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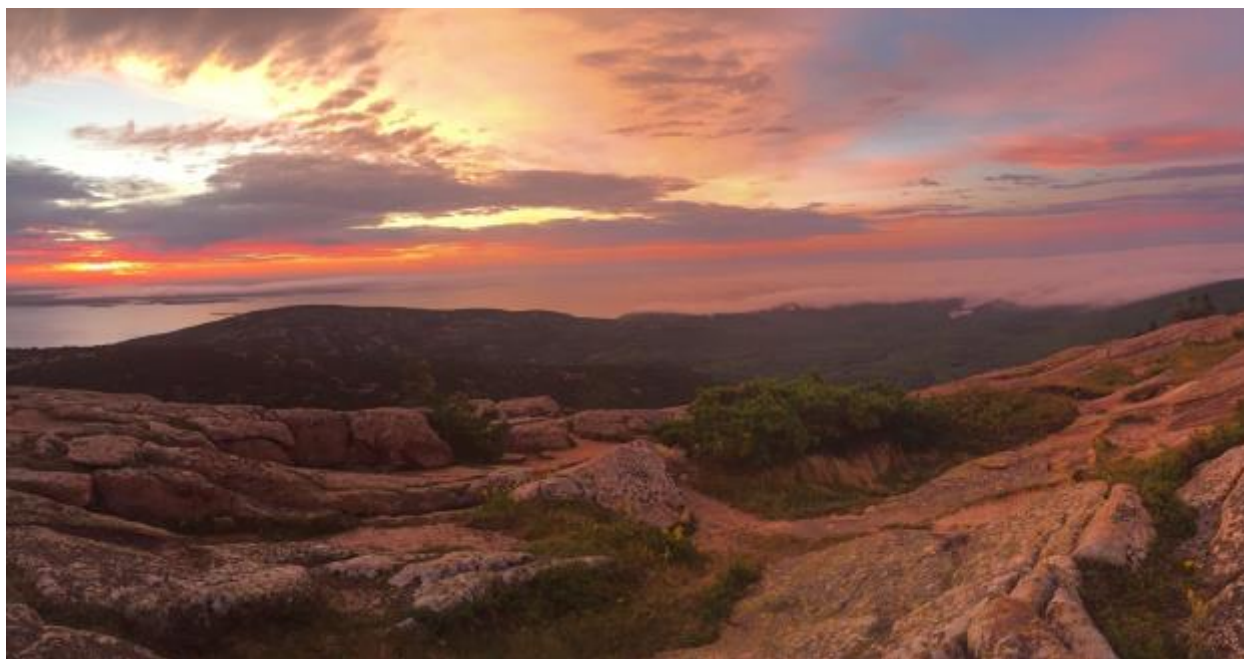
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PO Box 177  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

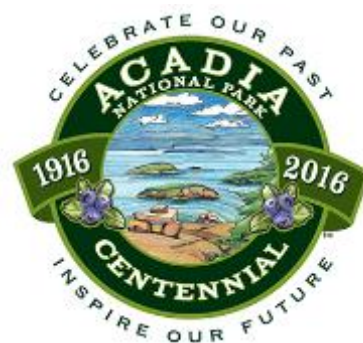
207 288-3338  
207 288- 8813 fax  
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# CADILLAC SUMMIT STEWARDS

## 2016 Final Report



ALANNA MCDONOUGH  
STEPHANIE LEY  
KRISTEN OBER  
MAGGIE PAINTER  
SHANE MURPHY



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## Acknowledgements

The 2016 Cadillac Summit Stewards would like to extend a huge thanks to all those who helped make our season a great success. We would like to thank Kathy Grant and the National Park Service Summit Stewards; we hope for continued partnership in the future. Many thanks to Charlie Jacobi for all his wisdom and unfailing support, both during our training and throughout the season. Additionally, to the Ridge Runners and The Recreation Technician for their companionship, knowledge and assistance. To Stuart West and the rest of the Acadia National Park Service Law Enforcement, who provided us with continuous support and security on the mountain. To Kristi Rugg, for all the help navigating our office, as well as for all the puns. Thank you FOA Youth Tech Team for being the best office-mates, and for all the laughs. Last but not least to our supervisor Paige Steele, and all the rest of the Friends of Acadia Staff. All have been welcoming and supportive throughout the season. Our experience would not have been as positive and productive without all the help!



# Cadillac Summit Stewards 2016

Alanna, Kristen, Maggie, Shane, and Stephanie are a team of youthful conservationists employed by Friends of Acadia. Summit Stewards are stationed on top of Cadillac Mountain to enhance visitor experience while preserving the resource.

## Roving

50+



Hikes up and down Cadillac

Cairns



Destroyed (61.85%) Fixed (38.15%)

527

325

## Medical

Basic First Aid  
Search and Rescues



## Traffic

Average Length of Road Closures

Due to Traffic Congestion

11 Total



## Visitor Contacts

11,090 Contacts

41 Sunrises

11 Sunsets

### Orientation

- Where is the bathroom?
- Where is the Summit Loop?
- Where is the Summit Marker?

Hiking Advice

The Resources

Island Explorer

Leave No Trace

Park Passes



powered by





## Cadillac's Challenges



Overcapacity of  
Visitors



Ecological  
Degradation



Visitor  
Safety



Visitor  
Information



## Our Ideas

Exclosures

Presence of Law  
Enforcement

Live parking  
images

Permanent "No  
Parking" signs

Additional  
coping stones

Additional bike  
rack

Additional trash  
can

Additional  
ashtray

Continued  
education by SS

Additional  
coping stones

Increase biker  
safety  
messages

Sidewalk from  
BHO to summit

Sidewalk from  
BHO to North  
Ridge Trail

Signs to  
accessible  
parking and  
ramp

NO ISLAND  
EXPLORER on  
map and  
trailheads

Review websites  
for  
misinformation

Steepness signs  
at West Face

Cadillac Quick  
Tips

## 2016 Cadillac Summit Steward Bios



IMAGE 1. SUMMIT STEWARDS DURING LEAVE NO TRACE TRAINING

**Alanna McDonough** is a recent graduate of Colby College with a major in Environmental Science and minor in Education. During her senior year at Colby, Alanna worked on research regarding the efficacy of Aluminum Sulfate treatments for combating severe lake eutrophication in Central Maine. In addition, Alanna was also a three season athlete at Colby- competing in 7 NCAA National Championships and earning 3 All-American Titles. Recently, Alanna has become an aspiring triathlete. She has spent her previous 3 summers working as a canoe instructor on Lake Cochichewick near her hometown of Andover, Massachusetts.

**Kristen Ober** grew up in Virginia, Guatemala, Bolivia, and Peru. She volunteered for the non-profit organization Fauna Forever for three summers in the Peruvian Amazon and returned there in 2016 to conduct her final thesis on Caimans. Kristen graduated from College of the Atlantic (COA) with a degree in Human Ecology. During her first summer living on Mount Desert Island she gathered data on Smooth Green snakes in Acadia National Park while working with Bruce Connery. She interned for the United States Geological Survey in the central valley of California conducting research on Giant Gartersnakes. She has spent two summers working with children through COA's Summer Field Studies. Kristen is passionate about bears and herpetology, public land conservation and environmental education. Kristen has worked with the Chaparri Ecological Reserve in Northern Peru monitoring Andean bears.

**Maggie Painter** grew up on Mount Desert Island, and is currently attending Smith College as an international relations major, concentrating in climate change. Last summer she worked with Kristen as a counselor in COA's Summer Field Studies Program, encouraging children's engagement with Acadia and the natural world. This past year, she studied as an intern with the US Department of State, working with USAID's Global Development Lab on a new platform that provides funding to international development innovations worldwide. Maggie is currently conducting research on the effects of climate change on agricultural yields in rural Cameroon, and plans to study abroad there in the spring of 2017.

**Shane Murphy** recently graduated from the State University of New York at Fredonia with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology. Last summer Shane was a Recreation Technician Intern with the United States Forest Service in Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington state. In his hometown of Fredonia, NY Shane volunteers with a middle school backpacking education program, assisting in leading over eighty 8th grade students in a 2-day and 4-day overnight backpacking trip.

**Stephanie Ley** grew up in suburban South Florida and virtually lived in the one tree that wasn't a palm or citrus tree in her yard. This eventually lead to a Bachelor's of Science in Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida. After graduating she worked for the Florida Forest Service in forest health. The call of the mountains and adventure was so irresistible that in the last two years Stephanie and her cat have lived in all four corners of the country. They came to Maine from Flagstaff where she worked at Walnut Canyon National Monument in Interpretation and Fee Collection.

## 1.0 Introduction

Visitors from all reaches of our planet perch atop the open summit of Cadillac Mountain and contemplate the breath-taking view. Standing at 1,530ft above sea level, Cadillac is the highest point on the entire Eastern Seaboard of North America. Cadillac Mountain's iconic sunrise, rich history and wonderful views of the open Atlantic draw a staggering number of visitors to the summit. However, when there is such extreme visitation to any natural resource, the resource inevitably suffers degradation. This can range from the light footsteps of careful visitors to complete disregard of the waste bins and restoration areas by less mindful guests to the summit. The summit experiences a vast number of visitors coming up by bicycles, personal vehicles, busses, and determinedly, by foot. Once all the visitors reach the top, vehicle traffic can become dangerous, parking violations occur, visitors refuse to comply to park pass regulations, Bate's cairns suffer abuse, and the subalpine environment is trodden over and harmed.

Until 2014, only a few hours each week were allotted to the stewardship of Cadillac Mountain by park rangers due to constrained resources in the Park Service. Now, through Acadia National Park's partnership with Friends of Acadia, the Cadillac Summit Stewards are able to assist with protecting the pink granite giant centered in the park during the extremely busy Summer and Fall. Funded by Friends of Acadia and educated by the Park Service, Cadillac Summit Stewards are the current frontline of defense for resource protection, and many visitors' first smiling contact with a park based employee.

## 2.0. 2016 Program Outline

### 2.1. Training

The 2016 Summit Stewards spent three weeks in training, attending various information sessions and workshops to hone their knowledge and skills before beginning their work on Cadillac Mountain. These trainings included the following:

- Abbe Museums
- Air Quality Lesson
- Cadillac Ecology/ Botany
- Cairn Building
- Geology Tour: Geologic timeline for Mount Desert Island and Cadillac Mountain
- Interwoods 2016
- Law Enforcement (radio and compendium)
- Leave No Trace Training
- SAR Training
- Sieur De Monts
- Trail Hiking

Although some information came up more often in visitor questions, all training was useful in some capacity. Specifically, Leave No Trace Training, Cairn Building, SAR training, Cadillac Ecology, and Trail Hiking. We have included recommendations for future Cadillac Summit Steward training.

#### Recommendations:

##### *(1) Fee Training*

A brief training about visitor's options for purchasing park passes. Summit Stewards are asked questions about park passes almost daily and need up to date information for visitors.

##### *(2) Group Roving*

Work hours during training were inconsistent. Allowing Summit Stewards to rove in uniform as a complete group during the second week of training would help bring some consistency to the training schedule. It would also help future stewards get comfortable on the mountain and practice interacting with visitors, especially during the first sunrise and sunset shifts.

##### *(3) More Trail Hiking*

For the 2016 season we hiked Dorr, various Cadillac Trails, and the Ocean Path. The second most popular category of question involved hiking advice. We highly recommend hiking as many popular trails as possible, as well as continuing to hike throughout the season. Hiking recommendations as well as information on trails is very hard to give unless you have experience with the particular trails.

## 2.2. Daily Operations

Once the Summit Stewards were confident educating on their own, a working schedule was established. Each week consisted of 3 roving days, a sunrise day, and one designated office day. Occasionally a sunset shift was substituted in for a normal roving day-- more frequently as sunset times became manageable. Sunrise and sunset shifts were similar to midday roving but gave the stewards the ability to focus on interpretation during high density hours. Office days enabled the Summit Stewards to focus on data entry, read up on Cadillac's natural and cultural history, and report writing. The data that was collected during roving shifts was entered into a Google Form. During the beginning of the season, various office days even yielded to time spent on the summit when work on the final report had not yet begun. These office days would be used to complete weekly memos, and add written notes to data log. After this work was completed, Summit Stewards would head to the summit.

Roving the summit was the most frequent activity for the Summit Stewards. While roving, a steward was a resource for the public as well as a form of protection for the mountain summit. A typical roving day involved either hiking or driving to the summit, generally starting around 8AM. During most of the summer Summit Stewards would hike to the summit. For most trails the Summit Stewards parked near the trail head. If hiking the West Face Trail the Summit Stewards would park near the North Ridge Island Explorer stop, take the bus to the Bubble Pond stop, then hike down the North Ridge Trail at the end of the day. The Island Explorer was very useful for the West Face Trail, Gorge Path and Sieur de Monts because of their limited parking. In the case of an emergency, Ollies Trolley and Acadian Tours could drive the Summit Stewards to the base of the mountain. If Summit Stewards drove to the top of the mountain it was done separately, as start times varied depending on the Steward. Occasionally, Summit Stewards who had driven up would provide visitors, looking for a way down the mountain, with a ride to the base at the end of the day.

Throughout the season, certain summit areas proved to be the most effective locations for engaging with visitors. The major points were 1) next to the park information displays along the parking loop heading to the Summit Loop Trail 2) the view and paved area that is the top of the false summit and 3) down at the overlook that takes in Bar Harbor and Frenchman's Bay predominantly. Standing or perusing the summit, the Stewards were able to answer questions ranging from natural history and ecology, to simple orientation on the mountain. Generally, most questions dealt with orientation on and around the summit (Appendix A. Figure 2).

Roving also provided Summit Stewards with the ability to respond immediately to situations ranging in importance. Minor problems experienced by the Summit Stewards may have included, the creation of rock art, National Park violations, or disregard for enclosed areas. Other daily activities sometimes included monitoring traffic, alerting law enforcement to traffic gridlocks, and assessing medical situations. In the case of a serious medical emergency, the summit stewards were able to call for a Law Enforcement (LE) Officer to act as a EMT if needed. Summit Stewards also took part in various search and rescue operations which will be covered in greater depth later in the report.

Sunrise and sunset roves were also performed, which provided a steward presence for visitors hoping to enjoy the one of the two solar events. During sunrise, the steward that was present would attempt as best they could to be visible and approachable, yet was generally overlooked due to a combination of darkness and awe once the sun was coming over the horizon. The sunset shift was not staffed as frequently during the peak of the summer due to the lack of visitation from 4pm until the late sunset. When visitors did come for sunset, they focused on Blue Hill Overlook as the view was considered more appealing for the sunset.

Trail patrols were also conducted throughout each work week. Trails that were hiked included all major trails connecting to Cadillac's summit. While on trail, Summit Stewards still provided the same education and interpretation opportunities, but were given the chance for more personal interactions. Being on the trails also provided the opportunity to educate visitors on park regulations such as keeping dogs on leash and Leave No Trace principles. The stewards frequently recommended alternative hikes catered to visitors' ability. Patrolling the trails yielded to performing minor trail maintenance as needed; primarily repairing cairns as well as cleaning out any new fallen brush or minor trash left about on trail.

## 2.3. Summary of Daily Data Collection

Each day spent on the mountain, notes were recorded and entered into our Daily Data Log using Google Form (Appendix A. Image 17). We collected pertinent data, decided upon by supervisors and the team, and we collected data that was specifically requested by park staff. Summit Stewards recorded simple things like contact count and cairns, but went more in depth with violations and trail problems. Types of contact questions were broken down into categories and were recorded as a percent range as opposed to counting each type of question individually (Appendix A. Figure 2). Each week, individual Stewards wrote a one-page report on their activities for the week, providing documentation of anecdotal data as well as updating supervisors on mountain musings. In addition, Charlie Jacobi, Resource Manager at Acadia, requested the Summit Stewards collect data about the traffic status of the mountain (Appendix A. Image 18). Tables 1 and 2 show our basic statistics for the season. Further synthesis will be presented throughout this report and in the appendix. Additionally, our most frequent questions and answers are located in Appendix B.

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Contacts</b>         | <b>11,090</b> |
| <b>Cairns Destroyed</b> | 527           |
| <b>Cairns Fixed</b>     | 325           |

**TABLE 1. DATA TOTALS AS OF OCTOBER 23, 2016**

| <b>Month</b>     | <b>Contact Totals</b> | <b>Average Contacts</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>July</b>      | 3407                  | 63                      |
| <b>August</b>    | 3872                  | 68                      |
| <b>September</b> | 2977                  | 63                      |

**TABLE 2. MONTHLY CONTACT TOTALS AND AVERAGE PER DAY**

## 2.4. Special Events

### 2.4A. Centennial Events

This season there were many events to celebrate Acadia's centennial. The Summit Stewards, alongside Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia staff, assisted with these various events. To celebrate Acadia Day with the Boston Red Sox, Summit Stewards assisted in organizing and loading friends and families onto the L.L. Bean Fenway Express buses. A Friends of Acadia table was set up with raffles and information on visiting Acadia National Park. This was a great opportunity for staff to talk with locals about their favorite places in the park as well as assisting others on planning their visit to Acadia.



**IMAGE 2. SUMMIT STEWARDS AT CADILLAC STAR PARTY**

During the beginning of the season, the Summit Stewards participated in the Gifford's Ice Cream Birthday Party for Acadia National Park at the Hannaford's Super Market in Ellsworth, ME. The Summit Stewards chimed in during the Happy Birthday song and talked with folks about their work in the park. Summit Stewards also sat in on the live broadcast of Maine Calling at the Schoodic Institute. Through this event they were able to listen in on the challenges that Acadia is facing due to increased visitation and climate change among other concerns.

In a less formal setting Summit Stewards were able to celebrate the 59in59 National Park presentation at Atlantic Brewing Company. They chatted with locals about Friends of Acadia and how to best protect our public lands. One Summit Steward assisted with traffic control on Sargent Drive during the Windjammer Parade, a sailing of Maine's windjammers through Somes Sound.

### 2.4B. Parades

The Summit Stewards participated in two parade events during the summer of 2016. Both the Bar Harbor 4th of July parade and Southwest Harbor's Flamingo Parade. Summit Stewards who attended each of these events walked with the Friends of Acadia staff and volunteers, waving and throwing candy to the crowd. Summit Stewards were dressed in uniform for both events.

### 2.4C. Friends of Acadia Annual Events-Annual Meeting and Benefit

Summit Stewards, as well as the rest of Friends of Acadia's Youth Teams, were present at the Annual Meeting. This year the meeting was planned to fall on the same day as Acadia's Birthday. Summit Stewards were able to share aspects about their daily work in the park with meeting attendees who were unfamiliar with the new program. Interacting with donors allowed us to personally thank them for their generosity.

The Annual Benefit Auction is a key component to the fundraising efforts of Friends of Acadia. Summit Stewards helped with setup ranging from U-Haul pickup to heavy lifting and hanging garland. Thunderstorms the day of the benefit resulted in the formation of a bucket brigade to prevent the tent area from flooding. During the event Summit Stewards also greeted incoming guests and helped with parking and shuttling. We provided a face to those whose charitable donations made our job possible. During the

auction, Summit Stewards assisted with live bidding to make sure everything was recorded properly. After the auction the team dismantled, loaded gear, returned borrowed items, and stored materials for the next year. It was a nice hiatus from the mountain to help and interact with staff and donors of Friends of Acadia.

#### 2.4D. Car Free Day

On September 17th, Acadia National Park hosted Car Free Day from 12AM until 12PM. On that morning, no cars were permitted on major park roads throughout the park (such as the Park Loop Road and connectors to it). Many visitors used this opportunity to enjoy the park without motor vehicles on typically car-busy portions of Park Loop Road. Two Summit Stewards were positioned at ordinarily open points of entry for vehicles onto Park Loop Road. The stewards, alongside volunteers, helped inform visitors that there were no cars permitted on the closed off sections. Many visitors that arrived by car without the knowledge that it was a car free morning were patient and either waited until 12PM nearby or left to go explore the island elsewhere until the roads opened again. There were the small handful of visitors that did not think it was a good idea to have a morning, as it impeded with the visitation of those in vehicles. Summit Stewards explained that car free mornings only happen twice a year in Acadia, and is a very appreciated event among cyclists and other park visitors. On this particular car free morning, portions of closed road were coincidentally used by a half marathon and a 5k run centered in Bar Harbor.

#### 2.4E. Cadillac Star Party

On the night of September 24th, Acadia National Park, alongside Friends of Acadia, hosted the Acadia Night Sky Festival Cadillac Star Party. Around 4PM, many of the park workers and volunteers began setting up lights and coordinating the volunteer astronomers coming to the top of the mountain with their telescopes and binoculars. The Summit Stewards helped by signing in the volunteers with scopes, marking the scopes with glow sticks so they would not be tripped over, placing down the lights to mark the path to the constellation tours, and setting up barriers to prevent visitors from heading onto treacherous paths in the dark. Once night fell, the Summit Stewards assisted in directing and coordinating visitors in the dark. Due to the nocturnal nature of the event and the various glow sticks and free hot chocolates, an abundance of litter unintentionally accumulated on the mountaintop. Designated, lit, trash areas by the bus loading zone would be helpful for future nighttime events. Visitors enjoyed it nonetheless, finding breathtaking views in the open sky or with the telescopes. All effort put into the Star Party were well worth the visitors' absolute enjoyment of Acadia's natural resources.

### 2.5. Medical Events

#### 2.5A. Search and Rescue (SAR)

When there is a need for an emergency Search and Rescue carry out, Summit Stewards and Ridge Runners are a great helping hand; the two groups both navigate the rocky trails regularly and stay in pretty good shape. Both groups received basic SAR training at the beginning of the season preparing them to participate in rescue efforts if necessary. During the 2016 season, Summit Stewards assisted on a handful of SAR carry outs where the patient needed assistance off the mountain due to moderate or severe injuries. For each case, Summit Stewards were able to assist in carrying the litter off the mountain.

### 2.5B. First Aid

In addition to larger search and rescue operations, the Summit Stewards responded to a variety of medical events while stationed on the summit. Most medical events on the summit involved small scrapes and bruises from falls along Summit Path Loop. For these instances first aid was administered by Summit Stewards. For major medical events, Law Enforcement was notified.

| Minor Medical Events                                                                                       | Major Medical Events                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minor scrapes</li><li>• Sprained ankle</li><li>• Fatigue</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Broken ankle</li><li>• Hiking falls</li><li>• Head injury</li><li>• Auto road fatality</li></ul> |

**TABLE 3. COMPLETE LIST OF MINOR AND MAJOR MEDICAL EVENTS RECORDED BY SUMMIT STEWARDS DURING 2016 SEASON. MINOR EVENTS DID NOT INVOLVE LAW ENFORCEMENT, FOR MAJOR EVENTS LAW ENFORCEMENT WAS CALLED**

## 3.0. Observations & Recommendations

### 3.1. Overcapacity of Visitors

#### 3.1A

#### Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise and sunset are magical times to be on top of Cadillac. During certain times of the year visitors for sunrise can claim they were among the first in the United States to witness the light. In the 30 minutes before the event through the 30 minutes following, the mountain is flooded with visitors and their vehicles. It is

a temporary event that happens at extremes of the day, and in the case of sunrise, during times with no Law Enforcement Rangers on duty. Crowd density is directly correlated with mountain weather-- sunny mornings tend to draw much larger crowds than those with inclement or foggy conditions.



**IMAGE 3. BLUE HILL OVERLOOK AT SUNSET**

The main lot is generally full 35 minutes prior to sunrise and visitors are creative with their parking solutions. Sunrise will also fill Blue Hill Overlook parking lot, but sometimes illegal parking along the auto road occurs before the parking lot is full. Right around the time of true sunrise cars will speed through the parking lot in fear of missing the moment. At sunrise visitors are concentrated along the eastern face of Cadillac (Gorge Path). The lack of full sunlight and volume of visitors setting up for the perfect view results in the trampling the vegetation. This is a more noticeable problem during sunset when visitors are distributed everywhere from the summit loop to Blue Hill Overlook and the pullouts along the road. During sunset, Blue Hill Overlook becomes the first filled lot then overflows onto the main lot.

Places illegal parking occurs:

- In the road and along roadway
- In the yellow lines
- On the sidewalk
- Blocking other cars

### Recommendations:

#### *(1) Presence of Law Enforcement*

Nearly all sunrise shifts were worked before Law Enforcement Rangers were on the clock. If there is a Law Enforcement presence during sunrise shifts, visitors may feel compelled to abide by the parking regulations. It would be difficult to issue tickets to every parking violation on mornings of total parking pandemonium. However, issuing tickets for parking violations on quieter mornings may result in the circulation of public knowledge on traffic enforcement, which in turn may help reduce the parking violations.



**IMAGE 4. VARIOUS PARKING VIOLATIONS AT SUNRISE**

#### *(2) Lottery based parking permit*

A required permit to park during sunrise/sunset could alleviate the overcapacity on the summit. This option could be reserved to use only during weeks with the highest visitation. Assuming permit requests would fill up quickly, issue them through a lottery system. Visitors can submit their requests in advance and would be allowed to submit a certain number of requests per month. They will be notified a week in advance and would need to either print out their pass or potentially have it printed at the Visitor Center to display alongside their entrance pass. A select number of spots could be first come, first serve. Fifteen minutes before official sunrise permitted spots not claimed could be opened up. Some parks such as Baxter State Park and Great Smoky Mountains National Park are already using this system or experimenting with a similar measure. Enforcing this would require law enforcement and someone stationed at the base of Cadillac road entrance.

#### *(3) Exclosures*

Refer to section 3.3C for information on this recommendation.

### 3.1B 10AM- 4PM



**GRAPHIC 1. CADILLAC TRAFFIC DATA**

Traffic on the mountain is fairly busy during the summer season from 10AM-4PM, particularly Monday through Wednesday (Graphic 1). Vehicles will be waiting in line often more than 15 minutes to park. Traffic on the mountain can be backed up to a point that it requires the incoming road to close down while the traffic fizzles out. There were 4 occasions this season that the auto road up Cadillac was closed, due to traffic, while Summit Stewards were present. (Table 4). These closures occurred between 11AM-1PM, in some cases lasting over an hour. Once the cars waiting to park became backed up to Blue Hill Overlook, Summit Stewards would radio dispatch. Law Enforcement would then decide on the action taken. For additional information on traffic data, including average summit parking and traffic, refer to Appendix A. Table 7, and Appendix A. Graph 2.

| Date  | Day     | Time        | Duration (Minutes) |
|-------|---------|-------------|--------------------|
| 7/3   | Sunday  | 13:30-14:57 | 87                 |
| 7/19* | Tuesday | 12:00-13:05 | 65                 |
| 8/2*  | Tuesday | 12:44-13:07 | 23                 |

|       |           |             |     |
|-------|-----------|-------------|-----|
| 8/8   | Monday    | 12:56-13:31 | 35  |
| 8/8   | Monday    | 19:33-19:53 | 20  |
| 8/17  | Wednesday | NA          | 8   |
| 9/4   | Sunday    | NA          | 196 |
| 9/5   | Monday    | 14:12-16:05 | 113 |
| 9/12* | Monday    | 11:30-11:50 | 20  |
| 9/20  | Tuesday   | NA          | 26  |
| 9/21* | Wednesday | 11:00-11:47 | 40  |
| 9/27  | Tuesday   | NA          | 54  |

**TABLE 4. CADILLAC AUTO ROAD CLOSURES FOR 2016 SEASON. \* INDICATES TRAFFIC INDUCED CLOSURE WHERE SUMMIT STEWARDS WERE PRESENT**

## Recommendations:

### (1) Images from parking lot

To encourage visitors to seek alternative methods of transportation to reach Cadillac Summit, we suggest that the Acadia NPS website feature a live image/feed from the parking lot or the entrance to the summit loop (Image 5). Visitors exploring the website will know to avoid driving up to the summit during peak traffic times. These pictures can also be broadcasted at the visitor center to inform more visitors.

#### Webcams

You can check these webcams to see current conditions on the Arches entrance road.

Note: The Arches entrance station webcam may not be updating regularly. We are working to fix this problem.



#### Arches Entrance Station

This webcam is located at the Arches entrance station and is pointed toward the junction with US 191. The image is updated every 60 seconds.

[View webcam](#)



#### UDOT Traffic Camera on US 191

This webcam is maintained by the Utah Department of Transportation. It is located across US 191 from the Arches National Park entrance road.

[View webcam](#)

**IMAGE 5. SCREENSHOT OF TRAFFIC CAMERA DISPLAY ON ARCHES NATIONAL PARK WEBSITE**

### (2) Limited spots for extended use

A portion of parking spots are occupied for numerous hours at a time by visitors hiking from the summit - limiting spaces for visitors that are visiting only briefly. We suggest setting aside a few spots (aside from staff parking spaces) for extended use (over an hour) during 10AM-4PM. This will encourage hikers to start from the bottom and to use alternative means of transportation, such as the bus. This will ideally increase the rate of turnover in the summit parking lot. Due to the conflict of enforcing these time limited parking spots, we understand that law enforcement will be required as a more frequent presence on the summit.

**(3) Permanent “No Parking on Roadway” Signs along roadway**

Refer to section **3.3A** for information on this recommendation

**(4) Additional Coping Stones**

Refer to section **3.3A** for information on this recommendation

**(5) Path from Blue Hill Overlook**

Refer to section **3.2B** for information on this recommendation

**\*Recommendations for future consideration and modification\***

1. Island Explorer access to summit
2. Reserve your time (similar to Baxter State Park Day Use Permits)
3. Parking attendants

## 3.2. Visitor Safety

### 3.2A. Bikers

Overcapacity of visitors leads to increased use of the Cadillac Mountain auto road during popular hours of the day. Because bike traffic up the auto road has also increased (Table 5), we have received numerous complaints from both drivers and bikers about the safety and regulation of auto road use. Drivers have expressed concern about lack of shoulders for bikers-- which puts both drivers and bikers at risk when navigating the sharp turns. Drivers have also expressed concerns about the number of bikers who choose to use the auto road during the busiest hours of the day. Bikers express that many cars do not follow speed regulations or 3-foot passing distance regulations. Although no accidents involving both automobiles and bikes occurred this summer, the expression of concern from both parties urged us to bring forth potential recommendations for the future.

| Date      | Time     | Inbound Bicycle Total | Outbound Bicycle Total |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 7/1/2016  | 900-1600 | 31                    | 28                     |
| 7/5/2016  | 900-1600 | 33                    | 49                     |
| 7/24/2016 | 900-1600 | 15                    | 28                     |
| 7/28/2016 | 900-1600 | 19                    | 27                     |
| 8/3/2016  | 900-1600 | 53                    | 79                     |
| 8/4/2016  | 900-1600 | 18                    | 23                     |
| 8/8/2016  | 600-1200 | 32                    | 45                     |
| 8/9/2016  | 600-1200 | 38                    | 43                     |

|           |          |    |    |
|-----------|----------|----|----|
| 8/16/2016 | 600-1200 | 31 | 36 |
| 8/23/2016 | 600-1200 | 32 | 44 |

**TABLE 5. TABLE OF TOTAL INBOUND AND OUTBOUND BICYCLISTS ON THE CADILLAC AUTO ROAD FOR VARIOUS DATES THROUGHOUT THE 2016 SUMMER SEASON. DATA FROM CHARLIE JACOBI/ RECREATION TECHNICIAN**

### Recommendations:

#### **(1) Increased information about passing bikers on maps/pamphlets**

There are currently two signs stating the 3-foot passing law: one at the top of the auto road and one at the bottom. Road signage is often overlooked by visitors. With increased traffic, additional information about proper passing on park pamphlets and other material will better inform the public.

#### **(2) Suggested specific biking hours in AM + PM**

This would allow for continued use of the auto road by bikers. Many local bikers already choose to use the auto road during the less busy morning hours, roughly 30 minutes after sunrise until 10AM. We recognize the challenges in enforcing these hours and believe this recommendation should be employed in the event of continued increase in road traffic and/or accidents.

### 3.2B. Foot traffic from Blue Hill Overlook to summit parking lot

Increased visitation to the Cadillac Summit has led to an increase in the usage of the Blue Hill Overlook parking lot as spillover parking area (Table 6). When the summit parking is no longer available, visitors begin parking at Blue Hill Overlook. This

|                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Total # Parking Spots in BHO</b>        | 37  |
| <b>Max Recorded Cars in BHO</b>            | 56  |
| <b># of Days Recorded with &gt;37 Cars</b> | 6   |
| <b>% of Recorded Days &gt;37 Cars</b>      | 12% |

**TABLE 6. VARIOUS STATS FOR BLUE HILL OVERLOOK PARKING**

parking lot is often overlooked, leading to large amounts of illegal parking during crowded hours. In this scenario, visitors parking at Blue Hill Overlook then walk to the summit via the small dirt path along the side of the summit road. Visitors with young children or elderly relatives have expressed concern to the Summit Stewards about using this small roadside path. In the event that cars are parked along this roadside path from the Blue Hill Overlook to the summit parking, patrons will circumvent the vehicles by walking in the roadway. During sunrise, or when “No Roadside Parking” signs are knocked over and not visible, cars will begin to line up along the side of the roadway. This poses a safety concern to those visitors looking to reach the summit from the overlook. Refer to Appendix A. Graph 3, for additional information on Blue Hill Overlook parking counts by day of week.

### Recommendations:

#### *(1) Sidewalk from BHO to summit parking*

As recommended in past FOA Cadillac Summit Steward reports, we recommend the installation of a sidewalk from the Blue Hill Overlook to the summit parking, as a way to reduce the risk of foot traffic along that route. We do not advocate for additional paving where not necessary, as it will only further destroy summit ecosystem. However, a sidewalk for this portion would help prevent the frequent parking along this portion of dirt shoulder, mitigating any worsening of this ecosystem degradation. Most importantly it assures the safety of visitors wishing to reach the summit while parking in the Blue Hill Overlook.

#### *(2) Creation of trail in woods from BHO connecting to North Ridge*

Portions of social trails starting at the Blue Hill Overlook currently exist. However, none connect completely with the North Ridge Trail. The potential of a true trail from the Blue Hill Overlook, linking with the North Ridge Trail, would provide a safe alternative for visitors walking to the summit and mitigate the creation of further social trails in this area.

### 3.2C. Inadequate Accessibility signs

Currently, there are two areas for accessible parking on the summit of Cadillac. One located directly out in front of the Summit Gift Shop, the second located on the farther portion of the outside loop of the lot (Image 7). We received multiple complaints that the accessible parking on the outside loop is not advertised, causing many who are unaware of its location to park in non-accessible spots. This leads to wheelchair bound and other eligible visitors to traverse the parking lot instead (Image 6). In addition, many visitors who are unaware of accessible ramps to the summit path attempt to use the staircase instead.



**IMAGE 6. GUESTS WITH ACCESSIBILITY DIFFICULTIES CROSSING THE PARKING LOT**

### Recommendations:

#### *(1) Insert sign indicating which line of traffic contains accessible spots*

We recommend the placement of additional signage indicating the location of accessible spots on the outer loop (Image 7). This would alleviate the issue of visitors in need of accessible spots having to use non-accessible spots because of misinformation.

**(2) Insert sign indicating summit path trail with ramp**

We recommend the placement of a similar sign along the beginning of the summit path indicating the route with no stairs. This would bring awareness to visitors that there is an alternate path to the summit that is a continuous smooth path, providing greater ease of access.



**IMAGE 7. BLUE FIGURES INDICATE CURRENT ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES. YELLOW FIGURES INDICATES SUGGESTED AREA FOR SIGN INDICATING THAT ACCESSIBLE SPOTS ARE LOCATED IN THE RIGHT OR OUTER LANE**

### 3.3. Ecological Degradation

#### 3.3A. Illegal Parking Along Roadways

With only a limited number of parking spots on top of Cadillac, the summit experiences large quantities of parking infractions along the roadways and on the mountain's ecological features. Many visitors, instead of returning during a less busy time, waiting, or parking in Blue Hill Overlook will park their vehicles in areas closed off by yellow road paint and even directly in front of road signs stating "No Parking Along Roadway". This erodes and destroys roadside vegetation.

#### Recommendations:

**(1) Permanent "No Parking Along Roadway" Sign Quality**

There are temporary "No Parking" signs along the side of the auto road directly before the summit parking loop. These work as a quick fix for the season but provide little assistance as they are blown away or taken down by vehicles later in the season. These signs can easily come out of the shoulders on the road where everyone parks on vegetation. Permanent signs would facilitate a higher level of compliance from visitors (Image 9).

## *(2) Additional Coping Stones*

When coping stones are tight and flush along the road, visitors are unable to park on the vegetation. More coping stones in the areas where visitors are sneaking onto the roadside vegetation would prevent this. We understand that this can be a very demanding project to accomplish for the park staff in charge of road care and maintenance (Image 10).

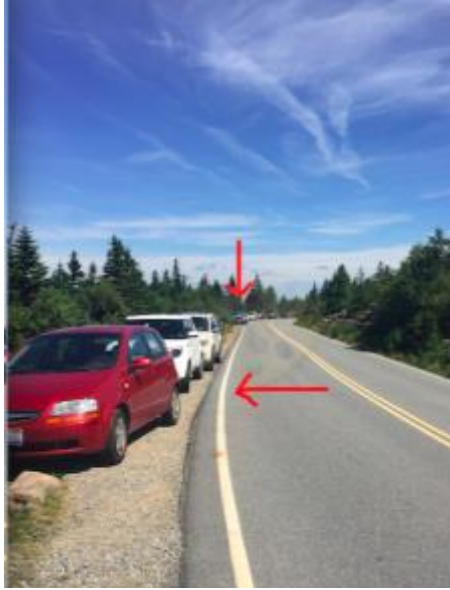


**IMAGE 9. RECOMMENDED LOCATION FOR PERMANENT "NO PARKING ALONG ROADWAY" SIGNS**



**IMAGE 10. RED ARROWS DENOTE THE LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL COPING STONES**

### **3.3B. Rock Sculptures**

Frequently, visitors will create false or improper cairns, or destroy proper ones (Image 11). This issue is consistent on the open top of the Gorge Path, and at the Blue Hill Overlook (Graph 1). Proper Bates cairns are used to indicate the path of hiking trails. They are especially useful during inclement weather or where painted blazes are fading. Destruction of these cairns may cause confusion for hikers trying to navigate trails. Improperly created and false rock sculptures also create confusion for hikers. Additionally, improper cairns or rock sculptures are often constructed with rocks pulled from soil. This dislodged soil will lead to erosion of plant material. In the case of fragile alpine and sup-alpine plants, this is particularly destructive. For information on additional trail issues, refer to Appendix A Table 9.

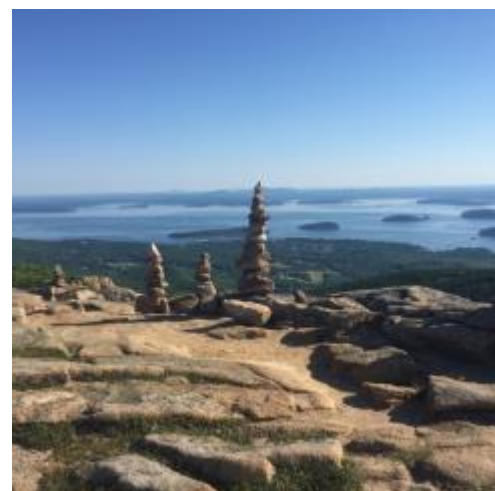
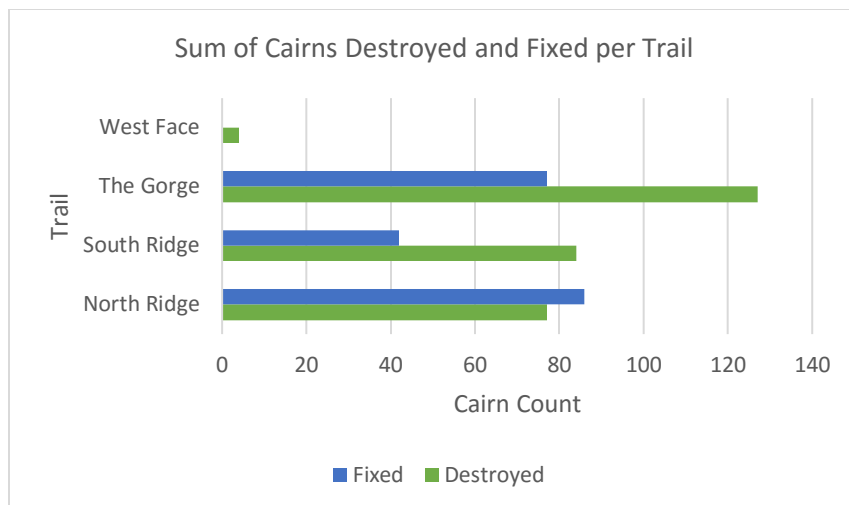


**IMAGE 11. ROCK SCULPTURES ALONG THE SUMMIT**



**GRAPH 1. SUM OF CAIRNS DESTROYED AND FIXED PER TRAIL: CALCULATED ON DAYS WHEN ONLY ONE TRAIL WAS RECORDED**

#### Recommendations:

##### **(1) Educate Visitors**

Most Leave No Trace contacts occurred while actively repairing or dismantling cairns. Summit Stewards were able to utilize these instances as teachable moment to educate visitors on the importance of Bate's cairns. It is important that Summit Stewards continue to engage with visitors while fixing or constructing cairns in visible areas. If rock sculptures continue to be an issue as they are now, we suggest Leave No Trace tabling as a means of engaging with visitors about these topics before the issues are created. The top of the Gorge Path and the Blue Hill Overlook would be effective areas to table, as they receive the greatest number of rock sculptures.

### 3.3C. Foot Traffic Off Appropriate Areas

On the summit of Cadillac Mountain there are designated restoration sites roped off to the public. These exclosures encourage ecological growth by discouraging visitors from walking in these areas. For the most part, these exclosures do prevent visitor foot traffic and promote growth. Visitors are most often observed walking in the roped off areas during sunrise and sunset when there is high crowd density in a small area with low visibility.

#### Recommendations:

##### **(1) Exclosures**

Additional exclosures should be created in the Blue Hill Overlook area and along the roadway pullouts where excessive foot traffic occurs during evening hours. Further scouting of where visitors congregate during sunset should be conducted to decide where exactly exclosures should be created.

### 3.3D. Bikes on Vegetation

Everyday there are multiple bikers up Cadillac Mountain, as discussed in section 3.2A. When at the summit, cyclists leave their bikes to enjoy the views on the summit path. Because they come straight around the parking lot to the entrance of the summit path, cyclists place their bikes against rocks or in the vegetation around this area (Image 12). The current bike rack on the side of the Summit Shop is completely missed. This takes its toll on the mountain vegetation as it suffers from all the resting bicycles and sometimes Summit Stewards are asked to watch over them.



**IMAGE 12. BIKES RESTING NEAR THE SUMMIT LOOP ENTRANCE**

#### Recommendations:

##### **(1) Add Bike Racks**

The addition of a bike rack nearer to the summit loop trail would provide an obvious, appropriate and safe place for cyclists to leave their bikes upon reaching the summit. Since the current bike rack near the gift shop does not get utilized, moving the rack from the gift shop gravel area to the summit loop area could help protect the immediate summit vegetation that the visitors all see (Image 13).



**IMAGE 13. RED ARROWS INDICATED RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR NEW AND ADDITIONAL BIKE RACKS**

### 3.3E. Litter

Litter has become one of the more visible issues on Cadillac's summit. While some litter comes from visitors actively dropping their trash, it is also the result of accidental expulsion of debris on windy days. The Summit Stewards actively pick up trash on the mountain summit – and we have found some of the most prevalent and reoccurring pieces of trash are cigarette butts. Excessive amounts of litter not only ruin the natural integrity of the mountain, but also negatively affects the mountain vegetation and wildlife. Because of amount of trash accumulation on the summit, in addition to the number of questions we receive about the location of trashcans, we believe current trash disposal options are not adequate nor obvious enough to visitors.

## Recommendations:

### *(1) More Visible Trash Cans and Ashtrays*

Many visitors have to ask the stewards if there are trashcans, indicating to us that the current trashcans are not adequate. Currently, there are two locations-- one next to the gift shop and the other on the inside of the parking lot. Both not visible once cars are parked in front of them. We recommend the addition of an ash tray just past the accessible parking spots where we have found the greatest density of cigarette butts. As well as the addition of a trashcan near the entrance to the summit path loop (Image 14).



**IMAGE 14. RED FIGURE INDICATES SUGGESTED AREA FOR NEW ASH TRAY. YELLOW FIGURE INDICATES AREA SUGGESTED FOR NEW TRASHCAN AND DOGGIE BAGS**

### *(2) Doggie Bags*

The addition of a Doggie Bag Dispenser and sign at trash cans would hopefully mitigate the amount of pet waste on the Summit.

## 3.4. Visitor Information

### 3.4A. Island Explorer Misconceptions

As part of the Summit Stewards duties, facilitating a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors is crucial. One of the largest challenges that the Summit Stewards have encountered this season is the lack of public transportation up or down Cadillac Mountain. Visitors frequently hike up Cadillac and become frustrated when there is no free shuttle down the mountain. In some instances, they have relied on websites such as TripAdvisor, which state that there is a free shuttle service up and down the mountain (Image 15). This major problem causes visitors to seek alternative ways down the mountain, such as walking the road, hitchhiking, or calling a taxi. The lack of information about the Island Explorer and the misconception of its route has caused much frustration surrounding visitors planned activities while visiting Acadia National Park.

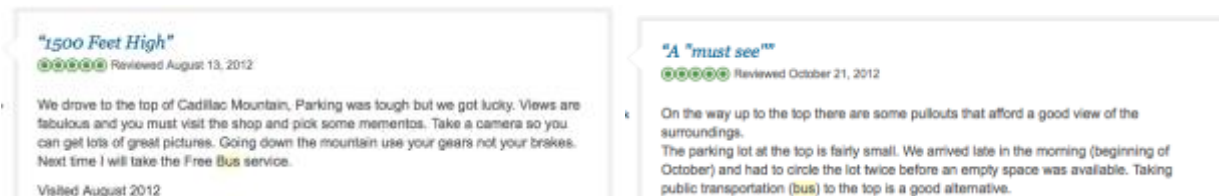


**IMAGE 15. SCREENSHOTS OF TWO REVIEWS ON TRIP ADVISOR STATING THAT THERE IS A FREE BUS SERVICE UP CADILLAC MOUNTAIN**

### Recommendations:

**(1) Obvious statement on the Island Explorer schedule and website emphasizing “No Island Explorer Service to/from Cadillac Summit”**

The current Island Explorer map does indicate that there is no service to and from Cadillac’s summit. However, many visitors have complained that this statement is not prominent enough and easily glanced over.

**(2) Signs at base of North and South Ridge Trail head**

Signs placed at the base of the two most popular hiking trails stating “No Island Explorer Service to or from Summit” would help alleviate some of the misconceptions.

**(3) Installation of a sign pointing towards Kebo trail and Island Explorer stop at base of North Ridge**

Currently, there is a single post at the base of the North Ridge Trail indicating that the Island Explorer stop is a short distance across the road and down the Kebo Trail. This current sign does not signify any direction, leading to confusion when hikers reach the Park Loop Rd. We recommend the installation of a sign indicating the direction of the Kebo Trail and North Ridge Island Explorer stop (Image 16).

**(4) Review of travel websites for misleading information**

Future Summit Stewards could address the travel sites which state false information about Island Explorer service to Cadillac. E-mails to these sites might be able to remove some of the false information from the internet.



**IMAGE 16. CIRCLE INDICATES SUGGESTED AREA FOR ADDITIONAL SIGN POINTING TOWARDS KEBO TRAIL (RED ARROW) AND INDICATING ISLAND EXPLORER STOP**

### 3.4B. Lack of proper knowledge of trails on the mountain

During the 2016 season, the Summit Stewards encountered many situations where visitors were unprepared or unaware of the difficulties of a trail. Misinformation about trails can create dangerous situations for hikers, and can lead to serious injuries or more minor medical issues such as dehydration. Knowing that not all visitors can be reached, Summit Stewards still aim to educate visitors about the trails to ensure the safest and most enjoyable experience within their abilities. In particular, visitors are most ill-prepared for the difficulties of The West Face Trail and the Cannon Brook Trail. Visitors looking for the quickest route down Cadillac often attempt the West Face trail (The West Face is the shortest trail up or down Cadillac). These hikers are faced with the sheer slopes of the West Face Trail and often find themselves unprepared.

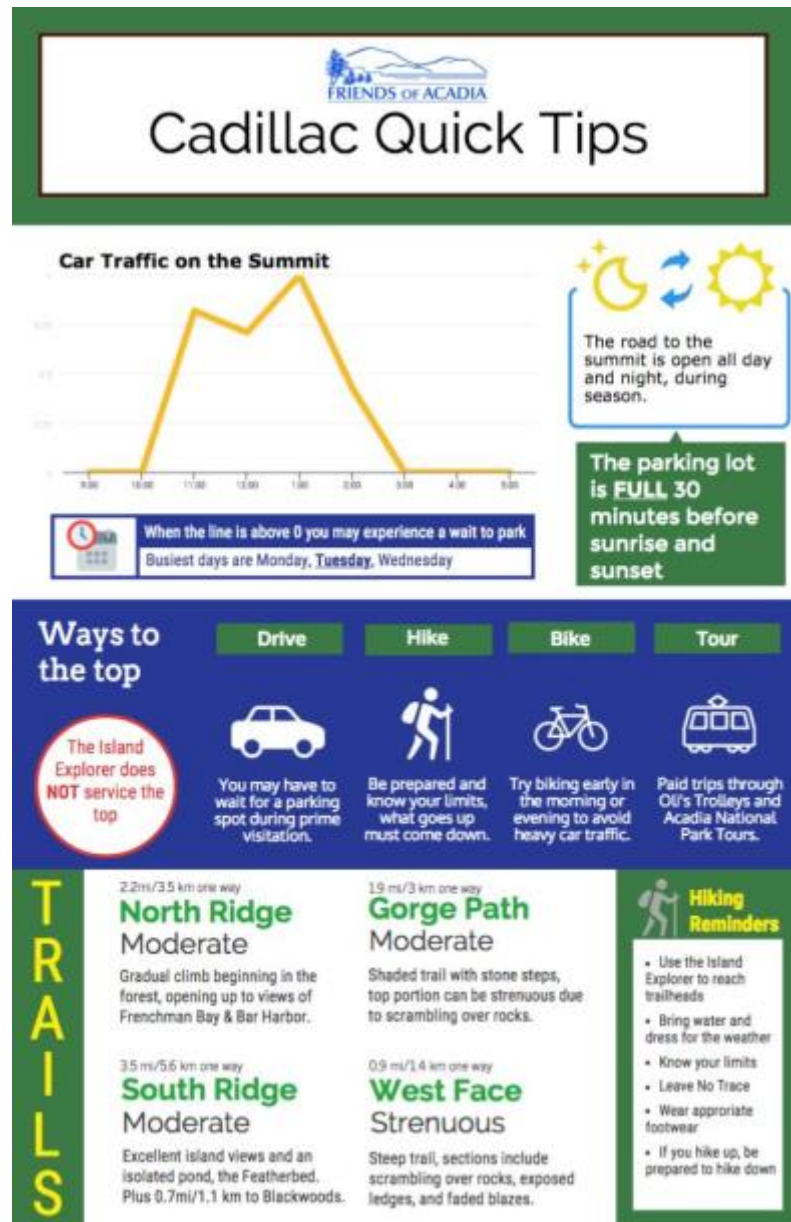
#### Recommendations:

(1) Signs indicating steepness at both ends of West Face Trail

The West Face Trail is a viable option for experienced hikers looking to climb Cadillac. However, conditions on the West Face Trail can be treacherous on days where the rock is wet. We recommend the installation of signs on both ends of the West Face Trail, indicating steepness and warnings for slick conditions on rainy days.

(2) “Cadillac Quick Tips”

Summit Stewards have drafted a flyer of quick and useful information for visitors and staff to reference. The Cadillac Quick Tips could be laminated for keeping at hotels, behind information desks and displayed in the Visitor Center and gift shops throughout the park. Below is an image of the Cadillac Quick Tips.



GRAPHIC 2. CADILLAC QUICK TIPS

## 4.0. Appendix A.

### Additional Data

#### Daily Patrol Logs

Please fill out everyday

\* Required

Name \*

Choose ▾

Date

Date

mm/dd/yyyy

Day of the Week

Choose ▾

Start Time

Time

End Time

Time

: AM ▾

Hours Completed

Your answer

Shift Type

Choose ▾

Trails

- ☐ North Ridge
- ☐ The Gorge
- ☐ South Ridge
- ☐ West Face

☐ Partial

Choose ▾

☐ None

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather

Choose ▾

Cairns Destroyed

Your answer

Personal

Choose ▾

Cairns Fixed

Your answer

Leave No Trace

Choose ▾

Trail Volume

Choose ▾

Hiking Advice

Choose ▾

Trails Problems

Your answer

Total # of Complaints

Your answer

Weather

Your answer

Complaint Description

Your answer

Contacts

Your answer

Total # of Violations

Your answer

Orientation

Choose ▾

Notes/Comments

Your answer

IE Bus

Choose ▾

SUBMIT

The Resources (Geology, Plants, His

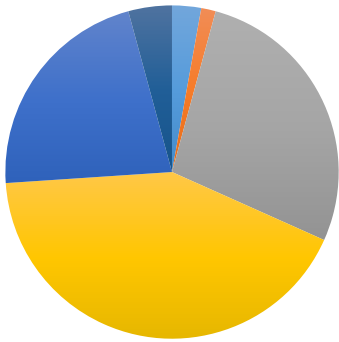
Choose ▾

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

Park Passes

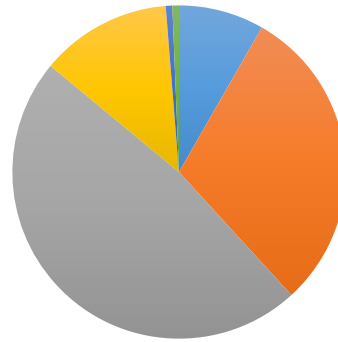
IMAGE 17. SCREENSHOT OF DAILY DATA LOG FROM GOOGLE FORMS

**Orientaion**



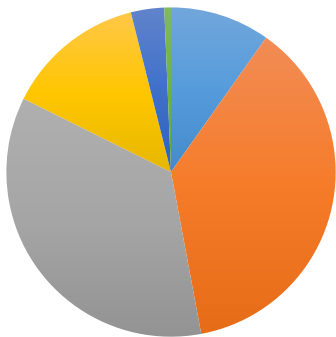
■ 0 ■ <10% ■ 10-25% ■ 25-50%  
■ 50-75% ■ 75-90% ■ 90-99% ■ 100%

**IE Bus**



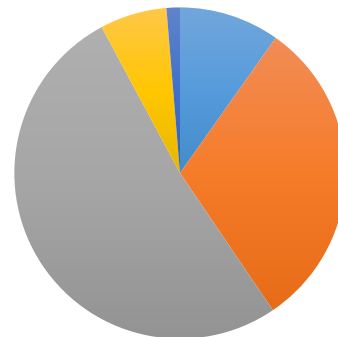
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■ 50-75% ■ 75-90% ■ 90-99% ■ 100%

**The Resources**



■ 0 ■ <10% ■ 10-25% ■ 25-50%  
■ 50-75% ■ 75-90% ■ 90-99% ■ 100%

**Park Passes**



■ 0 ■ <10% ■ 10-25% ■ 25-50%  
■ 50-75% ■ 75-90% ■ 90-99% ■ 100%

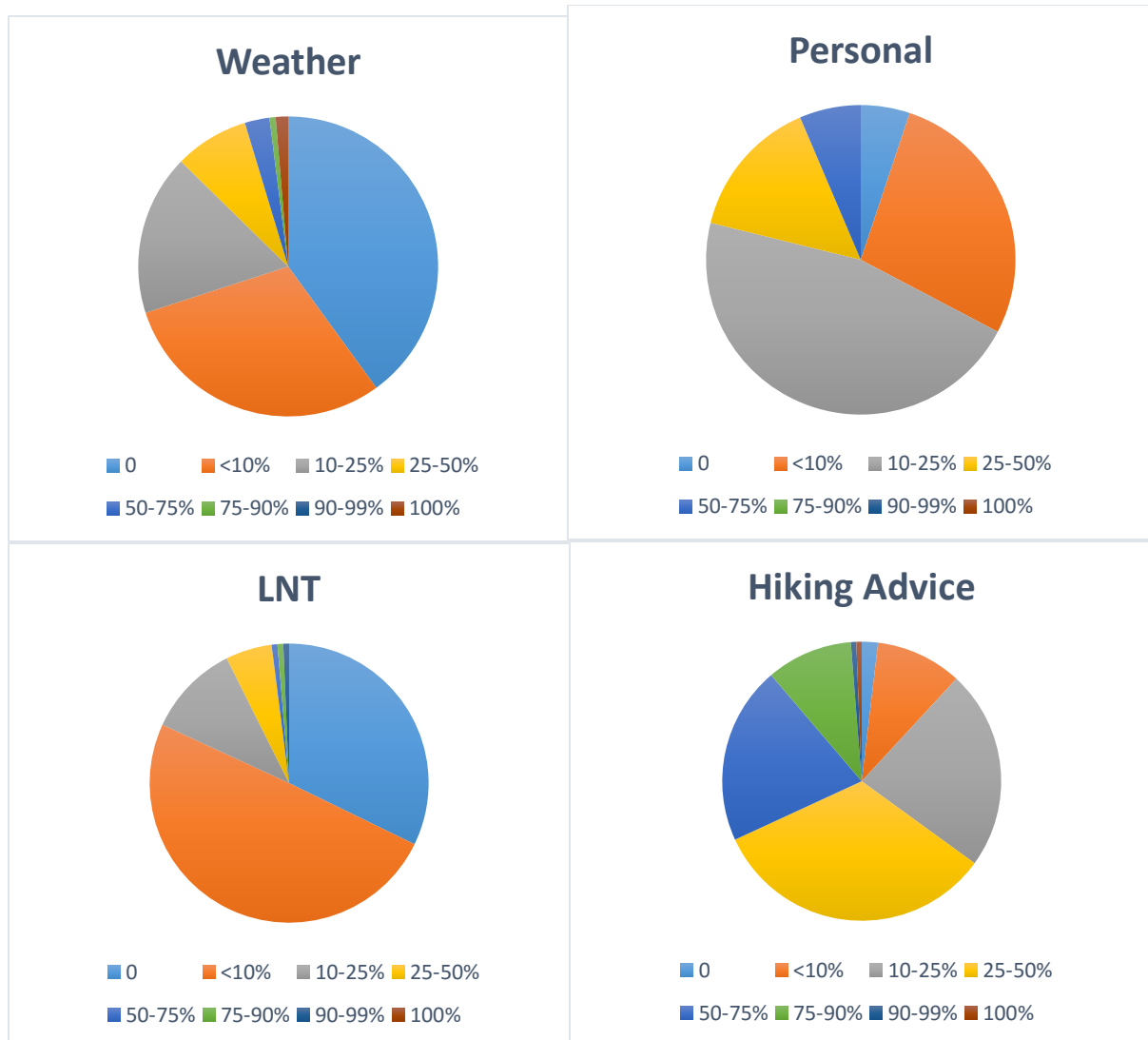


**FIGURE 2. PIE CHARTS DENOTING PERCENTAGE OF VISITORS INTERACTIONS REGARDING A PARTICULAR TOPIC THROUGHOUT THE 2016 SEASON**

| date      | time | summit_parking | traffic | BHO_count | notes |
|-----------|------|----------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| 7/13/2016 | 1000 | 0.50           | 0       | 5         |       |
| 7/13/2016 | 1030 | 0.50           | 0       | 2         |       |
| 7/13/2016 | 1100 | 0.75           | 0       | 5         |       |
| 7/13/2016 | 1130 | 1.00           | 0       | 5         |       |
| 7/13/2016 | 1200 | 1.00           | 1       | 14        |       |
| 7/13/2016 | 1230 | 1.00           | 0       | 12        |       |
| 7/13/2016 | 1300 | 1.00           | 0       | 6         |       |
| 7/13/2016 | 1330 | 1.00           | 0       | 11        |       |
| 7/13/2016 | 1400 | 1.00           | 0       | 9         |       |
| 7/14/2016 | 1000 | 0.50           | 0       | 6         |       |
| 7/14/2016 | 1030 | 0.50           | 0       | 0         |       |
| 7/14/2016 | 1100 | 0.50           | 0       | 0         |       |
| 7/14/2016 | 1130 | 0.25           | 0       | 2         |       |
| 7/14/2016 | 1200 | 0.50           | 0       | 3         |       |
| 7/14/2016 | 1230 | 0.50           | 0       | 1         |       |
| 7/14/2016 | 1300 | 0.75           | 0       | 8         |       |
| 7/14/2016 | 1330 | 0.50           | 0       | 5         |       |
| 7/14/2016 | 1500 | 0.25           | 0       | 1         |       |
| 7/14/2016 | 1600 | 0.25           | 0       | 4         |       |
| 7/15/2016 | 1130 | 0.75           | 1       | 20        |       |
| 7/15/2016 | 1230 | 0.75           | 0       | 21        |       |

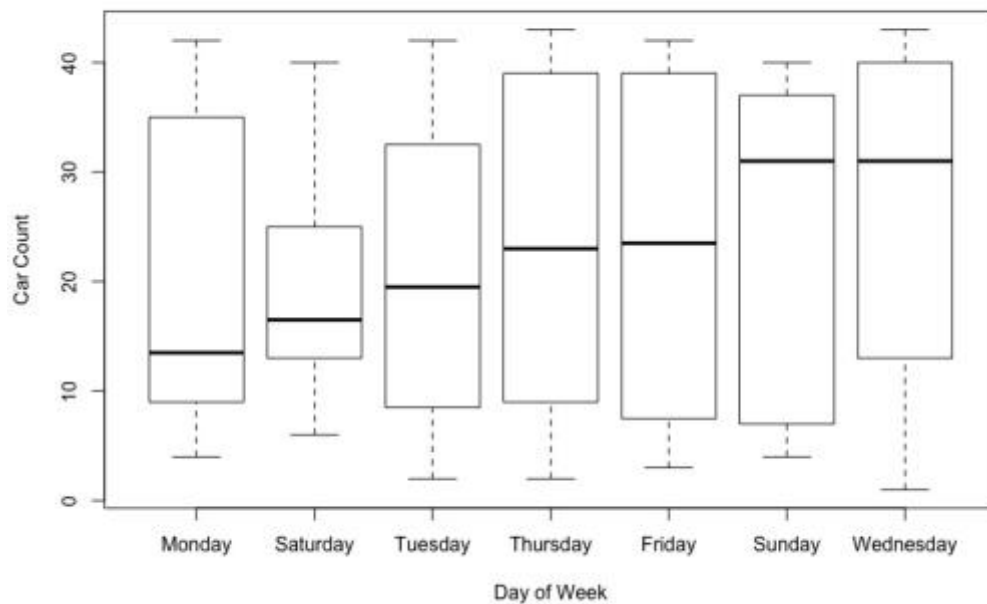
IMAGE 18. SCREENSHOT CAR TRAFFIC DATA TAKEN DAILY THROUGHOUT THE 2016 SEASON

| Time  | Average Traffic | Average Parking |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 6:30  | 0               | 0.42            |
| 8:30  | 0               | 0.5             |
| 9:00  | 0               | 0.63            |
| 9:30  | 0               | 0.44            |
| 10:00 | 0               | 0.56            |
| 10:30 | 0               | 0.64            |
| 11:00 | 0.82            | 0.80            |
| 11:30 | 1.15            | 0.88            |
| 12:00 | 0.71            | 0.90            |
| 12:30 | 1.77            | 0.92            |
| 13:00 | 1.0             | 0.88            |
| 13:30 | 0.33            | 0.83            |
| 14:00 | 0.43            | 0.86            |
| 14:30 | 0.29            | 0.75            |
| 15:00 | 0               | 0.70            |
| 15:30 | 0               | 0.25            |
| 16:00 | 0               | 0.57            |
| 16:30 | 0               | 0.63            |
| 17:00 | 0               | 0.67            |

TABLE 7. AVERAGE TRAFFIC AND AVERAGE PARKING BY TIME. AVERAGE PARKING IS A SCALE OF 0 TO 1. AVERAGE TRAFFIC IS A SCALE OF 1 TO 4. 1 INDICATING A BACKUP TO COPING STONES, 2 INDICATING BACKUP TO FIRE ROAD, 3 INDICATING BACKUP TO BICYCLE SIGN, AND 4 INDICATING A BACKUP TO THE BLUE HILL OVERLOOK. AVERAGE PARKING IS A SCALE OF 0-1. WITH 0 INDICATING NO CARS, 0.25 INDICATING THE LOT WAS A QUARTER FULL, 0.50 HALF FULL, 0.75 THREE QUARTERS FULL, AND 1.00 COMPLETELY FULL.



**GRAPH 2. PLOT OF AVERAGE BACKUP ON CADILLAC AUTO ROAD THROUGHOUT THE 2016 SEASON, BY TIME. *BACKUP WAS RECORDED ON A SCALE OF 0-4. 0 INDICATING NO BACKUP, 1 INDICATING A BACKUP TO COPING STONES, 2 INDICATING BACKUP TO FIRE ROAD, 3 INDICATING BACKUP TO BICYCLE SIGN, AND 4 INDICATING A BACKUP TO THE BLUE HILL OVERLOOK. NOON UNTIL 1:30PM EXPERIENCE THE GREATEST AVERAGE BACKUP***



**GRAPH 3. BOXPLOT OF BLUE HILL OVERLOOK CAR COUNT BY DAY OF WEEK, ARRANGED IN ASCENDING ORDER. DATA RECORDED FROM 7/13/16 UNTIL 9/29/2016. THIS GRAPH INDICATES THAT THE BLUE HILL OVERLOOK EXPERIENCED THE HIGHEST MEDIAN CAR COUNT ON WEDNESDAY, WHILE IT EXPERIENCED THE LOWEST MEDIAN CAR COUNT ON MONDAY.**

| Minor Violations Recorded                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Major Violations Recorded                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog off leash</li> <li>• Wrong way around one-way</li> <li>• Driving over curb</li> <li>• Creation of false cairns</li> <li>• Picking summit vegetation</li> <li>• Walking in closed off areas</li> <li>• Riding bikes on summit paths</li> <li>• Littering</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major parking violations</li> <li>• Drone launches</li> <li>• RV/ Trailers on summit</li> <li>• Buses without special use permit</li> <li>• Use of controlled substances</li> </ul> |

**TABLE 8. COMPLETE LIST OF VIOLATIONS RECORDED BY SUMMIT STEWARDS DURING 2016 SEASON. MINOR EVENTS DID NOT INVOLVE LAW ENFORCEMENT. FOR MAJOR EVENTS, LAW ENFORCEMENT WAS CALLED.**

| Trail              | Recorded Issues                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| North Ridge        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• False cairns off trail</li> <li>• Lack of cairns on lower portion</li> <li>• Overgrown trail-side shrubs</li> <li>• Areas of trail widening causing puddle development</li> </ul> |
| South Ridge        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• False cairns off trail</li> <li>• Destroyed cairns</li> <li>• Path through campground from island explorer stop poorly marked</li> </ul>                                          |
| Gorge Path         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• False cairns on upper portion</li> <li>• Destroyed Cairns on upper portion</li> </ul>                                                                                             |
| West Face          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of blazes</li> <li>• Lack of appropriate signs indicating steepness</li> </ul>                                                                                               |
| Blue Hill Overlook | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• False cairns</li> <li>• Numerous social trails heading towards North Ridge Trail</li> </ul>                                                                                       |

**TABLE 9. COMPLETE LIST OF TRAIL ISSUES RECORDED BY SUMMIT STEWARDS DURING THE 2016 SEASON.**

## 5.0 Appendix B.

### Common Question & Responses

| Orientation                               |
|-------------------------------------------|
| Where is the gift shop/restroom facility? |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The gift shop and restrooms are in the building located at the beginning to the entrance to the parking lot. The best way to reach them is to walk along the sidewalk until you reach the end of the parking lot. Please avoid cutting through the parking lot for your safety. You will also be able to refill your water bottles there, located on the side of the building!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>Where is the Summit Loop trail?</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p>The Summit Loop trail is found by the steps next to the informational plaques by the parking lot. It is a 0.5 mile long path and completely paved. The least strenuous approach to the loop is to walk it counter-clockwise. The portion to the top of the loop is handicap accessible!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>Where is the beginning of the North Ridge/South Ridge/Gorge trail?</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>The North Ridge trail is located at the end of the parking lot where the bus parking begins. There will be a trailhead a map indicating the beginning. The South Ridge trail begins at the gravel path near the gift shop that leads towards the radio tower. Continue down the gravel path and it will lead you into the forest. To reach the Gorge trail, at the beginning of the summit loop take a left and you will find a trailhead before you reach the first overlook. The beginning of the Gorge trail is not very obvious so be sure to follow the blue blazes and the cairns!</p>                                                      |
| <p><b>Where is the U.S. Geological Survey marker?</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>The survey marker is located up the gravel path leading to the South Ridge trail and the radio antenna. Follow the treeline to the right just beyond the radio antenna and look for a large granite outcropping - the survey marker will be there. That is the “True Summit” of Cadillac.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>SUGGESTIONS:</b> A great place to provide orientation advice to the most sought out areas on the summit is at the informational plaques at the beginning of the Cadillac Summit loop right across from the parking lot. From this stance, Summit Stewards are able to point towards the North Ridge and South Ridge trail head. If there are no large vehicles, they should also be able to indicate to visitors the roof of the gift shop. Another key area to answer questions is also by the informational plaques on the highest point of the Summit Loop - from there you can point out island and trailheads as well as radio tower.</p> |

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| <p><b>Island Explorer Bus</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>What is the Island Explorer?</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p>The Island Explorer features eight bus routes linking hotels, inns, and campgrounds with destinations in Acadia National Park and neighboring village centers. Clean propane-powered vehicles offer Mount</p> |

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| Desert Island visitors and residents free transportation to hiking trails, carriage roads, island beaches, and in-town shops and restaurants.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>When does the Island Explorer stop running?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Island Explorer operates <b>June 23rd</b> through <b>Columbus Day</b> . Fall service begins <b>September 1st</b> . Service on Schoodic Peninsula begins on <b>May 25th</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Does the Island Explorer shuttle come up to the summit?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| The Island Explorer does not come up Cadillac. You can take the bus to the North Ridge trailhead and hike up from there. At the bottom of the South Ridge you can also catch an Island Explorer. The park service is in the midst of forming a transportation plan to provide a free shuttle service to Cadillac Summit - so be sure to return and enjoy it in the future!                                                                                     |
| <b><u>SUGGESTIONS:</u></b> The Island Explorer shuttle map is a very useful tool to have on Cadillac. Carrying many copies is helpful to hand out to visitors that are hiking down to catch a bus and are looking for the best route to get back to the visitor center or their vehicles. A great suggestion for visitors is to take the Schoodic ferry from Bar Harbor to Winter Harbor where they can take an Island Explorer bus to the Schoodic Peninsula. |

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| <b>Natural Resources</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Which plants and trees are found on the summit?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| The summit of Cadillac is similar to an alpine environment. The factors that most affect the growth of vegetation on the summit are wind, the history of fire, and disturbance to the resources through human activity. Some of the most common plants found here are the three toothed cinquefoil, mountain cranberry, sheep laurel, huckleberry, lowbush blueberry and the common juniper. Most plants around the parking lot are non-natives. In the fall you will also see an abundance of rose hips which easily identified as “the small red berries”. The most common trees found on the summit are the balsam fir, the grey birch, the northern white cedar and the red spruce. If you look to the summit of Dorr mountain it is mostly all pitch pine! |
| <b>What are the colorations on the rocks?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Lichen is found on the rock surfaces. It is a combination of algae and fungi. The algae creates the energy and the fungi produces the structure. It takes lichen and mosses over 200 years to grow!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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| <b>What type of rock/geology is found here?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| The granites of Mount Desert Island are approximately 420 million years old. The last glacier that retreated about 18,000 years ago, was over 1 mile high, and reached as far as 400 miles out to sea. It was so powerful that it actually shifted the orientation of the mountains from east-west to north-south. Well before these events, 360 - 380 million years ago during a time referred to as the Devonian Period, volcanic forces were at play. The magma chamber of a volcano collapsed. What is now seen as the summit of Cadillac Mountain is actually one edge of the collapsed volcano. The granite found here and on most of Mount Desert Island is pink coarse-grained hornblende granite.                                                                             |
| <b>Where can I see puffins and/or good birding spots?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Puffins are seen off the coast of Maine. You must take a boat to one of these islands. Puffins aren't seen on or from Mount Desert Island. Acadia is an excellent park to watch spring warblers, sea ducks, and migrating birds of prey. Ranger-led bird walks are offered from late spring to mid-fall. Peregrine falcon watch and hawk watching programs are also available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Where can I see seals and whales? (Are there otters at Otter Point? Are there seals at Seal Harbor?)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Seals and otters are best seen from boat cruises that leave from town harbors, including the park's four ranger-narrated boat cruises. Whale-watching trips are offered out of Bar Harbor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b><u>SUGGESTIONS:</u></b> While on the summit you will be approached by many geology enthusiasts! It is a good idea to have the geologic timeline of Acadia written down as a quick reference. While using your park map you can also direct visitors to areas in the park where the glacial carving is more prominent such as the bubble rock glacial erratic, and glacial moraine lakes such as Jordan Pond. More glacial impact can be seen by looking at Sheep Island. The Schoodic Peninsula is a great place to see the volcanic intrusions or magma flows along the coast. Another suggestion is for visitors to visit the fjord-like Somes Sound (the only feature of its kind on the U.S. Atlantic Coast) with its deeply carved head and shallow mouth of glacial deposits. |

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| <b>History of Cadillac</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>How did Cadillac get its name?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| The mountain is named after Antoine Laumet, a Frenchman who was granted land in the New World, including Mount Desert Island in 1688. Dubbing himself with a fake nobleman's title, the Sieur de la Mothe de Cadillac, he stayed in the area for only a short time. He went on to found Detroit. Originally |

called Green Mountain, the name was changed to Cadillac by George Dorr, the park's first superintendent, to reflect the history of the area.

### **Who is George Dorr?**

George B. Dorr was among the wealthy "cottagers" of Mount Desert Island in Maine. Inspired by Charles W. Eliot's campaign to preserve land on the island, Dorr began working to buy or receive gifts of land that would be made accessible to the public. He negotiated many of the transactions (often using his own inheritance, and later with money donated by John D. Rockefeller Jr.), mapped many of the island's trails, and lobbied tirelessly for protecting the island - first as a national monument and then, in 1919, as a national park. After Acadia National Park was created, Dorr served as its first superintendent until his death. A great place to visit is Compass Harbor, where the foundations to George Dorr's homestead still remain!

### **Who is Charles Eliot?**

Charles W. Eliot was the president of Harvard University who had a "cottage" on Mount Desert Island in Maine. His son, also named Charles, a landscape architect with Frederick Law Olmsted's firm in Boston, made the first proposal that much of the island be saved from development and opened for public use. When Charles Jr. died of meningitis, Charles W. Eliot took on his son's dream and organized the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations. He recruited George Dorr, and later, John D. Rockefeller Jr., into the effort that ultimately resulted in Acadia National Park.

### **Who is John Rockefeller?**

John D. Rockefeller Jr. was the son of the richest man in America: John D. Rockefeller Sr., the founder of the vast Standard Oil trust. The younger Rockefeller became a prominent philanthropist and conservationist who donated millions of dollars towards the creation and expansion of national parks across the nation. No single American donated more to the parks.

### **Was there a railroad that came up Cadillac?**

Starting in 1883, there was a slow cog railway excursion to the summit called the Green Mountain Cog Railway. This started at Eagle Lake on the western side of the mountain and made the 1.1 mile (1.77 km) climb all the way to the summit where the Green Mountain House Hotel was awaiting the arrival of visitors and overnight guests. It had two steam locomotives. The primary one was called "Mount Desert." The second had no special name other than simply being referred to as locomotive "number 2." Unfortunately, the seasonal railway had a relatively short run and operations were terminated in 1890.

### **What is the Champlain society?**

Champlain Society was a group of young men from Harvard who spent their summers on the island, studying plants, birds, insects, fish, geology, hydrology, and meteorology. Led by their “Captain” Charles Eliot, son of Harvard President Charles William Eliot (convention includes the middle initial, “W,” in the name of the father to distinguish the two), the Champlain Society conducted the first natural history surveys of Mount Desert Island. Though they were not the first scientists to come here, they were the first to spend extended periods of time, engaging deeply in this place. They also have a direct connection to the creation of what would become Acadia National Park.

**SUGGESTIONS:** Make sure to have your collection of old Cadillac photographs handy! This way you can show visitors photos of the railway and the hotel. The site by the radio antenna is where the U.S. Coast Guard had their survey station. The Green Mountain House, the Summit House, and the former Cadillac Tavern were also located there. The beginning and center of the summit loop is the site of the former hotel. Encourage visitors to visit the Abbe Museum and Sieur de Monts Nature Center, these are great places to learn more about the history of Acadia National Park!

## Park Passes

### Where can I buy a park pass?

All park passes are available at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center, Sand Beach Entrance Station, Thompson Island Information Center, Bar Harbor Village Green, Park Headquarters, Blackwoods Campground, Schoodic Woods Campground, and Seawall Campground. Only some park passes are issued at the Cadillac Mountain Gift Shop, Jordan Pond Gift Shop, Mount Desert Town Office, Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Harbor/Tremont Chamber of Commerce. Passes can be purchased online, if heading straight to a trailhead please print ahead of time, otherwise visit one of the Park Fee stations listed above to be issued your pass.

### What is the entrance fee?

All park visitors are required to pay an entrance fee upon entry **May–October**. Passes are non-transferable. Credit cards are accepted at all fee collection areas. **Private Vehicle: \$25** valid for 7 days. **Motorcycle: \$20** valid for 7 days. **Per Person: \$12** valid for 7 days, demits one individual with no car (bicyclist, hiker, pedestrian). Youth 15 and under are admitted free of charge. There are also non-commercial organized group fees and commercial tour fees, please see an office for details.

### What type of park passes are there?

**Acadia Annual Pass: \$50** which is valid for 12 months from purchase date.

**Interagency Annual Pass: \$80**, also valid for 12 months from purchase date.

**Senior Pass: \$10** is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over.

**Interagency Annual Volunteer Pass: \$0** this pass is for volunteers acquiring 250 service hours on a cumulative basis.

**Interagency Annual - Military Pass: \$0** this is a free pass for active duty military personnel and their dependents, with valid documentation (CAC Card or DD Form 1173).

**Access Pass: \$0** this is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities.

**Every Kid in a Park 4th Grade Pass: \$0** this is a free pass for U.S. 4th grade students. Please visit [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov) for instructions on how to obtain the voucher required to exchange for the pass. This pass is valid for 12 months beginning September of the year the student begins 4th grade and valid until the following August.

#### **When are the fee free days in Acadia?**

To encourage Americans to explore our country's natural beauty, rich history and culture, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced that the National Park Service will waive entrance fees on 16 days in 2016.

**January 18** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**April 16–24** National Park Week

**August 25–28** National Park Service Birthday

**September 24** National Public Lands Day

**November 11** Veterans Day

#### **When does Acadia National Park close?**

The park is open year round, yet the park loop road is closed annual on **December 1st - April 14th**. Road opening may be delayed on years of heavy snow and ice. Two short sections remain open year-round.

**SUGGESTIONS:** When visitors are ambivalent on purchasing a park pass for their short stay, remind them that the pass allows the park service to operate and maintain the Island Explorer bus service, provide unique interpretive programs, provide lifeguards at Sand Beach and Echo Lake Beach, maintain and rehabilitate park carriage roads and hiking trails, improve park accessibility for visitors with disabilities, remove invasive exotic species, and maintain and repair campgrounds and park structures for the enjoyment of all.

| Weather                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <b>What are the seasons like in Acadia?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>During the Spring the weather is usually foggy; 30-70 F (-1-21 C). Suggest wearing light-colored clothing, long sleeve shirts, and long pants for protection. During the Summer the daytime temperatures are 45-90 F (7-32 C), the ocean temperature is 50-60 F (10-16 C), and the lake temperatures are 55-70 F (13-21 C). During the Fall, there is variable weather from 30-70 F (-1-21 C). During the Winter the weather is variable from 14-35 F (-10-2 C) For the latest weather information, call <b>207-667-8910 or 207-288-3338</b>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>When is the best time to see the sunrise?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p>Cadillac Mountain, at 1,530 feet (466 meters), is the highest point along the North Atlantic seaboard and the first place to view the sunrise in the United States from October 7 through March 6. The exact time of sunrise varies during the season but is one of the most popular activities while visiting Acadia. To avoid traffic and missing the sunrise, the best time to arrive to the summit is at least 45+ minutes beforehand during the summer and at least 30 minutes beforehand during the fall! Be sure to bring a blanket as it can be pretty chilly! The fog is known to hide the sunrise, in this case pulling over at an overlook along the summit road is also a good place to see the sunrise. If you are looking for a less crowded sunrise experience, the shore path in Bar Harbor and the Schooner Head overlook are great places to visit!</p> |
| <b>When are blackflies and mosquitoes common at Acadia?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Blackflies are usually most numerous between mid-May and mid-June, but that varies each year. They breed in running water, so they will be more prevalent if it is a rainy spring. Mosquitoes vary depending on the weather and location.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>What is the best time to see fall foliage?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>The leaves start turning to fall colors in September, but the peak time is usually mid-October—anywhere from the first week to the third week of the month.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>How much snow does Acadia receive?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>Average snowfall in Acadia is about 60 inches.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>What winter activities are there?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Hiking mountain trails in the winter is not recommended. Trail markers and icy patches are obscured by drifting snow, creating very dangerous conditions for hikers. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular when there is sufficient snow. Cross-country skis, snowshoes, and ice skates can be rented in Bar Harbor. There are no snowmobile rentals on the island.

**SUGGESTIONS:** The weather in Acadia can always vary! Suggestion to visitors to bring layers and a rain jacket along during their visit is essential to their enjoyment of the park. While on Cadillac, beware of storms coming in and encourage visitors to seek shelter or to head down for the meantime.

## **Leave No Trace**

### **What is Leave No Trace?**

It's a set of science-based guidelines that can help easily protect the outdoor places where you enjoy spending time. Leave No Trace extends the National Park Service mission to you and challenges you to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

### **Why is Leave No Trace important on Cadillac?**

From 1990 to today, more than 40 million people visited Acadia, or about 2.5 million per year. Every year more than 500,000 people visit Cadillac Mountain. What you do on your visit counts: *Attitude, Ethics, Commitment, Stewardship*. The impact visitors have on the natural resources make a difference for the enjoyment of others. The resources are truly delicate and it is our duty to protect them!

### **What are the roped off areas on the summit?**

The areas that are roped off have been selected for regrowth of vegetation studies. These areas have been heavily impacted by foot traffic and may contain rare native plant species.

### **Why are some plants covered in bags?**

These plants have been selected by our botanists for regrowth. The cedar waxwings will feed on the fruits as soon as they bloom, so to protect them and encourage more plants, they are wrapped in bags for protection.

### **Why should we only step on the granite?**

It was very difficult for vegetation to grow on the summit due to lack of soil, water, and exposure to wind and sun... not to mention the shoes of 500,000+ visitors per year! It is important that we step on the more durable surfaces to avoid erosion.

### **What are all these rock piles?**

Most of these “rock piles” are actually Bates Cairns - they are specifically designed and purposefully positioned to direct hikers along the trail. The two base stones provide elevation for visibility. The lintel is the platform for the pointer rock, which indicates the direction of the path. These wonderful structures help hikers from wandering off trail and trampling the vegetation. They are also useful in the winter when snow covers the blue blazes for downhill skiers and snowshoers. The rock stacks that you see are made by visitors and are discouraged from the park. They impact the scenery and everyone’s experience of a place. Pulling up rocks from the ground creates a loss of organic litter and soil erosion, as well as vegetation loss, tree damage and space for invasive species to take over. These rock piles can also mislead visitors causing them to go off trail and creating cause for safety hazards.

**SUGGESTIONS:** It is important to **leave what you find**, to maintain the qualities of a place you love, and to protect the quality of other people’s experiences. Please do not pick wildflowers, you’re picking the seeds for the next season to come! Remember to be considerate of other visitors - respect the people who are trying to enjoy the space with you. All creatures deserve the respect to act in their natural way. Encourage visitors to leave wildlife alone! Habituation to humans is unnatural to wildlife and in most cases leads to euthanizing.

**IMPORTANT:** When approaching visitors as the authority of the resource remember that you have the power to influence through the power of behavior. Give visitors the benefit of the doubt, they may just be unaware of their impact. Build rapport to open the door, ask them who they are and connect with them. Provide the why-not to change immediate behavior but also for the future. Provide visitors an alternative to their actions. Always smile and maintain a friendly attitude. Use shoulder to shoulder communication, avoid facing them with your body and do not tell them they’re doing something bad. When faced with conflict do not persist and remove yourself from the situation, then contact a law enforcement officer.

## **Hiking**

### **What is the North Ridge trail like?**

A slightly shorter alternative hike to the Cadillac South Ridge Trail, the Cadillac North Ridge Trail starts at the opposite end of the mountain at a trailhead along the Park Loop Road just .2 miles past the start of the one-way section. This easy-to-follow trail makes a slow and steady ascent through a few sections of pleasant forest to reach the higher sections of interesting pink granite formations, offering

expansive views to the north. While this is arguably the least interesting trail to the top of Cadillac Mountain and cars on the nearby Cadillac Summit Road may prevent any wilderness experience, this is still a pleasant hike. The North Ridge trail is 2.2 miles (3.5 kilometers) one-way.

#### **What is the South Ridge trail like?**

The Cadillac South Ridge Trail is arguably the most interesting route and is one of the longest straight stretches of trail in the park. Starting near the Blackwoods Campground on the south side of the island, the trail makes a long and steady ascent through some beautiful scenery to end at the popular summit. The South Ridge trail is 3.5 miles (5.6 kilometers) one-way.

#### **What is the West Face trail like?**

Starting at the Bubble Pond parking lot and trailhead, the Cadillac West Face Trail isn't as well known as the other routes to the top of Cadillac Mountain, but it is the most difficult. This short but strenuous stretch of trail zigzags its way up the steep rock formations of the west face of Cadillac Mountain, offering wonderful views of Bubble Pond and Eagle Lake below. The trail then joins up with the more popular Cadillac South Ridge Trail to make its way to the top of Acadia's highest peak. It is not recommended that visitors with little experience hike this trail. Visitors are also discouraged from hiking down this trail. The West Face trail is 1.4 miles (2.2 kilometers) one-way.

#### **What is the Canon Brook trail like?**

The Canon Brook Trail starts at a roadside parking area along Route 3 roughly one mile south of the Sieur de Monts Entrance. From the trailhead, hike west to cross the small marshy ponds to the first trail junction. The Kane Path heads north to the Tarn (pond), but instead head south along the forested Canon Brook Trail as it circles clockwise around the south side of Dorr Mountain to pass the junction with the Dorr South Ridge Trail. (This whole section of trail used to be known as the "Tarn Trail.") At the next junction with the A. Murray Young Path, the trail joins up with Canon Brook and starts a fairly steep ascent up the south ridge of Cadillac Mountain. The Canon Brook trail is 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) one-way.

#### **What is the Gorge path like?**

Just to the east of Cadillac Mountain is its smaller sibling, Dorr Mountain, and their close proximity creates a narrow and dark gorge between the two. Gorge Path is a fairly strenuous hike that goes right up the forested valley, staying close to the watercourse of the seasonal stream to reach the north/south saddle between the two peaks. At the saddle, the trail brightens up and dries up as it turns west to ascend the steep granite outcroppings of the east face of Cadillac Mountain to finally reach the summit. This is one of the more outstanding hikes in the park! The Gorge path is 1.9 miles (3 kilometers) one-way to the Cadillac summit.

**SUGGESTIONS:** The best trails for a moderate hike up are the North Ridge and the South Ridge trail.

Discourage visitors from hiking down the West Face Trail and the Canon Brook trail especially after rainfall. The Gorge path is also not a good trail for visitors to hike down due to the granite steps, it can be extremely strenuous on the knees. Remind visitors to be careful when hiking near cliff edges, to carry water, at least 20 oz (6 L), and more on warm days. Encourage them to wear sturdy hiking shoes and to follow the blue trail blazes and to use a map. Remind visitors to not modify or build new cairns. Communicate to them the difficulty level of the trail and encourage them to be aware of their own physical abilities and limitations as well as others in their group. Remind visitors about Leave No Trace and to bury all human waste without toilet paper and to carry out all trash. Remind visitors that pets must be restrained on a leash no longer than 6 feet (1.8 m) and are not permitted on ladder trails. Remind visitors to carry out their pet waste as well! While hiking, visitors should not feed or disturb wildlife. Bicycles and horses are not allowed on hiking trails. Fires are permitted only in designated areas. Due to the park's small size, there is no backcountry camping. Swimming, wading, and pets are prohibited in public water supplies. Encourage visitors to visit Echo Lake, Lakewood, and Long Pond for swimming!

## 6.0 Appendix C.

### Personal Reflections

#### **Alanna McDonough**

I have many thoughts as I approach the end of the 2016 season. Being a Cadillac Summit Steward for Friends of Acadia was both inspiring and infuriating. I worked on one of the most naturally beautiful landmarks in the United States, spoke to hundreds of kind, compassionate and curious visitors, met some of the most dedicated and caring co-workers, and learned a great deal about my own passions, interests and hopes for the future. Yet I also witnessed some of the most ignorant, careless and selfish acts as people abused Cadillac's summit. For the first time I had to step out of my own reality, filled with similar minded humans who respect and enjoy the natural environment around them. I had to deal with defeating and destructive attitudes of people who either blatantly disrespected their world, or were equally as ignorant. It was these moments however in which I found myself beginning to foster a truer and more tenacious understanding that places like Acadia need to be fought for. One can easily be frustrated by the tooth and nail battle of environmental protection and conservation. It is clear that no matter what is done, there will always be some form of ignorance or opposition, and some means of impact. What is abundantly clear is that we cannot let these truths dishearten us to inactivity. What is even more clear is that there are people out there who truly care. Who aspire to learn and to treat the world around them with care and respect. For every act that degraded Cadillac's summit, I spoke to many more who were inspired by it. After this 2016 season, I have all the more reason to continue my path towards being an educator. Through education we can mold minds into ones which hold knowledge and perspective about the world and our place in it. By engaging children to seek knowledge from and within the environment we can relearn our delicate and complete dependence on it. I fully believe in this bottom up approach to regaining and worldwide respect for our planet.

I would like to thank Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park Staff, and my co-workers for a splendid summer filled with sunshine, laughter and mountain tops. This job was one that required continual learning and development. And for that I am grateful! If anybody wants to know how Cadillac got its name, or what that bush with the red berries is, or how high Cadillac's summit stands, I will always be the first to answer! Our 2016 team created an overview and report of Cadillac, which was well received by all staff! This season was rewarding beyond anything I could have hoped! We have overcome the craziness and created change! One step closer to #keepingcadillacwild

### **Stephanie Ley**

The Centennial Season on Cadillac Mountain has been the most stressful and rewarding job I've had. The crowds can be overwhelming and their ignorance infuriating but on rough days I find comfort in the reasons I have chosen this path. I witnessed the flora change throughout the seasons, flowers to fruit, young green growth to falling colorful leaves, and know it's one of many resources the National Park Service and myself are protecting. I welcomed 12 new days, sometimes with hundreds of others and sometimes just a more intimate crowd. I said goodbye to summer with the one of the most beautiful sunsets. I destroyed 104 illegal rock sculptures and fixed 44, while hiking the trails. I contacted 2691 people, I like to think I had some impact, at least on their vacation, with the majority of those contacts. Sure, some might remember me as the woman that asked them to not pick blueberries in the exclosures but I'll count those as wins for the mountain. Many contacts resulted in meaningful conversations with people from all over the world, including relatives of Dorr, and I even exchanged contact information and took selfies with some. I interacted with children about our natural resources and watched their eyes grow big in wonder and awe. All of the aforementioned have left an impact on me and, hopefully, Cadillac Mountain, they will be taken with me and help me to build upon my career in natural resources.

### **Kristen Ober**

This season as a Cadillac Summit Steward has been filled with many challenges and learning opportunities as well as heart-warming interactions and meaningful impacts on visitors' experience. Our Leave No Trace training was crucial to my understanding of just how impactful our footprints are on our natural resources. This training was the backbone to my enthusiasm for educating visitors, as well as my family and friends! I've lived on Mount Desert Island for over four years now - yet the cultural and natural history that we've learned about the island and surrounding landscape has been unending. Through engaging with visitors about their own knowledge of the island and Acadia National Park, or by investigating as a follow up from an interaction I could not answer, I've continued to learn so much about our park and landscape. Acadia holds a dear place in my heart, and I am so proud to share it with visitors and to help them enjoy and learn more about this precious public land.

One of the largest challenges that I've personally faced this season is the dilemma of visitor experience. As a Summit Steward, it is our responsibility and goal to ensure the safe enjoyment of the Acadia National Park, and in particular Cadillac Mountain. With this goal in mind I've been so excited and thrilled to share with visitors my favorite places to hike and swim, as well as encourage them towards activities that they are most interested in - such as biking and visiting the Abbe Museum among many more. I deeply love being a source of knowledge for visitors. I leave the mountain satisfied when I've had meaningful interactions and am certain that some folks out there are having great adventures in the park. Yet, our duties as a Summit Steward are to facilitate all visitors experience despite those visitors who are

less interested in our input. There have been countless moments when I've pushed for a more meaningful interaction with visitors to encourage them to stop to refill their water bottles before beginning a multiple hour hike back down the mountain. I have frequently encountered visitors beginning a hike down the South Ridge, Cannon Brook, and the Gorge in non-proper footwear or lacking clothing for the elements. Many times visitors have often been too busy or confident to listen to my advice. These somewhat failed connections with visitors are a burden on my conscious.

These non-stellar interactions with visitors are the most draining and really take a toll on oneself. Yet, we receive a wide range of visitors everyday and this type of feeling is often overridden by the amazing and heartwarming experiences that I have with visitors. While it is draining expending so much care and energy on each person that I talk to - it is absolutely worth it, especially when I meet kindred spirits. One older gentleman in particular comes to mind, I met him during the height of the season and we talked for almost an hour. We talked about natural resources and education, children and conservation. He was a true kindred spirit and insisted that he would return two weeks later with his grandchild, he wanted me to tell her about conservation and the work that each of us can do to preserve and protect our public lands. We never met up again during the season, yet I am so thankful to have met this kindred spirit and to have shared the same enthusiasm for conservation and education. In conclusion, this season on top of Cadillac Mountain has been a true honor!

## **Shane Murphy**

Being a Summit Steward was a wonderful experience even if I was only a Steward for the second half of the season. After being a Ridge Runner, I started as a Summit Steward with the beginning of September. One of the first things I noticed once I became a Summit Steward was the change concerning the type of visitors I experienced. Most might see a visitor-ranger interaction as one where the visitor walks away having gained something, but from my perspective, the rangers also gained an experience out of the exchange as well. The interactions on top of the Mountain were so diverse. Yes, vehicle access to the mountain top does incur some difficulties to the park staff and the mountain's ecology - but after seeing all the moments where people take in a view as wonderful as the one on top of Cadillac for the first time - it makes it all worth it. Observing the visitors digesting the wonderful view and then proceeding to engage them in conversation regarding the mountain or park made every day on the mountain top a fun and invigorating day. Your memory of seeing Acadia from the top of Cadillac for the first time plays in your head as you get to take part in the scenic intake for so many others. You can tell when it truly hits them as the experience is typically accompanied by a soft and slow gasp, stopping in place, a widening of the eyes, or an exclamation of amazement. (Wooow!!)

As I mentioned earlier, however, the exchange person to person is very rewarding as well. Many people become very receptive after associating the Summit Steward with such a fantastic view, and I believe this places them in an open mood. Many visitors will quickly become curious of the mountain's history, your personal favorite places in the park, where you graduated, what you want to do, and so on and so on... One of my favorite interactions was when a visitor made a *Star Trek* reference and, being a fan myself, I remarked with a witty reference of my own. Being able to sprinkle some personal flair to the ranger-visitor interactions can really increase the visiting experience for some of those finding themselves on top of the mountain. With the season slowing down and the weather becoming less and less agreeable, sadly these interactions have also slowed down. But I warm myself on top of the blustery summit with memories of pointing out the Porcupine Islands to visitors, teaching them the history of Antoine Laumet de La Mothe, sieur de Cadillac, or passing hikers on Cadillac's trails and asking how their hike has been.

Cadillac has left its mark on me as I will always carry a special bond in my being with that mountain - I just hope I have helped leave less of a trace from everyone on the mountain while facilitating

a more enjoyable experience for those who came to observe the majesty of Acadia from Cadillac Mountain.

## 7.0 Appendix D. Presentation Slides

### Cadillac Summit Stewards

2016 Season

### Meet The 2016 Summit Stewards

### Special Events

- Centennial Events
- Parades
  - 4th of July Parade
  - Southwest Harbor Flamingo Parade
- Friends of Acadia Annual Events-Annual Meeting and Benefit
- Car free day
- Cadillac Star Party
- Take Pride in Acadia Day

### Daily Operations

- Roving
- Sunrise/ sunset
- Data Collection
- Office work
- Trail maintenance
- Connection to Law Enforcement

### Connection to Law Enforcement

| Minor Medical Events                                                                                     | Major Medical Events                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor scrapes</li> <li>Sprained ankle</li> <li>Fatigue</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broken ankle</li> <li>Sliding falls</li> <li>Head injury</li> </ul> |

| Minor Violations Recorded                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Major Violations Recorded                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dog off leash</li> <li>Wrong way around overway</li> <li>Driving over curb</li> <li>Creation of false signs</li> <li>Picking natural vegetation</li> <li>Walking in closed off area</li> <li>Rolling bikes on summit paths</li> <li>Littering</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major parking violations</li> <li>Driver launches</li> <li>ATV/ Trailers on summit</li> <li>Bikes without special-use permits</li> <li>Use of extended substances</li> </ul> |

### Data Collection

- Daily Log
- Car Traffic
- Biweekly Summary

Contacts=11,090  
Cairns Destroyed=527  
Cairns Fixed=325

### Interpretation

## Topics

- Orientation
- Hiking Advice
- Park Passes
- Island Explorer
- Personal
- The Resources
- Leave No Trace
- Weather

| Month     | Sum  | Average |
|-----------|------|---------|
| July      | 2452 | 85      |
| August    | 3811 | 86      |
| September | 2877 | 83      |

## Data Collection Cont. Traffic Data

| Date | Average Traffic | Average Parking |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 7/20 | 7               | 500             |
| 7/21 | 7               | 500             |
| 7/22 | 7               | 500             |
| 7/23 | 7               | 500             |
| 7/24 | 7               | 500             |
| 7/25 | 7               | 500             |
| 7/26 | 7               | 500             |
| 7/27 | 7               | 500             |
| 7/28 | 7               | 500             |
| 7/29 | 7               | 500             |
| 7/30 | 7               | 500             |
| 7/31 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/1  | 7               | 500             |
| 8/2  | 7               | 500             |
| 8/3  | 7               | 500             |
| 8/4  | 7               | 500             |
| 8/5  | 7               | 500             |
| 8/6  | 7               | 500             |
| 8/7  | 7               | 500             |
| 8/8  | 7               | 500             |
| 8/9  | 7               | 500             |
| 8/10 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/11 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/12 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/13 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/14 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/15 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/16 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/17 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/18 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/19 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/20 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/21 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/22 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/23 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/24 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/25 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/26 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/27 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/28 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/29 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/30 | 7               | 500             |
| 8/31 | 7               | 500             |

### High Traffic

Visit Blue Hill Summit Lab  
Over Capacity

Traffic Volume over the Day

## Areas of Focus

1. Overcapacity of Visitors
2. Ecological Degradation
3. Visitor Safety
4. Visitor Information

**Overcapacity of Visitors**

- Illegal parking
- Traffic jams
- Impacted summit flora

## Overcapacity of Visitors

### Sunrise & 10am - 4pm

- Illegal parking
- Traffic jams
- Impacted summit flora

## Overcapacity: Recommendations

1. Sunrise/set
  - Exclusives
  - Presence of law enforcement
2. 10am - 4pm
  - Parking images online
  - Permanent "No Parking" signs along roadway and in lot
  - Additional coping stones

## Car Traffic on Cadillac

The high density of visitors coming to Cadillac's summit impacts both:

- visitor experience
- ecological health of the summit

## Ecological Degradation

- Foot traffic on vegetation
- Bikes on vegetation
- Litter
- Rock sculptures & cairn destruction
- Illegal parking

## Ecological Degradation Recommendations

1. Rock sculptures, cairn destruction, and foot traffic off trail
  - Continued education by summit stewards
2. Vehicle traffic on vegetation
  - Additional coping stones
3. Bikes on Vegetation
  - Addition of bike rack
4. Litter
  - More visible trashcans & ashtray

## Visitor Safety

- Bikers
- Path from Blue Hill Overlook to Summit
- Accessible Parking signs

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Final Hiking Spots at BHO        | 40  |
| Blue Hill Overlook to Summit     | 10  |
| Cadillac Mountain West Hill View | 0   |
| North Mountain West Hill View    | 10% |

| Site                   | Year      | Estimated Mount View | Estimated Mount View |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Blue Hill Overlook  | 2000-2005 | 100%                 | 100%                 |
| 2. Blue Hill Overlook  | 2000-2005 | 100%                 | 100%                 |
| 3. Blue Hill Overlook  | 2000-2005 | 100%                 | 100%                 |
| 4. Blue Hill Overlook  | 2000-2005 | 100%                 | 100%                 |
| 5. Blue Hill Overlook  | 2000-2005 | 100%                 | 100%                 |
| 6. Blue Hill Overlook  | 2000-2005 | 100%                 | 100%                 |
| 7. Blue Hill Overlook  | 2000-2005 | 100%                 | 100%                 |
| 8. Blue Hill Overlook  | 2000-2005 | 100%                 | 100%                 |
| 9. Blue Hill Overlook  | 2000-2005 | 100%                 | 100%                 |
| 10. Blue Hill Overlook | 2000-2005 | 100%                 | 100%                 |



## Visitor Safety Recommendations

1. Bikers  
Increased information about passing laws on signs and pamphlets.
2. Path from BHO to summit  
Sidewalk from BHO to summit.  
Hiking trail from BHO to North Ridge Trail
3. Accessible Parking Signs  
Insert sign indicating accessible spots are in outer lane.  
Insert sign indicating location of accessible ramp to summit path



## Visitor Information

- Misconception that Island Explorer services summit of Cadillac
- Knowledge of Cadillac's Hiking Trails



## Visitor Information Recommendations

1. Misconception that Island Explorer services summit of Cadillac  
More obvious statements on Island Explorer maps.  
Temporary signs stating "The Island Explorer service is not from summit" at Cadillac trail heads.  
Review of travel websites for misleading information.
2. Knowledge of Cadillac hiking trails  
Signs at either end of West Face trail indicating steepness.  
Cadillac Quick Tips



## Major Focus

- Health of the Mountain
- Overcapacity, Ecological Degradation, Visitor Safety and Information
- Facilitate when able

