

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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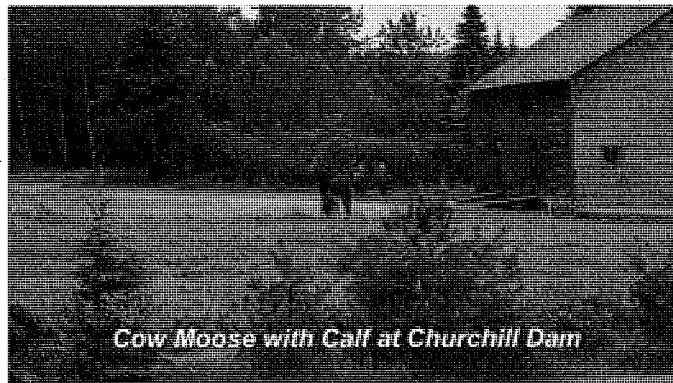
## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

### 12 MRSA § 1891-B. Reporting

Public Law, Chapter 146 of the 123rd Legislature established reporting requirements for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway as follows:

The commissioner shall report on or before March 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over conservation matters regarding the state of the waterway, including its mission and goals, administration, education and interpretive programs, historic preservation efforts, visitor use and evaluation, ecological conditions and any natural character enhancements, general finances, income, expenditures and balance of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Permanent Endowment Fund, the department's annual budget request for the waterway operation in the coming fiscal year and current challenges and prospects for the waterway.

This document contains our report for 2010. We invite you to read about our progress and accomplishments.



*Cow Moose with Calf at Churchill Dam*

### Inside this report

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## **Policy, Mission and Goals**

The AWW Act of 1966 contains the following statutory policy language:

### **§1871. Declaration of policy**

Whereas the preservation, protection and development of the natural scenic beauty and the unique character of our waterways, wildlife habitats and wilderness recreation resources for this generation and all succeeding generations; the prevention of erosion, droughts, freshets and the filling up of waters; and the promotion of peace, health, morals and general welfare of the public are the concern of the people of this State, the Legislature declares it to be in the public interest, for the public benefit and for the good order of the people of this State to establish an area known as the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

### **Allagash Wilderness Waterway Strategic Plan:**

The AWW Advisory Council presented the first strategic plan to Department of Conservation Commissioner Eliza Townsend on October 5, 2010. Commissioner Townsend formally accepted the plan on November 29, 2010. The Bureau of Parks & Lands will use the strategic plan as a guide for the revision of the 1999 AWW management plan.

The following mission statement and guiding principals have been established in the AWW Strategic Plan:

#### **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 historical and modern context of a working forest.*

#### **Guiding Principals:**

- *Priority is placed on providing a memorable wilderness recreation experience to its primary users, the canoeists and fishermen.*
- *The rich history, culture and traditions of the Allagash River contribute to its uniqueness, and will be preserved and interpreted as an asset to the Waterway and its visitors.*
- *The Maximum Wilderness Character of the Watercourse and Restricted Zone is fundamental to the purposes of the Waterway under founding state statutes and the federal wild river designation, and is central to state administration and management.*
- *The Watercourse and Restricted Zone shall be managed in accordance with wilderness management principles and legislative mandate's to facilitate preservation of historical features and traditions that enrich the Waterway and visitor experience.*
- *Broader Waterway purposes of ecological integrity, viewsheds, fish and wildlife management, forest management and wilderness recreation and character of the ¼ and 1-mile zones shall be pursued in partnership with landowners and appropriate agencies, especially the Maine Departments of Conservation and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.*

To view the entire strategic plan go to:

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/AllagashWildernessWaterwayAdvisoryCouncil.shtml>

## Report from the AWW Advisory Council

**2010 AWW Advisory Council:** Don Hudson, Wiscasset (Chair); Don Nicoll, Portland; Don Cyr, Lille; Anthony Hourihan, Fort Kent; Bob McIntosh, NPS; Janet McMahon, Waldoboro; Dick Walthers, Otisfield.

**The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council** met formally four times in 2010 in three sessions that were open to the public and included opportunities for public comment (April 8, August 18 and December 15) and one working visit to the Waterway (October 3-4) to review the status of projects in the field.

The major accomplishment of the AWW Advisory Council in 2010 was the completion of the Strategic Management Plan required by the legislation that created the Council. This was the first strategic plan in the history of the Waterway, and thus the Council took great care to provide opportunities for comment and direction by Department of Conservation and Bureau of Parks & Lands staff as well as the public. The Strategic Plan comprises four sections: Ecological Integrity and Recreation, Historic and Cultural Preservation, Supplemental Resources, and Administration and Management. Care was taken to insure that language and intent were clear, particularly in light of the consensus that developed that the management of the Restricted Zone of the Waterway will be enhanced by better and more comprehensive knowledge of conditions within the larger watershed of the headwater lakes and the Allagash River. All agree that responsibility for regulated activities like timber harvesting or the monitoring of natural phenomena like the movement of invasive plants and animals does not lie with the Council or the Bureau of Parks & Lands. Nevertheless, good working relationships and communication with landowners and other state agencies will provide for the best possible management of the Waterway. The completed plan was submitted to Commissioner Eliza Townsend in December, who accepted it on behalf of the Department.

With the Strategic Plan complete, the regular management planning process has commenced for the Waterway.

Whereas in 2009, the AWW Advisory Council spent considerable time reviewing and discussing the pending sale of the Lock Dam lot to a third party, with concerns raised for such ownership within the otherwise state-owned Restricted Zone, the sale did not materialize.

In addition to work on the Strategic Management Plan, AWW Advisory Council members had an opportunity to visit the Waterway in early October, hosted at Nugent's Camps on Chamberlain Lake. This work session in the field allowed the group to visit Telos Dam where concerns for undercutting of the structure were clearly visible. In addition, AWW Superintendent Matt LaRoche led the group on an inspection of the Tramway between Chamberlain and Eagle Lakes where significant trail improvement work is planned for 2011. In addition, the Council members were able to get a close look at the possible restoration work being discussed for the section of the Tramway on the Chamberlain Lake shore.

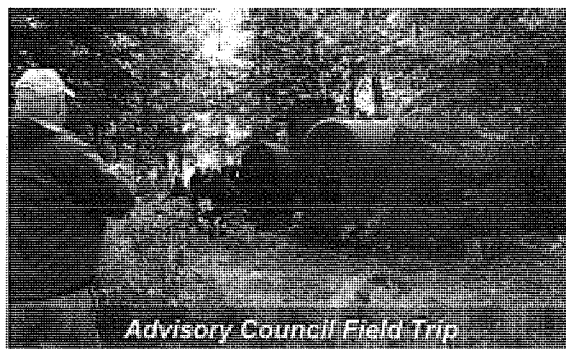
The work session was a highlight of the good working relationship that Superintendent LaRoche has fostered from the outset of his leadership.

In addition to these activities, Council Chair Don Hudson and Council member Don Nicoll spent time during 2010 laying the ground work for the full Council's task of creating the Allagash Foundation as directed in the AWW Advisory Council legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Donald Hudson, Chair

*On behalf of AWW Advisory Council Members Don Cyr, Anthony Hourihan, Robert McIntosh (National Park Service), Janet McMahon, Don Nicoll, Richard Walthers, and Jamie Fosburgh (NPS Alternate Member)*



## AWW Budget

Current Maine law does not provide separate budgets for individual parks, regions, or the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Instead, appropriations from the General Fund and other Revenue Sources are allocated internally by the Bureau to programs and geographic regions. In this planning effort, a separate allocation has been established for operating expenses within the AWW. This allocation does not consider Personal Services (salaries and benefits). In FY10 the allocated "all other" general fund budget was \$106,500.00. The allocation for the AWW Capital Improvement Account was \$45,517.00.

| Revenue Source                         | FY-11<br>Q1     | FY-11<br>Q2     | FY-11<br>Q3   | FY-11<br>Q4     | Total            |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| General Fund<br>(all other)            | \$50,000        | \$25,000        | \$10,000      | \$21,500        | \$106,500        |
| Dollar Account<br>(capital repairs)    | 1               | 40,617          | 0             | 0               | 40,618           |
| Dollar Account<br>(Repairs and Maint.) | 1               | 3,634           | 0             | 1,264           | 4899             |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>\$50,002</b> | <b>\$69,251</b> | <b>10,000</b> | <b>\$22,764</b> | <b>\$152,017</b> |

## Revenue

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. The table below shows a history of fees collected, based on fiscal year reporting (July 1 – June 30).

| Fiscal Year | Revenues from Fees  |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 2005        | 52,788.55           |
| 2006        | 78,478.71           |
| 2007        | 56,588.45           |
| 2008        | 75,014.81           |
| 2009        | 83,652.76           |
| <b>2010</b> | <b>\$104,875.81</b> |

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

| Fiscal Year | Revenue to AWW Account |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 2005        | 20,616.38              |
| 2006        | 20,774.00              |
| 2007        | 20,094.21              |
| 2008        | 20,894.00              |
| 2009        | 53,683.00              |
| <b>2010</b> | <b>\$103,103.50</b>    |

### Notes:

- These figures represent transfers from camping fee receipts.
- The 2010 amount includes funds to correct for transfers that should have been made as a result of increased user fees for non-residents.

**AWW Endowment Fund:** In FY10, \$193.00 was deposited into the Allagash Wilderness Waterway endowment fund.

## Recreation

Total public use of the AWW decreased in 2010 by 2%. Day use increased by 9%, camping use decreased by 9%, and sporting camp use increased by 24%.

The decrease in camping use can be attributed to the unusually dry August and September.

The increase in day use is directly related to greater visitation at Nugent's Camps on Chamberlain Lake. A new lessee took over operation of the camps in April 2009.

| Year | Parties | Persons | Camping nights | Sporting Camp Days | Day Use | Total Visitor Days |
|------|---------|---------|----------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|
| 2006 | 1,200   | 4,811   | 21,717         | 2,376              | 878     | 24,918             |
| 2007 | 938     | 3,863   | 17,692         | 1,149              | 953     | 19,784             |
| 2008 | 1,140   | 4,469   | 19,979         | 2,223              | 648     | 22,850             |
| 2009 | 1,199   | 4,553   | 20,754         | 2,664              | 5,752   | 29,170             |
| 2010 | 1,145   | 4,267   | 18,860         | 3,507              | 6297    | 28,664             |

## Oversize Group Permits

In 2010 there were 6 permits issued.

| Year | Exempt Organizations | Permits Issued | Year | Exempt Organizations | Permits Issued |
|------|----------------------|----------------|------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1995 | 7                    | 13             | 2003 | 4                    | 6              |
| 1996 | 7                    | 10             | 2004 | 4                    | 8              |
| 1997 | 6                    | 12             | 2005 | 4                    | 7              |
| 1998 | 6                    | 10             | 2006 | 4                    | 8              |
| 1999 | 6                    | 9              | 2007 | 4                    | 6              |
| 2000 | 6                    | 8              | 2008 | 4                    | 6              |
| 2001 | 5                    | 9              | 2009 | 4                    | 7              |
| 2002 | 5                    | 8              | 2010 | 3                    | 6              |

**Allagash Wilderness Waterway - FY10 Expenditure Report - for the period July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010**

**EXPENDITURES FROM ACCOUNTS FOR THE ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY**

| <b>Expenses - FY10</b>              | <b>AWW Account</b><br>(dedicated rev) | <b>General Fund</b><br>(gen operations) | <b>Donations Account</b><br>(dedicated rev) | <b>Poland Spring Account</b><br>(dedicated rev) | <b>TOTAL</b>      |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Salary and Benefits                 |                                       | 417,162.07                              |                                             |                                                 | 417,162.07        |
| Professional Services               | 910.00                                | 1,031.47                                |                                             |                                                 | 1,941.47          |
| Water tests                         |                                       | 441.00                                  |                                             |                                                 | 441.00            |
| Gas (for equipment)                 |                                       | 4,131.65                                |                                             | 57.74                                           | 4,189.39          |
| Lodging, Meals, Mileage             |                                       | 796.52                                  |                                             |                                                 | 796.52            |
| Electric                            |                                       | 300.32                                  |                                             |                                                 | 300.32            |
| Other utilities                     |                                       | 17.80                                   |                                             |                                                 | 17.80             |
| Rental of State Vehicle             |                                       | 30,000.00                               |                                             |                                                 | 30,000.00         |
| Repair - Equipment                  |                                       | 8,586.67                                |                                             |                                                 | 8,586.67          |
| Repair - Boats                      |                                       | 1,001.39                                |                                             |                                                 | 1,001.39          |
| Repair - Roads and Grounds          | 1,840.00                              | 1,696.87                                |                                             |                                                 | 3,536.87          |
| Repair - Buildings                  | 3,186.52                              | 6,348.03                                |                                             |                                                 | 9,534.55          |
| Repair - Misc.                      |                                       | 96.29                                   |                                             |                                                 | 96.29             |
| Trash Removal                       |                                       | 167.00                                  |                                             |                                                 | 167.00            |
| Snow plowing                        |                                       | 69.25                                   |                                             |                                                 | 69.25             |
| General Operations                  | 255.41                                | 2,863.09                                |                                             | 785.54                                          | 3,904.04          |
| Employee Training                   |                                       | 246.00                                  |                                             |                                                 | 246.00            |
| Food                                |                                       | 885.59                                  |                                             |                                                 | 885.59            |
| L.P. Gas                            |                                       | 6,713.02                                |                                             |                                                 | 6,713.02          |
| Fuel Oil                            |                                       | 4,532.79                                |                                             |                                                 | 4,532.79          |
| Firewood                            |                                       | 1,791.16                                |                                             |                                                 | 1,791.16          |
| Misc. Supplies & Minor Office Equip |                                       | 16,174.81                               | 2,468.83                                    |                                                 | 18,643.64         |
| Clothing                            |                                       | 1,032.85                                |                                             |                                                 | 1,032.85          |
| Equipment (garage shop equip)       |                                       | 15,165.93                               |                                             |                                                 | 15,165.93         |
| Grants to Public/Private Organiz.   |                                       |                                         |                                             | 5,249.00                                        | 5,249.00          |
| Administrative Charges*             | 805.01                                | 15.24                                   | 320.94                                      | 109.62                                          | 1,250.81          |
| Material Purchases for Resale       |                                       | 270.00                                  |                                             |                                                 | 270.00            |
| CAP Equipment                       |                                       |                                         |                                             | 10,325.00                                       | 10,325.00         |
| CAP Buildings & Improvements        | 6,087.10                              |                                         |                                             |                                                 | 6,087.10          |
| CAP Structures & Improvements       | 76,527.83                             |                                         |                                             |                                                 | 76,527.83         |
| CAP Infrastructures & Improvements  | 16,242.42                             |                                         |                                             |                                                 | 16,242.42         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>               | <b>105,854.29</b>                     | <b>521,536.81</b>                       | <b>2,789.77</b>                             | <b>16,526.90</b>                                | <b>646,707.77</b> |

**CASH BALANCE IN AWW ACCT AS OF 7/01/10 67,420.59**

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

\* **Expenditures from the AWW account include:**

75,083.83 for repair of Lock Dam, 6,636.00 for new outhouses

15,312.25 for solar systems at AWW Headquarters and the Churchill Dam Ranger Station

## Ecological Studies

**Dimitry Gorsky, PhD Candidate**, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Maine, Orono, continues with a whitefish study on the waterway. The following is a Lake whitefish summary of activities:

- Conducting an in depth search of pertinent literature, data and other available information with respect to competition and/or predation of rainbow smelt on lake whitefish.
- Characterize movements of sub adult and adult whitefish in two lake systems using acoustic telemetry.
- Characterize potential interactions between lake whitefish and smelt.
- Evaluate, present, and publish data. (Anticipated in February 2011)

**Cynthia S. Loftin, Ph.d.** working with the University of Maine and the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife is conducting a research project on the Clayton's copper butterfly, a species listed as endangered in Maine. The project is being conducted in Smith Brook Cove on Eagle Lake, in Soper Mountain Township, and at Little Round Pond in T8 R13. The following is a summary of activities:

- Water, peat, and leaf samples were taken and sent to the University of Maine Soil Testing Laboratory for analyses.
- 72 nectar samples were collected from recently opened blooms randomly selected from the top of shrubs to assess bloom quality.
- Shrubs will be aged with growth rings to estimate the age structure at the study sites.
- Transects were established to study the taxonomic and population status of *Lycaena dorcas clayton*.

*Thesis to be completed by August 2011*

## Analysis of Allagash Falls by the US Army Corps of Engineers, By John M. Nestler, PhD

In September of 2010 the Army Corps of Engineers visited Allagash Falls with Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Regional Biologist Dave Basley and AWW staff to determine whether the existing natural falls is an adequate barrier to prevent the passage of muskellunge and smallmouth bass into the Allagash River ecosystem. The AWW reduced flows at Churchill Dam for four days prior to the inspection to replicate drought conditions. It was thought that under very low water conditions that natural pools and obstructions on the west channel of the falls could create natural fish ladder.

It was determined that the 11 and 7 foot drops on the left channel are an effective barrier to fish passage at low water.

The left channel will be assessed on an annual basis by waterway staff. The assessment will include taking a digital picture from a prominent overlook at exactly the same place pointing in exactly the same direction at each time interval. Comparison pictures over time will indicate if a rock ramp is forming within the left channel. If loose rocky material is filling the channel, then Mr. Nestler suggests that river engineers be consulted to determine the best method for removing the rock.

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## Education, Interpretation, and Historic Preservation

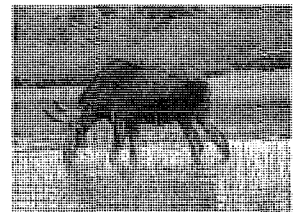
The AWW staff continues to support and promote the historical aspects of the Allagash Waterway by collecting, interpreting, and displaying artifacts found by themselves, as well as, park visitors. Some recent additions to the Churchill Depot History Center are handmade shovels, a stove used by Eben Coe (who developed and operated Chamberlain Farm), a hand painted sign advertising Holt Flying Service and a capstan which was probably used at the tramway to winch in booms of logs.

One of the wooden bateaux from the History Center has been sent to the Boat School – an affiliate of Husson University in Eastport for restoration.

Work continues on restoration of one of the former Henry Taylor Camps by volunteers Gary and Milford Pelletier. A new six inch wide spruce floor and a window were installed this season.

A small library has been established at the Churchill Depot Ranger Station. AWW staff will be encouraged to use the books, articles, maps, and photos in the library to further enhance their knowledge of the history of the AWW.

Ranger Chris Silsbee conducted a seminar for a group of fourth graders in Mars Hill. He talked about his work as a Ranger, the history of the AWW, and showed them some of the tools that we use in our work. The students enjoyed a nice slide presentation as well. Chief Ranger Kevin Brown conducted a short training session for a group of trip leaders from the Chewonki Foundation at Churchill Dam. The trip leaders learned about the history of the AWW, things to expect on a week long trip, predicting weather, and responding to emergencies. Superintendent Matthew LaRoche attended a weekend long Cabin Fever Reliever show in Brewer. While at the show he gave a presentation on how to prepare for an Allagash canoe trip.



## Projects Accomplished by staff, volunteers, and contractors in 2010

- Built and installed 12 picnic tables with tarp poles
- Built and installed 13 new outhouses
- Installed a gray water system at Camp Drake
- Installed new steel roof on the Chamberlain Bridge shop
- Installed solar power system at the Churchill Dam ranger station
- Continued with Camp Drake upgrade: new counter, sink, waterline, screen door, and window screens
- Rebuilt and replaced one lifting mechanism at Telos Dam
- Repaired leak undermining Telos Dam
- Completed repairs at Lock Dam
- Repainted all the machinery on Churchill Dam
- Repaired major washout on road to Ramsey Ledge campsite from flood of 2008
- Cleared, painted, and re-blazed 3+ miles of AWW boundary line in cooperation with abutting landowners
- Hauled 14 yards of gravel on Ziegler snowmobile trail
- Installed new cover on the 36 foot hand dug well at the tramway
- Completed construction of a new hand-carry canoe launch and Henderson brook Bridge



Completed reconstruction at Lock Dam

## Volunteers

During 2010 we had 26 individuals donate 550 hours.  
Organizations donated 255 hours.  
Total number of hours donated in 2010 = 805 hours.

Volunteers helped waterway staff accomplish many tasks during 2010. The following is a list of the major projects worked on:

- General labor
- Campsite maintenance
- Kitchen remodeling at Camp Drake
- Round Pond Mt. tower trail
- Bog bridging
- Well cover at the Tramway Village
- New outhouse holes
- Brushed out snowmobile trails
- Stained signs
- Boundary line work
- Outhouse repair
- Electrical work at Churchill Dam Headquarters
- Rip rap at Scofield Point
- Ziegler snowmobile trail
- New deck at the Churchill Dam Ranger Station
- New flooring in the Churchill Dam Ranger Station



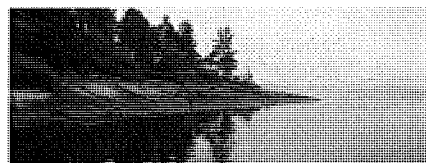
## Rule Amendment

Allagash Wilderness Waterway rules were amended in 2010. This rule change accommodates the trend by kayak manufacturers who are building shorter wider watercraft by allowing kayaks to be 25% of the crafts overall length. It allows these human powered watercraft to travel the same sections of the waterway that are restricted to canoes only. See the complete rule change below.

**Kayak:** A kayak is defined as a form of small watercraft, long and narrow, sharp on both ends, usually propelled by a double-bladed paddle in a sitting position, and having no sails. It usually has a covered deck, a cockpit covered by a spray-deck and/or skirt, and may be equipped with a small rudder. The width at the widest point shall not exceed 25% of the craft's overall length. Measurement shall be the outside of the hull but shall not include gunwales, rub rails, or spray rails, if any.

B. From Lock Dam Stream, where it enters Eagle Lake north to Twin Brook Rapids, only canoes and kayaks without motors or motors not exceeding 10 H.P. may be used on the watercourse. Canoes and kayaks must meet the dimensions specified in the definitions section of this rule.

C. On Allagash Lake and Allagash Stream to the red posts at the entrance of Chamberlain Lake, all watercraft are prohibited except canoes and kayaks without motors. Canoes and kayaks must meet the dimensions specified in the definitions section of this rule.



## Forest Harvest notifications/applications:

In 2010 there were 23 Forest Operations Notifications (FONS) within the mile zone of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Three of the FONS included applications for harvesting within a visual area of the AWW and one harvest application was to exceed the standards. Harvest notifications within a mapped visual area of the AWW require the approval of the Bureau of Parks & Lands (Title 12 Chapter 220 Section 1880 6.2). All harvest locations within a mapped visual area of the waterway were visited by the Waterway Superintendent, an experienced BPL forester, and appropriate Landowner representative. All applications to harvest within a visual area were approved with conditions that minimized the visual impact of the harvest, associated skid trails and log landings. All applications to exceed harvest standards within a visual area were visited to document stand conditions and to clarify that adequate regeneration was present to screen the harvest from the watercourse. Five of the FONS included new forest management road construction within the mile zone but not visible from the watercourse. There was one notification and application of herbicide for roadside brush control.



## Allagash Wilderness Waterway 2010

### Maine Department of Conservation:

Eliza Townsend, Commissioner

### Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands:

Willard Harris, Director

Thomas Morrison, Director of Operations

Matthew LaRoche, AWW Superintendent

### Northern Region Support Staff:

Ron Cyr, Engineering Technician

Russell Scott, Maintenance Coordinator

Heidi Johnson, Staff Assistant

Beverly Richardson, Staff Assistant



### Allagash Wilderness Waterway Staff

#### Front, left to right:

Erik Ahlquist, Assistant Ranger

Patrick Emery, Allagash Ranger

Steve Day, Allagash Ranger

Chris Silsbee, Allagash Ranger

Matthew Gage, Assistant Ranger

#### Rear, left to right:

Kevin Brown, Chief Ranger

Fredrick Palmer, Assistant Ranger

Jay Young, Allagash Ranger

Chase Jackson, Assistant Ranger

Trevor O'Leary, Allagash Ranger

Barb Pineau, Assistant Ranger

Matthew LaRoche, Superintendent

**Staff training** includes regular staff meetings and special training focusing on operational needs and as required for safety and Human Resource requirements. Training in 2010 included:

- Wilderness First Aid
- Boating Safety
- Lake Monitoring training and recertification
- Human Resources Training
- Chainsaw Safety
- Public Drinking Water Program
- Maine Leadership Institute (M. LaRoche)

## Administration

Section 6 of Public Law, Chapter 136 stipulates that the "Department of Conservation shall administer and manage the Allagash Wilderness Waterway as a separate region within the Bureau of Parks and Lands." Following this directive, the following initiatives have been undertaken:

- The department has reorganized positions within the AWW to provide a Waterway Superintendent and a Chief Ranger, who oversee administrative and supervisory duties respectively.
- Administrative support services continue to be provided from the Bangor office (human resources, accounts payable, information and promotion, the AWW Store, and maintenance support) These are services tracked separately from other functions.

## Incidents

In 2010 there were 13 recorded "incidents" which included the rescue of two kayakers on Chamberlain Lake, a lost boy on Pillsbury Island, two forest fires, and three medical evacuations. No courtesy warnings were issued in 2010.

## Current Publications: (free, unless otherwise noted)

- **NORTHRUNNER** documentary film (\$15.00)
- Allagash Wilderness Waterway brochure (informational brochure)
- Rules and Regulations for Recreational Use of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway
- AWW Special Fees, Tips for Visitors, and more (informational brochure)
- Temporary Canoe Storage on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (brochure and tag)
- The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Souvenir Store (brochure)
- AWW Color map (souvenir brochure) (\$2.00)
- AWW Decal (\$2.00)

## Allagash WILDERNESS WATERWAY

Administrative offices:

106 Hogan Road, Bangor, Maine, USA 04401-5640

Telephone: 207-941-4014 Fax: 207-941-4222

Website: <http://www.parksandlands.com>

Superintendent offices:

PO Box 1107, Greenville, Maine, USA 04441

Telephone: 207-695-3721



## Superintendent's Report

The winter season started out with our winter campground registration at Chamberlain Bridge. We allotted 44 out of the 48 available sites for the entire ice fishing season. These winter visitors are mostly long-time users who enjoy ice fishing for native brook trout, togue, and whitefish.

We had a relatively dry spring and did not completely fill the reservoirs behind the dams at Telos and Churchill. The dry spring led into a hot dry summer. In fact, the spring fishing for brook trout was pretty much over by Memorial Day weekend because of the unusually hot weather.

The reports of low water on the Allagash impacted our public use in August and September. Many groups that would have canoed the waterway cancelled their trips or chose to float other rivers with large dams that control water flows.

The rains finally came in the fall and early winter bringing more precipitation than we needed. AWW staff were adjusting gates at our two dams on a regular basis to maintain water levels at optimum levels during the fall fish spawning season.

The AWW submitted a technology grant request to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund for GPS units, digital cameras, and two satellite phones. The grant request received full 2/3 funding; the AWW donations account was used for our 1/3 match requirement. The GPS units were loaded with: the AWW boundary, ¼ mile zone, 1 mile zone, visual areas, and administrative areas. These units have proved to be invaluable on harvest inspections, boundary line work, and marking hazards on the lakes. The digital cameras were used for most of the pictures in this report and will be used to establish baseline documentation for campsite conditions. The digital phones are located at Churchill Dam and Chamberlain Bridge for emergency communications when our radio dispatch center is not in service (nights/weekends in the winter).

Rangers continue making subtle changes to enhance the wilderness character of the AWW. We have eliminated 40 unneeded signs and switched from sawn 4X4 and 6X6 sign posts to peeled cedar posts. We have continued to move propane tanks behind camps and out of sight from the water. We have reduced motor size on canoes used for administrative use consistent with AWW rules that regulate use by the public.

The waterway had a 100% increase in reportable situations over 2009. These situations ranged from medical emergencies to illegal access. One incident involved Assistant Ranger Fredrick Palmer rescuing two paddlers from the middle of Chamberlain Lake in heavy winds. This was a very lucky day for these two kayakers who probably would not have made it to shore safely without his assistance. All situations ended with a positive outcome and only verbal warnings were issued for infractions of AWW rules and regulations.

I was very pleased with an unsolicited complement I received this fall while checking in at Telos Checkpoint. Mr. Allen Phillips from Shirley, Maine motioned for me to come over and talk with him. When I did he said, "I don't know what you are doing up on the Allagash Waterway but keep it up". He was referring to the friendliness of waterway staff. Mr. Phillips has canoed the AWW many times over the last 20 years and was very pleased with how our staff interacted with his group on their 2010 canoe trip.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway for their professionalism and dedication to public service. They are the ones who keep this beautiful river clean, safe, and well maintained.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Matthew LaRoche**  
Superintendent  
Allagash Wilderness Waterway

