

**AMC White Mountain Professional Trail Crew & 4,000 Footer Committee Repair Falling Waters Trail Treadway**

AMC White Mountain Professional Trail Crews spent 1,038 hours reconstructing parts of the upper portion of the Falling Waters Trail. Funding was provided with a New Hampshire RTP grant in conjunction with a donation from the AMC 4,000 Footer Club. One of the most used trails in the White Mountains, the Falling Waters Trail allows access for hikers to reach beautiful alpine areas and summit several 4,000 footers along the Franconia Ridge Trail. High use, high annual rainfall, and historically steep trail design have all contributed to soil compaction, erosion, and tread widening. Crews managed to install new construction such as three rock staircases, 8 rock waterbars and 4 rock checksteps. Additionally, crews were able to repair several major areas of critical erosion.



Major erosion had occurred at the turn of the first switchback, resulting in a sloping tread toward the steep slope off trail. The first few log checks steps were becoming undermined and had great potential of failure. Crews replaced and repaired the initial log steps and reinforced the trail at the base of the steps to prevent further erosion.



A second area of notable work was the repair of a rock staircase that exhibited what erosion can achieve. A 15-20 step rock staircase had become a floating island of stacked rock that provided no benefit to hikers. The result was tread widening and erosion to either side of the structure. In roughly two weeks time the crew was able to completely restore the staircase and bring its functionality back to life. The photo at the top is the repaired staircase, the photo to the left was prior to reconstruction efforts.

*The AMC Trails Department is glad to have the 4,000 Footer Committee and Club as support in trail stewardship.*

**Report prepared by the AMC Trails Department 2013-2014**