

2008 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 2008. We invite you to read about our progress and accomplishments.



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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.

AWW Draft Mission Statement, August 13, 2008

The AWW Advisory Council completed work on the following draft mission statement for the waterway at their August 13, 2008 meeting. The draft remains open for discussion and revision pending Council action on a proposed strategic plan that will be submitted to the Bureau Director.

Preserve, protect and develop the maximum wilderness character of the Watercourse and ensure 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 Principles

-  *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. Adjustments shall be made to address legislative mandates and to facilitate preservation of historical features and traditions that enrich the Waterway and visitor experience.*
-  *Border Waterway purposes of ecological integrity, viewsheds, wildlife management and wilderness recreation and character of the 1/4 and 1-mile zones shall be pursued in partnership with timber landowners.*



Recreation

The recreational use of the AWW has increased slightly over the 2007 use ending an eight year downward trend and historic low.

Sporting camp use is reported each spring by camp operators. The table below shows a five year history of AWW recreational use.

Year	Parties	Persons	Camping Days	Sporting Camp Days	Day Use	Total Visitor Days
2004	1,235	4,761	21,156	3,367	1,844	26,367
2005	1,343	5,103	22,931	3,253	878	27,062
2006	1,200	4,811	21,717	2,376	825	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

Oversize Group Permits

There are currently 4 organizations permitted to have over-size groups on the Waterway. Thru registered use by the organizations, the size of the party has decreased to a maximum size of 16. In 2008 there were 6 permits issued.

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

Incidents and Warnings

In 2008 there were 7 recorded "incidents" which included a lightning strike to a tree at Sandy Point on Allagash Lake, several medical incidents including a woman who cut her foot open with an axe, and two attempts to locate. Several courtesy warnings were issued in 2008 for various parking violations, and camping on unauthorized sites.

Education, Interpretation, and Historic Preservation

Staff continue to collect, interpret, and display artifacts, photos, and documents relating to AWW history in the Churchill Dam barn, which is now known as the AWW History Center. The history center has proven to be a popular stop for visitors, who often relate their own stories and even volunteer artifacts for the display. Special thanks go to AWW staff as they research, collect, and interpret historical information for visitors.

Gary Pelletier reports that restoration of the Henry Taylor camps will continue in 2009 with a new roof, installing a new door and repairing four windows.

Projects accomplished over 2008:

- ◆ Continued additions to History Center
- ◆ Replacement of a gate at Telos Dam
- ◆ Upgrades to photovoltaic system at Michaud Farm Ranger Station
- ◆ Re-roofed farmhouse at Chamberlain



Forest notification/applications

In 2008 there were 18 active Forest Operations Notifications (FONS) within the mile zone of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Five of the FONS included applications for exceeding the harvest standards within a visual area of the AWW and three included harvest areas within a visual area of the Waterway, but not exceeding the standards. Harvest notifications within a mapped visual area of the AWW required 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 Manager, 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 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 and one herbicide notification.

Allagash Wilderness Waterway - FY08 Expenditure Report

for the period July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

Revenues - FY08

Begin AWW Acct Cash Bal 7-1-07	16,947.23
Income Received	56,337.00
TOTAL Cash Available in FY09	73,284.23

*EXPENDITURES FROM OTHER ACCOUNTS FOR
ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY*

	AWW Account (dedicated rev)	General Fund (gen operations)	Loon Account (dedicated rev)	Donations Account (dedicated rev)	TOTAL
Expenses - FY08					
Salary and Benefits		425,394.19			425,394.19
Professional Services		1,793.70			1,793.70
Medical Supplies					0.00
Water tests					0.00
Gas (for equipment)		10,896.77	2,027.54		12,924.31
Lodging, Meals, Mileage		302.09	13.00		315.09
Telephone					0.00
Electric		304.27			304.27
Other utilities		19.16			19.16
Rental of State Vehicle					0.00
Repair - Equipment	1,734.22		2,817.90		4,552.12
Repair - Boats			1,582.79		1,582.79
Repair - Roads and Grounds	1,988.94	26.16	210.64		2,225.74
Repair - Buildings	1,635.41	29.10	1,512.83		3,177.34
Repair - Misc.			965.26		965.26
Misc. Expenses		4,041.85	1,925.00		5,966.85
Occupational Health/Rehab					0.00
Employee Training		514.95			514.95
Food		300.00			300.00
L.P. Gas			7,440.90		7,440.90
Fuel Oil		543.13			543.13
Misc. Supplies & Minor Office Equip		467.04	1,080.40	25.18	1,572.62
Clothing		443.83	90.00		533.83
Equipment (garage shop equip)		5,145.95			5,145.95
Administrative Charges*	589.38	0.51	2,163.14	2.77	2,755.80
CAP Equipment					0.00
CAP Buildings & Improvements					0.00
CAP Structures & Improvements					0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,947.95	450,222.70	21,829.40	27.95	478,028.00

CASH BALANCE IN AWW ACCT AS OF 7/01/08 67,336.28

* Includes total of STA-CAP and DI-CAP on all expenditures and late fees
No funds were spent on the AWW in the Poland Spring account in FY 2008.

AWW Budget

Current Maine law does not provide separate budgets for 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) or capital expenses.

Revenue Source	FY-09 Q1	FY-09 Q2	FY-09 Q3	FY-09 Q4	Total
General Fund	\$9,400	\$9,100	\$2,650	\$5,900	\$27,050
Loon Fund (fleet operations)	\$10,781	\$5,394	\$3,588	\$8,987	\$28,750
Loon Fund (Repairs and Maint.)	\$5,335	\$5,335	\$5,434	\$4,596	\$20,700
Total	\$25,516	\$19,829	\$19,483	\$19,483	\$76,500

Notes:

- Allocations are based on past expenditures and allocations.
- Some fixed costs (uniforms, fleet operations, etc.) were formerly charged to the Northern Region.

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

Note:

These figures represent gross receipts less contractual fees for collection and other deductions.

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

Notes:

- These figures represent transfers from camping fee receipts.



Beautiful sunset and smooth waters on Big Eagle Lake after a long day of field work. Photo by Dimitry Gorsky

Ecological Projects

Dimitry Gorsky, PhD Candidate, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Maine, Orono, conducted a whitefish study on the waterway. The following is a Lake whitefish movement project summary:

Beginning in November 2004, IF&W biologist Dave Basely and researchers from the University of Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, USGS-BRD developed a pilot study on lake whitefish movements in Clear Lake, a headwater lake of the Allagash watershed. This pilot study proved very informative and resulted in the project being extended for several more years with more study fish tagged and their movements observed. Additionally, the state biologists and researchers were interested in more information on the behavior of lake whitefish in a larger water body and replicated the study in Big Eagle, a major water body of the Allagash waterway. This portion of the project aimed to determine large scale movements throughout a large water body and what habitat was being used during the different seasons of the year.



Adult lake whitefish from Clear Lake being prepared for tag (small black cylinder on right) insertion and release for acoustic tracking. Photo by Dimitry Gorsky.

The Past meets the Future

Since 1966 the Maine Department of Conservation and its predecessor agencies have managed the Allagash Wilderness Waterway with a careful focus, achieving a delicate but responsive balance between the needs and expectations of traditional recreational visitors and those seeking the naturalness and solitude provided by areas with a singular wilderness mission. In many ways, this is both the letter and the spirit of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Act. Amendments to the Act, along with guidelines provided through the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the 1972 Concept Plan, the 1999 Management Plan, the 2003 River Drivers Agreement, and the ongoing work of the AWW Advisory Council continue to shape the management objectives of the Department in providing safe and enjoyable outdoor experiences in this remote setting.

Through all of this policy and management work, the Department continues to recognize the importance of public participation at all levels, from visitors to legislators and from scientists to policymakers. In all the work we do together, it is the environment of openness, trust, and respect that will perhaps be the most important factor in the proper protection and management of the magnificent public resource that is the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

2008 Flooding

April rain storms caused significant flooding along the Allagash. Many of the roads accessing the AWW were impassable and needed significant reconstruction. None of the Dams were washed out, however there was water over the road at Churchill Dam as well as water running around the ends of Lock Dam. The bridge at Umsaskis and the approach road were under water. (see photos below)

Additionally, heavy rains coupled with a very wet June and July caused more flooding. On August 4th, following an extraordinary one day rain even (more than 4" in many locations) the water at Churchill Dam was running at more than 24,000 cubic feet per second (CFS). Normal flow at that time of year is 1000CFS. Access roads were washed out and campsites were flooded. Parties were prevented from running Chase Rapids or from proceeding beyond Michaud Farm because the take-out and portage around Allagash Falls was completely flooded.



Lock Dam, flood stage



Umsaskis Thoroughfare Road, flooded



Churchill Dam, flood stage

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 is currently reorganizing positions within the AWW to provide a Waterway Superintendent and a Chief Ranger, who will oversee administrative and supervisory duties respectively. This would not result in the creation of any new positions in the Waterway.
- Discussions are continuing that will continue the provision of administrative support services from the Bangor office (human resources, accounts payable, information and promotion, the AWW Store, and maintenance support) while tracking those services separately from other functions.

Allagash Wilderness Waterway 2008 Field Staff

Marilyn Tourtelotte (manager), Daniel Bell (Acting Manager), Tom Harmon, Tom Coon, Jay Young, Trevor O’Leary, Mike Hafford, Patrick Emery, Kevin Brown, Barbara Pineau, Meredith Podgurski, Reid Caron, Peter Kick, Mike Hafford and Hope Kelly.

Allagash Wilderness Waterway 2008

Maine Department of Conservation:
Patrick McGowan, Commissioner
Eliza Townsend, Deputy Commissioner

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands

Will Harris, Director

Thomas Morrison, Director of Operations
Daniel Bell, AWW Manager, Acting

Northern Region Support Staff

Mike Leighton, Regional Manager, Acting
Ron Cyr, Engineering Technician
Russell Scott, Maintenance Coordinator
Heidi Johnson, Staff Assistant
Beverly Richardson, Staff Assistant

Staff training includes regular staff meetings and special training focusing on operational needs and as required for safety and Human Resource. Training in 2008 included:

- ◆ Wilderness First Aid
- ◆ Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation
- ◆ Boating Safety
- ◆ Lake Monitoring training and recertification
- ◆ Human Resources Training
- ◆ Chainsaw Safety

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.

Heavy August rains and flooding made it impossible for the Council to fulfill its plan to undertake a field trip on the Waterway and a meeting at the University of Maine at Fort Kent Elmer H. Violette Wilderness Camp.

In its first year, the Council focused its attention on its initial responsibility to develop a proposed strategic plan for the Waterway. Members took the following first steps:

- ⇒ Organized themselves in four subgroups, addressing ecology, recreational uses, cultural preservation and interpretation and supplemental funding and other resources;
- ⇒ Identified priority issues in each of the areas, prepared preliminary draft goals and objectives for further research and discussion; and
- ⇒ Completed work on a draft proposed mission statement (see page 1) for the Waterway at their August 13, 2008 meeting. The draft remains open for discussion and revision pending Council action on a proposed strategic plan that will be submitted to the Bureau Director.

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 Visitor Survey (2003) (while supplies last)



Administrative offices:

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

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

Website: <http://www.state.me.us/doc/parks/index.html>

