

***AMC White Mountain Professional Trail Crew & 4,000 Footer Committee Replaces Bridges on Avalon & Willey Range***

The AMC's White Mountain Professional Trail Crew spent 2199.5 hours on the Avalon Trail. From the junction with the A-Z, crews began working on a series of projects ranging from new construction of rock staircases and log checks to replacing severely rotten native bog bridges.



The AMC received funding from both the National Forest Foundation and the 4,000 Footer Club to accomplish projects on the historic Avalon Trail and the Willey Range Trail. The 4,000 Footer Club was a key partner, providing the AMC with funding to replace and install new dimensional bog bridging. The White Mountain Professional Trail Crew installed 20 dimensional bridges on the Avalon Trail between the summit of Mt. Avalon and Mt. Field (4,340 ft.) and another 10 dimensional bridges on the

Willey Range Trail between Mt Field and the A-Z Trail Junction.

Old native bog bridging was replaced on the Avalon trail. The old bridging had fallen into a state of disrepair that led to hikers avoiding sections of bridging in effort to remain on firm, dry ground. This action caused excessive tread widening and degradation to the immediate surroundings of the trail. With the installation of these new bog bridges, hikers will have a solid, dry stepping surface to travel on for many years to come allowing the immediate flora to reestablish itself along the trail.



The bridges on the Willey Range were new construction where 8 of the 10 bridges were placed in sections of ankle deep mud spanning roughly 24-32 feet in length. Similar natural resource issues were present here as they were on the Avalon bridge project. The Willey Range Trail possesses opportunity for hikers to reach Mt. Tom (4,051 ft.), Mt. Field (4,340 ft.), and Mt. Willey (4,285 ft.) from a number of directions or starting points.

*Funding, made possible by the 4,000 Footer Committee Club, has contributed to AMC's ongoing protection and stewardship of the trails in the White Mountains.*

**Report prepared by the AMC Trails Department 2014**