

Natural Resource Plan

Biological Resource Management

RRSC Meeting

January 19-20, 2011





Biological Resource Management: Program Overview

Biological Resource Management programs address two major components:

- ◆ Human uses of the land (informal and dispersed recreation, forestry, agriculture)
- ◆ Biological resource value (species diversity, wildlife habitats, endangered species management)

Program Category	Program
Dispersed Recreation Management	Dispersed Recreation Management
	Trails Management
	Leave No Trace
Terrestrial Habitat Management	Agricultural and Open Lands Management
	Dewatering Projects Management
	Forest Resource Management
	Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Partnerships
	Wildlife Habitat Council – Third Party Certifications
	Nonnative Invasive Plant Management
	Nuisance Animal Control
	Terrestrial Greenhouse Gas Management



Biological Resource Management: Program Overview (Cont'd)

Program Category	Program
Land Stewardship Programs	Land Condition Assessment and Land Stewardship Maintenance
	Natural Resources Management Implementation Plans
	TVA Natural Heritage Database
	TVA Wetlands Database
	Boundary Maintenance
Sensitive Biological Resources Management	Conservation Planning
	Endangered and Threatened Species Program
	Migratory Birds Management
	Natural Areas Program
	Wetland Management
Public Outreach Programs	Environmental Education Program
	Natural Resources Communication
	Resource Stewardship Campaigns
	Volunteer Program



Biological Resource Management: Dispersed Recreation Management



Key Facts

- ◆ The primary public use of TVA lands
- ◆ Hiking, camping, bird-watching, others
- ◆ Estimated 6 million users annually

Program	Custodial	Flagship
Dispersed Recreation Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Assess dispersed recreation needs as part of existing programs - implement 15 projects/yr ◆ Eco-friendly recreation education campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Develop multi-year management plans informed by user surveys - implement 45 projects/yr ◆ Expanded education campaign including up to 100 outdoor clinics/yr
Trails Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Maintain existing 90 mile trail system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establish formal trails program – expand system by 20 miles/yr
Leave No Trace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continue TVA’s current program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Emphasize and expand partnerships with other regional land managers



Biological Resource Management: Terrestrial Habitat Management



Key Facts

- ◆ Implementation programs
- ◆ Broad range of activities – many of which provide benefits to multiple resources
- ◆ Integrated resource management plans address human uses and natural and cultural resources

Program	Custodial	Flagship
Agricultural and Open Lands Management	◆ 5600 acres	◆ Integrate wildlife/forest habitat partnerships
Dewatering Projects Management	◆ Maintain current agreements and assets	◆ Rebuild dewatering units and promote ecotourism opportunities
Forest Resource Management	◆ Operate mainly in 'maintenance' mode	◆ Develop and implement a forest resource program
Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Partnerships	◆ 750 acres annually on TVA lands	◆ Active partnerships and agreements - 40,000 acres annually
Wildlife Habitat Council – Third Party Certifications	◆ 4 projects currently certified	◆ 5 new projects ◆ Promote projects on up to 10% of TVA land



Biological Resource Management: Terrestrial Habitat Management (Cont'd)



Key Facts

- ◆ Managing issues that affect the desired condition of TVA Lands
- ◆ Managing issues that affect TVA Operations
- ◆ Integrated Natural Resource Management Planning helps TVA address various (sometimes competing) needs

Program	Custodial	Flagship
Nonnative invasive plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implement priority needs identified in LCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 40,000 acres/yr ◆ State Exotic Pest Plant Councils
Nuisance animal management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Concentrate on feral animal management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Programmatic guidelines ◆ Management strategies
Terrestrial Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Develop GHG plan ◆ Conduct research (120 acres) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Expand research program (250 acres/yr) ◆ 4 demonstration projects



Biological Resource Management: Land Stewardship Programs



Key Facts

- ◆ Programs and tools used to identify and implement stewardship needs on TVA lands
- ◆ Data is used across TVA in environmental decision-making

Program	Custodial	Flagship
Land Condition Assessment and Land Stewardship Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Evaluate 20,000 acres annually ◆ Prioritize needs and implement actions of highest priority – i.e. safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Evaluate 50,000 acres annually ◆ Prioritize needs and implement 25% of actions annually
Natural Resources Management Implementation Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Focused implementation of existing “Unit Plans” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Develop and implement plans on five (5) reservoirs annually
TVA Regional Natural Heritage Database and Wetlands Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Maintain current focus on environmental compliance needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Expand information gathering efforts and develop tools for conservation planning and management
Boundary Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Develop Valley-wide implementation plan – high priority areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establish 5 year cycle for boundary maintenance



Biological Resource Management: Sensitive Biological Resources

Key Facts

- ◆ The TVA Region is one of the most biologically and culturally significant areas in the US
- ◆ Legal requirements (Endangered Species Act, etc.) but also a part of being a good steward of the resource.





Biological Resource Management: Sensitive Biological Resources (Cont'd)

Program	Custodial	Flagship
Conservation Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Limit efforts to only those legally required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Expand TVA involvement in other State and Federal planning efforts
Endangered and Threatened Species Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Continue compliance and voluntary monitoring efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Develop a list of other high priority species - managements plans and partnerships
Migratory Birds Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Ensure compliance with Executive Order 13186	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Tennessee River Valley Shorebird Working Group – other partnerships
Natural Areas Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 154 Natural Areas◆ Monitor on a 3 year cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Develop formal Natural Areas Management Plans◆ Establish new areas
Wetland Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Continue compliance with Executive Order 11990	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Develop wetland management program and policy for TVA lands



Biological Resource Management: Public Outreach



Key Facts

- ◆ Expanding TVA’s outreach and education efforts are considered in all resource areas
- ◆ Current outreach is mainly via the www.TVA.com website and the individual efforts of Land and Shoreline Management staff

Program	Custodial	Flagship
Environmental Education Program	◆ Use of existing website – no new education program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establish a TVA Environmental Education program and TVA Museum ◆ Outreach through school systems
Natural Resource Communication	◆ Use of existing website – no new communication program or tools	◆ Outreach through TVA website and stakeholder presentations
Resource Stewardship Campaigns	◆ N/A	◆ Education and technical support for directed resource initiatives
Volunteer Program	◆ Establish a TVA volunteer program	◆ Emphasize this program as a major education and implementation tool