



**Baxter State Park  
Annual Operating  
Report  
For the Year 2014**

**To the  
Baxter State Park  
Authority**

**March, 2016**

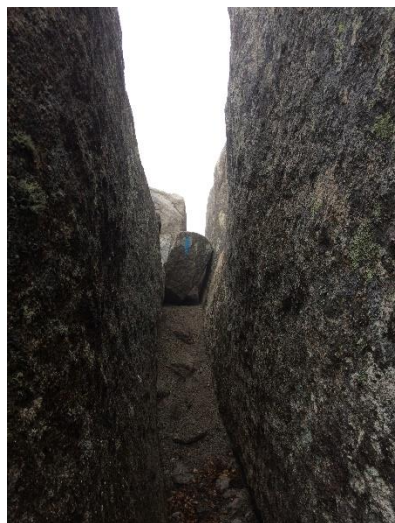


# **A. DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY**

## 2014 Annual Report – Director’s 2014 Summary

### ***Protecting Park Resources***

2014 marked the opening of the OJI Trail to Park hikers after a relocation of a substantial portion of the trail. The OJI relocation is the first in what will be a continuing

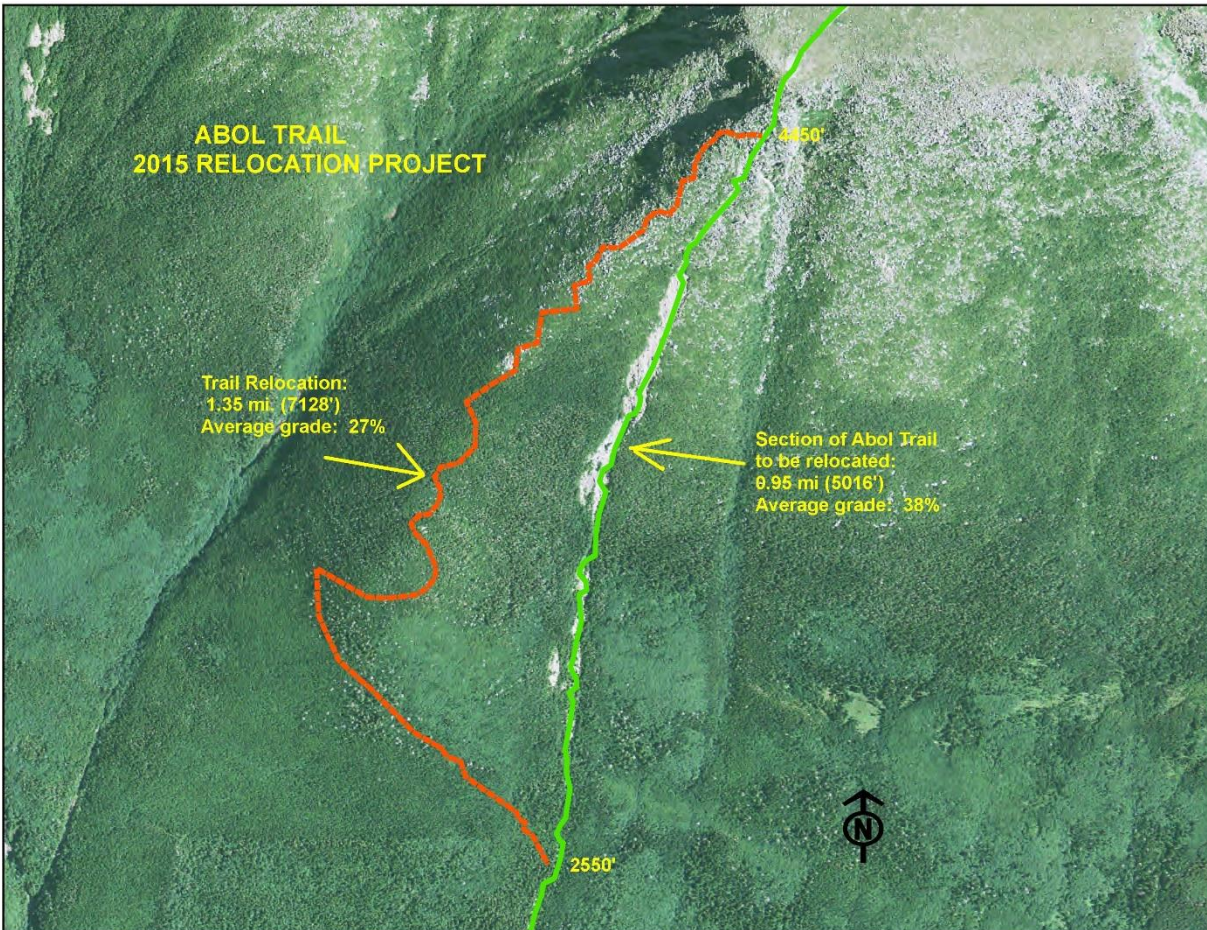


*Figure 1 Narrow crevice near Old Jay Eye Peak on the OJI Trail*

effort to identify, prioritize and relocate or reconstruct sections of Park hiking trails with significant safety and/or maintenance concerns. The OJI original OJI trail was a fall-line trail that utilized two sections (north and south OJI slides) as access routes to the ridge of OJI Mountain. These steepness and smooth granite surface of these slides proved hazardous to hikers, particularly in wet or icy weather. After a serious accident, the section of trail accessing the north slide was closed. Although slightly less hazardous, the south slide continued to be of concern. In 2013, a relocation was scouted that avoided the slides and gained access to the ridge via the saddle between OJI and West Peak and the ridge leading to Old Jay Eye Rock on the north west end of OJI Mountain. The relocated section required approximately two (2) miles of new trail and included a short spur trail to a viewpoint on West Peak. The relocation was constructed primarily by MCC

crews, with BSP trail interns completing the last segment in 2014. The relocated section provides a more gradual ascent to OJI with scenic views and natural features scattered along the trail. Sometime in the future, it is likely that the trail will be constructed from the saddle just east of West Peak to the Marston Trailhead parking lot, providing a nice loop trail accessible directly from the Marston Trailhead.

After the significant movement of rocks, materials and debris down slope from the upper reaches of the Abol slide to the lower slopes, this iconic and popular Katahdin-access trail was closed in 2013 to hiking. The slide movement had resulted in many unstable rocks in and long the trail corridor. Reconnaissance and scouting of a relocation option to the more stable ridge to the west of the Abol Slide was initiated in the summer of 2014 and by September, a 7,100 foot relocation had been determined. The most difficult terrain on the timbered lower end of the relocation (and roughly 50% of the total distance) had been flagged by the end of August with the remaining section through the rapidly diminishing vegetation on the ridge left to be flagged in early 2015. In early October, an MCC crew with a spare week, began clearing on the bottom section. Two MCC crews are scheduled to devote 18 weeks to the construction of the relocation section in 2015.



In addition to the work on the Abol Slide, former BSP Trails Supervisor Lester Kenway made two trips to the Hunt Trail to scout relocation opportunities for the eroded fall-line section of the trail between Katahdin Stream Falls and the beginning of the Hunt Spur.

On another hiking trail-related note, the Baxter State Park Authority voted unanimously at their October 10 meeting to combine the Turner and Traveler Mountain Trail-Free Zones into one zone. Four Trail Free Zones totaling approximately 65,000 acres were included in the approved 2012 management plan. These zones were implemented to control the gradual aspect of continued trail construction in the Park (for more see the Park Management Plan: <http://www.baxterstateparkauthority.com/more/reports.htm>). The Turner and Traveler Trail-Free Zones were separated only by a thin corridor along Wassataquoik Stream. This corridor had been maintained to accommodate another management plan action item regarding the construction of trail segments to provide more multi-day backcountry hiking loop opportunities in the Park.

Based on concerns for the creation of a National Park along the eastern boundary of Baxter State Park and the potential for significantly increased use pressure to use this trail corridor to directly access some of the most wild and pristine areas of the Park, the

Authority voted to merge the two areas. Proposals for hiking trails in Trail Free Zones will require Authority approval for a change in the management plan and consequently will ensure careful and complete consideration of any expected and unanticipated impacts to the mission elements of the Park.

Lastly, a tornado that passed through portions of T6R10 in the Scientific Forest Management Area in 2013 resulted in significant timber blowdown in the SFMA,



including impacts to a section of the Freezeout Trail at the junction with the Wadleigh Brook Trail. SFMA management conducted salvage harvests in the area during the winter of 2013/14, but some areas of disturbance were in the riparian zone along Webster Stream and were not included in the harvest area. Reconnaissance of these areas indicated that the disturbance of windthrown timber was so complete and chaotic that re-establishment of

*Figure 2 Trail Crew Leader Alan Watson with the crew on the Freezeout Relocation*

the original trail corridor was discounted due to safety concerns for the workers. Options for relocations were scouted in May of 2014 and a relocation around the tornado damaged area was flagged. In addition, the relocation included moving a section of the Freezeout Trail that crossed a wet swampy area with the application of a long run of bog bridging to higher, better drained ground. This relocation will be easier to maintain in perpetuity. The clearing of the relocation was initiated during the summer of 2014 by SFMA staff and completed in the fall by BSP Trail Interns. The relocated section will be opened to hikers in the spring of 2015 after revised trail signs have been posted.

At the end of 2014, the Park had completed or was engaged in three (3) relocation projects addressing resource protection issues (eroded trails or trails through sensitive bog or swamps) or public safety issues (land slide prone areas or steep and bare bedrock). Relocations are not inexpensive, (the OJI relocation cost in excess of \$90,000), but the long-term benefits of lower perennial maintenance needs, better resource protection and safer hiking conditions (including during evacuation operations) are a strong argument for relocation efforts. The Park has many segments of trail that would benefit from relocation or significant reconstruction and we will be working on organizing a 10 or 20 year plan to address these projects in an effective manner and to incorporate relocation efforts into our annual work schedule.

On a related note, after careful consideration of supervision, staffing and training involving the application of BSP Trail Interns, the decision was made to move to a complete MCC (Maine Conservation Corps) model for 2015. Consequently, the Trails Supervisor will administer two MCC crews for 18 weeks in 2015. An additional two crews will be employed to work on the Abol Trail relocation project. These crews will be administered by the Chief Ranger. The seasonal Trail Crew Leaders will be redirected to assist the Trails Supervisor in Trail Inventory, Relocation scouting and planning, maintenance of trail signs, and volunteer projects. If vacated through resignation, the filling of the Trail Crew Leader position will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

One method of protecting the Park's resources is to stay current and abreast of wilderness issues and management tools and techniques. In 2013, I had the opportunity



Figure 3 Bill Murphy and Jensen Bissell with "Twinned" Plaque

to provide a talk about Baxter Park's Wilderness Management at a conference in Ireland hosted by and Irish State/Private land management company Coillte and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Ireland) address the issues of "Wilderness in a Modified Landscape". This opportunity forged a connection between Ireland's first wilderness, the Nephin Beg Wilderness Area and Baxter Park. The driver behind the Nephin Beg project is Coillte's Head of Recreation, Environment and Public Goods, Bill Murphy. During the fall of 2014, Bill made his second trip to Baxter State Park and crossed an item off his bucket list with a climb to Baxter Peak via the Cathedral Trail. We consummated the hike with a

pledge to "twin" the two Parks – a commitment to a lasting relationship between two wilderness areas.

The increasing populations of spruce budworm in Canada are fueling growing concern among forest land owners in Maine. The Maine Forest Service is leading the effort to provide information, monitoring strategies and advice for preparation for what now appears more likely to be some type of return of the budworm to Maine. The last serious outbreak of this insect was an epidemic that ran from the mid 1970's to the mid 1980's and resulted in substantial mortality of balsam fir, red and white spruce across most of the northern half of Maine. The Park experienced stand-replacement mortality in softwood forests near Nesowadnehunk Field as well as significant mortality in and around Chimney Pond Campground and along Webster Stream. It is currently not clear

how serious the next outbreak will be in Maine as the structure of the forest is much different, but the Park will continue to monitor the development of budworm populations and take prudent measures to prepare, protect the Park's resources as appropriate.

Park administrative staff devoted time and effort to training and the initial planning for the impacts of climate change. While the likelihood of climate change is no longer in debate, the effects and timing of the impacts are much harder to determine. Park administration is working together and with others to determine possible effects and outcomes as well and to apply scenario planning to help us prepare and mitigate the effects of climate change on the resources and recreational opportunities of the Park.

### ***Providing Recreational Opportunities***

The Park once again enjoyed a successful opening day of reservations. This event has now settled down to a fairly consistent 90 or so reservations made to about 75 people. Reservations for any campground are limited to no more than 20% of the campground space for any single day, so more than 97% of the rental space for summer camping is available when the rolling reservation system begins.



*Figure 4 Opening Day visitors in line at Park Headquarters*

There were no changes to Park Rules and Regulations in 2014. The Park did effect a change to the long-standing policy against refunds but amending the policy for 2015 to

allow refunds to summer camping reservations with requests made two weeks or more prior to the reservation date. A \$10 processing fee will be applied. The current refund policy for winter reservations remains in effect.

In July, after a successful construction event led by veteran backcountry ranger



**Figure 5 The New Lean-to on Wassataquoik Lake**

Brendan Curran and a dedicated volunteer crew, the new lean-to at Wassataquoik Lake was opened to use. Concerns immediately arose regarding the possible nesting of Peregrine Falcons on the cliffs of Wassataquoik Mountain directly behind the lean-to. The nesting of Peregrins on these cliffs had been noted in the past, but current use came as a surprise to Park staff. Although it is unlikely the Wassataquoik continuous use in the future, it is probable that it will receive steady use.

The impacts upon falcons nesting on the nearby cliffs will be evaluated carefully and mitigating measures will be considered if necessary.

Early in 2014 the Park announced a trial program of allowing “fat tire bikes” to utilize the Abol Stream Trail to access the Park Tote Road during the winter months. Park rules



restrict bicycles to maintained roads within the Park (exclusive of forest management roads in the SFMA). As cycling has become more popular as an outdoor activity, “fat bikes”- bicycles with very large (4”) tires that allow flotation sufficient for riding on sand or packed snow, have entered the recreational scene in Maine. The trial allows visitors interested in using fat bikes in the Park to enter the Park using the same route that skiers use and

provides a safer, shorter route to access the Park Tote Road where bicycles have always been allowed regardless of season. Very little (1 or 2) permits were let for this use in 2014. The trial is continuing in 2015.

The presence of Canada Geese nesting, feeding and resting in and around Kidney Pond Campground continued to be a concern in 2014. Mowing of the large lawn at the Campground was severely restricted in 2012 in an effort to reduce the desirable habitat and feeding opportunities at the campground. While the suspension of the maintenance



of a “lawn” at Kidney did reduce the use of the area by geese, it was not sufficient enough of a change to prompt the geese to abandon the area. In 2014, a line of native spirea (meadowsweet) were planted by campground staff along the edge of the field. As these plants grow and mature over the coming years they will form a visual barrier and will hopefully further discourage the geese from entering the field. Geese droppings continue to be an issue, particularly

*Figure 6 Geese foraging at Kidney Pond Campground*

consideration of the time necessary for the plantings to mature, plans are in place to employ personnel from IF&W to herd and capture the geese during the molt (end of June –early July) in 2015 and transport them to Flagstaff Lake where they will be banded and released. This program has been successful in other areas with a very low level of recidivism.



Also in 2014, the Park experimented with an extended camping season at Kidney, Daicey and Katahdin Stream Campgrounds. These Park facilities have staffing seasons that extend beyond the traditional October 15 end to summer camping. The initial results indicate that moderate to strong interest exists for camping later in October. The trial will continue in 2015. Any Permanent changes to the summer camping schedule will also need to consider the adjustment of seasonal work schedules of campground ranger and other staff in order to provide coverage.

Issues and trends in Appalachian Trail user behavior, numbers and distribution continued to be of concern to Park staff in 2014. The Park statistics regarding the



numbers and types of AT hikers using the AT in Baxter Park. (The northern terminus of the official NPS corridor of the AT ends at the Park boundary at Abol Bridge. The Baxter Park Authority hosts the northern terminus 10 miles of the AT from Abol Bridge to Baxter Peak. The continuing increase in AT hikers, coupled with numerous trends in use, including hiking in large groups, disruptive behavior at Baxter Peak, illegal camping within the Park boundaries and the illegal entrance of pets

Figure 7 BSP AT Steward Jonathan Lemberg at the AT Kiosk

into the Park by AT hikers are a few of the concerns. The trends seem to be clear and continuing. A conference call with ATC Executive Director Ron Tipton in January of 2014 attempted to continue the discussion of these issues started with the previous ATC Executive Director in the previous year. In an effort to generate productive discussion and action to address these concerns, a letter was issued in November of 2014 to the National Park Service AT Park Superintendent and to the Executive Director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. We will continue to work with diligence on 2015 to examine policies and procedures to address these concerns and protect the resources and quality of recreational experience for Park visitors.

On Saturday, May 24 Memorial Day weekend, Baxter State Park provided the hiking landscape for The Summit Project (TSP). TSP was organized by Major David Cote of the USMC to honor the fallen service men and women of Maine. The project organizes and sponsors a hike in which hikers carry stones commemorating Maine individuals who have lost their lives in service to the country. Major Cote worked closely with Park staff to ensure that the event complied with Park rules and regulations and was safe for all hikers. Consequently, the hiking groups (3) were limited to 12 persons and no stones, mementos or memorials were left on the trail, at the peak, or in the Park. The original effort was scheduled to include a Baxter Peak hike, but as is typically the case, the May date of the event found all Katahdin-access trails closed (Abol Trail might

normally have been open, but it was closed due to slide activity). The TSP hike was accomplished without incident, but there were some concerns about the effective group size and other issues. The Park will work to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Major Cote in 2015 to guide the TSP in future years.

### ***Conducting Exemplary Forest Management***

The Scientific Forest Management Area underwent a seamless and successful change



in administration in the late summer/early fall as Eben Sypitkowski succeeded Rick Morrill as BSP Resource Manager (see more under Personnel, below).

Former Maine State Economist and Irland Group founder Lloyd Irland continued to work with the Resource Manager and Park Director to complete a formal economic analysis of the forest management of the SFMA. A final draft is expected in 2015.

*Figure 8 Rick Morrill leads an MESAF tour of tornado damage in the SFMA*

### ***Maintaining Park Property***

2014 saw the beginning of work towards the replacement of the Kidney Pond Ranger Camp. The installation of a leach field and septic system as well as the purchase and placement of a new water line for a gravity-feed water system was completed (the line will be laid in the woods up to Rocky Pond during the winter of 2015 using snowmobiles). Trees were cut and cleared for the new camp location in the woods just behind the current trail crew camp. Work is planned to continue in 2015 with the setting of the foundation, and contracting of the camp construction.

Beginning with the replacement of the culvert at Black Brook in 2013, the Park embarked on a commitment to upgrade the drainage infrastructure of the Tote Road. This work continued in 2014 with the replacement of the Kidney Pond bridge abutments. The new abutments were installed approximately 30' south (downstream) of the former abutments and will eliminate the scour and encroachment concerns presented by the old abutments. After the engineering work by Calderwood Engineering, the bid for the construction work was secured by Wyman and Simpson for a cost of \$120,700. The work on the new abutments began on schedule in July and proceeded as planned without delays. The construction plan called for the Kidney Pond Bridge to be moved from the old abutments to the new abutments. This objective was successfully performed with the help of two cranes on July 23rd. A small crowd of Park staff and

visitors was on hand to observe the operation which, after careful positioning of the cranes, took about 15 minutes. A week later, Wyman crews had completed the final landscaping and left the site.



*Figure 9 Crews move the Kidney Pond Bridge to new abutments (foreground)*

Another project accomplished in 2014 was the construction of an access road at Daicey Pond Campground to access new vault toilets installed behind cabins 1-5. The two new vault toilets replace five (5) individual pit toilets (one for each cabin). The removed pit toilets were the last pit toilets in a roadside campground in the Park and the vault toilets improve employee safety and bring Daicey Pond Campground into consistency with the other eight (8) roadside campgrounds in the Park

### ***Providing for Staff and Public Safety***

Thanks to Park Medical Director Dr. Matt Scholl, the Park was the fortunate recipient of the attention and diligent work of medical student Chris Welker. Chris set up shop in



the GIS room for much of the summer of 2014 and reviewed more than 20 years' worth of incident records from Baxter Park search and rescue events. Chris codified and organized the incident data into a format that allowed an objective analysis of the data. The results were interesting and helpful. The entire report was posted on the Park website (<http://www.baxterstateparkauthority.com/more/reports.htm>) and will remain available for viewing by organizations with search rescue concerns or interested individuals. In addition, the format will be updated over the coming years to keep the data current and to look for trends.

*Figure 10 Chris Welker on a break from SAR Database work*

During the summer of 2014, crews from Camp Kieve of Nobleboro, Maine were involved in a series of near-miss events canoeing events on Webster Stream, Telos Cut and the East Branch of the Penobscot, in combination with an event at Trout Brook Farm including serious conduct and behavior issues. The serious nature of these events and the clear indication of unsafe conditions and unskilled leadership of youth groups, resulted in a unanimous vote of the Baxter State Park Authority at their October 10 meeting to evict Camp Kieve from Baxter Park until at least September of 2015. Lifting of the eviction notice will require positive proof of action on the part of Camp Kieve, including permanent changes in the culture and specific structure of their outdoor camp programs sufficient that the Authority can conclude that Kieve crews can safely and responsibly recreate within the Park.

### ***Managing Fiscal Resources***

2014 proved to be, in general, a positive year for Park endowments with performance levels in the 6.5% range despite a difficult 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. With inflation rates remaining very near 2% and the Park's withdrawals from the endowments at near or under 3%, the endowments benefited from real growth in value. Brian Noyes continued as the very dedicated and capable Chair of the Investment Committee. Brian was instrumental in bringing Erin Kinsella onto the Investment Committee as a new member. In addition to Erin joining the committee, long-term BNYMellon Fund Manager Michael Janko accepted a promotion and stepped away from his involvement with the Park Endowment to pursue other assignments with BNYMellon. Michael was replaced by another Michael, Mike Daley. Mike very quickly oriented to his role and has earned the respect and admiration of the Investment Committee.

The State-Held Trust, managed by State Treasurer Neria Douglas, continued as a passively managed fund under administration of Key Bank. The total Park endowments at the close of 2014 are valued at nearly \$80,000,000.

## INVESTMENT POLICY AND ASSET ALLOCATION

### MARKET VALUE AND SPENDING HISTORY

<u>Year-Ending</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Total Return Consolidated</u> <sup>(1)</sup>	<u>Distributions</u>		<u>Inflation CPI</u>	<u>"The Stewardship Index"</u> <sup>(2)</sup>
			<u>\$ Value</u>	<u>% of MV</u>		
12/31/05	\$58,511,512	6.7%	\$1,821,800	3.1%	3.40%	0.2%
12/31/06	\$63,077,391	10.7%	\$1,555,000	2.5%	2.50%	5.7%
12/31/07	\$67,762,152	10.3%	\$1,725,000	2.5%	4.10%	3.7%
12/31/08	\$47,006,778	-28.1%	\$1,935,000	4.1%	0.10%	-32.3%
12/31/09	\$55,711,926	23.3%	\$1,965,000	3.5%	2.70%	17.1%
12/31/10	\$61,442,234	14.1%	\$2,050,000	3.3%	1.50%	9.2%
12/31/11	\$56,268,986	-4.7%	\$2,090,000	3.7%	3.00%	-11.4%
12/31/12	\$61,727,964	13.3%	\$1,920,000	3.1%	1.74%	8.5%
12/31/13	\$70,460,064	17.4%	\$1,845,000	2.6%	1.56%	13.2%
<u>12/31/14</u>	<u>\$72,919,068</u>	<u>6.6%</u>	<u>\$1,890,000</u>	<u>2.6%</u>	<u>0.76%</u>	<u>3.2%</u>
10 Year Average:	\$61,488,807.50	5.9%	\$1,879,680	3.1%	2.1%	0.7%

<sup>(1)</sup> Estimated consolidated return based on respective MVs.

<sup>(2)</sup> Total return less distribution rate, adjusted for inflation.

Figure 11 The "Stewardship Index" tracking Endowment health

The Park endowments are a (if not "the") crucial factor in the Park's effort to meet our Mission elements. The Baxter endowment provides over 60% of the Park's annual operating revenue. In recent years, the emergence of several sources of unrestricted donations has also been of great assistance in allowing the Park to move forward with significant efforts to Protect the Park's Resources, Provide Recreational Opportunities and Maintain Park Property. The Baxter Park Wilderness Fund provided over \$130,000 in undirected and unrestricted donations in 2014. These donations were very helpful in allowing the Park to move forward with confidence in planning and executing large infrastructure projects like the replacement of the Kidney Pond bridge abutments and the planning to relocate a section of the Abol Trail.

The non-profit support and advocacy organization, **Friends of Baxter State Park** (<http://www.friendsofbaxter.org/>) continues to support the operational and education

needs of the Park through the support of Maine Conservation Corp trail crews working on Park projects.



Figure 12 BSP Volunteers including FBSP Coordinator Alison Violette (middle row, left)

During 2014, Friends of Baxter State Park (FBSP) donated ten weeks of service by a six-person **Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) trail crew**. The value of this donation was \$37,500. Baxter State Park assigned this MCC crew to the Marston – North Brother Trail Relocation Project. The MCC trail crew completed seven weeks of work on this project before winter conditions forced the team to move to lower elevation. The crew then completed three weeks of work on the Abol Trail Relocation Project. The majority of this project was funded by a \$34,000 grant that FBSP secured from the Recreational Trails Program. LL Bean contributed \$3,000 to FBSP for the project, and FBSP provided the remaining \$500. Baxter State Park provided matching support valued at \$6,374.20 in the form of project administration and housing for the MCC crew.

In November 2014, FBSP prepared and submitted an application to the **Recreational Trails Program** for a \$35,000 grant, which would allow FBSP to donate ten weeks of MCC trail crew support for the Abol Trail Relocation Project in 2015. This application is currently pending.

FBSP partnered with the Park on volunteer recruitment and coordination during 2014. FBSP's seasonal volunteer coordinator, Alison Violette, worked 196 hours on recruiting volunteers for service in Baxter State Park, coordination of volunteer projects with Park staff, and other tasks related to supporting volunteerism in the Park.

In March 2014, FBSP reprinted 10,000 copies of its **Know Before You Go** brochure, which helps prepare visitors for a safe and low-impact visit to the Park. In collaboration with BSP staff, FBSP extensively updated the text of this brochure to reflect current

Park rules and guidelines. Through its membership in the Maine Tourism Association, FBSP distributed *Know Before You Go* brochures, as well as approximately 4,000 copies of the Park's *Wildnotes* newsletter, at all seven official State of Maine Visitor Information Centers. FBSP also collaborated with Baxter State Park on publication of the annual Baxter State Park calendar. This is an important educational publication sold at Park headquarters and at many other locations around the state.

FBSP offered the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) annual ***Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program*** in the Park during August 2014. Accompanied by leaders from Chewonki, ten high school students spent nine days backpacking from South Branch Pond to Roaring Brook. The route included climbs to several summits, as well as side trips to Chimney Pond and Katahdin Lake. Along the way, the group worked with several BSP Rangers, completed a volunteer project, received Leave No Trace training, and studied many different aspects of wilderness with nearly a dozen specialists.

BSP provided \$10,985 in support to the ***Plants of Baxter State Park*** project during 2014. This included \$5,100 in contributions from FBSP members, and a \$5,885 grant from the Fund for Maine Land Conservation of the Maine Community Foundation. In December 2014, FBSP raised an additional \$7,315 that will be used to support the project in 2015.

In collaboration with the Park, FBSP sponsored a 2014 ***Speaker Series on Wilderness and Nature-based Tourism***. The series included four evening events at Park Headquarters between July and October 2014. Topics included Thoreau's *Maine Woods*, the business of nature-based tourism, Maine's native brook trout, and the Wild Nephin wilderness area in Ireland. FBSP secured a \$2,000 grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation to fund speaker travel expenses, honoraria, advertising, and other costs associated with the speaker series.

In addition to the Baxter Park Wilderness Fund and FBSP, numerous individuals donate generously to the Park, some of these thoughtful and dedicated supporters are annual donors and for some it is a one-time offering. Either way, donation funds allow the Park to purchase goods and services that our stand-alone budget would not. A significant portion of the Park's Search and Rescue equipment, dozens of canoes and kayaks, educational and interpretive equipment and materials have been purchased with donation funds. See the appendix of this report for a list of 2014 donors.

## Personnel

The management and administration of the Scientific Forest Management Area experienced a significant change in 2014 with the departure of Rick Morrill in August. After an extensive and thorough evaluation process, Eben Sypitkowski was hired and started at the Park in early September.

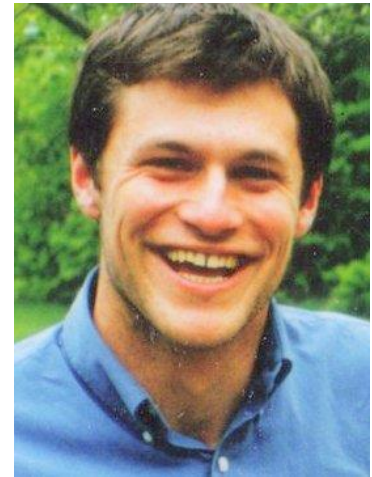


*Figure 13 Rick Morrill with a departing gift from the SFMA Advisory (Katahdin*

Rick's four years in the position were defined by excellent management including improvements to the forest inventory, GIS and harvest and payment accounting, as well as a successful status as a Forest Stewardship Council certified forest first certified

in 2001

One of the highlights of Rick's tenure was the revision of the SFMA Management Plan. This document will be invaluable to the current Resource Manager Eben Sypitkowski as he settles into his work in the SFMA and contemplates the return of the spruce budworm.



*Figure 14 BSP Resource Mgr Eben Sypitkowski*

Eben, a native of Bangor, Maine, came to us with from the New England Forestry Foundation where he was working primarily at monitoring large and small forest easements In the New England states.



Figure 15 Jeannie Tibbets

After many productive years at the Park gatehouse and reservation office, Jeanie Tibbets retired in the fall of 2014. Many Park visitors will miss Jeanie's always cheerful and helpful voice in the reservation office.



On a sad note, noted Park supporter, volunteer and donor Frank Trautmann passed away in 2014. Frank played a key and crucial role in the final stages of the Katahdin Lake project and without his support, the project may not have been completed. Following the

acquisition of Katahdin Lake by the Baxter State Park Authority, Frank completed his plans establish the Baxter Park Wilderness

Trust. This independent trust now provides significant undirected support to the operations and preservation of Baxter State Park. Frank's contribution to Baxter State Park is second only to that of Park donor Percival Baxter and his actions will continue to help the Park in the future.



*Figure 16 Frank Trautmann*

After careful consideration, the Park implemented a sixth position at Togue Pond Gate. This position was added to provide direct on-site maintenance effort to the grounds at Togue Pond Beach, the Visitors Center and other areas in the vicinity of Togue Pond Gate. This work had been previously accomplished by the Campground Ranger staff at Roaring Brook or Abol. The new position frees these campgrounds from traveling away from their duty station maintain the area at Togue as well as providing an "extra" position to cover at either Togue or Matagamon Gate when other gatekeepers are away on sick or vacation leave. This frees up a Backcountry/Roving Ranger for other work in the Park. We will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of this position in the coming seasons.

### **Administration**

The Baxter State Park Authority remained unchanged after the gubernatorial election of November 2014. MFS Director Doug Denico continued as Authority Chair, supported by IF&W Commissioner Chandler Woodcock and Maine Attorney General Janet Mills. The Authority held public meetings on May 23 at Park Headquarters and October 10 at Kidney Pond Campground. The July meeting was cancelled. The Authority held briefing meetings with the Director in March, July, September and December.



*Figure 17 r to l: Director Bissell, Commissioner Woodcock, Director Denico, Attorney General Mills*

The Baxter State Park Advisory Committee met for scheduled meetings in January, February, April and December. Advisory members also came together for a very rainy OJI hike (especially the last half) on September 10 and a very productive volunteer event including the construction of new steps to a canoe launch site on Upper Togue Pond behind the Park Visitor Center and the hand pulling of Siberian pea, an invasive plant from the open area just south of the Togue Pond Gate.



*Figure 18 BSP Advisors Goetz, Callnan, Bray, White, Baribeau, BSP Ranger B.White,  
Hastings,Huntington,Kaufmann, BSP Woodard*

BSP Advisors Spencer Meyer and Laurie Rich left the committee in May after many years of dedicated service. They were replaced by Anne Huntington of Wayne and former Park Alpine Steward Erica Kaufmann of Bangor. Long time BSP Advisor and Park volunteer Tom Goetz was appointed as Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee.



Figure 19 BSP Advisors Bray, Nale, Hutnak, Kaufmann, White (BSP Sypitkowski in back)

Information on the BSP Research Committee and the SFMA Advisory Committee can be found in the Park Naturalist and Resource Manager sections of this report respectively.

### **Tours and Talks and Meetings**

As Park Director, I provided several talks and presentations as well as attending conferences and meetings.

Presented a “State of the Park” address to the Friends of Baxter Park at their annual meeting.

Provided two evening talks in the Park

Attended:

- SFMA MESAF Tour SFMA 6/27 (tornado)
- SFMA FSC Audit July 16-17
- SFMA UMFK Tour 8/28
- SFMA ME Land Trust Stewardship day ACL – 10/1
- NPS Foundation, Board of Directors – Twin Pines

I've saved one of the best events of 2014 for last. On the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his 9 day disappearance into the wilderness of Baxter State Park, Governor Paul R. LaPage declared July 25, 2014 **Donn Fendler Day**. I was honored to have the opportunity to read and present the official proclamation to Donn at a well-attended event at LLBean in Freeport. This report is dedicated to Donn in recognition in part for his remarkable nine day journey through the Park as a 12 year old boy, but mostly because of the inspiring life he led after emerging from the woods at the Hunt Farm in 1939. Donn's story, captured in **Lost on a Mountain in Maine** has been read by thousands of Maine children and Donn's talk at Kidney Pond Campground remains one of the most popular evening programs in the Park's summer schedule. Donn's devotion to the children, and the lessons children can learn in the outdoors has helped shape the ideas of many Maine people, including some of our most effective conservationists.



Figure 20 Donn Fendler accepts the Governors Proclamation from Director Bissell on July 25, 2014 - **Donn Fendler Day**

# **B. OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AND OVERVIEW**

## 2014 Operations Overview

January is a very busy month for park operations. Not only was the winter camping season in full swing, but so was planning for the upcoming summer season. Building & Maintenance Supervisor Rod Angotti put the finishing touches on the contractor quotes for a long overdue remodeling of the original section of park headquarters exterior. A concrete siding project was chosen, along with a synthetic rock trim. New triple pane windows were selected to replace the less energy efficient windows as well.

Rod put together a construction plan with the Park Rangers to finish the vault outhouse project at Daicey Pond utilizing park staff.

Deputy Chief Stewart Guay was finishing plans for helicopter support to resupply backcountry locations rather than hauling by snowmobile. When compared, the cost & time savings are substantial.

Winter Campground Rangers Greg Hamer & Bill Martell are busy at Chimney Pond and the surrounding area on public education and various winter projects.

Continued workplace safety meetings happened with MEMIC representative Peter Koch with a winter meeting to look at winter operations & upcoming summer projects including replacement of the High Bridge on the Chimney Pond Trail. Phone meetings were held with the Maine Emergency Management Agency to discuss such topics as radio communications, solar/ vehicle battery storage, and adding the Deputy Chief Ranger and Chief Ranger to the statewide call list for emergency updates. Medical training planning this year included inviting Millinocket Fire Department EMTs Chad MacArthur & Larry MacArthur to teach a parkwide CPR course at the annual Spring meeting. Maine Forest Service (MFS) contacted the Chief Ranger's office to schedule helicopter short haul rescue training with Park Rangers. MFS did their first short haul rescue from the Hunt Trail in 2013. Short hauling is a technique where the rescuer is flown in attached under the helicopter to the scene, then retrieve's the injured person with the rescuer in the same manner to a landing area close by. BSP Co-Medical Director Dr. Matthew Sholl spearheaded a project to create an electronic database of all accident/incident reports. Dr. Sholl has resident medical students who are interested in doing this work. The park's volunteer program was streamlined internally for paperwork processing. Park Ranger Bruce White has taken a bigger role in the volunteer program to organize and support field projects. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Park Ranger Rob Tice makes a patrol hike up the Abol Slide to discover unstable conditions that have not been observed in many years. Sometime earlier in the Spring, a slide event occurred over the snow pack. Car size boulders and debris slide great distances bending over trees and leaving boulders piled in precarious positions. A decision was made to close the slide until conditions stabilized, or another route was found. Park Rangers, Trails Supervisor, Forester I and Building Maintenance Supervisor all took part in a one day chainsaw safety training instructed by MEMIC Instructor Andy Woods in Orono. Fish stocking by IF&W took place in Rocky, Round and Abol Pond. A flywheel woodsplitter was

purchased to replace a older hydraulic unit. Training was developed and given to full time Operations staff to share with their employees. In June, 2 helicopter rescues took place in the Chimney Pond area.

In July, the Kidney Pond bridge construction project starts. New abutments are installed with graded approaches. The plan to move the bridge itself will be done in one day using two cranes to lift the bridge and place it on the new abutments. The construction equipment was large enough to need to be brought in after 10:00pm to allow traffic to be one way during the process. A meeting is held with trails expert & former BSP Trails Supervisor Lester Kenway to discuss alternatives to the Abol Slide. Lester explained that Abol Slide had been a route up Katahdin since at least 1816 and that the slide has become unstable in the past. At one time there was a Abol Stream Trail that traversed the western side of the mountain. In the late 1970's he found a suitable trail relocation north of the slide. Park Director Bissell began plans to scout this area and flag out a new trail. The May/ June Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) Trail Crew Leader Dewey Loft returns with a new crew to start the Marston Trail Relocation Project.

Park rangers respond a Spot GPS non-emergency call in the SFMA. A two day search is successful for a lost fisherman in the Dwelley Pond area.

Maine Forest Service installs a remote cellular weather station at Chimney Pond for fire forecasting and weather information. The MCC trail crew finishes the first leg of the Marston relocation and is moved over to the Abol Slide Trail relocation project. Their work in 2014 will help estimates for 2015. The Fall season was perfect to finish projects and get ready for the winter season.

Early snows create issues for vehicle travel with less snow in the southern end. By early December snow & ice have stabilized the Abol Slide to winter use.

New Winter Backcountry Ranger Russ Porter is hired for Chimney Pond.

Training plans are underway for 2015 including training for a backpack chainsaw, a chainsaw with its engine attached to a backpack that power a cutting head on a pole handle. The saw has been tested in the SFMA and is a excellent alternative to a brush saw or chainsaw for cutting small trees on boundary lines or thinning.

Thanks to all who helped make 2014 successful.



## Maintenance 2014

### Purchases

2 new Subaru Wagons for the Park Director and the Naturalist  
1 used 2009 used regular cab pickup for Daicey Pond  
2 new 600 super wide track snow sled for rangers 56 and 57  
2 new gas refrigerators for the Trout Brook Farm Apartment and the Kidney Pond Kitchen  
2 new woodstoves for Kidney Pond OJI camp and the Trout Brook Apt.  
A new DR wood splitter for general Park use  
Replaced Solar system Batteries at the Visitor Center and Togue Gate  
Purchased 4 bridge sections from the Nature Conservancy for use in the Park road and SFMA  
Purchased a used hydraulic press for the maintenance shop  
Purchased a new tire machine for the maintenance shop  
Purchased a new trim brake for the Carpentry shop  
Purchased a new 15 HP 4 stroke outboard motors for South Branch Pond  
Purchased a used wood chipper for general Park use  
Replaced a defective amp meter for use on solar systems

### Building Projects

#### Headquarters in Millinocket

- New siding and windows installed
- Floor replaced in the Director's office

#### South end of the Park

- Installed metal roofing and replaced the porch on the Chimney Pond Crew camp
- Replaced roofing on cabins 8,7 and 3 at Daicey Pond
- Replace an outhouse at Roaring Brook in the day use parking lot
- Relocated the door and built a new deck onto the Roaring Brook bunk house
- Leveled and replaced the posts under the Spike camp at Roaring Brook
- Installed a septic system at Kidney for the future ranger camp
- Renewed one half the paving in front of the Visitor Center
- Installed metal roofing on the porch of the Pine camp
- Replaced the outhouse located at Katahdin Stream falls
- Replaced woodstoves in cabins 3 and 4 at Kidney Pond

#### North end of the Park

- Constructed a new lean-to and outhouse at Wassataquoik lake
- Replaced an outhouse at the South Branch pond campground.

- Assisted Maine Forest Service in the installation of a weather station at Chimney Pond
- Replaced the garage door in the Trout Brook Farm garage
- Replaced the woodstove in the Trout Brook Farm apartment
- Replaced a back country outhouse at the lower South Branch pond walk in lean-to
- Metal roof installed on the North SFMA camp
- Moved the radio tower on the roof of the Matagamon gate house to the ground

### **Road Projects**

- 4 miles of Park road had the brush cut back to a height of 12 feet by a contractor. The area covered was from the Marston trail head to ¼ mile below Nesowadnehunk campground
- New concrete abutments were installed downstream of the bridge on the Kidney Pond access road. Road alignment was modified and the bridge was moved onto the new abutments.
- 6000 yards of gravel were screened for tote road resurfacing. 2000 at the East Branch pit, 3000 at Nesowadnehunk pit and 1000 at the Rum Service pit.
- Road graveling started at Togue beach and continued down the Roaring Brook road for ½ mile using 900 yards of the Rum Service gravel. 1800 yards of material were hauled out of Nesowadnehunk pit north to spot gravel as far as Dwelley Pond.

### **Bundle Wood**

10,354 bundles of fire wood were processed at Abol Service area and sold in the area camp grounds. This is a increase of 1658 bundles over the previous year. The ratio of bundles sold is running three times more softwood than hardwood. All the softwood bundle wood processed again this year on the south end of the Park was saw mill slab wood and trimmings accumulated from the milling of bog bridging and bridge decking for Park projects.

4285 bundles of wood were processed at the East Branch pit and sold in the Park's northern campgrounds. This is a increase of 656 bundles from the previous year.

### **Maintenance Shop Projects**

The staff mechanic spent 1925 hours in the shop and 95 hours assisting on field projects. Below is a summary of vehicle maintenance projects completed:

- Batteries replaced 5
- Body repairs 5
- Brake jobs 6
- Canoe repairs 4
- Chain saw repairs 4
- Electrical repairs 13
- Exhaust repairs 1
- Front end repairs 8

- Generator repairs 2
- New tires installed 26
- Outboard motor repairs 2
- Rear end repairs 2
- Snow sled repairs 20
- Vehicle Inspections 34
- Tires repaired 13
- Vehicle services 54
- Water pump repairs 2
- Lawn mower repairs 3

The following are additional projects completed by the staff mechanic:

- Set up a new truck Daicey Pond campground
- Assisted with the fall graveling project
- Assisted in training Park personnel in the setup and use of the Darley Fire pump acquired from the Maine Forest Service
- Repair of the equipment trailer frame and decking replacement was done by a local contractor

Parts and materials used for the calendar year = approximately:

\$33,476 on motor vehicle parts (an increase of \$3,231 from the previous year)

\$4,381 on snow sled parts (a decrease of \$1,942 from the previous year)

\$19,609 on building projects and repairs (a decrease of \$2005 from the previous year)

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORT – 2014

**Paul Sannicandro – Trail Supervisor, Jonathan Martin – Trail Crew Leader and Alan Watson – Trail Crew Leader**

### BAXTER STATE PARK TRAIL CREW INTERNS

#### Full Season Interns

Isaac Alexandre-Leach – Thetford, VT  
Emily Friedman – Wilton, CT  
Noah Pappano – E. Millinocket, ME

Daniel Borin – Breezy Point, NY  
Dylan Graves – Ann Arbor, MI

#### Summer Crew Interns

Makenzie Henk – Stevens Point, WI  
Kevin Lavertu – Lewiston, ME  
Amber Saucier – Glenburn, ME

James Laven – Shoreview, MN  
Alana-Marie Pulkkinen – Milo, ME

#### FALL CREW INTERNS

Nathan Hillman – Monroe, ME  
James Sobanik – Lyman, ME

Hunter Scott – Athens, ME  
Maret Emma Sonder – Evanston, IL

### STATISTICS

#### TRAIL STAFF WORK HOURS

(Tally of a 26 week Trail Maintenance Season)

Trail Supervisor	1,000
Trail Crew Leaders	2,000
BSP Trail Crew Interns	9,118
Maine Conservation Corps	3,740
<u>Maine Trail Crew (MATC Cost Share)</u>	<u>771</u>
<b>Total Trail Staff Hours</b>	<b>16,629</b>

#### TRAIL VOLUNTEER WORK HOURS

AMC Service Trips	160
BSP Trail Stewards	207
Friends of Baxter State Park (MYWP)	72
Individuals – Trail Friends	692
Maine Appalachian Trail Club	64
<u>Tanglewood 4-H Camp</u>	<u>15</u>
<b>Total Trail Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>1,210</b>

**TOTAL TRAIL WORK HOURS = 17,839 HOURS**

**Statistical Overview**

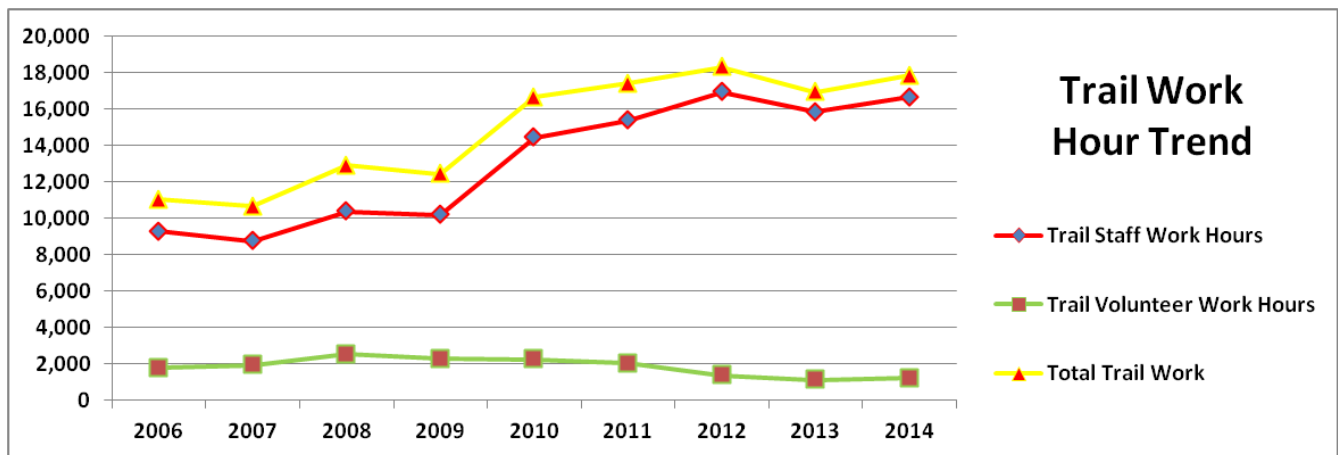
Trail Staff Work Hours for 2014 were comprised of our three classified trail maintenance positions, our BSP Trail Crew Interns, Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) contract crews as well as the MATC's Maine Trail Crew. These work hours are counted separately to distinguish the efforts between paid or contract trail maintenance staff and our volunteer trail maintainers.

The 2014 season was the sixth year of operating BSP's own internship model. Our BSP Trail Crew Interns collectively contributed 9,118 work hours towards trail maintenance for the 2014 season. This total is a six percent increase from the 8,562 hours recorded in 2013.

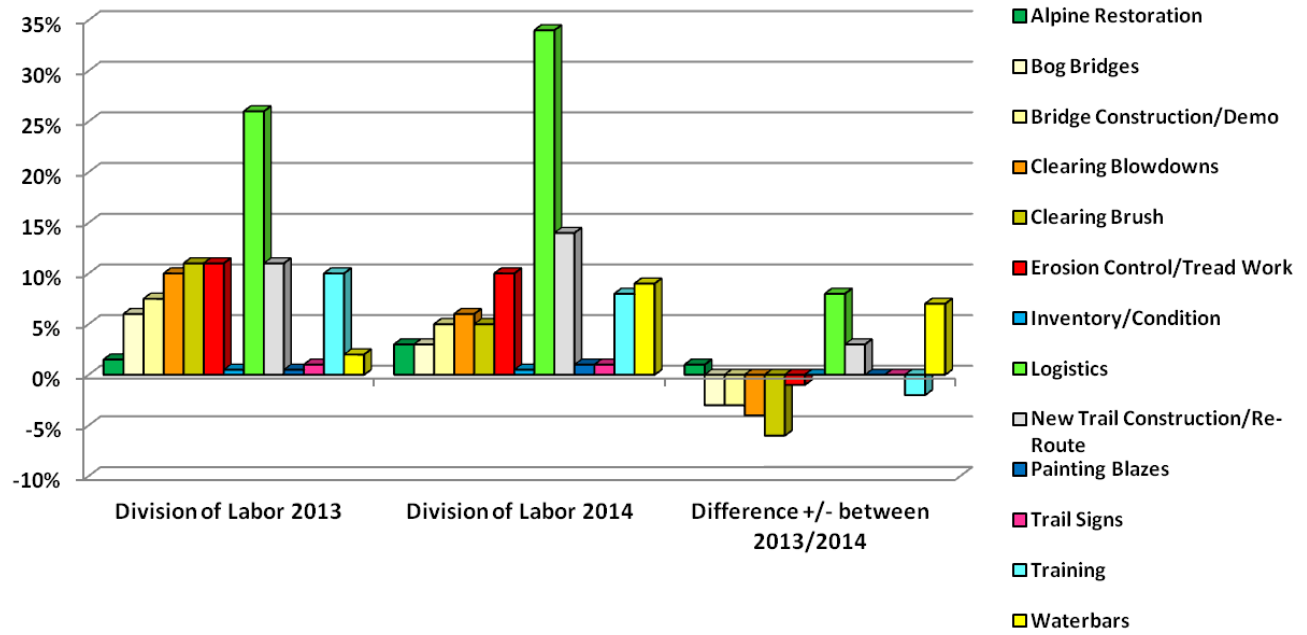
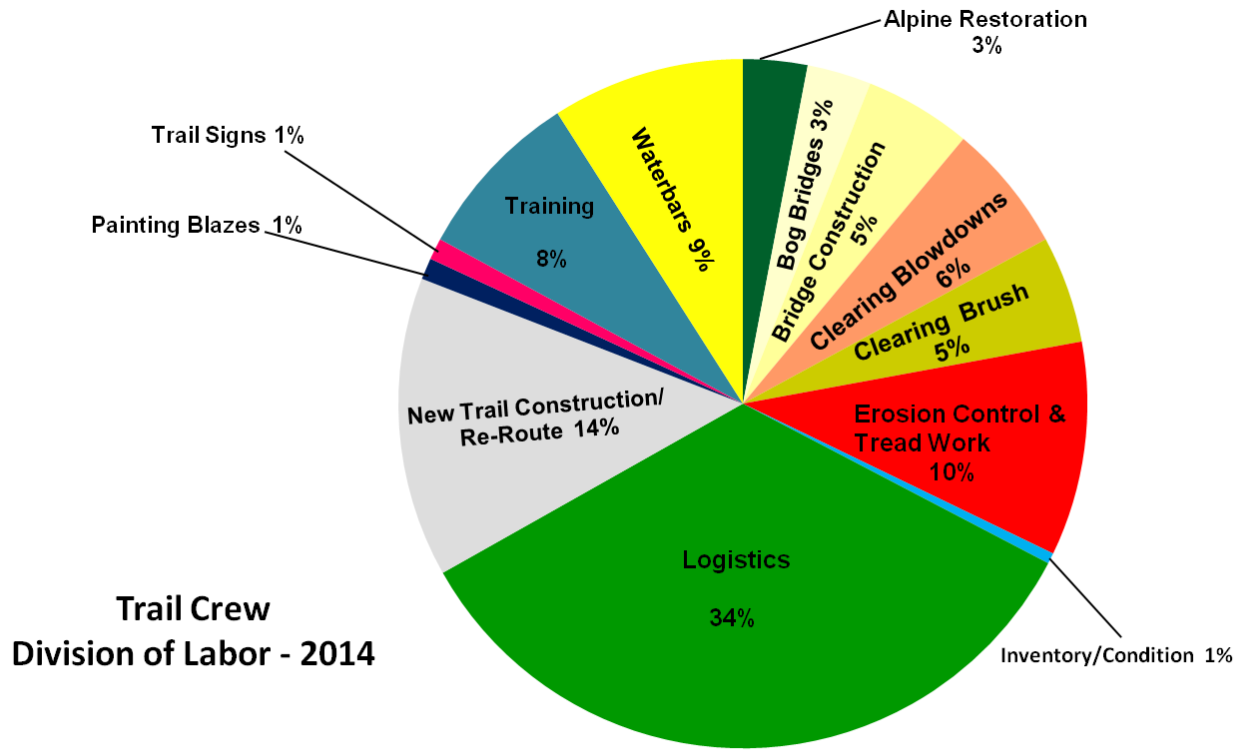
The total hours contributed to the Trail Staff category for this past year was 16,629 hours. Those hours show an increase of 5%, compared to last year's total of 15,824 hours. This increase was due to having an additional Full Season TC Intern compared to the year before. Hours contributed from both the MCC and MATC Maine Trail Crews did not see any significant fluctuations compared to the previous year's totals.

The Trail Maintenance Volunteer Program had a slight increase in participation. For 2014, our total Trail Volunteer Work Hours amounted to 1,210. This is an increase of 9% in participation, compared to the 2013 total of 1,105 hours.

The total sum of hours within our overall trail maintenance program had increased from 16,929 hours in 2013 to 17,839 hours in 2014, which was a 5% increase.



One noticeable spike in our Division of Labor was the increase in "Logistics", due to an injury of one of our Trail Crew Leaders, which required a six week span of limited duty.



## **Alpine Restoration – 542 hrs.**

**Hunt Trail – Thoreau Spring Area:** Our BSP Crews continued with the effort of gathering stone materials off trail and employing the high line system to safely transport payloads of rock to the trail. Loads of rock were then carried down the trail to supply the construction of rock cairns along the treadway within the fragile sedge meadow area.

Approximately 30,000 pounds of granite material were transported with our rigging system. Once materials were trailside, our crews were able to construct 11 cairns, with enough material cached along the trail to erect an additional dozen cairns for the 2015 season.

The sedge meadow in the Thoreau Spring area of Katahdin is one of our most vulnerable resources, being the habitat for the endangered Katahdin Arctic Butterfly. By increasing our efforts in this area since 2006, we've added string fences to better delineate the edge of the tread along this trail segment. Since that time, and in concert with our cairn building effort, we've observed a greening effect on the once braided sections of this trail.

We were happy to realize the significance of our labors in protecting this area, when during the summer of 2014, the Information & Education Division had a successful butterfly count, logging over 70 butterfly sightings in one outing. This proved to be the most successful count on record.

With the continued developments of cairn construction and enhancement to scree walls in this area, the trail will eventually be marked well enough for visitors of all seasons to follow the correct route, without veering off course into the sedge meadow. At that time, we may be able to consider disassembling the string fences to rely on our rock structures and continued education efforts to guide mountain travelers to their destinations with less impact to the resource.

## **Bog Bridges – 476 hrs.**

**Chimney Pond Trail:** 108 hrs. There were 66 ft. of pre-milled bog bridging added to an area just south of Basin Ponds. This is an area that floods out during rain events, making hiking in this dense area precarious. An additional 48 ft. of bridging was replaced in this vicinity, as well, for a total of 114 ft.

**Frost Pond Trail:** 97 hrs. This was a continuation of the effort from the 2012 season. There were 108 ft. of bog bridges assembled out of native milled materials. Due to the remote location of this project, much time was consumed with preparation, transportation and commuting to the project site. Having the majority of materials stockpiled from the 2012 effort assisted with forward momentum of this project.

**Wassataquoik Stream Trail:** 271 hrs. Our BSP Crews worked together on this effort as their introduction to bog bridge construction, with 155 ft. of pre-milled bog bridging constructed.

This work replaced structures that were built with native spruce materials in 2002. The remote locale of this project site required crews to hike approximately 3.5 miles, one way, to reach the site. Again, this contributed to the challenge of overall production, compared to other project sites that require much less commute and preparation time.

Bog Bridges – Pre-milled = 269 ft.

Bog Bridges – Native = 108 ft.

**Total BB Construction = 377 ft.**

### **Bridge Construction – 797 hrs.**

**Chimney Pond Trail:** “High Bridge” Our BSP Crew replaced the main span as well as the west side approach, which totaled in 45 feet of reconstruction. The bridge that was replaced, was built in 1992, lasting much longer than our usual replacement rotation of ten years. This was due to the custom milled cedar stringers that were 12” X 12”, offering strength and durability. Our replacement effort utilized red spruce timbers that will last for ten years.

Our Crew stayed at Chimney Pond for the majority of the project’s duration, commuting one mile to the site, daily. Due to the height of the bridge, we employed a temporary safety rail system as fall protection. This valuable safety precaution added approximately 33% more time to the process of replacing the bridge. This essentially added an additional week of time to the process for assembling and disassembling the rail system on the pre-existing structure and the new structure.

### **Clearing Blowdowns – 928 hrs.**

This essential, general maintenance task is the first job that our crews initiate annually after completion of their training regimen. On an average season, it can take the trail crew and field staff three weeks to patrol all of the trails for blowdowns in the park. The focus is to first clear trails that are in closest proximity to the campgrounds, for they will be the first trails to get used. Priority is also given to the trails known for the greatest hiker traffic so that hikers will not create braided trails around the blowdowns that become obstacles. Finally, our attention turns to the littler used trails that do not see a great volume of hikers and are not as prone to getting braided by foot traffic.

### **Erosion Control and Tread Hardening – 1,648 hrs.**

**Chimney Pond Trail:** 271 hrs. The Maine Conservation Corps spent two weeks enhancing eroded segments of the Chimney Pond Trail in the autumn of 2014. The MCC built 38 rock steps and constructed 1 rock waterbar, in the continued effort of hardening Baxter Park’s most heavily hiked trail.



**Hunt Trail:** 771 hrs. The MATC's Maine Trail Crew assisted with tread and erosion issues on some worn out sections of the Hunt Trail. Continuing a ditch and drain effort begun in 2012, the 2014 crew was able to add another 75 feet of stone reinforced drainage ditch to this popular trail. In addition to that effort, they also constructed 1 stone waterbar, installed 16 rock steps and cleared all of the waterbars on the Hunt Trail from Oh Joy Brook, back to the trailhead.

**Sentinel Mt. Trail:** 424 hrs. Our Trail Crew continued improvements to washed out tread areas along the steeper parts of the ascent of Sentinel Mountain. The result of this two week effort was 23 rock steps constructed, with 2 rock waterbars added as well as a 6' causeway.

**South Turner Mt. Trail:** 182 hrs. An AMC Service Trip assisted our Trail Crew with transporting and preparing materials for the construction of 4 Rock Steps on a very steep and challenging area near the top of South Turner Mt.

### **New Trail Construction/ Trail Re-Route – 2,297 hrs.**

**Abol Trail:** 233 hrs. Maine Conservation Corps began the re-route of the Abol Trail, away from the Abol Slide, during the autumn of 2014. This project has been earmarked as a major project with top priority for the 2015 season.

**Freezeout Trail:** 375 hrs. Our BSP Trail Crews re-routed approximately 1.4 miles to avoid a section of heavy blowdown that resulted from the tornado event of July 2013. This re-route also replaces sections of the Freezeout Trail which required long term bog bridge maintenance. The new segment also moves hikers away from Webster Stream and brings them onto more manageable and drier tread alignment.

**Howe Brook Trail:** 332 hrs. The Summer Crew re-routed approximately 500' of trail alongside Howe Brook. The area was affected by a prior landslide which made navigating around the steep terrain treacherous. Our Crews successfully avoided the slide by moving the trail away from the stream corridor and bypassing the top end of the slide, altogether. By re-aligning the trail's route, up-hill on reasonably gradual slope, the Crew constructed a side-hill bench cut with grade reversal and dips to shed water along the route. There will be other opportunities to fix other smaller slides along the stream's corridor using the same application as time becomes available.

**Marston Trail:** 1,357 hrs. Maine Conservation Corps spent 8 weeks re-locating a segment of trail that, overtime, had become unsustainable and would have required years of hardening efforts to stabilize the tread. Their effort resulted in the relocation of approximately 0.5 miles, with the construction of 1,331 feet of sidehill bench-cut, 81 rock steps, 27 stepping stones and 38 square feet of rip-rap. This project will continue in 2016 with two more phases, a continuation of the switchback effort and a relocation of the final ascent to North Brother.

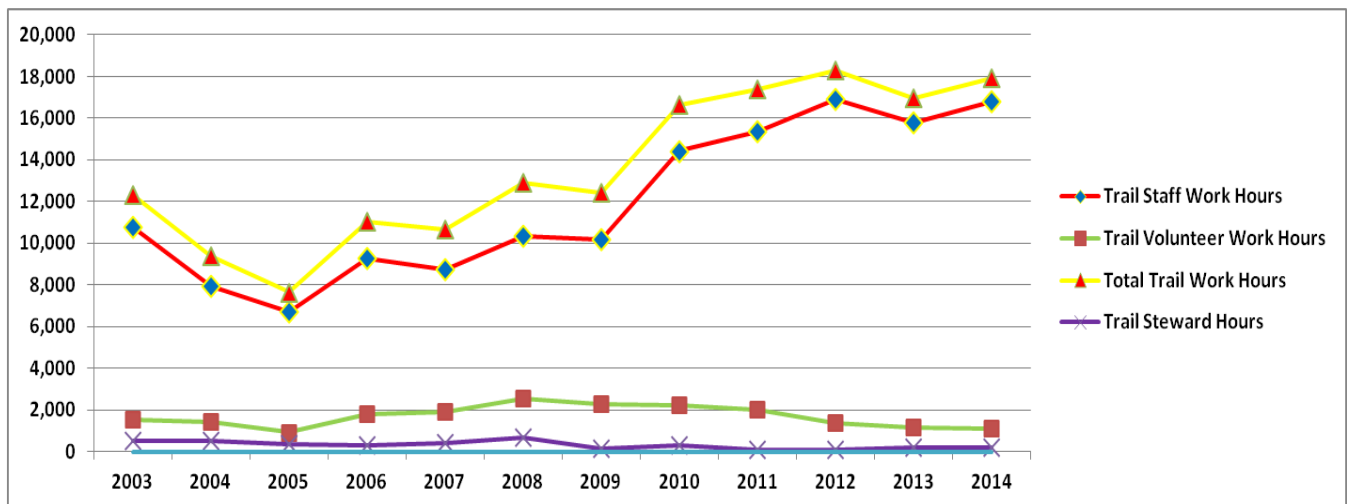
## National Trails Day

Our annual National Trails Day event in was held on June 7, 2014. We had fourteen volunteers join our Summer Crew for a day of general trail maintenance training which encompassed waterbar cleaning and maintenance, corridor definition with hand saws and loppers and GPS use for documenting work efforts. This annual training offers volunteers a basic foundation of training, should they be interested in taking on a trail assignment as a Trail Steward.

### Trail Stewards

There was a slight rise in the level of participation in the Trail Stewards program this past year. This is a reverse in the trend from the last few years, partially due to the fact that for the fifth year in a row, we have sustained the highest level of involvement and scheduling of our own crews and Maine Conservation Corps crews. The increase in our contracted crews had diminished, somewhat, our ability to manage this facet of our operation.

The graphic below shows the trend of our Trail Stewards program, followed by an overview of the general maintenance that was performed by our Trail Crews and Trail Steward volunteers.



### Blazing and Corridor Definition

<b>Blazing – 214 Hrs.</b>			
Doubletop (North)	3.4 miles	Martin Ponds Tr.	2.7
Doubletop (South)	4.8	Mt. OJI Trail	4.0
Freezeout Tr.	1.5	Pogy Notch Tr.	3.5
Hamlin Peak Cut-Off	0.3	Rum Pond Tr.	2.0
Howe Brook Tr.	2.0	South Turner Mt. Tr.	1.3
		<b>Total Miles Blazed</b>	<b>25.5</b>

### Corridor Definition – 887 Hrs.

Chimney Pond Trail	0.2 miles
Doubletop (South)	0.8
Dudley Trail	0.4
Five Ponds Tr.	0.3
Howe Brook Trail	2.0
Martin Ponds Tr.	2.7
Mt. OJI Trail	4.5
North Basin Tr.	1.2
North Basin Cut-Off	0.7
Pogy Notch Trail	3.5
Russell Pond Tr.	2.7
Sandy Stream Pond	1.4
Sentinel Link	0.5
Sentinel Mt. Trail	3.0
<u>Wadleigh Brook Trail</u>	<u>2.0</u>
<b>Total Miles Brushed Out</b>	<b>25.9</b>

## **Trail Signs – 147 hrs.**

The following signs were replaced in 2014. These numbers are the catalog numbers that one will find on the back of all BSP trail signs, which is correlated to our master card catalog system which lists the catalog number, geographical location and wording for each sign.

Signs replaced: Dwelley Pond Tr., 21.01, 21.02, Foss & Knowlton Pond Tr., 25.00, 25.002, 25.04, Katahdin Lake Tr., 40.032, 40.033, Mt. Coe Trail, 64.01, 64.02, Mt. OJI Tr., 80.01, 80.03, 80.04, 80.05, 80.051, 80.06, Sentinel Mt. Tr., 100.07, Stump Pond, 102.01, Slaughter Pond Tr., 110.031.

## **Training - 1,358 hrs.**

Training is a major component of our Trail Maintenance Internship Program. The training regimen that we provide to our interns not only serves as a foundation to cultivating a safety minded crew, but it also initially serves as an enticement to get potential applicants interested in our program.

During the first two weeks of our program, our interns benefit from training sessions such as Wilderness First Aid, Introduction to Search and Rescue, Chainsaw Safety Training, Introduction to Wildfire Suppression and learn Leave No Trace outdoor ethics. In addition to this, the summer crews participate in the spring meeting, with fall crews participating in the fall meeting.

Such opportunities as the ones mentioned above, truly do assist crews with developing situational awareness for all aspects of the work that they do on the crew. These training opportunities ultimately play a large role with developing the safety culture among our crew.

## **Waterbars and Water Diversion – 1,444 hrs.**

**Waterbar Maintenance:** 349 hrs. These “General Maintenance” patrols are conducted at least twice, once in the early season and again in the late season, on all of the trails that have waterbars and drainage ditches.

**Chimney Pond Trail:** 85 hrs. Our BSP Fall Crew worked to reconstruct a major waterbar that was undermining to the point of failure. The new structure’s outflow was armored to prevent undermining on this structure that receives a high volume of water. The Crew also reconstructed a 13’ causeway that was connected to the waterbar, ensuring tread stability for this area with constant running water.

**Mount OJI Trail:** 180 hrs. As a preventative measure, the BSP Crews added 115’ of drainage ditch to a segment of the trail that will prevent erosion to the shallow soils on that gradual sloping piece of trail. One armored waterbar was added to the downhill end of the

ditch to capture and divert water across the trail. The Crew also added three drainage dips where grade reversals were achieved. Each dip was reinforced at its outlet with rip-rap, adding 30 square feet of rip-rap to the new trail.

**Rum Pond Trail:** 830 hrs. Our Crews and volunteers did great work in the vicinity of the inlet to Rum Pond. Crews continued a ditch and drain effort that was begun in 2012 and added grading work to allow for both a drier tread surface and safer cross country skiing for winter visitors. Our Crew was able to construct a 24' causeway, using local stone materials, transported from the abutting woods via a rigging system. A 12' rock waterbar was integrated into the structure to divert water off of this wet segment of trail, as well as continuing a drainage ditch, 75' along the trail to dry out the treadway. The waterbar was capped with some beautiful granite slabs to create a stone culvert to aid winter travelers in keeping their skis dry.

### **Trail Volunteers-Appalachian Mountain Club**

Erik Samia  
Connor Hogan  
Sarah Bakutis  
Nathan Hebert

### **BSP Trail Stewards**

Mary Kellogg  
Ryan Jones  
Joshua Nagine  
Gary Dean  
Charlie Jacobi  
Marcia Williamson  
Rose Rodrique  
Sue Lussier  
Nelson Daigle  
Jane Brann  
Nicole Ireland  
Max Severnyak  
Rebecca Hopkins  
Joyce Bradbury  
Charlie Kenney  
Loren C. Goode, Sr.

### **Friends of BSP (MYWP)**

Ashley Nadeau - Leader  
Todd Dowling - Leader  
Signe Lynch  
Cheyenne Houle

Natalie Palmer  
Laura Blackstone  
Callie McMahon  
Nico Whitlock  
Diego Grossman  
Mathias Deming  
Josh Caldwell  
Justin Waceken

**Individuals-Trail Friends**

Richard Barrett  
R.J. Turcotte  
Kristen Bullett  
Dan Lavalee  
John Civiello  
Doug Dolan  
Joe Saetta  
Paul Delaney  
Michael Zlogar  
Susan Zlogar  
Bob Cressey  
Raynold Jackson  
Jonathan Huntington  
Adrian Huntington  
Gary Dean  
Nelda Clelland  
Christopher Flint  
Hunter Scott

**MATC-Maine Trail Crew**

Hilary Dees  
Cree Rousseau  
Devon Denis  
Michelle Ort  
Louis Balczak  
Noah Amme

**MATC**

Rick Ste.Croix  
George Lee  
Alan Leathers  
John Neff  
Cliff Ives

Priscilla Seimer

**IDEXX**

Darrin Ramsdell

Nate Skvorek

Lee Hutchinson

**Maine Conservation Corps**

**Tanglewood 4-H**

Mira Moreau

Stan Small

Abby Rockefeller

Isabelle Goodrich

Nathan Burner-Tobin

Hunter Kent

**C. SCIENTIFIC  
FOREST  
MANAGEMENT  
AREA**



## 2014 SFMA ANNUAL REPORT

### PERSONNEL

**Rick Morrill** left his post as resource manager in August of this year to start a consulting firm in the northeast kingdom of Vermont with this wife, Dawn Morgan. Rick left his mark on the SFMA, especially in his incredible organization of SFMA and Parkwide database. Due to his foresight and skill, we will continually improve our ability to query our datasets and plan future operations and monitoring.



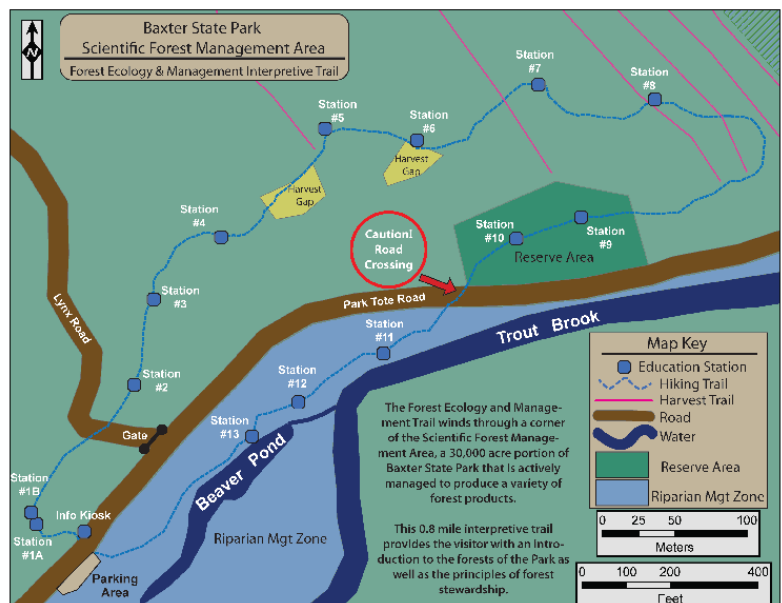
Our forester, **Deidra**, started the year with the surname Brace, and finished it with the surname George after marrying the Park mechanic, Frank George. Dee continues to manage much of the field operations in the SFMA, with the stalwart assistance of **Kevin Osborne**, longtime forest technician.



Interns **Brandon Learnard** and **Stephen Sacks** gained valuable experience and offered an incredible work ethic and discipline. They set records for number of points cruised in a day (24 variable radius plots) and we can only hope that future summer help will be as hardworking and dedicated as these two young foresters.

### EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Rick offered several talks and tours this year. Among them were presentations at Daicey Pond, the University of Maine, and our Austin Cary Forest in Harpswell, as well as several tours in the SFMA, including the annual tours for Seymour's Acadian Forest class and a meeting of the Advisory Committee in September where the baton was passed from Rick to Eben.



Rick also brought the Forest Ecology and Management Trail, a project several years in the incubating, to fruition during the summer. The [trail and accompanying educational materials](#) are available to north end Park visitors.

We have begun the process of thinking about how climate change will affect the Park and the SFMA; in order to kickstart this difficult and nebulous discussion, Jean, Ben, and Eben participated in a [Climate Change Response Framework](#) workshop in Brunswick. Designed to help organizations get past the uncertainty and begin to take substantive action, we focused on how Frost Pond might look after 100 years, and how we might act to shape this forest to maintain its health. The Framework not only serves to nudge managers towards biting off manageable chunks of this amorphous climate change pie, but also serves as a clearinghouse for projects and plans others have produced across the north woods.

#### SFMA Advisory Committee Members

FName	Last Name	TermExpireDate
Aaron	Weiskittel	5/23/2017
Barrie	Brusila	5/23/2017
Rob	Bryan	5/23/2017
Craig	Troeger	5/1/2017
Robert	Seymour	5/1/2017
Gordon	Mott	5/1/2017
Ken	Laustsen	5/1/2017
Jeremy	Wilson	5/15/2016
Allison	Kanoti	5/15/2016
Jeremy	Wilson	5/15/2016
Emily	Meacham	5/10/2016
John	Bryant	5/10/2016
Jim	O'Malley	5/10/2016
Andy	Cutko	5/10/2016
Joe	Wiley	5/15/2015
Philip	Ahrens	5/15/2015

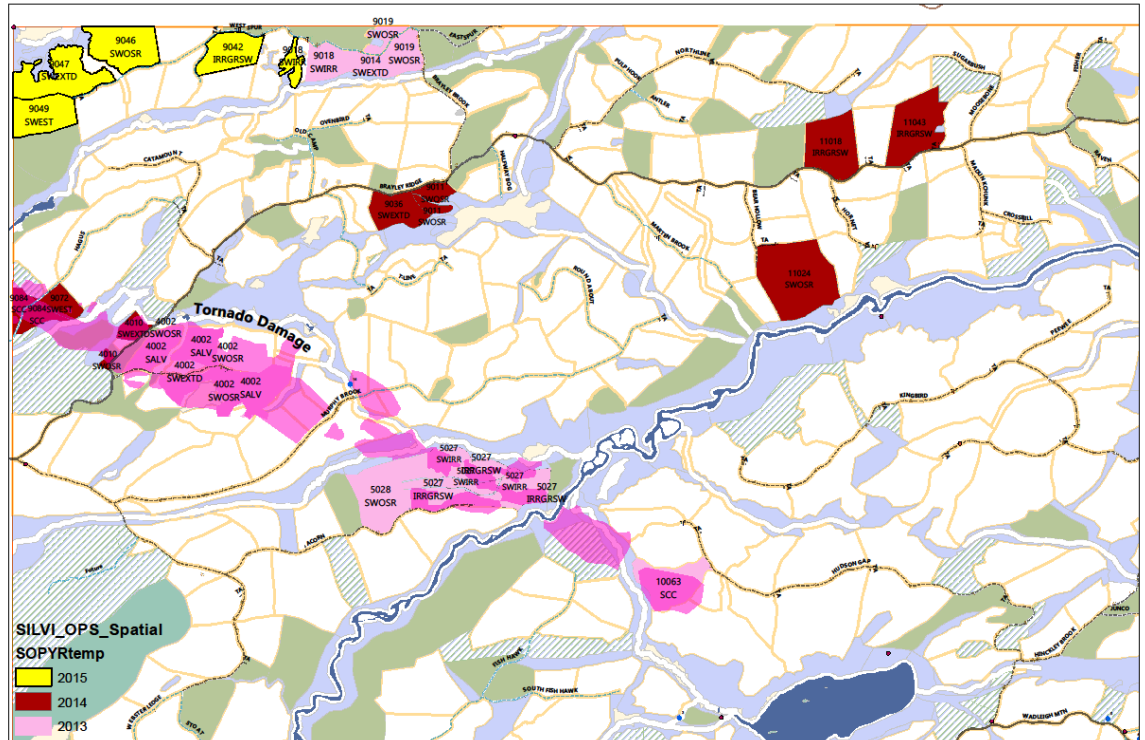
The **SFMA Advisory** Committee met in April and for a field tour in September. In April, Joe Wiley stepped forward as chair and Barrie, Rob, Gordon, Bob Seymour, and Aaron renewed their membership for another three year term. Two subcommittees formed at the September meeting—one to address the need for a riparian management zone policy (Rob, Alison D., and Joe, see below), and the other for consideration of our response to the imminent spruce budworm outbreak cycle (Joe, Gordon, Allison K), don't expect this outbreak to have any great impacts, but nonetheless we should be prepared. The end product may include a near-term decision support tool for how to treat stands given a certain amount of defoliation in addition to a longer-looking (next outbreak cycle, probably more severe) strategic plan with respect to this native insect.

The annual **FSC audit** (SCS Global Services, Mike Dann, Auditor) closed a few corrective action requests (CARs) and minor observations, and brought up a few items where we could improve our policies and protocols (appendix 1). One was the riparian management zone guidelines, which are to be reviewed by auditors during this year's annual review (Mike Dann, having retired, will no longer act as our auditor), and have been completed with the help of the advisory committee (appendix 2). Others suggested that we put in a place a more explicit monitoring protocol for our high conservation value forests (Frost Pond, Boody Brook), and instruct ourselves on Type I and Type II old growth to better recognize these characteristics. Finally, it was observed that SFMA staff should have training on rare, threatened and endangered species identification to provide for better field recognition and potential protection. We are working with Jean to get up to snuff on this, and efforts to update the Frost Pond management plan will include provisions for better instruction in old growth characteristics.

Work continued on Lloyd Irland's financial analysis of the SFMA as a forestry industry, a difficult undertaking given how our finances are embedded within larger park coffers. The report brings up great questions about how and what we are demonstrating, and should serve as a helpful guide towards a more transparent and demonstrative financial process.

## OPERATIONS 2013/14 Harvesting

2014 saw an end to the salvage cleanup of the July 2013 tornado. Crews and management were happy to return to the cutting of vertical trees with a few overstory removals (OSRs) and irregular group shelterwoods (gap treatments) completed on



group shelterwoods (gap treatments) completed on Brayley Ridge and Bear Hollow.

Product	% of vol
Sawlog	61.5%
Pulp	24.0%
Firewood	10.4%
Small Sawlog Sort	2.3%
Biomass	1.2%
Veneer	0.4%
Clapboard Sawlog	0.2%

Overall, 2013-2014 harvests treated 350 Acres and removed 4590 cords (this is inclusive of winter harvesting in Nov-Dec 2013) across 8 stands on the north end of the SFMA. The acreage treated was slightly off from target due to greater per acre volume removals from salvage

Species	% of Vol
Spruce/Fir	61.5%
Hardwood	14.4%
White Pine	9.4%
Aspen	8.5%
White Cedar	5.3%
Misc Softwood	0.7%
Paper Birch	0.2%

operations. Salvage operations covered almost 160 acres, while regularly scheduled shelterwood type harvests covered about 210 acres. Of that, 92 acres was treated with the SFMA hallmark gap treatment (or irregular group shelterwood). Planning for this kind of cut is now quite standardized, and given our experience generally based on a 20 year return interval. We have in the past tried to ensure that 25% of these gaps were placed around areas without advanced regeneration, presumably to promote establishment of some intolerant species. This will likely be discontinued, as it appears that intolerants are pretty good as establishing

themselves without silvicultural assistance, and the ownerships surrounding the Park have provided ample intolerant and early successional habitat.

This was the last year of a 5 year contract with the Pelletier Brother Inc. to cut and haul our wood to various markets across the state. For salvage operations, we paid about \$1 more per 1000 pounds. Clint and Corey continue to do an excellent job, and are now ever more valuable given their institutional memory gained from applying 10 years of silvicultural prescriptions, as well as their enthusiasm and comfort with adopting new technologies.

Pelletier Brothers Incorporated		
Eldon	Pelletier	President
Aaron	Pelletier	Director of Operations
Clint	Morrow	Processor Operator
Corey	Morrow	Forwarder Operator
Brian	Boutelier	Grader/Dozer/Plow

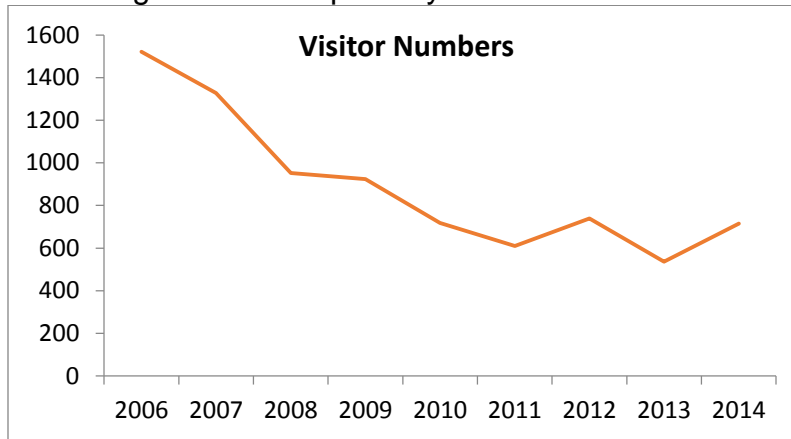
sop	MU	year	RX	cds removed	acres	cds/ac
525	10063	2013	Salv-SCC	680.2	37	18.4
526	5027	2014	Salv-SWirr	1160.3	81	14.3
527	9084	2014	Salv-SCC	444.5	18	24.7
528	9072	2014	Salv-Swest	225.1	13	17.3
529	4010	2014	Salv-SWirr	45.1	2	22.6
530	4010	2014	Salv-SWirr	129.8	8	16.2
531	9011	2014	Swosr	319.9	14	22.9
532	9036	2014	Swextd	388.8	26	15.0
533	11024	2014	SWOSR	791.4	76	10.4
535	11018	2014	IrrGrSW	186.1	44	4.2
536	11043	2014	IrrGrSW	219.1	48	4.6
				4590.4	367	

\*full appendices will be added after final winter 2015 trip tickets have been collected.



### **VISITOR USE**

Self-reported visits to the SFMA were up slightly from last year, perhaps suggesting a change from the declining trend of the past 8 years.

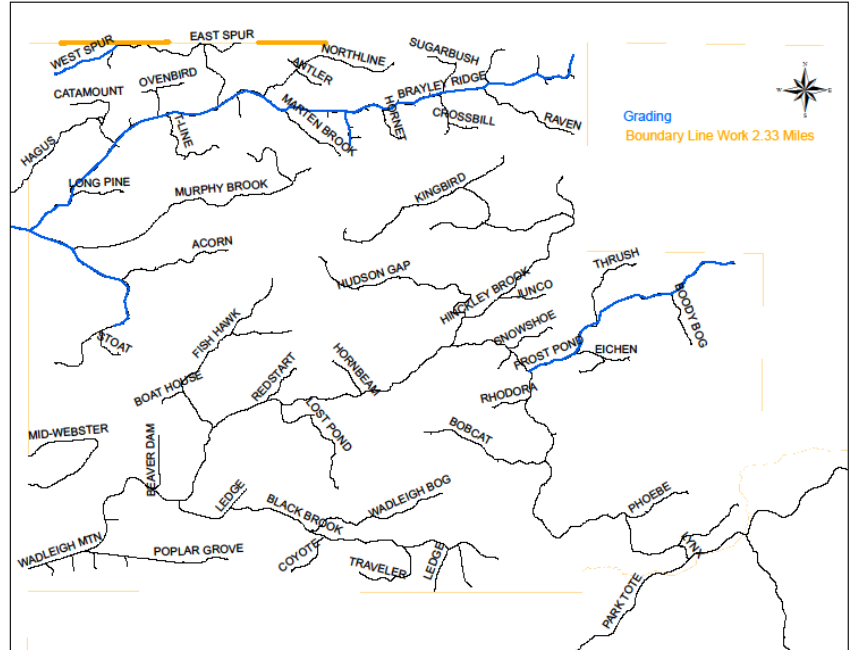


This use is on average 85% hunting, 8% fishing, 3% sightseeing, 2% hiking, and 1% trapping, at least in terms of primary activity reported (choices on the current cards we have at start of Brayley Ridge and Wadleigh Ridge road systems include Hunting, Fishing, Forestry, Trapping, Sightseeing, and Hiking. Of those visitors reporting their origins (153 failed to do so), 86% were Mainers. Mainer activity drove the general activity patterns. All folks from out of state came primarily for hunting, and hailed from MA, NH, VT, NY, OH, NC, and VA.

## ROAD /BOUNDARY MAINTENANCE

### Reopening of west spur

To prepare for winter operations, we needed to reclaim about 4400 feet of the West Spur and about 1500 feet of Partridge Road from the saplings that had grown in since we harvested in that northwest corner of the Park in the early 90s. After struggling to secure a feller-buncher for the job, we ended up putting a D6 bulldozer in there which seemed to do a decent, albeit somewhat messy job. We'll seed in this reclaimed winter road section in the spring of 2015. Brian Boutellier of Pelletier Brothers Inc. did the work (which cost about \$5000) in a few days, and remarked that he remembered little of these roads, despite the fact that it was he who built them back in the early 90s. As we get into these older road systems that we haven't been able to mow, we'll have a few more miles of this kind of thing to do.



### PCT

SFMA staff pre commercially thinned another few acres down the end of the Peewee road, bringing our total to about 3 acres. We have been discussing whether it is wise to continue with this program at a small scale (each SFMA employee does about 2 acres, totaling 10 acres annually), discontinue it in deference to the threat of spruce budworm outbreak, or ramp it up into a commercial level (involving hiring crews to do 40-50 acres/year, though probably not every year). We have our eyes out for stands where this would be appropriate.

### Winter plan

"Want to make God laugh? Tell Him your plans."

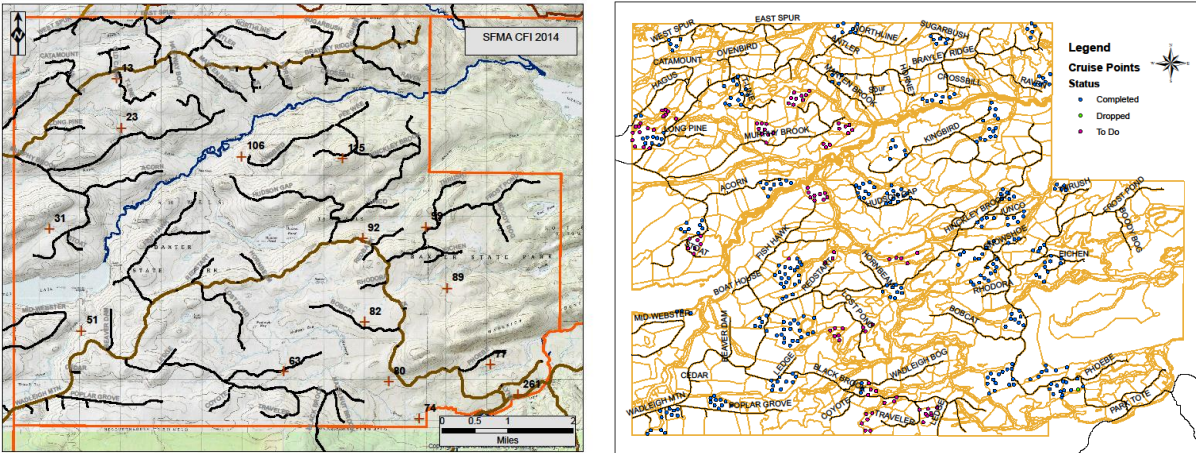
-unknown

We planned to tackle about 2500 cord on 230 acres down the winter portion of the West Spur. Due to equipment failures and a month-delayed start, we harvested closer to 1600 cord on less than 200 acres.

### INVENTORY

Of the 423 **variable radius plots** planned for the rotating inventory, 325 were completed. We will continue with a similar, albeit scaled back, plan this year and try to make more accurate assumptions about staff time performing inventory.

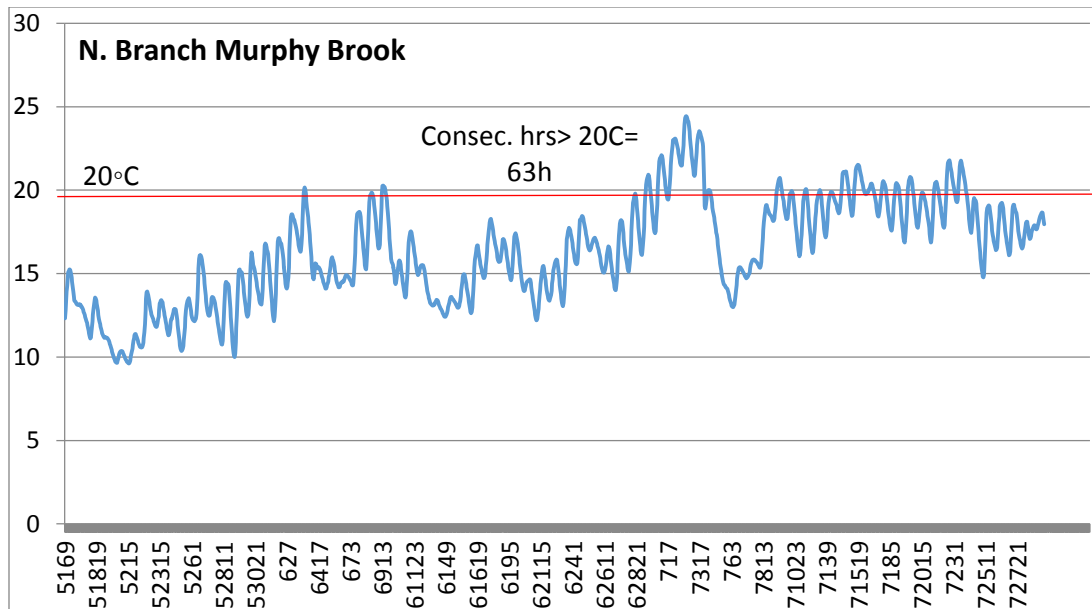
The rolling **CFI inventory** continued as planned, as staff completed the requisite 11 plots. Five more plots were added as part of a collaboration with Shawn Fraver and his blowdown beetle project. These will be added to the regular roll of CFI (10 year remeasurement cycle).



*CFI plots remeasured this year (10 year remeasurement cycle). Variable radius plots for rolling inventory.*

**Water and air temperature monitoring** continued on 9 streams and 4 air temp monitoring locations. We have begun to look into stream habitat restoration, and so this data going back 15 years should prove useful soon. For now we are sorting through and organizing it and trying to apply some sort of context. One threshold to monitor will be the number of consecutive hours over 20°C that any stream gets up to, as [brook trout biomass is fairly well related to stream temperature, along with woody material and maximum riffle depth](#). Further investigations into stream temperature regimes will help guide us towards those streams we may want to restore to pre-log drive hydrological and biological function. An example follows; N. Branch Murphy Brook stream temperature regime for the summer—this particular spot in the stream stayed above 20°C for 63 hours in early July, suggesting that brook trout would likely not be temperature limited, even in this fairly open spot just above the bridge on the Murphy Brook Rd.





## RESEARCH

Work continued on Fraver, Kenefic, and Seymour's project examining the response of **spruce bark beetles** and other coleopterans to the July 2013 blowdown. One more year of field measurements will take place and 5 new CFI plots will be measured and added to the other 116 plots on rotation.

John Clare, a UMO PhD student, will be leading a study on **marten populations** around the SFMA and a few surrounding ownerships in the winter. He will be using game cams, hair traps and DNA analysis to test these methods for feasibility for a state monitoring program as well as a shot at understanding the current marten populations in various forest ownerships (and structures).

Stephen Dunham's work continued on the population dynamics of **spruce grouse** in the SFMA and surrounding ownerships, and will be passed along to

Bucky Owen, Jerry Longcore, and Stephen Norton published a long-awaited paper on the [Characteristics of Two Mineral Springs in Northern Maine](#) in *Northeastern Naturalist*. The paper describes the calcium enriched areas near Hudson Pond and at the base of Wadleigh Mountain. Upon reviewing the SFMA annual report from 2004, it appears data collection on wildlife usage and soil and water characteristics began 10 years ago.

**OTHER**

Starting January 1 2015, Katahdin Forest Management will impose a toll (\$0.60 per ton) on crossing the 100+ foot Chamberlain Bridge to fund its redecking. While it is not surprising that this company would like to start recouping costs of maintaining such critical infrastructure, it is representative of larger shifts in the forestry industry and landownership patterns in Maine that the SFMA was the second largest wood hauler over this bridge in the past 5-6 years. Our 8500 tons/year, which in former years would not be considered much wood at all, was second in weight only to the 12000 ton BPL hauled. Along those lines, we are discussing a road continuing the Brayley Brook road onto Snowshoe Partners, our neighbor to the north. This came up as a possibility a few years ago, but was tabled because the Park could not imagine allowing Snowshoe to haul wood over us. Our concern over access and road maintenance has made us more willing to consider such a compromise. Another neighbor to our east continues to make waves as nearby towns vote on whether they would like to see a national park around the East Branch of the Penobscot or not.

## Appendix 1.

### 2.1 Annual Audit Itinerary and Activities

<b>Date: July 16, 2014</b>	
<b>FMU / Location / sites visited</b>	<b>Activities / notes</b>
BSP headquarters	Opening meeting – introductions, confirm scope of audit, finalize itinerary, review of open CAR/Obs.
Frost Pond Forest	Discussion of Type II old growth, management to retain potential old growth characteristics.
MU127 &153 Hinckley Brook road	Group selection in 2002 In mixedwood stand. Discussion of late successional attributes and management and legacy tree retention.
MU151 Peewee Road	Softwood stand that had blown down after a shelterwood cut in 2004. Area has been precommercially thinned. Discussion of thinning protocol.
<b>Date: July 17, 2014</b>	
<b>FMU / Location / sites visited</b>	<b>Activities / notes</b>
MU 9011 Murphy Brook area	Shelterwood overstory removal with retention in a softwood stand. Excellent regeneration retention. Discussion of draft riparian area management policy which is allowing conservative management within some riparian areas that had previously been left unmanaged.
MU 11024	Shelterwood overstory removal in 2014 with a dangle head processor. Comparison of dangle head vs fixed head processor damage to regeneration. While there is increased damage, it is in no way excessive; there is still more than sufficient regeneration of desired species.
MU4002	Tornado and Blowdown salvage 2013. Discussion of salvage policy that retained any tree leaning less than 45 degrees. Some reserve areas left where salvage will not occur. Long term study in place in cooperation with the University of Maine to study insect population dynamics.
BSP headquarters	Closing meeting, discussion of findings and resolution of open CARS/OBS.

## 4.2 New Corrective Action Request (or observation)s and Observations

<b>Finding Number: 2014-1</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU):	
<b>Deadline</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-U's Forest Management Standard V1.0 6.1.a. (see also 7.3.a)
<p><b>Non-Conformity</b> (or justification in the case of observations): There are a number of on-going surveys in BSP by in-house and outside professionals addressing the elements of this indicator. SFMA staff calls on BSP naturalist for consultations.</p> <p>SFMA staff interviews indicated that they had not had formal training in the identification of most common RTE plants and rare ecological communities.</p>	
<p><b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or observation): Formal training on the identification of RTE species, especially plants, and rare ecological communities would improve staff's ability to identify potential RTE sites during initial field inspections and other activities conducted to complete environmental impact assessments.</p>	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

Finding Number: 2014-2

Select one:  Major CAR  Minor CAR  Observation

FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):

**Deadline**

- Pre-condition to certification
- 3 months from Issuance of Final Report
- Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation)
- Other deadline (specify):

**FSC Indicator:** FSC-Ur Forest Management Standard V1.0 6.3.a.3

**Non-Conformity** (or justification in the case of observations): The SFMA has established significant reserves containing old growth. There are stands within the SFMA that have not been evaluated for the presence of Type I or II old growth. Staff does not have a written protocol for the identification of potential Type I or II old growth.

**Corrective Action Request** (or observation): A written protocol defining old growth based on the definitions in the standard and the regional context, as well as a procedure for assessing its presence or absence, would improve staff knowledge and efficiency in the field.

**FME response**  
(including any evidence submitted)

**SCS review**

**Status of CAR:**

- Closed
- Upgraded to Major
- Other decision (refer to description above)

Finding Number: 2014-3

Select one:  Major CAR  Minor CAR  Observation

FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):

**Deadline**

- Pre-condition to certification
- 3 months from Issuance of Final Report
- Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation)
- Other deadline (specify):

**FSC Indicator:** FSC-U.s Forest Management Standard V1.0 6.5.e.1 (see also 6.5.e.2)

**Non-Conformity** (or justification in the case of observations): The SFMA is developing a new riparian management zone policy; now in draft form.

**Corrective Action Request** (or observation): The final policy should be reviewed at the next audit to ensure conformance with the applicable indicators.

**FME response**  
(including any evidence submitted)

**SCS review**

**Status of CAR:**

- Closed
- Upgraded to Major
- Other decision (refer to description above)

Finding Number: 2015-4

Select one:  Major CAR  Minor CAR  Observation

FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):

**Deadline**

- Pre-condition to certification
- 3 months from Issuance of Final Report
- Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation)
- Other deadline (specify):

**FSC Indicator:** FSC-U.s Forest Management Standard V1.0 9.4.a.

**Non-Conformity** (or justification in the case of observations): The Frost Pond Forest was designated to study late successional and/or Type II old growth management. No activity has occurred since 2003 when an initial harvest was conducted.

A protocol for monitoring HCVF attributes and the effectiveness of the harvest in maintaining them does not exist.

**Corrective Action Request** (or observation): A monitoring protocol should be in place prior to any further activity.

**FME response**  
(including any evidence submitted)

**SCS review**

**Status of CAR:**

- Closed
- Upgraded to Major
- Other decision (refer to description above)

**D. INFORMATION  
AND  
EDUCATION**



## Information/Education Division 2014

Jean Hoekwater, Naturalist

Morgan Taylor, Interpretive Specialist

Kaiti Davis, Ian Lookabough, Sam Taylor, Wilderness Educators

Bob Gonya, Brian Johnston, Visitor Center Customer Service Representatives

Jonathan Lemberg, Appalachian Trail Steward



*Doubletop by 2014 BSP Visiting Artist Nora West*

*There is another alphabet, whispering from every leaf,  
singing from every river, shimmering from every sky."*

— [Dejan Stojanovic](#)

## 2014 Summary

The year passed quickly as usual but not without challenges and highlights. It included:

- the opportunity to attend the Northeast Natural History Conference in Springfield in April.
- participation in the lead-free tackle exchange program initiated by Maine Audubon.
- the first of a longterm effort to digitize BSP research files for inclusion in a Park database.
- prodigious effort on the part of many volunteers to complete a flora for Baxter State Park in the third year of this effort, led by Glen Mittelhauser.
- a thorough policy discussion on minimizing the impacts of emergency chopper landings in Endangered and Threatened species habitat.
- farewell to one of the Park's dearest friends Frank Trautmann.
- incidents highlighting the need for increased educational efforts with youth camps and Appalachian Trail Thru Hikers.
- a very encouraging annual survey for Katahdin Arctic Butterflies.
- the first use of Skype in I & E interviews for seasonal interns.
- numerous hiring and program setbacks in the I & E team, resulting in the twelfth hour return of a 2014 Wilderness Educator.
- purchase and use of a Go-Pro camera.
- the launch of the Baxter State Park Facebook page, with significant effort and involvement on the part of the Interpretive Specialist.
- installation of a flat screen monitor in the Headquarter lobby displaying images of Baxter State Park facilities, trails and scenery continuously.
- successful facilitation with organizers of The Summit Project in May, including accompanying hikers up the Owl
- a very informative exchange hike in October to Chimney Pond and Blueberry Knoll with Bill Murphy from Ireland who "twinned" us with his Park

2014 marked the first full year Morgan Taylor was employed as the Interpretive Specialist for Baxter State Park. Her efforts on all fronts have been a great asset to the Information and Education efforts at the Park. However, in the fast-paced summer season, the coordination of interns and programs becomes all-consuming for the Interpretive Specialist position and this year was no exception! We experienced a disappointing setback in early July, just as the pace began to pickup following several weeks of training and orientation. Despite the unexpected loss of one intern, between in-Park evening and children programs and Millinocket library programs we offered the largest number of programs ever scheduled for the Park. We learned some lessons along the way and will apply our knowledge in scheduling effectively for upcoming seasons.

Field patrols continue to inform us and provide opportunity for resource protection, in the case of invasive plant surveys and field checks of proposed trail re-routes. Patrols can range from scheduled surveys to overnights to learn about new areas to spontaneous visits to speak with a group based on requests from other Park employees. Sometimes our field patrols include working or hiking with volunteers, which is always special. Meetings are also a regular feature of our work year, especially with certain committees or initiatives on which we work as well as the more routine administrative and governing meetings closer to home.

We continue to serve as the liaison between researchers and the Park, including several projects in 2013 described later in this section. We not only try to share new findings with park employees but try to incorporate new findings and sightings into conversations with our visitors as well. Nature never fails to surprise and we enjoy learning new facts about our Park as much as the next person!

Another group we work closely with is the Appalachian Thru Hikers. As the northern terminus of the popular “AT”, we witness firsthand both the excitement and high expectations of increased numbers of thru-hikers. Later in this section we will discuss our current efforts and appendices to this section will include statistics for Distance Hikers as well as summaries of our loon count, mountain patrol forms and more.

Our gratitude, as always, goes to all who make working at Baxter such a privilege and of course, to Percival Baxter for his great gift!

## **2014 Programs**

### **Evening Programs in the Park**

- July 9 Kidney Pond – “How Did That Very Big Rock, ‘The Kidney Stone’, Get Here. . .and Other Glacial Mysteries!”- Robert Johnston, Geologist with the Maine Geological Survey
- July 16 Kidney Pond – “Hoo” Comes out at Night? – Park Naturalist, Jean Hoekwater
- July 22 Trout Brook Crossing - SFMA – Park Resource Manager, Rick Morrill
- July 23 Daicey Pond – Did you know there was Timber Harvesting in Baxter State Park? - Rick Morrill
- July 30 Daicey Pond –Maine Loon Project - Susan Gallo, Wildlife Biologist and Maine Loon Project Director
- August 2 Katahdin Stream – Campfire Cooking Demonstration- “Return to the Old Flame” - Rick Bray
- August 6 Kidney Pond – “Lost on a Mountain in Maine”- Donn Fendler
- August 13 Forest Ecology and Management Trail - Park Resource Manager, Rick Morrill
- August 13 Katahdin Stream – Wilderness On Its Own Terms- Fatalities in the Park –Park Director Jensen Bissell
- August 16 Daicey Pond – Lynx in Maine! – IFW Wildlife Biologist Jen Vashon
- August 17- 26 Kidney Pond – Star Magic - Doug Rich
- August 20 – Daicey Pond - Visiting Artist Open Studio – Nora West
- August 20 Katahdin Stream - "Stirring Tales and Images of Katahdin's Rich History" – John Neff and David Little
- August 2 Daicey Pond - Visiting Artist Evening Program – Nora West
- August 27 South Branch Pond – Stewardship of Baxter State Park: Have you thought about helping to protect and preserve Baxter State Park? –Park Ranger Gabe Williamson
- August 28 Roaring Brook – Wilderness On Its Own Terms- Fatalities in the Park –Park Director Jensen Bissell
- September 3 South Branch Pond day use picnic area– A Volcano in Baxter State Park!/? Robert Johnston, Geologist with the Maine Geological Survey
- September 8 South Branch Pond day use picnic area – Stories and Wild Tales of the Katahdin Region – John Neff

### **Children Programs in the Park**

- July 5 Daicey Pond – Life under Logs
- July 19 Daicey Pond – Life under Logs
- July 23 Daicey Pond - Creepy Crawlies -What lives beneath our feet?
- July 26 South Branch Pond - Busy Beavers Changing our World
- August 2 South Branch -Project Amphibians
- August 9 Kidney Pond - Hoppers of the Grassy Fields
- August 16 Daicey Pond - Nature Scavenger Hunt
- August 21 Kidney Pond- Leave No Trace
- August 23 Daicey Pond - Plural Plants
- September 6 Kidney Pond - Nature Scavenger Hunt



*Ian Lookabaugh, Millinocket Library program*

### **Children's Programs In Millinocket**

- August 7 Millinocket Library - What's Wild?
- August 28 Millinocket Library– Scat ID and Owl Pellet Dissection
- September 4 Millinocket Library– The Faces of Baxter
- September 11 Millinocket Library– Little Explorers
- September 25 Millinocket Library - SCAT!

### **Outreach programs**

- 1/29 UMaine Career Fair – Orono
- 2/20 Brunswick Chapter of MATC, “Exploring Baxter”
- 3/17 Weatherbee School, Hampden, “Maine Day”
- 4/3 Hibbard Nursing Home, Dover Foxcroft, “Reflections on Baxter State Park”
- 4/9 Hampden Mcgraw School Program, “ Maine Wildlife Signs”
- 4/12 Friends of Baxter State Park, “Research in Baxter”
- 6/8 Bigelow Lodge- “Alpine Plants” and “Baxter for MATC Caretakers”
- 9/13 Trails End Festival- Interpretive Hike on MILKT Michaud footpath and all day Saturday booth with children's nature crafts
- 10/6 GNG High School @ Foster Field, “Visitor Safety and Management in Baxter State Park”
- 10/28 Granite Street School, Millinocket, “LNT, Endangered Species and You in Baxter State Park”
- 10/31 UMaine WLE100, “Careers in Environmental Interpretation”

### **2014 Information/Education Projects**

#### ***Wildnotes-Park Newspaper***

We printed 28,000 copies in 2014 and experienced an overage of approximately 2000 copies, prompting us to plan on ordering 26,000 in 2015. The Director's letter on the front page highlighted the generous gift of Painter's Beach on Katahdin Lake from the Huber family and also included a reminder to all visitors to take personal responsibility for their safety when recreating in the primitive and wild setting of the Park. Pages with activities for children included a word search and pictogram. Additional articles included a profile of the first Park Supervisor Harry Dyer and a follow up article to the 2013 piece on the Parks' efforts to protect the alpine zone on Katahdin. We also devoted extensive copy space to information on black bears and proper camping and wildlife viewing etiquette to reduce negative interactions between bears and our visitors.

#### **The Summit Project**

In the fall of 2013, BSP Interpretive Specialist Morgan Taylor was assigned to act as liaison with organizers of this commemorative event. Her principal contact throughout the planning stages was Major

Dave Cote. The Summit Project (TSP) is designed to honor Maine soldiers who have died in service to their nation from 9/11/2001 to the present time. The original proposal included leaving stones inscribed with soldiers' names at the summit cairn on Katahdin and holding a ceremony there with a large group of people. Park Director Jensen Bissell and Morgan Taylor worked with Dave Cote to craft a compromise wherein the stones were carried up to the summit by TSP volunteers and then back down. The hike took place on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Morgan Taylor met with participants at Twin Pines resort on the eve of the hike to go over necessary hike logistics to keep group size at the allowable maximum of 12 people. She answered questions and promoted awareness of the Park's responsibility to all visitors to provide a special and wild experience. The group was extremely appreciative of her time during the planning stages and presence on the hike the following day. Because the Hunt Trail was still closed to foot traffic due to environmental factors, all three groups climbed their chosen alternate peak, The Owl, with staggered departure times. BSP Ranger Mike Winslow accompanied Morgan and added much needed assistance with groups and ensuring large congregations did not take place at the summit. As per agreement with the Park Director, no memorial stones or trace of the event was left at the summit. The stones traveled back out of the Park with the hikers to be featured in a large and inclusive ceremony at Twin Pines. This location allowed family members and friends of the soldiers who were physically unable to hike a mountain to enjoy the ceremony in a scenic but accessible location. Ultimately, the Park prohibition on leaving memorials inside the Park was the impetus in the creation of a permanent home for the stones in Portland Maine. The Summit Project has grown to welcome and facilitate many different events in addition to the one in Baxter State Park. Through arrangements with The Summit Project, tribute stones are available for groups organizing other events to honor the sacrifice of Mainers who did not return from military service, including hikes in other parts of the state or world, motorcycle rides, bicycle rides, distance runs, etc.

TSP has initiated plans to return to Baxter State Park on Memorial Day weekend in 2015.

### **Volunteers**

In what is becoming a springtime tradition, volunteers Diane Freeloove, Katrina Kinhead, Laurie Rich and Robin Stevens organized a springtime "collating blitz" putting together 1400 Jr. Ranger booklets to supply Park duty stations for the 2013 season. This is a big task that this group has taken on to accomplish, and we are so fortunate they have adopted this for their own special group contribution.

In 2014 the field portion of the Baxter FLORA project culminated with a third year of botanical surveys throughout the Park. Over the summer of 2014, twenty-five volunteers led by Project Leader Glen Mittelhauser and leader Alison Dibble participated in surveys based at locations throughout the Park including Trout Brook Farm, Chimney Pond, Nesowadnehunk, the Scientific Forest Management Area, Little Wassataquoik, Fowler/Billfish Ponds, Roaring Brook and Matagamon Lake. A total of 12 surveys took place in Baxter State Park over 62 days during the 2014 summer camping season, making this a very labor intensive project indeed. In addition to visiting areas not checked earlier, 2014 efforts focused on returning to certain areas to complete field surveys. Additionally, surveys focused on the alpine zone of Katahdin as well as outlying peaks. Glen Mittelhauser devoted a total of 12 days at the Harvard University Herbaria and the University of Maine herbarium looking up historic Baxter collections so that he would have a complete knowledge of what had been collected and studied prior to the start of the field season.

*BSP Flora Project leader Glen Mittelhauser and botanist Abbe Urban checking ledges on Matagamon Lake*



Since the beginning of the field survey portion of this project in 2012, there have been a total of 133 survey days in the Park. A total of 66 volunteers worked with project leaders. Approximately 260 new taxa were documented in the Park bringing the total number of documented taxa to approximately 874 species. Approximately 17,000 photo vouchers were made! This work occurred because of the generosity of many institutions and organizations who recognized the need for a Park Flora and Wildflower Guide. Funds were provided by the Maine Outdoor Heritage Foundation,

The Friends of Baxter State Park, Conservation and Research Foundation, the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Baxter State Park and private donations. In-kind contributions from Glen Mittelhauser's time (Maine Natural History Observatory), survey and office volunteers, botanists Alison Dibble and Don Cameron and accommodations in Baxter amount to \$95,584 in the period from 2012-2014.

### **Archiving**

We are fortunate to have a formally trained librarian and capable archivist available for contract work in winters! Marybeth Varney worked with BSP Resource Manager Rick Morrill to scanned all the documents in research files in the Park Naturalist office. Rick and Marybeth also designed a database to catalog research reports by author, subject and title and to store associated research applications and cooperative agreements for each project. This work began in December 2013 and ended in March 2014 when Marybeth returned to her regular season of work with the Park Reservation office from March to October. She returned under contract to archive research materials in November and December of 2014. We now have most of the research applications, cooperative agreements and reports for research projects from 1988 through 2014 scanned, as well as some documents from earlier years. The database still has some shortcomings but will serve us well in linking hard copies in the file to scanned reports and eventually allowing us to better respond to inquiring scientists and the public. Each winter we make more progress in preserving the important but little known resource of Park research files, encompassing the cumulative efforts of hundreds of scientists.

### Poetry Contest

In its 2<sup>nd</sup> year the Poetry Contest was expanded to include 3 age groups, ( $\leq 13$ m, 14-17,  $\geq 18$  years of age). We had 20 applicants and Park staff participated in the selection process. The winning poems will be featured in the 2015 issue of Wildnotes.

### Visiting Artist

This year's Visiting Artist was Nora West of New Portland, Maine. She stayed at Daicey Pond from August 9- August 22, and provided the Park visitors and staff with two programs. She showcased her works painted throughout her stay, as well as held an open studio for visitors to try their hand at painting. Her visit was a success for both those who enjoyed her programs and for Nora, who made the most of her stay in the Park.

### Seasonal Staff

#### Wilderness Educators

Ian Lookabaugh was selected as a 6 month Wilderness Educator Intern to work from May 18 - November 1. Ian graduated in May 2014 with a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Maine and experience planning and coordinating student leadership programs, as well as extensive knowledge of Maine's natural history. This season Ian created and facilitated 5 children's programs, and had 68 days on Mountain Patrol! Ian also coordinated this year's Loon Count with the Maine Audubon. Ian is currently working as an Americorps Crew Leader for the Virginia Service and Conservation Corps, doing trail work, invasive species control, prescribed burns, and other projects in Northern Virginia State Parks.



Samuel Taylor was selected as the 3-month Wilderness Educator Intern. Sam graduated from Georgia Southern University with a B.S. in Outdoor Recreation. He has a love for plants, and also graduated with a minor in Biology. Through his course work and employment, Sam gained experience in environmental interpretation, outdoor recreation management, and outdoor leadership. This season Sam created and facilitated 4 children's programs, and had 35 days on Mountain Patrol! Sam is currently working at Blue Ridge Parkway.



Kaiti Davis is a 2013 Wilderness Educator who returned on very short notice to lend us a hand with previously scheduled program obligations and Alpine Steward patrols when we had an unexpected vacancy. She filled in as a Wilderness Educator from July 15 – August 27! Kaiti's willingness and ability to hit the ground running was greatly appreciated. Even with such a brief season, Kaiti created and facilitated 4 exciting children's programs, and had 16 days on Mountain Patrol! Kaiti is currently working at

Shelburne Farms in VT as an Environmental Educator.

### **Togue Pond Visitor Center**

2014 marked the fifth season for Brian Johnston and the third season for Bob Gonya welcoming and guiding visitors entering Baxter State Park. In the 2014 season, the VC tallied 21,099 visitors, including 2650 children. In recent years, the VC has truly come into its own as the go-to place for maps, trail information and learning about how to practice Leave No Trace ethics while in Baxter. Visitors often stop in to thank Brian and Bob for their assistance and give them feedback on the trails they chose. A Nature Board on the wall allows people to leave record of wildlife and bird sightings for others to enjoy. We were surprised to see continued strong sales of commercially produced maps at the VC in 2014, despite the availability of online printable hiking maps for several of the most popular locations.

### **2014 AT Steward and AT News**

John Lemberg, AT Steward for the Park in 2012, joined The Park once again in 2014 for another season of greeting AT hikers as they enter the Park near Abol Bridge. Jonathan noted some trends and offered some solutions in his end-of-season summary, which can be viewed in the Appendix to this section of the report.

Distance hiker statistics are also included in the Appendix. In 2014, the increasing numbers and evidence of some behavior trends prompted Park staff to look carefully at Park resources devoted to administering the Appalachian Trail in Baxter State Park.

Park Director Jensen Bissell, hoping to generate stakeholder discussion, sent a letter outlining Park concerns to ATC Executive Director Ron Tipton and NPS Park Supervisor Wendy Janssen. The letter, included in its entirety in the Appendix to this section of the report, has resulted in healthy discussion in the hiker community at several levels, from past AT hikers and guidebook editors to representatives of the ATC and NPS. The behaviors and impacts described in the letter did not materialize overnight but they are occurring with a frequency that forces us to consider whether we are able to meet our mission and

provide a quality experience for other Park visitors on Katahdin at the same time we host thru hikers.



*Jonathan Lemberg, 2014 AT Steward*

### **Research/Special Permits**

#### **2014 Research Projects in Baxter State Park**

In 2014, a number of research projects took place in the Scientific Forest Management Area, including research on Spruce Grouse, Forest Birds, Biomass Measurement and Beetles Associated With Blowdowns. The agenda for the 2014 spring meeting of the Baxter State Park Research Committee and reports from these studies can be found in the appendices to this section of the annual report.



In May, Dr. Robert Gastaldo of Colby College contacted us with a request for Director's approval to bring students up to the Park to visit a road cut in the SFMA to map and analyze this part of the Trout Brook formation. The report, jointly written by the class, is included in the appendices.

Also in 2014 we learned of a researcher with an interest in populations of Prenanthes Boottii (Boott's Rattlesnake Root). She tried to work with the BSP FLORA effort because Glen Mittelhauser and his volunteers were scheduled surveys of Katahdin and other alpine communities in Baxter in 2014. They were not able to satisfy her requests within their span of work so eventually she requested and obtained approval to visit Katahdin in person to assess our populations. Part of her work entailed taking small hole-punch sized pieces of leaf tissue from plants for DNA analysis. Her progress report can be found in the appendices for this section.

2014 marked the third and final season of fieldwork on the Baxter FLORA by Glen Mittelhauser, Maine Natural History Observatory and a cadre of trained volunteers. While a great deal was accomplished in each of the three seasons, the final season was truly impressive in terms of volunteer hours and effort! Further discussion can be found under the "Volunteers" section of this report.

## Surveys

### 2014 Katahdin Arctic Survey



In late June, during a chance meeting with 2011 Wilderness Educator Erica Kaufmann, she reported observing a possible Katahdin Arctic on a mid-June hike of Katahdin. This coincided well with occasional observations by trail crew members of likely Katahdin Arctic individuals as early mid June. We subsequently made an effort to plan a survey as soon as availability of crew accommodations at Chimney Pond campground and the weather coincided for a good count.

*l to r: Charlene Donahue, MFS, Morgan Taylor, Justin Archambault and Jean Hoekwater, all BSP. Rob Tice photo.*

The annual trailside survey for Katahdin Arctic butterflies began at 11:10 AM on June 29, 2014, under scattered high clouds with light winds up to 5 mph. BSP Interpretive Specialist Morgan Taylor, Park Naturalist Jean Hoekwater and intern Justin Archambault were joined by BSP Ranger Rob Tice and Maine Forest Service Entomologist Charlene Donahue. Within the first ½ mile of the survey route, 9 individuals were seen, setting the pace for the rest of the survey. By the end of the survey, we had counted a conservative 74 individuals with 4 observations of paired flight. This is the highest count for a trailside survey of this species since Baxter State Park initiated annual trailside survey counts in 1994. (check) All specimens we saw were darkly pigmented without the characteristic fading and wear usually associated with more than a few days' exposure to the high winds and driving rain of the alpine zone. Individuals not only looked freshly emerged but flew rapidly in the calm air when flushed.

Needless to say, after repeated annual surveys for this state of Maine endangered species typically yielding very low counts, this was a banner year. Intense rain



*Photo center: Katahdin Arctic butterfly*

events result in butterflies retreating to shelter in the thick vegetation of the alpine zone to wait for the right conditions to dry out and successfully fly again. While it is rare in the alpine zone to have more than a day between rain events in late June/ early July, we were unusually fortunate to have 2.5 days of dry, breezy weather after the most recent rain event of that period immediately prior to our survey. This coupled with moderately warm temperatures and calm wind contributed to optimal conditions for sightings of Katahdin Arctics and hopefully for their successful breeding as well! Survey forms for the Katahdin Arctic butterfly are filed in the office of the Park Naturalist.

### **Maine Audubon Loon Count**

We are thankful to 11 BSP employees, 2 interns and 7 volunteers who participated in the 2014 Maine Audubon Loon survey on Saturday July 19. Wilderness Educator Ian Lookabaugh organized this effort this season and compiled the data gathered for submission to Maine Audubon in support of their effort to monitor loon populations throughout Maine. Seventeen bodies of water in Baxter State Park, from Matagamom Lake on the north to Upper and Lower Togue Pond on the south, were covered, yielding observations of 35 loons and 6 chicks in the morning survey period. A list of survey participants and information on waters surveyed can be found in the appendix of this section of the Operational Report.



*Kidney Pond, Henry Cunningham photo*

### **Moose Pond Patrols**

Wilderness Educators did Moose patrols at both Sandy Stream and Stump Ponds on a total of 25 days in 2014. Patrols begin while the Wilderness Educators are still in training in early June and run through the peak photography period to late October. The greatest benefit of these visitor contact efforts at popular moose watching sites in the Park is to provide a visible Park presence, which serves to remind visitors to respect the wildlife and each other and also gives them a chance to ask questions if they want to know more about wildlife or have questions about the Park in general.

More information about Moose Pond Patrols can be found in the appendix of this section of the Operational Report.

### **Alpine Steward Patrols/ Mountain Patrols**

Once training is completed in late June, our Wilderness Educators are assigned alternate weeks patrolling Katahdin trails, using Chimney Pond Crew Camp as their base. These workdays begin with greeting hikers as they arrive at the Chimney Pond ranger camp. Trail, safety and environmental information are shared freely with visitors as they walk by the ranger station on their way to getting a view down by the ponds' edge or sign out on the hiker sheet on the porch. The morning talk given by interns on Alpine

Steward duty allows the Chimney Pond ranger to focus on incoming radio messages and reservation issues while hikers continue to be greeted and have a chance to have their questions answered.

From July-mid October 2014, Wilderness Educators conducted patrols above treeline on Katahdin. While on Alpine Steward duty, our Wilderness Educators provide visitor contact and record observations on visitor numbers in the alpine zone. In addition to answering visitor questions, Wilderness Educators record notes at 5 plant stations and observations on the numbers of hikers visible from various points above treeline during their patrol. Our division has been documenting visitor numbers on Katahdin via these foot patrols since 1993. A record of this work can be seen in the Appendix of the I & E section of each Annual or Operational Report.

In 2014 Wilderness Educators recorded numbers of hikers visible at Baxter Peak 43 times during their patrols. The average number of people congregated around the peak at any time, over all the 2014 counts, was 32 individuals, with the 2014 maximum of 80 people at the peak recorded during a count on July 30, 2014.

We also ask Wilderness Educators to keep a daily total of people encountered as they hike from Chimney Pond to the summit area and back to Chimney, in order to understand the numbers of hikers a visitor might expect to encounter during their dayhike. In 2014 the most people our patroller passed or encountered while hiking throughout the entire day was 200 people on October 11 (Columbus Day). Over the entire 2014 season, the average number of encounters during a given patrol day was about 60 people.

Mountain patrol figures for the last 10 years can



*Morgan Taylor with Purple Loosestrife prior to removal*

of purple loosestrife below the dam. Each year, we check the area around and below the dam at Nesowadnehunk Lake several times in the summer in an effort to keep purple loosestrife away from Nesowadnehunk Stream. Because this population was such a vigorous patch and we had never noticed it before, it is possible that someone had been diligently cutting flowerheads off each year but for some reason did not get there this season. It was directly across from the developed area of Nesowadnehunk



be found in the Appendix to this section of the Operational Report. Records from years previous to 2003 are available from the I & E division at Park HQ.

### **Purple Loosestrife Patrols**

In 2014, Morgan Taylor and Jean Hoekwater removed an extensive and well established population of purple loosestrife from the shore of Nesowadnehunk Lake

near the dam. While the population was not on Park land, the plants are likely seed sources for occurrences

Lake Wilderness Campground with high use from boats using all the docks there. The root balls of these established plants were so large and heavy that even one plant was sometimes too large for the largest contractor grade garbage bags we brought with us to the site. With much more root mass and digging than we hoped, we ran out of time during our initial visit on August 6 and elected to cut the flowerheads from all remaining plants, leaving orange flagging tape on all stems still needing removal. On September 15, we returned to remove the remaining stems and root balls to the best of our ability. This site likely has remnant roots remaining which is one of the ways loosestrife regenerates on removal sites. Regular surveys will pay special attention to this area in upcoming years. Wilderness Educators undertook additional surveys for Purple Loosestrife each time they were on the north end for programs at South Branch Pond Campground on July 26, July 31 and August 2.

### **Partial List Field Patrols**

1/27	Winter patrol with 54, filming boundary work
1/31	High Bridge for measurements, Chimney, filming w/ 53,62 and 68
2/4	Lynx survey in the SFMA with BSP 60 and BSP 54
2/11	Chimney Pond winter patrol
5/12	Woodcock Survey
5/14	Abol Kiosk/Appalachian Trail
5/21	Horse Mountain with interns
5/24	Accompany The Summit Project on Owl
6/11	First training hike for Wilderness Educators on Katahdin
6/14-15	Chimney Pond for Pipit Surveys (survey rained out)
6/21	Hike OJI/Coe Link/Marston loop with interns
6/28	Set out loon buoys at Kidney Pond w/ Diane Freelove, KPC
6/28-30	Chimney Pond for Katahdin Arctic butterfly w/ Charlene Donahue, MFS Entomologist
7/11	Blueberry Ledges field patrol
7/ 23	Documenting Kidney Pond bridge removal
7/19	Annual Loon Count
8/4-8/5	Matagamon rental site patrol
8/5	Matagamon fisheries with IFW
8/6	Loosestrife removal, Nesowadnehunk
8/13	SFMA- F.E.M. Trail tour with SFMA Resource Manager Rick Morrill
9/15	Loosestrife removal wrap up, removal of flagged stems, Nesowadnehunk
8/20	Hiked flagged lower portion of North Brother re-route prior to MCC work
8/23	Bristly Locust removal @ Mountain View w/ BSP volunteers and staff
9/5	Loon buoys removed from Kidney Pond w/ Diane Freelove, KPC
9/18-20	Katahdin hike to view signs, cairns, LZ candidate sites
9/27	Wadleigh Mt Road with Colby College Geology class
10/11	Big Niagara
11/13	Pulling seasonal signs at Stump Pond

### **Training Received/ Conferences Attended**

#### **Trainings Offered**

1/8	GIS and database training
1/15	GIS and database training
2/20	Lynx survey training with IFW – Grindstone area
3/20	GIS and database training
4/8	Mtn. Lion Seminar- Susan Morse- Unity College

4/19 Communication Skills For Women Workshop- Bangor  
 5/19 Harassment Awareness Training  
 6/2 Wilderness First Aid Refresher Module  
 6/3 Safety Day 1  
 6/4 Safety Day 2  
 9/10 Trails End Festival Meeting  
 10/8 UMaine Speaker series – Bill Krohn  
 10/24-26 Better Together Summit, NEEA@ Pineland Farms

**Meetings**

1/10 NEPCOP annual meeting, Augusta  
 2/16 TSP meet and greet – Park HQ  
 3/7 LNT Steering Committee –Augusta  
 3/21 Maine Woods Forever Roundtable  
 3/18 Spring Meeting of Baxter State Park Research Committee, Augusta  
 3/24 Phone meeting with ATC, MATC and BSP 50,51  
 4/1 LNT Steering Committee - Augusta  
 4/18 Facebook Launch- Peter Bissell -Portland  
 4/24 LNT Steering Committee – Augusta  
 5/2 Bicycle Road inspection of Park Tote Road with 50, 53,59 and 87  
 5/15 Meeting with IF & W Fisheries on fish issues  
 5/19 The Summit Project Meeting @ HQ  
 5/23 TSP Hiker Brief at NEOC  
 5/23 BSP Authority Meeting  
 6/25 Meeting with Roaring Brook Campground Ranger- alpine orientation  
 7/19 AT meeting for AT Steward, Katahdin Stream  
 8/7 Meeting on signs from Fisheries- HQ  
 8/9 Meeting with Visiting Artist- Daicey  
 8/12 Meeting with 50 and MFS chopper pilot John Crowley  
 9/2 Maine Woods Forever  
 9/10 BSP 101 for BSP 55  
 10/7 LNT meeting, Augusta  
 10/9 BSP Flora meeting with Glenn  
 10/10 BSP Authority Meeting @ Kidney Pond  
 10/14 BSP Flora meeting  
 10/17 All Staff meeting and banquet  
 11/1 Conference Call Climate Change workshop prep. w/Eben Sypitkowski  
 11/8 Facebook Best Practices HQ  
 11/19 Webinar for Climate Change workshop  
 11/20 Intervale Chop ‘n Drop demonstration site w/Merry Gallagher, IFW, BSP 87,50,55  
 11/24 Meeting at with BSP Friends on Calendar Photos, Belfast  
 12/8-10 Climate Change workshop in Brunswick with BSP 51 and 55  
 12/12 Planning meeting for 2015 Alpine Gathering, Bangor



*Rime Ice in September on Katahdin, Sam Taylor photo*

**E.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
SERVICES**

## 2014 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STAFF

- Office Specialist I, S. Jean Howes
- Accounting Associate I, Joni Lowell
- Inventory and Property Associate I, Constance Theriault
- Office Associate II Supervisory, Nancy Guay
- Office Assistant II, Jeannie Tibbetts – 40 weeks- retired Oct 2014
- Office Assistant II, Mary Beth Varney – 26 weeks – transferred to 40 week position after Jeannie Tibbetts retired
- Office Assistant II, Monica Raulf – 12 weeks
- Office Assistant II, Lulu Legassey – 26 weeks to replace Mary Beth Varney's position

### **RESERVATIONS:**

Starting in 2014 it was decided that opening day would occur on January 14 every year, so the rolling reservations system that starts January 15 would not be effected. On January 14, 2014 there was a total of seventy-three reservations made. Revenue for opening day was a total of \$26,337.10.

A decision was made for 2014 summer camping season that BSP would have trial extended camping season to Oct 25, 2014. The sites that were extended were:

Abol #18, #24, #9

Katahdin Stream #9, #10, #11, #12, #16, #17

Daicey Pond #4, #5, #7, #10

Kidney Pond #5, #6, #7, #8, #10

This extension will be a trial bases for summer seasons 2014, 2015, and 2016 before a decision will be made as to if this is something the Park would continue.

In 2014 we added an online store to our website where visitors can order any of the merchandise that is available at Park Headquarters.

The revenue for online camping was \$255,776. Revenue for DUPRs was \$25,955 which is 5191 DUPRs, and revenue for entrance fee with the DUPR was \$41,888.



<b>RESERVATION OFFICE STATS 2014 SEASON</b>																	
	Site nights	Total Campers	Adults	Junior	Child	Counter Res	Mail Res	Radio Res	Phone Res	Winter Res	Internet Res	Phone Calls	Office Visitors	Mail Received	Info packets	Video Shown	DUPR Res
January	341	595	595	0	0	74	50	0	20	38	11	483	93	54	14	1	0
February	882	1368	1368	0	0	4	75	1	120	29	89	589	81	81	17	0	0
March	847	1255	1255	0	0	18	105	3	328	17	289	716	53	107	5	0	0
April	0	0	0	0	0	22	172	0	518	0	434	1537	46	189	6	0	25
May	1006	2958	2927	14	17	17	92	19	561	0	585	1548	150	101	16	9	10
June	3883	11177	10831	275	71	39	37	77	644	0	560	2184	532	19	6	16	27
July	6831	21911	19836	1991	84	31	14	94	692	0	502	2733	763	8	3	18	86
August	7953	25446	23794	1505	147	33	26	118	611	0	402	2887	831	4	3	19	116
September	5178	14012	13916	73	23	28	11	125	489	0	265	2105	776	13	2	12	45
October	2299	5882	5858	16	8	15	2	57	107	0	66	1018	408	17	1	13	20
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	0	271	89	81	1	0	0
December	155	209	204	0	5	5	41	0	0	46	0	211	48	46	2	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29375</b>	<b>84813</b>	<b>80584</b>	<b>3874</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>4090</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>3203</b>	<b>16282</b>	<b>3870</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>329</b>
<b>Online Orders filled: 123 customer orders filled May-Dec</b>																	
Extended camping season: 11 parties denied camping and 1 school group.																	

<b>CONTRACTED SERVICES</b>
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Rubbish Removal – Plourde Trucking, Millinocket; Pine Tree, Houlton

Janitorial Services – Denise Bragdon, Millinocket

Firewood and Firewood Bundling – Mike Sabine, Clint Morrow

SFMA Forest Operations/Road Construction – Pelletier Brothers, Millinocket

Trail Work – BSP Interns, Maine Conservation Corp.

Information/Education – BSP Interns

Septic Tank Pumping – Lincoln Rental, Lincoln

Fuel – Dead River, Preble Oil, Agri-Cal, Houlton

Lawn Maintenance – Mainely Landscaping and Lawns, Millinocket

Computers – CMTI/Bruce Grant, Dover-Foxcroft,

Cellular Service – US Cellular, Verizon

Copier Service – Ikon Office Solutions, Budget Documents Technology

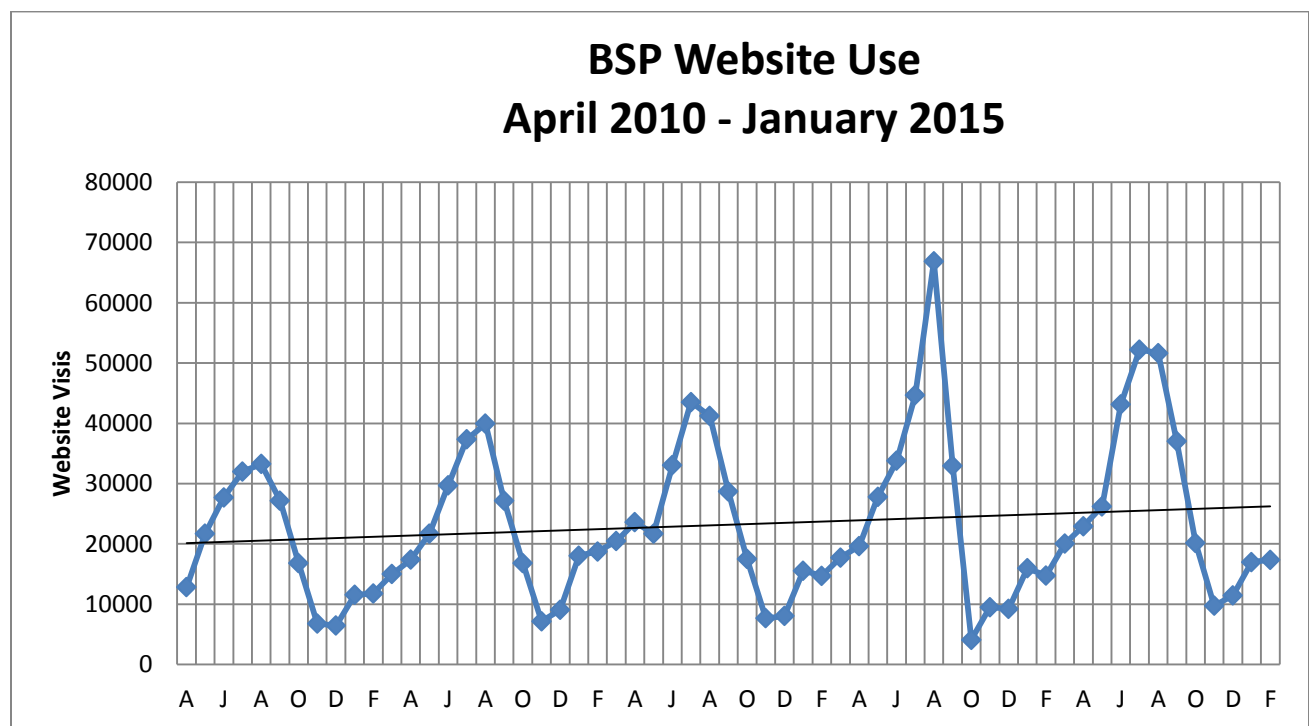
Programming Services – Dirigo Spatial Systems, Inc., Hampden

Satellite Internet Dish Access – Hughesnet.com

Website Maintenance- Cadillac Web Development

### BAXTER STATE PARK WEBSITE USE

View of the use of the Baxter State Park website since it was started.



### FACEBOOK INSTALLATION

In 2014 Baxter Park created a Facebook page to increase our connection with our visitors through social media. Baxter has gotten a positive response since the launch of the Facebook page. We will be using the Facebook page for trail updates, employment notices, project notices, general information, and any changes or updates that will affect the visitors.

## POSITION CHANGES

### NEW EMPLOYEES:

Julianna Hansen - CR, Roaring Brook  
Jonathan Hayes – Acting-Capacity CR, Katahdin Stream  
Scott Smith – Acting-Capacity/CR, Katahdin Stream  
Robert Ring – BCR1, Roving Ranger  
David White – Gatehouse Attendant, Togue Pond  
James Barden – Gatehouse Attendant, Togue Pond  
Lulu LeGasse – Office Assistant II, Headquarters  
Edward Pontbriand – Acting-Capacity/CR, Katahdin Stream  
Jonathan Martin – Trail Crew Leader  
Eben Syptikowski – Resource Manager, SFMA  
John Powers – Acting-Capacity CR, Nesowadnehunk  
Bill Martell – A/C BCR1 – Chimney Pond (Winter Season)

### RESIGNATIONS:

April Bolstridge – CA, Roaring Brook  
Paul Corrigan, Jr. – CA, Abol  
Cathy Lusk – BCR1, Chimney Pond  
Mark Sairio – BCR1, Chimney Pond (Summer & Winter)  
Jonathan Hayes – A/C CR, Katahdin Stream  
Rick Morrill – Resource Manager, SFMA  
Isaac Needell – Baxter Park Enforcement Ranger  
Rick Leavitt – GA, Togue Pond Gate

### TRANSFERS/PROMOTIONS/ACTING-CAPACITY/TEMP. COMP.:

Jennifer Sinsabaugh - Park Ranger, Dept. of Conservation to CR, Roaring Brook  
Joni Lowell - Office Associate Supervisor - Reservations to Accounting Associate  
Nancy Guay - Office Assistant II, Reservations to Office Associate Supervisor - Reservations  
Bill Martell – BCR1, Roving to BCR1 - Chimney Pond  
Gardner Waldeier – BCR1, Roving to BCR1 - Chimney Pond  
Russ Porter – CR- Roaring Brook to BCR1- Roving Ranger  
Ruth Levesque – Gatehouse Attendant, Togue Pond to 23-week position  
Scott Smith – Acting/Capacity CR, Katahdin Stream to CR-Abol

### RETIRED:

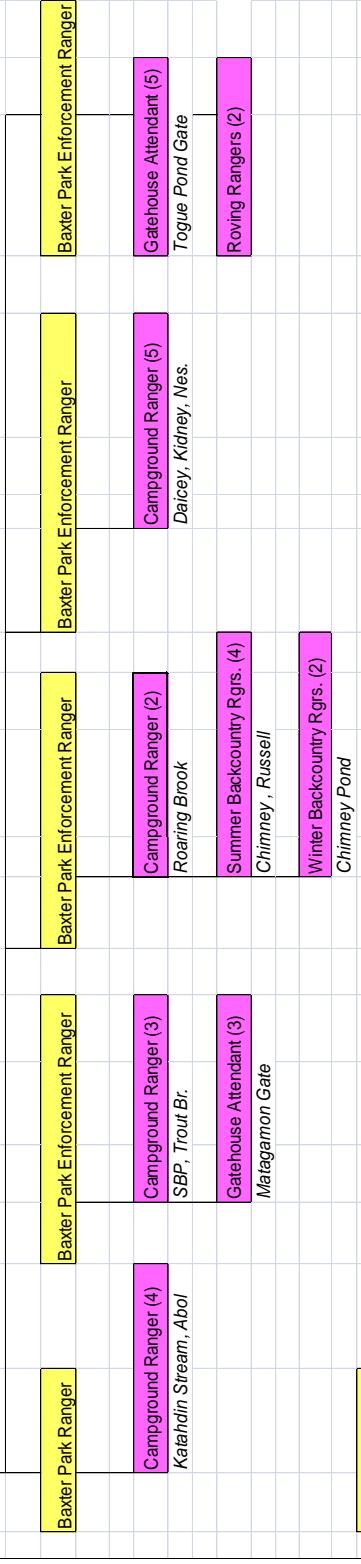
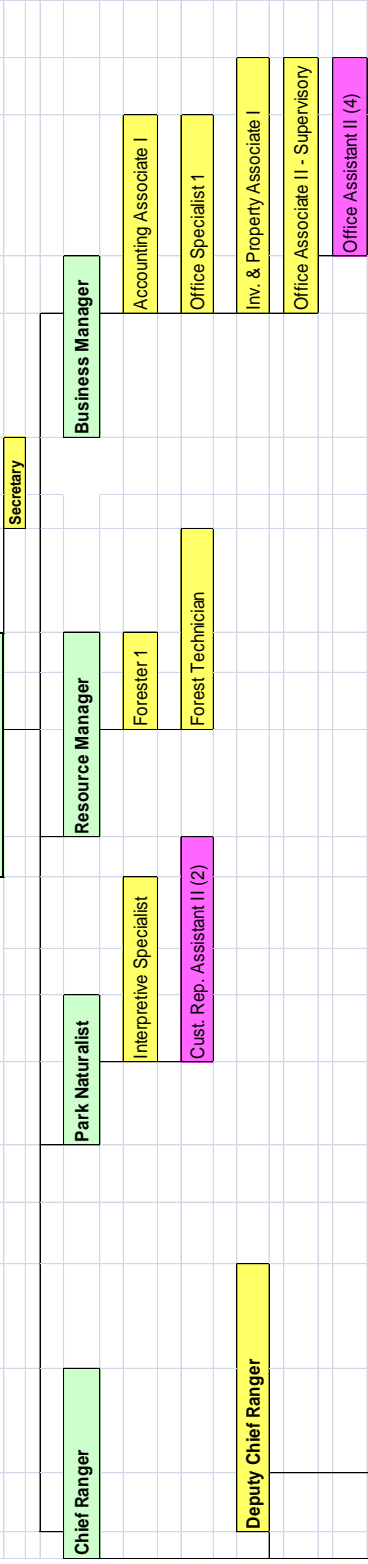
Mary Ellen Bell  
Jean Tibbetts

<b>YEAR-ROUND POSITIONS</b>
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<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
BSP Director	D. Jensen Bissell	Headquarters, MIkt.
BSP Chief Ranger	C. Ben Woodard	Headquarters, MIkt.
Resource Manager	Eben Sypitkowski	SFMA
Forester I	Deidra Brace	SFMA
Park Naturalist	Jean Hoekwater	Headquarters, MIkt.
Business Manager	Christine Theriault	Headquarters, MIkt.
Deputy Chief Ranger	Stewart Guay	Headquarters, MIkt.
BSP Enforcement Ranger	Michael Winslow	Field
BSP Enforcement Ranger	Isaac Needell	Field
BSP Enforcement Ranger	Michael Martin	Field
BSP Enforcement Ranger	Robert Tice	Field
BSP Supervisor Ranger	Bruce White	Field
Secretary	Ada Angotti	Headquarters, MIkt.
Accounting Associate I	Joni Lowell	Headquarters, MIkt.
Office Specialist I	S. Jean Howes	Headquarters, MIkt.
Inventory & Property Asso. I	Constance Theriault	Headquarters, MIkt.
Office Associate II, Supervisor	Nancy Guay	Headquarters, MIkt.
Maintenance Supervisor	Rodney Angotti	Headquarters, MIkt.
Auto Mechanic II	Frank George	Headquarters, MIkt.
Carpenter	Craig Kennedy	Headquarters, MIkt.
Trail Crew Supervisor	Paul Sannicandro	Headquarters, MIkt.
Interpretive Specialist	Morgan Taylor	Headquarters, MIkt.

**BAXTER STATE PARK AUTHORITY**  
 Attorney General  
 Commissioner, Inland Fisheries & Wildlife  
 Director, Maine Forest Service

**PARK DIRECTOR**



**Trail Supervisor**

Trail Crew Leader (2)

**Maintenance Supervisor**

Auto Mechanic

Carpenter

Maintenance Mechanic

## 2014 BAXTER STATE PARK RESERVATION PROCEDURES

### How do I make Reservations?

#### 1. Read completely:

- ◆ This information sheet
- ◆ BSP Rules & Regulations
- ◆ The BSP Road Map handout or general information from Park website.

#### 2. Completely fill out reservation forms (available from the Park or its website). Include as many options as possible.

#### 3. Enclose appropriate payment.

#### 4. Enclose self-addressed, stamped, #10 business sized envelope (if reserving by mail).

#### 5. At the appropriate time: Mail, bring in person, book online, or phone to Baxter State Park Headquarters.

### When can I make a reservation at Baxter State Park?

**1. Coming in person to BSP HQ on Tuesday, January 15, 2013.** Reservations will be limited to 20% of sites per campground, per day. Only two (2) reservations per person will be allowed. If large numbers of campers intend to make reservations on this day the campground limits are expected to be quickly reached; forcing campers to try again for reservations during the rest of the season. Campers are encouraged to be flexible in their dates and site choices and plan on using the rolling reservation system for the majority of their camping trips.

**2. Using the Rolling Reservation System, mailing, walking in and phone reservations can be made at BSP HQ four (4) months or less prior to the start of your desired camping trip. Online reservations can be make (4) months from your camping end date.(sites excluded from online reservations include: Chimney Pond, Russell Pond, Davis Pond, bunk spaces, group sites and accessible sites).** All sites (at least 80% of all camping nights, plus any sites not reserved on January 15th) will now be available for rental, four months prior to camping. Mail in reservations will be given a seven (7) day “buffer”. Mail and walk-in customers will be processed at the same time. Mail will be randomly processed (not in the order it was received) except that all Maine resident reservation requests made by mail will be processed before non-resident mail requests on a daily basis. There is a limit of two (2)

#### Baxter State Park Headquarters:

Baxter State Park  
Reservations  
64 Balsam Drive  
Millinocket, ME 04462

Telephone: 207-733-5140

reservations per day for each person making walk-in or mail-in reservations. **NOTE:** People who arrive earlier than four months ahead of their camping date will not be processed and will be asked to return or mail-in when the dates finally do “roll” open. Mail that is received more than four months and seven days ahead of camping dates will not be processed and will be returned to sender.

### **What else do I need to know?**

#### **Summer Campground Opening & Closing Dates (Inclusive):**

Roaring Brook: May 15th - Oct. 15th

Chimney Pond: June 1st - Oct. 15th

Katahdin Stream: May 15th - Oct. 15th

Abol: May 15th - Oct. 15th

Daicey Pond: May 15th - Oct. 15th

South Branch Pond: May 15th - Oct. 15th

Russell Pond: May 15 - Oct. 15th

Kidney Pond May 15th - Oct. 15th

Trout Brook Farm \*Opens the Friday before Memorial Day - Oct. 15th

Nesowadnehunk \*Variable: Opens no later than June 15th – Closes as early as Sept. 15th

\*Please call Park Headquarters for current opening/closing dates for these campgrounds. The Director or such other person designated by the Authority may adjust campground seasons before July 4th and after Labor Day should use, weather or other conditions warrant. Under these circumstances, reservations will be made on a daily basis only.

**Arrival and Departure**      Check-In Time after 1:00 p.m.

Check-Out Time by 11:00 a.m.

All campers must be through the gate by 8:30 p.m. on the first night of camping. If you miss the first day of your reservation please call, as reservations are released on the second day at 4:00 p.m. for no show reservations.

### **Fees:**

**Summer fees** (children age 6 or under are free, but count towards site capacity):

Cabins: 2-person cabin = \$55.00; 3-person cabin = \$75.00; 4 person cabin = \$100.00; 6 person cabin = \$130.00. Gas lights and firewood are included in cabin fee.

Tent sites: \$30.00 per site per night

Lean-tos: \$30.00 per site per night.

Bunkhouse \*\*: \$11.00 per person per night

Group Areas (Bear Brook, Foster Field, Nesowadnehunk Field and Trout Brook Farm Field): 6 person minimum charge (\$42.00), otherwise \$7.00 per person per night.

**Winter Fees** (Special policies are in effect for winter, please request winter information from Park Headquarters or visit the Park's website before making winter reservations):

Bunkhouse\*\* : \$19.00 per person per night, except at Chimney Pond bunkhouse (\$38.00 per person per night).

Lean-to or Tent site: \$15.00 per night.

Cabins: . 2-person cabin = \$55.00; 3-person cabin = \$75.00; 4 person cabin = \$100.00; 6 person cabin = \$130.00. Gas lights and firewood are included in cabin fee.

\*\*Reservations for individual bunk only. Facility is shared with other individuals or groups up to the capacity of the bunkhouse.

**Non-Resident Motor Vehicle Fee** (Payable only at gate.) A day pass or season pass is required for all vehicles entering Baxter State Park. Non-resident motor vehicles shall pay a motor vehicle fee of \$14.00 per motor vehicle for each day in the Park. If a motor vehicle enters the park in connection with overnight reservations covering one or more consecutive nights in the park, then re-entry to the park shall be permitted upon payment of a single motor vehicle fee during the period covered by the overnight reservations, and no longer. Motor vehicles shall not be permitted to enter the Park under any other circumstances, including day use, through traffic or reservations for non-successive nights in the park, without payment of the motor vehicle fee for each day. This regulation does not apply to motor vehicles bearing a Maine registration and license plate. A season pass under this regulation shall be available at a charge of \$39.00 per non-resident vehicle.

The proper fee must accompany all reservation requests. All fees include sales tax where applicable and must be paid in U.S. funds. For summer reservations, Park Headquarters accepts Visa, MasterCard, money order or check made payable to Baxter State Park. **Campgrounds and gates inside the Park do not accept credit cards (no electricity), please be prepared to pay with cash or check when arriving at the Park.** Fees are payable by all persons year round, except government employees on official business within the Park. **Refunds will not be available ordinarily.** The Director may (at his sole discretion), permit refunds or may impose a special requirement before granting refunds. Portion of paid fee retained in the event of a refund will be \$10.00. **A fee of \$15.00 will be collected for site transfers.**

**Office Hours:** The Reservations Office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, but closed on weekends and holidays. During our peak season from Memorial Day through the Saturday of Columbus Day week-end, the Reservation Office is open



from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week, including Holidays. No reservations will be made when our office is closed, but shall be accepted on the next business day.

### **Reservation Limits and Other Policies:**

A reservation is an arrangement by which accommodations are secured for one or more consecutive nights of lodging in Baxter State Park. Reservations shall be accepted for up to seven (7) total nights for any one (1) site and any one (1) campground, and up to two weeks (14 nights) total duration.

When considering capacity of all facilities, each child is counted as one individual regardless of age. Site capacity is restricted. Before adding people to your party, consult with Park Reservation Clerks to be sure your site will hold additional people.

Reservations for two or more nights will be held only until 4:00 PM of the day following the first evening for which reservations were made.

**Groups** of thirteen (13) or more in a family or non-family situation shall be assigned to one of the group areas.

**Each organized camp group** of five (5) or more individuals will be limited to one (1) visit to Chimney Pond Campground during the period from July through August. Park Campground maps showing campsites and information on outlying sites are available by contacting the Park directly or visiting our website: **[www.baxterstateparkauthority.com](http://www.baxterstateparkauthority.com)**

If you have questions, please call our Reservations Office at (207) 723-5140.

# F. FINANCIAL REPORT

BAXTER STATE PARK  
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

**REVENUE – 014 Account**

Park Operations	
Recreations Fees	<u>\$984,391*</u>
Transfer Fees	<u>\$5,930</u>
Entrance Fees	<u>\$188,173</u>
Miscellaneous Services	<u>\$48,703</u>
Sales of Maps, Books, etc.	<u>\$37,120</u>
Sale of Forest Products	<u>\$ 174,551</u>
Foreign Exchange Differential	<u>\$(102)</u>
Duplicate/Overpayment Fees	<u>(\$5185)</u>
<b>NET REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b><u>\$1,433,581</u></b>

**TRUST FUNDS**

Boston Trust	<u>\$ 1,845,000</u>
State Held Trust	<u>\$122,565</u>
Cash Pool Distribution (interest)	<u>\$3,380</u>
Independent Trust	<u>\$133,000</u>
<b>NET REVENUE FROM TRUSTS</b>	<b><u>\$2,103,945</u></b>

**MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE**

Special Licenses and Leases	<u>\$ (64)</u>
Sale of Equipment	<u>\$ 4,500</u>
Rent of Lands	<u>\$2,501</u>
Miscellaneous Income	<u>\$ 4,091</u>
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE</b>	<b><u>\$11,028</u></b>

**BALANCE FORWARD USED AS REVENUE** **\$254,715**

**TOTAL REVENUE AVAILABLE** **\$3,803,269**

**EXPENDITURES**

**PERSONNEL SERVICES**

Salaries, permanent	<u>\$856,962</u>
Salaries, seasonal	<u>\$488,157</u>
Overtime/Differential/Retro	<u>\$100,749</u>
Retirement Contributions	<u>\$485,947</u>
Other Benefits	<u>\$418,111</u>
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>	<b><u>\$2,349,926</u></b>

**ALL OTHER**

Contractual Services	<u>\$341,339</u>
Park Operations – All Groups	<u>\$560,181</u>
Sta-Cap Charges	<u>\$55,937</u>
<b>TOTAL ALL OTHER</b>	<b><u>\$961,010</u></b>

**CAPITAL**

Buildings	<u>\$171,857</u>
Equipment	<u>\$82,858</u>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>	<b><u>\$254,715</u></b>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** **\$3,565,651**

\*The reason for increase from FY13 is that revenue from FY13 was held over and deposited in FY14.



## **Executive Summary: FY14 Annual Work Program**

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Positive results in the market for the past few quarters enabled the Trust to increase nearly to its highest level since 2009. Continued effort for fiscally responsible spending and a conscious effort to work efficiently reduced the difficulties of the budgeting process for FY14.

### **Revenue Notes:**

- FY14 will mark the third consecutive year projected revenue from the Baxter Trust has decreased.
- An expended accessibility for on-line reservations and the ideal weather for camping benefited the Park in an increase of revenue in Recreational Use of the Park.
- The Park will be utilizing the Balance Forward to provide the funds for some major capital projects to lessen the burden on the Trust.
- SFMA continues to provide 6% of the total available revenue for the Park.

### **Expenditure Notes:**

- Due to the Merit increase freeze Personal Services projection for FY14 results in a minor increase.
- To continue the efforts for energy efficiency Baxter Park Headquarters is scheduled for a capital project to replace windows and siding for FY14.
- Baxter Park will be providing an additional \$37,000 of funding to allow nine weeks of MCC crews to help the efforts of trail maintenance and relocation projects.
- Even though Worker Comp cost are still at a high rate for FY14 a strong effort from supervisors and staff on safety have us reestablishing a low injury level which will result in reduced Workers Comps cost in the upcoming fiscal years.

**BAXTER STATE PARK - REVENUE & EXPENSE PROJECTION/BUDGET SUMMARY**

		ACTUAL FY2011	ANNUAL FY2012	% OF FY12	ACTUAL FY2012	ANNUAL FY2013	% OF FY13	ANNUAL FY2014
LINE	CODE							
USE & LEASES	1448	201	200	0%	481	200	0%	400
BANK BALANCES	2101	0	2,000	0%		0	0%	0
INVESTMENT/Cash pool	2105	1,822	1,500	0%	3,857	1,500	0%	1,500
AS	2601	-	2,500	0%	2,500	2,500	0%	2,500
PL USE OF PARK	2610	787,593	755,000	23%	846,901	770,000	24%	827,065
ES	2616	8,312	7,000	0%	5,751	7,000	0%	6,000
	2618	152,646	122,000	4%	164,526	140,000	4%	155,000
PLICATA FEES	2620	(4,975)	(3,000)	0%	(11,286)	(3,000)	0%	(5,000)
S & FEES	2637	41,569	37,000	1%	47,958	37,000	1%	37,000
Y & BOOKS	2657	38,866	28,000	1%	37,628	35,000	1%	26,000
ORT FOREIGN EXCHANGE	2689	(907)	150	0%	(94)	150	0%	(100)
FROM ENTERPRISE FUND(SFMA)	2722	304,934	180,000	5%	223,400	200,000	6%	200,000
FROM BAXTER TRUSTS	2724	1,955,000	2,095,000	63%	2,195,000	1,870,000	59%	1,845,000
FROM STATE HELD TRUSTS	2724A	110,393	100,000	3%	87,884	100,000	3%	100,000
PIPMENT	2806	-	3,000	0%		0	0%	0
IS	2821	-	2,000	0%		0	0%	0
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>3,395,454</b>	<b>3,332,350</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,604,506</b>	<b>3,160,350</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,195,365</b>
<b>BUDGET FORWARD</b>		<b>2,211,327</b>	<b>185,982</b>		<b>285,405</b>	<b>198,433</b>		<b>401,100</b>
<b>Unaudited) REVENUE</b>								
IONS (<\$1000)	2686A	15,322	2,500		10,745	5,000		5,000
IONS (>\$1000)	2686B	124,000	85,000		115,000	124,000		130,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>139,322</b>	<b>87,500</b>		<b>125,745</b>	<b>129,000</b>		<b>135,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,534,776</b>	<b>3,605,832</b>		<b>3,730,251</b>	<b>3,487,783</b>		<b>3,731,465</b>
<b>EXPENSE BY GROUP</b>								
ERVICES		2,259,964	2,400,035		2,215,852	2,284,168	65%	2,355,289
		844,530	1,025,797		926,915	1,027,615	29%	1,080,176
		38,975	180,000		127,790	176,000	5%	296,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>3,143,469</b>	<b>3,605,832</b>		<b>3,270,557</b>	<b>3,487,783</b>		<b>3,731,465</b>

## **BUDGET FOR THE PARK**

	<b>ACTUAL BUDGET FY11</b>	<b>ACTUAL BUDGET FY12</b>	<b>ANNUAL BUDGET FY13</b>	<b>ANNUAL BUDGET FY14</b>
<b>3000 PERSONAL SERVICES</b>				
3110 Permanent Regular	<b>740,669</b>	<b>718,128</b>	<b>933,684</b>	<b>867,811</b>
3120 Permanent Parttime Full Benefits				<b>17,670</b>
3180 Permanent Vacation Pay	<b>44,671</b>	<b>62,987</b>		
3181 Permanent Holiday Pay	<b>46,375</b>	<b>45,088</b>		
3182 Permanent Sick Pay	<b>31,301</b>	<b>26,501</b>		
3185 Permanent Vacation Pay Retirement		<b>3,293</b>		
3195 Attrition	<b>0</b>		<b>-76,565</b>	<b>-88,172</b>
3210 Limited Period Regular				
3280 Limited Period Vacation				
3281 Limited Period Holiday				
3282 Limited Period Sick Pay				
3310 Seasonal Regular Pay	<b>404,182</b>	<b>426,606</b>	<b>530,082</b>	<b>510,123</b>
3380 Seasonal Vacation Pay	<b>27,372</b>	<b>29,512</b>		
3381 Seasonal Holiday Pay	<b>23,660</b>	<b>23,990</b>		
3382 Seasonal Sick Pay	<b>8,520</b>	<b>16,784</b>		
3410 Project Position Pay	<b>16,146</b>		<b>5,990</b>	
3450 Regular Acting Capacity Pay	<b>16,601</b>	<b>581</b>		
3480 Project Position Vacation Pay	<b>163</b>			
3481 Project Position Holiday Pay	<b>1,507</b>			
3482 Project Position Sick Pay				
3611 Standard Overtime	<b>4,846</b>	<b>3,853</b>		
3612 Permanent Overtime	<b>4,950</b>	<b>8,472</b>		
3616 Retro Lump Sum Payment	<b>2,429</b>			
3618 Retro Payment for Contract				
3620 Retirement Incentive		<b>5,000</b>		
3621 Recruitment/Retention Stipend	<b>6,393</b>	<b>6,186</b>	<b>6,657</b>	<b>4,592</b>
3623 I.T. Training Stipend	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>		
3631 Longevity Pay	<b>5,739</b>	<b>6,078</b>	<b>7,876</b>	<b>7,935</b>
3634 Call Out Pay	<b>58</b>	<b>68</b>		
3636 Court Pay	<b>69</b>			
3638 Shift Differential Pay	<b>745</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>4,338</b>
3641 Non Standard Differential Pay	<b>36,537</b>	<b>36,346</b>	<b>43,022</b>	<b>57,112</b>
3648 Comp U/P No Retirement	<b>2,656</b>	<b>13,174</b>		
3810 Unemployment Compensation Costs	<b>29,058</b>	<b>46,286</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>46,000</b>
3899 Accrued Payroll				
3901 Health Insurance	<b>358,846</b>	<b>342,308</b>	<b>389,866</b>	<b>382,581</b>
3905 Dental Insurance	<b>12,131</b>	<b>11,992</b>	<b>13,939</b>	<b>13,566</b>

	ACTUAL BUDGET FY11	ACTUAL BUDGET FY12	ANNUAL BUDGET FY13	ANNUAL BUDGET FY14
3908 Employee Retiree Health	130,698	115,357	118,855	212,736
3909 Employee Retirement Administration				
3910 Employer Retirement Costs	112,989	77,453	81,445	76,305
3911 Employer Group Life Costs	6,611	6,520	7,023	7,464
3912 Employer Medicare Costs	18,623	18,862	19,563	19,261
3959 Retire Unfunded Liability-BSP Ranger	48,422	47,864	51,116	65,809
3960 Retire Unfunded Liability - Regular	114,947	113,533	116,001	148,558
3971 Uniform Stipend	1,800	2,167	1,600	1,600
3973 Child Care				
	2,259,964	2,215,852	2,284,168	2,355,289
<b>All Other</b>				
<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>				
4003 Act/Audit Service	-1,528			
4015 Labor	87,092	122,295	108,325	157,425
4016 Art /Graphics	21		200	200
4041 Laundry Services	0		100	100
4042 Legal Services	0	225	200	100
4046 Medical Services	556	2,119	500	2,000
4099 Professional Services	184,744	208,487	243,700	238,200
<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES STATE</b>				
4106 Lab Services	122	22	400	500
<b>TRAVEL IN STATE</b>				
4270 In-State Mileage	1,151	1,386	1,500	2,000
4271 Other Transportation	0	0	100	200
4273 Lodging	636	527	1,000	2,000
4274 Meals/Gratuities	5,502	3,493	6,000	4,000
<b>TRAVEL OUT OF STATE</b>				
4380 Out of State Mileage	0		0	
4381 Other Transportation (out of state)	505		500	1,000
4383Lodging (out of state)	483	249	500	1,000
4384 Meals/Gratuities	0	0	200	224
<b>VEHICLE OPERATIONS</b>				
4402 Gas/Oil	48,162	52,671	60,000	60,000
4403 Diesel Oil	8,373	6,905	10,000	10,000
4423 Repairs Parts/Supply	22,070	27,373	25,000	25,000
4424 Repairs Snowmobile	2,292	4,928	5,000	5,000
<b>UTILITIES SERVICES</b>				
4521 Electric	10,352	10,279	12,000	12,000
4532 Bottled Water	306	416	500	500
4536 Other Utility	2,197	2,604	2,500	3,000
4551 Freight	3,818	3,651	5,000	4,000

	ACTUAL BUDGET FY11	ACTUAL BUDGET FY12	ANNUAL BUDGET FY13	ANNUAL BUDGET FY14
<b>RENTS</b>				
4601 Rent Land/Abol Lease	500	500	500	500
4602 Rent Plane	640	545	1,200	1,400
4616 Rent Misc. Office Equipment	0	0	200	200
4661 Rent Equipment	185	90	500	500
<b>REPAIRS</b>				
<b>4701 Repair Grounds &amp; Rds</b>	145			
4711 Repair Building	16,614	18,830	20,000	25,000
4721 Repair Small Engine	2,539	2,695	5,000	3,000
4726 Repair Radios	930	1,834	1,500	3,000
4735 Maintenance Agreements	16,393	14,177	14,000	15,000
4751 Misc. Repairs	2,084	1,843	3,000	3,000
<b>INSURANCES</b>				
4801 Insurance Building	2,154	2,229	2,300	2,300
4811 Insurance Equipment	290	290	500	500
4825 Insurance General Liability	2,303	14,102	3,000	3,000
4827 Snowmobile Ins	489		1,400	1,400
4841 Employees Bond	118	156	200	200
4845 Workers Comp Ins.	82,428	95,599	93,000	93,500
4851 Mis Insurance	570		600	600
4852 Auto Insurance	4,167	170	5,000	5,000
4880 Eye Exam	150	0	250	250
4881 Lens Stat	0	0	250	250
<b>GENERAL OPERATIONS</b>				
4901 Stamps/Parcel Post	0	1	0	154
4909 Courier Service	237	417	250	300
4911 Metered Postage	4,605	2,397	5,000	5,000
4913 Inter Government postage	38	69	100	150
4929 Printing/Binding	20,371	22,583	20,000	20,000
4941 Print Report (State of Maine)	61	56	100	150
4946 Advertisement Notices	2,156	2,613	2,000	4,000
4955 Credit Card Charges	13,225	11,063	14,000	14,000
4975 Sales Tax	67,300	67,246	68,000	68,000
4982 Subscriptions	379	253	500	550
4995 General Expenses	3,349	7,082	30,000	30,000
<b>CAREER DEVELOPMENT</b>				
5013 Employee Training	14,076	10,148	13,200	15,000
Training budget for I&E			800	800
Training budget for SFMA			500	600
Training budget for Bus Dept			500	600



	ACTUAL BUDGET FY11	ACTUAL BUDGET FY12	ANNUAL BUDGET FY13	ANNUAL BUDGET FY14
<b>FUEL</b>				
5201 Fuel oil/pellets	11,182	11,441	17,000	12,000
5202 LP Gas	7,013	8,725	8,000	10,000
5211 Firewood	2,160	0	0	
<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>				
5301 OIT Prof services	4,758			
5302 Telephone/Data	26,944	25,864	32,000	30,000
5304 Cellular Phones	8,090	8,412	8,000	10,000
5346 PC & Networking Software	2,188	1,512	3,000	3,000
5350 Repair Computers	0	0	0	396
<b>CLOTHING</b>				
5401 Clothing	11,920	14,525	15,000	15,000
<b>OPERATING SUPPLIES</b>				
5602 Office Supply	7,558	5,089	7,000	8,000
5611 Interpretation/Education	155	278	2,000	3,000
5629 Books & Maps for Resale	16,026	24,039	18,000	20,000
5636 Miscellaneous Supply	42,071	42,099	45,000	45,000
5650 Misc. Minor Equipment	36,025	29,169	44,040	44,000
<b>HIGHWAY MATERIALS</b>				
<b>5830 lumber</b>				
5812 Culverts	0	0	6,000	6,000
5861 Signs	1,629	1,722	2,000	2,157
<b>STA-CAP</b>	31,461	29,422	30,000	25,270
Total All Other	813,069	897,493	997,615	1,054,906
<b>Total All Other &amp; Sta-cap</b>	<b>844,530</b>	<b>926,915</b>	<b>1,027,615</b>	<b>1,080,176</b>
<b>Capital</b>				
7001 Land				
7101 Bldg./Improvements	3,105	28,191	106,000	213500
7200 Equipment	21,016			
				33500
7203 Data Processing Equipment				
7211 Motor Vehicle Transportation				
New	14,854	99,599		
Used			58,000	25000
Snowmobiles			12,000	24000
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>38,975</b>	<b>127,790</b>	<b>176,000</b>	<b>296,000</b>
All Totals	3,143,469	3,270,557	3,487,783	3,731,465

	ACTUAL BUDGET FY11	ACTUAL BUDGET FY12	ANNUAL BUDGET FY13	ANNUAL BUDGET FY14
<b>4015 Casual Labor</b>				
<b>SCA I&amp;E</b>				
<b>SCA Trail Crew</b>				
A. I&E Wilderness Ed Interns	14,517	16,850	18,000	18,000
B. AT Trail Steward	8,000	5,489	7,200	7,800
C. Trail Interns	37,200	48,000	49,000	60,000
D. Trail Interns Stipend				2,500
E. MCC trail crews	21,750	22,500	22,500	57,500
F.MATC cost share	5,625	11,250	5,625	5,625
G. SFMA summer interns	0	7,200	6,000	6,000
H. Trail Interns		6,595		
I. DUPR		4,411		
Totals	87,092	122,295	108,325	157,425
<b>4099 Professional Services</b>				
A. Janitorial	13,280	15,481	15,500	15,500
B. Rubbish Removal	10,346	12,199	14,000	14,000
C. Vault Pumping	4,510	4,840	6,000	6,000
D. Forest Management	16,700	14,516	6,000	6,000
E. Road Const/Maint.(SFMA)	25,257	22,924	40,000	30,000
G. ADA Contracted Services		3,714	5,000	5,000
H. Campground Firewood	24,051	29,010	25,000	27,000
J. Contract workers	5,812	6,330	8,000	8,000
K. HQ Lawn Services	3,079	1,440	2,100	2,100
L. Audio/video Productions			1,000	1,000
M. BSP Road Maintenance	60,068	66,111	82,000	82,000
O. Computer Technician	10,793	8,600	15,000	15,000
S. Snow Plowing	5,095	6,453	8,500	8,500
T. Monitoring Surveys		5,000	5,000	7,500
U. Archivist	1,330		0	
V. Saw Mill Services	3,973	9,769	10,000	10,000
W. Website maintenance	450	2,100	600	600
			0	
Totals	184,744	208,487	243,700	238,200

	ACTUAL BUDGET FY11	ACTUAL BUDGET FY12	ANNUAL BUDGET FY13	ANNUAL BUDGET FY14
<b>5650 Misc. Minor Equipment</b>				
General Equipment line	10,762	20,791	14,240	14,200
A. Radios 100 Watt (vehicle)		113		1,000
B. Radios 45 (camp)				1,000
C. Hand Held Radios				
D. Wood Stoves	0	670	2,000	2,000
E. Refrigerators	1,803	2,091	2,200	2,200
F. Hot Water Heaters				
G. Air Conditioners				
H. Computers/printers	20,180	5,504	8,000	8,000
I. Canoes	1,000		1,000	1,000
J. Fire Equipment	2		600	600
K. Dumpsters	0			
L. BBQ stands/rings	0			
M. DVD/VCR/TV				
N. First Aid Equipment/Search and Rescue			5,000	3,000
O. Repeaters			5,000	5,000
P. Vault Caps			2,000	2,000
Q. Law Enforcement			4,000	4,000
Totals	33,747	29,169	44,040	44,000
<b>7101 Bulding/Improvements</b>				
Roadside Brushing				10,000
Daicey Pond outhouse project (2 outhouses)				6,000
Daicey Pond removal of trees & road cont				3,000
Replace siding and windows HQ building				100,000
Lower Togue bedroom/bathroom/Roof				10,000
Katahdin Stream Ranger camp/metal roof				4,000
Replace misc culverts(10 pieces) in Park road				18,000
Replace culvert at Black Brook				50,000
Central air conditioning for Reservations				7,000
Central air conditioning for lg conference rm				5,500
<b>Total Building/Improvements</b>				<b>213,500</b>
<b>7200 Capt Equipment</b>				
Used motorized chipper				10,000
Used farm tractor				15,000
Tire machine replacement for shop				6,500
15 HP 4-stroke outboard motor for SBP				2000
<b>Total Capt Equipment</b>				<b>33,500</b>
<b>7211 Motor Vehicle Transportation</b>				
Dump truck				25,000
Snowmobiles (2)				24,000
<b>Total Motor Vehicle Transportation</b>				<b>49,000</b>

Donations to Baxter State Park			
Donations under \$1000			
1/1/2014 thru 12/31/2014			
Anonymous - Field Locations	Date	Amount	
Field	5/30/2014	26.99	
Field	6/30/2014	227.63	
Field	7/31/2014	176.37	
	8/31/2014	188.13	
<b>Total</b>			<b>619.12</b>
Anonymous - Reservation Office	Date	Amount	
Reservation Viselli	4/14/2014	63.00	
Reservation	8/31/2014	3.75	
<b>Total</b>			<b>66.75</b>
Individual Donations	Date	Amount	
Jeffrey Doody	1/9/2014	100.00	
Alec Giffen	1/27/2014	100.00	
Frederic Todd	1/27/2014	50.00	
James & Susan Lowe	2/4/2014	500.00	
James Garland	3/28/2014	500.00	
Tomas Lenz	4/17/2014	150.00	
Donna Murchison	9/24/2014	60.00	
Andy Hopkins	10/21/2014	25.00	
Anne Jackson	10/21/2014	50.00	
Richard Oliver	10/21/2014	40.00	
Tim Vrabel	12/15/2014	50.00	
<b>Total</b>			<b>1625.00</b>
Don. Over \$1000	Date	Amount	
Wilderness Fund	1/27/2014	32,500.00	
Wilderness Fund	4/10/2014	32,500.00	
Wilderness Fund	8/13/2014	34,000.00	
Wilderness Fund	10/14/2014	34,010.00	
Ed Hawkins	12/22/2014	4,000.00	
<b>Total</b>			<b>137,010.00</b>
		<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 139,320.87</b>

Donation Purchases	Date	Amount	
Rainwise (Chimney Pond)	3/26/2014	1443.00	
Keybank (Safety Helmets)	5/21/2014	2659.98	
Life Savers (Safety Equipment)	7/3/2014	1259.99	
Keybank (Bushes Kidney/safety equipmen	7/22/2014	925.05	
Me Project for fine arts	7/28/2014	1000.00	
Spragues	8/13/2014	450.00	
Keybank (Canoes)	8/27/2014	950.38	
		Total Purchases	8,688.40
Total			\$ 130,632.47

# G. APPENDICES



**BAXTER STATE PARK**

**COMPARATIVE STATISTICS - VISITOR DAYS**

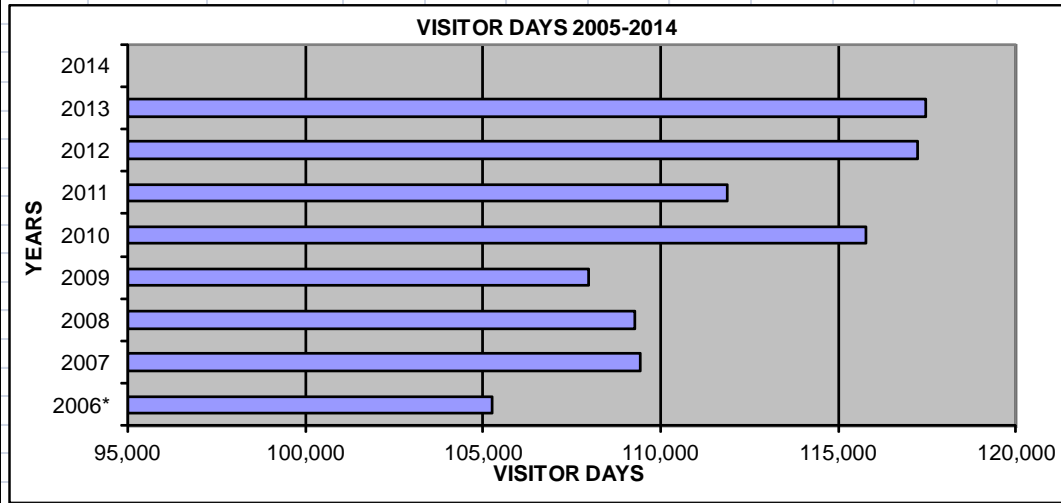
**2005 - 2014**

<b>VISITOR DAY STATISTICS:</b>	<b>2005*</b>	<b>2006*</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
TOTAL SUMMER VISITOR DAYS	103,196	106,449	107,551	106,544	106,592	114,523	109,265	115,828	114,101	
TOTAL WINTER VISITOR DAYS	2,054	2,410	1,873	2,741	1,396	1,240	2,597	1,420	3,380	
<b>TOTAL PARK VISITOR DAYS</b>	<b>119,597</b>	<b>105,250</b>	<b>109,424</b>	<b>109,285</b>	<b>107,988</b>	<b>115,763</b>	<b>111,862</b>	<b>117,248</b>	<b>117,481</b>	

Visitor day = camper nights + gatehouse headcount

(A visitor staying in the park two nights would spend three days in the Park. Camper nights counts the nights in the Park, gatehouse headcount adds the extra camper day plus includes day users.)

\* 2005, late spring delayed opening trails/cmpgrds for 2 weeks. 2006, Neso closed during June. Aval Fld moved to Bear Brook.

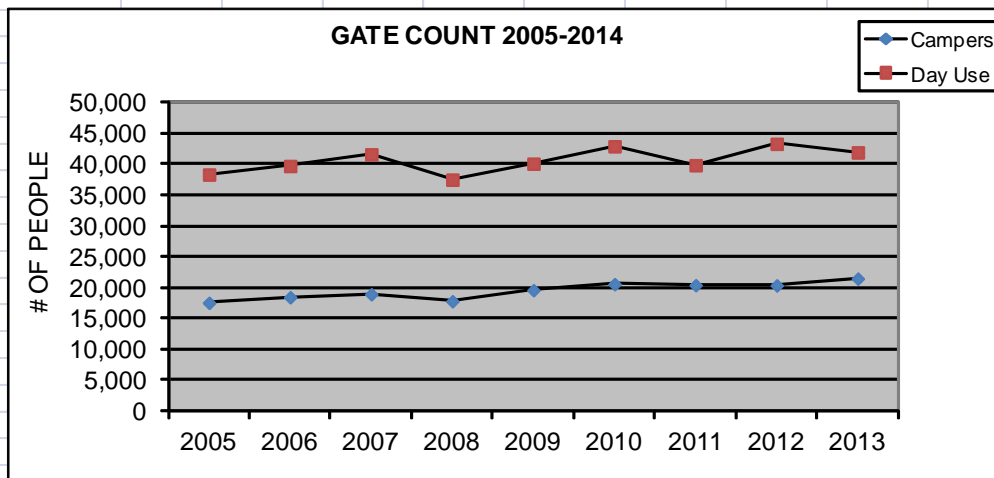




**BAXTER STATE PARK  
COMPARATIVE GATEHOUSE STATISTICS 2005 - 2014**

<b>PERSONS</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Resident	31,972	33,402	34,874	31,577	34,992	36,717	34,106	36,352	34,085	33,945
Non-resident	24,095	25,014	25,850	23,862	24,869	26,904	26,255	27,341	29,389	29,104
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56,067</b>	<b>58,416</b>	<b>60,724</b>	<b>55,439</b>	<b>59,861</b>	<b>63,621</b>	<b>60,361</b>	<b>63,693</b>	<b>63,474</b>	<b>63,049</b>
Campers	17,552	18,455	18,941	17,808	19,599	20,577	20,415	20,373	21,476	21,462
Day Use	38,338	39,720	41,612	37,506	40,096	42,913	39,850	43,319	41,921	41,520
Walk/Bike	177	241	171	125	166	131	85	1	77	67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56,067</b>	<b>58,416</b>	<b>60,724</b>	<b>55,439</b>	<b>59,861</b>	<b>63,621</b>	<b>60,350</b>	<b>63,693</b>	<b>63,474</b>	<b>63,049</b>
<b>VEHICLES</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Togue Pond	17,163	18,260	20,822	17,485	18,991	18,677	18,322	20,760	20,690	20,519
Matagamon	3,992	4,322	6,834	3,239	3,543	3,485	3,357	3,234	2,922	3,120
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,155</b>	<b>22,582</b>	<b>27,656</b>	<b>20,724</b>	<b>22,534</b>	<b>22,162</b>	<b>21,679</b>	<b>23,994</b>	<b>23,612</b>	<b>23,639</b>

\*Walk/Bike tallied under residents  
\* 2005, delayed opening trails/cgs for 2 wks. 2006, Nes closed during June. Aval Fld moved to Bear Brook.



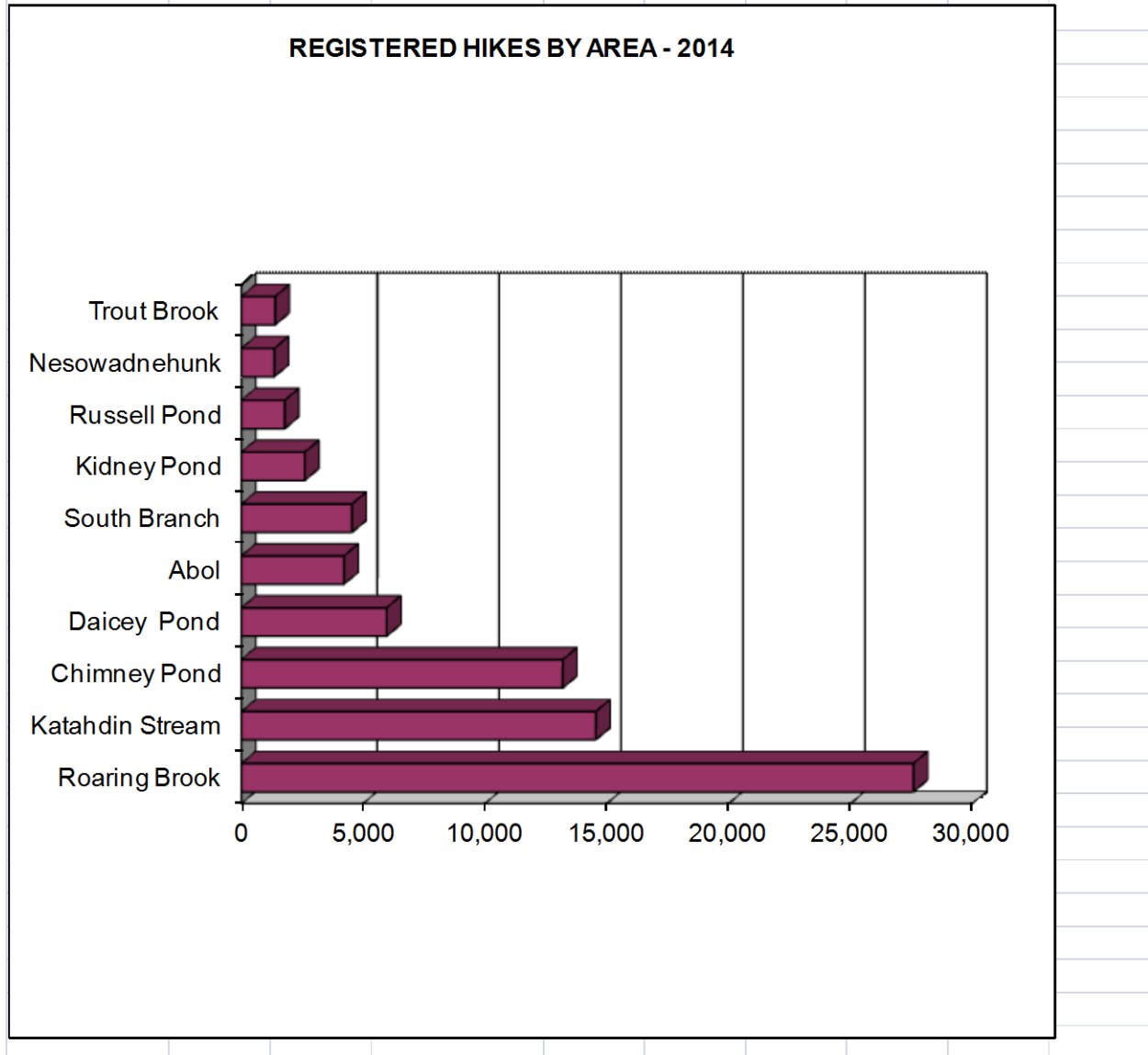
BAXTER STATE PARK - GATE COUNTS - PEOPLE PER MONTH 2014								TOTAL	
	DAY USE			CAMPERS			WALK/ BIKE	BY MONTH TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
	RES	NON-RES	TOTAL	RES	NON-RES	TOTAL			
MAY									
Togue Pond	669	349	1018	300	187	487	3		
Matagamon	348	41	389	85	6	91	12		
<b>Total MAY</b>	<b>1017</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>1407</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>3%</b>
JUNE									
Togue Pond	2891	2051	4942	1247	1478	2725	3		
Matagamon	485	117	602	284	99	383	2		
<b>Total JUNE</b>	<b>3376</b>	<b>2168</b>	<b>5544</b>	<b>1531</b>	<b>1577</b>	<b>3108</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8657</b>	<b>14%</b>
JULY									
Togue Pond	4478	4245	8723	2011	2595	4606	14		
Matagamon	1086	346	1432	737	244	981	0		
<b>Total JULY</b>	<b>5564</b>	<b>4591</b>	<b>10155</b>	<b>2748</b>	<b>2839</b>	<b>5587</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15756</b>	<b>25%</b>
AUGUST									
Togue Pond	5873	5504	11377	2453	2745	5198	26		
Matagamon	946	367	1313	862	440	1302	4		
<b>Total AUGUST</b>	<b>6819</b>	<b>5871</b>	<b>12690</b>	<b>3315</b>	<b>3185</b>	<b>6500</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>19220</b>	<b>30%</b>
SEPTEMBER									
Togue Pond	3479	3086	6565	1652	1762	3414	1		
Matagamon	352	132	484	488	235	723	0		
<b>Total SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>3831</b>	<b>3218</b>	<b>7049</b>	<b>2140</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>4137</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11187</b>	<b>18%</b>
OCTOBER									
Togue Pond	1930	2135	4065	861	770	1631	0		
Matagamon	236	135	371	125	35	160	2		
<b>Total OCTOBER</b>	<b>2166</b>	<b>2270</b>	<b>4436</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>1791</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6229</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>TOTALS BY USE CATEGORY</b>	<b>22773</b>	<b>18508</b>	<b>41281</b>	<b>11105</b>	<b>10596</b>	<b>21701</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>63049</b>	<b>100%</b>
% OF TOTAL USE			65%			34%	0.1%		
% BY CATEGORY	CAMPING			DAY USE			TOTAL RES/NON-RES		
RES/NON-RES*	55%	45%		51%	49%			54%	46%

\* Walk/Bike counted as Residents

<b>SOUTH BRANCH POND:</b>									
South Branch Falls	31	107	326	358	139	82	1,043		
Ledges	21	46	157	173	123	75	595		
Howe Brook	3	26	143	256	135	58	621		
North Traveler	5	51	246	397	151	49	899		
Center Ridge	4	8	13	28	16	18	87		
Traveler Loop	0	39	70	176	86	70	441		
South Branch Mountain	2	5	108	138	81	24	358		
Pogy Notch	19	39	90	162	70	34	414		
Middle Fowler	5	5	6	22	8	7	53		
Burnt Mountain	0	0	0	0	14	14	28		
<b>SO BRANCH TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>1,710</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>4,539</b>	<b>4,539</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>NESOWADNEHUNK:</b>									
Double Top	41	110	158	244			553		
Marston	26	88	155	319			588		
Wassataquoik Lake Trail	4	11	52	56			123		
Dwelley Trail	0	5	46	38			89		
<b>NESO TOTALS</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>2%</b>
Registered hikes per person per trail, continued							TRAIL	AREA	% OF
<b>TRAIL NAME</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEPT</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>CHIMNEY POND:</b>									
Dudley	C	349	417	625	357	138	1,886		
Cathedral	L	682	1,403	1,700	954	398	5,137		
Saddle	O	726	1,543	1,973	982	358	5,582		
Hamlin	S	79	63	202	99	21	464		
North Basin	E	8	0	29	16	9	62		
NorthWest Basin	D	0	0	7	23	4	34		
North Peaks		0	0	13	6	0	19		
<b>CHIMNEY TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>4,549</b>	<b>2,437</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>13,184</b>	<b>13,184</b>	<b>17%</b>

<b>DAICEY POND:</b>									
Niagara Falls	194	657	1,197	1,556	748	414	4,766		
Daicy Pond Nature Trail	15	36	53	94	68	51	317		
Lost Pond Trail	9	10	14	43	35	10	121		
Sentinel Mt. Trail	0	0	0	0	5	0	5		
A.T. to Katahdin	0	38	81	120	204	59	502		
Daicey to Grassy	13	15	34	54	15	27	158		
Daicey to Elbow	0	6	6	35	18	15	80		
Daicey to Kidney	0	0	5	0	6	0	11		
<b>DAICEY TOTALS</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>5,960</b>	<b>5,960</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>KIDNEY POND:</b>									
Double Top	22	35	58	118	61	50	344		
Sentinel Mountain	79	104	226	354	176	109	1,048		
Rocky Pond	63	137	99	101	69	62	531		
Draper Pond	3	32	21	44	33	12	145		
Kidney Pond Circuit	0	0	0	0	41	0	41		
Celia & Jackson	12	53	39	38	23	13	178		
Windy Pitch/Niagara/ Lit	12	4	38	31	31	12	128		
Slaughter Pond	22	60	26	16	53	6	183		
<b>KIDNEY TOTALS</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>RUSSELL POND:</b>									
Russell Pond Trail	0	22	105	88	57	8	280		
Wassataquoik Stream	0	62	75	146	81	42	406		
Pogy Notch Trail	6	24	36	48	10	9	133		
Wassataquoik Lake	7	87	103	189	86	45	517		
North West Basin Trail	0	34	52	66	51	30	233		
Grand Falls Trail	7	29	28	52	25	14	155		
Lookout Trail	0	9	2	17	20	4	52		
North Peaks	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		
<b>RUSSELL TOTALS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>1,777</b>	<b>1,777</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>TROUT BROOK FARM:</b>									
Horse Mountain	20	17	37	72	22	21	189		
Five Ponds	22	44	76	119	21	9	291		
Fowler Pond	17	26	44	95	50	26	258		
Freezeout	7	14	35	52	54	6	168		
Frost Pond	6	8	8	14	15	0	51		
Trout Brook Mountain	8	27	94	159	71	26	385		
Wadleigh Brook	2	3	0	9	24	2	40		
<b>TROUT BR. TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>MONTHLY TOTALS</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>10,679</b>	<b>18,110</b>	<b>25,150</b>	<b>14,306</b>	<b>7,272</b>	<b>77,109</b>	<b>77,109</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

		<b>Roaring Brook</b>	<b>27,571</b>				
		<b>Katahdin Stream</b>	<b>14,537</b>				
		<b>Chimney Pond</b>	<b>13,184</b>				
		<b>Daicey Pond</b>	<b>5,960</b>				
		<b>Abol</b>	<b>4,208</b>				
		<b>South Branch</b>	<b>4,539</b>				
		<b>Kidney Pond</b>	<b>2,598</b>				
		<b>Russell Pond</b>	<b>1,777</b>				
		<b>Nesowadnehunk</b>	<b>1,353</b>				
		<b>Trout Brook</b>	<b>1,382</b>				



**INFORMATION  
EDUCATION  
APPENDICES**

*Administrative note: The following summary was submitted at the end of the 2014 season by AT Steward John Lemberg. Discrepancies in occupancy rates of The Birches and numbers of hikers with other statements in this Operational Report are a function of his work location and a number of other workplace logistics. The final tally of distance hikers we depend upon to compile Distance Hiker statistical tables for the I & E Appendix of annual Operational Reports originates with Katahdin Stream Campground, where AT hikers officially register. The AT Steward misses hikers who enter the Park at Togue Pond Gate rather than enter via the kiosk down on the AT corridor and there is no coverage or way to keep count two days every week when the AT Steward takes days off. Likewise occupancy at The Birches differs in reality from what the sign-up sheets indicate at the Abol Kiosk. Nevertheless, the observations and records of the person meeting incoming hikers is extremely valuable and as such, his summary is printed as received.*

*John also mentions some solutions he has brainstormed for upcoming increases in AT use and corresponding increased pressure on the Park. While intended to be constructive, his suggestions are made without full knowledge of other constraints at play in managing visitor use in the Park. In particular, proposals to increase capacity for a particular user group or to change the location of the AT to expedite thru hiker access have many other consequences including an unintended increase in numbers of hikers above treeline on Katahdin as members of the public use the same access routes offered to AT hikers. We strive to work with the issues related to the Appalachian Trail at the same time we try to keep all use in Baxter State Park balanced and appropriate to the donors' wishes. We continue to be thankful for the dedicated efforts of committed individuals such as John Lemberg working in the position of AT Steward.*

## **2014 AT Steward Season Summary**

Submitted by 2014 AT Steward John Lemberg  
Season: July 14 thru Oct 25, 2014

The Appalachian Trail is truly a national treasure. It is a continuous footpath for nearly 2200 miles from Springer Mountain, Ga to Katahdin, Maine. The AT is described as "the longest linear national park in the country". It connects people to nature, and communities with each other. Millions of people have enjoyed hiking a portion of the trail. The AT has inspired land conservation in all 14 states where it crosses. There are many rare or endangered plants found within the AT corridor. The AT has inspired countless volunteers who help maintain and care for the trail and trail facilities. Some AT volunteers have contributed hundreds or thousands of hours of volunteer service. People from many countries have found inspiration on the AT. People have used the AT as a model to create long distance hiking trails throughout the globe.

Each Spring (or late winter) a number of AT hikers set out from Springer Mountain, GA with the goal to hike the entire AT. For many hopeful northbound AT thru hikers, Katahdin (or Baxter Peak) is a symbol of a life long dream come true. The summit marks the point of great personal accomplishment and transformation. Many future AT hikers are inspired by Katahdin even before hiking a single mile of the AT. It is hard to describe what exactly Katahdin means to a northbound AT thru hikers (they may not



# BAXTER STATE PARK AUTHORITY



## AUTHORITY MEMBERS

DOUG DENICO, CHAIR  
DIRECTOR OF MAINE FOREST SERVICE

CHRADLER E. WOODCOCK  
COMMISSIONER OF ISLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

JANET MILLS  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

## STATE OF MAINE INFORMATION

[www.baxterstateparkauthority.com](http://www.baxterstateparkauthority.com)  
(207) 753-6145  
TTY (207) 753-6965

## PARK HEADQUARTERS

DR. JENNIFER BOWELL, DIRECTOR  
34 BALDWIN DRIVE  
MILLINOCKET, ME 04462  
(207) 753-6950 DIRECTOR  
(207) 753-6950 ADMINISTRATION

November 19, 2014

Ron Tipton, Executive Director  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
799 Washington Street  
P.O. Box 807  
Harper's Ferry, WV 25425-0807

Wendy Janssen  
Appalachian Trail Park Office  
PO Box 50  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0050

Dear Ron and Wendy,

I'm writing to document increasing concerns we are having with the accommodation of Appalachian Trail hikers within Baxter State Park.

### Background

Baxter State Park hosts the northernmost 15 miles of the Appalachian Trail, including the terminus of the 2,180 mile trail at Baxter Peak on Katahdin. The Appalachian Trail (AT) within Baxter Park utilizes existing hiking trails that are part of the 225 mile Park trail system. While much of the AT is designated as a National Scenic Trail, within the boundaries of Baxter State Park the AT has no federal designation and is under the control of the Baxter State Park Authority. Baxter State Park is managed as a large public trust and is governed by the Baxter State Park Authority. The Authority is guided in the administration of the Park by the Trustor's formal deeds and communications that specify how he wished the Park to be managed. The trust communications provide no direct reference to the AT or its accommodation within the Park.

Northbound (NoBo) hikers following the white blaze exit the 100 Mile Wilderness, walk a short distance east on the Golden Road, cross the trucking bridge spanning the West Branch of the Penobscot River and usually stop to purchase a few items at the privately run Abol Bridge store before hiking further east to get back on the white blazed trail and head into the Park. Crossing a footbridge over Abol Stream with unobstructed views of Katahdin, they encounter a sign denoting the Park boundary. About 100 yards further, they find a kiosk with A.T. information and a self-explanatory sign-up sheet for AT hikers staying overnight at the Birches Distance Hiker site. From mid-July to late

Ron Tipton & Wendy Janssen, AT Conservancy Letter  
November 19, 2014  
Page 1 of 9 (including enclosures)



“ TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT ”



## 2014 Distance Hikers

<b>Month</b>	<b>AT S.</b>	<b>AT N.</b>	<b>Flip/Flop</b>	<b>Section N</b>	<b>Section S</b>	<b>IAT N</b>	<b>IAT S</b>	<b>Total People</b>
<b>May</b>	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>June</b>	156	11	5	16	15	0	0	203
<b>July</b>	83	117	38	181	42	0	0	461
<b>August</b>	25	263	39	220	32	0	0	579
<b>Sept</b>	6	351	15	121	6	0	0	499
<b>Oct</b>	3	157	6	97	7	0	0	270
<b>Nov</b>		2	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	276	901	103	635*	102	0	0	2017

\*The total for Northbound Section Hikers includes 250 hikers from organized camps that hike and camp thru the entire 100 Mile Wilderness and into BSP to hike Katahdin. They split their trips evenly between July and August. Youth camps are not permitted to use The Birches. They make reservations in advance of the season at Foster Field, Katahdin Stream and Abol campgrounds and are not included in the Total Camper column because they use the rolling reservation system.

**Baxter State Park Research Committee  
9-12 PM March 18, 2014  
Maine Natural Areas Meeting Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Williams Pavilion, Harlow Complex  
Augusta ME**

- I. **Introductions**
  
- II. **Updates/ Return Season Applications**
  - A. Ants (Katahdin)-Aaron Ellison
  - B. Spruce Grouse (SFMA) - Steve Dunham
  - C. Forest Birds (SFMA) – Brian Rolek
  - D. Biomass Inventory (SFMA)- Jereme Frank
  - E. Beetles (Katahdin) update only, Bob Nelson
  - F. Baxter FLORA update and schedule (Parkwide)
  - G. Brief slide show by Rick Morrill showing effects of 7/2013 wind storm in SFMA
  
- III. **New Applications for Research in 2014**
  - A. Insect Response to Severe Blowdown (SFMA), Laura Kenefic, Shawn Fraver
  - B. Marten (SFMA)- Shawn McKinney, John Clare
  
- IV. **General**
  - A. BSP research database- Rick Morrill
  - B. Committee name change to accommodate monitoring questions
  - C. Future meeting locations
  - D. BSP Research Committee member Woody Thompson
  - E. Other . . .

Note: A light lunch of sandwiches and salad will be provided at the end of the meeting. The Maine Natural Areas Program is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Williams Pavilion in the Harlow Complex in Augusta. For directions and a map, follow this link:

<http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/about/directions.htm>

If you have questions or something to add to the agenda, please contact Jean Hoekwater, [Jean.Hoekwater@maine.gov](mailto:Jean.Hoekwater@maine.gov) (207) 723-8537

## **Spruce Grouse Project Progress Report for Research Conducted in Baxter State Park During 2014**

**Submitted by Stephen Dunham, M.S. Research Assistant and Daniel Harrison, Professor and  
Principal Investigator, Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology, The  
University of Maine**

Having received permission to continue our research efforts in the Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA) during 2014, we conducted spruce grouse surveys in two previously established sites: MSW12 (MUID 8042) and MSW13 (MUID 12045). We conducted occupancy surveys for male spruce grouse using cantus calls in MSW12 on May 16, 23, and 25, (no grouse detected during the surveys), and in MSW13 on May 13, 16, and 23 (1 male detected on May 16). We were unable to capture and band the only male that responded during those surveys. Both stands were again surveyed for female spruce grouse during June and July, with surveys occurring in MSW 12 on 23 June and 15 July, and in MSW 13 on 23 June and 1 July. No grouse were detected during those surveys.

Although 2014 was the last year of Stephen Dunham's M.S. project, Dr. Daniel Harrison and Dr. Erik Blomberg have received additional funding to support a Ph.D. student, Joel Tebbencamp, who plans to continue demographic and genetic studies of spruce grouse in north-central Maine. Joel's official project did not begin until fiscal year 2015 but it was clear that we would need a greater number of captured and radio-marked birds for his project's goals to be accomplished. Because we observed a large number of birds on the roads during the later summer and fall of past years, we decided to attempt to capture grouse observed during road surveys. This effort, which began in September of 2014 included the roads of the SFMA and consisted of surveys during early morning and late afternoon to observe and capture grouse. Three captures were made within the SFMA using the previously approved methods used during occupancy surveys. In total, three grouse were captured, equipped with necklace-mounted radios, and were monitored for survival within the SFMA (Table 1, Figure 1).

We would like to express our gratitude to the members of this committee and to both the former and current resource managers in the SFMA for their logistical support and friendly assistance during Stephen Dunham's M.S. project.

**Table 1. Locations of spruce grouse captured in Baxter State Park's SFMA during fall 2014 and subsequently monitored for survival.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Age and Sex</b>	<b>Northing</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Status</b>
27-Sept.	Adult Female	5115785	494646	Died prior to 21 January 2015
4-Oct.	Hatch Year Male	5109260	505999	Alive as of 21 January 2015
13-Oct.	Hatch Year Female	5112919	503800	Alive as of 21 January 2015

**2014 Annual Research Report to Baxter State Park**  
**Bird communities of coniferous forests in the Acadian region; their response to management, and**  
**habitat associations.**

Brian Rolek<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Harrison<sup>1</sup>, Cynthia Loftin<sup>1,2</sup>, Petra Wood<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology, University of Maine; <sup>2</sup>USGS Maine  
Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; <sup>3</sup>USGS West Virginia Cooperative Fish and  
Wildlife Research Unit, West Virginia University

**Background and Project Overview**

Several bird species of concern are found in the coniferous forests of Northern New England. Cape May (*Setophaga tigrina*) and Bay-breasted Warblers (*Setophaga castanea*) have been declining within the Acadian Region since region-wide monitoring began with the USGS Breeding Bird Survey in 1966, whereas, species such as Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) are increasing (Sauer et al. 2012, Figure 1). The United States Federal government has the authority to manage these species under the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Maine contributes up to 96% of breeding habitat for some of these spruce-fir associated species in the United States, and population declines are not well understood. The coniferous forests where these species reside are heavily managed by the timber industry with a variety of silvicultural and industrial prescriptions. Habitat requirements for these species are not well-defined, nor are the species' responses to management. Standardized, region-wide surveys used for assessing populations may not be sufficiently comprehensive to fully understand population trends (i.e., USGS Breeding Bird Survey), in particular, when the species of concern are absent (e.g., during the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, which occurs in the non-breeding season). Furthermore, these surveys do not typically account for detection error, where a species can be present but goes undetected.

Our goals are to investigate factors influencing the distribution and abundance of species that represent the Acadian coniferous forests and to assess the influence of prevalent silvicultural techniques on the Acadian forest bird community. Our objectives are to: (1) quantify the composition and forest associations of coniferous bird communities in five silvicultural treatments representing a gradient in mature canopy residuals including conifer regenerating, overstory removal, pre-commercially thinned, selection, and shelterwood harvest compared to mature softwood reference sites; (2) model the influences of silvicultural practices on coniferous forest bird communities while accounting for detection error; (3) use data at both landscape and local scales to determine important habitat and beneficial management; and, (4) provide accessible and interpretable results for silviculturalists that can be used to manage species of concern.

**Progress in 2014**

Our research focused on two components: bird community surveys and vegetation surveys in 117 forest stands in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont (Figure 2). Vegetation survey protocols were developed and applied at all bird community survey locations.

## Conservation of a rare alpine plant (*Prenanthes boottii*) in the face of rapid environmental change

Kristen Haynes  
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
End of Season Report, 2014

### Background

The northeast alpine zone is one of our region's rarest biological communities, comprised of a series of habitat islands totaling less than 35 km (figure 1; Capers et al. 2013). These mountaintop communities are hotbeds of local biodiversity, home to a suite of rare and endangered plant and animal species, including regional endemics as well as arctic species at the southern limit of their range. This biodiversity is now threatened by human-imposed environmental changes.

Climate change is considered by Sala et al. (2010) to be the most important driver of biodiversity change in alpine ecosystems. Alpine communities are predicted to be highly susceptible to climate change for several reasons. First, high-elevation areas are warming faster than low-elevation areas (Wang et al. 2013). Second, the effects of climate change are predicted to be most severe for communities at climatic extremes, such as alpine communities (Pauli et al. 1996, Sala et al. 2010). Finally, the alpine biome is expected to contract as treelines and lower-elevation species move upward in elevation (Parmesan et al. 2006). There is already some evidence of advancing treelines and invasion of lowland species in the northeast alpine (Harsch et al. 2009; Nancy Slack, pers. comm.).

In addition to climate change, northeast alpine species are threatened by high rates of nitrogen deposition and damage due to hiker trampling (Kimball and Weirach 2000).

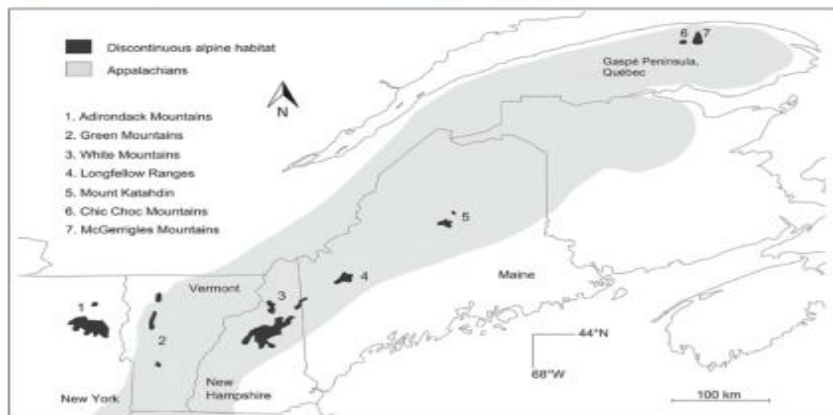


Figure 1. The Northeast Alpine Zone. Alpine habitat occurs in patches within each of the black shapes on the figure. Figure from Capers et al. 2013.

Conserving Maine's Fossil Heritage:  
The Trout Valley Formation along Wadleigh Mountain Road, Scientific Forest  
Management Area

Report to the Baxter Park Authority  
25 December 2014

Paul Dougherty '16, Mary Furth '15, Zach Hartnett '15, Kate Kerin '17, Patt Lamom '17, Dan  
Leaman '15, Kathy Lipshultz '16, Dylan Markey '16, Stefan Sandreuter '16, Amanda Veth '15,  
and Robert A. Gastaldo<sup>1</sup> CORRESPONDING AUTHOR

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY  
COLBY COLLEGE  
WATERVILLE, ME 04901

### INTRODUCTION

The advent of plant colonization of the continents during the Devonian Period (419–359 Million years ago) set the stage for revolutionary adaptations that impacted the way in which Earth operates, and continue to impact the biosphere, today. The planet's transition to the Middle Devonian, known as the Emsian to Eifelian (408–387 Ma), witnessed plants undergoing radical evolutionary innovation and clade diversification, resulting in their domination of the continental landscape in which the animal kingdom followed their lead. Traits evolved in early land plants allowed for increased stabilization of substrates, increased nutrient availability in soils, and became the food source for terrestrial arthropods and, subsequently, vertebrate expansion into new ecological space (Allen and Gastaldo, 2006). To understand these revolutionary adaptations and the profound effects they passed onto modern ecosystems, it is essential to study fossil assemblages from this time interval. One internationally recognized locality that plays a fundamental and critical role in our understanding of Middle Devonian ecosystems is the Trout Valley Formation (Andrews et al., 1977, 1985), first recognized along Trout Brook

in Baxter State Park by a USGS geologist, Doug Rankin (Dorf and Rankin, 1962), during field mapping in northern Maine.

The Trout Valley Formation is located unconformably above a volcanic unit, the Traveler Mountain Rhyolite, created during the northwestward migration of the mountain building episode known as the Acadian orogeny (Bradley et al., 2000). The mountain building event marks the collision of a tectonic plate, the Avalon terrane, with the North American plate, during which time a volcanic island chain, or magmatic arc, was located to the east of the land mass. This volcanic island was welded onto the continent during the collision of the tectonic plates and ceased to exist, leaving a thick succession of volcanic and plutonic rocks in Maine. The Traveler Mountain Rhyolite is interpreted to represent volcanic flows associated with the caldera of one of these earliest Devonian volcanoes (406–407 Ma; Bradley and Tucker, 2002). Erosion of these rocks, along with weathering, transport, and deposition of their sediments, resulted in the deposition of the Trout Valley Formation to the northwest of the Acadian highlands in a structural syncline. Based on microfossil (palynological) data, these non-marine deposits, which now include conglomerate,

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**Ants of Baxter Park: 2014 – Mt. Katahdin  
Summary Report**

**Aaron M. Ellison  
Harvard Forest  
31 December 2014**

In 2014, the study of the ant fauna of Baxter State Park was expanded to include Mt. Katahdin and other areas in the Katahdin section of the park. During the week of August 21, a group (Figure 1) led by Harvard Forest researcher Aaron Ellison collected ants in and around Chimney Pond, on and around Mt. Katahdin, on Hamelin Peak, at Blueberry Knoll, and at lower elevations on the way down from Chimney Pond (Dry Pond Meadow, the moraine at Basin Pond, and around Sandy Stream) (Figure 2, Table 1). We also revisited the site near the summit of North Traveler Mountain to collect *Formica adamsi* – a new species record for New England that we collected there in 2013 – and to photograph this ant and its nest in situ. Finally, we collected ants at the esker along the Five Ponds Trail (Figure 3, Table 2). Overall, after two summers, we have collected ants at the majority of alpine sites in the park, as well as at a number of sites at lower elevations with notable or unique geological features. At each site in 2014, we collected ants either by searching a 50 × 50-m plot for one person-hour or by searching along linear transects defined by trails. When we encountered a nest, we collected three-to-six worker ants from it. Leaf litter, when available, was collected haphazardly (4-L sample) and sieved in the field; the few ants we found in this sieved litter were also collected. We also collected foraging workers as we crossed the Knife Edge trail from Pamola to the summit of Mt. Katahdin, and along the North Traveler trail as we descended from the summit.

In total, we collected samples of workers from 256 nests representing 23 species (Tables 3, 4). Of these, two are new records for Piscataquis County: *Lasius subumbratus* and an undescribed species of *Leptothorax*, denoted *Leptothorax* sp. AF-erg. We also collected two other species, *Camponotus nearcticus* and *Formica glacialis*, which had not been collected previously in the park. The total number of ant species now known from Baxter State park is 35, and 42 species are now known from Piscataquis County (50% of the Maine state ant list).

All identifications of ants collected in 2014 were confirmed at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ). Pinned voucher specimens have been deposited at the Maine State entomological collection in Augusta (ELMF); a duplicate set of vouchers also has been deposited at the MCZ. All unpinned specimens from the 2014 collections are stored in 95% ethanol, and also have been deposited at ELMF.

All data (as a .csv spreadsheet) also have been sent to ELMF, and are archived in the Harvard Forest Data Archive, within dataset HF-147

(<http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu:8080/exist/xquery/data.xq?id=hf147>).



MOUNTAIN BIRDWATCH - ALL SPECIES  
DATA CODING SHEET

Observer(s) Tom Bjorkman	Route name Saddle (Barton SP)	Date July 1, 2012
Start time 4am	End time 7:10am	Temperature 53-56°F
	Sky code (0-6) 1-2	Wind code (0-5) 2-4
Did you hear a BITH? <input type="checkbox"/> night before <input type="checkbox"/> before or during point count <input type="checkbox"/> playback <input type="checkbox"/> follow-up		

Sky codes: 0 = clear or a few clouds 1 = partly cloudy/variable 2 = cloudy/overcast 3 = fog 4 = drizzle 5 = showers 6 = rain  
Wind codes: 0 = calm 1 = 1-3 mph 2 = 4-7 mph 3 = 8-12 mph 4 = 13-18 mph 5 = 19-25 mph

Bird codes: BITH=Bicknell's, SWTH=Swainson's, BLPW=Blackpoll, WTSP=White-throated Sparrow, WIWR=Winter Wren

Start Time	Point #	Species	Time Period	Less Than 50m	More Than 50m
4:00	1	1. AMRO	4		✓
	1	2. WIWR	0		✓
	1	3. AMRO	0	✓	
	1	4. WTSP	0	✓	
	1	5. BLPW	8	✓	
	1	6. YBEL	1	✓	
4:16	2	7. SWTH	2		✓
	2	8. AMRO	1		✓
	2	9. FOSP	0		✓
	2	10. WTSP	5		✓
	2	11. WIWR	0	✓	
	2	12. BLPW	9	✓	
	2	13. SWTH	6	✓	
	2	14. BLPW	5	✓	
	2	15. YBEL	4	✓	
4:50	3	16. SWTH	3		✓
	3	17. YRWA	1		✓
	3	18. WTSP	8		✓
	3	19. RANU	1		✓
	3	20. WIWR	0	✓	
	3	21. WTSP	6	✓	
5:22	4	22. FOSP	0	✓	
	4	23. SWTH	8	✓	
	4	24. WTSP	2	✓	
	4	25. WIWR	1	✓	
	4	26. BLPW	2	✓	
5:38	5	27. WTSP	0		✓
	5	28. FOSP	3		✓

Start Time	Point #	Species	Time Period	Less Than 50m	More Than 50m
	5	29. WIWR	0		✓
	5	30. WIWR	1	✓	
	5	31. WTSP	3	✓	
	5	32. WTSP	3	✓	
	5	33. BLPW	0	✓	
6:11	6	34. WBP	0	✓	
	6	35. WTSP	5	✓	
	6	36. WIWR	4		✓
6:38	7	37. WTSP	0		✓
	7	38. WIWR	0		✓
	7	39. DEJU	0	✓	
	7	40. DEJU	0	✓	
	7	41. DEJU	0	✓	
	7	42. DEJU	7	✓	
7:00	8	43. WTSP	0		✓
	8	44. WTSP	7		✓
	8	45. WTSP	0	✓	
	8	46. DEJU	0	✓	
		47.			
		48.			
		49.			
		50.			
		51.			
		52.			
		53.			
		54.			
		55.			
		56.			

Place the appropriate code from the list below in the appropriate distance column in the table above

Singing male = S Calling = C Drumming = D Individual seen = I Family group = F Active nest = N

Time Period - Place a "A" in the column if bird was detected during first 3 minutes

Baxter State Park  
2014 Loon Count

Pond	Town	Adults	Chicks	Nest	Isolated	Pairs	Groups	Pond Acres
Abol Pond	T2R9	2	0	1	0	0	0	70
Celia Pond	T3R10	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Daicey Pond	T3R10	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
Elbow Pond	T3 R10	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Katahdin Lake	T3R8	2	0	0	0	2	0	717
Kidney Pond	T3R10	4	0	1	4	0	0	96
Lily Pad Pond	T3R9	1	0	0	1	0	0	20
Lost Pond	T3R10 WELS	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Lower So. Branch Pond	T5R9	2	0	2	0	2	0	93
Lower Togue Pond	T2R9	3	0	0	1	2	0	384
Matagamon Lake	Trout Brk Twp	16	0	0	3	8	5	4165
Rocky Pond	T3R10	1	2	0	1	0	0	29
Tracy Pond	T3R10	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Upper So. Branch Pond	T5R9	0	0	1	0	0	0	84
Upper Togue Pond	T2R9	1	0	0	1	0	0	294
Wassataquoik Lake	T4R10	2	2	1	0	2	0	178
<b>Total:</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6231</b>

Pairs= # of Loons in pairs, NOT the # of pairs.

Groups= # of Loons in Groups, NOT the # of groups.

**Spruce Budworm Traps Deployed by State Entomologist Charlene Donahue,  
Maine Forest Service**

town	COUNTY	latitude	longitude	date set
Mount Katahdin Twp	Piscataquis	45.84066	68.88416	20-Jun-14
T2 R9 WELS	Piscataquis	45.91404	68.85547	20-Jun-14
T3 R10 WELS	Piscataquis	45.8846	-68.9784	20-Jun-14
T4 R10 WELS	Piscataquis	45.96566	69.06209	20-Jun-14
Nesourdnahunk Twp	Piscataquis	46.10767	68.99739	20-Jun-14
Trout Brook Twp	Piscataquis	46.1372	68.91419	20-Jun-14



Date	Weather	Location	Time	# P vis	# M vis	Ppl on trail?
1-Oct	Cloudy	SSP #1	13:35	0	0	Y
		SSP BR	13:45	5	0	Y
		SSP #3	14:00	0	0	Y
3-Oct	sunny	SSP #1	4:30	0	0	Y
		SSP BR	4:38	3	0	Y
		SSP #3	4:46	0	0	Y
4-Oct	Partly Cloudy	Stump	9:20	0	0	Y
		Stump ADA	9:30	0	0	Y
		SSP #1	10:33	0	0	Y
		SSP BR	10:40	2	0	Y
5-Oct	Rain	SSP #3	10:48	0	0	Y
		Stump	9:40	0	0	Y
		Stump ADA	9:47	0	0	Y
		SSP #1	11:03	0	1	Y
7-Oct	Cloudy	SSP BR	11:10	0	0	Y
		SSP #3	11:15	0	0	Y
		SSP #1	15:00	3	0	Y
		SSP BR	15:10	1	0	Y
11-Oct	Partly Cloudy	SSP #3	15:20	0	0	Y
		Stump	9:50	0	0	Y
		Stump ADA	9:57	0	0	Y
		SSP #1	11:25	0	0	Y
12-Oct	Partly Cloudy	SSP BR	11:37	4	0	Y
		SSP #3	11:45	0	0	Y
		Stump	9:20	0	0	Y
		Stump ADA	9:30	0	0	Y
13-Oct	Sunny	SSP #1	10:33	2	0	Y
		SSP BR	10:40	5	0	Y
		SSP #3	10:48	0	0	Y
		Stump	10:15	0	0	Y
		Stump ADA	10:22	0	0	Y
21-Oct	Mostly Sunny	SSP #1	11:35	5	0	Y
		SSP BR	11:48	8	0	Y
		SSP #3	11:57	4	0	Y
		Stump	10:11	0	0	Y
		Stump ADA	10:16	0	0	Y
25-Oct	Partly Cloudy	SSP #1	10:33	0	0	Y
		SSP BR	10:40	0	0	Y
		SSP #3	10:48	0	0	Y
		Stump	10:30	0	0	Y
Total		Stump ADA	10:38	0	0	Y
		SSP #1	9:15	0	0	Y
		SSP BR	9:21	3	0	Y
		SSP #3	9:33	0	0	Y

Table 1. Mountain Patrol statistics for June 2014.

JUNE										
Date	Points	Avg. Vis	Min at any Pt.	Max at any Pt.	Bax Pk Count	# People Met	Parties Contacted	Trash	Human Waste	
11-Jun	5	6	2	17	17	20		3	9	0
29-Jun	1									1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>					<b>20</b>		<b>9</b>		
										1 Avg. Vis at BP
										Min # at any pt
										Max # at any pt
										Avg vis
										17
										2
										17
										6

Table 2. Mountain Patrol statistics for July 2014.

JULY										
Date	Points	Avg. Vis	Min at any Pt.	Max at any Pt.	Bax Pk Count	# People Met	Parties Contacted	Trash	Human Waste	
3-Jul	5	4	0	13	13	24		5	0	0
4-Jul	2	5.5	2	9		13		4	1	0
10-Jul	5	12.2	5	24	24	35		7	0	0
11-Jul	4	17.25	5	42	42	49		8	2	0
12-Jul	3	9	6	12						
18-Jul	4	13.75	1	26	26	70		19	3	0
19-Jul	4	19.25	5	37	37	150		28	6	0
20-Jul	5	21.6	10	44	44	130		22	9	0
21-Jul	5	20.8	5	51	51	80		12	14	0
24-Jul	5	22	4	54	54	40		11	4	0
25-Jul	4	21.25	7	48	48	47				
26-Jul	4	20	9	38	38	56		12	10	0
30-Jul	4	47.25	24	80	80	65		18	5	0
31-Jul	3	13	4	25		30		7	6	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>					<b>789</b>		<b>60</b>		
										Avg. Vis at BP
										Min # at any pt
										Max # at any pt
										Avg vis
										42
										0
										80
										18

Table 3. Mountain Patrol statistics for August 2014.

AUGUST										
Date	Points	Avg. Vis	Min at any Pt.	Max at any Pt.	Bax Pk Count	# People Met	Parties Contacted	Trash	Human Waste	
1-Aug	5	17	8	34	15	80		20	11	0
6-Aug	4	16.75	7	33	33	74		12	10	0
7-Aug	3	27	18	35	35	50		15	8	1
8-Aug	3	11	7	16	16	37		7	7	1
9-Aug	5	10	0	19	19	50		10	8	1
20-Aug	3	27.67	9	40	40	55		17	10	1
21-Aug	3	18	7	40	40	45		15	6	1
22-Aug	4	18.25	3	36	36	65		12	9	0
23-Aug	5	27.2	7	60	60	75		15	4	1
27-Aug	5	12.8	5	29	29	90		18	10	1
28-Aug	5	11.2	0	27	27	60		12	4	0
29-Aug	5	2.8	0	10	2	12		3	2	1
30-Aug	2	15.5	15	16				7	1	0
31-Aug	5	5.6	0	10	7	45		8	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>					<b>738</b>		<b>91</b>		
										Avg. Vis at BP
										Min # at any pt
										Max # at any pt
										Avg vis
										28
										0
										60
										16

JUNE																		
Date	Points	Avg. Vts	Min at any Pt.	Max at any Pt.	Box Pt. Count	# People Met	Portions Contacted	Trash	Human Waste									
13-Jun	5	6	2	17	17	20	8	9	0									
29-Jun	1								1									
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>					<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>									
										<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Avg. Vts at BP</td> <td>Min # of any pt.</td> <td>Max # of any pt.</td> <td>Avg. pts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>1</td> <td>17</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </table>	Avg. Vts at BP	Min # of any pt.	Max # of any pt.	Avg. pts	12	1	17	11
Avg. Vts at BP	Min # of any pt.	Max # of any pt.	Avg. pts															
12	1	17	11															

JULY																		
Date	Points	Avg. Vts	Min at any Pt.	Max at any Pt.	Box Pt. Count	# People Met	Portions Contacted	Trash	Human Waste									
1-Jul	5	4	0	15	15	14	5	0	0									
6-Jul	2	5.5	2	9	9	13	4	1	0									
10-Jul	5	12.2	5	25	25	26	7	0	0									
11-Jul	4	17.25	5	42	42	49	8	2	0									
12-Jul	3	9	4	12	12	20	2	2	0									
18-Jul	4	18.75	1	26	26	30	2	2	0									
19-Jul	4	18.25	5	37	37	100	2	4	0									
20-Jul	5	21.6	10	45	45	100	22	9	0									
21-Jul	5	28.8	5	61	61	60	12	14	0									
23-Jul	5	22	4	54	54	40	11	4	0									
26-Jul	4	21.25	7	46	46	47			0									
28-Jul	4	100	9	38	38	64	12	30	0									
30-Jul	4	47.25	10	80	80	65	18	5	0									
31-Jul	3	15	4	25	25	30	7	4	0									
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>					<b>790</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1</b>									
										<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Avg. Vts at BP</td> <td>Min # of any pt.</td> <td>Max # of any pt.</td> <td>Avg. pts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>42</td> <td>0</td> <td>80</td> <td>23</td> </tr> </table>	Avg. Vts at BP	Min # of any pt.	Max # of any pt.	Avg. pts	42	0	80	23
Avg. Vts at BP	Min # of any pt.	Max # of any pt.	Avg. pts															
42	0	80	23															

AUGUST																		
Date	Points	Avg. Vts	Min at any Pt.	Max at any Pt.	Box Pt. Count	# People Met	Portions Contacted	Trash	Human Waste									
1-Aug	5	17	3	35	35	30	20	11	0									
6-Aug	4	18.75	7	33	33	34	12	20	0									
7-Aug	3	27	18	35	35	60	15	8	1									
8-Aug	3	11	7	16	16	37	7	7	1									
9-Aug	5	10	0	19	19	50	10	4	1									
10-Aug	3	27.67	9	60	60	55	17	10	1									
11-Aug	3	18	7	40	40	45	15	4	1									
12-Aug	4	18.25	4	26	26	45	12	9	0									
13-Aug	5	27.2	7	60	60	75	15	4	1									
17-Aug	5	11.8	5	29	29	40	18	10	1									
18-Aug	5	11.2	0	17	17	40	12	4	0									
19-Aug	5	2.8	0	10	2	12	3	2	1									
20-Aug	2	15.5	15	16			7	1	0									
31-Aug	5	5.4	0	10	7	25	4	1	1									
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>					<b>738</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>11</b>									
										<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Avg. Vts at BP</td> <td>Min # of any pt.</td> <td>Max # of any pt.</td> <td>Avg. pts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>0</td> <td>60</td> <td>21</td> </tr> </table>	Avg. Vts at BP	Min # of any pt.	Max # of any pt.	Avg. pts	28	0	60	21
Avg. Vts at BP	Min # of any pt.	Max # of any pt.	Avg. pts															
28	0	60	21															

SEPTEMBER																		
Date	Points	Avg. Vts	Min at any Pt.	Max at any Pt.	Box Pt. Count	# People Met	Portions Contacted	Trash	Human Waste									
3-Sep	2	3.7	2	6	6	11	4	3	0									
4-Sep	5	8.4	3	27	27	35	10	7	0									
6-Sep	5	8.2	5	13	13	100	9	0	0									
10-Sep	4	10.5	0	26	26	60	12	5	0									
11-Sep	3	15	5	35	35	45	13	9	0									
14-Sep	5	20.6	4	50	50	70	15	6	1									
19-Sep	5	14	0	32	32	75	14	2	1									
30-Sep	5	6.8	0	10	10	16	4	2	0									
31-Sep	4	11.75	4	20	20	30	6	4	0									
28-Sep	3	8.5	7	21	21	40	7	6	1									
26-Sep	4	15.5	5	28	28	40	10	8	1									
27-Sep	5	25.5	7	61	61	30	15	9	1									
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>					<b>671</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>11</b>									
										<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Avg. Vts at BP</td> <td>Min # of any pt.</td> <td>Max # of any pt.</td> <td>Avg. pts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>0</td> <td>60</td> <td>21</td> </tr> </table>	Avg. Vts at BP	Min # of any pt.	Max # of any pt.	Avg. pts	28	0	60	21
Avg. Vts at BP	Min # of any pt.	Max # of any pt.	Avg. pts															
28	0	60	21															

OCTOBER																		
Date	Points	Avg. Vts	Min at any Pt.	Max at any Pt.	Box Pt. Count	# People Met	Portions Contacted	Trash	Human Waste									
6-Oct	5	12	0	23	23	30	10	9	2									
9-Oct	1	3	3	4	4	6	3	2	0									
9-Oct	4	8.25	5	14	14	40	7	4	0									
10-Oct	4	6.8	4	17	17	25	8	4	0									
11-Oct	5	16	25	70	70	100	25	4	0									
12-Oct	5	15.4	2	32	32	40	12	5	0									
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>					<b>381</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>11</b>									
										<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Avg. Vts at BP</td> <td>Min # of any pt.</td> <td>Max # of any pt.</td> <td>Avg. pts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>0</td> <td>70</td> <td>21</td> </tr> </table>	Avg. Vts at BP	Min # of any pt.	Max # of any pt.	Avg. pts	30	0	70	21
Avg. Vts at BP	Min # of any pt.	Max # of any pt.	Avg. pts															
30	0	70	21															