

Lake Androscoggin Flooding 6/7/12

The following is status report of flood conditions on Lake Androscoggin as of 6/6/12, **updated 6/7/12** some figures are estimates and most figures will change while you are reading this. (Ian Barclay)

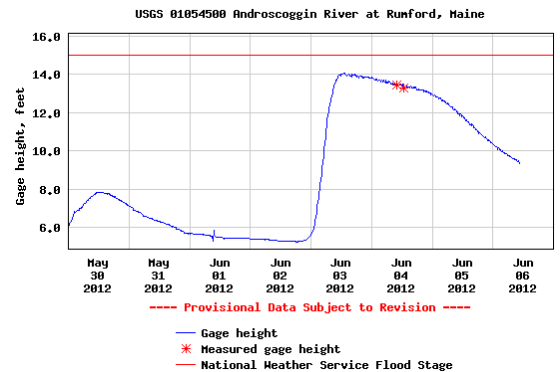
Prior to 6/2/2012

Lake levels had been dropping at full outflow (@ 1 inch per day). Levels were at roughly 271.5'ASL (above sea level) before the rains on 6/2/12. Note: Lake Androscoggin's agreed upon target water level is 269'ASL which was established by ALIC and the State of Maine as the safest, healthiest water level allowing for the least vulnerability to flooding and/or droughts and either of those condition's subsequent hazards (environmental, property, physical, rock hazards, algae blooms etc)

We logged quite a few hours in April/May cleaning the Dam and were looking OK in regard to lowering water levels. I regret that we were not able to get to 269' before the rains of 6/2-6/4 2012.

Rains Saturday 6/2 - 6/4 2012

News and agency reports vary, most say the Maine took on 8 inches of Rain in that 48 hours on 6/2-6/4. According to the USGS gauge (right) the Androscoggin River rose 9 feet at Rumford 6/2-6/3 (news reports say as much as 14 feet) The Androscoggin River peaked at about mid-day on Sunday 6/3 and has dropped roughly 5 feet as of 6/6/2012.



What this means at Dead River Dam

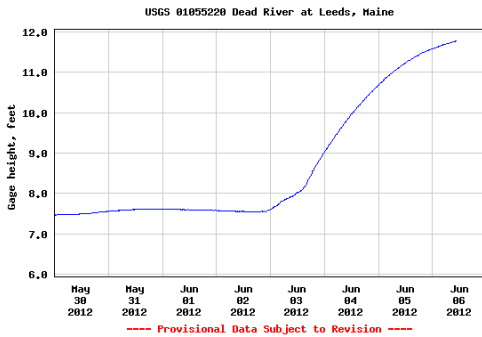


Monday 6/4 8:45pm: Waters rose on the Andro-river side of the dam **rose roughly 13 ft** from 6/2-6/4 bringing heavy flood waters **36" above the flashboards** when I checked on the dam on Monday pm. The Flashboards were obscured to the point that visual reports from earlier that day (Thanks Marc and Debbie) were "uncertain if the flashboards were even still there" as they were under 36" of raging waters.

Tuesday 6/5 7:00pm: Waters rushing over the flashboards back into Lake Androscoggin have dropped @ 24 inches since last night.. The flashboards are all

present and appear to be intact. Several large trees are hung up on the McNear side of the dam.

Figure 1: 6/5/12 in-flow @ 8" above flashboards (down 24" from 6/4)



What this means for Lake Androscoggin

From 6/2 to 6/6 the waters coming back over the dam (as well as from the 30-Mile river watershed) have resulted in the Lake and Dead River rising 57".

Riverbend's lower field campsites have been evacuated and have had to cancel numerous reservations.

Beaverbrook's waterfront campsites are under water many other problems to come.

Outflow

Our experience is that with **perfect outflow conditions** Lake Androscoggin can release roughly 1 inch of water level per day. This is due to the fact that we have a 4000 acre Lake and a 4+ miles of River releasing thru only two 8' x 10' spillways. When these spillways are jammed with debris the outflow is even slower.

The outflow for the first three feet may be able to drop at a little more rapid pace than 1 inch per day **if** we remove the lower flashboards on the top of the dam as we did in 2007, which allowed for max outflow. Once the water recedes to the top of the dam itself, outflow will be dictated by keeping the spillways racks as clear as possible. Much debris and logs will be stirred up from all this flooding so we can expect an above normal "Spring" amount of debris throughout June and July.

Immediate necessary actions include:

1. (Estimated date ~~6/8/12~~ **6/6/12!!**) As soon as A-River waters drops below flashboard height a work party will need to remove some (not all) flash boards to allow for maximum outflow.
6:00pm 6/6/12 Marc removed several lower flashboards to allow increased outflow, as of 9:30am 6/7/12 the water is roughly 14 inches above the top of the dam.
2. Once water levels recede to top of the dam, flashboard will need to be replaced, no telling how soon this can happen but it will be at least ~~10-14 days~~ **sooner than 14 days** after #1..... if weather conditions play nice.
3. Once water reaches top of dam: **Daily** dam cleaning will be necessary to ensure max outflow and updated visual assessment of new problems (debris Logs, Trees etc) as they occur. **I (Ian) volunteer Sunday evenings and Friday Mornings from #3 until we get water levels back down to 276'. Anyone available we'd like to ask you to submit days/time that you are available to stop out to pick debris and/or visually assess or for scheduled major work parties which we will be in need of.**
4. **6/7/12 there are several large trees "balancing" across the flashboards that'll need immediate removal, we will need at least Marc's Truck if not heavy equipment to pull these. Targeting 6/10/12 9:00am**