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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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B.

Underwater Structure Enhancement for West Point Project
West Point Lake, Southern Appalachians Region
3rd Congressional District of Georgia
June 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016
Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia BASS Nation, Troup County High FFA

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1. The purpose of this project is to enhance the underwater structure, or lack thereof, by planting American Water-willow as well as adding artificial habitat and fish attractors to various locations around West Point Lake (WPL). Currently, WPL has limited structure for fish species to utilize. While there is moderate structure around the lake this can be improved upon greatly. The plan for WPL, with the help of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) and the Georgia BASS Nation (GBN), is to plant 25 American Water-willow sites. American Water-willow is a perennial non-invasive plant that is native to Georgia. It is a rooted plant that grows in shallow water usually from the shoreline out to about five feet deep. It provides great habitat for juvenile and adult fish of many species and can help stabilize shorelines. Once it is established it can spread to other areas from seed or by breaking loose and rooting elsewhere. This will help establish new areas of habitat. Once the America Water-willows are planted, they will be wired down to prevent them from being uprooted until they are established. Several sites have already been planted and around 70% have taken root and are doing well. The GA DNR has planted American Water-willow on several Georgia Power Lakes, which include Lake Oconee and Lake Jackson, and on Lake Richard B. Russell which is a Corp of Engineers lake. GA DNR has had great success on these bodies of water. The second part of this project is to build around 200 fish attractors out of bamboo, five gallon buckets, and concrete with the help of volunteers from Troup County High FFA Organization. Once the attractors are built, they will be taken by boat to designated locations that need structure added to them. Some of these areas are marked with buoys that read “Fish Attractor” on the side, while other areas need to be marked with new fish

attractor buoys. Each area designated will support approximately three to five surface acres at depths around 20 to 30 feet.

2. This project has three main goals. The first goal is to provide fish species with needed habitat that will enhance the fish population. Second, planting Water-willow and installing fish attractors will help entice more fishermen to utilize WPL and help the local economy. The third goal of this project is to have local high school students volunteer which will stimulate students' interest in the outdoors and natural resource management and encourages them to consider careers related to natural resources. Several high school bass fishing teams have already volunteered with planting Water-willow on West Point Lake. In addition, the Troup County High FFA has assisted rangers in the construction of artificial habitat. To monitor the sites, down and side scan sonar will be used to check fish numbers around the structures at least once a month for a one year period. Sonar will also be used to determine if additional structure needs to be added to the sites.

3. By having local high school students volunteer they will have a better knowledge and understanding of fish behavior and habitat requirements. Students will also be able to fulfill requirements for organizations that they are members of, such as FFA. Since WPL is considered by many to be a "fishing" lake, the addition of attractors will only encourage more fishermen to visit the area. As a result the local economy will benefit from these fishermen staying in hotels around the area, staying in campgrounds, buying bait and tackle, groceries, fuel, purchasing fishing licenses, and eating at local restaurants. A 2007 study found that WPL attributes \$535 million each year to the region's economy and is the biggest tourist attraction in the area.

4. Sites that do not have buoys to mark them will be marked so. This way fishermen and boaters in general, will be aware of underwater structure on WPL. The sites will be monitored to determine if and additional structure is needed on a yearly basis.

5. No special permits are required.

6. The start of this project is June 1, 2016 and is to be completed before September 30, 2016. These dates are flexible depending on the allocation of funds and award date.

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1. An amount of \$6000.00 is requested for the purchase of Water-willow plants, buoys, concrete, and buckets.
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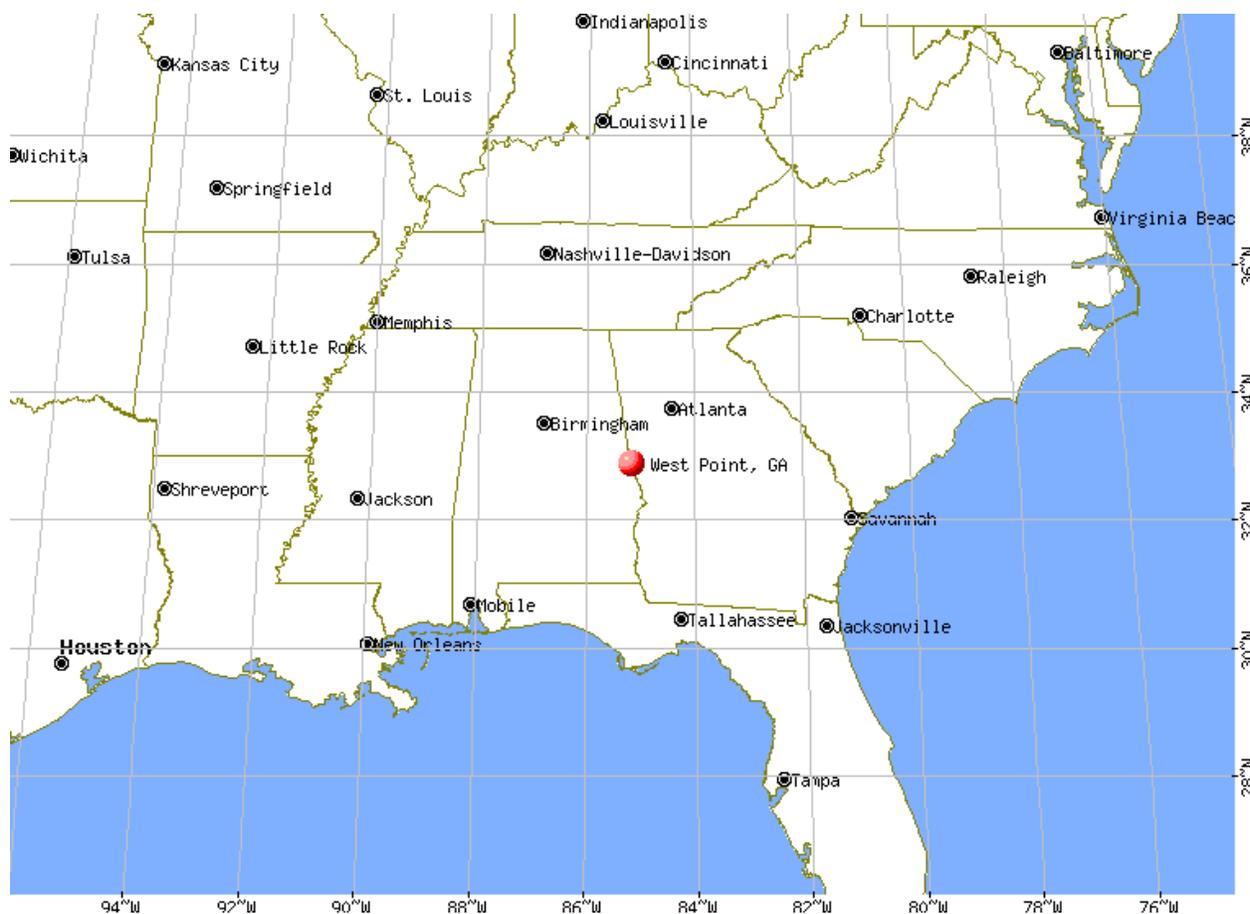
Categories	Partner Contribution Amount	Type of Contribution (cash or in-kind)	Timeline (anticipated date of expenditures)
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership			
Personnel			
Staff			

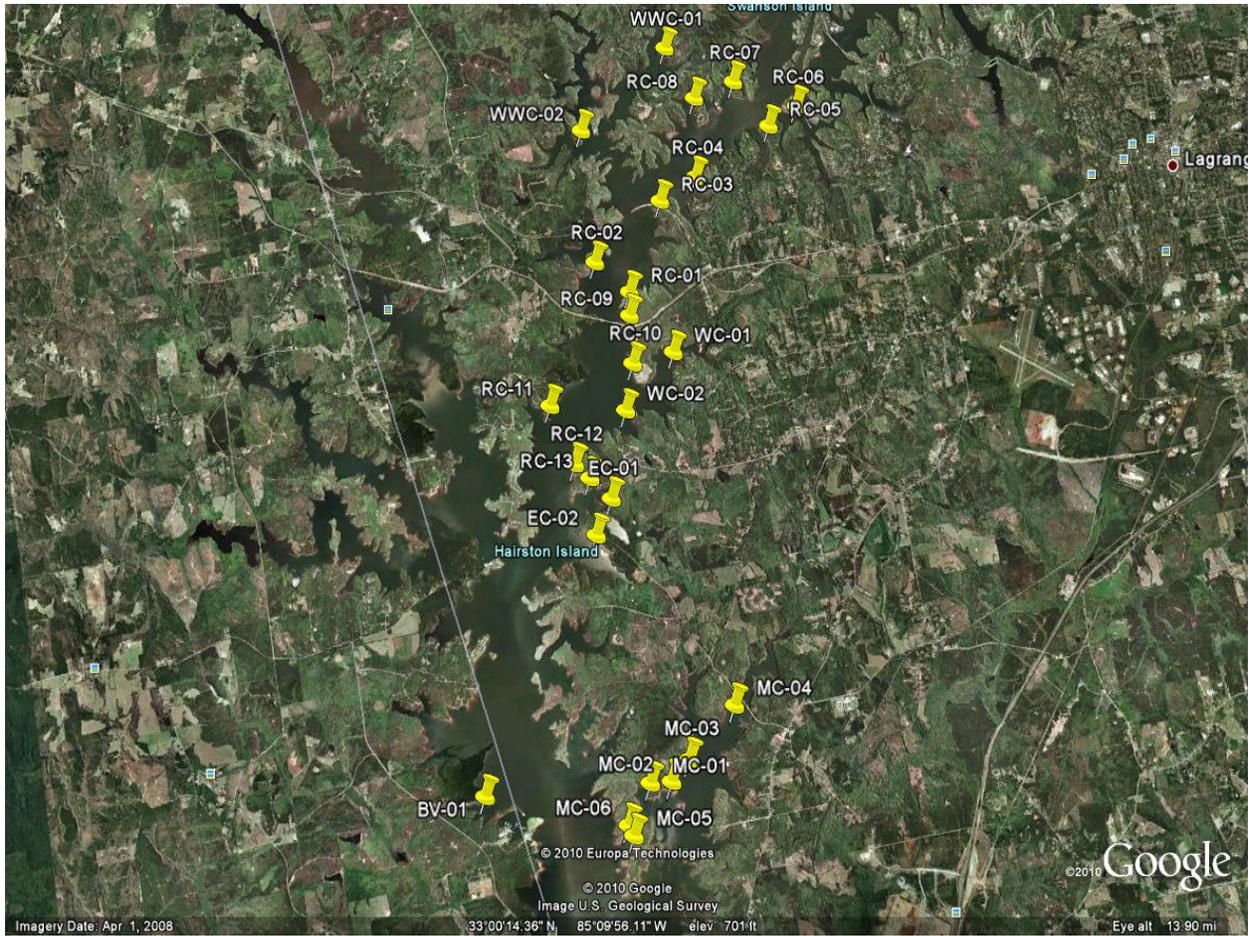
Volunteers			
Fringe			
Travel			
Equipment*			
Supplies	\$6,000.00	Cash	June 2, 2016
Contractual			
Other			
US Army Corps of Engineers			
Personnel			
Staff	\$3,840.00	In-kind	July 10, 2016
Volunteers			
Fringe			
Travel			
Equipment*			
Supplies			
Contractual			
Other			
Georgia Department of Natural Resources			
Personnel	\$960.00	In-kind	July 25, 2016
Staff			
Volunteers			
Fringe			
Travel			
Equipment*			
Supplies			
Contractual			
Other			
GA BASS Nation			
Personnel			
Staff			
Volunteers	\$3,000.00	In-kind	July 25, 2016
Fringe			
Travel			
Equipment*			
Supplies			
Contractual			
Other			
Troup High FFA			
Personnel			
Staff			
Volunteers	\$1,800.00	In-kind	September 15, 2016
Fringe			
Travel			
Equipment*			

	Supplies		
Total		\$15,600.00	

3. An amount of \$3500.00 is being requested to purchase ten “Fish Attractor” buoys which will cost approximately \$350.00 each, which includes shipping costs, totaling \$3500.00. An additional \$260.00 is needed to purchase 75, 80 lb bags of Quickcrete at \$3.29 per bag plus tax. Around \$740.00 will be used for fuel for the barge that will be used to take attractors to their site. The remaining balance will be used to purchase additional buckets to the stock of buckets already present.

4. An amount of \$1500.00 is requested for the purchase of Water willow plants.

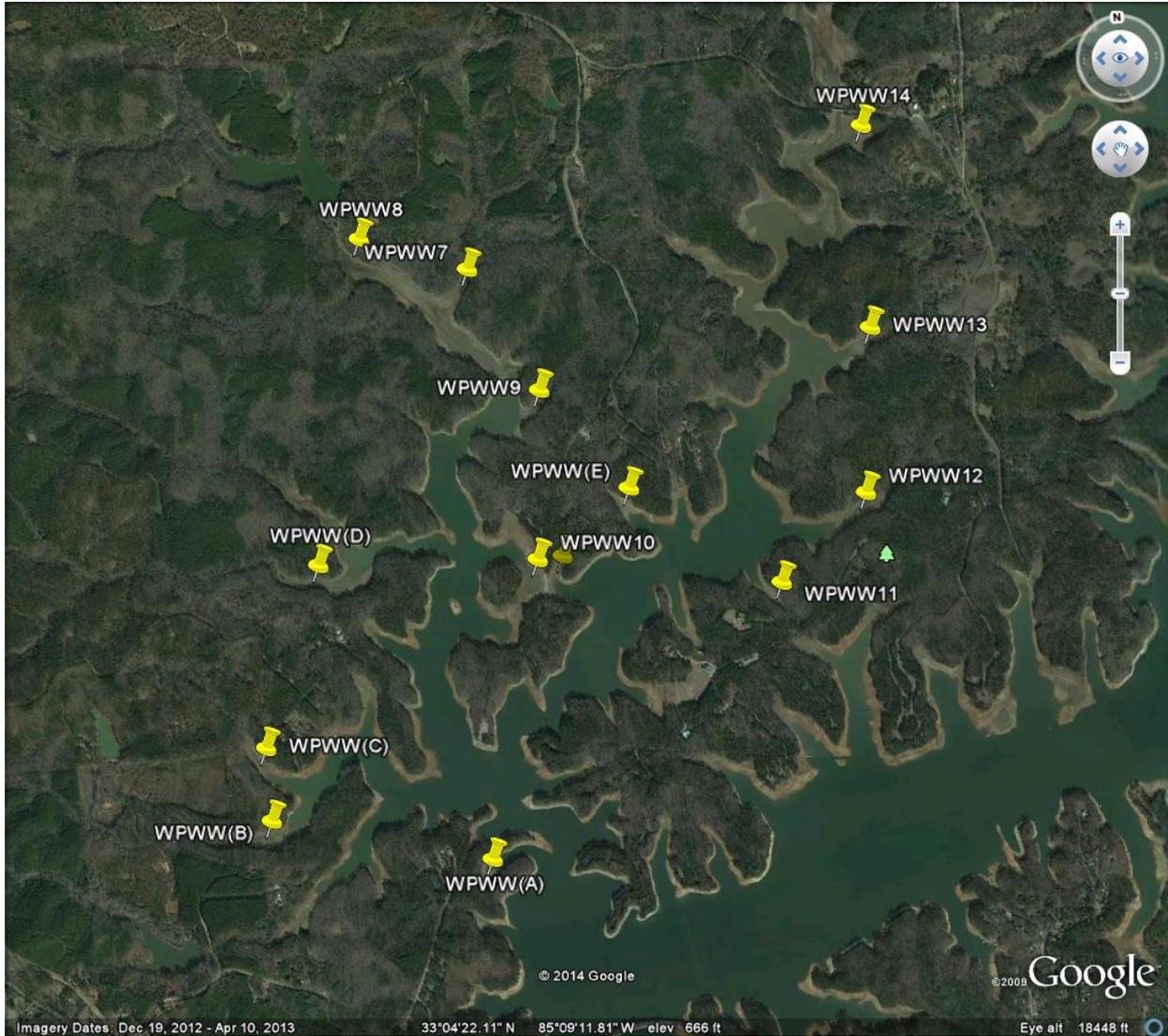




The yellow pins represent the location of the fish attractor sites.



Water-willow planting sites are designated with yellow pins.



Water-willow planting sites are designated with yellow pins.

West Point Lake Fish Attractor Coordinates			
Fish Attractor	Latitude	Longitude	Comments
MC-01	N 32 57' 00.7"	W 85 10' 25.2"	Maple Cr., Large structure, natural materials.
MC-02	N 32 56' 59.1"	W 85 10' 08.9"	Maple Cr., Large structure, natural materials.
MC-03	N 32 57' 09.4"	W 85 09' 52.5"	Maple Cr., Large structure, natural materials.
MC-04	N 32 57' 34.7"	W 85 09' 10.9"	Maple Cr., Large structure, natural materials.
MC-05	N 32 56' 33.2"	W 85 10' 44.2"	Maple Cr., Large structure, natural materials.
MC-06	N 32 56' 39.6"	W 85 10' 47.0"	Maple Cr., Large structure, natural materials.
BV-01	N 32 57' 12.6"	W 85 12' 32.5"	Burnt Village, Large structure, natural materials.
RC-01	N 33 01' 51.6"	W 85 09' 37.3"	Main River, Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-02	N 33 02' 14.2"	W 85 10' 00.9"	Main River, Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-03	N 33 02' 44.3"	W 85 09' 00.2"	Main River, Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-04	N 33 02' 54.8"	W 85 08' 28.4"	Main River, Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-05	N 33 03' 18.0"	W 85 07' 21.6"	Main River, Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-06	N 33 03' 27.0"	W 85 06' 56.3"	Main River, Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-07	N 33 03' 50.5"	W 85 07' 43.8"	Main River, Large structure, Unknown materials
RC-08	N 33 03' 45.0"	W 85 08' 17.9"	Smaller structure comprised of artificial materials.
WWC-01	N 33 04' 20.9"	W 85 08' 34.6"	Whitewater cr., Large structure, Unknown materials
WWC-02	N 33 03' 38.5"	W 85 09' 54.2"	Whitewater cr., Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-09	N 33 01' 37.2"	W 85 09' 40.44"	Between Pyne Rd. boat ramp and HWY 109.
RC-10	N 33 01' 7.56"	W 85 09' 44.28"	Out from 2nd dock at Pyne Rd park.
WC-01	N 33 01' 9.48"	W 85 09' 10.68"	Wilson Creek. South of beach at Pyne Rd park.
WC-02	N 33 00' 40.14"	W 85 09' 56.16"	Wilson Creek. Near island out from Pyne Rd Park.
RC-11	N 33 00' 52.02"	W 85 10' 55.26"	Out from shoals at Whitetail Ridge Campground
RC-12	N 33 00' 14.16"	W 85 10' 43.26"	Out from Glass Bridge Park.
RC-13	N 33 00' 3.96"	W 85 10' 33.12"	Out from Glass Bridge Park. Southern most part.

EC-01	N 32 59' 49.26"	W 85 10' 18.96"	In Rainbow Creek near Earl Cook Boat ramp.
EC-02	N 32 59' 29.58"	W 85 10' 35.46"	Out from Earl Cook Beach.
YJ-01	N 33 04' 30.82"	W 85 05' 06.63"	Main Channel of Yellowjacket Creek
YJ-02	N 33 05' 23.63"	W 85 03' 59.64"	Yellowjacket Creek and Dixie Creek Intersection

4. Below are pictures of the current water willow habitat project currently being done by the Georgia BASS Nation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. We would like to expand on this project for several more years to provide critical shoreline habitat for juvenile fish species.









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