

2003 Kawishiwi Dog Program Accomplishments

Jan. 3-5: Basswood and Knife L route visitor contacts w/McKenzie. Contacted 13 parties, wrote 1 violation notice for the cutting of green vegetation.

Jan. 9: Ran the route to Schlamm and Glenmore Lakes w/Mckenzie to clear trail for the La Croix puncheon project. Cut 12 trees.

Jan. 10: Hauled logs to campsite 33 on Basswood w/Chris Anderson and Bucky. 3 visitor contacts.

Jan. 14: Hauled 360# cement to Bonnie portage w/Pankey. Also hauled in Mckenzie who skied to Kek alone to meet an O.B. group that worked on cabin.

Jan. 15: 780 pounds cement to Bonnie portage w/Zeke Smith. One visitor contact.

Jan. 16: 600 pounds cement to Bonnie portage w/Jim Montana. One visitor contact.

Jan 17: 600 pounds cement to Bonnie portage with Seth Nelson. Picked up Tim McKenzie and brought him back.

Jan. 21: 600 pounds cement to Bonnie portage, and another 360 pounds brought in by K. Murphy.

Jan 23: 600 pounds cement to Bonnie portage w/Pankey. One visitor contact.

Jan. 24: 540 pounds cement and 2 pallets to Bonnie Lake w/Pankey. We used a new route through a creek from Knife to Bonnie. Three visitor contacts.

Jan. 28: 600 pounds to Bonnie Lake w/McKenzie. Three visitor contacts.

Jan. 29: 360 pounds to Bonnie Lake w/Cochran.

Jan. 30: Hauled 5 tamarack and 3 cedar logs for La Croix w/J. Montana.

Jan. 31: With two teams, Stetson and I haul 860 pounds to Bonnie Lake. One visitor contact. Stetson brings dogs back to Duluth.

Loads to Bonnie L. Cache by Jan. 31:

6260 pounds cement, mortar and Portland hauled to Bonnie by the end of January. Epic Adventures contracted to bring in 3060 pounds sand mix to Bonnie Lake. Outward Bound brings in foam, re-rod and wood stove to Bonnie.

Feb 19: Dogs arrive back in Ely.

Feb 20 – 27: Eight day Kekekabic Cabin trip w/Mark Roalson volunteering for all 8 days, and Murphy and McKenzie in on the 20th, out on the 22nd. I haul re-rod, pallets, and 5,900 pounds of cement, Murphy hauls 960 pounds, for a 6860 pound total. Murphy is contracted in March to haul the rest of the cement from Bonnie Lake cache to the cabin. Outward Bound hauls in 4 windows and cleaning supplies.

Mar. 3: Haul Heritage Resources guys and gear to Prairie Portage. One visitor contact.

Mar. 4: Heritage to Prairie. Three visitor contacts.

Mar. 5: La Croix puncheon w/McKenzie.

Mar. 6: La Croix puncheon w/McKenzie

Mar. 10: Pick up Heritage guys and gear from Prairie w/Stetson. Two visitor contacts.

Mar. 11: La Croix puncheon w/Yankowiak

March 12: La Croix puncheon w/Levar

Mar. 17: Drove dogs to Duluth to return to Stetson.

2003 Summary: It was a cold winter, with daytime highs often around 0 degrees. Lack of snow was a mixed blessing. It allowed us to haul heavy loads long distances (Bonnie and Kekekabic), but required lots of shoveling on some portages, plus made all down hills hazardous due to lack of breaking power and protruding rocks.

The work load became unreasonable with the Kekekabic cabin project added at the last moment. We did not back haul a large pile from Knife Lake Pete's, we did not get to check out visitor use where we know illegally cut trails are being used, an emphasis on visitor contacts was neglected, hauling garbage out of Kekekabic was not completed, bringing the District Ranger to Kekekabic did not occur, and junk along the Cobalt Creek route into Gabbro was not hauled.

Report completed by John Pierce