

APPENDIX A-2. PUBLIC SCOPING SUMMARY RESULTS

Appendix A-2 Public Scoping Summary

Report Overview

This report provides a summary of all comments received during public participation opportunities during March and April 2000. Public participation was sought to assist the Guntersville Watershed Team in developing a land use management plan to identify specific future uses for TVA managed land around the Guntersville Reservoir.

Respondents provided feedback using all available methods—letters, e-mails, phone calls, public meetings, consultations, and petition. In addition, public meeting participants completed a questionnaire concerning their opinions about the Guntersville Reservoir (see Appendix I). Results of the questionnaire regarding preferences about the Guntersville Reservoir area are presented in Part I of this report. Ninety-seven respondents completed questionnaires, and 112 individuals attended public meetings.

All comments received were compiled and analyzed using qualitative methods. During public meetings and consultations, participants were also asked to respond to the questions: *How should TVA manage its public land for the uses they are designated for* and *Are there tracts of land in the existing plan that should be designated for uses other than what they are currently used for?*

Summary of Public Meeting Comments

Participants of three public meetings provided feedback about recreation, land management, natural resources, and land development issues.

Recreation—participants made requests for specific recreational uses (e.g., horseback riding trails, campgrounds, beaches, hunting areas).

Land Management—participants made appeals to stop the disposal of land managed by TVA, to reduce privatization, and to use public land for public uses.

Natural Resources—participants expressed concern for protection of natural resource areas and plan/wildlife management.

Land Development—participants commented on the need to balance development with natural resources; many also preferred limiting industrial and commercial development in the area.

TVA received comments regarding 78 different tracts of land around Guntersville Reservoir. However, most comments referenced Murphy Hill and Conners Island.

Murphy Hill—respondents preferred preservation of wildlife and natural resources as well as more recreational opportunities (e.g., marinas, campgrounds, horseback riding, fishing, etc.).

Conners Island—respondents indicated a preference for limiting development, and instead, allocating the land for various recreational and natural resource uses.

Summary of Questionnaire Results

Recreation Preferences

Many respondents expressed a need for **more trails** (e.g., equestrian, hiking) as well as **more public recreation areas** (e.g., camping areas, parks).

Respondents indicated that the right amount of swimming beaches, full-service campgrounds, museums, lodging, and boat facilities (i.e., launch ramps, marinas, boat storage) exist.

Natural Resource Issues

Many respondents expressed a need for **more protection** of water quality, endangered species, wetlands, natural land, and land with unique features.

Many respondents expressed a need for **increased protection** of cultural artifacts/historic sites and ecological study areas.

Respondents also reported a need for **more** wildlife observation areas and forest/wildlife management, shoreline erosion control, and conservation zones.

Public Works and Development

Respondents reported that about the right amount of public works projects (e.g., water intakes, sewage lift stations) exist.

Many respondents also indicated a preference for less industrial and economical development.

Overview

Background and Purpose

TVA develops land use plans to assist in the management of 265,000 acres of public land around its reservoirs. Plans are developed with participation by citizens, public agencies and officials, and private organizations. By providing a clear statement of how TVA will manage public land and by identifying specific uses, a reservoir land plan minimizes conflicting land uses and makes it easier to handle requests for use of public land.

The Guntersville Watershed Team is developing a plan focusing on TVA managed land and waters around Guntersville Reservoir. Specific uses will be identified, including resource protection, natural sensitive resource management, recreation, development, residential access, and TVA operations.

Public Participation Opportunities

During a two month period, (March 1, 2000, to April 24, 2000), TVA sought comments from citizens, agencies, and organizations. TVA advertised public participation opportunities through news releases and in newspapers; individuals were also invited to comment by letter, electronic mail (e-mail), or by leaving a telephone message (XXX-XXX-XXXX). Area groups and organizations were contacted for interviews. Additionally, TVA hosted three public meetings at South Pittsburg High School, TN (March 20, 2000), Scottsboro High School, AL (March 21, 2000), and Guntersville High School, AL (March 23, 2000). At each meeting, all attendees were invited to participate in small discussion groups where they were asked to respond to questions about Guntersville Reservoir.

Respondents

TVA received approximately 32 letters, e-mails, and phone calls as well as one petition. In addition, 112 individuals attended public meetings and provided input during small group discussions. Guntersville Watershed Team staff also consulted with nearly 50 private organizations, groups, and public agencies.

Part I

Questionnaire Results

Recreation Preferences

Respondents were asked to indicate their preferences regarding facilities, areas, and services throughout the Guntersville area. Approximately 97 questionnaires were completed. The following figures display the number of respondents for each preference option—*need more*, *right amount*, *need less*.

Need More

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, many respondents expressed a need for **more** equestrian trails, dirt hiking paths, and public recreation areas (e.g., undeveloped camping areas, parks, picnic pavilions, etc.). In addition, respondents requested more brochures and signs that direct the public to natural areas.

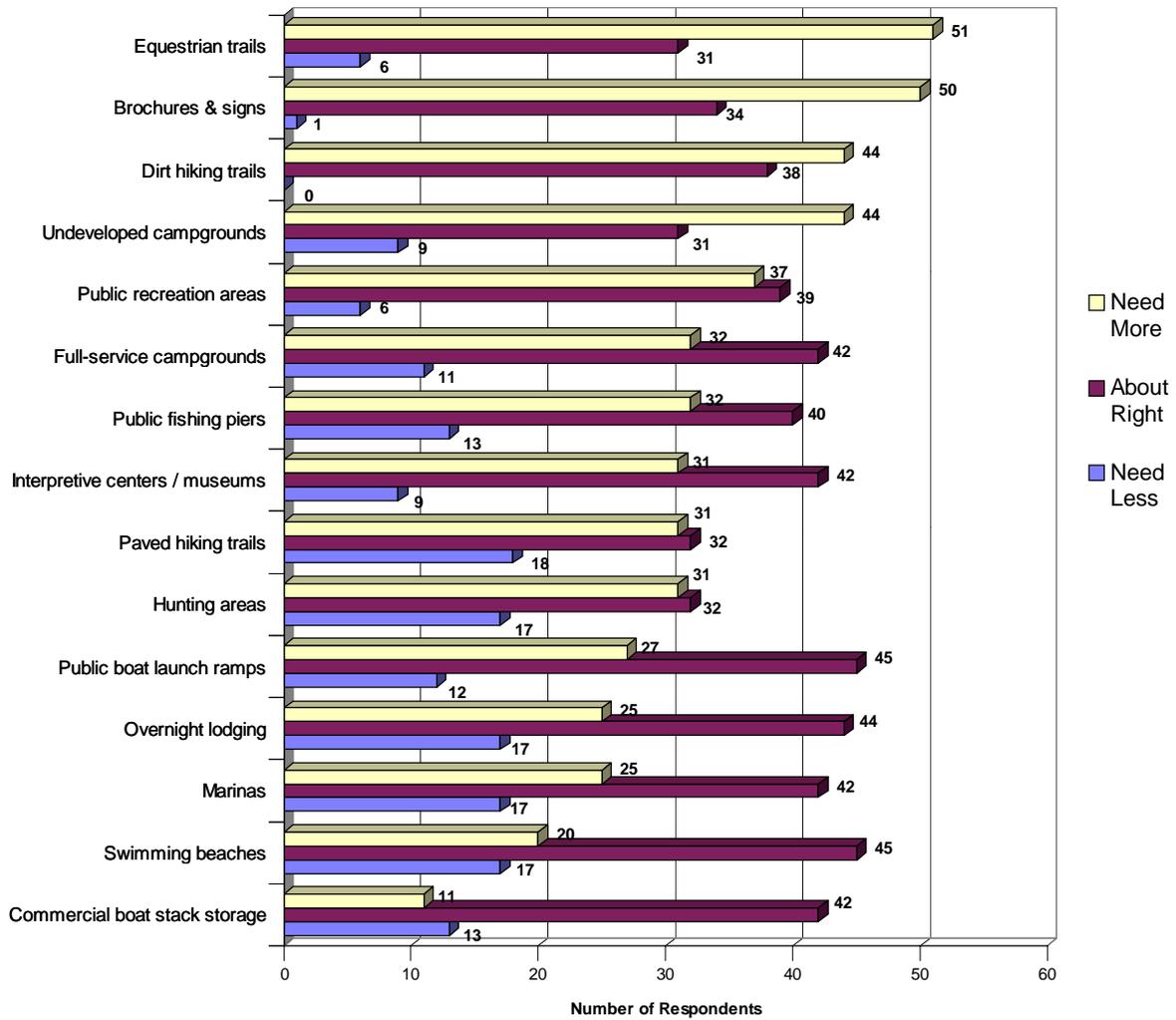
Right Amount

Many respondents indicated that the **right amount** of swimming beaches, public fishing piers and launch ramps, marinas, commercial boat stack storage, full-service campgrounds (i.e., electric, water, sewer, etc.), interpretative centers/museums, and overnight lodgings (e.g., cabins, cottages, resorts) exist.

Need Less

Relatively few respondents selected this preference option. However, combining responses with those indicating there is the right amount of facilities, areas, and services, provides information useful for prioritizing recreation needs. For example, 50 respondents indicated “right amount of ” or “need less” paved hiking trails compared with 32 respondents indicating “need more.”

Figure 1. Number of Responses - Preferences for Recreational Facilities, Services, & Areas



Natural Resource Issues

Need More

As shown in Figure 2, the majority of respondents prefer **more protection** of natural and cultural resources, including water quality, endangered species, wetlands, natural land/open space, public land with unique natural land features, and cultural artifacts/historic sites and ecological study areas. Also, respondents reported a need for more wildlife observation areas and forest/wildlife management, shoreline erosion control, and conservation zones.

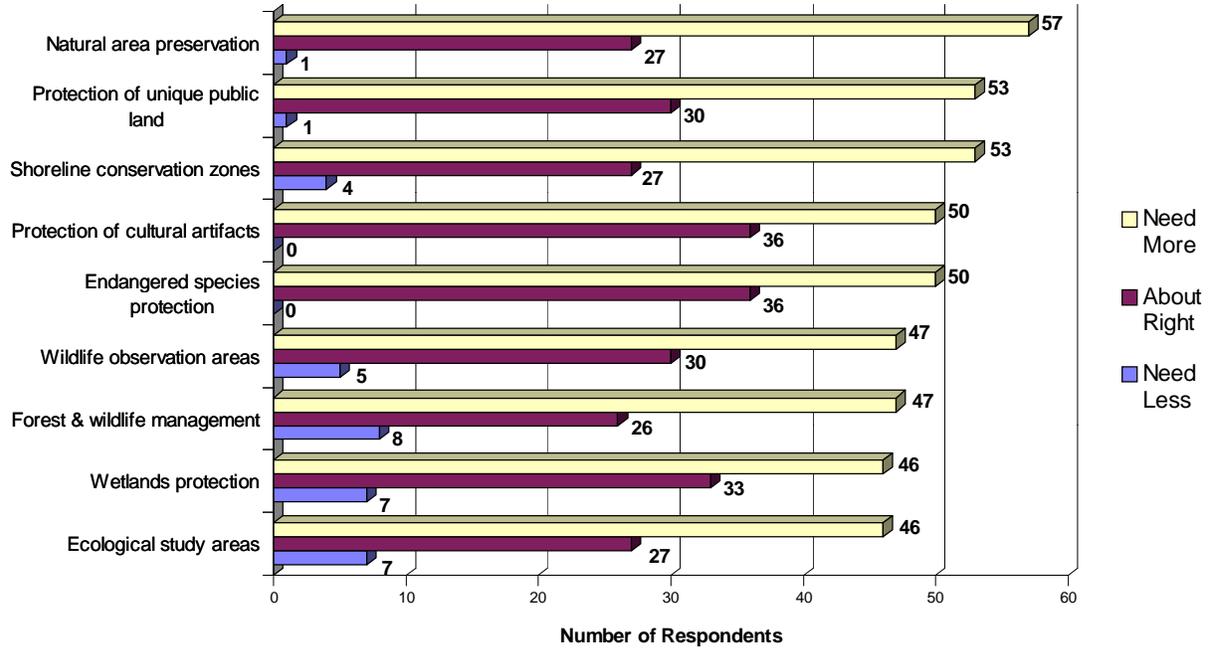
Right amount

Approximately 45 percent of respondents indicated there is currently the **right amount** of protection of cultural artifacts and endangered species protection.

Need Less

Though few respondents indicated the need for less protection of natural/cultural resources, approximately 40 percent of respondents indicated “right amount” or “need less” regarding forest and wildlife management, wetlands protection, and ecological study areas.

Figure 2. Number of Responses - Preferences for Natural/Cultural Resource Protection



Development Preferences

Need More

As shown in Figure 3, few respondents prefer additional development and public works projects.

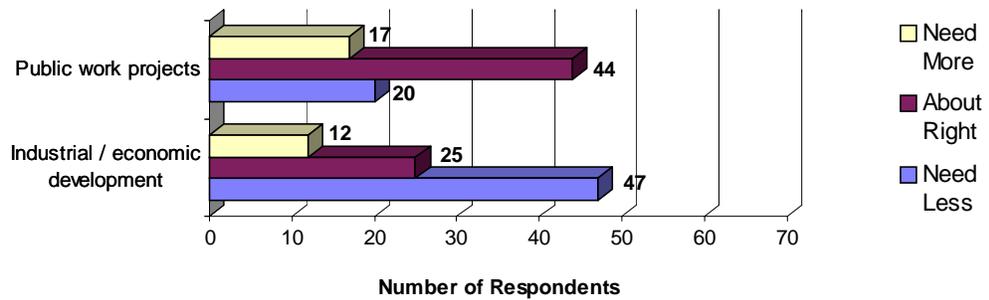
About Right

Respondents reported that about the **right amount** of public works projects (e.g., water intakes, sewer lift stations) exist.

Need Less

Many respondents expressed a need for **less** industrial and economic development.

Figure 3. Number of Responses - Preferences for Development



Appendix I Questionnaire

For each facility, area, or service listed, indicate the amount of change you prefer around Guntersville Reservoir by checking (p) the appropriate box.

Facilities, Areas, and/or Services	Need Less	About the Right Amount	Need More
Campgrounds full-service (electric, water, sewer, etc.)
Undeveloped camping (no hookups)
Commercial boat stack storage
Equestrian trails
Hiking trails (dirt paths)
Hunting areas
Paved hiking trails, signs, and observation towers
Industrial and economic development
Marina areas
Overnight lodging (cabins, cottages, resort lodges, etc.)
Public recreation areas (campgrounds, parks, picnic pavilions, etc.)
Swimming beaches
Public fishing piers
Public launch ramps
Protection of cultural artifacts/historic sites
Protection of endangered species
Protection of public land that has unique natural features
Protection of wetlands
Preserve natural areas/open space
Ecological study areas for local schools or universities
Brochures and signs directing the public to natural areas
Interpretive centers/museums
Wildlife observation areas
Shoreline conservation zone (shoreland vegetation for wildlife, water quality, visual)
Shoreline erosion control
Water quality protection
Public work projects (water intakes, sewer lift stations)
Forest and wildlife management
_____ Other (please specify)