

NATURAL RESOURCE PLAN

Glossary and Acronyms

26a Permitting

Section 26a of the TVA Act (1933) requires TVA review and approval of plans for obstructions such as docks, bridges, outfalls, water intakes and riprap before they are constructed across, in or along the Tennessee River system and its tributaries.

Age-Class Forest Stand

The age structure of trees within a forest stand. Even-aged stands are comprised primarily of trees of similar age. Uneven-aged stands contain trees of three or more age classes.

Americans With Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines

Scoping and technical requirements for accessibility to buildings and facilities by individuals with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

Animal Damage Control

The practice of managing conflicts between humans and animals, generally in a manner that is considered economically and humanely acceptable.

Blueway

A water path or trail that is developed with launch points, camping locations and points of interest for watercraft users (e.g., canoeists and kayakers).

Bottomland Forests

Forests that occur on river floodplains or seasonally wet areas that typically have flat topography. These forests are comprised of trees that are adapted to these conditions, with common species in the Tennessee Valley being green ash; black willow; silver and red maple; sycamore; slippery and American elm; several oaks, including willow, water, shumard, cherrybark and pin; and in the lower portions of the Valley, tupelo gum and bald cypress.

Commercial Recreation Agreements

Licenses, 19-year leases or 30-year easements with commercial operators to manage campgrounds, marinas, or other facilities on TVA land.

Day-Use Area

Facilities that TVA provides for public use, such as boat ramps, picnic sites, pavilions and fishing piers. May be on or off dam reservations.

Dead Zone

Area in an aquatic system where most aquatic life will die due to the inability to successfully migrate out of an area of depleted oxygen (see Hypoxia).

Dispersed Recreation

Recreation of an informal nature such as hunting, hiking, biking, bird-watching, photography, primitive camping, bank fishing and picnicking. These activities are not associated with developed facilities although some improvements may occur for access, health and safety, or to protect the environment.

Dispersed Recreation Area

An area of land that can encompass several individual impact sites. Areas are defined by close proximity or parcel unit and usually have common access (e.g., several dispersed sites along an access road or waterfront would encompass one dispersed recreation area).

Dispersed Recreation Site

An individual site where disturbance is caused by recreational activities (e.g., one popular camping spot).

Early Successional Habitat

Habitats characterized by pioneering vegetation on an area that has been maintained in an open state, has been recently cleared, or has had the vegetation cut or removed. These habitats generally consist of grasses, forbs, and small shrubs that provide habitat for wildlife species that require these components for food, safety cover and reproduction.

Eco-regions (Level III)

Distinct ecological regions that are identified through the patterns and composition of biotic and abiotic phenomena that affect or reflect differences in ecosystem quality and integrity. Level III ecoregions subdivide the North American continent into 182 distinct ecoregions; of these, 10 lie partly or wholly within the United States and five are predominant in the Tennessee Valley.

Eco-tourism

Sustainable and responsible travel to fragile, pristine, and usually protected areas that strive to be low impact and, often, small scale (as an alternative to mass tourism). Its purpose is to educate the traveler; provide funds for ecological conservation; directly benefit the economic development and political empowerment of local communities; and foster respect for different cultures and for human rights.

Essential Stewardship Activities

Certain TVA activities, formerly referred to as “nonpower” programs, that provide public services, including flood control, navigation, reservoir release improvements, mosquito/plant management, reservoir emergency preparedness, dam safety and maintenance, reservoir shoreline stabilization, recreation facilities, land management, and natural heritage/cultural resources protection.

Evapotranspiration (ET)

The sum of evaporation and plant transpiration from the earth’s land surface to the atmosphere. Evaporation accounts for the movement of water to the air from sources such as the soil, canopy interception, and water bodies. Transpiration accounts for the movement of water within a plant and the subsequent loss of water as vapor through stomata in its leaves.

Fee Lands

Land owned by the United States of America in the custody and control of TVA where the public must pay a fee for use.

Feral/Released Domestic Animals

An animal that has been released and/or changed from being domesticated to being wild or untamed.

Fire Management Crew

A team of specialists trained to respond to local fire-related events and manage prescribed (controlled) fires for wildlife habitat management.

Flowage Easement Land

Privately owned lakeshore properties where TVA has (1) the right to flood the land as part of its reservoir operations, (2) no rights for vegetation management, and (3) the authority to control structures, under Section 26a of the TVA Act.

Game Species

Species of wild mammals, birds, fish or reptiles that are hunted for sport or food resources.

Heavily Impacted Dispersed Recreation Area

An area that receives substantial and repeated dispersed recreational use to the extent that the area is affected adversely. For example, an area that is used for camping to the extent that all the vegetative cover has been worn or removed from the ground surface, potentially allowing increased soil erosion.

Heritage Tourism

Tourism oriented towards the natural, cultural and historic elements of an area. These elements serve as attractions to the traveler.

Hydrologic Unit

A standardized watershed boundary classification developed by the U.S. Geological Survey that ranges in size from regional watersheds such as the Tennessee River to smaller local watersheds.

Hypoxia

A condition in which the oxygen concentration of natural waters falls below the level necessary to sustain most aquatic life. This condition, usually defined by dissolved oxygen concentrations below 2 mg/L, results when oxygen consumption, through decomposing organic material, exceeds oxygen production, through photosynthesis and replenishment from the atmosphere.

Index of Biological Integrity (IBI)

A multi-metric index developed to measure the ecological health of a body of water using diversity, pollution tolerance, fish health and catch rate of species as indicators of water quality.

Integrated Resources Management

Actions providing multiple resource benefits during simultaneous time frames.

Interconnectivity

Showing a relationship between two or more things.

Land Conveyed

Land whose ownership or title has been transferred from one party to another.

Land Encroachments

An intrusion of an unauthorized or unpermitted building, improvement, or other object from one piece of land onto another piece of land (typically from a piece of private land onto a piece of public land). Examples include a fence or driveway over a property line.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

Certain partnerships with state, regional or federal agencies, as well as nongovernment organizations, with the purpose of promoting and facilitating efforts to address individual species associated with wetlands and communities of species.

Land Parcel

The primary unit of land in a Reservoir Land Management Plan. Parcels are geographically, functionally, and/or physically distinctive areas of land that are given a single zone designation due to location, features and characteristics. Each parcel is assigned a unique identifying number.

Limnology

The scientific study of lakes and other bodies of fresh water, including their physical and biological features.

Marginal Strip

The narrow strip of land owned by TVA between the water's edge and the adjoining private property, on which the property owner may construct private water use facilities upon approval of plans by TVA.

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures

A partnership of agencies, nonprofit organizations, corporations, tribes and individuals that implements national and/or international bird conservation plans within a specific geographic area.

Natural Area Management Plans

A plan that outlines the intent and methods by which TVA will maintain and/or improve natural areas.

Nonpoint Source Water Pollution

Pollution not originating directly from a point source (see point source).

Nonrenewable Resources

A natural resource which cannot be produced, grown, generated or used on a scale which can sustain its consumption rate; once the resource is used, there is no more remaining. These resources often exist in a fixed amount and are consumed much faster than nature can create them.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Recognizing the importance of waterfowl and wetlands to North Americans and the need for international cooperation to help in the recovery of a shared resource, the U.S. and Canadian governments developed a strategy to restore waterfowl populations through habitat protection, restoration and enhancement. The strategy was delineated in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan signed in 1986 by the Canadian Minister of the Environment and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. This was the foundation partnership upon which hundreds of others would be built. With its update in 1994, Mexico became a signatory to the Plan.

Off-Dam Reservations

TVA-managed lands and facilities not located on a dam reservation.

On-Dam Reservations

TVA lands generally maintained to protect the integrity of the dam structure, hydroelectric facilities, and navigation lock. The reservation also provides for public visitor access to recreation opportunities, such as public boat access, bank fishing, camping and picnicking.

Overwintering

To pass through or wait out the winter season, or to pass through that period of the year when winter conditions (cold or sub-zero temperatures, ice, snow, limited food supplies) make normal activity or survival difficult.

Pest Species

Nonnative invasive species or unusually high concentrations of native pest species (e.g., southern pine bark beetle) that could pose potential threats to native ecosystems or human health.

Plan Tract

A numbered parcel of TVA fee-owned land assigned through the reservoir land planning process.

Point Source

A point source is (1) a single identifiable localized source of something with negligible extent, distinguishing it from other source geometries; or (2) any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO), landfill leachate collection system, vessel or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural storm water runoff.

Power Service Area

The geographic area for which TVA generates electrical power.

Power-Tree Consortium

A consortium of 25 power generators, with the intention of planting trees in critical habitats in the lower Mississippi River Valley.

Put-and-Take Cold Water Fishery

A fishery maintained through fish stocking programs in waters where warm temperatures during summer prevent or restrict the natural reproduction and survival of cold-water fish.

Programmatic Agreement

Documents used to outline and integrate responsibilities of parties involved in executing TVA's mission and programs.

Recreational Areas

Properties managed by TVA that are primarily used for recreational activities such as camping, hiking, fishing, boating and other related activities.

Reservoir Land Management Plan

A plan developed by TVA to facilitate the management of the approximately 293,000 acres of TVA-managed land around its reservoirs. Plans provide a clear statement of how TVA will manage public land by identifying land for specific uses in a way that balances shoreline development, recreational use, sensitive and natural resource management, industrial, and other land uses in order to help maintain the quality of life in the Valley.

Reservoir Lands Planning

The program in which TVA develops a Reservoir Land Management Plan. Reservoir lands planning guides TVA management decisions on natural resources and property administration.

Resource Conservation

The wise use of natural resources. This refers to the management of natural resources for an entire region or for a specific parcel area. Conservation actions may include enhancement, improvement, preservation, protection and restoration of natural resources.

Resource Preservation

The act of protection of resources from any injury, harm, disturbance or destruction. Resource preservation refers to actions taken to preserve a particular resource in its current condition or state, with little or no manipulation.

Riprap

Stones placed along the shoreline for bank stabilization and other purposes.

Riparian Management

Management of vegetated buffer zones along streams, drainages and reservoir shorelines. Generally includes management activities to reduce soil erosion and filter pollutants for water quality protection as well as providing quality wildlife habitat.

Sensitive Resources

As defined by TVA, includes resources protected by state or federal law or executive order and other land features or natural resources TVA considers important to the area viewscape or natural environment.

Sentinel Monitoring

A monitoring program that serves as an "early warning" of events expected to occur through inclusion of measurements and a monitoring frequency that are sensitive to the onset of these events.

Shoreline/Shoreland

The line where the water of a TVA reservoir meets the shore when the water level is at the normal summer pool elevation.

Source Watershed

The entire stream drainage of a reservoir that is the source of water and pollutants that flow into the reservoir.

Stream Access Site

Point or location where watercraft may be launched in river or other waterway. These may include access roads, parking lots, docks, and boat ramps.

Summer Pool Elevation

The normal upper level to which the reservoirs are typically filled during summer months.

Tailwater

The flow-dominated area of water immediately downstream from a dam.

Transmission Rights-of-Way

In order to provide reliable power to its customers, TVA must service and repair its 15,900 miles of transmission lines. TVA maintains rights-of-way underneath and around its power lines to gain access for vegetation maintenance purposes.

Tributary Reservoirs

Impoundments created by dams constructed across streams and rivers that eventually flow into the Tennessee River.

TVA Vital Signs and Fixed Station Monitoring

TVA's monitoring program that focuses on water quality and biological health of the TVA reservoir system and major tributaries that feed the reservoir system. The monitoring program collects information on multiple indicators of water quality and biological condition from representative areas on 31 reservoirs and the 18 largest river tributaries of the Tennessee River.

U.S. Geological Survey Sparrow Model

A model developed by the U.S. Geological Survey to empirically estimate the origin and fate of contaminants in river networks and quantify uncertainties in model predictions (sparrow stands for spatially referenced regressions on watershed attributes).

U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

A partnership effort of state and federal agencies, nongovernmental conservation organizations, academic institutions, and individuals from across the country committed to restoring and maintaining stable and self-sustaining populations of shorebirds in the U.S. and throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Utili-Tree Consortium

A consortium of over 40 companies established in an effort to create a portfolio of forestry projects that manage greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide.

Water Pollution Banking/Trading

Pollutant trading programs are tools to help industrial and municipal waste water dischargers meet water quality goals set out in Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the most cost effective manner possible. Trading allows polluters with high costs of pollutant reduction to contract with entities with lower cost of reduction to meet reduction requirements.

Wildlife Habitat Council Certification

The Wildlife Habitat Council's Corporate Wildlife Habitat Certification/International Accreditation Program recognizes commendable wildlife habitat management and environmental education programs at individual sites. Sites must demonstrate that programs have been active for at least one year with a management plan that lists goals, objectives and prescriptions and includes complete documentation of all programs.

Wildlife Management Area

Land and/or water areas designated by state wildlife agencies, such as the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, for the protection and management of wildlife. These areas typically have specific hunting and trapping regulations as well as rules regarding appropriate uses of these areas by the public.

ADA	Americans With Disabilities Act
Approx.	Approximately
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CVLP	Comprehensive Valleywide Land Plan
e.g.	Latin term, <i>exempli gratia</i> , meaning “for example”
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
Environmental Policy	TVA 2008 Environmental Policy
ESA	Endangered Species Act
GIS	Geographic information system
i.e.	Latin term, <i>id est</i> , meaning “that is”
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
IT	Information technology
Land Policy	TVA 2006 Land Policy
LCA	Land Conditions Assessment
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRP	Natural Resource Plan
RLA	Rapid Lands Assessment
RLCA	Rapid Land Conditions Assessment
RLMP	Reservoir Land Management Plan
RRSC, or the council	Regional Resource Stewardship Council
TVA, or the agency	Tennessee Valley Authority
TVA board	Tennessee Valley Authority board of directors
TWI	Targeted Watershed Initiatives
Unit Plan	Resource Management Unit Plan
Valley	Tennessee River Valley



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