

REGIONAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL ADVICE

MARCH 4 & 5, 2010

1. *The **Natural Resource Management (NRM) volume** includes a great number of programs and activities. Staff is considering several alternatives which would increase, improve, and/or prioritize our stewardship efforts across NRM.*

What programs and activities does the Council consider as high priority?

- Access control and lands protection
- NAGPRA high priority and tribes rate as time sensitive issue, but looting and other types of site destruction are much more time sensitive.
- Regulatory issues: ESA consultation; Mgmt and monitoring; migratory birds EO; non native invasive plant mgmt EO; wetland resource protection and mgmt; and prioritize work based on resource need. Staff to evaluate range of regulatory compliance options.
- Section 110 is regulatory responsibility. TVA should get out in front of this (not as afterthought to 106) and not be passive; actively execute Section 110 responsibilities to the true spirit of the law.
- TVA setting standard – within regulatory items, live up to the spirit of the law. *(come back to council with range of activities supporting regulatory)*
- Access and boundaries
 - Designed to benefit public and important to TVA stewardship obligation
 - We and public need to know boundaries – identify what we own.
 - Enforcement important (pursue CFRs around enforcement authority – make clear to public on regulations).
 - Consistency both programmatically and across the Valley.
 - Use controlled and directed access to help protect sensitive areas and provide public recreation access.
 - May need Ranger presence (educational)
- Public education and staff education

- Public education on what they can / cannot do on TVA Public Lands (and as part of enforcement with least expense)
- Staff education / internal communications and how to communicate
- Nature based / Env Ed.
- Improve lands around reservoirs with partners (educate on the needs). Get people together to help TVA in planning process in areas, id partners to assist in initiatives (Ranger, Plant / Forest Management, Public Education – make TVA wealth of knowledge *resource* for education, not necessarily deliver). Synergy to be developed in every area TVA covers. In areas doing this already works well.
- Planning condition assessments performance and database
 - Important similarly to access and boundaries – need to know our baseline – where we are and what we have – a basic that has to be done and maintained. Priority to continue the assessments TVA is doing. Add consistency to evaluate conditions across Valley.
 - Effort to have right people with right access to information (not stove pipe data – cross share it)
- Forest / forest health / timber and plant management
 - TVA positioned to take a leadership role – 293,000 acres to manage has significant impact. Opportunity for TVA to set a strong presence. Appropriate to use conservation and stewardship to manage for multiple benefits.
 - Forest and canopy dictates many other aspects. Should be more proactive to manage issues such as hemlock; Forest management can also become a carbon management tool.
 - Many other agencies and groups also interested in this issue. Opportunities for partnerships to help manage (maybe other researchers to collaborate with TVA) and work toward common objectives.
 - Make land available for biomass (research partnerships)
- Maintenance of trails and dispersed recreation
 - Maintain what is already there and look at growth of Valley and be proactive in management (increase in competition)
 - Public comment shows recreation as important and opportunity for education.
 - Site assessment process feeds into this. Degraded trails and areas can lead to other issues (erosion) – addressing these should be priority. Also, public

perception is related to condition of trails and recreation facilities. Maintain what we have. This is excellent PR.

- Maintenance is money, look for ways to generate more revenue for maintenance. Look at how this is funded, maybe adjust.
- Brand trail system 'Network of Heritage Trails' with lock boxes for voluntary donation. Define boundaries, cultural change and public perception to successfully define face of TVA and support management. Bring in educational component.
- Remember public access benefit and responsibility to remain public. While protecting as population and use grows. Use education and voluntary system so when costs come, people aware that TVA doing this as preservation.
- Broken Windows theory – outward appearance (Public interface) can transform entire system. When it looks good, transfers a pride of ownership and more likely to receive funding. Needs commitment and feet on the ground to address.
- TVA and Valley residents need to come up with a fee structure to pay or revenue stream for the maintenance. Change in perception / shift in expectation needed. (ex Shiloh National Park fee boxes – voluntary fee). Look at many ways to seek revenue / look to new sources. Not one answer: have TVA look at this issue more closely (with ways that TVA could fund this). If we overemphasize the visual, may devalue the non-visual. If people have to pay they appreciate and take better care. Those who use it bear some of the cost rather than spreading over all. Some TVA benefits not uniformly spread across all of Valley (i.e. Mississippi River area residents)
- Maintain operation of Tennessee River – this is fundamental.
- Wildlife habitat management / natural resource management
 - TVA distinguish itself over and above regulatory required as leader with partnerships / collaboration
 - Protect non-renewable components
 - Public enhancement provided (birding)
 - See Forest and Plant Management section (leadership, partnership important here too)

2. *The **Water Resource Management (WRM) volume** includes a great number of programs and activities. Staff is considering several alternatives which would increase, improve, and/or prioritize our stewardship efforts across WRM.*

What programs and activities does the Council consider as high priority?

- NPDES permit compliance support activities and 26a and others SMI, ROS are outside scope of NRP. These were preliminarily determined to be outside of scope, but need to be referenced as part of this activity.
- This focuses on discretionary activities
- Look at watersheds holistically – establish consistent baseline and consistency across the Valley.
- Lots of opportunity for partnerships. The water resource work falls to TVA.
- Targeted Watershed Initiatives work well with focus in specific area. TVA sparkplug to engage many partners, TVA staff helps write grants and brings in significant funds for projects. (AML, clean ups, Ag BMP)
- The following 3 bullets reflect discretionary aspects in the approach to reviewing activities:
 - Restoration and Monitoring – critical to keep streams clean.
 - Education / programs – opportunity for TVA to work with groups to provide education / build appreciation of pressure on the system.
 - Management: Urban BMP and Ag BMP
- TVA's role in water quality – public expectation that TVA will take a lead role in keeping the Valley's water clean and overall role in water quality. TVA has to take a leadership role to work in a positive way in water quality, even though many problems caused by factors outside of TVA's control. Rightly or wrongly, TVA will incur blame if water quality is degraded.
- TVA strong role in water – whether TVA should finance is another issue. A responsibility we all share.
- Prioritize the things TVA is responsible for and focus on those.
- How the river system is managed affects Economic Development.
 - How to ROS issues play into this (much Economic Development input into this study)

- How do we factor future growth and economic development in this process.
 - Reference these other issues in this NRP
- TVA stewardship projects have helped stimulate economic development/local jobs.
- All the streams flow into Tennessee River, ends up being a public perceived TVA problem. Many factors contribute to impairment
- Know conditions, address what TVA caused, address what affects the most people.
- Need clear understanding of who does enforcement (clarify to public). Recognize and see what can be done. Develop matrix to understand this. For water, enforcement is States and other Federal agencies that are responsible for enforcement.

3. *After we have developed programs, activities, and a range of alternatives within the NRP, we need to evaluate them to ensure they meet our standards of environmental leadership.*

What criteria do you think would be appropriate to measure our success?

- What affects the most people (maximize those activities with broadest beneficial impact).
- If TVA caused it, should take responsibility (shoreline erosion; focus on best practices on TVA assets). Meet and go beyond basics.
- Respecting needs of non-renewable assets – once they are gone, they are gone. Have a higher level of responsibility. Reactive and proactive approaches.
- Impact of investment on Leadership perception of TVA (most for limited resources in actual environmental gains and/or PR side; leverage opportunities to showcase and be leader; be invited into communities to be a resource to be called upon; if community wants to plan growth affectively can call on TVA).
- TVA acts as leader by controlling TVA's issues well.
- Ability to leverage dollars without compromising TVA values.
- Monitoring programs to count / document measurable improvements (ex water quality, dumpsite clean ups)
- Communications programmatic agreements for water quality issues (when notified, what issues, renew and update on a cycle). Share data, techniques overall holistic approach to improve water quality (and all areas of TVA) and set baseline of future expectations. Work together on long range planning processes.