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February 9, 2015

TO: Fish Sticks file

SUBJECT: Fish Sticks #1 installation notes

I installed my first DNR "Fish Sticks" on February 7th & 8th, 2015 about 50' east of the boat-lift's normal position.

- I emulated the assembly I had observed at Long Lake a few weeks ago that was managed by Craig Roberts.
- It took me two full 8-hour days to cut the trees, drag them to the site and assemble them. The assembly portion only took about 3 hours.
- The portable winch and the winch on the ATV provided most of the power.
- It required a lot of moving up and down the slope to the lake.
- There was only about 8" of snow on the ground, so I had a good sliding surface without having to struggle to get around. If the snow were much deeper, the ATV would have been useless.
- Even with the snow, the ground got pretty scratched up from the drag of the trees and a few saplings got snapped off.
- The ice was 15" thick.
- Mid-day temperature was in the low to mid 20's both days. Overcast skies. Good working weather.
- I hurt my left knee in the process. Don't know how. It started as a "little twinge" and grew to be quite a hindrance by the end of the day on Saturday. It felt OK Sunday morning, but was very tender and sore by the end of the day. I barely hobbled into the house at 6:00pm
- Most of my trees came from the area around my garage because they were either "in the way" or getting ready to fall over.
- Taking the trees from the garage area made the whole process more difficult and labor intensive due to the long transportation distance.
- Three of the five trees were Oaks. One Jack Pine and one Red Pine completed the set.
- The Oaks were very difficult to maneuver through the woods. Their gnarly twisted branches made it very difficult to pull them through tight spaces and turns. The big Jack Pine was comparatively easy. The small Red Pine was very easy, and it was the closest tree to the work site.
- I used one Red Pine & one small Oak for the crosspieces. The Red Pine worked well, but the Oak was a mistake. The gnarly twisted branches of the Oak made it more difficult to pull the three main trees onto the assembly.
- The eighth-inch canopy-cable was too short at 20'. 25' would be OK, but 30' would be best.

- The quarter-inch shoreline-cable's were both a little long, but not by much. One was 20' and the other was 23' (I purchased two 20' cables, but the end piece from the master roll at Lowes was 23', so they sold it to me at the 20' value.). The west side wing's position needed more length than the east side, so I used the 23' cable there.
- I posted a temporary sign at the site until I can get a durable one made. It says, "DNR / Fish Sticks / February 2015". This will be useful in promoting the Fish Sticks concept and remembering to follow the long-term commitments of managing the site.
- While working on the lake on Sunday, I had two fishing lines down. No action all day, but when I was retrieving them at the end of the day, one line had a small Northern on it. The line was in about 9' of water.