

WHITE CAP DISTRICT

Overseer: Ron Dobra

Assistant Overseer: Bruce Grant

(The White Cap District extends from Maine Highway 15 to the Jo-Mary Haul Road.)

White Cap District - 2016 Annual Report

submitted 10/20/2016

The White Cap District, initiating the first sixty miles of the “100 mile wilderness” heading north, starts easily enough along the Wilson Valley and ends in a similar fashion along Cooper Brook, but contains two of the grittier ridge lines of the AT found on the Barren Chairback range and the White Cap range. The district enjoyed a very good year in terms of overall trail maintenance and new section appointments. Joining the current roster of 37 maintainers were Hannah Stevens and Dustin Moyer taking over from Jonathan Harris in the vicinity of East Branch lean to, including the lean to; Wanda Greatorex on the southern bottom half of Gulf Hugas Mtn.; Bobby Campbell from East Chairback Pond to Chairback Gap lean to; Erica Kauffman and Jeremy Dubois for both sides of Fourth Mtn.; and Dan Dauphinee in the area of Wilson Valley lean to, including the shelter.

To keep up trail standards, the 31 section and 10 lean to/campsite assignments saw a total of 201 individuals listed on 250 work trip reports, cumulating in 3,070 work and 2,121 travel hours, adding up to 5,191 volunteer hours. This number is almost twice that of last year, and reflects well on individual and group efforts, as well as prior vacancies being enthusiastically filled.

Highlights of the season featured record low water and high numbers of hikers, which made for varied situations. A “code brown” was declared at three privies, and privy tipping parties were organized, with the foundation at Wilson Valley being rebuilt while the building was on skids. Over 200 bog bridge planks were ordered, milled, and moved by volunteer labor from Millinocket for use in the Wilson Valley and the Gulf Hugas Pleasant River tote road. Two relocations were cut and opened—one on Columbus Mtn. and another in the Wilson Valley. Freshman orientation groups from both Colby and Bowdoin colleges helped transport bridging and other materials, as well as doing trail work. The Maine Trail Crew spent a total of 9 weeks building staircases and water bars on both sides of White Cap Mtn. A grant from Plum Creek was utilized to contract an arborist crew to start reclaiming the view shed along the Gulf Hugas Rim Trail, clearing 132 trees from 16 locations, with another grant request filed to finish the work this summer. The ridge runners working out of Monson-Patty Harding (a section maintainer) and Kim Rosenbaum, as well as MATC Gulf Hugas ridge runner “Moxie” Niedenthal, provided me with timely updates on trail and shelter conditions.

Next year’s plans include replacement of the privy at Logan Brook lean to with the moldering model; a potential of 12 weeks of Maine Trail Crew work rebuilding the approach to Little Wilson Falls; replacing 150 sections of rotted bog bridging along the Pleasant River tote road, and finishing trail hardening work up the bottom south slope of Barren Mtn. However, the primary focus has always been, and will remain, care of the AT through the efforts of White Cap District volunteers, for which I thank you.