



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 25, 2025

To: Baxter State Park Authority for the October 3, 2025, BSPA Meeting

From: Park Director Kevin Adam

Subject: Park Operations Update July 10 to the present

Finance:

FY25, Year-End Report – (July 24 – June 25):

Revenue:

- \$6,685,919: 10.5% positive variance:
 - Timing of State of Maine (SOM) trust disbursements*
 - Interest Income received on SOM Trust
 - Park generated income (camping, entrance fees, and miscellaneous service charges)
 - The Wilderness Trust Fund annual disbursement increase

Fiscal Notes:

- Revenue fell short of budget projections for sales tax payable, firewood sales, and SFMA contributed revenue
- *Capital Reserve Account funded \$202,470 with prior fiscal year SOM trust disbursements

Expenses:

- Personnel expense: \$4,455,906 – positive variance - 2%.
 - Note: position vacancies
- All Other expenses: \$1,558,588 – positive variance - 7%
 - Note: Tracking to budget.

Capital expense:

- \$452,185
 - Note: Includes capital for buildings, equipment, and infrastructure, and the Daicey Pond Project.

Daicey Pond Project

Final Finance Update through June 30, 2025:

The budget allocation included 29% for materials, 60% for labor, 11% for general operational expenses, and a 10% contingency fund to address any potential cost increases prior to the project's start. Ultimately, the total cost of the project came in at \$484,199, which was 89% of the high estimate. Notably, the actual cost of materials was 32%, slightly surpassing the budgeted 29%, while labor costs were lower at 57% compared to the anticipated 60%. General operational expenses are aligned with the budget at 11%.

Daicey Pond Final Project Budget Detail through 6/30/2025		
Revenue	Actual through 6/30/2025	Project Budget
Endowment Funded	\$ 273,500	\$ 273,500
BSP Funded	\$ 210,699	\$ 270,593
Total Revenue	\$ 484,199	\$ 544,093
Expense	Actual through 6/30/2025	Project Budget
*Personnel and Fringe	\$ 274,913	\$ 299,619
All Other and Capital		
Building Materials	\$ 156,497	\$ 183,104
Minor Equipment	\$ 19,076	
Safety supplies	\$ 1,173	
Supplies	\$ 18,686	
Waste Containers	\$ 2,557	
Equipment Rental	\$ 8,553	
Household Supplies	\$ 2,744	
General Operational Expense	\$ 52,790	\$ 61,370
Total All Other and Capital	\$ 209,286	\$ 244,474
Total Expense	\$ 484,199	
Total Revenue	\$ 484,199	
Financial Note:		
Personnel Expense includes Project Superintendent, SOM Conservation Aid, Tri-State Staffing, RDH Roofing		

Human Resources:

The end-of-season logistics for seasonal employees and supervisors are being coordinated. Most campgrounds will close on October 15, 2024, except for Katahdin Stream and Kidney Pond, which will close on October 22, 2024. A limited number of Gate staff and extended Roving Rangers will end their season on November 30th. The BSP Fall Staff Meeting and Celebration will be held this year on October 17th.

After months of preparation, planning, and training, BSP successfully transitioned to PRISM, the new Human Resources Management and Payroll System, alongside other State of Maine departments, on September 8th.

Reservations:

Work is currently being done to implement the BSPA-approved proposal for modifying the 2026 reservation extension policy. The aim is to offer greater flexibility in booking a maximum number of camping days without requiring a request for an extension. Development and testing are taking place on a test server and will continue throughout October.

The winter lottery is scheduled for Monday, November 3, 2025. Planning is currently underway, and communication will begin in the second week of October.

The Park Headquarters reservation office will be closed on weekends starting October 18th due to the off-season. Weekday hours will remain Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4 pm.

Information and Technology:

On June 13th, an equipment failure occurred due to external work on power lines. A new circuit with a surge suppressor was subsequently installed for the server equipment, providing extra protection against voltage spikes from external sources.

Information & Education (I&E):

Park staff, agency partners, and volunteers provided a variety of educational programs in the park, including "Look out for loons," "Tree ID and forest ecology," "Nocturnal wildlife," "Paleo in the Park" (presented twice), "Dark skies and stargazing," "The predators of BSP," and guided geology and wildflower walks. Interpretive Specialist Cassandra Knudsen and intern Tzevi Aho produced monthly staff newsletters for August and September, featuring information on stargazing, the K100 event, beech leaf disease, Katahdin's geology, the loon count, updates on the iNaturalist project, and notices of the educational programs in the Park. With support from staff from the Reservations office, they also staffed a table at Millinocket's 3-day Trails End Festival in September, engaging with many old and new visitors to the Park.

Visiting artist Lauren Richelieu was in residence at Kidney Pond from September 8-21, creating drawings and paintings of flora and fauna in the Park. She also presented a public program on her work as a science illustrator and held an open house on the second weekend of her stay.

Resulting from many hours of planning, research, writing, and design, new wayside-style kiosk signs have been distributed at Abol campground, Daicey Pond campground and day-use area, Foster Field, The Birches, Katahdin Stream campground, and the Hunt trailhead. This first version of the wayside signs is printed on laminated paper and, in time, will be replaced with more permanent versions. Cassandra continues to draft signs for other kiosks throughout the Park, in some places, coordinating with Park staff to add or improve the spaces for these interpretive signs.



New Sign at Foster Field

Natural Resource Director Nava Tabak has posted updated digital maps, which were produced by Community Geographics for the Park, on the BSP website. Additional map replacements on the website will take place over the winter, along with providing these updated maps to the public via the Avenza app. Several staff members have been assisting Nava in major revisions to National Geographic's map of BSP and the surrounding areas, which has long been out of date.

Natural Resources and Research:

Multiple research and natural resource monitoring efforts have been taking place in the Park:

- Research on the glacial history of Katahdin (multi-year project, UMaine)
- Rare plant surveys (Maine Natural Areas Program and Native Plant Trust)
- Roaring Brook mayfly taxonomy (ME IF&W, 4 of 5 sampling trips)
- Water quality at South Branch Pond (ME DEP, 2 of 3 sampling trips)
- Bat stationary acoustic surveys (BSP staff for ME IF&W, 10 sites)
- Bat mobile acoustic survey (ME IF&W)
- Alpine plant phenology monitoring (BSP staff)
- Alpine plant climate resilience research (UMaine and UVM, completion of 2024 project)

Twenty-one Park staff and visitors to the Park have contributed to this year's iNaturalist project in the Park. As of the 23rd of September, 3,786 observations have been submitted of 824 species across the Park. Hundreds of additional participants have provided identifications, so that nearly 48% of the observations reached the status of research grade.

Park staff completed multiple surveys for invasive knapweed populations, and have repeatedly hand-pulled the plants in localities in both the north and south ends of the Park. Staff were also assisted by a volunteer on work to manually remove the invasive bristly locust from 3 of 4 known sites in the southeast part of the Park, with an additional work day planned for the 4th site in early October.

Cassandra Knudsen organized volunteers for Maine Audubon's annual loon count on July 20th. Forty-five

volunteers surveyed 27 lakes and ponds (mostly within the Park), tallying 61 adult loons, 8 chicks, and 4 nests. This represents an increase from the number of adults, chicks, and nests counted last year on the same number of waterbodies (40, 5, and 3, respectively in 2024). These are encouraging results, though continued surveying is necessary to provide a more meaningful picture of the long-term population trends of this iconic species. We are grateful for another year with high volunteer participation in this event, matching the record high effort of last year's survey.



Removing bristly locust from Rum Pit

Summit and Trails Intern Dan Tamburro completed an inventory of signs in Katahdin's alpine areas and several additional high-elevation areas in the Park. This inventory will assist Park trails and natural resource staff in planning for sign replacements, additions, and removals to improve protection of natural resources and trail infrastructure on Katahdin and other areas above treeline. Dan also inventoried private canoes that are stored

at various waterbodies in the Park, to facilitate the renewal of registration or removal of unregistered canoes in the future.

Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA):

A new harvest contract with Acadian Timber (KFM) was finalized. Wood markets are currently extremely weak and will dictate when to commence the next harvest operation. A harvest in 2025 would necessitate a compressed schedule to minimize road maintenance and other costs. Most of the wood piled down from last winter's harvest has been trucked to mills.

SFMA staff and interns completed many understory inventories and began testing localized methods of herbicide application in accordance with the recently approved policy. Maintenance staff and a volunteer assisted with roadside mowing to maintain (and in some cases, re-establish) necessary road access, and road grading and other maintenance have taken place. A contracted crew completed 56 acres of Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT) and maintained the boundary line where the eastern side of the SFMA neighbors the Park. The two forestry interns from the SFMA completed their season in August, having completed a wide range of tasks. A crew from the Maine Adaptive Silviculture Network completed baseline data collection in management units that are scheduled to be harvested in the near future and will become part of the statewide monitored network.

Lands Manager Shane Miller and Nava Tabak worked with a subcommittee of the SFMA Advisory Committee to consider a wide variety of management options for hardwood stands that are silviculturally challenging (challenges that are currently exacerbated by poor hardwood market conditions). Staff are now planning for the full SFMA Advisory Committee meeting that will take place in the SFMA on October 10th.

Maintenance:

In June, the Maintenance Department installed conduit and other infrastructure to support the installation of internet service at the Visitor Center. At the same time, Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor Keith Wehmeyer worked with a local contractor to make significant upgrades to the solar power infrastructure at the Visitor Center. An inverter was moved from Togue Ranger Camp, lithium batteries were installed, and power distribution was upgraded. At Togue Ranger Camp, a new, larger inverter was installed, and lithium batteries were added to replace the existing flooded lead-acid batteries. The lithium batteries installed are the first in the Park and represent an upgrade to more modern technology.

Field Heavy Vehicle and Equipment Tech Frank George and Maintenance Coordinator Matt Martin serviced much of the Park's heavy equipment, including the York rake and Woods ditch and bank mower, significantly overhauling both pieces of equipment. George and Wehmeyer coordinated with local vendors to have each of the Park's three (3) dump trucks sent out for extensive service. George and Martin spent considerable time setting up and servicing fire equipment transferred to the Park from the Maine Forest Service. Work included setting up a Type 4 fire engine, preparing a Type 6 fire engine, fabrication work on water trailers, and servicing of motors and pumps. They converted the Park's old



**New Type 6 engine acquired from
the Maine Forest Service**

carpenter truck into a seasonal campground ranger truck by replacing the service body with a conventional bed and doing other service work.

Martin worked closely with one of the Park's propane contractors to consolidate multiple propane systems in the Park, conduct leak checks and minor repairs, and install three (3) new water heaters. Additionally, Martin fabricated and installed new flag pole footings and mounts at the Visitor Center and Kidney Pond, fabricated ten (10) fire rings and twelve (12) fire pits to be installed at campgrounds, conducted a full plumbing overhaul of the North Branch Camps, serviced several vehicles and tires in the shop, and prepped a fuel spill containment dike with roof to be installed at the Scientific Forest Management Area's Coffeloss camp.

In addition to his duties as the point person for all fleet service and repairs, George spent two weeks brush mowing in the SFMA. He has also mowed Nesowadnehunk Field and the majority of the Park Tote Road, Roaring Brook Road, and the State Road beyond the Park boundary. He has serviced and repaired ten (10) chainsaws, performed Park-wide solar battery maintenance, built two (2) fire pumps, and installed a diesel fuel transfer tank with wiring in a maintenance truck.

Supervisory Carpenter Jesse Laporte settled into his new role admirably. In June, he replaced rotten sills on Nesowadnehunk Group Shelter No. 2 with assistance from Roving Rangers Nate Cote and Campground Rangers Shawn Sturmer and Alex Mangus. He also led the reroofing of the garage at Togue Pond Ranger Camp, organizing Roving Rangers and volunteers to assist with the effort. Multiple layers of asphalt roofing were removed, an old chimney was demolished below the roofline, rotten trim was replaced, and new metal roofing was installed. Before this project, Laporte and Wehmeyer did extensive tree work at Togue Ranger camp to allow more sunlight and airflow around the garage and improve sun exposure to the solar panels.

Laporte then led the replacement of the porch at Kidney Pond Cabin 5, and moved on to replacing an entry door, stairs, and a rotten rim joist on the Ranger Cabin at Nesowadnehunk Field. Additionally, he made minor repairs to a bridge deck on Roaring Brook Road, planned lumber for picnic table and lean-to kits, installed replacement Smokey Bear signs, built a new sawhorse and vehicle measuring stick for Matagamon Gate, and replaced the roof on the Lower Togue woodshed. Finally, Laporte rebuilt the front wall at the Trout Brook Farm garage, which included the installation of a new door and window.

Wehmeyer has worked with a local contractor to facilitate the pumping of outhouses throughout the Park. This has included pumping from thirty-five (35) outhouses and one (1) septic system, and the pumping of over 10,000 gallons of waste. Additionally, Wehmeyer worked with a local septic designer to design a replacement septic system for the Katahdin Stream Ranger Camps. While this system does not need immediate replacement, it is one of the oldest in the Park and the only one without a documented plan on file. The new plan will be kept on file and used for planning and budgeting purposes in the future.

Wehmeyer worked with Inventory and Property Associate Deanna Madore to plan, organize, and provide escorts for the Spring and upcoming Fall propane deliveries to the Park. He has also found a local contractor willing to hike to Chimney Pond to provide propane service, which had previously been a challenge for the Park. This spring, a two-culvert road crossing of a tributary to Tracy Pond had a minor collapse of its downstream embankment. The road edge was temporarily stabilized with large rocks, assisted by our road contractor. (In the early summer, Wehmeyer and a Stream Restoration Specialist did a survey analysis with recommendations for replacement of the crossing; the plan is to replace the crossing in early summer 2026. This should be doable within the approved budget.

In September, Wehmeyer met with Jim Foster as a part of the Maine DOT Bridge Ranger program. Wehmeyer and Foster met to discuss abutment scour issues at the Kidney Pond and Little Nesowadnehunk Stream Bridges. Wehmeyer has also spent considerable time planning and budgeting upcoming repair work at the Kidney Pond library and cabins, planning fall road maintenance, and organizing and updating the road system stream crossing inventory.

Trails:

Seasonal Trail Crew staff began their annual Blowdown Patrol in mid-May following the completion of the BSP C-Level Chainsaw Operator certification. The first two months of the season included Blowdown Patrol, the Keiderling SAR event, Maine Basic Fire training, and the Smith Pond Fire mop-up, the annual SAR training, as well as the annual repair of alpine string fencing on Katahdin's Tablelands.



Upper Saddle Brook Bridge replacement

Trail Crew staff also attended to a handful of trail improvements in between Blowdown Patrol assignments, including the small realignment of the Little Abol Falls trail to improve a confusing 90-degree turn in the trail, as well as the improvement of several confusing junctions on the Pogy Notch Trail. Blowdown Patrol and the various training events concluded in late June.

Trail Crew staff then turned their attention to the Upper Saddle Brook Bridge replacement project on the Chimney Pond Trail. This was a three-week project that included the removal and dispersal of the old bridge, the deconstruction of last year's attempt at a stone retaining wall, the improved reconstruction of the retaining wall, and the installation of the new bridge.

It was during the first week of this project that the Russell Pond rangers learned that the North Peaks were effectively closed, given the numerous blowdowns that had occurred this past winter, in addition to the overgrown corridor. The plan had originally been to have the Trail Crew complete an 8-day hitch on the North

Peaks trail after the completion of the Upper Saddle Brook bridge project, but given the amount of work that would be necessary to reopen the trail the decision was made to send a three-person team out there ahead of time to locate a backcountry spike site and to begin clearing blowdowns from the trail.



Elbow Pond boardwalk before



Elbow Pond boardwalk after

While Kris, Emily, and Mia began the first of two 8-day hitches on the North Peaks Trail, Brennan, Brandt, and Nick continued their work on the Upper Saddle Brook Bridge. Upon completion of the Upper Saddle Brook

Bridge, Nick and Brandt joined Emily and Mia on the North Peaks Trail to continue their efforts to reopen the trail.



Upon the completion of the North Peaks clearing project, the Trails Department began two concurrent projects: the replacement of the broken sections of the Sandy Stream Boardwalk, as well as the extension of the Elbow Pond Boardwalk.

Both boardwalk replacement projects concluded in mid-August. Since then, the Trail Crew has resumed clearing blowdowns in the north end of the park, including the Traveler Loop, South Branch Mountain, Horse Mountain, etc. The crew also completed an 8-day hitch on the Frost Pond Trail, conducting a thorough round of blowdown removal, corridor brushing, and blaze painting.

At the time of this writing, the trail crew is on their final 8-day hitch of the season, replacing the flood and beaver-damaged section of elevated Bog Bridging on the South Branch Mountain trail in the vicinity of the Upper South Branch Leanto. Additional details will be provided in the next report.

The Baxter State Park Trail Department was supported by the Baxter Youth Conservation Corps for six weeks during July and early August. The BYCC assisted Trail Supervisor Brennan Turner in the completion of the OJI realignment project and the construction of the new boardwalk as part of the realignment. They also replaced an extensive amount of bog bridging on the Sandy Stream Trail, cleaned drainages on Abol and Chimney Pond Trails, and assisted with the Elbow Pond boardwalk.

Field Operations and Law Enforcement:

Campground Rangers have been working on many projects this season, to include: scraping and painting buildings, constructing picnic tables, repairing and replacing worn and damaged signs, cutting blowdowns and hazardous campground trees, log oiling lean-tos, re-building the Katahdin Stream footbridge ramps, constructing canoe racks, replacing the porch at Kidney Pond Cabin 5 and window replacement at Cabin 13, assisted with new roofing on the Togue Pond Ranger Camp garage, cut firewood, repaired shelters at Slide Dam and Nesowadnehunk Field, constructed a new gate at Matagamon, cut firewood, conducted blowdown patrols, and performed water level monitoring.



New Matagamon Gate

and injured hikers. Campground Rangers and Roving Rangers have participated in Mountain Patrols throughout the season. They have assisted with disabled vehicles, changing flat tires, and traffic control (this season has seen a significant number of these incidents).

The Park made significant progress in wildfire preparedness this season. A Type 4 engine was received on loan, and a second Type 6 engine was acquired, both

Rangers have played a vital role in providing Preventive Search and Rescue (PSAR) and responding to calls for service for late/overdue



One of numerous disabled vehicles staff have assisted with this season

from the Maine Forest Service. Three skid tanks with pumps were set up for insertion into truck beds in the north and south ends of the park, and additional poly water tanks were staged throughout the Park. Pumps and parts to supplement existing pumps and increase the park's capacity were donated from the Maine Forest Service and the Millinocket Fire Department.

High fire danger statewide put the Park at Level 2 preparedness for part of August and September. Chief Ranger Matt McGuire and District Ranger Rob Tice attended daily online briefings with the Maine Forest Service, and a two-week backcountry fire ban was put in place in the Park. Due to very high fire danger, an elevated KBDI, and drought conditions, a Park-wide fire ban was instituted for the weekend of August 23-25, 2025. During periods of high fire danger, Rangers have been proactive in educating visitors about fire danger and vigilant for any unattended fires. Fire equipment has been routinely tested and appropriately staged for initial attack to any wildland fire. In early August, the Braley Ridge Road Fire was detected in the north end of the SFMA. Started by a lightning strike, it burned primarily through duff and the root system. The Maine Forest Service and Park staff responded swiftly with hand crews who contained it to approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ acres over the course of a few days. Additionally, Park staff responded to a fire on the Park boundary off the Millinocket Lake Road and worked helitack air operations with the Maine Forest Service out of Old Town.

Supervisory and Law Enforcement Rangers prepared for and coordinated the Summit Project and the K100, led monthly "Toolbox Talks" focusing on safety in the workplace and proper tool use, conducted motor vehicle crash investigations, assisted with disabled vehicles, supervised SAR incidents, provided logistical support, provided escorts for oversized vehicles, and provided assistance to campgrounds and gates as requested.

Law Enforcement Rangers issued seven (7) summons/warnings during the reporting period and are currently investigating vandalism to the Katahdin summit sign:

Title 29A Section 2057-7	Failure to stop at stop sign	VSAC
BSP Rule 1.2	Camping in unauthorized area	USAC
BSP Rule 1.2	Camping in unauthorized Site - wrong reservation	USAC
Title 29, Section 2073	Speeding	Warning
Title 29A, Section 2057	Failure to stop at stop sign on outbound lane	Warning
Title 12, Section 903	Capacity violation at KP (by 1 person)	Warning
Title 12, Section 903	Failure to register upon entering	USAC

Sarah Grebleski has been selected as the Park's newest Law Enforcement Ranger. Sarah has a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Emergency Management & Law Enforcement from Unity College, as well as an Associate's Degree in Chemical Dependency Counseling from Corning Community College. Sarah has worked in customer service for Hyperlite Mountain Gear, served as an alpine hut caretaker for the Randolph Mountain Club in the White Mountains, and has worked at Baxter State Park for the last two summer seasons as a backcountry Campground Ranger at Chimney Pond.

Sarah has an AIARE I (avalanche awareness and rescue) certification, is a Wilderness EMT, and has Search and Rescue experience from her time working at Baxter. She enjoys hunting and fishing, hiking, mountaineering, and is excited to get more time ice climbing. During two rounds of competitive interviews,

Sarah's passion for protecting and conserving Baxter's natural resources, her desire to help the public, and her goal of becoming a Law Enforcement Ranger at the Park were evident.

This position is non-supervisory and will have a focus on pursuing fish and game violations in more remote areas of the park, as well as generating a presence in the alpine environment. Sarah will start in her new position on October 27, 2025.

Appalachian Trail:

Appalachian Trail (AT) hiker numbers are down overall by approximately 18%, with 1,287 AT hikers having registered with the Park through August. This decline in hiker numbers is likely due to the damage caused by Hurricane Helene last fall along the southern portion of the AT corridor. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) conducted early and wide-reaching messaging regarding the damage to the trail, with the recommendation that people either hold off hiking this year and hike in 2026 or start north of the damage and hike the south in the fall, giving the ATC time to clear the trail. Depending on how hikers adjusted their 2025 plans, 2026 may be a big hiking year on the AT. Preliminary numbers from ATC reflect a 22% drop in 2025 hikers when compared to 2024, so it appears that many hikers elected not to hike this year.

Katahdin Stream Campground Rangers Pete Sweeney and Corey James have been conducting “Finish Well” talks every night during the summer and fall camping season to AT hikers staying at the Birches. This talk prepares hikers for their summit hike finishing the AT, and has a strong emphasis on respect: for themselves, for others, for the Park, and for Katahdin and the Indigenous people it is sacred to.

ATC Abol Ridgerunner Hailey Lynch and Baxter State Park AT Ranger Don Bolduc have been providing information to hikers so they are better informed about the Abol Bridge area and Baxter State Park. The Ridgerunner position has also helped to improve relations with the Abol Bridge Store owners and hikers, demonstrating the necessity for the ACT to secure funding for the Ridgerunner position going forward.

Search and Rescue:

The beginning of the summer 2025 Search and Rescue (SAR) season was punctuated by the search and recovery of Tim and Esther Keiderling, father and daughter, who succumbed to injury and the elements in early June on Katahdin. The three-day incident demonstrated effective coordination between Baxter State Park and its cooperating partners, including the Maine Warden Service, the Maine Forest Service, the Maine Army National Guard, and the Maine Association for Search and Rescue (MASAR).

Through September 15, 2025, the Park has had 66 SAR incidents, with 36% (24) occurring in August alone. This is the first time since 2016 that August has been the busiest of the three primary summer months (June, July, and August) for SAR incidents. Five (5) incidents involved the use of helicopters: two (2) separate knee injuries on the Knife Edge, a double ankle sprain/fracture at Chimney Pond, severe dehydration on the Hunt Trail, and the Keiderling incident. The Chimney Pond Trail has had the most incidents this season to date, with seven (7), followed by the Saddle and Hunt Trails with five (5) each. The preponderance of SAR incidents this season is due to falls, lower extremity injuries, dehydration, exhaustion, and exceeding ability. The Park has seen several older AT section



Keiderling SAR briefing

hikers who have needed assistance or have overnighted on the mountain.

Two incidents garnered significant media attention this year: the Keiderling incident and the Kosc incident, which involved a helicopter rescue off the Knife Edge. Park Leadership, I&E, and Administrative staff all contributed to effective communication with media outlets in order to allow field operations to affect the recovery and rescue efforts. Also of note this year has been the Park's response to iPhone-generated pre-programmed distress messages inadvertently sent by Park visitors. The Park has had to respond to four (4) of these calls dispatched through Houlton RCC: a forest fire, an airplane crash, and two (2) motor vehicle accidents. None of these incidents occurred as reported, but required staff effort and resources to respond and verify. These inadvertent SOS emergency calls are becoming more prevalent throughout Maine and the country.

Park Rangers and MASAR teams continue to conduct Preventive Search and Rescue (PSAR) talks with hikers at ranger stations, trailheads, campsites, and on the trail. Seven (7) MASAR teams have provided weekend standby and active SAR coverage on a rotating basis. District Ranger Rob Tice coordinates the schedule for this very important resource.