

Whitecap District Report

for the period of 10/1/2017 to 9/30/2018
submitted November 2, 2018

The Whitecap district runs from the Rt. 15 parking lot in Monson North to the Jo Mary Road at Cooper Brook, a total of 60 miles. In addition there is 7 miles of side trail largely in the Gulf Hags area. The tread way traverses two substantial mountain ranges, Barren-Chairback and Whitecap, and follows flatter and wetter terrain along the Wilson Valley in the south and the old Cooper Brook tote road in the north.

The trail is divided into 30 assignments (38 individuals), with 9 lean-tos and one tent site. Most of the campsites are part of the trail maintainer responsibilities. From various reports and visits I can say the district is generally in good condition. This is the result of 94 reported work trips attended by 137 workers logging a total of 1780 volunteer hours plus an additional 1072 travel hours. This level of commitment continues to be impressive given the remote access and distance to the trail to be found in the 100 mile wilderness.

There were a number of projects either completed or planned during 2018. Between the efforts of the maintainer, Andy Peake, and club volunteers, the bog bridging along the Pleasant River tote road was completed. A proposed relocation to eliminate the worst of the 4th Mountain trail was laid out and flagged with the help of a lot of people putting multiple days work. Doug Dolan and the LL Bean crew replaced the sill in the Cooper Brook lean-to. We started the process to take care of the beaver dam endangering the Wilson Valley lean-to. The Maine Trail Crew also completed projects on both the north and south side of White Cap.

Changes to the maintainer roster this year included the addition of Mark Cheever for the White Brook Trail and the resignation, for personal reasons, of the Martel's. We are also dividing Janice Clain's trail section into two maintenance sections for 2019.