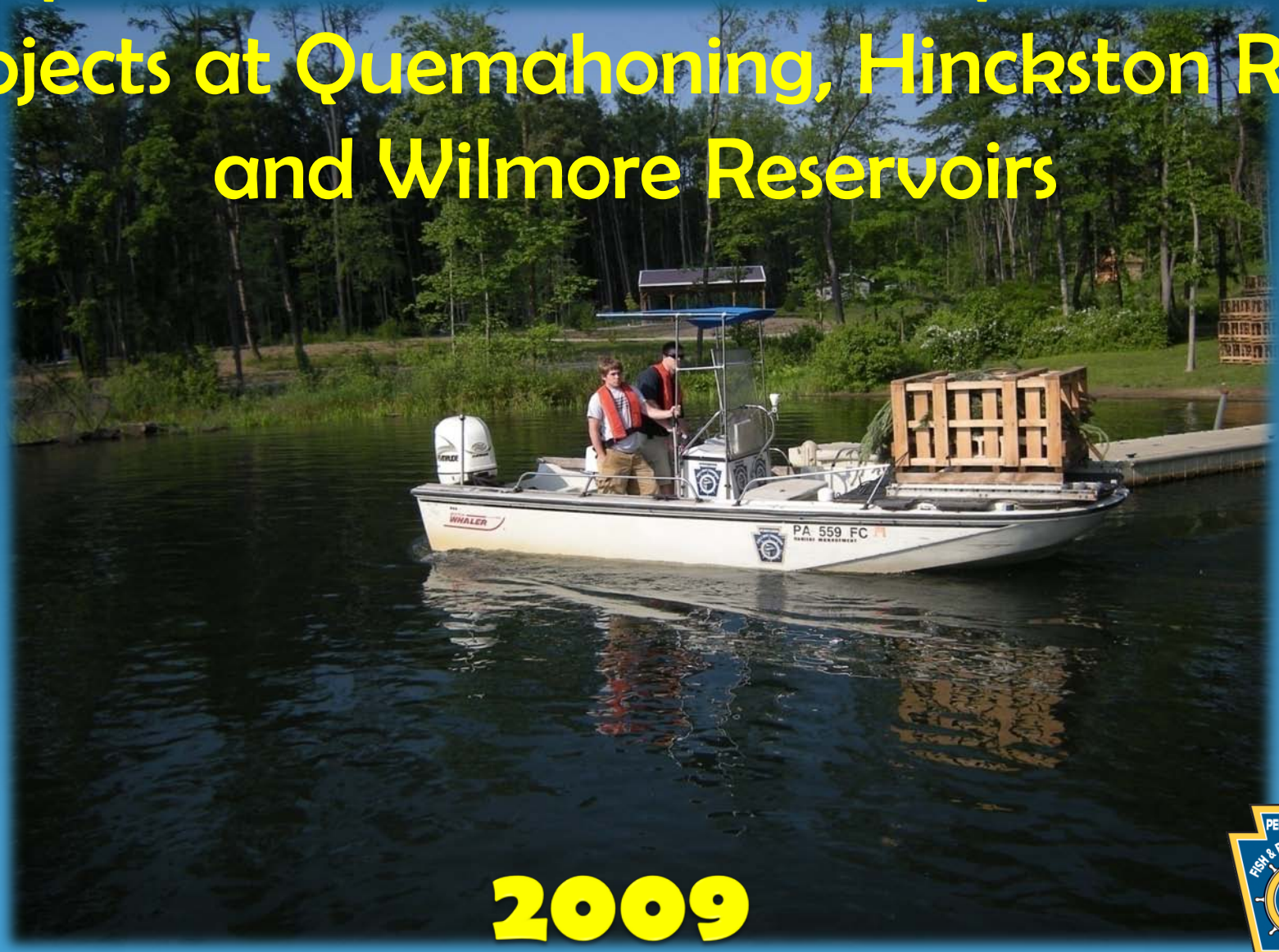
Cooperative Lake Habitat Improvement Projects at Quemahoning, Hinckston Run and Wilmore Reservoirs



2009

PA Fish and Boat Commission
Division of Habitat Management

Project Partners

CAMBRIA COUNTY Conservation 1950 DISTRICT

CSA

PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION RESOURCE FIRST PROTECT • CONSERVE • ENHANCE

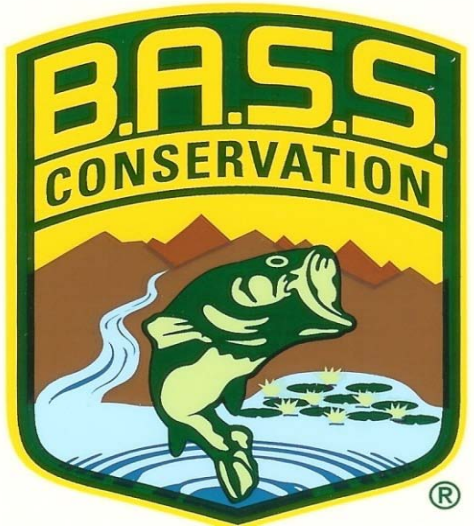
SOMERSET COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION

Project's Objective

- To Cooperatively design, plan, cost share, and implement an extensive Aquatic Habitat Project at Quemahoning, Wilmore, And Hinckston Run Reservoirs, which will benefit both the lake's ecosystem and its users.

Project's Funding



Project's Plan

- Place 100 Short Vertical Plank Structures in each of the three Reservoirs. The project's structures were prefabricated, unlike most typical Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program (CHIP) Projects.

Getting Started

- On one of the three work days, volunteers moved the structures into position, so a CSA skid-steer and equipment operator could prepare to load them.

Volunteers add block

- Volunteers put 9 concrete blocks, for ballest, in each structure. They moved 2,700 block in 3 days.

A Completed Short Vertical Plank

- Fish Habitat volunteers make the structures more complex by adding donated conifer trees.

Loading for Transport

- The Skid-steer gently puts the structure on the boat
- Volunteers then secure the structure by using a rubber rope

Preparing for the Offload

- A PFD clad volunteer removes the rubber rope and awaits direction from a Commission Habitat Manager.

Placing the Structure

- The structure is pushed off the bow rollers, submerging upright.
- All 300 PA Short Vertical Plank structures were placed in 3 days.

Also for 2009

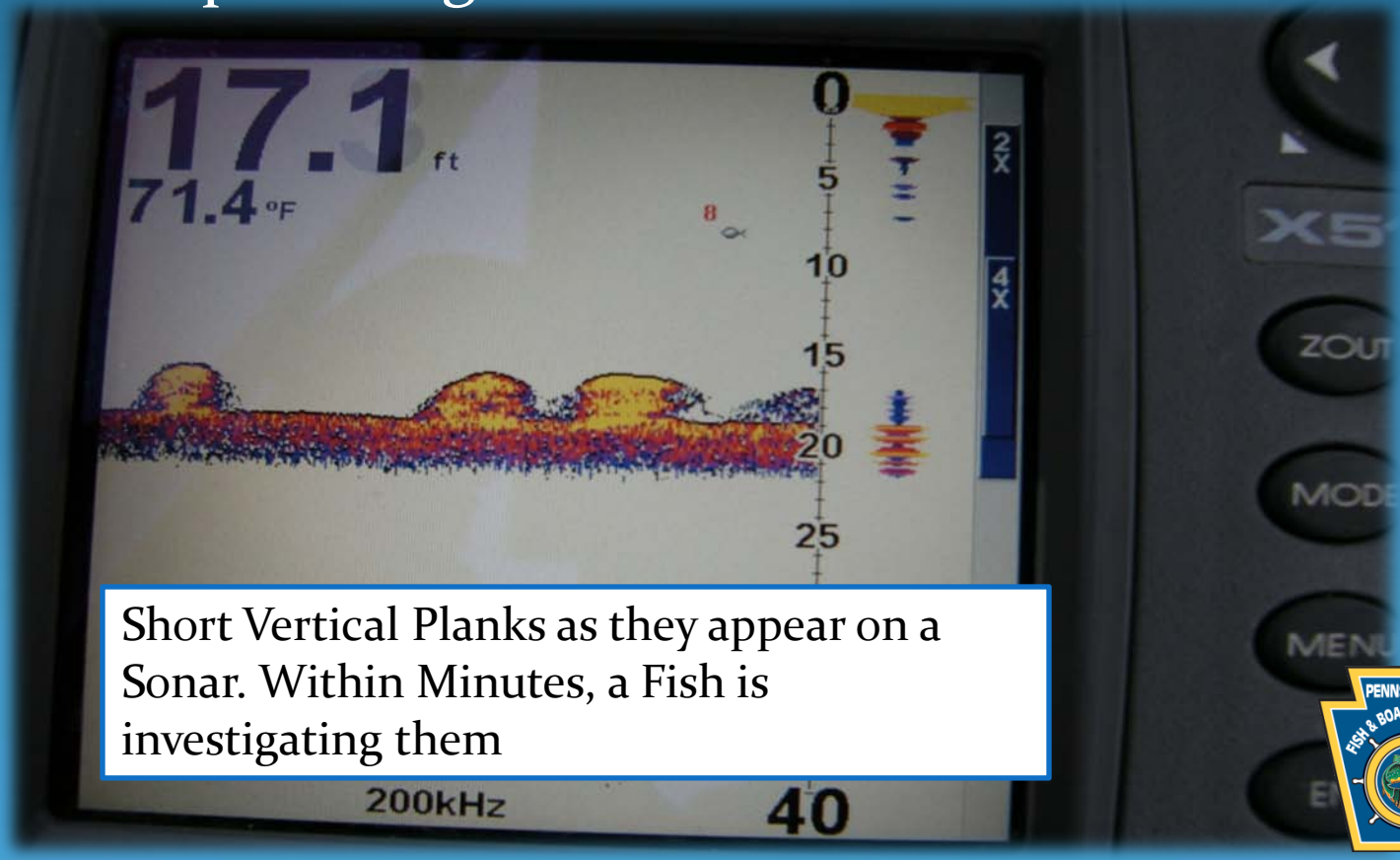
- Non Volunteer Work
- 88 Rock Rubble Humps and 15 Felled Shoreline Trees

Fish Sampling

- Pre and Post Sampling will monitor Fish utilization of the artificial habitat structures

End Result

- A lake bottom that once was an underutilized “Barren aquatic desert” is now a complex aquatic ecosystem which should support an increased abundance, size, and species richness of aquatic organisms.



Short Vertical Planks as they appear on a Sonar. Within Minutes, a Fish is investigating them

2009 Project's Value

- Material Cost
  - Prefabricated Short Vertical Plank Structure (300 Structures) — $30,000
  - 2 Core Concrete Block-8"x8"x 16"(2,700 Blocks) — $2,300
  - R4 Limestone Rock (88 Tons) — 1,512.80
  - **Total Material Cost** — $33812.80

- Material Value (In-Kind Services)
  - Felled Shoreline Tree (15 Trees) — $3,000
  - Conifer Tree (600 Trees) — $12,000
  - **Total Material Value** — $15,000

- Equipment Values (In-Kind Services)
  - PFBC Boats — $7,500
  - Skidsteer — $3360
  - Trailer — $600
  - Mini Excavator — $1,920
  - **Total Equipment Value** — $13,380

- Labor Values (In-Kind Services)
  - Volunteer Hours (460 Hours) — $4,637
  - PFBC Construction Staff & Habitat Management Staff — $9,783
  - CSA Equipment Operator and Semi-skilled Laborers — $2,568
  - **Total Labor Value** — $16,988

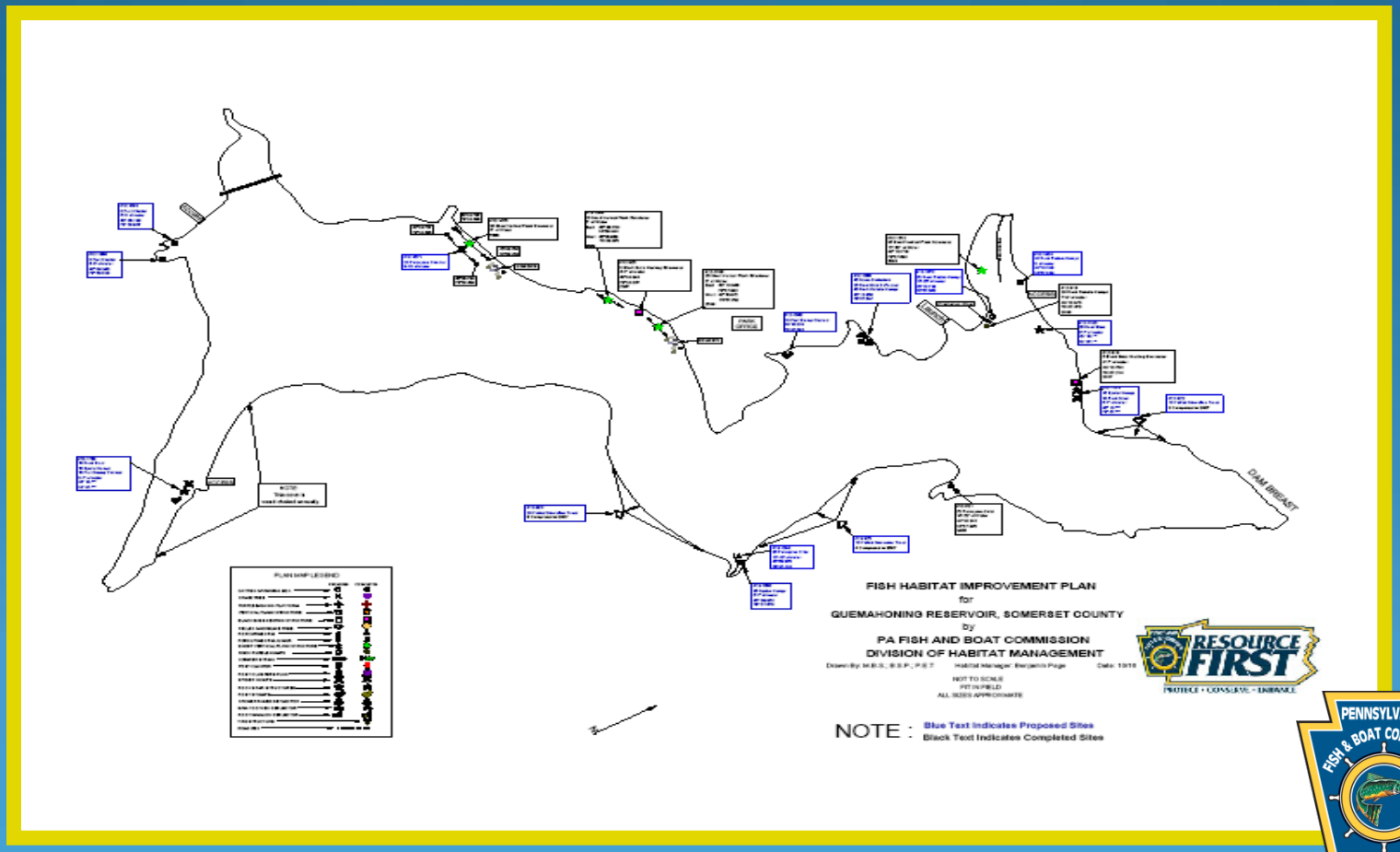
  - Total of all In-Kind Services — $45,368
  - Total Grant Money Spent — $24,400
  - Total PFBC Money Spent — $15,000

- **TOTAL PROJECT VALUE** — **$79,180.80+**
  - Project Values may continue to increase due to future fish sampling.

Didn't Get a Chance to Participate?

Lake Habitat Improvement Maps

- They can be found at PFBC Website- http://www.fish.state.pa.us/water/habitat/mgmt_plans/lake/oolake_plans.htm



Special Thanks

- AmeriCorps
- Bruce Baker-Jackson Twp., PA
- Cambria County Conservation District
- Cambria Somerset Authority
- Cambria County Federation of Sportsmens Club's
- Greater Johnstown Watershed Association
- Jackson Twp. Community Rod & Gun Club
- Jerome Sportsmans Club
- Johnstown Sportsmans Association
- Laurel run Chapter of TU
- RRI Energy
- Shafer's Block and Concrete Inc.
- Somerset County Conservation District
- Wert's Saw Mill