storage; Round Pond (T13R12) fire tower repairs and road access; Allagash Mountain fire tower repairs; and moving the gate at Indian Stream to improve access to the foot trail to Big Eagle Lake. We will continue to stay apprised of these issues.

A visitor survey was conducted during the 2019 open water canoe season to compare with a similar 2003 survey. The 2019 survey content replicated that of 2003 plus additional economic questions. The 2003 survey was on paper; the 2019 survey was web-based. A preliminary report was presented at the December meeting with more information to come in the future.

Council members expressed interest in more comprehensive measurement of public use to provide more accurate trend analyses for future decision-making. Toward that end, we had an excellent presentation and discussion with Al Cowperthwaite, Executive Director of North Maine Woods, on their visitor registration program and the public use reports it generates. It was suggested that we look at building on this system to address questions we want answered. A subcommittee was established to work on this issue and eventually meet with Al to incorporate desired Waterway public use reports with his system.

I would like to acknowledge the professionalism and enthusiasm of the Allagash Waterway Supervisor and Rangers in performing their duties. They are a very dedicated group that provides public safety and assistance for visitors while trying not to intrude on the wilderness experience. Lastly, I would thank outgoing Council Chair Brent Hardy for his leadership over the past three years. I have observed his passion for the Allagash Waterway as being unsurpassed by few. Much was accomplished during his time as Chair while fostering a positive working relationship with stakeholders, professional staff, and Council members.

Submitted per Maine Statutes,

David J. Basley, Chair AWW Advisory Council

FY 2020 Allagash Wilderness Waterway Budget

Allotment Source	FY-20 Q1	FY-20 Q2	FY-20 Q3	FY-20 Q4	Total
General Fund (All Other)	\$63,000	\$30,300	\$12,593	\$16,101	121,994
AWW Account (All Other)	\$53,002	\$25	\$20	\$20	\$53,067
AWW Account (Capital)	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Total	\$216,002	\$30,325	\$12,613	\$16,121	\$275,061

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, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Revenue from fees for FY19 totaled \$180,914.32.

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 19 was \$121,804.61.

Fiscal Year	Revenues from Fees
2014	\$115,173.84
2015	\$101,261.23
2016	\$131,502.11
2017	\$193,508.24
2018	\$137,062.31
2019	\$180,914.32*

Fiscal Year	Revenue to AWW Account
2014	\$49,778.99
2015	\$45,562.28
2016	\$52,155.00
2017	\$127,095.88
2018	\$108,604.34
2019	\$121,804.61

*Some FY 18 revenues were reported in FY 19, making it appear that FY 19 income was higher than it actually was, and creating an apparent discrepancy between FY 19 use and revenues.

AWW Endowment Fund: \$8,992.98 is in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway endowment fund. This is an interest bearing trust account at the Department of Treasury.

AWW Donations Account: \$7,792.91 was in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway donations account as of June 30, 2018.



Trevor O'Leary at Round Pond Camp in February

Matt LaRoche Photo

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Fiscal Year 19 Expenditure Report (July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019)

Expenses - FY19	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		532,709.35				532,709.35
Professional Services	5,000.00	4,417.00				9,417.00
Water tests		200.00				200.00
Gas (for equipment)		7,771.13				7,771.13
Lodging, Meals, Mileage		1,460.78				1,460.78
Electric						0.00
Other utilities		115.80				115.80
Misc. Rents		440.00				440.00
Rent - Buildings and Office		2,020.00				2,020.00
Rental of State Vehicle		38,565.56				38,565.56
State Vehicle Operations						0.00
Rental of Private Equipment						0.00
Repair - Equipment		4,506.94				4,506.94
Repair - Boats		1,053.46				1,053.46
Repair - Roads and Grounds	1,015.67	3,231.13			7,050.00	11,296.80
Repair - Buildings	8,064.89	12,576.09				20,640.98
Repair - Misc.		483.54				483.54
Trash Removal		181.80				181.80
Snow plowing		322.13				322.13
General Operations		3,517.30				3,517.30
Non-Employee Settlement						0.00
Occupational Health/Rehab						0.00
Employee Training		491.94				491.94
Food		620.21				620.21
L.P. Gas		7,000.68				7,000.68
Natural Gas		410.45				410.45
Fuel Oil		418.68				418.68
Firewood		-800.00				-800.00
Misc. Supplies (Industrial, etc.)		9,911.88				9,911.88
Technology (Radios, etc.)		4,775.64				4,775.64
Clothing		1,370.76				1,370.76
Printing and Publishing	705.78	5,692.78				6,398.56
Equipment		5,653.13				5,653.13
Grants to Public/Private Organization						0.00
Administrative Charges*	2,779.23				1,325.12	4,104.35
Material Purchases for Resale						0.00
CAP Equipment					3,689.00	3,689.00
CAP Buildings & Improvements						0.00
CAP Structures & Improvements						0.00
CAP Infrastructure & Improvements	804,533.00					804,533.00
TOTAL EXPENSES**	822,098.57	649,118.16	0.00	0.00	12,064.12	1,483,280.85

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

**Funds were encumbered in FY18 for capital contracts associated with the Lock Dam project. These FY18 encumbrances are reported as FY19 expenses in the 2019 Annual Report.

CASH BALANCE IN AWW ACCT AS OF 7/01/19 was \$6,177.37

Recreation & Visitor Use

Total public use for the Waterway decreased by 4% in 2019. This is first decrease in total public use in seven years. Day use increased by 4%, sporting camp use increased slightly and total camping nights decreased by 11%.

Camping nights for May were down by 30%. June, July and August were down slightly from 2018. Camping nights for September were up by 23% and October was down slightly from the previous year. The drop in camping use for May and early June can be directly attributed to the unusually cold wet spring that we had. Baxter State Park saw a nearly identical drop in camping use for the same time period in 2019.

The Tramway Historic District was the Waterway's most visited day use destination - at 1,892 people, an increase of 290 people from 2018. This number is probably still under-reported because many people visit the trains/tramway while staying in the North Maine Woods for other reported destinations.

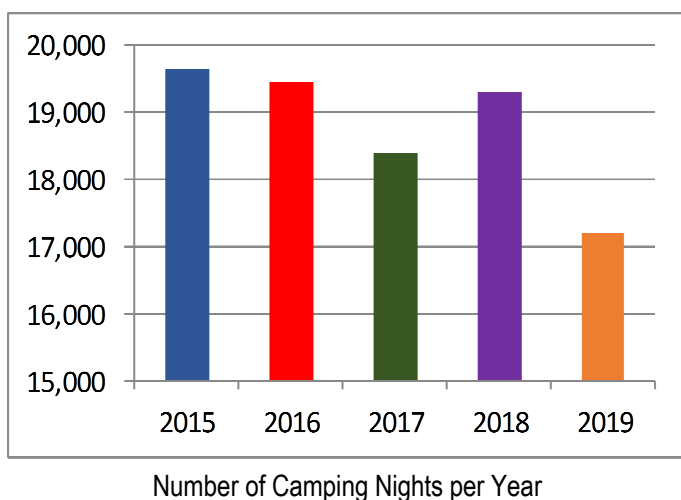
The May 7th ice-out date on the Waterway headwater lakes was normal. Good spring fishing lasted until mid-July, but spring angler use was low because of the cold wet weather.

The Waterway had good water levels for canoeing throughout the entire season.

Year	Parties	Persons	Camping Nights	Sporting Camp Days	Day Use	Total Visitor Days
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
2019	946	3,869	17,207	3,562	11,865	32,634

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 more than 12 people. In 2019 there were 8 permits issued to 3 exempt organizations.

Year	Exempt Organizations	Permits Issued
2016	3	7
2017	4	8
2018	3	6
2019	3	8

Education, Interpretation & Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation

AWW staff continues to support and promote the historical aspects of the Allagash Waterway by collecting, interpreting, and displaying artifacts found by themselves, as well as, park visitors. The artifacts are on display at the History Center located in the Churchill Depot Storehouse. The History Center is a very popular stop for fishermen and canoeists visiting the Waterway as well as visitors to the North Maine Woods and camp owners in the area.



Checking Sill
Jay Young and Tyler Stockwell
inspect the project.



Sill Replaced
That's a 24 foot 8"x 8",
not easy to find.



Job Finished
The project went well,
easier than anticipated.

Waterway staff finished replacing the siding on the south end of the Boarding House in 2019. Staff replaced the 24-foot 8"x 8" sill and sistered several wall studs before installing the siding. The bottom of the building is now completely closed-in and protected from the weather. Lock Dam Preservation Association generously donated over \$2600 to assist with repairs. The Boarding House and Storehouse at Churchill Depot were approved by the National Park Service for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. (Photos by Matt LaRoche)

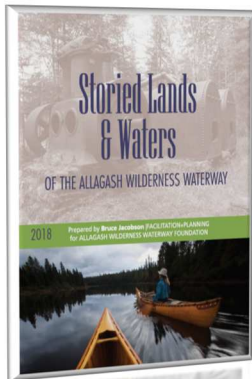
Outreach

Matt writes a monthly column about the Allagash Wilderness Waterway for the Northwoods Sporting Journal. The journal is a monthly outdoor magazine with a wide distribution in New England. After his monthly columns have been published in the Journal, these articles are released to the media for use by any newspaper. Matt's articles are often published in the Bangor Daily News and other newspapers in northern Maine.

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 go out to 2,335 subscribers.

The nine-part AWW video series that came out in May of 2014 has had over 19,000 views. This has been a tremendous tool for educating potential visitors to the Waterway.

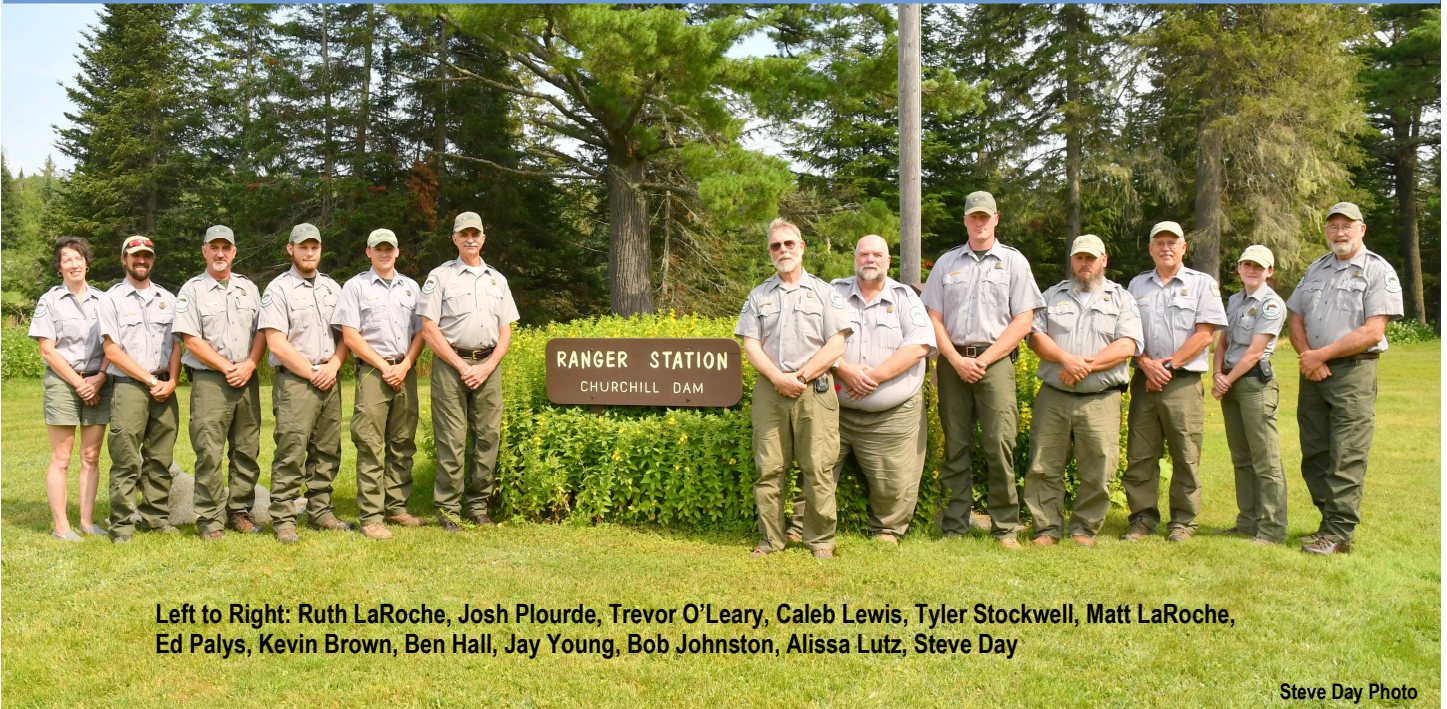
Education



Bob Johnston, ranger at Allagash Lake, led a geology field trip for high school students in Baxter State Park.

Matt and Bureau staff continued to work with the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation (AWWF) to develop the "Allagash Explorer" - a new interpretive guide to the Waterway, to be made available in print and digital formats. The "Explorer" was a recommendation of *Storied Lands & Waters of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (2018)*, prepared by Bruce Jacobson and sponsored by the AWW Foundation. To date, over 20 storylines have been created for the guide to engage visitors with the history and sights of the Allagash. Current work is on the design and production of the printed pocket guide, to be made available in the summer of 2020 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the designation of the Waterway as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

2019 AWW Crew



Left to Right: Ruth LaRoche, Josh Plourde, Trevor O’Leary, Caleb Lewis, Tyler Stockwell, Matt LaRoche, Ed Palys, Kevin Brown, Ben Hall, Jay Young, Bob Johnston, Alissa Lutz, Steve Day

Steve Day Photo

Staff Training

New employee, Alissa Lutz was provided boat operation training by Chief Ranger Kevin Brown. Kevin Brown and Matt LaRoche attended a two-day park manager training. Matt LaRoche, Kevin Brown, Trevor O’Leary and Jay Young attended a two-day “Verbal Judo” class. Trevor O’Leary took an online Microsoft Excel course and attended Managing in State Government training provided by Human Resources. All AWW employees received training at staff meetings and on the job. All Waterway staff also received the following training:

- Bureau of Labor Standards mandated training
- Emergency Operations Plan
- Water Quality Training with MFS Foresters (classroom and field)
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Wildfire Suppression Training with MFS Forest Rangers

Forest Harvest Notifications

In 2019, there were a total of 27 active forest harvest notifications (FONS) within the mile zone of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

One notification was for a harvest within a mapped visual area of the AWW. The visual area harvest application was inspected prior to harvest activity by the AWW Superintendent, and Jacob Guimond, Regional Manager with the Bureau of Parks & Lands. The visual area harvest application was approved with conditions to minimize the visual impact of the harvest area, associated skid trails, and log landings.

Eight 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 these 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 two applications for the use of herbicide within the AWW mile zone. Both applications were for roadside brush control. All applications for herbicide use with the mile zone were approved.

Projects Accomplished by Staff, Volunteers, and Contactors in 2019

Chamberlain Lake District:

- Repaired boat launch: spread coating of crumbly ledge (Allagash gravel) over turn-around area; crushed stone placed alongside concrete ramp; cedar grindings placed in center of turn-around; new settling pool and drainage installed
- Reroofed generator shed at ranger station
- Installed a new soft-start water pump at ranger station
- Replaced all old PVC water lines with new PEX tubing at ranger station
- Repaired chimney at shop and re-topped chimney from roof up, upgrading from block to brick
- Relocated one campsite at Lock Dam to the turn-around area used during reconstruction project.
- Replaced 100 feet of bog bridge at Crow's Nest campsite
- Installed new cedar posts and refreshed entering/leaving AWW signs on Telos Road.
- Mowed fields and roadsides at Telos Dam.



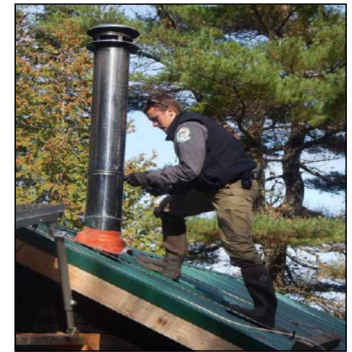
Matt LaRoche Photo



Matt LaRoche Photo

Eagle Lake District:

- Continued with ranger station repairs:
- Replaced roof with new V-match pine, insulation and steel roofing;
- Installed chimney
- Rebuilt porch
- Installed new cupboards
- Relocated solar panels and rewired 12-volt lights
- This three-year project also included:
 - ◊ Sill log replacement on all four sides
 - ◊ Replacement of seven logs on NE section of camp
 - ◊ New floor stringers and floor

Tyler Stockwell on roof
Bob Johnston Photo

Churchill Dam District:

- Reinstalled the repaired NWSR plaque on the rock near dam
- Replaced sill, sistered wall studs and replaced siding on south end of Boarding House
- Built a lumber rack in pole barn
- Built a new canoe slip at Camp Pleasant (staff housing on Churchill Lake)
- Rebuilt and painted two Scott Canoes

Michaud Farm District:

- Installed a new floor in the ranger station
- Cut back roadside brush from Farm Brook to Ramsay Ledge campsite
- Replaced the flag pole
- Located a good spot for a new campsite on the north end of the Waterway; collected information; ordered site evaluation; and submitted permit application

Allagash Wilderness Waterway:

- Worked with the UMaine to develop visitor survey and helped administer survey
- Mowed fields and roadsides at Churchill and Telos Dams.
- Delivered and spread 20 yards of superhumus at nine different campsites
- Installed 4-new picnic tables with tarp poles
- Replaced tarp poles at 9-different campsites
- Cleared the following trails: Churchill dam to Big Eddy; Round Pond Mountain Trail; Indian Stream Trail; Tramway Portage Trail; and the 19-designated snowmobile trails
- Provided a tour of AWW headwater lakes to North Maine Woods staff.
- Provided multiday tours to DACF Commissioner Beal and BPL Director Cutko

Trevor O'Leary running saw mill
Dale O'Leary Photo

Dam Reports

Churchill Dam – rebuilt in 1997, it is a 24 ft. high X 460 ft. long earthen and concrete structure. It is used store water to provide 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 discernible deflection in that same wall. AWW staff placed pins in this retaining wall to monitor movement in 2012. There has been no movement in the retaining wall since the pins were placed.



Lock Dam – is an historic dam that changed the course of water that originally flowed down the Allagash and into the St. John River; this water now flows south down the East Branch of the Penobscot. The structure is a 177-year old earthen dam; it is 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 3-foot diameter spillway gate and outlet pipe, installed in 1961 was replaced with a new outlet structure in 2018. The new outlet structure was designed with input from Maine IF&W, the Maine Land Use Planning Commission, Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, and the AWW Advisory Council.

The new outlet structure was constructed using precast concrete sections. 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 new outlet structure was designed to provide a flow of 250 cfs, which would simulate a spring flushing flow that would clean the channel in Martin Stream. The AWW ran a 310 cfs flow for two weeks in late April and early May. This flow did a good job of cleaning the upper section of Martin Stream and enhanced the spawning and rearing habitat for whitefish and brook trout in the stream. Twelve brook trout redds were counted in Martin stream in early November. No whitefish were observed in the stream on the November field visit. The new outlet will also provide for a higher flow during the winter (20 cfs) when fish eggs are subject to freezing.



The new outlet structure 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 new outlet structure was constructed with a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, in full compliance with the Waterway's National Wild and Scenic River designation.

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 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 miss-alignment 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.

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. 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. A dam assessment report was issued in August 25, 2016. The report recommendations are to reconstruct 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.



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. The repairs at Lock Dam were deemed more critical and were undertaken first. Waterway staff will continue to make ongoing repairs at Telos Dam to extend the life as long as possible. 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

During 2019, 127 individuals donated 623 hours to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. This is a slightly lower number of volunteer hours than 2018. The value of these volunteer hours is over \$7400.00. Volunteers helped Waterway staff accomplish the following tasks during 2019:

- Repair of the boarding house
- Re-topped chimney at the Chamberlain Bridge shop
- Campsite maintenance
- Clearing trails
- Peeling poles
- General maintenance
- Brush clearing
- Winter deliveries

Special Activity Permits Issued

- Can Am Crown Sled Dog Race to cross the Waterway at Round Pond
- Search for sunken canoes using a boat and diver on Umsaskis Lake.

Incidents

The most serious incident of the year occurred at Umsaskis Lake on June 3, 2019. Two brothers swamped their lashed-together canoes. Scout Venture Crew 345 from Kingston NH heard cries for help and rescued one brother. They alerted Ranger Steve Day and all searched for the missing brother. He was found at 9:40 pm after spending 3 hours in 52-degree water. Both brothers were brought to the ranger station to be warmed and evacuated by EMS. It is doubtful that the brother who spent hours in the water would have survived without help from the scouts and AWW staff. The Scouts, Ranger Steve Day and Superintendent Matt LaRoche were recognized for their actions by Governor Mills.

Other 2019 Incidents

- 4 - Boating assists: 2 swamped/pinned canoes in Chase Rapids and swamped canoes on lakes.
- 2 - First aid/Evacuations.
- 1 - Theft
- 1 - Lost person
- 1 - Assist MFS with fire location
- 1 - Snowmobile through the ice
- 5 - Siltation Events: at McNally, Snare, Thoroughfare, McCluskey and Schedule Brooks
- 4 - Written Warnings: 1 each for Unattended fire, cutting live trees, littering and unauthorized camping



Training with the Maine Forest Service



Matt LaRoche Photo

Water Quality Monitoring Training



Matt LaRoche Photos

Chainsaw Training & Hazard Tree Removal

Superintendent's Report



Winter Campground Registration

Ruth LaRoche Photo

The winter season began with the annual winter campground registration at Chamberlain Bridge and Kellogg Brook. We sold 37 of the 48 available sites, all were leased for the entire winter season, all but two sites on the first day of availability. The ice fishing was reported as only fair by most anglers with some very nice native brook trout, togue and whitefish being caught. The ice was out on most of the Waterway headwater lakes by May 7th - with Allagash Lake being the last lake to be ice-free on May 9th.

We had normal spring water flows, with most runoff occurring in late April. We filled the reservoirs behind Churchill and Telos Dams in early May, and we had good water flow for the entire canoeing season. The river reading in the Town of Allagash only went below 500 cfs once - during the first week of August.



Spring Anglers

Bob Johnston Photo

The spring was cold and rainy, which did impact May use by spring anglers. However, the spring fishing was very good for those that did brave the harsh weather. Good fishing continued well into June and July.

The AWW rebuilt the outlet structure at Lock Dam in 2018. IF&W biologists visited the dam this fall to survey Martin Stream, looking primarily for whitefish spawning activity. They did not see any whitefish in the stream, but did find 12-brook trout redds. This is marked increase from previous years and a very encouraging sign for the stream. The new outlet structure will allow the Waterway to maintain a higher flow in the stream during the winter which will keep the eggs covered and protected from freezing.

Major accomplishments of the year were the completion of a three-year project to rebuild the Eagle Lake Ranger Station. It felt good to effectively save this authentic log cabin from deteriorating beyond the point of repair. Thanks to Trevor O'Leary for heading this project up and the rest of the Waterway crew for bringing this project to completion. We also made significant repairs to the boat launch at Chamberlain Bridge.

The Waterway management worked with the University of Maine to develop and administer of visitor survey. That survey replicated a similar survey completed in 2003. The results of the survey are due out in mid-March of 2020 and will be available online at www.maine.gov/allagash.

The boarding house and store house at Churchill Depot have been approved for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service. We hope that this designation may increase the possibility of grant funding to stabilize and eventually restore the boarding house.

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.



Matt LaRoche Photo

It has been a privilege to oversee the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) for the past eleven 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. Ranger Trevor O'leary was the Bureau's nominee for DACF Employee of the Year in 2019. The forest landowners that own over three million acres that surround the Waterway have been very good to work with, and they voluntarily go out of their way to minimize the impact of harvest operations on the Waterway.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew LaRoche
Superintendent
Allagash Wilderness
Waterway



Steve Day Photo

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



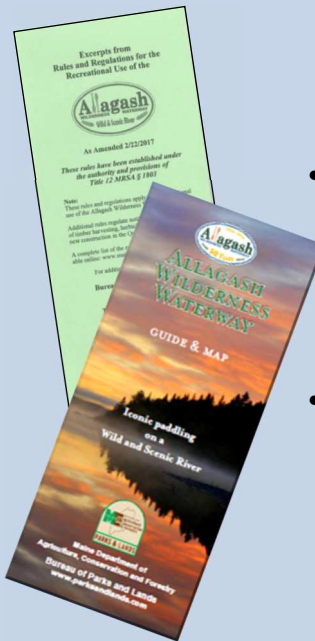
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Moose at Round Pond Inlet

Julia Bayly Photo



Lynx at Umsaskis

Steve Day Photo

Additional Credits:

- Many report photos are the work of 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.
- **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 reaches its 50th anniversary as the first state-administered component of the National Wild and Scenic River System



Kevin Brown Photo

AWW Superintendent Matt LaRoche, MFS Chief Ranger Pilot John Crowley, Parks & Lands Director Andy Cutko, Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Commissioner Amanda E. Beale



Bob Johnston Photo

Superintendent Matt LaRoche and Commissioner Amanda E. Beale at Chase Rapids on the Allagash River.

THE Allagash WILDERNESS WATERWAY

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Administration 2019

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Amanda E. Beal, Commissioner



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