



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 2 2023

To: Baxter State Park Authority

From: Director Kevin Adam

Subject: BSP Operational Report for April to May 2023

Human Resources / Personnel

PARK STAFFING: We have currently hired 14 new employees to the Baxter State Park Team.

Customer Service Togue Gate: Ken Gross, Katie Fink, Karen O'laughlin, Sterling Smith

Customer Service Visitor Center: Chloe Tardanico

Customer Service Mattagamon Gate: Olivia Scott

Customer Service Headquarters: Frank Blake

Campground Rangers: Ian Macknight, Trevor Jones, Taylor Radigan, Robert Sweinhart

Trails: Kwayde Lucas, Adelaide Brant,

Summit Intern: Cole Epstein

Promotions:

Interpretive Specialist: Cassandra Knudsen

COMMITTEES:

Advisory: Meeting on April 29 2023, discussed and passed making a permanent position for Tribal Member. There are currently 13 members out of 15 positions available. Now 2 out of the 15 positions available are permanent positions. One for Baxter Family Representative, One for Tribal member representative.

The Advisory is working on updating the Statement of Purpose and staggering the term limits of positions is included in those updates.

Friends: There was a zoom meeting on May 8 2023. BSP Director spoke, talked about assistance with management plan, policy upgrades, reservation issues.

SFMA: Update of committee membership and length of terms.

RESEARCH: Recommended appointment of Gary Fish to fill vacancy on research committee.

INVESTMENT: Investment funds have been stable and are just under 104 million.

WILDERNESS TRUST FUND: The Baxter Park Wilderness Fund Trust meeting was held on March 15th 2023 and the Trustees unanimously approved the Trust distribution to BSP for the fiscal year 2024. Using the same methodology and calculations used in previous years, the Trustees approved a distribution of \$400,000 to the Park. As in previous years, we will be distributing in quarterly increments with the first \$100,000 to be distributed in July.

SFMA REPORT: Staff and contractors are preparing access for summer and fall operations in the south end of the SFMA. This includes road grading, ditching, roadside brushing, the replacement of several culverts, and redecking of a bridge on the Useless Road. Staff are working to engage contractors for several miles of boundary line maintenance and pre-commercial thinning. Summer harvest operations will include the A&A Brochu cut-to-length crew, and potentially a hand cutter. Kevin Osborne, retired SFMA technician, will be working part-time this summer to assist staff with all aspects of field operations, planning, and deferred maintenance projects.

Trail Updates. At this time the Katahdin trailheads are closed and have been since April 1. Trail cleanup has actually been occurring since winter time on the south end trails such as, Foss/Knowlton, and Blueberry Ledges trails.

From there the three person crew began clearing blowdowns from trails in the Daicey and Kidney Pond area, clearing more than 500 trees from approximately 12 miles of trails. The trail crew continues their clearing efforts around Troutbrook Farm and South branch campground this week. Then they will begin clearing Katahdin Trails.

Kristin English, BSP Trail Specialist, has completed spring training, assisted with blowdown patrol, and attended a three day "rigging for trailwork" training in New Hampshire. The Trail Crew wrapped up Spring Training by participating in a prescribed burn with the Maine Forest Service.

Brennan Turner, BSP Trail Supervisor spent a day working with members of the National Guard this past weekend to repair a boardwalk along the AT, and carrying bog bridging to a project site on the Sandy Stream Trail. Finally, the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) volunteers have completed the first of their two weekends of annual cleanup projects on the Appalachian Trail in BSP.



MAINTENANCE: Maintenance has worked on servicing all the vehicles going back into service for the summer. Serviced the snowmobiles being stored away. Continuing to finish the Togue Ranger Camp project. Worked on the typical opening of camp issues such as water lines, hot water heater, water pumps, propane lights and heaters. Maintenance staff also has been working on cleaning up roads that have been covered with trees from winter.



Law Enforcement:

Supervisory and Law Enforcement Rangers have been getting campgrounds ready for visitors. Working with the campground ranger and volunteers. They have also been teaching new employees the essentials of working in a campground, or at a roving ranger position. We have many new customer representatives at the gates, visitor center, and headquarters. These positions all require different training and skill sets to master that of our supervisors and returning staff .

Many BSP employees assisted the Maine Forest Service with a prescribed burn in the Lakeview area along active railroad tracks. There were valuable skills learned along with important relationships developed during the day.



Illegal Hikers travelling onto closed Katahdin trails (Hunt, Abol, Chimney Pond Trails) have

increased with the nicer weather and park opening. Fishing activity has been good as people are able to access ponds around the Kidney and Daicy ponds area in the south. Up north Fowlers and Billfish ponds activity has been good. This is attributable to the roads being opened and passable this spring.

On May 19 Justine Rumaker Baxter State Park Enforcement Ranger. Graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Basic Law Enforcement Program. This is a 18 week long, 720 hours curriculum program. Congratulations Justine on this accomplishment in your career.

