



## **A Partial Census of Hiking Trail Use, 2014**



**Cadillac Cliffs Trail 1920s?**

---

**Abigail Seymour, Recreation Technician  
Charles Jacobi, Natural Resource Specialist  
December 2014  
ANP Natural Resource Report 2014 - 11**

## Executive Summary

While there were a few surprises, the 2014 census confirmed most expectations. Even on a similar date with similar weather, there can be much variation in a spot count or census such as this. Counts at the new Otter Cove Trail give park managers a sense of how much this new trail is being used, even before it is on a trail map. Counts at the new Kebo Brook Trail demonstrate the effectiveness of efforts to encourage hikers to use the Island Explorer bus to access this trail. It is great to see people already taking advantage of it. Because we focused more on the Western side, we counted at more low use trails this year. Together with the census from 2013, the two censuses offer a full picture of the distribution of use across the hiking trail system.

- The Bubbles Divide Trail had 399 hikers enter and 297 exit.
- The Kebo Brook Trail on Paradise Hill Road had 97 enter and 47 exit. Ninety-two people took the bus and 52 people used cars.
- Fifty-eight people used the new Otter Cove trail at Gorham Mountain. Forty-one came from the direction of Blackwoods and seventeen entered from the Gorham Mountain Trail.
- Forty-one people went through the new Otter Cove Trail intersection at the cove. Thirty-three people came from Blackwoods and thirty-two headed towards Gorham Mountain. Five hikers used the Quarry Trail to or from Grover Avenue in Otter Creek even though it is not officially open.
- No one entered the Beech Cliff Loop Trail North. Of the 93 who entered the Beech Cliff Loop Trail East, about 2/3 completed to Loop and exited from the Beech Cliff Loop Trail North and 1/3 returned the Beech Cliff Loop Trail East. One hundred thirteen hikers entered or exited from the Beech Cliff Loop Trail South, but only 54 of them came from the south, or the top of the Beech Cliffs Trail. Since 84 hikers entered the Beech Cliffs Trail from Echo Lake parking, ~30 of them turned around somewhere or turned left on the Canada Cliff Trail.
- Eighty-four hikers went up Beech Cliff Trail and 30 hikers came down.

## CONTENTS

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Introduction.....                 | 1  |
| Methods.....                      | 1  |
| Results.....                      | 4  |
| Summary and Recommendations ..... | 10 |
| Literature Cited .....            | 10 |

## TABLES

|                                                                                                                                                                           |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Table 1: Types of Count Sites and What We Counted at Them .....                                                                                                           | 1 |
| Table 2: Hiker Traffic Coming From and Going To Various Trails on August 6, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Twenty-Four Count Locations in Acadia National Park ..... | 6 |

## FIGURES

|                                                                    |   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Figure 1: 2014 Hiking Trail Census Count Locations, East Side..... | 2 |
| Figure 2: 2014 Hiking Trail Census Count Locations, West Side..... | 3 |

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks are due to the YCC crew who participated and their Supervisor Gary Stellpflug who set them free to help. Special thanks to the summer crew, Recreation Technician Abby Seymour and Ridgerunners Kristin Dillon, Caleb Roebuck, Justin Rutherford, and Jeremy Epstein. All of these people endured seven hours of counting.

## INTRODUCTION

On Wednesday August 6, 2014 the National Park Service conducted a census of hikers at 24 locations throughout the hiking trail system of Acadia National Park (Figures 1 and 2), or about half of the trail system. This census complemented a similar one conducted in 2013 that covered the other half of the trail system (Jacobi 2014). This year, we counted mainly on the West side with a few locations on the East side, including a few new trail intersections. Because this was a continuation from 2013, the numbering we use in this report for census count sites starts at 30. Combined with our 2013 report (Jacobi 2014), these results offer a broad perspective on hiker use of park trails.

The purpose of the census was to obtain counts of hiker *traffic*, which is different from the census counts of *entries* of individual hikers to the trail system that we conducted from 1999 – 2003 (see Jacobi 2003, Jacobi 2002, Jacobi 2001a, Jacobi (2001b), and Chase and Jacobi 2000). In these earlier censuses, we counted at almost all trailheads throughout the park over two busy days in early August.

Traffic is a count of hikers coming and going in all directions through a designated point, like an intersection. By counting where hikers came from and where they went to (usually counting each hiker twice), we get a measure of overall hiker traffic on each section of trail radiating from that location. By counting at intersections within the system (as opposed to trailheads only) we also get more detailed information that is of greater value for planning trail maintenance projects.

## METHODS

The diversity of count sites made it a challenge to provide clear generic instructions to all census takers, and a few sites required special instructions. Count sites came in four varieties as shown in Table 1. With a few exceptions, we counted each hiker twice when they passed by us as they arrived from one trail/direction and left on another. Hikers were counted only once at single trail trailheads as they entered, though we might count them again later if they exited at the same location. Similarly, they were also counted only once if they parked (or got off a bus) and entered a trail, or exited a trail and got in their car (or got on a bus) to leave.

| Table 1: Types of Count Sites and What We Counted at Them |                                        |                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Count Site Type                                           | Example                                | What We Counted                                |
| Single trail trailhead                                    | Valley Trail                           | entries and exits                              |
| Trail crosses road, or trails on both sides               | Cadillac North Ridge/Kebo Brook Trails | direction hikers were coming from and going to |
| Multiple trail trailhead                                  | Gilley Field Trails                    | direction hikers were coming from and going to |
| Trail intersections, usually not too far from road        | Perpendicular Trail/Long Pond Trail    | direction hikers were coming from and going to |

Park volunteers and ridgerunners conducted the counts. We counted in 3.5 hour shifts from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Only children under their own power were counted. We also counted rangers and volunteers that entered in uniform and made notes of any large groups of 10 or more.

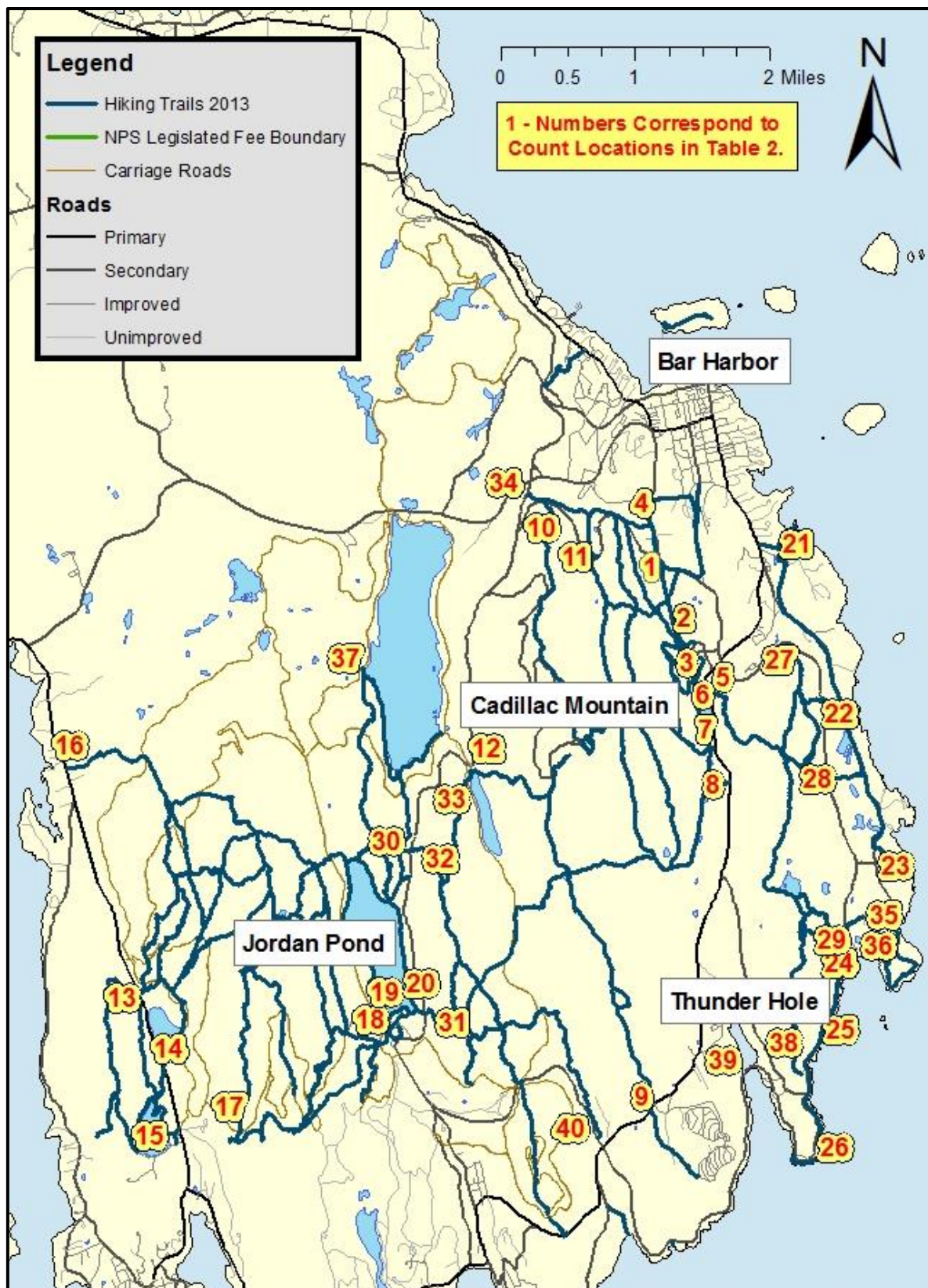


Figure 1: Hiking Trail Census Count Locations, East Side. Locations 30-40 were counted in 2014. (Locations 1-29 were counted in 2013-see Jacobi 2013).

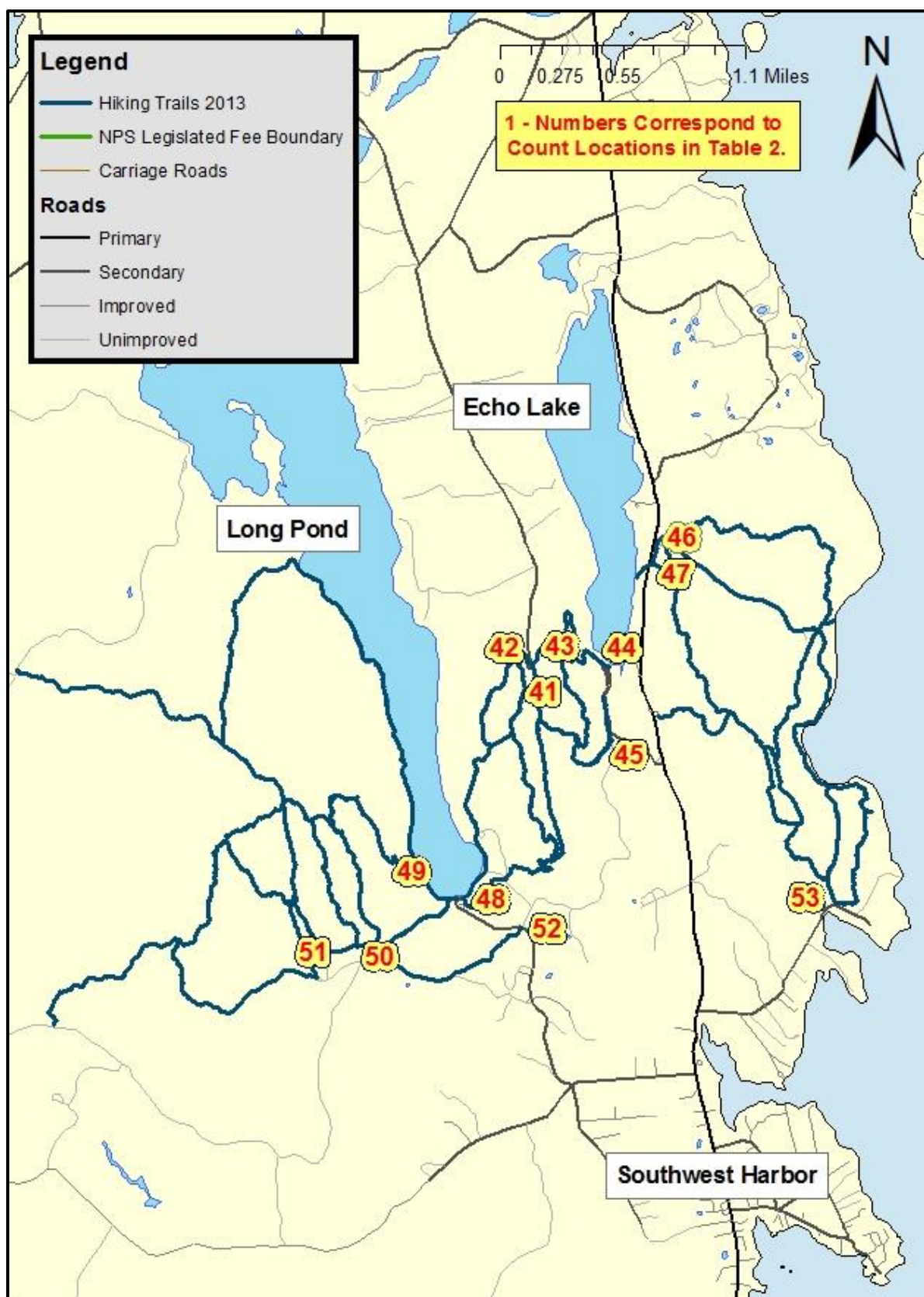


Figure 2: 2014 Hiking Trail Census Count Locations, West Side.

Because of the complexity of the counting instructions and the count sites, we put maps of each site on the clipboard for reference and made personal contact with each census taker beforehand to explain the protocols. On the census day, two coordinators circled the park to make contact with each census taker in the field to further ensure protocols were followed.

One thing this method of counting traffic does *not* allow us to do with the data is come up with a total number of either individual hikers or hiker traffic for the day. At some sites, because of either their geography or the volume of hikers, cars, and buses, it is a challenge for census takers to track all individuals closely enough as they come and go to trails, buses, and parked cars (e.g. North Ridge Cadillac).

What we do provide is a measure of the number of hikers “coming from” and “going to” (or “entering” and exiting”) for each trail or trail segment. For many sites where the counting is easier, we can obtain a count of individual hikers by dividing the total traffic through the intersection (for example - Canon Brook Trail/Kane Path) in half. Depending on the volume of traffic or individuals passing through an intersection we may calculate a simple mean number per hour to describe the data further.

## RESULTS

The results of the census are shown in detail in Table 2. We will report some of the more interesting observations for trails based on their either low or high levels, and/or our level of surprise at those levels based on local knowledge. We will distinguish between hiker traffic and individual hikers/entries/exits. Numbers refer to numbers in Table 2 for easy reference.

30. The Bubbles Divide Trail had 399 hikers enter and 297 exit.

31. Bubble and Jordan Ponds Trail East from this junction is low use with only 25 hikers, while the Park Loop Road side had 68 and Pemetic Mountain South Ridge Trail had 51.

34. The Kebo Brook Trail on Paradise Hill Road had 97 enter and 47 exit. Ninety-two people took the bus and 52 people used cars.

38. Fifty-eight people used the new Otter Cove trail at Gorham Mountain. Forty-one came from the direction of Blackwoods and seventeen entered from the Gorham Mountain Trail.

39. Forty-one people went through the new Otter Cove Trail intersection at the cove. Thirty-three people came from Blackwoods and thirty-two headed towards Gorham Mountain. Five hikers used the Quarry Trail to or from Grover Avenue in Otter Creek even though it is not officially open.

41 & 42. At the Beech Mountain parking area, the Valley Trail had about twenty more people enter than exit and about twenty more people exited from the Beech Mountain Loop than entered it. This could be explained by people making a loop using the Beech Mountain South Ridge Trail

to connect the Valley Trail to the top of Beech Mountain and then coming down either side of Beech Mountain Loop Trail.

43. No one entered the Beech Cliff Loop Trail North. Of the 93 who entered the Beech Cliff Loop Trail East, about 2/3 completed to Loop and exited from the Beach Cliff Loop Trail North and 1/3 returned the Beech Cliff Loop Trail East. One hundred thirteen hikers entered or exited from the Beech Cliff Loop Trail South, but only 54 of them came from the south, or the top of the Beech Cliffs Trail. Since 84 hikers entered the Beech Cliffs Trail (see #44 below) from Echo Lake parking, ~30 of them turned around somewhere or turned left on the Canada Cliff Trail.

44. Eighty-four hikers went up Beech Cliff Trail and 30 hikers came down.

45. Three hikers used the spur to get to the Canada Cliffs Trail from the Lurvey Spring Road and nobody left the trail to get to the road.

50. At the Gilley Field, most people enter via the Mansell Mountain Trail, Gilley Trail, or Razorback Trail (11, 8, 4 respectively) and exit via the Cold Brook Trail. All of these trails are low use and this pattern is not surprising.

We also observed 13 large groups of ten or more hikers, two of which were ranger-led tours.

**Table 2: Hiker Traffic Coming From and Going To Various Trails on August 6, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
at Twenty-four Count Locations in Acadia National Park**

| <b>Count Location</b>                                          |                                |                             |                             |                          |                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>30. Bubble Rock Trailhead Parking - Bubble Divide Trail</b> | <b>Bubble Divide</b>           | <b>Individual Hikers</b>    |                             |                          |                            |
| Entries                                                        | 399                            | Through Jct                 |                             |                          |                            |
| Exits                                                          | 297                            |                             |                             |                          |                            |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                                           | <b>696</b>                     | <b>696</b>                  |                             |                          |                            |
| Ransom Burgess                                                 |                                |                             |                             |                          |                            |
| <b>31. BP and JP Path jct with Pemetic Mnt S Ridge Trail</b>   | <b>Bubble and JP - PLR</b>     | <b>Pemetic Mtn SR Trail</b> | <b>Bubble And JP - E</b>    | <b>Individual Hikers</b> |                            |
| Coming From                                                    | 33                             | 27                          | 12                          | Through Jct              |                            |
| Going To                                                       | 35                             | 24                          | 13                          |                          |                            |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                                           | <b>68</b>                      | <b>51</b>                   | <b>25</b>                   | <b>72</b>                |                            |
| Jonathan Baxter                                                |                                |                             |                             |                          |                            |
| <b>32. Bubble Rock Trailhead Parking - Pemetic NW trail</b>    | <b>Pemetic NW Trail</b>        | <b>Individual Hikers</b>    |                             |                          |                            |
| Entries                                                        | 20                             | Through Jct                 |                             |                          |                            |
| Exits                                                          | 29                             |                             |                             |                          |                            |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                                           | <b>49</b>                      | <b>49</b>                   |                             |                          |                            |
| Nolan Crandall                                                 |                                |                             |                             |                          |                            |
| <b>33. BP Parking - Pemetic Mnt NR Trail - @ CR crossing</b>   | <b>Pemetic Mnt N Trail</b>     | <b>Individual Hikers</b>    |                             |                          |                            |
| Entries                                                        | 33                             | Through Jct                 |                             |                          |                            |
| Exits                                                          | 26                             |                             |                             |                          |                            |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                                           | <b>59</b>                      | <b>59</b>                   |                             |                          |                            |
| Billy                                                          |                                |                             |                             |                          |                            |
| <b>34. Kebo Brook Trail at New Bus Stop Paradise Hill Rd</b>   | <b>Kebo Brook Trail - Bus</b>  | <b>Kebo Brook Tr - Car</b>  | <b>Individual Hikers</b>    |                          |                            |
| Entries                                                        | 66                             | 31                          | Through Jct                 |                          |                            |
| Exits                                                          | 26                             | 21                          |                             |                          |                            |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                                           | <b>92</b>                      | <b>52</b>                   | <b>144</b>                  |                          |                            |
| Caleb Roebuck                                                  |                                |                             |                             |                          |                            |
| <b>35. Great Head Trail at 1st jct near parking lot</b>        | <b>Great Head Tr - Parking</b> | <b>Great Head Tr - E</b>    | <b>Great Head Trail - S</b> | <b>Individual Hikers</b> | <b>* Didn't count kids</b> |
| Coming From                                                    | 105                            | 89                          | 44                          | Through Jct              | even under their           |
| Going To                                                       | 96                             | 77                          | 65                          |                          | own power                  |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                                           | <b>201</b>                     | <b>166</b>                  | <b>109</b>                  | <b>238</b>               |                            |
| Gabby                                                          |                                |                             |                             |                          |                            |

**Table 2: Hiker Traffic Coming From and Going To Various Trails on August 6, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
at Twenty-four Count Locations in Acadia National Park**

| <b>Count Location</b>                                          |                              |                               |                             |                          |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <b>36. Great Head Trail at Sand Beach</b>                      | <b>Great Head Tr - Beach</b> | <b>Great Head Trail - S</b>   | <b>Great Head Trail - N</b> | <b>Individual Hikers</b> |  |
| Coming From                                                    | 8                            | 68                            | 119                         | Through Jct              |  |
| Going To                                                       | 26                           | 65                            | 81                          |                          |  |
| Total Traffic                                                  | 34                           | 133                           | 200                         | 183.5                    |  |
| Summit                                                         |                              |                               |                             |                          |  |
| <b>37. Eagle Lake Trail/Bubbles Trail Jct</b>                  | <b>Eagle Lake Tr - CR</b>    | <b>Bubbles Trail</b>          | <b>Eagle Lake Trail - S</b> | <b>Individual Hikers</b> |  |
| Coming From                                                    | 9                            | 14                            | 18                          | Through Jct              |  |
| Going To                                                       | 11                           | 11                            | 19                          |                          |  |
| Total Traffic                                                  | 20                           | 25                            | 37                          | 41                       |  |
| Justin Rutheford                                               |                              |                               |                             |                          |  |
| <b>38. Gorham Mnt and Otter Cove Trail Jct</b>                 | <b>Gorham Mnt Trail - N</b>  | <b>Gorham Mnt Trail - S</b>   | <b>Otter Cove Trail</b>     | <b>Individual Hikers</b> |  |
| Coming From                                                    | 153                          | 308                           | 41                          | Through Jct              |  |
| Going To                                                       | 327                          | 160                           | 17                          |                          |  |
| Total Traffic                                                  | 480                          | 468                           | 58                          | 503                      |  |
| Eleanor                                                        |                              |                               |                             |                          |  |
| <b>39. Otter Cove Causeway Bridge Jct Quarry &amp; OC Trls</b> | <b>Quarry Tr - Bckwds</b>    | <b>Otter Cove Tr - Gorham</b> | <b>Quarry Tr - OC</b>       | <b>Individual Hikers</b> |  |
| Coming From                                                    | 33                           | 2                             | 3                           | Through Jct              |  |
| Going To                                                       | 10                           | 32                            | 2                           |                          |  |
| Total Traffic                                                  | 43                           | 34                            | 5                           | 41                       |  |
| Cooper                                                         |                              |                               |                             |                          |  |
| <b>40. Hunters Brook Trailhead on PLR</b>                      | <b>Hunters Brook Trail</b>   | <b>Individual Hikers</b>      |                             |                          |  |
| Entries                                                        | 8                            | Through Jct                   |                             |                          |  |
| Exits                                                          | 6                            |                               |                             |                          |  |
| Total Traffic                                                  | 14                           | 14                            |                             |                          |  |
| Joe                                                            |                              |                               |                             |                          |  |
| <b>41. Beech Mnt Parking - Valley Trail</b>                    | <b>Valley Trail</b>          | <b>Individual Hikers</b>      |                             |                          |  |
| Entries                                                        | 77                           | Through Jct                   |                             |                          |  |
| Exits                                                          | 52                           |                               |                             |                          |  |
| Total Traffic                                                  | 129                          | 129                           |                             |                          |  |
| Wilder Young                                                   |                              |                               |                             |                          |  |

**Table 2: Hiker Traffic Coming From and Going To Various Trails on August 6, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
at Twenty-four Count Locations in Acadia National Park**

| <b>Count Location</b>                                           |                                 |                                |                                |                                |                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>42. Beech Mnt Parking - Beech Mnt Loop Trail at fork</b>     | <b>Beech Mnt Parking</b>        | <b>Beech Mnt Loop S</b>        | <b>Beech Mnt Loop W</b>        | <b>Individual Hikers</b>       |                          |
| Coming From                                                     | 171                             | 84                             | 107                            | Through Jct                    |                          |
| Going To                                                        | 190                             | 109                            | 55                             |                                |                          |
| Total Traffic                                                   | 361                             | 193                            | 162                            | 358                            |                          |
| Kira Kennedy                                                    |                                 |                                |                                |                                |                          |
| <b>43. Beech Mnt Parking - Beech Cliff Loop Tr</b>              | <b>Beech Cliff Tr - Parking</b> | <b>Beech Cliff Loop Tr - E</b> | <b>Beech Cliff Loop Tr - N</b> | <b>Beech Cliff Loop Tr - S</b> | <b>Individual Hikers</b> |
| Coming From                                                     | 60                              | 34                             | 61                             | 54                             | Through Jct              |
| Going To                                                        | 59                              | 93                             | 0                              | 59                             |                          |
| Total Traffic                                                   | 119                             | 127                            | 61                             | 113                            | 210                      |
| Tyler                                                           |                                 |                                |                                |                                |                          |
| <b>44. Beech Cliff Tr (Echo Lake Parking)</b>                   | <b>Beech Cliff Trail</b>        | <b>Individual Hikers</b>       |                                |                                |                          |
| Entries                                                         | 84                              | Through Jct                    |                                |                                |                          |
| Exits                                                           | 30                              |                                |                                |                                |                          |
| Total Traffic                                                   | 114                             | 114                            |                                |                                |                          |
| Riley                                                           |                                 |                                |                                |                                |                          |
| <b>45. Canada Cliff Trail near Lurvey Spring Rd</b>             | <b>Canada Cliffs Tr - S</b>     | <b>Canada Cliffs Tr - N</b>    | <b>Lurvey Spring Rd</b>        | <b>Individual Hikers</b>       |                          |
| Coming From                                                     | 45                              | 9                              | 3                              | Through Jct                    |                          |
| Going To                                                        | 9                               | 48                             | 0                              |                                |                          |
| Total Traffic                                                   | 54                              | 57                             | 3                              | 57                             |                          |
| Krista                                                          |                                 |                                |                                |                                |                          |
| <b>46. Jct Acadia Mnt, Man o War Brk &amp; St. Sauveur Trls</b> | <b>Man o War Brk - Parking</b>  | <b>Acadia Mnt Trail</b>        | <b>Man o War Brk Tr - E</b>    | <b>St. Sauveur Tr - S</b>      | <b>Individual Hikers</b> |
| Coming From                                                     | 96                              | 27                             | 84                             | 22                             | Through Jct              |
| Going To                                                        | 78                              | 125                            | 63                             | 55                             |                          |
| Total Traffic                                                   | 174                             | 152                            | 147                            | 77                             | 275                      |
| Izzy Simbari                                                    |                                 |                                |                                |                                |                          |
| <b>47. Acadia Mnt Trailhead - jct just up steps</b>             | <b>Parking Lot</b>              | <b>Man o War Tr</b>            | <b>St. Sauveur Tr</b>          | <b>Individual Hikers</b>       |                          |
| Coming From                                                     | 184                             | 51                             | 82                             | Through Jct                    |                          |
| Going To                                                        | 103                             | 64                             | 146                            |                                |                          |
| Total Traffic                                                   | 287                             | 115                            | 228                            | 315                            |                          |
| Edie Christian                                                  |                                 |                                |                                |                                |                          |

**Table 2: Hiker Traffic Coming From and Going To Various Trails on August 6, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
at Twenty-four Count Locations in Acadia National Park**

| <b>Count Location</b>                                            |                           |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| <b>48. Long Pond Parking - Valley &amp; Beech Mnt WR Trls</b>    | <b>Valley Trail</b>       | <b>Beech Mnt WR Trail</b> | <b>Individual Hikers</b> |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>Entries</b>                                                   | 11                        | 9                         | <b>Through Jct</b>       |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>Exits</b>                                                     | 30                        | 9                         |                          |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                                             | 41                        | 18                        | 59                       |                          |                          |                          |               |
| Lyle                                                             |                           |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>49. Perpendicular Trail/Long Pond Trail Jct</b>               | <b>Long Pond Trail N</b>  | <b>Long Pond Trail S</b>  | <b>Perpendicular Tr</b>  | <b>Individual Hikers</b> |                          |                          |               |
| <b>Coming From</b>                                               | 35                        | 86                        | 10                       | <b>Through Jct</b>       |                          |                          |               |
| <b>Going To</b>                                                  | 48                        | 45                        | 37                       |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                                             | 83                        | 131                       | 47                       | 130.5                    |                          |                          |               |
| Ben                                                              |                           |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>50. Gilley Field</b>                                          | <b>Cold Brook Trail</b>   | <b>Mansell Mnt Trail</b>  | <b>Gilley Trail</b>      | <b>Razorback Trail</b>   | <b>W Mnt Rd - hikers</b> | <b>Individual Hikers</b> | <b>Cars</b>   |
| <b>Coming From</b>                                               | 1                         | 11                        | 8                        | 4                        | 4                        | <b>Through Jct</b>       | 1             |
| <b>Going To</b>                                                  | 24                        | 3                         | 1                        | 0                        | 4                        |                          | <b>People</b> |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                                             | 25                        | 14                        | 9                        | 4                        | 8                        | 30                       | 2             |
| Jeremy Epstein                                                   |                           |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>51. Mill Field</b>                                            | <b>Bernard Mnt Trail</b>  | <b>Sluiceway Trail</b>    | <b>Western Mnt Rd</b>    | <b>Individual Hikers</b> | <b>Cars</b>              |                          |               |
| <b>Coming From</b>                                               | 5                         | 5                         | 4                        | <b>Through Jct</b>       | 2                        |                          |               |
| <b>Going To</b>                                                  | 3                         | 2                         | 9                        |                          | <b>People</b>            |                          |               |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                                             | 8                         | 7                         | 13                       | 14                       | 5                        |                          |               |
| Kristin Dillon                                                   |                           |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>52. Western Mnt Connector at Long Pond Road</b>               | <b>W Mnt Cnctr - Walk</b> | <b>W Mnt Cnctr - Bike</b> | <b>Individual Hikers</b> |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>Entries</b>                                                   | 4                         | 2                         | <b>Through Jct</b>       |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>Exits</b>                                                     | 4                         | 4                         |                          |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                                             | 8                         | 6                         | 14                       |                          |                          |                          |               |
| Ralph                                                            |                           |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>53. Valley Cove Pking - Flying Mnt &amp; Valley Cove Trls</b> | <b>Flying Mnt Trail</b>   | <b>Valley Cove Trail</b>  | <b>Individual Hikers</b> |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>Entries</b>                                                   | 155                       | 58                        | <b>Through Jct</b>       |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>Exits</b>                                                     | 43                        | 156                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |               |
| <b>Total Traffic</b>                                             | 198                       | 214                       | 412                      |                          |                          |                          |               |
| Carol Thompson/Maureen Fournier                                  |                           |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |               |

## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While there were a few surprises, the 2014 census confirmed most expectations. Even on a similar date with similar weather, there can be much variation in a spot count or census such as this. Counts at the new Otter Cove Trail give park managers a sense of how much this new trail is being used, even before it is on a trail map. Counts at the new Kebo Brook Trail demonstrate the effectiveness of efforts to encourage hikers to use the Island Explorer bus to access this trail. It is great to see people already taking advantage of it. Because we focused more on the Western side, we counted at more low use trails this year. Together with the census from 2013, the two censuses offer a full picture of the distribution of use across the hiking trail system.

From a methodological standpoint, counting “traffic” at intersections is much more of a challenge than simply counting hikers entering trail, especially at very busy sites. Though errors are much easier to make, we are confident these data are accurate enough for their purpose. It takes considerably more time to plan, train, and supervise all the people counting. We learned much about how to explain the process and what directions and information to give to counters that will be very useful in preparing for future censuses.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Chase, G. and C. Jacobi,  
2000 A census of hiking trail use in Acadia National Park, August 3 and 4, 1999. Acadia National Park natural resources report 2000-2. Feb. 2000. 7pp.
- Jacobi, C.  
2014 A partial census of hiking trail use, 2013. Acadia National Park natural resources report 2014-1. Feb. 2014. 10pp.
- Jacobi, C.  
2003 A census of hiking trail use in Acadia National Park, August 5 and 6, 2003. Acadia National Park natural resources report 2003-10. Oct. 2003. 12pp.
- Jacobi, C.  
2002 A census of hiking trail use in Acadia National Park, August 6 and 7, 2002. Acadia National Park natural resources report 2002-07. Oct. 2002. 15pp.
- Jacobi, C.  
2001a A census of hiking trail use in Acadia National Park, August 7 and 8, 2001. Acadia National Park natural resources report 2001-10. Dec. 2001. 10pp.
- Jacobi, C.  
2001b A census of hiking trail use in Acadia National Park, August 1 and 3, 2000. Acadia National Park natural resources report 2001-2. February 2001. 6pp.