

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN

TIONESTA LAKE

FY 1989

INTRODUCTION

THE TOP PRIORITY FOR FY 89 WILL BE GIVEN TO THE PROPOSED CREEK COMPARTMENT CLEARINGS/PLANTINGS. IN ADDITION, THE ERECTION OF WOOD DUCK BOXES AND THE UPKEEP AND INSPECTION OF ALL PROJECT PLANTING STRUCTURES WILL BE CONSIDERED PARAMOUNT.

05.1000 FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS & MAINTENANCE)

I. CLEARINGS/MOWING

- A. DAM SITE COMPARTMENT- THE OPEN GRASS AREAS WITHIN THE TREE DAM SITE COMPARTMENT (TREE PLANTATION) WILL BE MAINTAINED BY ONE MOWING TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST. THIS PRACTICE WILL KEEP THE AREA IN A GRASSY CONDITION. THESE AREAS COMPRISE APPROXIMATELY FIVE ACRES.
- B. CREEK COMPARTMENT- THE CLEARING OF TWO STRIPS 20 FT IN WIDTH AND 125 FT IN LENGTH WILL BE STUDIED AND BEGUN IN FY 89. THE INITIAL CLEARINGS WILL INVOLVE THE TOTAL REMOVAL OF ALL PLANTS AND ASSOCIATED ROOT STRUCTURES WITHIN THE STRIPS. ALSO, "HALF-CUTS" OF BORDERING WOODY VEGETATION, TWO TO THREE FEET IN WIDTH, WILL ACCOMPANY THESE STRIPS. THE CLEARINGS WILL BE SERPENTINE IN NATURE UTILIZING EXISTING TREE LINES WHERE POSSIBLE. THE INDIVIDUAL CLEARINGS WILL BE SEPARATED BY BUFFERS CONSISTING OF EXISTING WILLOW/ALDER/HOP-HORNBEAM THICKET. THIS PRACTICE WILL UTILIZE THE EDGE EFFECT TO A VERY HIGH DEGREE AND SHOULD HELP TO MINIMIZE UNAUTHORIZED ATV TRAFFIC. PURSUANT TO THIS, THE AREAS WILL BE APPROPRIATELY SIGNED AND REGULARLY PATROLLED. THE CLEARINGS IN FY 89 WILL BE STARTED AT THE BOTTOM OF JUGHANDLE ROAD AND WILL ESSENTIALLY PARALLEL TIONESTA CREEK FOR AN OVERALL DISTANCE OF NEARLY .25 MILES. THE CLEARINGS WILL THEN BE MAINTAINED BY ONE MOWING TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST (APPENDIX A). ONE EXISTING CLEARING WILL BE TILLED TO BREAK THE SOIL FOR SOWING OF A LEGUME/GRASS MIXTURE (APPENDIX B).

II. FOOD PLOTS/TREE & SHRUB PLANTINGS

- A. IN ADDITION TO THE LEGUME/GRASS MIXTURE, THE ORDERING OF SEEDLINGS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION WILL BE PURSUED. SPECIES TO BE ACQUIRED INCLUDE VARIETIES OF PINE, SPRUCE, HONEYSUCKLE, DOGWOOD, CRABAPPLE, AND ASH (APPENDIX C). THESE PLANTS WILL BE PLACED IN THE TREE PLANTATION IN THE DAM SITE COMPARTMENT. AS TIME PERMITS, THESE SEEDLINGS WILL BE PERMANENTLY PLACED AT PRE-SELECTED LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CREEK COMPARTMENT. THE CONIFER PLANTINGS WILL FUNCTION AS ESCAPE HABITAT, VISUAL BARRIERS, AND BORDERS BETWEEN DIFFERENT HABITAT TYPES. THE SHRUBS (DOGWOOD, HONEYSUCKLE, ETC.) WILL BE UTILIZED TO SUPPLEMENT EXISTING FOOD AND COVER. ALL SEEDLINGS WILL BE PLANTED ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED FROM KIRK PIEHLER, WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST.

II. RELEASE CUTS

- A. APPLE/ASPEN/CRABAPPLE TREES- THESE DESIRABLE TREE SPECIES WILL HAVE ADJACENT AREAS RELEASED CUT AS NEEDED. EXISTING APPLE AND CRABAPPLE TREES WITHIN THE CREEK COMPARTMENT WILL BE INVENTORIED AND PLOTTED ON A MAP AS TIME PERMITS. RELEASE CUTS FOR THESE TREE SPECIES WILL

OCCUR MAINLY IN THE CREEK COMPARTMENT. RE'EASE CUTS FOR ASPENS WILL OCCUR WITHIN THE TREE PLANTATION OF THE DAM SITE COMPARTMENT.

IV. STREAM IMPROVEMENTS.

- A. ROSS RUN- TIME IS TO BE ALLOTTED FOR MAINTENANCE ON THE EXISTING LOW FLOW CHANNEL BLOCK.
- B. THE BRANCH- CONSTRUCTION OF A LOW FLOW CHANNEL BLOCK HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE PA. FISH COMMISSION. IF TIME PERMITS, THIS PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED.

V. PONDS.

- A. DAM SITE COMPARTMENT- THE EXISTING "SOUTH POND" WILL RECEIVE MINIMAL MAINTENANCE IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THE AREA IS NOT TAKEN OVER BY DENSE WOODY VEGETATION.
- B. CREEK COMPARTMENT- THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF PONDS WILL BE STUDIED AND GROUPS SUCH AS THE LOCAL AUDOBON SOCIETY WILL BE CONTACTED TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY INTEREST IN ASSISTING US IN ANY FUTURE ENDEAVORS.
- C. BEAVER MANAGEMENT AREA- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BEAVER MANAGEMENT AREA IS PROPOSED FOR THE JAKE'S RUN REGION WITHIN THE CREEK COMPARTMENT. THIS AREA TRADITIONALLY CONTAINS RESIDENT BEAVERS WHO CONSTRUCT DAMS AND THUS FORM WATER IMPOUNDMENTS. THERE IS A LACK OF DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THIS GENERAL AREA AND THE POTENTIAL FOR WATERFOWL HABITAT ENHANCEMENT IS HIGH. IT MUST BE NOTED THAT TRAPPING DOES OCCUR AND THIS PRACTICE WOULD NEED TO BE CURTAILED WITHIN THE DESIGNATED BEAVER MANAGEMENT ZONE. APPROPRIATE SIGNING AND PUBLIC RELATION SUPPORT WILL BE NECESSARY.

VI. FISH ATTRACTANTS.

- A. TIRE UNITS- UP TO TWO DOZEN TIRE UNITS CONSISTING OF FIVE TIRES EACH WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AND PLACED INTO THE LAKE.
- B. TREES- THE DROPPING OF TREES WITHIN THE THE NO WAKE AREA NEAR THE DAM IS ANTICIPATED SINCE THE LAKE WILL BE DRAWN DOWN APPROXIMATELY TEN FEET DURING THE FALL AND POSSIBLY THE WINTER.
- C. SHORELINE PHOTOGRAPHY- THE PHOTOGRAPHING OF THE LAKESHORE WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE WATER DRAW DOWN PERIOD IN THE FALL. THIS ACTION WILL GIVE US A GOOD BASE OF INFORMATION FOR THE SELECTION OF FUTURE FISH ATTRACTANT PLACEMENT.

VII. BRUSH PILES.

- A. CREEK COMPARTMENT- THE FORMATION OF BRUSH PILES IS EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF THE PLANNED STRIP CLEARINGS. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE BRUSH PILES WILL BE PLACED IN GRASS FLATS THAT ARE CURRENTLY LACKING IN NATURAL PROTECTIVE COVER.
- B. DAM SITE- THE POSSIBLE REFURBISHING OF EXISTING BRUSH PILES WITHIN THE TREE PLANTATION AREA WILL OCCUR AS TIME PERMITS.

05.1100 FISH AND WILDLIFE FACILITIES (NESTING STRUCTURES, FEEDERS, ETC.).

I. FEEDERS.

- A. SONGBIRD FEEDER- TWO WILL BE FILLED STARTING IN NOVEMBER OF 1988 AND WILL CONTINUE INTO MID-APRIL OF 1989.
- B. HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS- TWO HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS WILL ONCE AGAIN BE UTILIZED DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF FY 89. THESE FEEDING STATIONS HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL AND POPULAR AMONG PARK VISITORS.
- C. TURKEY FEEDERS- DAM SITE COMPARTMENT: ONE EXISTING FEEDER NEAR THE PETER'S RUN AREA WILL BE KEPT FILLED BY US STARTING AS EARLY AS NOVEMBER.

CREEK ROAD COMPARTMENT- THERE ARE THREE EXISTING TURKEY FEEDERS ON CORPS OF ENGINEERS LAND. THESE FEEDERS ARE FILLED BY KELLETTVILLE SPORTSMEN ASSOC. MEMBERS.

II. NESTING STRUCTURES.

- A. BLUEBIRDS- THE EXISTING BLUE BIRD BOX PROGRAM HAS BEEN EXPANDED AND IMPROVED WITH THE ADDITION OF NEW HOUSES AND THE CHANGING OF BOX LOCATION (APPENDIX D). THREE BOX SURVEYS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY, JULY, AND SEPTEMBER. ROUTINE MAINTENANCE AS REQUIRED.
- B. WOOD DUCK BOXES- A MAJOR EFFORT TO REVAMP THE WOOD DUCK BOX PROGRAM AT TIONESTA LAKE WILL BE INITIATED IN FY 89. BEGINNING IN THE FALL 1988, WOOD DUCK BOXES WILL BE READIED FOR INSTALLATION IN FEBRUARY OF 1989. TEN BOXES WILL BE ERECTED IN SUITABLE LOCATIONS. A MINIMUM OF ONE BOX SURVEY WILL OCCUR IN THE SPRING OF 1989.
- C. VERTICAL BIRD BOX- AN EXPERIMENTAL "VERTICAL BIRD BOX" WILL BE BUILT IN THE WINTER OF FY 89 AND WILL BE PLACED DURING THE EARLY SPRING. THE DESIGN WAS OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL AUDOBON SOCIETY AND MAY PROVE TO BE OF VALUE FOR A VARIETY OF BIRD SPECIES (APPENDIX E). THREE BOX SURVEYS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BLUEBIRD BOX SURVEYS.

05.1001 NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES/STUDIES & SURVEYS.

I. QUARTERLY SUMMERIES AND THE ANNUAL WORK PLAN.

- A. TIME WILL BE ALLOTTED FOR THE RESEARCHING AND WRITING OF QUARTERLY SUMMERIES OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR FY 89 AND THE ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR FY 90.
- B. NESTING BOX SURVEYS- TIME WILL BE ALLOTTED FOR THE GATHERING OF DATA AND THE WRITING OF NESTING BOX SURVEYS. ACTUAL TIME PERIODS OF THE SURVEYS HAS BEEN MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY.
- C. GYPSY MOTH- TIONESTA LAKE WILL NOT BE INVOLVED WITH GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING IN FY 89. HOWEVER, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE DETECTION/MONITORING PROGRAM BE CONTINUED AT TIONESTA LAKE FOR DATA COMPARISON. 1/40 ACRE PLOT STUDIES HAVE BEEN THE MODE OF OPERATION.
- D. MID-WINTER EAGLE SURVEY- TIONESTA LAKE WILL BE PARTICIPATING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIS SURVEY IN JANUARY OF 1989. SURVEY AREAS WILL INCLUDE TIONESTA CREEK ABOVE THE NEBRASKA RECREATION AREA AND THE ALLEGHENY RIVER NEAR TONESTA, PA.

05.1002 FORESTRY AND TRAILS.

- I. TRAILS. EXTENSIVE TRAIL REHABILITATION AND STABILIZATION ACTIVITIES OCCURRED AT TIONESTA LAKE DURING FY 88. ON-GOING EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE UTILIZING VOLUNTEER LABOR WHENEVER POSSIBLE. TRAIL INSPECTIONS WILL CONTINUE AND WILL BE PERFORMED ON A MORE REGULAR BASIS. A ONCE A WEEK

CHECK OF BOTH EXISTING TRAILS IS THE GOAL.

- A. SUMMIT TRAIL- NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGNS ARE TO BE DESIGNED AS THE EXISTING ONES ARE WEARING OUT. MAINTENANCE WILL BE PERFORMED AS NEEDED.
- B. MILL RACE TRAIL- RECENTLY RECEIVED TRAIL-HEAD SIGNS WILL BE INSTALLED. ADDITIONAL STABILIZATION ACTIVITIES WILL OCCUR. ROUTINE MAINTENANCE AS REQUIRED.
- C. INTERLOCKING TRAIL SYSTEM- A DETAILED PLAN INDICATING THE ROUTE, LABOR MATERIALS, ETC. OF AN INTERLOCKING TRAIL SYSTEM FOR THE DAM SITE COMPARTMENT WILL BE COMPLETED IN FY 89. THE TRAIL WILL JOIN THE MILL RACE TRAIL WITH THE SUMMIT TRAIL BY WAY OF THE TREE PLANTATION. THIS TRAIL IS FOR NON-MOTORIZED USE ONLY.
- D. NEBRASKA-KELLETTVILLE RAILWAY TRACE TRAIL- WORK WILL BEGIN ON THE PLANNING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN 11 MILE PLUS TRAIL WHICH WOULD ESSENTIALLY PARALLEL TIONESTA CREEK AND RUN FROM THE NEBRASKA RECREATION AREA TO KELLETTVILLE CAMPGROUND. AT OUR KELLETTVILLE CAMPGROUND, IT WOULD JOIN UP WITH THE NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC HIKING TRAIL. WORK WILL INVOLVE MEETINGS WITH LOCAL COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES. IN ADDITION, ON-SITE FIELD WORK AND RESEARCH WILL BE REQUIRED. INVOLVEMENT WITH VARIOUS INTERESTED LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ELEMENTS OF THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT OFFICE IS LIKELY.

05.1003 LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.

- I. ALL PROJECT AREAS ARE ROUTINELY PATROLLED AS A FUNCTION OF REGULAR PATROL DUTIES. THE STRIP CLEARINGS WITHIN THE CREEK COMPARTMENT WILL BE SIGNED TO HELP TO KEEP OUT ATV'S. ALSO, THE DAM SITE COMPARTMENT WILL HAVE NO HUNTING SIGNS INSTALLED IN KEY AREAS AS A SAFETY PRECAUTION.