



Churchill Lake’s only island—which was never named—with Churchill Ridge in the background

# Allagash Wilderness Waterway 2022 Annual Report



Bureau of Parks and Lands

March 1, 2023



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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, 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 U.S. 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, objectives, guiding principles, policies, and strategies to accomplish the mission. The plans are available online under the “Featured Links” at [www.maine.gov/allagash](http://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 20, 2023

To: Andy Cutko, Director of Parks and Lands

2022 was the first year in a few that we had a full Council for at least a portion of the year. We postponed what would have been a December 2021 meeting until all vacancies were filled and met virtually in January 2022 once that occurred. That meeting allowed us to be updated on the 2021-year end activities from staff projects and training to visitor incident reports followed by anticipated projects for 2022.

Based on newly passed legislation, the AWW Advisory Council (AWWAC) adopted a Remote Participation Policy Statement which will provide for public input via Microsoft Teams, the current State of Maine platform used for remote meetings.

We received an enlightening report from Dr. John Daigle, UM Professor in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Program. Dr. Daigle, with the assistance of a grad student, performed an AWW Visitors Survey in the pre-pandemic year 2019. This survey is designed to reassess visitors' experiences compared to a prior survey done by Dr. Daigle in 2003. The great news was that 99% of the users rated their experience either good or very good. That is an amazing high rating and reflective of all the staff that work hard to provide the very best for all of the users. Needless to say, the Advisory Council was extremely impressed by these results as should all of the people of Maine.

We received the good news that the Bureau of Parks and Lands got both State and Federal approval for the expenditure of \$50 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Funds for infrastructure improvements across the State Parks System. The AWWAC continues to advocate for the restoration of the historic Boarding House at Churchill Dam. In order to facilitate this project a working group has been formed and coordinated by the AWW Superintendent and will include some of the Council members and other interested public. There were also working groups formed to assist with the updates for both the Strategic Plan and the Management Plan and for further development of the AWW Endowment Fund. All Council members have volunteered to be on one or more of these working groups.

We were fortunate to have our September meeting in the AWW at the Churchill Dam Headquarters. We were welcomed and treated wonderfully by our host, Superintendent Mark Deroche. We had the chance to do a brief review of the current Strategic Plan which will help the working group get a head start on a 2023 update.

We continue to get regular activity reports from the Superintendent and Chief Ranger Kevin Brown. The breadth of training as well as the variety of work activities is extremely impressive. Obviously, when you are far from service centers, the do-it-yourself maintenance becomes a necessity, and the rangers do a lot of it at a cost savings to the Waterway's budget.

Our continued thanks to the AWW Foundation that continues to raise money and conduct important projects for the benefit of the AWW today and into the future. In addition to their education programs, where they work with youth and teachers both in the classrooms and on the river, they have continued the AWW Natural Resource Inventory. We look forward to seeing that final report in the coming year. In addition, the Foundation, under the supervision of retired Fishery Biologist Paul Johnson, conducted a water temperature monitoring study in the AWW. Field work was conducted by Noah Frost, UMaine post-grad with assistance from the AWW Rangers. Temperature monitors were placed in 19 AWW tributaries and 3 in the mainstem of the river to determine which of these waters may continue to be refuge for brook trout in the heat of the summer. With a warming climate, this data will be crucial. The Foundation has secured funding from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund to help with a second season of monitoring these same waters in 2023.

The year was free of any major issues or conflicts on the Waterway. The staff continues to monitor snowmobile activity on the Tramway Trail and the hiking trail to the trains in the summer and fall.

We would like to thank the Bureau and AWW staff that have helped to make this year a great one. In addition, we would be remiss if we didn't give a huge Thank You to Brent Hardy, AWWAC member whose second 5-year term expired in July. Brent came to the Council with a great understanding of the Waterway, having recreated many years there; Brent also worked out of the Nugent Camps for many years too. Of the 10 years that Brent served on the AWWAC, he missed just a single meeting due to a prior commitment. We will miss his historical background and expertise and look forward to him serving on the Boarding House Restoration Working Group.

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)	\$88,000	\$20,000	\$12,953	\$16,101	\$137,054
AWW Account (All Other)	\$52,998	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$21.00	\$53,067
AWW Account (Capital)	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$180,998</b>	<b>\$50,024</b>	<b>\$22,977</b>	<b>\$36,122</b>	<b>\$290,121</b>

#### Revenue From Fees

The Bureau of Parks and Lands collects fees for the following activities in the Waterway: camping, portage services, sporting camp leases and tolls to cross Churchill Dam. Fiscal year reporting is July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Revenue from fees for FY22 totaled \$190,773.27.

Fiscal Year	Revenues from Fees
2017	\$193,508.24
2018	\$137,062.31
2019	\$180,914.32
2020	\$140,739.12
2021	\$106,968.15
2022	\$190,773.27

#### 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 FY22 was \$133,096.60.

Fiscal Year	Revenue to AWW Account
2017	\$127,095.88
2018	\$108,604.34
2019	\$121,804.61
2020	\$91,315.01
2021	\$58,234.45
2022	\$133,096.60



Scout, Sawyer Rose, receiving a print of Allagash Falls for his Eagle Scout project on Long Lake.

**AWW Endowment Fund:** \$19,258.23 is in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway endowment fund as of December 31, 2022. This is an interest-bearing trust account at the Department of Treasury.

**AWW Donations Account:** \$5,456.72 was in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway donations account as of June 30, 2022.



A unique rainbow over Chamberlain Lake.

## Allagash Wilderness Waterway Fiscal Year 22 Expenditure Report (July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022)

Expenses - FY22	AWW Account (dedicated revenue)	General Fund (general operations)	Poland Spring Account (dedicated revenue)	Loon Account (dedicated revenue)	Enterprise (W) Account (dedicated revenue)	TOTAL
Salary and Benefits		583,900.25				583,900.25
Professional Services		5,645.00				5,645.00
Water tests		140.00	50.00			190.00
Gas (for equipment)		5,177.75	12,209.62			17,387.37
Lodging, Meals, Mileage		619.15				619.15
Electric						0.00
Other utilities		100.21				100.21
Misc. Rents						0.00
Rent - Buildings and Office		2,100.00				2,100.00
Rental of State Vehicle		42,217.84				42,217.84
State Vehicle Operations						0.00
Rental of Private Equipment						0.00
Repair - Equipment		6,436.48				6,436.48
Repair - Boats		728.72	134.32			863.04
Repair - Roads and Grounds		3,952.50				3,952.50
Repair - Buildings		6,562.26	453.99			7,016.25
Repair - Misc.		510.51				510.51
Trash Removal		91.64				91.64
Snow plowing						0.00
General Operations		1,224.57				1,224.57
Non-Employee Settlement						0.00
Occupational Health/Rehab						0.00
Employee Training		139.80				139.80
Food		284.06				284.06
L.P. Gas		10,326.54				10,326.54
Natural Gas						0.00
Fuel Oil		193.26				193.26
Firewood						0.00
Misc. Supplies (Industrial, etc.)		14,195.33	422.15			14,617.48
Technology (Radios, etc.)		7,178.85	2,186.35	1,343.32		10,708.52
Clothing		1,946.59				1,946.59
Printing and Publishing						0.00
Equipment		15,197.20				15,197.20
Grants to Public/Private Organiz.						0.00
Administrative Charges*			745.61	182.99		928.60
Material Purchases for Resale					2,903.37	2,903.37
CAP Land						0.00
CAP Equipment				12,452.00		12,452.00
CAP Buildings & Improvements						0.00
CAP Structures & Improvements						0.00
CAP Infrastructures & Improvements						0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES*	0.00	708,868.51	16,202.04	13,978.31	2,903.37	741,952.23

\*Includes total of STA-CAP and DI-CAP on all expenditures and late fees. **CASH BALANCE IN AWW ACCT AS OF 7/01/22 was \$307,839.06**

## Recreation & Visitor Use

Total public use for the Waterway was down 12% in calendar year 2022; total camping nights were down 13%, while day use was down 15%. Sporting camp use increased by 0.07% in the 2022 season.

The Tramway Historic District was the Waterway’s most visited day-use destination for 2022. A trail counter (DataNet) was used for the second summer season to help give more accurate data on the new Locomotive Trail. The counter was placed near the trail parking area from May 4, 2022, to October 19, 2022. The total day use for that time period was 3,667 visitors. This number represents a 16% decrease from the previous summer. Data collected showed that most visitors came to the Trail around mid-day and that Saturday and Sunday were the most popular days, respectively. Identifying future trends in this District is very important. Therefore, the trail counter will be placed in the same location, during the same time period, and with the same calibrations, in the coming seasons.

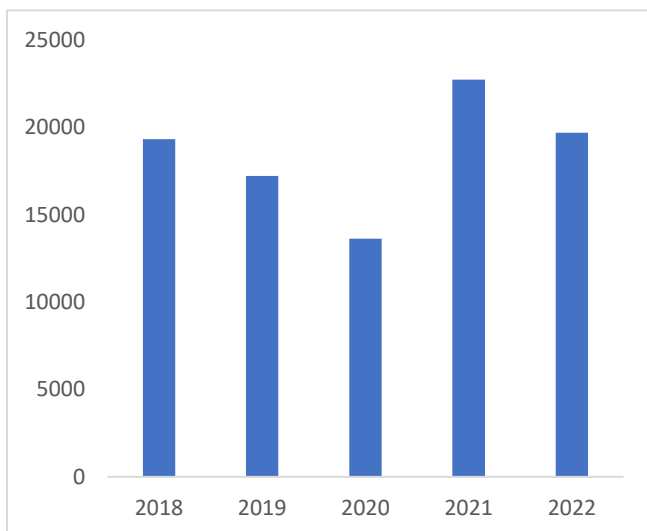
The trail counter was used from January 20, 2022, to March 27, 2022, and was placed on the snowmobile trail between Chamberlain and Eagle Lake. Data collected showed that during that time period, 2,535 people visited the Locomotives. Saturday and Sunday were the busiest days, respectively. The busiest Saturday during that time period showed 275 visitors. The average daily use decreased by 24% during the winter of 2022. The trail counter was placed at the same location on the Tramway Trail to track snowmobile use during the winter.

All AWW lakes were free of ice on May 4, 2022. This is an average ice-out date for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Lakes. Good spring fishing lasted until mid-June.

The Allagash River had higher-than-normal water levels the entire season, making for excellent canoeing throughout the summer and fall. 2022 water levels were described as unique and rare, with the Allagash River flow in the Town of Allagash never getting below 600 cubic feet per second (cfs). During a typical year, water levels in late summer can be as low as 300 cfs, making the journey for some paddlers more challenging.

Year	Parties	Persons	Camping Nights	Sporting Camp Days	Day Use	Total Visitor Days
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
2022	1,030	4,420	19,684	3,546	11,144	34,374

### 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 2022, only two exempt organizations requested to use an oversized group permit. Eight oversized group permits were issued to two exempt organizations.

Year	Exempt Organizations	Permits Issued
2019	3	8
2020	1	2
2021	1	2
2022	2	8

## Education, Interpretation & Historic Preservation

### Historic Preservation

AWW staff continue to support and promote the historic preservation aspects of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway by collecting, interpreting, and displaying artifacts found by rangers and park visitors. The artifacts are displayed at the Churchill Depot History Center. The History Center is a very popular stop for all Waterway users and many others who visit the North Maine Woods. Our Churchill Depot rangers do a tremendous job providing interpretive tours at the History Center. The tours occur daily during our peak season and are much appreciated by our Waterway visitors. A self-guided interpretive resource was developed in 2022 and is now posted in the History Center, helping our guests understand the significance of the artifacts.

### Outreach and Education

AWW Superintendent Mark Deroche and AWW Ranger Trevor O'Leary spent a day touring the campus of Camp Kieve and meeting with the Kieve/Wavus senior management team to discuss camper experiences, Waterway expectations, and safety topics. This first-of-its-kind meeting resulted in AWW Ranger participation at the Camp Kieve & Wavus trip leader training held in June 2022. AWW Assistant Park Ranger Alissa Lutz facilitated the AWW safety training highlighting scenarios and provided Q&A opportunities to more than one-hundred youth trip leaders. AWW Rangers will continue to attend the Kieve/Wavus trainings every spring. AWW Management will attempt to schedule similar meetings with the Chewonki Foundation and Maine High Adventure organizations, which lead many youth trips on the Waterway every season. The goal for these meetings is to provide an opportunity for the senior management teams and trip leaders to ask Waterway staff questions about rules and regulations, safety issues, emergency operating procedures, and a variety of other topics to help prepare their campers for quality adventures on the AWW.

Chief Ranger Kevin Brown routinely 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 Land section of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's website. These "Conditions and Alerts" currently circulate to 4,708 subscribers.

The AWW video series, originally produced in May of 2014, continues to be a tremendous tool for educating potential visitors to the Waterway.

AWW Ranger Trevor O'Leary and AWW Assistant Ranger Ryan Neal 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.

The AWW staff spend time every day informing and educating many Waterway visitors on a variety of topics, such as important safety tips, canoe/camping skills, rules and regulations, the history and culture of the AWW, recreational and sightseeing opportunities, and information about AWW flora and fauna.



The AWW Rangers at Scofield Point setting up a tent as part of the camping safety training.

## 2022 AWW Crew



Left to Right—First Row: Ed Palys, Jay Young, Mark Deroche, Keith Turdo. Second Row: Ryan Neal, Nolan Jacobs, Allissa Lutz, Dennis Hickey, Bob Johnston. Back Row: Kevin Brown, Trevor O’Leary, Ben Hall. Missing: CRA, Caryl O’Leary and UMFK Intern, Rachel Johnson

### Staff Training

The remote and rugged nature of the AWW requires that our Allagash Rangers be 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 various incidents. The Ranger team reviews many possible scenarios, and all staff are encouraged to practice these procedures every day of the season. Below are some of the other required and specialized training sessions Allagash Rangers completed this season:

- Bureau of Labor Standards annual training – All staff
- Enforcement and Compliance Academy – Ed Palys and Trevor O’Leary
- Chainsaw Safety – Nolan Jacobs, Keith Turdo, Ryan Neal, Allissa Lutz, Rachel Johnson.
- Swiftwater Rescue – All staff
- U.S. Power Squadron Boating Training – Nolan Jacobs, Keith Turdo and Ryan Neal.
- Cyber Security Training – Mark Deroche, Kevin Brown, Jay Young and Trevor O’Leary
- Deep-water Rescue – All staff
- Recognizing and addressing camping and canoeing safety issues – All staff

### Forest Harvest Notifications

There was a total of 32 active Forest Harvest Notifications (FONS) within the mile zone of the AWW in 2022.

Six of the FONS were extensions from 2020 for harvests within the mapped visual area of the AWW. The visual area harvest applications were granted using the original conditions: to minimize the visual impact of the harvest area, associated skid trails, and log landings. These sites were previously inspected and approved in 2020 prior to any harvest activity. AWW Superintendent Mark Deroche, Allagash Ranger Trevor O’Leary, and Public Lands Regional Manager Jacob Guimond plan to inspect these sites in the Spring of 2023 as the harvest operations continue.

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

There were two applications for road construction within the ¼ mile new construction zone. These applications were approved with the condition that the roads be 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 four applications for the use of herbicide within the AWW mile zone. The approved applications were for roadside brush control.



## Projects Accomplished by Staff, Volunteers, and Contractors in 2022

### Chamberlain Lake District:

- Milled cedar logs for table stock.
- Filled and deployed 98 bags of sawdust at Telos Dam in an attempt to reduce the leakage issue there.
- Installed 12 tables at campsites and 2 at the boat launch.
- Mowed the field at Telos Dam.

### Eagle Lake District:

- Re-paneled the Ranger Station door at the top & bottom to fill the gaps and make the surface level for adding weather stripping.
- Leveled outhouses at Smith Brook Campsite.
- Re-screened some of the windows and doors at Ranger Station.
- Built new tables and poles at Scofield Cove, Farm Island, and Scofield Point Campsites.
- Built an interior wall in Ranger Station.
- Stained exterior of Ranger Station.
- Replaced/reset fireplaces at Priestley Point and Scofield Point Campsites

### Churchill Dam District:

- Replaced the roof at Camp Pleasant.
- Developed a self-guided tour poster for the Churchill Depot History Center.
- Repaired leaking water supply at Camp Drake.
- Made alterations to the portage truck's canoe rack.

### Umsaskis District:

- Built new campsites on Umsaskis Lake and Long Lake called Ferry Landing and Cedar Spring Campsites.
- Built new tables at Sandy Point, Lost Popple and Long Lake Dam Campsites.
- Built new bog bridging on the outhouse trail at Sweeney Brook Campsite.



New Farm Brook Cabin at Michaud Farm

### Michaud Farm District:

- Built new tables and tarp poles at Big Brook South and Twin Brook South.
- Installed a new fire grate at Cunliffe Depot Campsite.
- Built a new outhouse box at Five Finger South Campsite.
- Replaced the deck on the Round Pond Camp.
- Built a new ranger cabin – Farm Brook Cabin.

### Allagash Lake:

- Repaired the table at Outlet Campsite.
- Replaced the table at Little Allagash Falls Campsite.
- Replaced bog bridging on the trail to Allagash Mountain 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
  - 19-designated snowmobile trails



Rangers and volunteers filling burlap bags for leakage mitigation efforts at Telos Dam.

## Dam Reports

**Churchill Dam**, rebuilt in 1997, is a 24 ft. high X 460 ft. long earthen and concrete structure used to 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 discernable deflection in that same wall. AWW staff placed elevation monitoring pins in the retaining wall to monitor movement in 2012. There has been no movement in the retaining wall since the monitoring pins were placed. The deep gate supporting structure received significant damage from a passing logging truck or similar equipment in 2018. The Dam was hit again in the fall of 2020, damaging the galvanized railing on the downstream side of the deep gate that was marred previously. No one reported hitting the Dam. Staff are considering placing steel posts to protect the Dam from further damage in the future. An engineer was hired to draft plans to repair that damage in 2020. Those repair plans are projected to go out to bid sometime in 2024, after some other urgent construction needs are addressed. A 2022 inspection of the Dam's fishway system revealed a need to replace six of the attached concrete baffles, which have deteriorated over time. The baffles remain functional for now but are also projected to go out to bid for replacement in 2024. Churchill Dam was inspected by John Skelly from the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) on September 4, 2020. AWW staff continue to adhere to the following inspection recommendations:

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** is a historic dam that changed the course of water that originally flowed down the Allagash and into the St. John River. The water now flows south down the East Branch of the Penobscot. The structure is 179 years-old and began as an earthen dam that remains roughly 15 ft. high X 280 ft. long. The timber facing on the Dam was replaced with riprap during the winter of 2008–2009. The 3-foot diameter spillway gate and outlet pipe installed in 1961 were replaced with a new outlet structure in 2018. 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. This Dam was inspected by John Skelly of MEMA on September 4, 2020. AWW staff continue to adhere to the inspection recommendation that all vegetation on the Dam and 10-20 feet beyond the footprint should be removed and/or managed to prevent any further embankment seepage.

**Telos Dam** is a remnant of the timber crib dams that were once common in Maine's Northwoods. During the log driving days, these dams were used to move logs to downstream mills. The structure is a 20 ft. high X 240 ft. long rock-filled, timber crib dam. The entire structure above the sill was replaced in 1982 using the original plans. There is some documented movement of the rock-filled piers and misalignment of both the upstream and downstream surfaces of the Dam. There is significant leakage under the north end of the Dam. The wooden timbers are weathered and show some signs of rot. The Bureau has been monitoring pier movement since 2012. Significant movement has been documented in the piers on the north end of the Dam (piers #4 and #5) in the past. AWW staff have continued to monitor pier movement every year since, with no visible movement observed since 2012. The four primary gates were replaced, and lifting mechanisms were 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 condition assessment and repair recommendations for Telos Dams. The report recommendations are to reconstruct the upstream face and channel aprons to correct leaks associated with structural deterioration or to completely rebuild the Dam. The Bureau does not presently have funds to cover the substantial estimates necessary for either effort. Waterway management is committed to seeking the necessary funds for the repair or replacement of Telos Dam in the future. Telos Dam was inspected by John Skelly of MEMA on September 4, 2020. AWW staff continue to adhere to the following inspection recommendations:

1. Continue to monitor and record 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 the upstream and downstream faces of the Dam to inspect for signs of seepage and degradation.
4. Consider replacing any damaged timbers and following guidance on repairs outlined in the 2016 independent consultant report.

AWW management was supported by fishery biologists from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) from the Greenville region in conducting the first Telos Dam flow studies of Webster Stream since 2005. This four-part study was performed to provide valuable data related to a 2022 leakage mitigation exercise performed by AWW rangers and volunteers. The 2022 flow studies were done before and after 98 burlap bags filled with organic matter were placed on the upstream side of Telos Dam at the two easternmost gates. The study prior to mitigation efforts revealed the leakage at Telos Dam had increased by approximately 55 cfs since 2002. The flow study done following the stop-gap measures indicated the exercise was effective, slowing leakage by approximately 40 cfs. The AWW team will continue annual mitigation strategies to help preserve the Dam until replacement funding is raised. A special thank you to IFW's fisheries team of Tim Obrey, Jeff Bagley, Noah Frost, and Nate Clark.

## Volunteers

During 2022, 48 individuals donated 647 hours to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Volunteers helped Waterway staff accomplish the following tasks during 2022:

- Repaired outhouses
- Performed campsite maintenance
- Cleared existing trails
- Installed new fire grates
- Removed blow-downs and brush
- Built new campsites on Long and Umsaskis Lakes
- Built new tables and tarp poles
- Performed painting/staining of structures
- Repaired leaks in Telos Dam

The value of volunteered hours is over \$10,280

## 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 good relationship established with both of these agencies. The rapid response of the MWS and MFS to requests for assistance is sincerely appreciated by AWW staff and Waterway visitors.

### 2022 Incidents

- Retrieved a capsized canoe at Twin Brook Rapids
- Recovered several capsized canoes in Chase's Carry Rapids
- Found missing canoeists on Chamberlain Lake
- Enforced rules at CTB parking area
- Helped an injured camper at Allagash Falls Campsite
- Recovered a lost dry bag with medicine
- Discharge of firearm in campsite near Michaud Farm
- Released trapped cormorant in fishway at Churchill Dam
- Dislodged and retrieved pinned canoe in Chase's Rapids
- Assisted hypothermic camper
- Assisted camper needing urgent evacuation

## Special Activity Permits Issued

- One permit issued for the Can-Am Sled Dog Race to cross the Waterway at Round Pond.
- One permit issued for collecting water samples at bridge crossings to monitor pollutants.
- One permit issued for limited use of a snowmobile on the north shore of Allagash Lake to help blaze the restricted zone boundary line.
- One permit issued to IFW for wildlife camera monitoring.



AWW Ranger Bob Johnston with members of Troop 349, who helped build two new campsites in his district on Umsaskis Lake and Long Lake.



IFW Game Wardens Alex Maximic (Left) and Mark Hutcheson presenting to AWW Ranger Jay Young a commendation for helping to save the lives of two Waterway campers.

## Superintendent's Report

2022 was a rousing year for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) -- a year filled with many firsts and many accomplishments. Our Waterway ranger team, along with many committed partners, recognized important needs and set realistic goals to help keep the AWW moving in a positive direction. Everything we achieved this past year was a group effort, and all our efforts were guided by our essential mission. Below are some meaningful AWW highlights that underscore the power of our collaborative efforts.

The AWW Rangers participated in a new kind of training this year. We had a two-day camping trip training at Scofield Point on Churchill Lake. Our scenario-based training curriculum included: recognizing and addressing camping and canoeing safety issues, addressing common rule violations and best practice enforcement methods, learning camping skills, and deep and swift water rescue strategies. We partnered with IFW Game Wardens to assist in providing this novel training. All the trainers and participants expressed finding great value in honing their skills on the Waterway instead of in a classroom setting. We plan to continue this camping-skills training, staying at a different AWW district each year.

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway now has housing for all its rangers! The Farm Brook Cabin Project was completed this November and will provide housing for a ranger working along the Allagash River in the Michaud Farm District. Michaud Farm is the last Ranger Station before Allagash Falls and the most popular takeout located in the Town of Allagash. Michaud Farm is considered one of the most vital hubs of communication on the waterway, offering phone service to outfitters and families to exchange information about end-of-trip itinerary changes. Having a ranger onsite seven days a week provides an opportunity to educate our guests about the last stretch of river and potential hazards at Allagash Falls, where many of the AWW's most serious injuries occur.

The AWW held its first ever State Park Maintenance Inspection at Chamberlain Bridge and Churchill Dam Districts. Director of Operations Ron Hunt, Assistant Northern Regional Manager Ron Shaw, and Parks Engineer Ryan Kerr led our ranger team through the rigorous exercise of examining all the important details connected to our facilities. The AWW may be in a remote setting, but we are still held to the same safety standards as Parks located in more accessible parts of the State. We learned much and had some great team building during our time together.

The AWW has its first on-staff Chainsaw Safety Instructor. Trevor O'Leary, an experienced logger and AWW ranger for the past 16 years, went through a rigorous Train-the-Trainer chainsaw course conducted by Rangers from the Maine Forest Service. The AWW will now offer more regular chainsaw safety courses each year aiding in the safety of our staff who are required to operate chainsaws in remote locations.

The AWW team collaborated with the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation (AWWF) in its first Coldwater Fisheries Habitat Water Temperature Monitoring Project. AWWF representative and retired Fisheries Biologist Paul Johnson directed the project, which "will focus on determining baseline thermal conditions in tributaries essential to the populations of native, wild brook trout in the lakes and the river comprise the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. In 2022 and 2023, remote temperature data loggers are being deployed to record year-round water temperatures in AWW tributaries selected for monitoring, providing two summers and one winter of baseline information from many AWW tributaries. AWW Rangers assisted in the installation of twenty-one temperature monitors, most of which were placed in tributaries where data has never been collected.

We were fortunate to host the AWW Advisory Council meeting at the Churchill Dam Headquarters for the first time. We had a productive, fully attended meeting -- also the first in-person meeting since the pandemic began. Meeting on the Waterway was special, and while remote Teams/Zoom meetings may be convenient, they will never replace getting together and getting to really know one another. Following the meeting, some of our Advisory Council members also had the chance to explore the facilities at Churchill Depot including the historic boarding house and barn/history center. The AWW team also hosted its first appreciation luncheon this past September; in attendance were representatives from IFW, the Maine Forest Service, and the North Maine Woods.

Ecologist Janet McMahon spent over a month on the AWW exploring from Churchill Depot to East Twin Brook, the official end of the Waterway. This effort was part of the first "Natural Resources Inventory Project" ever to be conducted on the Waterway, and it was Janet's last season collecting wide-ranging data from every nook and cranny along the AWW shorelines. All the information Janet collected will be used to develop an AWW Natural Resources Companion Guide, sponsored by the AWWF. We will miss Janet's many interesting stories about the uniqueness of the Waterway, and we look forward to seeing how her research will positively impact the AWW.



Chainsaw Instructor, Trevor O'Leary, with course syllabus in hand, working with new staff, Ryan Neal.

## Superintendent's Report Cont.

Visiting Artist Jordan Parks of Maine shared her AWW-inspired mushroom woodblock carvings and taught some AWW Rangers and members of the public how to ink and press her carved blocks. Jordan stated that she had a “great experience” and described the Allagash as an inspirational and cathartic place. Jordan was able to get a tour of Chamberlain Lake and climb Allagash Mountain as part of her adventure.

Last March, Dr. John Daigle of the University of Maine presented his findings from a 2019 AWW Visitors Survey. 304 surveys were completed covering a comprehensive list of topics specific to the visitor experience. 86% of those who completed surveys rated their experience as “very good” -- this was the highest possible rating. The remaining participants rated their experience as “good”. The data from the survey strongly suggests that we are on the right track, and that the public supports our efforts and our mission of maintaining the wilderness character found throughout our treasured Waterway.

During the summer of 2022, AWW Ranger Bob Johnston worked with multiple volunteers in the Umsaskis Lake District constructing two new AWW campsites. These new sites were established to help alleviate bottlenecking issues in locations where it has been historically difficult, during peak season, to find campsites. Sawyer Rose, one of the members of BSA Troop 349 from Buxton, was responsible for overseeing the construction of Cedar Spring campsite on the east shore of Long Lake for his Eagle Scout project. The Scouts also helped Bob complete the new Ferry Landing Campsite located on Umsaskis Lake. I had the opportunity to present Sawyer with a print of Allagash Falls. Sawyer and the troop logged over 140 hours of volunteer service, and their efforts leave a legacy that many Waterway visitors will enjoy for years to come. Bob also had help from his brother Allan (retired Maine Forest Ranger) at the Ferry Landing Campsite.

Lastly, I want to thank our AWW Rangers for taking such good care of our guests and our amazing natural resource this past year. We place great value on ensuring the wellbeing and proper conduct of everyone who recreates along our vast water trail. Our Rangers responded professionally and effectively to a variety of visitor challenges this past year, including guests being lost, injured, evacuated, hypothermic, hungry, discouraged, and so many more. I received many encouraging comments and letters celebrating the attitude, efforts, and expertise of our AWW Rangers as they went above and beyond, ensuring that our guests had an enjoyable wilderness adventure. I also want to thank our supportive partners and friends from IFW, MFS, NMW, Maine Public Lands, AWWF, AWW Council, volunteers, and our neighboring landowners.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Mark Deroche**  
 Superintendent  
 Allagash Wilderness  
 Waterway



AWW Ranger, Alissa Lutz, learning how to print linoleum cut mushrooms from 2022 Resident Artist Jordan Parks.



AWW Ranger Alissa Lutz and University of Maine Intern Rachel Johnson helping Fisheries Biologists Tim Obrey, Jeff Bagley, and Nate Clark conduct the Telos Dam flow study.

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

Visit [www.Maine.gov/Allagash](http://www.Maine.gov/Allagash) for the following:



See 9-part Allagash video  
Also on YouTube



See campsites on Google Earth



Receive Conditions and Alerts



**Request an Information Package:**  
Bureau of Parks and Lands  
Northern Region Parks Office  
106 Hogan Road, Suite 7  
Bangor, ME 04401  
(207) 941-4014

- **North Maine Woods, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 421  
Ashland, ME 04732  
(207) 435-6213  
[www.northmainewoods.com](http://www.northmainewoods.com)
- **Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**  
State House Station 41  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207) 287-2871  
[www.maine.gov/ifw/](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/)
- **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](http://www.maine.gov/allagash)  
[www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com)



The AWW Team having an appreciation luncheon at Churchill Dam HQ with representatives from the Maine Forest Service, North Maine Woods, and IFW. We are fortunate to be surrounded by great partners – Thank you!

### Additional Credits:

- A hearty thank you to all the staff in Bangor and Augusta who help with many administrative projects and providing information to the public inquiries regarding the AWW.
- **AWW Logo Credit:** Jocelyn Hubbell at Parks & Lands adapted the AWW logo to reflect its status as a National Wild and Scenic River.



AWW Rangers practicing deep water rescues.

# THE Allagash

WILDERNESS WATERWAY

## Allagash Wilderness Waterway Administration 2022

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