

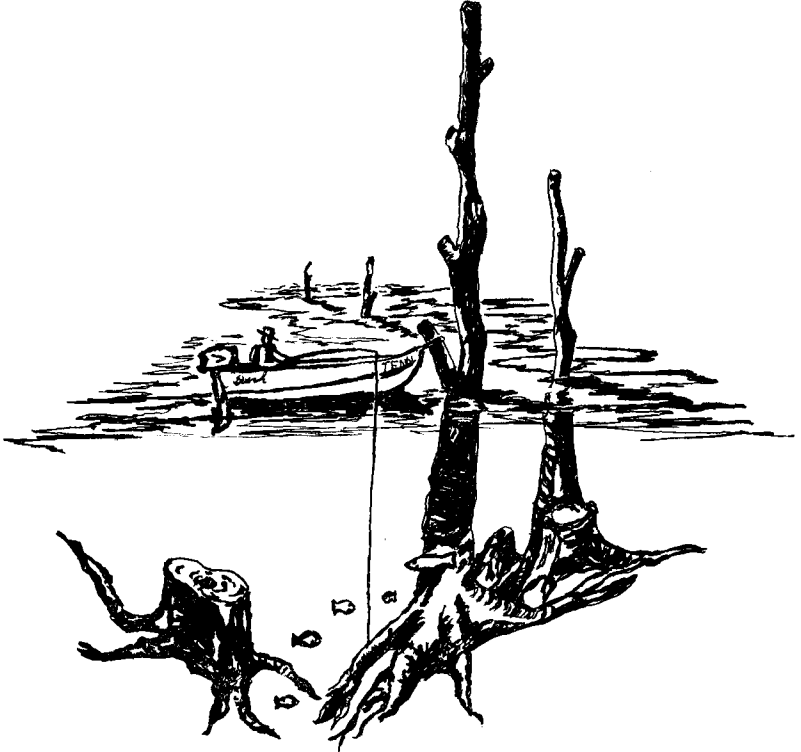
STANDING TIMBER IN BARKLEY RESERVOIR

By

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ABSTRACT

Two hundred and ten trees were topped and left standing as markers to locate channels and slough areas in four sections of Barkley Reservoir in Tennessee. These trees will extend above the surface of the water when the lake is at normal pool elevation and are spaced so that fishermen will be able to readily locate these creeks and sloughs which are thought to be the most desirable fishing areas.

The creeks and sloughs which were marked and the number of trees left standing on each are as follows: Shelby Creek, 16; Bear Creek,

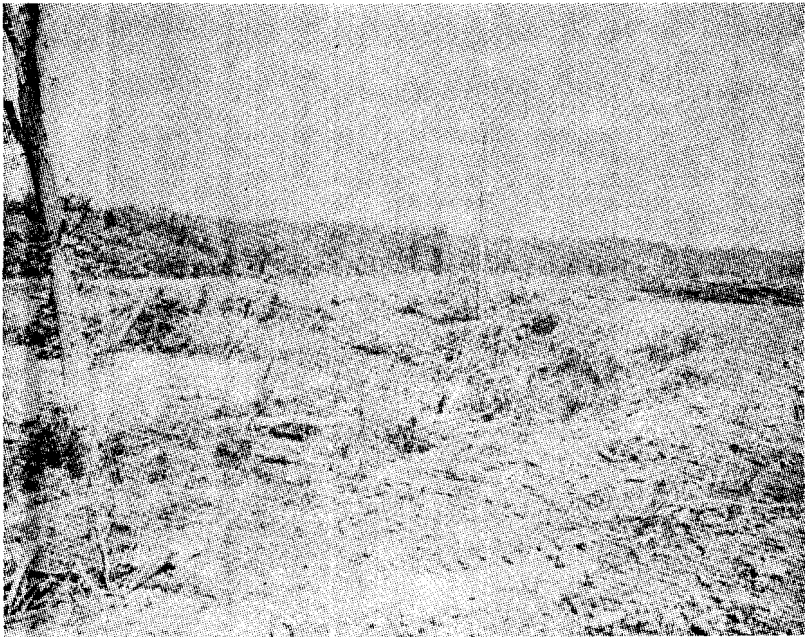
120; Barrett Creek, 49; and Big Slough, 25. The total cost of this project was \$2,224.00, and the average cost per tree was \$10.59.

INTRODUCTION

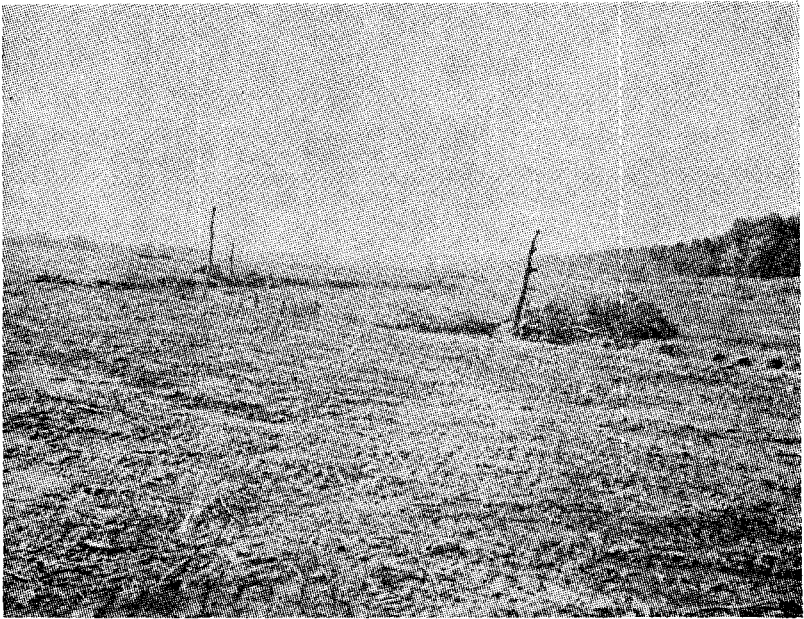
In the large reservoirs of Tennessee, fishermen have successfully used the sprouts and second growth of shrubs and trees that grew to an emergent height before the reservoir water reached normal pool elevation as guides to productive fishing areas. Within the first five or six years after flooding these reservoirs, most of the small branches have rotted away, or have been broken off by fishermen tying their boats to them. The disappearance of these natural temporary markers has resulted in broad expanses of water with no convenient way to determine where the more desirable creek and slough fishing areas are located. The standing timber left in Barkley Reservoir as described in this project report is for the purpose of providing permanent markers to productive fishing areas.

PLANNING

The Tennessee Game and Fish Commission held preimpoundment meetings with the Corps of Engineers, Branch of River Basins, and the Tennessee Public Health Department to discuss the possibilities of leaving standing timber in Barkley Reservoir as an aid to fishermen.



These discussions resulted in the joint recommendation that occasional topped trees be left standing as permanent markers to those creeks and sloughs which were preferred fishing areas. Dense stands of timber were ruled out because mosquito control would be difficult in such areas, and navigation by fishermen in small boats would be troublesome. The topping of the trees was deemed necessary to reduce the danger to fishermen from falling limbs and branches.



PROCEDURES

All of the creek and slough areas where marked trees were left standing are located in the Tennessee section of Barkley Reservoir between navigation mile 75.0 near the Tennessee State line and navigation mile 85.0 near Dover, Tennessee. (See Figure 2). No trees were left standing near the main navigation channel to avoid navigation hazards.

The Shelby Creek area, which is northeast of the navigation channel, has 16 standing trees. All other areas are located southwest of the navigation channel, and are marked with the following number of standing trees: Bear Creek, 120; Barrett Creek, 49; Big Slough area, 25. A total of 210 topped trees were left standing.

The contract price for topping each tree was \$8.00. This price was increased to \$16.00 per tree when the contractor was required to dispose of the limbs and branches. The Corps of Engineers agreed to have their clearing crews dispose of the topped limbs and branches at no expense to the Game and Fish Commission, provided that the topping was done in advance of their clearing work. Sixty-eight trees were not topped soon enough so that the limbs and branches could be cleaned up by the Corps of Engineers' clearing crew. This increased the project cost, since the contractor had to be paid to dispose of these limbs and branches.

This project was conducted according to specifications of and financed by the Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid Program. The total project cost was \$2,224.00, and is broken down as follows: \$1,680.00 for topping trees, \$544.00 for removing limbs and brush. The average cost per tree was \$10.59. The cost per tree would have been much higher if the Corps of Engineers had not substantially contributed to this project.

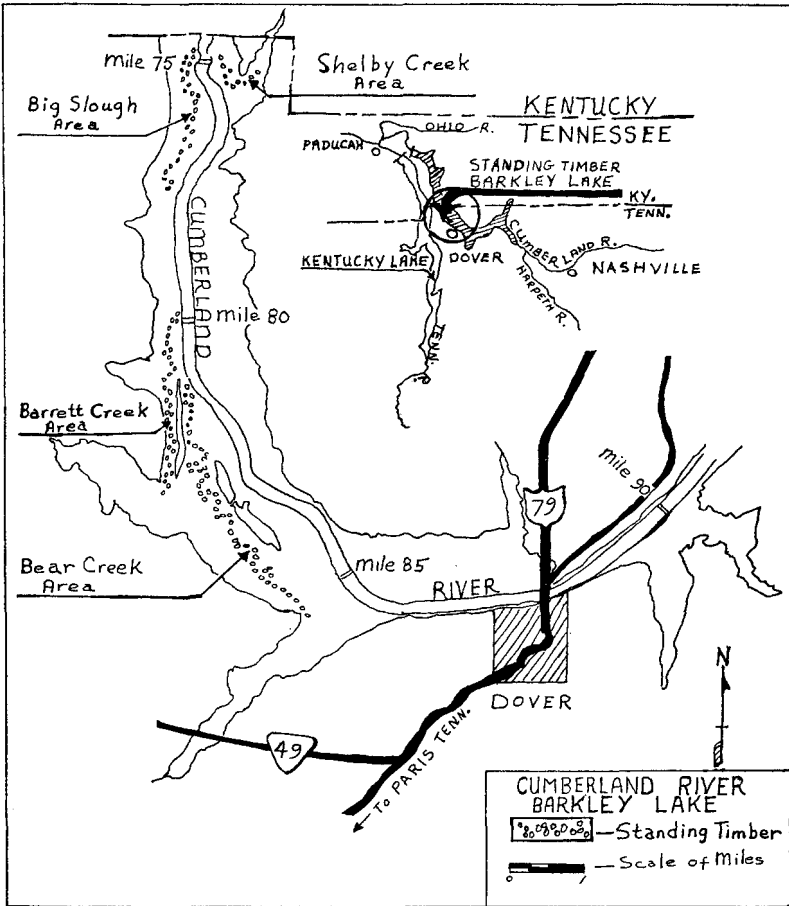


Figure 2. Map showing the general location of Barkley Lake and standing timber areas in the reservoir.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the worth of these standing trees as permanent guides to desirable and productive fishing areas be further evaluated.