

Natural Resource Plan

NEPA Process
RRSC Meeting
January 19-20, 2011

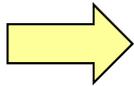




NEPA Process: Overview

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 is the basic national charter for protection of the environment

- ◆ Declares a national policy to encourage productive harmony between man and the environment
- ◆ Applies to all Federal Agencies
- ◆ Requires Agencies to evaluate environmental impacts of their proposed actions and involve the public in these evaluations



TVA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the Natural Resource Plan

- ◆ Major elements include:
 - Public Scoping
 - Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - Public Review and Comment Period
 - Final Environmental Impact Statement and Comment Responses
 - Record of Decision



NEPA Process: Environmental Impact Statement Milestones

TVA has four major milestones associated with the Natural Resource Plan Environmental Impact Statement

Document Type: EIS-Administrative Record
Index Field: Environmental Document
Project Name: Natural Resource Plan EIS
Project Number: 2009-50

Date: December 7, 2009.
Christine Garland,
Secretary, Mountain Administration
[EIS Doc. E9-2053 Filed 12-15-09; 845 ml]
BILLING CODE 4101-81-P

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Natural Resource Plan

Scoping Report
August, 2010

Tennessee Valley Authority

◆ Public Scoping

NATURAL RESOURCE PLAN
Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia

PREPARED BY:
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

JANUARY 2011

◆ Draft EIS

◆ Final EIS

66726 Federal Register / Vol. 74, No. 240 / Wednesday, December 16, 2009 / Notices

Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 1-800-485-4042. (Authority 49 CFR 1.606)

By order of the Mountain Administration:
Date: December 7, 2009.
Christine Garland,
Secretary, Mountain Administration
[EIS Doc. E9-2053 Filed 12-15-09; 845 ml]
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TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
Mountain Reservoirs Land Management Plan, Chatuge, Hiwassee, Blue Ridge, Nolichucky, Ocoee 1, 2, and 3, Apalachia, and Fontana Reservoirs, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee

AGENCY: Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).
ACTION: Issuance of Record of Decision (ROD).

SUMMARY: This notice is provided in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) and TVA's procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). TVA has decided to implement Alternative D—the Blended Alternative, the preferred alternative identified in its final environmental impact statement (EIS), "Mountain Reservoirs Land Management Plan."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James F. Williamson Jr., Senior NEPA Specialist, Environmental Permitting and Compliance, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11D, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1401; telephone (865) 632-6418 or e-mail jwilliam@tva.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In order to protect the integrated operation of the TVA reservoir and power systems, to provide opportunities for public access and use of the reservoir system, and to facilitate economic growth in the Tennessee Valley, TVA develops comprehensive plans for the management of lands associated with its reservoir projects. TVA has developed the "Mountain Reservoirs Land Management Plan" to guide management on the following reservoirs: Chatuge, Hiwassee, Blue Ridge, Nolichucky, Ocoee 1, 2, and 3, Apalachia, and Fontana. All public lands under TVA control on these reservoirs, i.e., 6,273 acres, were included in the planning process. Approximately three-fourths of this land area (4,664 acres) was planned previously under the Forecast System, which was developed in the 1960s. The remaining lands, totaling approximately 1,609 acres, have never been planned. TVA prepared this EIS to assess the potential environmental impacts of implementing the "Mountain Reservoirs Land Management Plan."

TVA published a notice of intent to prepare this EIS in the Federal Register (72 FR 39857, June 1, 2007). A public scoping meeting was held on June 21, 2007, at the North Georgia Technical College in Blairsville, Georgia, and was attended by 82 people. Scoping comments were received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 11 State or local agencies, the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, the Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation, and a number of individuals. TVA received 473 scoping comments from the public. The notice of availability of the draft EIS was published in the Federal Register (73 FR 47949, Aug. 15, 2008). Comments on the draft EIS were received from three Federal agencies, eight State agencies, one local agency, two local governments, seven citizens' organizations, and 575 individuals. The notice of availability of the final EIS was published in the Federal Register (74 FR 39698, Aug. 7, 2009).

Alternatives Considered
TVA identified four alternatives in the EIS.

Under Alternative A, the No Action/Forecast System Alternative, TVA would continue to use its existing Forecast System designations to manage 4,664 acres (of a total of approximately 6,273 acres) on the nine mountain reservoirs. Under the Forecast System, parcels were assigned to one of 12 categories: Dam Reservation, Public Recreation, Reservoir Operations (Islands), Reservoir Operations (Mainland), Power Transmission and Power Needs, Commercial Recreation, Minor Commercial Landings, Industrial, Navigation Safety Harbors or Landings, Forestry Research, Steam Plant Siting, Wildlife Management, and Small Wild Areas. Under Alternative A, approximately 1,609 acres of TVA mountain reservoirs lands unplanned under the Forecast System, including all TVA-owned Fontana Reservoir lands, would continue to be managed according to existing land use agreements. TVA's Suedelme Management Policy, and TVA's Land Policy. However, the unplanned parcels would not be allocated to a current land use zone under this alternative. The currently used allocations include Zone 1 (Non-TVA Shoreland), Zone 2 (Project Operations), Zone 3 (Sensitive Resource Management), Zone 4 (Natural Resource

Conservation), Zone 5 (Industrial), Zone 6 (Developed Recreation), and Zone 7 (Shoreline Access). Thus, complete alignment with current TVA policies and guidelines would not occur.

Under Alternative B, the Proposed Land Use Plan Alternative, TVA would adopt a new land management plan based on the current reservoir land planning process and zone allocation definitions to guide future land use decisions. In addition to the 4,664 acres previously planned under the Forecast System, 1,609 acres in 231 parcels that have not been planned would be allocated. Allocations for these parcels would be based on existing land uses.

Under Alternative C, the Proposed Modified Land Use Plan Alternative, parcel allocations would be the same as those proposed under Alternative B for 351 of 360 parcels (i.e., 6.68 of the total 6,273 acres). Alternative C differs from Alternative B in that additional lands would be allocated for Developed Recreation and Industrial uses on Chatuge and Hiwassee reservoirs. These allocations, which were developed in response to proposals received during the scoping process, affect 101.6 acres on four parcels on Chatuge Reservoir and 4.8 acres on two parcels on Hiwassee Reservoir. Allocations for the other parcels on Chatuge and Hiwassee, as well as all parcels on the remaining mountain reservoirs, would be the same as those proposed under Alternative B.

TVA developed Alternative D, the Blended Alternative, following release of the draft EIS. This alternative is a mixture of Alternatives B and C. Alternative D differs from Alternative B in that an additional 6.1 acres on Chatuge Reservoir and 1.6 acres on Hiwassee Reservoir would be allocated to development-oriented uses (i.e., Developed Recreation). Compared to Alternative C, Alternative D involves the allocation of two parcels for more developed uses (i.e., Developed Recreation); whereas, Alternative C involves six parcels being allocated for recreation and industrial uses.

Comments on the Final EIS
The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) commented on the final EIS that several rare aquatic species inhabit the area near Parcels 34 and 49 on Hiwassee Reservoir. Should these parcels be allocated for Developed Recreation, NCDENR recommended the use of strict erosion and sedimentation control during construction of any recreational facilities and the use of appropriate signage for public education regarding species occurring in the Hiwassee River. Under the preferred

◆ Record of Decision



NEPA Process: Public Scoping

TVA conducted two scoping opportunities on the project

- ◆ Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) scoping
 - Public scoping for the Natural Resource Plan began as part of the IRP project on June 15, 2009, with the publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register
 - At the close of IRP public scoping period on August 14, 2009, a total of 609 comments pertaining to stewardship had been submitted

- ◆ Natural Resource Plan scoping
 - Following the decision to separate the IRP and Natural Resource Plan, TVA announced an additional 30-day public comment period for the NRP beginning October 2, 2009
 - Letters were mailed to 127 contacts at 86 agencies across the Valley states
 - Provided an interactive comment form on TVA's Web site
 - Received 76 additional comments on the Natural Resource Plan

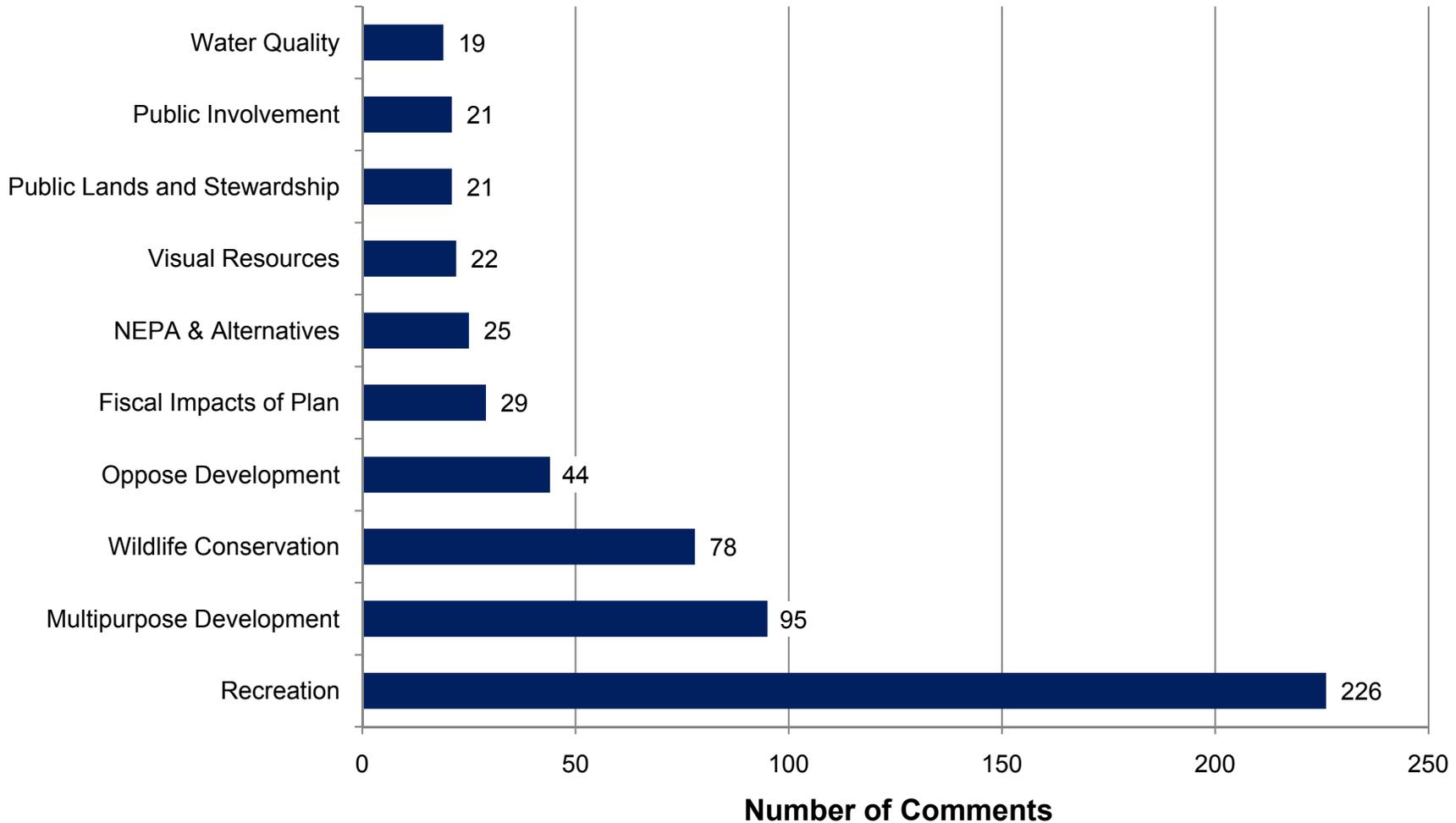
- A total of 685 comments were received during both scoping opportunities



NEPA Process: Public Scoping

The Natural Resource Plan Scoping Report was published in August 2010

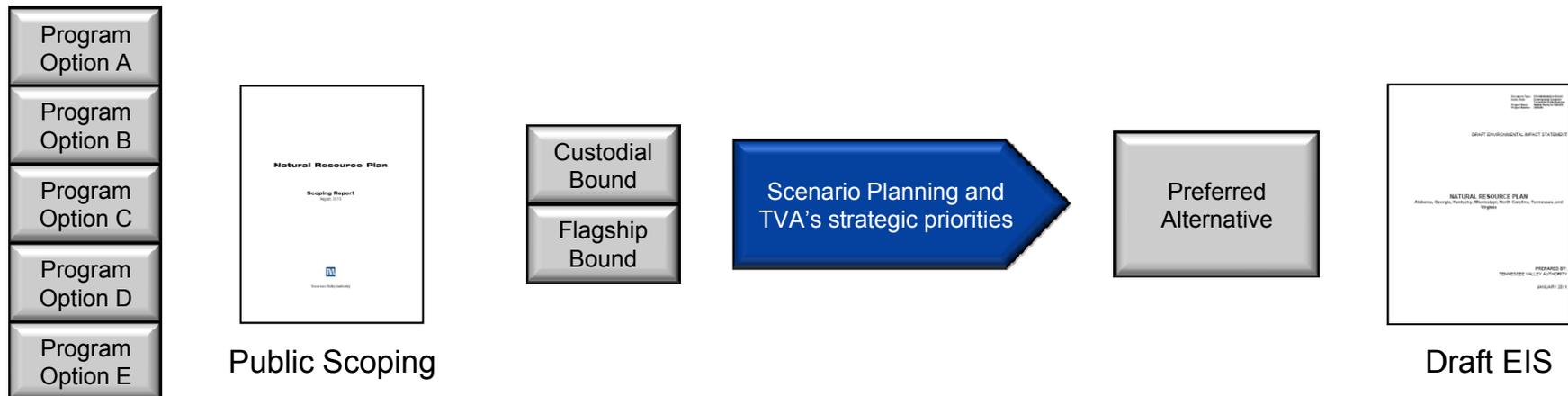
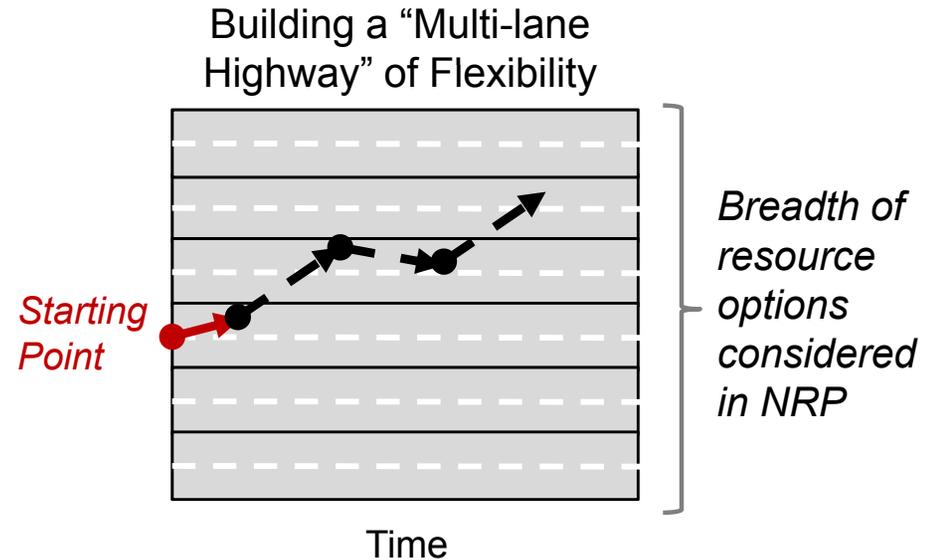
Top 10 Issue Categories and Number of Comments





NEPA Process: Draft Environmental Impact Statement

- ◆ Based on the input from public scoping and scenario planning, the draft EIS evaluates a “multi-lane highway” by presenting multiple alternatives
- ◆ The bounds of the alternatives include all program options at minimum and maximum levels of effort
- ◆ The preferred alternative includes a mix of program options reflecting the results of scenario planning along with additional programs encompassing TVA’s strategic priorities





NEPA Process:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Input

- ◆ Several public input opportunities will be provided for the draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - A minimum 45 day public comment period
 - Public meetings located across the Valley
 - Huntsville, Alabama
 - Bowling Green, Kentucky
 - Memphis area
 - Knoxville and Nashville, Tennessee
 - An interactive comment form on TVA's website:
www.tva.gov/environment/reports/nrp

- ◆ Press releases will be distributed to media outlets across the Valley

- ◆ Notifications will be sent to:
 - All agencies that were identified during the scoping period or provided scoping comments
 - All individuals and stakeholder groups that provided scoping comments



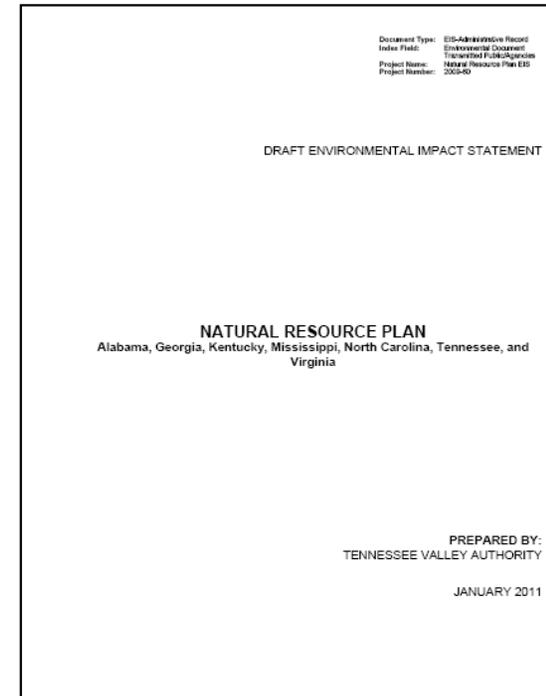


NEPA Process: Final Environmental Impact Statement

- ◆ The final EIS will be developed with additional input including:
 - Public comment statistics
 - Public comments organized by issue category
 - Responses to comments developed by TVA staff and published in the final EIS

- ◆ Alternatives may be revised based on public comments
 - Environmental consequences would be modified to reflect any revised alternatives

- ◆ Once completed, a Notice of Availability published in the *Federal Register*
 - All agencies and stakeholders that provided comments will be notified
 - Press releases will be issued





NEPA Process: Record of Decision

A Record of Decision is a concise document that typically includes the following pieces of information:

- ◆ The TVA Board decision
- ◆ Description of the alternatives being considered
- ◆ Identification of the environmentally preferable alternative
- ◆ Listing of measures taken to mitigate or minimize adverse environmental impacts
- ◆ Listing of associated monitoring, reporting, and administrative requirements

The Record of Decision will be:

- ◆ Published in the *Federal Register*
- ◆ Placed on TVA's Web site:
www.tva.gov/environment/reports/nrp

66726 Federal Register / Vol. 74, No. 240 / Wednesday, December 16, 2009 / Notices	
<p>Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202-403-6402. (Authority: 49 CFR 1.616)</p> <p>By order of the Maritime Administrator: Dated: December 7, 2009. Christine Garland, Secretary, Maritime Administration. [FR Doc. 09-29523 Filed 12-15-09; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4910-11-P</p> <p>TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY Mountain Reservoirs Land Management Plan, Chatuge, Hiwassee, Blue Ridge, Nolichucky, Ocoee 1, 2, and 3, Apalachia, and Fontana Reservoirs, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee</p> <p>Agency: Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). ACTION: Issuance of Record of Decision (ROD). SUMMARY: This notice is provided in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) and TVA's procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). TVA has decided to implement Alternative D—the Blended Alternative, the preferred alternative identified in its final environmental impact statement (EIS), "Mountain Reservoirs Land Management Plan." FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James F. Williamson Jr., Senior NEPA Specialist, Environmental Permitting and Compliance, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11D, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1401; telephone (865) 632-6418 or e-mail jfwilliam@tva.gov. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In order to protect the integrated operation of the TVA reservoir and power systems, to provide opportunities for public access and use of the reservoir system, and to facilitate economic growth in the Tennessee Valley, TVA develops comprehensive plans for the management of lands associated with its reservoir projects. TVA has developed the "Mountain Reservoirs Land Management Plan" to guide management on the following reservoirs: Chatuge, Hiwassee, Blue Ridge, Nolichucky, Ocoee 1, 2, and 3, Apalachia, and Fontana. All public lands under TVA control on these reservoirs, i.e., 6,273 acres, were included in the planning process. Approximately three-fourths of this land area (4,664 acres) was planned previously under the Forecast System, which was developed in the 1960s. The</p>	<p>remaining lands, totaling approximately 1,609 acres, have never been planned. TVA prepared this EIS to assess the potential environmental impacts of implementing the "Mountain Reservoirs Land Management Plan." TVA published a notice of intent to prepare this EIS in the Federal Register (72 FR 20657, June 1, 2007). A public scoping meeting was held on June 21, 2007, at the North Georgia Technical College in Blairsville, Georgia, and was attended by 89 people. Scoping comments were received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 11 State or local agencies, the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, the Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation, and a number of individuals. TVA received 473 scoping comments from the public. The notice of availability of the draft EIS was published in the Federal Register (73 FR 47949, Aug. 15, 2008). Comments on the draft EIS were received from three Federal agencies, eight State agencies, one local agency, two local governments, seven citizens' organizations, and 575 individuals. The notice of availability of the final EIS was published in the Federal Register (74 FR 39698, Aug. 7, 2009). Alternatives Considered TVA identified four alternatives in the EIS. Under Alternative A, the No Action/Forecast System Alternative, TVA would continue to use its existing Forecast System designations to manage 4,864 acres of a total of approximately 6,273 acres of the nine mountain reservoirs. Under the Forecast System, parcels were assigned to one of 13 categories: Dam Reservation, Public Recreation, Reservoir Operations (Islands), Reservoir Operations (Mainland), Power Transmission and Power Needs, Commercial Recreation, Minor Commercial Landings, Industrial, Navigation Safety Harbors or Landings, Forestry Research, Steam Plant Study, Wildlife Management, and Small Wild Areas. Under Alternative A, approximately 1,609 acres of TVA mountain reservoir lands unplanned under the Forecast System, including all TVA-owned Fontana Reservoir lands, would continue to be managed according to existing land use agreements. TVA's Shoreline Management Policy, and TVA's Land Policy. However, the unplanned parcels would not be allocated to a current land use zone under this alternative. The currently used allocations include Zone 1 (Non-TVA Shoreland), Zone 2 (Project Operations), Zone 3 (Sensitive Resource Management), Zone 4 (Natural Resource</p>