

**THE
ALLAGASH
WILDERNESS
WATERWAY**

April, 1970

FOREWORD

This report is presented for the purpose of including the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, a state controlled river, in the Wild and Scenic River System pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of October 2, 1968 (P.L. 90-542). The act designates the Allagash Wilderness Waterway as one of the rivers which, upon application of the Governor of the State of Maine, may meet the criteria for inclusion in the system.

This report was prepared by the Maine State Park and Recreation Commission to support the Governor's application for this purpose. Detailed information and the boundary plan are on file with the Secretary of the Interior and the Maine State Park and Recreation Commission.

THE ALLAGASH A WILD RIVER

Approximately 85 miles of the Allagash River with the several lakes and ponds in its watercourse have been established as the Allagash Wilderness Waterway by virtue of an act passed by the Maine State Legislature and signed into law on February 3, 1966, and effective May 11, 1966 (Chap. 496, 1965 Public Laws). The intent of this legislation sets forth that this watercourse shall forever be maintained and operated in its wild condition to provide a wilderness canoe experience.

The entire Allagash region is comprised of some 1.8 million acres in the northwestern Maine which is drained by the river of the same name. Today, fifth and sixth growth forest surrounds some 40 lakes and ponds and innumerable streams and brooks, and the region remains a stalwart wilderness forest.

The State of Maine, by and through the Maine State Park and Recreation Commission has acquired fee simple title to the 400-800 foot restricted zone adjacent to the high water mark for the entire length of the watercourse as prescribed by the act creating the "Waterway." This places some 25,000 acres in State ownership to be maintained and operated in a wild state. In addition, the State of Maine, by virtue of the act, has control over all operations and developments beyond the restricted zone a distance of one mile from the high water mark. This area is referred to as the outer zone.

These two zones combined with approximately 33,000 acres of water places some 200,000 acres under State control.

HISTORY

In the late 1700's and early 1800's, vast sections of Maine's forest land changed hands many times as investors tried and failed in attempts to entice farmers to settle in substantial numbers.

Although many of our present villages and towns in central and North central Maine were first founded by people responding to this pioneer appeal, their numbers were too few to have any appreciable "farm land" effect upon the value of the surrounding areas, most of which still belonged to the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

It was during these early colonial and post-colonial times that a number of very remote, scattering individual farms were hewed out of the wilderness by the adventurous "explorer" type of pioneer -- Army veterans with land grants, in some cases; strong, individualistic people who either did not want nearby neighbors, or who were searching for a "Utopia." Many of them found their private Utopia along the Allagash.

It was also during the 1700's that a tremendous stand of Eastern white pine was reaching ripe maturity in the valleys of the Penobscot, Allagash, and St. John Rivers; pine deposited there by some freak or whim of Mother Nature, for this was not pine country,

The specie would not regenerate itself except under the most optimum conditions.

Until the 1830's, ownership of the bulk of these "wild lands" was retained by Maine and Massachusetts, under a separation agreement. In the 1830's, the pressure from many individuals for land grants, statehood financial problems, plus the failure of Massachusetts to hold up their end of the separation agreement, prompted the legislature of both states to sell all the land they owned except the public reserved lots.

The new owners of the wildlands, including the Allagash River Valley, were observant businessmen, and two things became apparent to them in the mid 1800's; the future of the Northern Maine forest lay not in pine, but in spruce; a tree which, over the thousands of years of its existence, had completely fitted itself to this soil and climate. It re-seeded and regenerated without assistance, it was a fast growing tree after being released by the removal of the towering pines and it could be manufactured into excellent lumber.

The second item recognized by the private owners of the Allagash lands was that the future of the area lay not in people, towns, farms, etc.; but a forest environment based on the production of wood.

In 1841, a dam was built at the outlet of Chamberlain Lake, raising the level of the lake and sending it spilling over into the Penobscot by way of "Telos cut" and Webster Lake. This was the scene of the "Telos War," a dispute over driving rights and toll charges at Telos Dam. Also, by virtue of a dam at Churchill and locks at Chamberlain, logs downriver from Chamberlain were floated into the Penobscot. Millions of board feet of Allagash lumber came to Bangor by that route.

Logging was done almost entirely during the winter months when snow and ice made skidding easier, and it was necessary to move small armies of men into the woods to get the logs out in a short few months.

In the late 1800's, the Allagash became popular as a wilderness canoe trip; a real adventurous expedition in those days.

For the thousands who have made the canoe journey, it has offered an opportunity for trips of 145 miles spread over three or four weeks or an 85 mile venture of ten days to two weeks. The longer route stretches from Northeast Carry on the upper end of Moosehead Lake to St. Francis on the St. John while the shorter starts at Telos Lake.

Flowing north, the Allagash River takes shape after the canoeist has paddled up Telos, Eagle, Chamberlain and Churchill lakes to Chase

Rips. Even on down the river the journey is broken up by other beautiful lakes---Umsaskis and Long as well as Round Pond. Near journey's end is Allagash Falls. The watershed offers several side trips, too, which can take the traveler off the main route.

It was also during the late 1800's that a firm policy was established of protecting the esthetic quality of the forest; of allowing no development of facilities for transients which would mar or detract from the natural, wild aspect.

At the turn of the century, an endless cable tramway was constructed to speed up delivery of logs from Eagle-Churchill Lakes to Chamberlain and the Penobscot. Remains of this system are still visible at "Tramway Farm."

It was also in this period that paper mills made their appearance in Maine. In 1925, a standard gauge railroad was built, beginning at the Tramway Farm on Eagle Lake, for the purpose of hauling pulpwood from Allagash waters to the Penobscot. This was used to some extent for 10 years, and remnants of the locomotives, railroad and trestle across the West end of Chamberlain are still to be seen.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

In its entire length of 85 \pm miles, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway has a vertical drop of 420 feet. Essentially, the watercourse is free-flowing and the water is of high quality.

There are three small dams of timber crib construction which do no form impoundments which detract from the wilderness character of the waterway and are of historic significance in the development of the logging industry of the region.

Churchill dam, which is owned by the State of Maine, has a head of 8 \pm feet. This dam has been rebuilt and is operated by the State for the primary purpose of controlling water flow to allow for optimum canoeing throughout the entire recreation season.

Telos and Lock Dams both have heads of 5 \pm feet and are both owned by the Bangor Hydro Electric Company. This company operated these dams for the primary purpose of water storage. This company has agreed not to draw down the level of Telos and Chamberlain Lakes during the recreational use season below the normal level.

Access to the "Waterway" is limited to automobiles and float planes. The roads leading to the area are privately owned by the timber companies. The major access points by automobile are located at Telos Landing and West Twin Brook. The primary use of

all other roads in the area is for the transportation of harvested wood. The existing roads will be scarified as soon as practicable and the location of all new roads for these purposes are subject to approval by the State. The policy on these will be to provide the minimum impact on the wilderness character of the "Waterway."

With the exception of the three existing low dams and those structures essential State service, there are no permanent habitations or agricultural lands within the waterway.

The Maine Environmental Improvement Commission has classified the waters of the Allagash watershed as Class B-1. This class is suitable for water contact recreation, for use as potable water supply after adequate treatment, and for a fish and wildlife habitat. There are no sawmills, industries, or other activities within the watershed and the only source of contamination is by natural sources.

NATURAL FEATURES

Principal big game species found within the Allagash valley include the most important game species in Maine, the white-tailed deer, and the most prized big game trophy in Maine, the black bear. Other big game species include the moose, which is protected, and the caribou, which was re-introduced into Baxter State Park in 1964.

Small game and fur-bearing mammals include the beaver, martin, fisher, otter, mink, muskrat, racoon, and red fox. The bobcat and canadian lynx, both unprotected, are rarely seen.

Upland bird species include the ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, ring-necked pheasant (introduced), american woodcock, and common snipe. The bald eagle and common loon are occasionally found in the region.

Although endowed with many species of fresh water fish, the Allagash is world-noted for its excellent brook trout fishing. Also plentiful are lake trout (togue) and lake whitefish.

An average rainfall of 38 inches and a frost-free period of only 100 days support a climax type of spruce-fir intermixed with a sprinkling of white pine and northern hardwoods (maple, beech, birch).

The valley is predominantly thorndike loams derived from slate, shale, and sandstone till. During the 1700's a tremendous stand of Eastern white pine dominated the Allagash valley. After cutting, the species would not regenerate itself except under the most optimum conditions. The present species of red and white spruce and balsam fir support a thriving wood industry on the lands surrounding the Allagash wilderness waterway.

LEGISLATION

After World War 2, and in the 1950's, the "population explosion," combined with increasing leisure time, better mobility, more disposable income, etc., began to trigger a change in the environment over large segments of the country. Natural, undeveloped areas began to shrink, and conservation groups began to express the wish that the Allagash River and its environs could be set aside under a plan to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

Concern over the future of the area during the past decade has led to state, federal and private studies. A special study committee of the Maine Legislature summed up this concern in these words early in 1966:

"There has arisen a growing awareness that the wilderness character of this beautiful natural resource is threatened by increased incursions made by a fast growing population demanding more and more recreational facilities and an increased harvesting of the vast forest products by the private owners of the land within the area."

The Allagash legislation was the result of a report by the Allagash-St. John Legislative Study Committee following a study in the interim between the conclusion of the 1965 regular session of the 102nd Maine Legislature and the special session of 1966.

Highlights of the legislation creating the "Waterway" include:

- a) Establishment of a park about 85 miles long and varying in width from a minimum of 2 miles along the Allagash stream and river and to one mile deep from the shoreline of lakes and ponds. It would have an approximate area of 200,000 acres---33,000 of which would be water.
- b) Within the "Waterway" would be a "restricted zone" ranging from 400 to 800 feet on either side of the river and stream and back from the shores of lakes and ponds. Outside this "restricted zone" but still within the waterway, controlled harvesting of wood would be allowed.
- c) All camps, private and public, within the restricted zone would be purchased but it would be possible to lease commercial sporting camps (there were only three) back to owners or others for operation.
- d) From Lock Dam (between Chamberlain and Eagle lakes in the southern portion of the proposed park) on downstream to the confluence of Allagash River and West Twin Brooks, only canoes (including square stern) would be allowed with power of up to 10 h.p. per canoe permitted. On Telos and Chamberlain lakes at the southern end of the waterway, recreational activities would be controlled but no restrictions placed on the type of boat or size of motor. Allagash Lake and Allagash Stream are restricted to use of canoe and paddle only.

The second item enacted by the same legislative session authorized a \$1.5 million dollar bond issue to be matched by federal funds. This bond issue was ratified by the voters of the State of Maine, and the federal funds were realized from the Land & Water Conservation Fund.

POLICY & ADMINISTRATION

The purposes and philosophy contained in the Legislation establishing the Allagash Wilderness Waterway clearly indicate that this area is to be forever maintained and operated as a wilderness canoe experience. In order to carry out this philosophy, the State Park and Recreation Commission has already adopted and will continue to revise policies which it believes assists in carrying out the Legislative intent as spelled out in the Act.

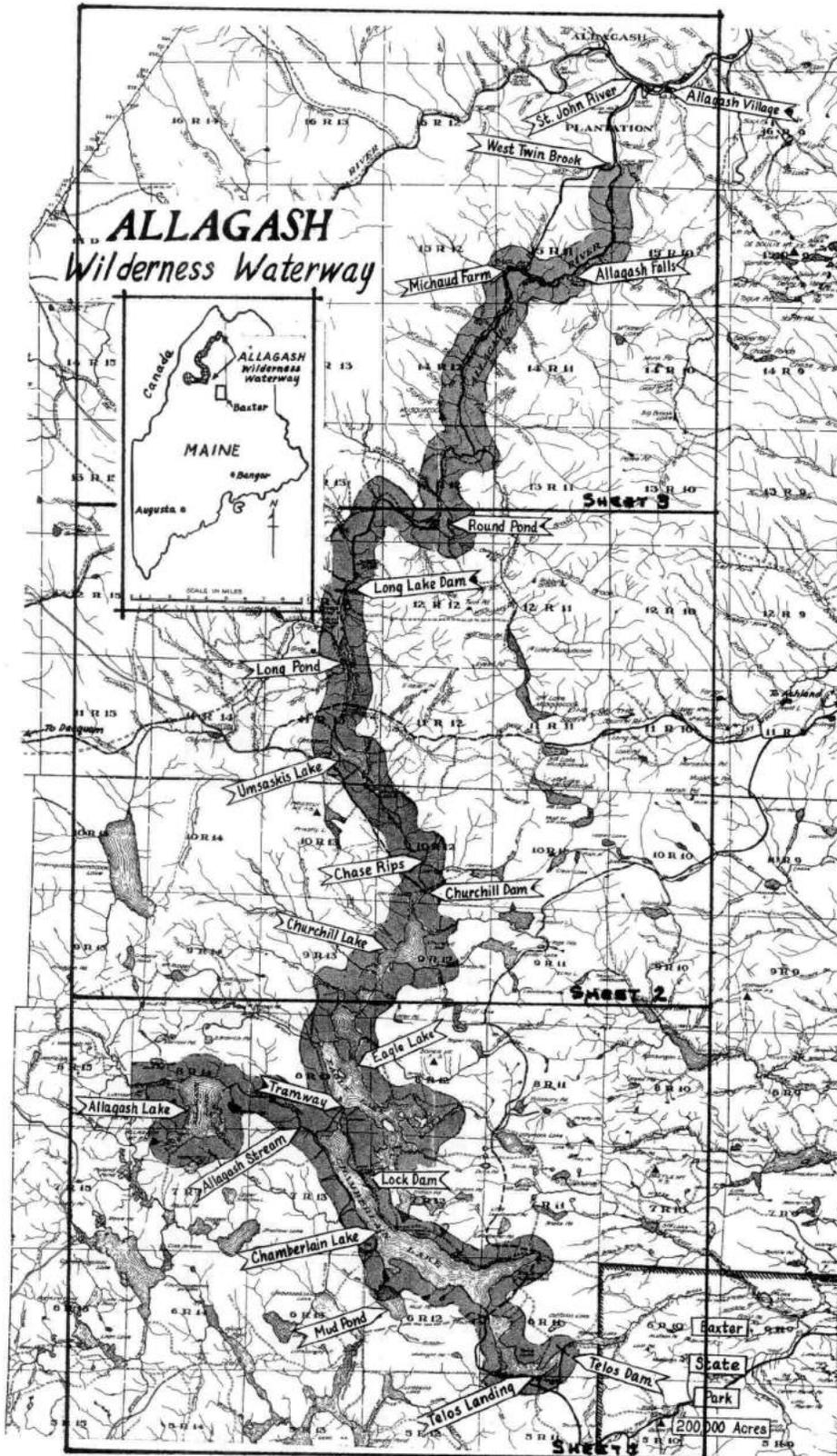
To assist in determining policies, etc., the Commission has already appointed an Advisory Committee of seven (7) individuals representing the various interests involved in the use and management of the Waterway. It includes a major land owner, a private airplane pilot, a conservationist, a member of the Maine State Legislature, an owner of one of two sporting camps and a private promoter of organized trips. Several meetings of this Advisory group together with deliberations by the Commission have resulted in the following policies to maintain the wilderness character.

1. Discontinuance of all private woods roads as their usefulness ceases to the woods operator except that at the two (2) ends of the Waterway, Telos Lake and Allagash Village. If the Realty Road continues to cross at the middle of the Waterway as it now does, then strict control or access at this point will be maintained.
2. All existing camp sites will be maintained in a wilderness character with a proper facility for human waste provided. A rustic fireplace site delineated possibly with rustic materials for fireplace construction, small table made of rough wood may also be provided.

3. New camp sites will be located throughout the Waterway in an effort to spread out use.
4. An attempt will be made to locate certain sites that are adaptable for large groups (over 3 canoes) and facilities provided here will be rustic in nature and suitable for larger groups of users.
5. All camp sites will endeavor to identify and locate suitable drinking water.
6. As the new sites are put into use to distribute the load, a continuing appraisal will be made to determine as nearly as possible just how many canoers can use the Waterway at one time without destroying its wilderness experience. When the figure is determined, then the Waterway will go onto a reservation system for both individual and commercial users. The conditions and restrictions involved in a reservation system will be determined at a later date.
7. In all probability, before the reservation system is adopted, a fee system for use will be instituted (presently all users are registered but at no fee).
8. Dump sites at individual camp sites have not worked out for various reasons. Effective with the summer of 1970, all users of the Waterway will be expected to carry away from the camp site all of their non-burnable rubbish. Trash bags will be provided and dumping stations for these bags will be indicated all along the Waterway and should be located so frequently that no one will need to carry their rubbish more than one (1) or two (2) days.

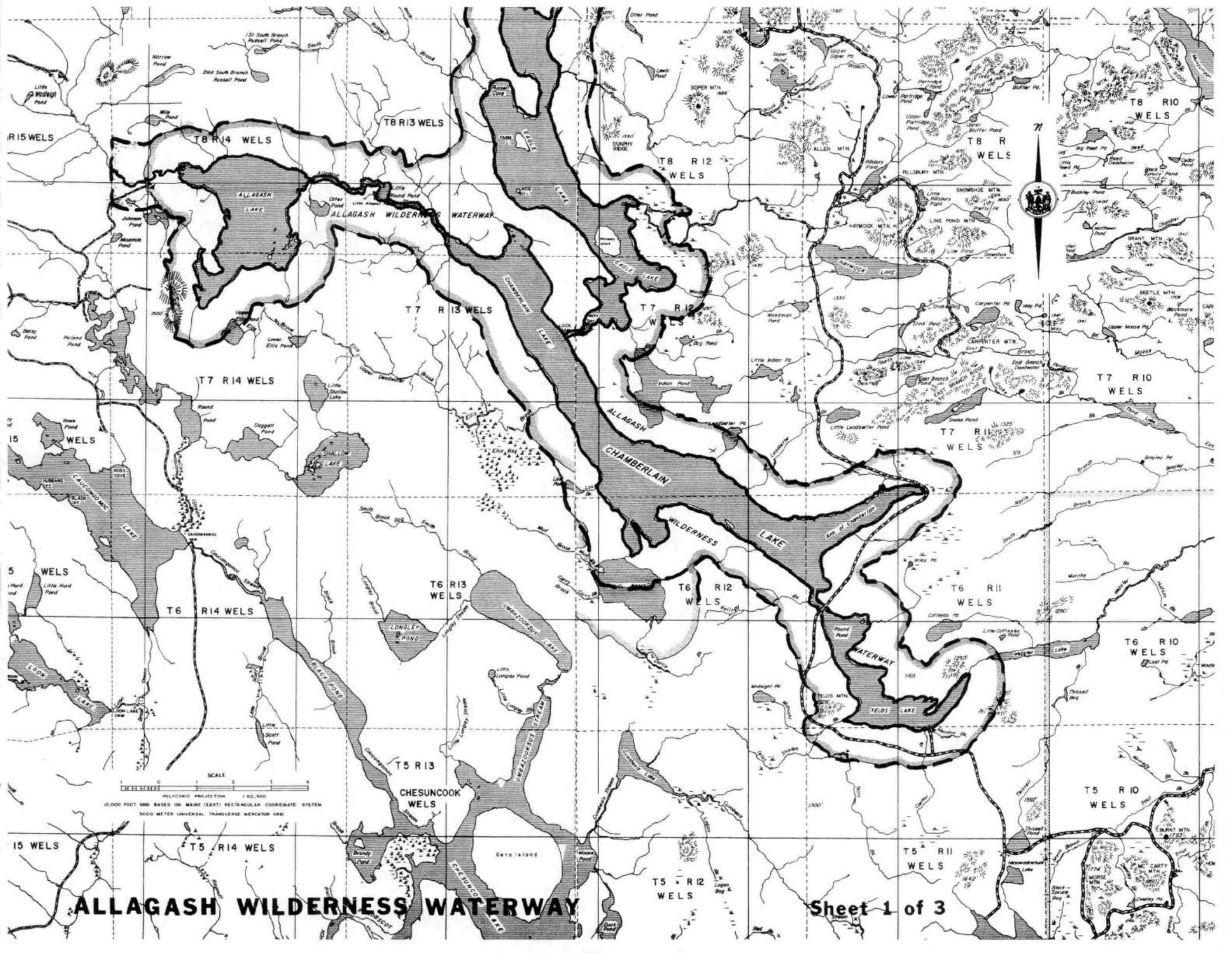
It is the thinking of the Commission and its Advisory Committee that if users are not willing to take the Allagash trip on terms and conditions outlined above, then they should not undertake the Allagash trip.

APPENDIX



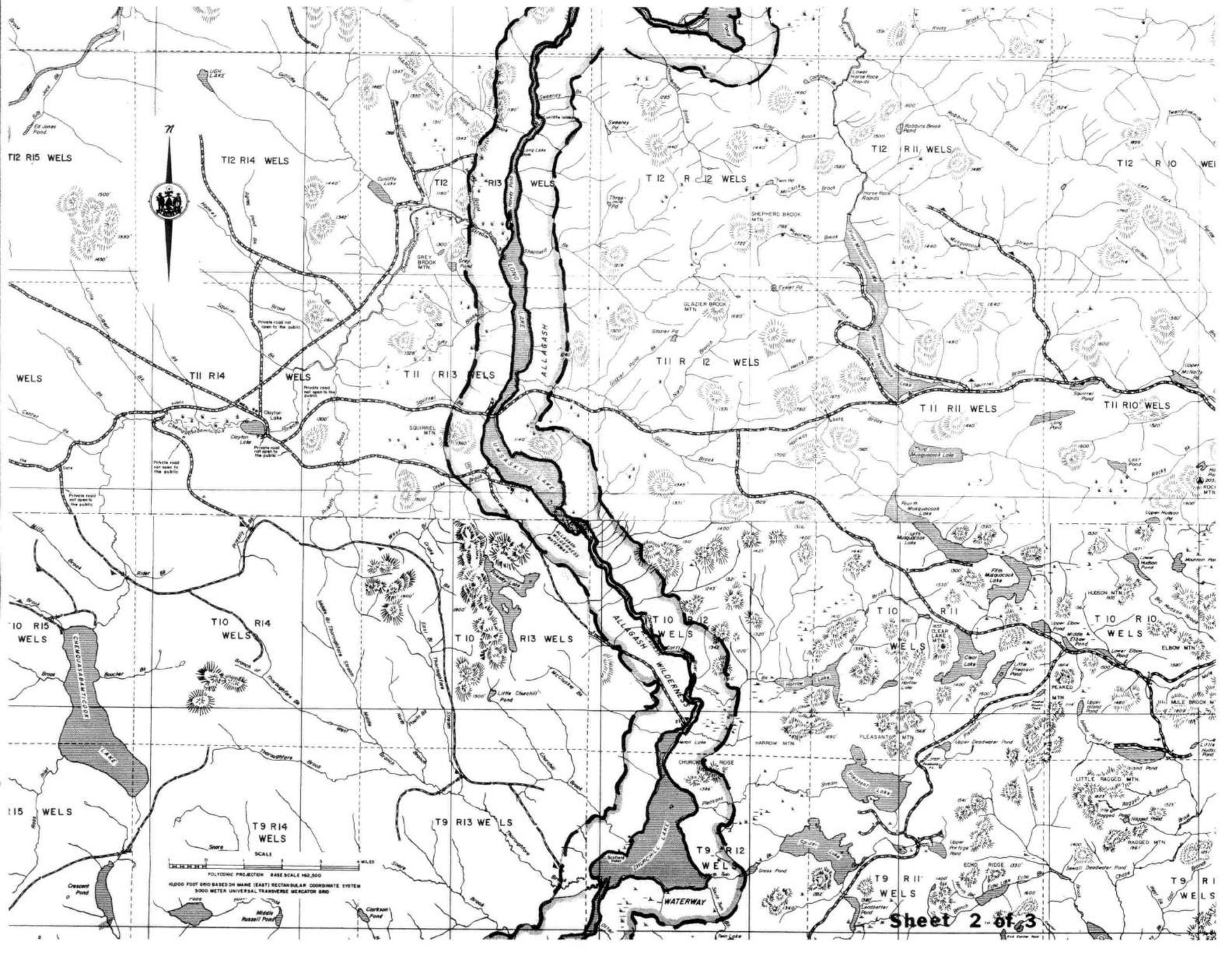
Reprinted from *OUTDOOR RECREATION IN MAINE*, 1966, published in April 1967 by the Maine State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Note: Copies of the boundary maps of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway are on file at the offices of the Secretary of the Interior and the Maine State Park & Recreation Commission.



SCALE 0 1 2 3
 POLYCONIC PROJECTION 1:62,500
 10,000 FOOT GRID BASED ON MAINE (EAST) RECTANGULAR COORDINATE SYSTEM
 5000 METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR GRID

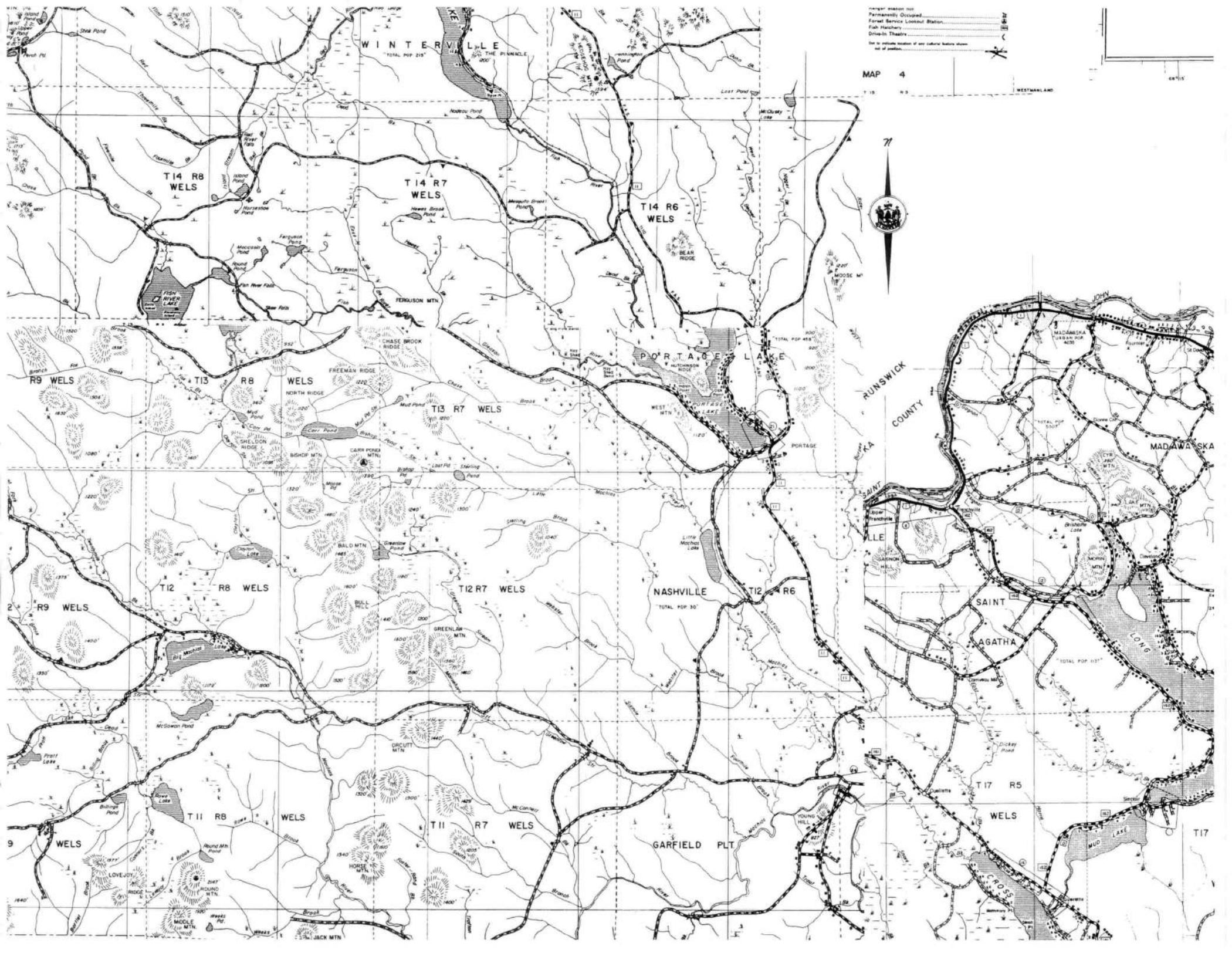
ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY



POLYCONIC PROJECTION BASE SCALE 1:62,500

10,000 FOOT GRID BASED ON NAD 83 DATUM

3,000 METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR GRID



RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ALLAGASH

(As of April, 1970)

1. Dead trees may be cut for firewood, but shall not be cut within 150 feet of the general area of any campsite. All trees shall be cut as close to the ground as possible.

2. Small poles as necessary for tent or fly erections may be cut. These shall not be cut within 150 feet of the general area of any campsite. Such poles should be left in a conspicuous place for use by the next party.

3. No materials or artifacts are to be disturbed or removed from the restricted zone without specific authorization from the Commission.

4. Only canoes (square stern allowed) shall be permitted in the watercourse from Lock Dam north to West Twin Brook (Allagash Plantation) and use may be made of one outboard motor per canoe not in excess of 10 horsepower.

- a. Canoe means a form of small watercraft, long and narrow, sharp on both ends, usually propelled by paddles or small motors, and having no rudder or sails.
- b. A square stern canoe shall be defined as a form of small watercraft, long and narrow, sharp on one end and blunt on the other, having a maximum width across the blunt end of not more than 22 inches, usually propelled by a small motor, and having no rudder or sails.

5. On Telos, Round Pond (T6, R11) and Chamberlain Lake boats and motors in addition to canoes and other watercraft may be used without restriction as to size and horsepower.

6. Waterskiing or similar activity is prohibited on all waters.

7. The landing of aircraft is prohibited within the Waterway except for:

- a. Emergency
- b. Necessary use by State agencies
- c. The landing and take-off of passengers and equipment on:
 - (1) Telos Lake at Telos Landing
 - (2) Chamberlain Lake at Nugent's Camps, Lock Dam and Crow's Nest near Trestle
 - (3) Churchill Lake at its northerly end near Heron Lake

- (4) Umsaskis Lake at the Forest Warden's headquarters
- (5) Long Lake at Jalbert's Camp
- (6) Round Pond (T13, R12) at Jalbert's Camps

d. When water areas are frozen (does not include Allagash Lake).

8. On Allagash Lake and Allagash Stream to Chamberlain Lake these additional regulations shall also apply:

- a. Only canoes with no outboard may be used.
- b. Any chain saws used by wood operators from June 1st to September 1st shall have muffler and spark arrestor approval.
- c. Use of motor driven snow sleds, except as provided in 7, a., b. is prohibited.
- d. No plane landings at anytime, except as provided in 7, a., b.

9. Motor driven snow sleds may be used elsewhere in the Waterway only on frozen water areas, established roads, trails and paths.

10. Outdoor fires, including sterno, gasoline, charcoal or other fuel fires in or out of tents and collapsible shelters, are prohibited except at officially established and identified campsites or when the ground is covered with snow.

11. Fishing and hunting is allowed under regular rules and regulations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game.

12. Any person possessing a firearm shall be properly licensed under Maine Fish and Game Laws. Shooting onto or across the water is prohibited from May 1 - September 30. The possession of firearms in the Waterway, except during the regular hunting season is discouraged.

13. Camping is permitted only at officially designated campsites.

14. Papers, waste materials, and rubbish may be burned at officially designated campsites. All non-burnable material shall be disposed of by one of the following methods.

- a. Placed in a trash can at:
 - 1. the campsite
 - 2. the nearest access point
- b. Buried at least 150 feet from campsite. All cans should be burned out before burial.

15. The use of power saws or other equipment powered by internal combustion engines is prohibited, except as specified in these rules and regulations and the following:

- a. Motor vehicles may be driven to and from access points in the Waterway.
- b. As required for approved timber harvesting operations.
- c. By State agencies.

16. All incidents resulting in injury or damage to persons or property must be reported by the persons involved to Waterway personnel.

17. No person shall engage in conduct detrimental to his own safety or the safety of others.

18. No person shall engage in conduct which will change or destroy or tend to change or destroy the natural beauty and wilderness character of the Waterway.

19. All persons using the Waterway shall register at the first available opportunity.

EAST BRANCH IMPROVEMENT COMPANY

Bangor, Maine

January 14, 1966

Mr. Lawrence Stuart, Commissioner
State Park & Recreation Commission
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Larry:

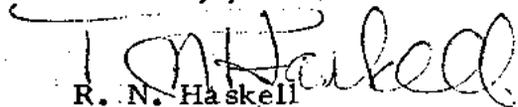
An attached sheet shows summer water elevations on Telos since the dam was rebuilt in 1942.

With respect to the June 15-September 15 period (the three months of major recreational use of the Telos, Round and Chamberlain water), East Branch Improvement Company, the sole owner of the water control dams at Telos and at Lock Dam on Chamberlain, agrees as follows:

- (1) During each June 15-September 15 period, the Company will so regulate the water as to produce lake elevations at least as favorable as the averages recorded during the past twenty-three (23) years. Elevations at June 15, July 15, August 15 and September 15 will be promptly reported to the Park Commission.
- (2) While continuing to agree that the above average levels will prevail in the future, there may be years (as in 1965) when the spring run-off will not be sufficient to fill the basin, and there will be years (as in 1962) when work on the structures will require lower elevations during a summer construction period.
- (3) Certain of our charter obligations, unless amended by the Legislature, would require us to suite for log driving, and that contingency, which I believe to be extremely remote, would be a prior obligation. It has been more than 20 years since a drive went through Telos and during those years pulpwood and long lumber had been taken out of the area over more and more truck roads.

At your request and at your convenience I will be pleased to have these promises expressed in such legal form and with such reasonable changes or additions as you may suggest.

Sincerely yours,



R. N. Haskell

President