

**Regional Resource Stewardship Council**  
**October 29 & 30, 2009**

Questions for Discussion and Advice

Question

**Should TVA actively manage its public stewardship lands for carbon sequestration, renewable feedstock, biomass, education, partnerships, and demonstration projects in light of national environmental issues such as climate change, carbon legislation, renewable requirements, and related local and rural economic development?**

- TVA should develop a long-term plan that addresses diverse environmental goals while allowing flexibility to address changes in legal and regulatory environments.
- TVA should manage its land for multiple benefits such as for carbon sequestration, renewable feedstock, wildlife management, and recreation.
- TVA should continue to proactively implement and expand adaptive land management opportunities that are consistent with the long-term environmental stewardship.
- TVA should give more resources (people and time) to and partner with outside groups; there are a lot of local groups who would like to help TVA.
- TVA should look for opportunities for rate payers to have a return on investment; a real chance in an environmental area to see lands be used for something to help everyone in the Valley.
- TVA should keep up with sciences in carbon sequestration beside hardwood use.
- It is important for TVA to do the things it does very well. TVA should focus on doing a few things very well including maintenance and enforcement rather than many things marginally.

Question

**What are the ways TVA could work with local and regional planning agencies regarding the sustainable development of lands adjacent to TVA property to provide public benefit, both quantitatively and economically?**

- TVA should communicate partnering opportunities to organizations, communities, other agencies (U. S. Forest Service), and customers.
- Copy good examples, replicate successful initiatives across the Valley, i.e., 1000 Eyes, Leave no Trace.
- TVA can work with land owners considering demand-side, i.e., biomass needs, to provide incentives for these partners to work with TVA.
- The task of managing vast lands needs to be broken up: first step is to segment the Valley into segments of similar needs: have areas where big counties can help smaller communities; establish support groups to help these communities work together. Council members may help facilitate and reach out to partners to affect change/form these partnerships.
- TVA should continue to support and find resources for growth readiness workshops to show local communities what opportunities may be available or implications of no action. Exercise caution in local communities that do not have the initiative; provide opportunities for those who want them but do not force it.

### Question

**On which natural resource activities should TVA focus its efforts and which activities should have a lesser priority (stabilization, watershed initiatives, natural area maintenance, trail development, informal recreation site restoration)?**

- With limited resources, TVA should focus on maintaining priority areas very well as opposed to a lot of areas marginally.
- Safety, federally mandated compliance, non-renewable resources, and local land management needs (water quality, recreational, etc.) should be used to set TVA priorities. Carry out legal obligations before discretionary areas.
- There should be top down guidance on the most critical priorities, with flexibility for the Watershed Teams to make decisions within that guidance. Watershed team should continue to have discretion and flexibility to make decisions on initiating new projects and maintaining existing projects. There should be a renewed emphasis on maintenance; perhaps seek out partnerships. For example, the cost of closure is an issue to consider at the local level. Possibility of closures may open opportunities for partnerships.
- Balance between standardization and local autonomy. An example of this is the land condition assessment. However, there may be an opportunity for environmental modeling to include stewardship and power considerations.

### Question

**How much emphasis should TVA put on enforcement of inappropriate or incompatible activities on TVA non-power, stewardship lands?**

- TVA should place a high emphasis on enforcement and proper use of TVA lands. Lack of consequences encourages bad behavior. TVA should seek partnerships with other land management agencies to learn from and act cooperatively in enforcement activities. State and local government partnerships could aid enforcement efforts.
- TVA should look into Federal legislation to increase enforcement of violations, e.g., to allow for fines in certain situations.
- A more tailored enforcement plan should be defined in terms of land management priorities. Focus on equity as it relates to the nature of offender. In addition, consider the density of the impacts.
- Be clear and open in communicating what the rules are and the boundaries of TVA land. Be generally clear and consistent. Publish violations for peer pressure effects. Be mindful, however, that it may act as an encouragement when people see there are no consequences.
- Enforce across the Valley so that the word gets out instead of focusing on one area.

### Unasked Question 5:

TVA should utilize academic and scientific resources and partnerships as well as proactive implementation strategies and applications to provide leadership in targeted priority and program areas.